

Scale 5 (Mf)

The Terman and Miles (1936) investigations, which commenced in 1922, into the masculine and feminine interest patterns of intellectually superior children, form the basis of the Masculinity/Femininity Scale of the MMPI and MMPI-2. A series of masculinity and femininity tests (M-F test) were developed. "...the scores tended to be correlated with general masculinity and femininity behavior and to reveal an important line of cleavage in personality and temperament." (p. 13).

Terman, L. M., & Miles, C. C., (1936). *Sex and Personality* (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Terman observed, "In modern Occidental culture, at least, the typical woman is believed to differ from the typical man in the greater richness and variety of her emotional life and to the extent to which her everyday behavior is emotionally determined. In particular, who is believed to experience in greater degree than the average man the tender emotions, including sympathy, pity, and parental love; to be more given to cherishing and protective behavior of all kinds. Compared to men she is more timid and more readily overcome by fear. She is more religious and at the same time more prone to jealousy, suspicion, and injured feelings. Sexually she is by nature less promiscuous than men, is coy rather than aggressive, and her feelings are less specifically localized in her body. Submissiveness, docility, inferior steadfastness of purpose, and a general lack of aggressiveness reflect her weaker conative tendencies (the ability to stick with a complex and demanding task and see it through to a successful completion). Her moral life is shaped less by principles than by personal relationships, but thanks to her lack of adventurousness she is much less subject than men are to most types of criminal behavior. Her sentiments are more complex than man's and dispose her personality to refinement, gentility, and pre-occupation with the artistic and cultural." (p. 2).

Volentine (1981) investigated femininity interest items on the Bem Sex Role Inventory and Scale 5 of the MMPI. The correlations supported the conclusion that Scale 5 more clearly reflects feminine rather than masculine interest patterns.

Volentine, S. Z., (1981). "The assessment of masculinity and femininity: Scale 5 of the MMPI compared with the BSRI and PAQ". *Journal of Clinical Psychology* 37, 367-374.

Hathaway and McKinley (1940) developed Scale 5 to identify homosexuals. Items from the Terman and Miles Attitude-Interest Analysis Test (1936) were incorporated into Scale 5 after the data had already been collected from the original normative sample. Dahlstrom (1972) said, "Scale 5 was designed to identify the personality features related to the **disorder** of male sexual inversion". "Persons with the personality pattern often engage in homoerotic practices as part of their feminine

emotional makeup; however, many of these men are too inhibited or full of conflict to make any overt expression of their sexual preference. (p. 201).

Hathaway, S. R., (1956). Scale 5 (Masculinity/Femininity), 6 (Paranoia), and 8 (Schizophrenia) In G.S. Welsh & W.G. Dahlstrom (Eds.). "Basic readings on the MMPI in psychology and medicine " (pp. 104-111). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Dahlstrom, W. G., Welsh, G. S., & Dahlstrom, L. E., (1972). "An MMPI Handbook: Vol. I. Clinical interpretation" (Rev. ed.) Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Terman and Miles (1936) concluded, "It (the M-F test) does not measure homosexuality, as that term is commonly used, but it does measure, roughly, (the) degree of inversion of the sex temperament..." (p. 467). "...a serious limitation to the present usefulness of the (M-F) test lies in the fact that as yet too little is known about the behavior correlated with high and low scores". (p. 9). This appears to be true to this day. "Most empathic warning is necessary against the assumption that an extremely feminine score for males or an extremely masculine score for females can serve as an adequate basis for the diagnosis of homosexuality, either overt or latent". (p. 9). "...probably a majority of subjects who test as variates in the direction of the opposite sex are capable of making a perfectly normal heterosexual adjustment." (p. 9).

Hathaway and McKinley (1956) concluded that Scale 5 did not identify homosexuals. Wong (1984) stated that subsequent attempts to construct independent scales to identify homosexuals have met a similar fate.

Foerstner (1946) investigated the bipolar construction of Scale 5 in a series of extensive examinations of large psychiatric in- and outpatient populations. The MMPI subtests developed by Harris and Lingo (1955), Serkownek's 1975 in Schwerger (1987), Weiner (1948), and Wiggins (1966) were factor analyzed. Friedman, et al, (2001) commented, "It is clear from the data reported in Foerstner's (1984) study that Scale 5 (and Scale 0) is multifactorial in nature; therefore, its composition is not limited to masculine-feminine factors. Scale 5 scores, whether high or low, may be achieved by item endorsements of any of the combination of at least 6 factors". (Wong 1984).

Foerstner, S. B., (1984). "The factor structure and stability of selected Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory subscales: Harris and Lingo's subscales, Wiggins's content scales, Weiner subscales, and Serkownek subscales". Doctoral Dissertation Akron OH: University of Akron.

Harris, R. E., & Lingo, J. C., (1955). Subscales for the MMPI: An aide to profile interpretation. University of California, Department of Psychiatry.

Serkownek, K., (1975). "Subscales for Scales 5 and 0 of the MMPI". Unpublished manuscript.

Schwerger, J. M., Foerstner, S. B., Serkownek, K., & Ritz, G., (1987). "History and validities of the Serkownek subscales for MMPI Scales 5 and 0". *Psychological Reports* 61, 227-235.

Weiner, J. S., (1948). "Subtle and obvious keys for the MMPI". *Journal of Consulting Psychology* 12, 164-170.

Wiggins, J. S., (1966). "Substantive dimensions of self-report in the MMPI item pool". *Psychological Monographs* 80, (22, Whole No. 630).

Wong, M. R., (1984). "MMPI Scale 5 meaning or lack thereof". *Journal of Personality Assessment* 48, 279-284.

Friedman, A. F., Lewak, R., Nichols, D. S., & Webb, J. T., (2001). "Psychological Assessment with the MMPI-2". Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publishers.

Kunce and Anderson (1984) think normal men who have high Scale 5 scores entertain many interests and are tolerant of diversity. Low Scale 5 score in normal men may reflect assertiveness, a need for physical activity, competitiveness, enthusiasm for sports, and little interest in revealing much about themselves. Normal females who score high on Scale 5 may be seen as confident, energetic, and in control of their lives. Low Scale 5 scores for normal females suggest an acceptance of the attitudes and interests of a typically feminine person as defined by the current cultural milieu.

Kunce, J., & Anderson, W., (1984). "Perspectives on uses of the MMPI in psychiatric settings" In P. McReynolds & G.T. Chelvne (Eds.) *Advances in psychological assessment* (Vol.6, pp. 41-76).

Wallace (2001) suggests the psychiatric male population with high Scale 4 combined with low Scale 5 scores are seen as vigorously seeking out opportunities for narcissistic masculine self-indulgence. These men use other people to satisfy their urges. They are indifferent to the impact their behavior has upon others. Female psychiatric populations who have high Scale 4 and low Scale 5 scores suggest angry hostile females who are provocative troublemakers. They twist what is said to them to the point that the original message is unrecognizable. This maneuver puts the recipient of her retorts off balance and more easily confused and manipulated. They use guilt to dominate those relationships they find useful to achieving their own interests and goals. They have little to no capacity for empathy.

Wallace, J. L., (2001). "A Clinician's Guide to Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory Interpretation" Ex Libris.

Twenty-three of the Scale 5 (Mf) items are from the item pool of Terman and Miles work, *Sex and Personality* (1936). Thirty-seven items are from the MMPI pool. The MMPI-2 has 56 items for Scale 5 (Mf). Scale 5 (Mf) measures masculinity/femininity attitudes wherein high Scale 5 (Mf) scores reflect more feminine attitudes in males and low Scale 5 (Mf) scores indicate attitudes that are more feminine with females. Twenty-five of the MMPI-2 Scale 5 (Mf) items are scored in the true direction and 31 are scored in the false direction for men. Twenty-three of Scale 5 (Mf) items are scored in the true direction for females and 33 items are scored in the false direction. Scale 5 (Mf) norms are formed from linear T-scores instead of the Uniform T-scores utilized in the norming of the MMPI-2. Test-retest correlations on Scale 5 (Mf) run from .79 to .83 for 1 to 2 day intervals with psychiatric patients, 0.79 to 0.79 for a 1 to 2 week interval for psychiatric patients and 0.72 for 1 to 2 week intervals with college students (Dahlstrom 1975). Item overlap is: **L (1), F (2), K (3), 1 (0), 2 (2), 3 (4), 4 (3), 6 (2), 7 (1), 8 (4), 9 (3), Sie (9).**

Dahlstrom, W. G., Welsh, G. S., & Dahlstrom, L. E., (1975). "An MMPI Handbook: Vol. II. Research applications". (Rev. Ed.) Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.