The Self-Report of Behavior Scale

This questionnaire is designed to examine which of the following statements most closely describes your behavior during past encounters with people you thought were homosexuals. Rate each of the following self-statements as honestly as possible using the following scale. Write each value in the provided blank.

Never = 1  Occasionally = 3  Frequently = 4
Rarely = 2  Always = 5

1. I have spread negative talk about someone because I suspected that the person was gay.
2. I have participated in playing jokes on someone because I suspected that the person was gay.
3. I have changed roommates and/or rooms because I suspected my roommate was gay.
4. I have warned people who I thought were gay and who were a little too friendly with me to keep away from me.
5. I have attended antigay protests.
6. I have been rude to someone because I thought that the person was gay.
7. I have changed seat locations because I suspected the person sitting next to me was gay.
8. I have had to force myself to keep from hitting someone because the person was gay and very near me.
9. When someone I thought to be gay has walked toward me as if to start a conversation, I have deliberately changed directions and walked away to avoid the person.
10. I have stared at a gay person in such a manner as to convey my disapproval of the person being too close to me.
11. I have been with a group in which one (or more) person(s) yelled insulting comments to a gay person or group of gay people.
12. I have changed my normal behavior in a restroom because a person I believed to be gay was in there at the same time.
13. When a gay person has checked me out, I have verbally threatened the person.
14. I have participated in damaging someone's property because the person was gay.
15. I have physically hit or pushed someone I thought was gay because the person brushed against me when passing by.
16. Within the past few months, I have told a joke that made fun of gay people.
17. I have gotten into a physical fight with a gay person because I thought the person had been making moves on me.
18. I have refused to work on school and/or work projects with a partner I thought was gay.
19. I have written graffiti about gay people or homosexuality.
20. When a gay person has been near me, I have moved away to put more distance between us.

Scoring

Determine your score by adding your points together. The lowest score is 20 points, the highest 100 points. The higher the score, the more negative the attitudes toward homosexuals.

Comparison Data

Sunita Patel (1989) originally developed the Self-Report of Behavior Scale in her thesis research in her clinical psychology master’s program at East Carolina University. College men (from a university campus and from a military base) were the original participants (Patel et al. 1995). The scale was revised by Shartra Sylivant (1992), who used it with a coed high school student population, and by Tristan Roderick (1994), who involved college students to assess its psychometric properties. The scale was
found to have high internal consistency. Two factors were identified: a passive avoidance of homosexuals and active or aggressive reactions.

In a study by Roderick et al. (1998), the mean score for 182 college women was 24.76. The mean score for 84 men was significantly higher, at 31.60. A similar-sex difference, although with higher (more negative) scores, was found in Sylivant’s high school sample (with a mean of 33.74 for the young women, and 44.40 for the young men).

The following table provides detail for the scores of the college students in Roderick’s sample (from a mid-sized state university in the southeast):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>24.76</td>
<td>7.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>31.60</td>
<td>10.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>26.91</td>
<td>9.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sources: