

The Attitudes Toward Prostitution Scale

Preliminary Report on Its Development and Use

Steven P. Sawyer

Project Pathfinder, St. Paul, Minnesota

Michael E. Metz

Private practice, St. Paul, Minnesota

The Attitudes Toward Prostitution Scale (ATPS) assesses the beliefs of men who purchase sex from prostitutes. Items for the ATPS were administered to a U.S. multisite sample of 1,001 men who had been arrested for soliciting an undercover police officer and subsequently referred to a psychoeducational program. Principal axis factor analysis was conducted, and it yielded three valid factors: Social/Legal Support of Prostitution, Beliefs About Prostitutes, and Family Values Related to Prostitution. Scale-item reliability was assessed with Cronbach's alpha on a second independent sample of 74 men, which offered data to support ATPS internal consistency and reliability. Based on these results, scale scores were standardized for practical use in research and clinical applications, and interpretation norms were established for a population of men who buy sex. A brief case example illustrates the practical use of the ATPS for assessment and intervention planning for customers of sex workers.

Keywords: *attitudes; sexual attitudes; male sexuality; men; prostitution; sexual behavior; nmeasurement; social policy; cognitive therapy*

Authors' Note: Steven Sawyer, MSSW, is a clinical social worker and the executive director of Project Pathfinder and runs a private practice in St. Paul, Minnesota. He can be reached at Steven Sawyer, Project Pathfinder, Suite N385, 1821 University Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104; e-mail: ssawyer@projectpathfinder.org. Michael E. Metz, PhD, is a psychologist in private practice and is part of the adjunct faculty of the Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. He can be contacted at Michael E. Metz, Suite 440, 821 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55114; e-mail: MMetzMpls@aol.com; Web site: <http://www.MichaelMetzPhd.com>. This report includes portions of data analyzed in S. Sawyer, M. Metz, J. Hinds, and B. J. Brucker, "Attitudes Towards Prostitution Among Males: A Consumers Report," *Current Psychology*, 20(4), 363-376 (2002), and S. Sawyer, B. R. S. Rosser, and A. Schroeder, "Results From a Brief Treatment Program for Men Who Use Prostitutes," *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 26(3/4), 111-125 (1998). Data analysis provided by Professional Data Analysts, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Attitudes Toward Prostitution Scale scoring materials may be obtained without cost by writing or e-mailing the first author.