

+K-corrections on the MMPI-2 Avoidance and the Reasons Therefore
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From: "Andrew Ursino" <HUISAAU@OMH.STATE.NY.US>
To: <PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU>
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Subject: Re: Non-K-corrected MMPI-2 scores

From James N. Butcher, *Revising Psychological Tests: Lessons Learned From the Revision of the MMPI*, *Psychological Assessment*, September 2000 Vol. 12, No. 3, 263-271

"... in the MMPI revision research some questions were raised about the value of the K correction that had been added to "improve" the assessment of five of the MMPI clinical scales since the mid-1940s (Weed, 1992). Empirical studies showed that the K correction developed by Meehl and Hathaway (1946) did not actually improve the validity of the predictions from the scales that were routinely K-adjusted.

Clearly, this finding was troublesome for the MMPI committee because the potential impact of simply doing away with this traditional scoring correction in the MMPI-2 could have greater consequences. The fact that the K correction had been applied to the vast majority of the traditional validity studies and, if deleted, might negate the results of the revised scales was a sobering thought.

However, the use of K did not appear to make the predictions substantially less valid! It was therefore concluded that since one goal of the revision was an on-course correction, rather than a major revamping of the clinical scales, the traditional clinical scales needed to remain as close as possible to the original versions.

However, to promote future research on the problem, the committee decided to encourage the development of non-K corrected validity studies that could be applied in future research by making available in the test manual non-K corrected T scores. In addition, a non-K corrected profile form (based on norms developed without K corrections) was provided for psychologists to examine profiles without the K correction being added."

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