

Couple Coercion Scale

Title	Couple Coercion Scale
Domain	Interpersonal & Social Processes
Type	Self-report
Duration (min)	2
Description	This 9-item self-report scale assesses an individual's perception of how much coercion characterizes their relationship with their partner.
OSF Link	
Adult/Child	adult
Computerized	computerized
Identified	1

Identified Description

Coercive Family Process Theory (Patterson, 1982) is one of the most highly developed and influential interpersonal models of dyadic family conflict. Coercion Theory builds off of Social Learning Theory, the foremost cognitive behavioral approach to behavior. Coercion Theory explains how, despite their unpleasant and destructive qualities, hostile escalation sequences are reinforced for both persons. Patterson posited that people learn coercive behavior through the ways in which conflicts are resolved. Over time, if Person A responds to Person B's escalating aversive behavior by giving in (thus ceasing his/her own aversive behavior), B learns to escalate to get his/her way. Importantly, both persons' behaviors are maintained through reinforcement. B is negatively reinforced for escalating (via A shutting up) and may be positively reinforced as well (via A doing what B was asking for in the argument). A is negatively reinforced for giving in (via the termination of B's aversive behavior). Over time, these conflicts serve as learning trials. Of course, B does not always win. Sometimes, B backs down in response to the A's aversive escalation. Thus, once a coercive process takes hold, both members of the dyad are faced with an unfortunate choice: (a) give in and lose the battle, or (b) win via out-escalating the other. This process leads to ever darker, bitter battles. In Patterson's (1976, p. 1) exquisite phrasing, each person is both "victim and architect of a coercive system."

As noted in a review of the literature by Robles et al., 2014 (a meta-analysis of 126 published empirical articles investigating relationship quality and physical health), a sizable literature links

hostile couple relationships to (a) problems with social-cognitive and affective processes, such as self-regulation of emotion and behavior; (b) physiological stress reactivity processes, especially in the neuroendocrine axes and in immune functioning; and (c) poor health outcomes.

Identified Supporting Documentation	?post_type=measures&p=2279
Identified PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	Text Citation: Robles, T. F., Slatcher, R. B., Trombello, J. M., & McGinn, M. M. (2014). Marital quality and health: A meta-analytic review. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 140, 140. doi:10.1037/a0031859 Text Citation: Patterson, G. R. (1982). <i>Coercive family processes</i> . Eugene, OR: Castilla Press.
Measured	1
Measured Description	Factor analysis indicates that the CCS is reasonably, if not perfectly, unifactorial. Item response theory analysis indicates that reliability is excellent, exceeding .9 for much of the range of coercion (-.6 SDs below to 2.6 SDs above the mean), and exceeding .7 beginning at 1.4 SDs below the coercion mean. Reliability as calculated by Cronbach's alpha is .93. The CCS is significantly correlated in the hypothesized direction, with moderate to strong effect sizes, with couple relationship satisfaction ($r = -0.35$), partner physical ($r = 0.34$) and emotional abuse ($r = 0.32$), and dysfunctional couple conflict ($r = 0.54$).
Measured Supporting Documentation	
Measured PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	
Influenced	
Influenced Description	
Influenced Supporting Documentation	
Influenced PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	
Outcome (Validated vs Invalidated)	
Outcome	
Outcome Description	
Outcome Supporting Documentation	

Outcome PMCID, PUBMED ID, or CITATION	
Owner	Danielle Mitnick Send email to Danielle