



Substance Use Stigma: A Systematic Review of Measures & Their Psychometric Properties

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INTRODUCTION

- 50% of the United States population over the age of 12 has used illicit substances in their lifetime¹
- Substance Use Stigma (SUS): Discrimination and “othering” by a culture due to a person’s drug use²
- SUS can pose as a barrier to substance use treatment
 - Inadequate support by healthcare systems, insensitive providers, & political efforts to block funding^{3,7}
- Types of SUS Stigma:
 - Structural Stigma: Policies, Institutions, and social structures²
 - Social Stigma: Public stereotyping, reactions, status loss²
 - Internalized or self-stigma: Attitudes & beliefs about oneself due to personal substance use⁵⁻⁷
- SUS measures haven't kept up with research on stigma effects. We aim to review psychometric properties of SUS measures and illuminate future directions for SUS researchers.

METHODS

Identify & Screen

- Adapted COSMIN guidelines
- Database (PsychInfo, WebofScience & Pubmed) & Reference searches
- Screened a total of 221 articles, 17 were included in review

Review

- Articles assessed for: Content validity, Structural validity, Internal Consistency, Measurement invariance, Test-retest reliability, Criterion validity, Convergent validity, Discriminative Validity, Responsiveness, Limitations

Analyze & Report

- Summarized Findings

RESULTS

Measure	Construct Measured	Measurement Properties Assessed
Acceptance of an Alcoholic Identity (AAlI) Shame Subscale ⁹	Shame	Content Validity, Internal Consistency, Reliability, Convergent Validity, Criterion Validity
Attribution Questionnaire-Substance Use Disorders (AQ-SUD) ¹⁰	Attitudes Toward Substance Use Disorder	Content Validity, Structural Validity, Internal Consistency, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Affect Scale for Substance Users (AS-SU) ¹¹	Stigma Related Affect	Internal Consistency, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Brief Opioid Stigma Scale (BOSS) ⁶	Self-Stigma (Stereotype Awareness, Stereotype Agreement, Self-esteem decrement)	Content Validity, Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Discriminant Validity, Convergent Validity
Chen et al Social Distance Scale (CSDS) ⁶	Social Distance	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Measurement Invariance
Chen et al Stigma Scale (CSS) ⁶	Perceived & Personal Stigma	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Measurement Invariance
Dangerousness Scale for Substance Users (DS-SU) ¹¹	Perceived Dangerousness	Internal Consistency, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Internalized Stigma of Smoking Inventory (ISSI) ¹²	Internalized Stigma	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity Discriminant Validity
Micro-condescension scale (MCS) ¹³	Micro Stigmas	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Reliability, Convergent Validity
Methodone Maintenance Treatment Stigma Mechanisms Scale (MMT-SMS) ¹⁴	Enacted, Anticipated, and Internalized Stigma	Content Validity, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity, Internal Consistency
Perceived Alcohol Stigma Scale (PAS) ¹⁵	Perceived Stigma	Structural Validity, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Perceptions of Drinking Scale, Shame Subscale (PODS-S) ¹⁶	Alcohol-use Related Shame	Content Validity, Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Reliability, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Perceived Public Stigma (PPS) ¹⁷	Perceived Stigma	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity
Perceived Stigma of Addiction Scale (PSAS) ¹⁸⁻²⁰	Perceived Stigma	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Substance Abuse Self Stigma Scale (SASS) ⁷	Self-Stigma	Content Validity, Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity, Criterion Validity
Stigma of Drug Users Scale (SDUS) ¹⁷	Stigmatization of Users	Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity
Social Distance Scale for Substance Users (SDS-SU) ¹¹	Social Distance	Internal Consistency, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity
Substance Use Stigma Mechanisms Scale (SU-SMS) ²¹	Enacted, Anticipated, & Internalized Stigma	Content Validity, Internal Consistency, Structural Validity, Convergent Validity, Discriminant Validity

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Total of 18 SUS measures with psychometric analyses
- 12 measures of social stigma, 9 measures of internalized stigma, 2 measures accounted for both internalized and social stigma
- There were 0 measures of structural stigma
- Most measures were adapted measures of mental illness stigma
- Psychometric analyses of Measurement Invariance critically needed
- Only the PSAS had more than one psychometric study

FUTURE DIRECTIONS



Measures of structural stigma need development



More psychometric studies are needed for all SUS measures

REFERENCES & CONTACT

