Index of Attitudes towards Homosexuals (IAH)

The Index of Attitudes towards Homosexuals, or IAH, scale measures the degree or magnitude of a problem clients have with fear of being in close quarters with homosexuals. Unlike most of the WAS scales, the IAH is not designed to measure a personal or social problem per se, and no score on this instrument is indicative of a clinical disorder. The instrument reflects the degree of comfort the respondent feels when associating with or being in the presence of homosexuals; it does not reflect a clinical problem or dysfunction. Although it has a cutting score, it is not a “clinical” cutting score. That is, scores above 50 on the IAH indicate an increasing fear of being in close proximity with homosexuals while scores below 50 indicate an increasing degree of comfort in being with homosexuals. Stated differently, those who score 0 or close to 0 are reflecting the least amount of discomfort the scale is capable of measuring. On the other hand, those who score 100 or close to 100 are reflecting the most discomfort with homosexuals the scale is capable of measuring.

Score Interpretation

This scale produces scores that range from 0 to 100. For all practical purposes the scores can be regarded as true ratio scale values.

Cutting Scores

The scale has a cutting score of 50. Clients who score below 50, assuming candid and accurate responses, reflect an increasingly non-homophobic response and those who score above 50 are reflecting an increasing degree of homophobic response.

Reliability

The scale consistently achieves an Alpha coefficient of .90 or larger.

Validity

The scale has been investigated with respect to content, construct, factorial, and known groups validity. It nearly always achieves validity coefficients of .60 or greater.

Readability Statistics

Flesch reading ease: 68; Gunning’s Fog Index: 10; Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 7.

References

The following references provide the currently available research evidence concerning the psychometric characteristics for this measure.

This questionnaire is designed to measure the way you feel about working or associating with homosexuals. It is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Answer each item as carefully and as accurately as you can by placing a number beside each item as follows:

1 = None of the time
2 = Very rarely
3 = A little of the time
4 = Some of the time
5 = A good part of the time

1. _______ I would feel comfortable working closely with the male homosexual.
2. _______ I would enjoy attending social functions at which homosexuals were present.
3. _______
4. _______
5. _______ I would feel comfortable knowing that I was attractive to members of my sex.
6. _______ I would feel uncomfortable being seen in a gay bar.
7. _______
8. _______
9. _______ I would feel disappointed if I learned that my child was homosexual.
10. _______ I would feel nervous being in a group of homosexuals.
11. _______
12. _______
13. _______ I would feel that I had failed as a parent if I learned that my child was gay.
14. _______ If I saw two men holding hands in public, I would feel disgusted.
15. _______
16. _______
17. _______ I would feel uncomfortable if I learned that my spouse or partner was attracted to members of his or her sex.
18. _______ I would feel at ease talking with a homosexual person at a party.
19. _______
20. _______
21. _______ It would disturb me to find out that my doctor was homosexual.
22. _______ I would feel comfortable if I learned that my best friend of my sex was homosexual.
23. _______
24. _______
25. _______ I would feel comfortable working closely with a female homosexual.