

This is a **Sample** version of the
**Ageing Sexual Knowledge and
Attitudes Scale (ASKAS)**

The **full version** of the ASKAS comes without 'sample' watermark.

The full complete 9 page version includes –

- ASKAS Overview information
- ASKAS Scoring/ Administration instructions
- ASKAS Complete Questionnaire/ Assessment
- ASKAS Clinical Validity

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Aging Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale

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The Aging Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (ASKAS) is designed to measure two realms of sexuality: (a) knowledge about changes (and nonchanges) in sexual response to advanced age in males and females and (b) general attitudes about sexual activity in the aged. The items are largely specific to the elderly rather than a general sexual knowledge-attitudes scale. The ASKAS was developed for use in assessing the impact of group or individual interventions on behalf of sexual functioning in the aged utilizing, for example, a pretest-posttest procedure. Further, the measure may form the basis for group and individual discussion about sexual attitudes and/or sexual knowledge. The scale is also appropriate for use in educational programs for those working with the aged.

The actual numerical scores may be conveniently used for research purposes, but the individual items are also useful to assess the extent of an individual's knowledge upon which to base clinical interventions, as well as identifying attitudinal obstacles to sexual intimacy in old age.

Description, Response Mode, and Timing

The ASKAS consists of 61 items, 35 true/false/don't know in format and 26 items responded to on a 7-point Likert-type scale as to degree of agreement or disagreement with the particular item. The 35 true/false questions assess knowledge about sexual changes and nonchanges which are or are not age related. The 26 agree/disagree items assess attitudes toward sexual behavior in the aged. The items are counterbalanced. The instrument takes 20–40 minutes to complete.

Scoring

The ASKAS may be given in an interview of paper-and-pencil format and may be group administered or individually administered. The nature of the scoring and items are readily adaptable to computer scoring systems.

Scoring is such that a low knowledge score indicates high knowledge and a low attitude score indicates a more permissive attitude. The rationale for the low knowledge score reflecting high knowledge is that *don't know* was given a value of 3, indicating low knowledge. In the Knowledge section, Questions 1 through 35, the following scoring applies: *true* = 1, *false* = 2, and *don't know* = 3. Items 1, 10, 14, 17, 20, 30, and 31 are reversed scored. In the Exhibit, the correct answers are in parentheses for Items 1 through 35. The attitude questions, 36 through 61, are each scored according to the value selected by the respondent with the

exception of Items 44, 47, 48, 50–56, and 59 in which the scoring is reversed.

Reliability

The reliability of the ASKAS has been examined in several different studies, and in varying ways, summarized in Table 1. As can be seen, reliabilities are very positive and at acceptable levels.

Validity

Presented in Table 2 are the means and standard deviations of ASKAS scores from several studies. These means are not meant to be viewed as normative, but rather illustrative of group variation in ASKAS performance.

The validity of the ASKAS has been examined in a sexual education program for older persons, by individuals working with older persons, and by adult family members of aged persons in which each group received the psychological-educational intervention separately (White & Catania, 1981). Each experimental group had a comparable

TABLE 1
Aging Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (ASKAS)
Reliabilities

Type of reliability	Reliability coefficient	Sample size	Type of sample
<i>Knowledge</i>			
Split-half ^a	.91	163	Nursing home staff
Split-half ^a	.90	279	Nursing home residents
Alpha	.93	163	Nursing home staff
Alpha	.91	279	Nursing home residents
Alpha	.92	30	Community older adults
Alpha	.90	30	Nursing home staff
Alpha	.90	30	Families of older adults
Test-retest	.97	15	Community older adults
Test-retest	.90	30	Staff of nursing home and families of the older adults
<i>Attitudes</i>			
Split-half ^a	.86	163	Nursing home staff
Split-half ^a	.83	279	Nursing home residents
Alpha	.85	163	Nursing home staff
Alpha	.76	279	Nursing home residents
Alpha	.87	30	Community older adults
Alpha	.87	30	Nursing home staff
Alpha	.86	30	Families of older adults
Test-retest	.96	15	Community older adults
Test-retest	.72	30	Staff of nursing home and families of the aged

^aThese correlations have been corrected for test length.

This is the end of the sample ASKAS clinical validity. Please return to page 1 to purchase complete version.

Ageing Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (ASKAS)

Scoring and Administration

The ASKAS is designed for use with older persons, people who work with older persons, and any group of people who have an impact on the aged (e.g., families of the aged, volunteers working with the aged). The questions are designed to measure sexual attitudes and sexual knowledge through the utilization of items dealing with the age-related changes (and nonchanges) in sexuality and the context of sexuality for the aged.

The attitude portion of the test is based on the assumption that attitudes toward sexuality in the context of old age institutions (specifically, the nursing home) are predictive of attitudes toward sexuality in the aged in other contexts.

Scoring -

The ASKAS consists of 61 questions, of which 35 are true-false or "don't know" in response format and 26 are responded to on a 7-point Likert scale as to the extent of agreement or disagreement with the item statement. The true-false questions are measures of knowledge about sexuality in the aged, while the agree-disagree Likert scale questions measure attitudes toward sexuality in the aged.

There are 2 domains in the ASKAS 1 is called the Knowledge domain, which has 35 questions and a score range of 35-105. The 2nd is called the Attitudes domain which has 26 items and a score range of 26-182.

Scoring the ASKAS is easy, simply add up the responses.

Note: There are reversed scored items...

Aging Sexual Attitudes and Knowledge Scale SCORING TABLE 1

Knowledge questions (correct answer shown in parentheses)

- a1. Sexual activity in aged persons is often dangerous to their health.
(.1) True (2) False .3 Don't know
2. Males over the age of 65 typically take longer to attain an erection of their penis than do younger males.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
3. Males over the age of 65 usually experience a reduction in intensity of orgasm relative to younger males.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
4. The firmness of erection in aged males is often less than that of younger persons.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
5. The older female (65+ years of age) has reduced vaginal lubrication secretion relative to younger females.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
6. The aged female takes longer to achieve adequate vaginal lubrication relative to younger females.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
7. The older female may experience painful intercourse due to reduced elasticity of the vagina and reduced vaginal lubrication.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
8. Sexuality is typically a life-long need.
(1)True .2False .3Don'tknow
- a9. Sexual behavior in older people (65+)increases the risk of heart attack.
(.1) True (2) False .3 Don't know
- a10. Most males over the age of 65 are unable to engage in sexual intercourse.
(.1) True (2) False .3 Don't know
11. The relatively most sexually active younger people tend to become the relatively most sexually active older people.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
12. There is evidence that sexual activity in older persons has beneficial physical effects on the participants.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
13. Sexual activity may be psychologically beneficial to older persons.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
- a14. Most older females are sexually unresponsive.
(.1) True (2) False .3 Don't know
15. The sex urge typically increases with age in males over 65.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
16. Prescription drugs may alter a person's sex drive.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
- a17. Females after menopause, have a physiologically induced need for sexual activity.
.1 True (2) False .3 Don't know
18. Basically, changes with advanced age (65+)in sexuality involve a slowing of response time rather than a reduction of interest in sex.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know
19. Older males typically experience a reduced need to ejaculate and hence may maintain an erection of the penis for a longer time than younger males.
(.1)True .2 False .3Don'tknow
- a20. Older males and females cannot act as sex partners as both need younger partners for stimulation.
(.1 True (2)False .3 Don't know
21. The most common determinant of the frequency of sexual activity in older couples is the interest or lack of interest of the husband in a sexual relationship with his wife.
(.1) True .2 False .3 Don't know

This is the end of the sample ASKAS scoring & administration. Please return to page 1 to purchase complete version.

Aging Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (ASKAS)

Knowledge Questions

1. Sexual activity in aged persons is often dangerous to their health.
True False Don't Know
2. Males over the age of 65 typically take longer to attain an erection of their penis than do younger males.
True False Don't Know
3. Males over the age of 65 usually experience a reduction in intensity of orgasm relative to younger males.
True False Don't Know
4. The firmness of erection in aged males is often less than that of younger persons.
True False Don't Know
5. The older female (65+ years of age) has reduced vaginal lubrication secretion relative to younger females.
True False Don't Know
6. The aged female takes longer to achieve adequate vaginal lubrication relative to younger females.
True False Don't Know
7. The older female may experience painful intercourse due to reduced elasticity of the vagina and reduced vaginal lubrication.
True False Don't Know
8. Sexuality is typically a lifelong need.
True False Don't Know
9. Sexual behavior in older people (65+) increases the risk of heart attack.
True False Don't Know
10. Most males over the age of 65 are unable to engage in sexual intercourse.
True False Don't Know
11. The relatively most sexually active younger people tend to become the relatively most sexually active older people.
True False Don't Know
12. There is evidence that sexual activity in older persons has beneficial physical effects on the participants.
True False Don't Know
13. Sexual activity may be psychologically beneficial to older person participants.
True False Don't Know
14. Most older females are sexually unresponsive.
True False Don't Know

This is the end of the sample ASKAS questionnaire. Please return to page 1 to purchase complete version.