

MMPI Reliability?

Lest we forget:

# Reliability of MMPI

50% College Students change in < 2 weeks

High point codes are unstable. "About one-half of subjects have had the same high-point code type on two administrations. About one-fourth to one-third have had the same two-point code type. About one-fourth have had the same three-point code type."

John Graham (1993) *MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

## Test-Retest Reliability

## Coefficients for MMPI Scales

® One Day or < One-Two Weeks One Year or >

® Actual - Typical Actual - Typical Actual - Typical

® **Normal Group**

- .49 - .96 .80 - .85 .29 - .92 .70 - .80 .13 - .73 .35 - .45

® **Psychiatric Group**

- .61 - .94 .80 - .85 .43 - .86 .80 - .85 .22 - .72 .50 - .60

® **Criminal Group**

- .40 - .86 .70 - .80 .21 - .84 .60 - .70 - - - -

# Professor Hathaway on

# Changing Profiles

"We must not be dismayed by having to give the personality test twice if we want two valid assessments of a person. Different persons, instructions, surroundings and implied uses of the data are needed to elicit different personalities of the individual.

Once again I want to emphasize that the various profiles are all valid. Our tests often appear weak because we have not evoked the appropriate profiles or properly extracted the available validity."

Starke R. Hathaway, December 1959

## **Bottom Line for MMPI: Starke Hathaway (1959). Co-author MMPI**

® "I believe that personality test data depend greatly upon the situation of testing, which is itself a function both of the particular items and of the more obvious environmental factors.

® "Skilled manipulation of the environmental testing situation is crucial to elicit the personalities we wish to measure, and interpretation of test data can proceed validly only when we can have an idea which personality the testee has presented.

® Different persons, instructions, surroundings, and implied uses of the data are needed to elicit different personalities of the individual."

Quoted in W. Grant Dahlstrom and George S. Welsh,  
(1965) An MMPI Handbook: A Guide To Use In Clinical  
Practice And Research. Minneapolis: University of  
Minnesota Press.

Please excuse my naivete and ignorance in this issue. This issue is a dilemma I  
have never been able to wrap my brain around. We seem to consider ppl  
involved in child custody litigation to somehow be different then everyone else.  
What is the basis for that. If we didn't the norm, validity and reliability issues  
would not be an issue.

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"First, we halved the effective optical drive  
space of our mobile telephones to better  
understand the median latency of our  
desktop machines."

*[pdos.csail.mit.edu/scigen](http://pdos.csail.mit.edu/scigen)*