

Subject: Re: MMPI2 Query
To: PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU

Michael,

From the first sentence of Chapter 7 titled Codetypes, p 287, in Greene, 2001, *The MMPI-2; An Interpretive Manual* "...MMPI-2 Codetypes (specific combinations of the 10 clinical scales)".

RE codetype stability, we had a thread about this recently. Pasted below are my contributions to this thread:

According to Greene (2000, *The MMPI-2; An Interpretive Manual*, pp. 311-312), "there are few empirical data that indicate how consistently clients will obtain the same codetype on two successive administrations of the MMPI or the MMPI-2".

Cited in this section of Greene's text are:

Percent agreements of 43, 44, 28, 26, and 41 are reported for various MMPI codetypes in a psychiatric inpatient population (N = 405; Graham, Smith, and Schwartz, 1986) across an average interval of 3 months. "If patients were classified into the categories of neurotic, psychotic, and characterologic, 58.1% remained in the same category when re-tested". "Greene, et al (1993) provided similar data on 454 alcoholic inpatients who had taken the MMPI during two different hospitalizations separated by at least 6 months".

(Although it would be expected that hospitalized psychiatric and alcoholic patients would change with these changes reflected by successive MMPI administrations, the minimal research on codetype stability strikes me as more important, and means that taken alone based on current research, a single MMPI-2 administration cannot generate confident predictions of future behavior.)

According to Caldwell (1997, *Forensic Questions and Answers on the MMPI/MMPI-2*, p12), "considerable persistence of scores has been shown across five testings over a 30 year interval". Unfortunately, Caldwell lists no research citation in support of this assertion.

Page 102 of Butcher & Williams' (1992) *Essentials of MMPI-2 and MMPI-A Interpretation*.

According to B & W, "the stability of code-types depends upon how well the code type is defined (meaning the T-score point separation between the code type peaks and the remainder of the primary clinical scales). B & W cite the Graham et al. 1986 study mentioned below, as demonstrating that code types show only moderate congruence on retest, overall, but "that code types with more extreme scores (i.e., those that were well-defined by a substantial point separation between the scale scores in the code type and those not included in the code), tended to be similar at retest".

A little further, down this page, B & W report several rules of thumb

suggested by Graham, et al's 1986 study.

- 1.) Profile code types 10 or more greater than the next highest are very likely to be found on retest.
- 2.) Profile code types that are 5 to 9 points greater than the next score are likely to remain constant on retest.
- 3.) Profile code types with less than the above separations are less certain and may shift on retest, but future profiles will probably maintain some elements and behavioral correlates of the initial cod type.

Does anyone have a copy of Graham, Smith, and Schwartz, 1986, Stability of MMPI configurations for psychiatric inpatients, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, vol 54, pp 375-380? (Margaret offered to send this when she returns from Maine)

BTW, for those graduate students interested in personality assessment it appears that researching test-retest stability of MMPI-2 code types across 5 to 10 year spans would generate a number of publications of forensic interest, as this forensic-pertinent topic remains an area in need of further study. Graham et al's study only looked at psychiatric inpatients across a few months, and did not address anything like the sort of time frames (across years) that are of forensic interest (child custody, sentencing are two examples).

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----- Original Message -----

From: [MICHAEL KARSON](mailto:MICHAEL.KARSON)

To: PSYLAW-L@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2003 9:14 AM

Subject: MMPI2 Query

Could someone please provide me with a citation for the most up-to-date opinion on the durability of codetypes? (That is, if I am a 4-9 today, what are the odds that I will be a 4-9 next week, next month, and next year.)? And does anyone have a citation on what constitutes a codetype?

Thanks,

Michael