



## UNC CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Research Core SABI Database

**INSTRUMENT TITLE:** Severity of Violence Against Women Scales (SVAWS)

**SOURCE ARTICLE:** Marshall, L. L. (1992). Development of the severity of violence against women scales. *Journal of family violence*, 7(2), 103-121.

**POPULATION:** College women and community women

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:** Likert scale: (1) never, (2) once, (3) a few times, (4) many times

**SCORING:** N/A

**SURVEY ITEMS:** This instrument has already been formatted by the author. Please see attached.

**RELIABILITY INFORMATION:** Cronbach's  $\alpha$ =

Study 1: .92 for symbolic violence to .96 for moderate threats, and mild, moderate, and serious violence.

Study 2: Despite severity scores composed of fewer ratings, alphas ranged from a low of .89 for symbolic violence to a high of .96 for mild and serious violence.

**VALIDITY INFORMATION:** Content validity was assessed. Factor structure was tested and results revealed a nine-factor solution.

**TERMS OF USE:**

Individuals may use this information for research or educational purposes only and may not use this information for commercial purposes. When using this instrument, please cite:

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### Symbolic violence

- Hit or kicked a wall, door or furniture
- Threw, smashed or broke an object
- Drove dangerously with her in the car
- Threw an object at her

### Threats of mild violence

- Shook a finger at her
- Made threatening gestures or faces at her
- Shook a fist at her
- Acted like a bully toward her

### Threats of moderate violence

- Destroyed something belonging to her
- Threatened to harm or damage things she cares about
- Threatened to destroy property
- Threatened someone she cares about

### Threats of serious violence

- Threatened to hurt her
- Threatened to kill himself
- Threatened her with a club-like object
- Threatened her with a knife or gun
- Threatened to kill her
- Threatened her with a weapon
- Acted like he wanted to kill her

### Mild violence

- Held her down, pinning her in place
- Pushed or shoved her
- Shook or roughly handled her
- Grabbed her suddenly or forcefully

### Minor violence

- Scratched her
- Pulled her hair
- Twisted her arm
- Spanked her
- Bit her

### Moderate violence

- Slapped her with the palm of his hand
- Slapped her with the back of his hand
- Slapped her around her face and head

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### Serious violence

Kicked her  
Hit her with an object  
Stomped on her  
Choked her  
Punched her  
Burned her with something  
Used a club-like object on her  
Beat her up  
Used a knife or gun on her

### Sexual violence

Demanded sex whether she wanted to or not  
Made her have oral sex against her will  
Made her have sexual intercourse against  
her will  
Physically forced her to have sex  
Made her have anal sex against her will  
Used an object on her in a sexual way

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