



I19 The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI): Treatment Scales and Interpersonal Characteristics in a Sample of Men Charged With or Convicted of a Sexual Offense

Alden Parker*, Clemson, SC 29631; Emily D. Gottfried, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29407

Learning Overview: The goal of this presentation is to inform those who are involved in the assessment and treatment of persons who have sexually offended of considerations related to treatment prognosis and personality characteristics.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by improving the ability of evaluators of sexual offending behavior and treatment providers to make treatment recommendations based on information obtained from psychological testing.

This presentation will focus on the relationship between the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) interpersonal personality traits of dominance and warmth and PAI scales associated with treatment motivation and process.¹ The PAI Treatment Rejection (RXR) scale assesses treatment motivation levels with low scores indicating high motivations for treatment and high scores indicating low motivation for treatment. However, since motivation for treatment does not always equal a positive outcome, the PAI Treatment Process Index (TPI) is composed of 12 features that indicate levels of obstacles that may be present within treatment, such as hostility, low motivation, defensiveness, and low social support, as well as correlate highly with withdrawal, hostility, and alienation. It was hypothesized that RXR and TPI would be negatively associated with the PAI scale assessing Warmth (WRM) and positively associated with the PAI scale assessing Dominance (DOM). In other words, it was expected that individuals with lower levels of WRM and higher levels of DOM would be less motivated for the treatment process and were predicted to experience a greater amount of challenges within treatment.

Data were collected from 101 men who underwent comprehensive evaluations of sexual behavior after being charged with or convicted of a sexual offense or sexual boundary violation. After invalid PAI data were removed, the final sample was 92 men who ranged in age from 19 to 80 years old ($M=44.84$, $SD=14.79$). The current presentation will discuss the relationship between several PAI scales and the relationship between the PAI scales and number of prison disciplinary infractions, age of examinee, self-esteem rating, victim(s)' age and sex, history of parental mental illness, substance abuse, and criminal offending; prior mental health or substance use treatment; and prior sexual behavior treatment. This presentation will assist clinicians who perform assessment and provide treatment to individuals with problematic sexual behavior in using the PAI and other psychological testing in making treatment recommendations.

Reference(s):

¹. Morey L.C. *Personality Assessment Inventory Professional Manual* (2nd ed.). Lutz, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources, 1991, 2007.

Sexual Offending, Personality Assessment, Treatment