

# Addendum and Correction

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This note is an addendum and correction to some previously reported results—see “Childhood Abuse and Spiritual Development Among Women Religious” (*Journal of Religion and Health*, 1995, 34, No. 2, pp. 127–133). Because of an error in recoding item responses to the Spiritual Experience Index (SEI) during data analysis, the reported means and standard deviations for the 38-item SEI were incorrect. Corrected data are presented in Table 1.

As previously reported, there was no difference in SEI scores among the sexually, physically, emotionally abused, and the not abused groups when age was held constant. Surprisingly, age was inversely related to SEI scores,  $r(346) = -.44, p < .001$ .

It was predicted that abused women having more accepting attitudes would score higher on the SEI than those less accepting. Two groups were formed in each abuse category using a median split of the Ego Grasping Orientation (EGO) scale. Data were analyzed using the ANOVA procedure, with age as a covariate. Post hoc comparisons were done with one-way ANOVA and Scheffe tests. The sexually abused accepting (low EGO) group scored higher than the ego grasping (high EGO), as well as the not abused group,  $F(2, 116) = 3.52, p < .05$ . Similarly, among the physically abused, the accepting (low EGO) group scored higher on the SEI than the other two groups,  $F(2, 196) = 4.13, p < .05$ . Groups did not differ on the SEI in the emotionally abused category,  $F(2, 62) = 2.40, p = ns$ . The combined abused accepting (low EGO) group scored higher on the SEI than the grasping (high EGO) and the not abused group,  $F(2, 342) = 8.63, p < .001$ .

Results tend to support the prediction that women religious who had been abused in childhood but have had an accepting attitude as adults have a

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**TABLE 1**  
**Mean Spiritual Experience Index Scores**

<i>Group</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Sexually Abused	100	179.22	12.87
Physically Abused	182	181.71	14.27
Emotionally Abused	46	178.52	14.10
Not Abused	22	168.55	14.06
<b>Sexually Abused Group</b>			
Abused High EGO	58	176.52	12.74
Abused Low EGO	42	182.95	12.22
<b>Physically Abused Group</b>			
Abused High EGO	77	177.97	14.67
Abused Low EGO	105	184.45	13.39
<b>Emotionally Abused Group</b>			
Abused High EGO	20	174.15	13.10
Abused Low EGO	26	181.89	14.15
<b>Combined Abused Groups</b>			
Total Abused High EGO	155	176.94	13.75
Total Abused Low EGO	173	183.70	13.19

*Note:* EGO = Ego Grasping Orientation Scale.

higher level of spiritual experience than those with a grasping or controlling attitude. Since the group that was not abused scored significantly lower, however, the question arises whether the SEI adequately measures spiritual maturity. It may rather be tapping spirituality as a crutch for support.

