

## Stigma and OUD

Substance Abuse Self Stigma Scale (SASSS): Forty-Item Scale With Four Subscales

- feelings of worthlessness
- fear of being judged, rejected, and unwelcome in normal or reputable society
- attempts to avoid, control, or eliminate feelings of stigma
- disengagement from values

Independent professional translator translated SASSS into Spanish

Bilingual committee of experienced researchers with social sciences backgrounds and clinical experience reviewed the translation

Explored understanding with focus group similar to target population

Instrument translated again by a professional translator

Sent for final review to the bilingual committee

Adaptation Process

Evaluation Process

Sample	Confirmatory factor analysis and reliability Deleted 7 items, $\alpha = .86$		Convergent validity scales	$r$
412 people with SUD in Puerto Rico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% from community-based tx for clients living with HIV and SUD</li> <li>• 75% from state prison</li> <li>• 15% women</li> <li>• 83% men</li> <li>• 1.2% transgender</li> <li>• 29% living with HIV and SUD</li> </ul>	Subscale	$\alpha$	HIV Felt Stigma Scale	.56**
	Feelings of worthlessness	.87	Internalized Shame Scale	.67**
	Fear of being judged, rejected, and unwelcome in normal or reputable society	.87	Stigma-Related Rejection Scale	.32**
	Attempts to avoid, control, or eliminate feelings of stigma	.79	Depression symptoms from patient health questionnaire	.43**
	Disengagement from values	.75	Psychological flexibility	-.57**
				Divergent validity scales
			Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale	-.29**
			General Self-Efficacy Scale	-.31**

## TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The SASSS a reliable instrument to measure self-stigma in a Latino population with SUD.
- ✓ It can be used to evaluate the success of substance use disorder treatment and interventions.
- ✓ Clinicians can use it to better understand their patients and help inform a treatment plan.

**Sources:** Pérez-Pedrogo, C., Planas-García, B. Y., Ortega-Guzmán, J., Rivera-Suazo, S., Caraballo, J. N., & Albizu-García, C. E. (2022). Cultural adaptation and psychometric properties of the Substance Abuse Self-Stigma Scale among Latinos with substance use disorders: An effective screening tool for correctional and community settings. *Stigma and Health*.