

ANGER MANAGEMENT PROFILE



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AMP

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Description

Anger Management Profile (AMP) is designed for court and anger assessment treatment settings. The AMP is particularly useful in substance (alcohol and other drugs) abuse-related cases. It is also used in probation and community corrections program screening.

The AMP has 123 items and takes 25 minutes on average to complete. It has a sixth grade reading level. AMP reports are computer scored and printed on-site within 2½ minutes of test completion.

The AMP evaluates the client's test taking attitude and identifies faking. It measures substance use and the severity of abuse. The scale score recommendations are in accordance with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidelines. It also quantifies anger (violence) potential. And the AMP measures the client's ability to cope with stress. It's an understatement to say the AMP is much more than just another alcohol or drug test.

Five AMP Scales

- 1. Truthfulness Scale:** measures how truthful the client was while completing the AMP. It would be naive to assume that clients always tell the truth -- particularly in court-related settings. Defendants often attempt to minimize their problems and concerns. The Truthfulness Scale detects denial and faking.
- 2. Alcohol Scale:** measures alcohol use and **severity** of abuse. Alcohol refers to beer, wine and other liquors. This scale measures the **severity** of alcohol abuse while identifying alcohol-related problems.
- 3. Drugs Scale:** measures the **severity** of drug (marijuana, crack, ice, LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin) use and abuse while identifying drug-related problems. This scale is independent of the Alcohol Scale.
- 4. Anger Scale:** measures the client's anger on a continuum from annoyance to rage. Measures the client's propensity for using force to injure, damage or destroy. This scale identifies people that are dangerous to themselves or others.
- 5. Anger Management Scale:** measures the client's ability to cope effectively with anger, stress, tension and pressure. Anger and stress exacerbates emotional and mental health symptoms. This is a non-introversive way to screen diagnosable mental health problems.

AMP Test Booklet

AMP test booklets are provided free. These booklets contain 123 items and are written at a 5th - 6th grade reading level. If a person can read the newspaper they can read the AMP. Questions are direct and easily understood. It takes 25 minutes on average for clients to complete the test. AMP test booklets are available in both English and Spanish.

AMP Reports

In brief, AMP reports summarize the client's self-reported court history, explain what attained scores mean and offer specific score-related recommendations. Within 2½ minutes from test data entry automated (computer scored) 3 page reports are available on-site. These reports summarize a wealth of information in an easily understood format. For example, these reports include an AMP profile (graph) which summarizes client findings at a glance. Also included are explanations of what each score means and specific score-related recommendations.

AMP Database

The AMP system contains a proprietary database. All AMP used diskettes are returned to BDS and the test data is downloaded into the AMP database. This expanding database allows ongoing research and testing program summary capabilities that were not possible before. Ongoing research insures quality control. Test program summaries provide for program self-evaluation. **Built-in Database:** advantages of a built-in database are many and include database (research) analysis and annual summary reports.

Reliability, Validity and Accuracy

The AMP has a built-in database that insures inclusion of all tests administered in a confidential (no names) manner. And these reliability, validity and accuracy statistics are reported in the document titled "AMP: An

Inventory of Scientific Findings.” Annual database analysis has revealed that AMP scales maintain very high reliability coefficients and minimum interscale correlations.

Staff Member Input. Some people advocate fully automated assessment. BDS does not. The AMP is to be used in conjunction with experienced staff judgment. When available, court records should be reviewed because they can contain important information not provided or incorrectly provided by the client. Experienced evaluators should also interview the client. For these reasons the following statement is contained in each AMP report: “Anger Management Profile (AMP) results are working hypotheses and are to be used in conjunction with an interview, record review and experienced staff judgment. No diagnosis or recommendation should be based solely upon AMP results.”

Unique AMP Features

Truthfulness Scale: identifies denial, problem minimization and faking. It is now known that most clients attempt to minimize their problems. A Truthfulness Scale is a necessary component in contemporary tests. The AMP Truthfulness Scale has been validated with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), polygraph exams, other tests, truthfulness studies and experienced staff judgment. The AMP Truthfulness Scale has been demonstrated to be reliable, valid and accurate. In some respects the AMP Truthfulness Scale is similar to the MMPI’s L and F Scales. It consists of a number of items that most people agree or disagree with.

Truth-Corrected Scores have proven to be very important for assessment accuracy. This proprietary truth-correction process is comparable to the MMPI K-Scale correction. The AMP Truthfulness Scale has been correlated with the other six scales. The Truth-Correction equation then converts raw scores to Truth-Corrected scores. Truth-Corrected scores are more accurate than raw scores. Raw scores reflect what the client wants you to know. Truth-Corrected scores reveal what the client is attempting to hide.

Anger Scale. This scale identifies people who are a danger to themselves and others. This scale measures the client’s anger on a continuum from annoyance to rage. Uncontrolled range often escalates into violence.

Anger Management Scale: measures how well the client handles anger, stress, tension and pressure. How well a person manages their anger and stress can effect their adjustment and mental health. We now know that stress exacerbates emotional and mental health problems. This scale is a non-introversive way to screen established (diagnosable) mental health problems. A client scoring at or above the 90th percentile on the Anger Management Scale should be referred for a more comprehensive evaluation and diagnosis. This important area of inquiry is missed by many other client screening tests.

Confidentiality. BDS encourages test users to delete client names from diskettes before they are returned to BDS. This proprietary “name deletion” procedure involves a few keystrokes and insures client confidentiality. Once client names are deleted they are gone and cannot be retrieved. Deleting client names does not delete demographics or test data which is downloaded into the AMP database for subsequent analysis. **This “name deletion” procedure insures confidentiality and compliance with HIPAA (federal regulation 45 C.F.R. 164. 501) requirements.**

Test Data Input Verification. This proprietary program allows the person that inputs test data from the answer sheet into the computer to verify the accuracy of their data input. In brief, test data is input twice and any inconsistencies between the first and second data entry are highlighted until corrected. When the first and second data entry match or are the same the staff person can continue. This proprietary Data Input Verification procedure is optional, yet strongly recommended by BDS.