

# **Offender Assessment Index (OAI)**

## **Training Manual**

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# **OFFENDER ASSESSMENT INDEX**

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# OFFENDER ASSESSMENT INDEX

The Offender Assessment Index (OAI) is designed for use in drug courts, family courts, municipal courts and county courts. It can be used to evaluate misdemeanor or felony charged offenders. OAI reports are particularly useful at pre-sentence hearings.

The OAI consists of 158 items and takes 35 minutes to complete. OAI's are scored on-site and reports printed in 3 minutes. The OAI contains 7 measures (scales): Truthfulness Scale, Resistance Scale, Violence Scale, Stress Coping Abilities Scale, Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale, Alcohol Scale and the Drug Scale.

## SEVEN OAI SCALES

**Truthfulness Scale:** measures the truthfulness of the offender while completing the OAI. This Truthfulness Scale identifies faking.

**Resistance Scale:** measures client defensiveness, non-compliance and oppositional behaviors. This scale varies directly with the client's attitude, feelings and outlook.

**Violence Scale:** measures a person's tendency to injure, damage or destroy. Characterized by cruelty, use of excessive force, coercion and brutality. The Violence Scale identifies dangerous people.

**Stress Coping Abilities Scale:** measures a person's ability to cope effectively with stress. Stress exacerbates emotional problems.

**Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale:** utilizes DSM-IV criteria to classify substance (alcohol or drugs) dependency and substance abuse. This is a classification (not a measurement) scale.

**Alcohol Scale:** measures the severity of alcohol use and related problems. Alcohol refers to beer, wine and other liquor.

**Drug Scale:** measures the severity of illicit drug (marijuana, crack, cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin) use and related problems.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale risk-related recommendations are compatible with American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) recommended treatment levels.

The Offender Assessment Index (OAI) was designed in conjunction with experienced drug court staff. Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc. doctorate level psychologists and psychometrists also incorporated municipal court and county court staff input into the OAI design.

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# OFFENDER ASSESSMENT INDEX (OAI)

**1. Why include a Truthfulness Scale?** It would be naive to assume that offenders always tell the truth -- particularly in court-related settings. Literature on offender evaluations consistently demonstrate that offender's tend to minimize their problems and concerns. And many offenders attempt to "fake good." The Truthfulness Scale detects **denial** and **faking**.

**2. Why include the Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale?** Classification as to substance dependency, substance abuse, or non-pathological substance use is related to levels of intervention and treatment. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (**DSM-IV**) is the most widely accepted substance-related classification procedure. That is why the Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale utilize DSM-IV criteria for offender substance-use classification. Inclusion of the Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale greatly enhances OAI substance use/abuse assessment classification, while providing a sound rationale for intervention and treatment.

**3. Why include measures other than alcohol or drugs?** Most experienced court or probation staff want more than just alcohol and drug information. They want to know if the offender was telling the truth. And it is helpful to assess antisocial tendencies as well as violence (**lethality**) potential. It also helps to screen mental health problems in a non-introversive manner. The OAI is much more than just an alcohol or drug test. It offers comprehensive, yet efficient offender screening. The OAI provides information helpful to case adjudication and subsequent intervention/treatment.

**4. Why is a built-in database important?** Professional Online Testing Solutions, Inc. proprietary database technology allows ongoing research and testing program summaries that were not possible before. Ongoing database research enhances accurate assessment and quality control. And annual summary reports provide for program self-evaluation. Ongoing research and annual testing program summary reports are provided **at no additional cost**.

**5. What's unique about the Offender Assessment Index?** The OAI was designed specifically for offender use. Multiple scales provide a comprehensive understanding of offenders -- evaluating attitudes and behaviors missed by other tests. The OAI is state-of-the-art and incorporates many desirable features like incorporating DSM-IV criteria with ASAM compatible recommendations. Other unique features include "test data input verification," delete client names (confidentiality), easy to read reports, reliable and valid results, accurate assessment, ongoing database research, and free annual summary reports.

**6. What do you want to know about offenders before adjudication or sentencing?** The questions are many and include the following: Was the offender truthful? Does the offender have a substance (alcohol or other drug) abuse problem? Is the offender potentially dangerous, violent or lethal? Does the offender have a resistant attitude? Where does the offender fit in the DSM-IV classification of substance dependency or abuse? Is it likely that the offender has identifiable emotional or mental health problems? **The Offender Assessment Index answer these questions and more.**

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## **Truthfulness Scale**

An important advancement in testing has been the development of the Truthfulness Scale, which measures how truthful the offender was while completing the test. It would be very naive to believe that everybody taking tests always answers questions truthfully. **The Truthfulness Scale detects denial, minimizing problems and faking.** The Truthfulness Scale is particularly important in court-related settings. The Truthfulness Scale identifies attempts to "fake good" or underreport problems and concerns.

When reviewing an Offender Assessment Index (OAI) report you should check the Truthfulness Scale score. **A Truthfulness Scale score at or below the 89th percentile is indicative of accurate, truthful and valid results. In contrast, a Truthfulness Scale score at or above the 90th percentile reflects inaccurate and invalid OAI results.** Reasons for inaccurate results are many and include reading impairments, reading things into questions that are not there, emotional turmoil, denial and faking. **Regardless of the reason, a Truthfulness Scale score at or above the 90th percentile means scale scores are inaccurate and likely distorted.**

## **Truth-Corrected Scores**

The Truthfulness Scale establishes how truthful the offender was while completing the OAI. The amount of error variance associated with untruthfulness is determined for each scale and then applied to each scale resulting in Truth-Corrected scores. **Truth-Corrected scores are more accurate than raw scores because they account for the measured amount of untruthfulness while the offender completed the OAI.** Raw scores may only reflect what the offender wants you to know. Truth-Corrected scores reveal what the offender is trying to hide.

## **Validity**

**Definition:** Within the context of assessment, **validity** is a general term for accuracy of measurement. Valid test results are essentially free from error. They are accurate. In contrast, invalidity refers to distortion of test results due to errors in measurement. Invalidity may be due to guardedness, denial, faking, reading things into questions, emotional instability, reading impairments, etc. An invalid test results are distorted and not accurate.

**When handed an OAI report, staff should check the Truthfulness Scale score.** If the Truthfulness Scale score is below the 70th percentile -- test results are valid and accurate. Truthfulness Scale scores between the 70th and 89th percentiles are likely valid, but should be interpreted cautiously. Truthfulness Scale scores above the 90th percentile are usually invalid.

## **Staff Members Should Not Take the OAI**

Sometimes a staff member wants to simulate the offender taking the OAI. It is strongly recommended that staff do **not** take the OAI. The OAI is not standardized on staff. And staff do not have the same mental set as a offender. Staff would likely invalidate, distort or otherwise compromise their OAI profile.

## **Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale**

Psychoactive substance use, abuse and dependence are discussed and defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). And it is from this source that the Substance Abuse/Dependency scale evolved.

Dependence as used in the OAI is defined as admission to three or more of the seven DSM-IV symptoms of dependence. Dependence items are summarized as they apply (or are equivalent to) the seven DSM-IV criteria of Substance Dependence.

DEPENDENCY ITEMS AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS		
	Dependency Items	Item Equivalents
I.	Tolerance: #141	#66
II.	Withdrawal: #142, #143	
III.	#144	#7
IV.	#145	#151, #154
V.	#146	#32
VI.	#148	#53
VII.	#140	#96
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These paraphrased dependency items and their related or equivalent items are presented in the OAI Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale report, as well as abuse items and their equivalent items. Similarly, copyrighted OAI items determining self-rated severity of dependency or abuse are specifically referenced in the Substance Abuse/Dependency Scale report. This proprietary procedure makes corroboration and verification of scores available at a glance.

Substance Abuse is defined as admission to one or more of the four DSM-IV symptoms. Abuse items are summarized as they apply (or are equivalent to) the four DSM-IV criteria items.

ABUSE ITEMS AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS		
	Abuse Items	Item Equivalents
I.	#147	#136, #59, #62
II.	#137, #147	
III.	#138	Answer Sheet: #9, 10
IV.	#139	#68, #85
Proprietary and Copyrighted © 1997. All rights reserved.		
SEVERITY OF DEPENDENCY OR ABUSE		
	Alcohol: #149	Drugs: #153
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Whenever possible, it is recommended that the OAI be used in conjunction with an interview, because the course of dependence, abuse, intoxication and withdrawal vary widely.

### **Alcohol Scale**

The Alcohol Scale measures a offender's alcohol proneness and alcohol-related problems. This is an important area of inquiry when evaluating risk. A offender's Alcohol Scale score is determined by his or her pattern of responding to alcohol items or test questions. The offender's score is obtained by adding up the number of scale items that are answered in a negative or deviant direction. If that offender has a prior alcohol-related arrest (or arrests), the appropriate prior alcohol arrest **minimum** score (page 8) would apply. When a offender's scale score is higher than their "prior arrest minimum score", the higher scale score applies and is presented in the Offender Assessment Index report. On the other hand, if the offender's scale score is lower than their "prior arrest minimum score", the higher minimum score applies and is presented in the Offender Assessment Index report. **Prior Alcohol Scale minimum scores are discussed on page 8 of this document.**

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Alcohol refers to beer, wine or other liquors. **Discriminant validity of the Alcohol Scale is demonstrated by the fact that no other Offender Assessment Index scale correlates significantly with prior alcohol-related arrests.** Only the Alcohol Scale correlates significantly with the number of prior alcohol-related arrests.

### **Drug Scale**

The Drug Scale measures a offender's proneness to drug-related problems. The offender's Drug Scale score is determined by his or her pattern of responding to drug items. The Drug Scale score is obtained by adding up the drug items that were answered in the deviant direction.

When a offender's Drug Scale score is higher than their "prior arrest **minimum** (page 7) score," the higher score applies and is presented in the Offender Assessment Index report. On the other hand, if the offender's Drug Scale score is lower than their "prior arrest **minimum** score," the higher **minimum** score applies and is presented in the Offender Assessment Index report. In situations where there are no prior drug-related arrests, or when this information is not available, the Drug Scale is scored in its usual manner by adding the number of Drug Scale items that were answered in a deviant or negative direction. **Prior Drug Scale minimum scores are discussed on page 7 of this document.**

Drugs refers to illicit drugs, e.g., marijuana, cocaine, crack, amphetamines, barbiturates, ice, heroin, etc. **Discriminant validity of the Drug Scale is demonstrated by the fact that no other Offender Assessment Index scale correlates significantly with prior drug-related arrests. Only the Drug Scale correlates significantly with the number of prior drug-related arrests.**

### **Violence Scale**

**The Violence Scale measures the client's use of physical force to injure, damage, or destroy.** It identifies individuals that are dangerous to themselves and others.

An ever-present concern when evaluating offenders is lethality or violence potential. Violence is a significant problem in our society. The harm associated with violence -- mental, emotional, and physical -- is often under-reported by victims and family. And, there are some people who are "violence prone." They are sensitive to perceived criticism, seek revenge, and overtly try to hurt, harm, or even destroy.

### **Resistance Scale**

The Resistance Scale measures client defensiveness and uncooperativeness. This scale varies directly with the client's attitude. The Resistance Scale is a measure of the client's resistance to authority and staff help. Resistance to others influences relationships in the therapeutic setting itself. For example, staff – client relationships are important to treatment involvement, compliance and relationships.

### **Stress Coping Abilities Scale**

The Stress Coping Abilities Scale correlates significantly (.001 level of significance) in predicted directions with the following MMPI scales: Psychopathic Deviate (Pd), Psychasthenia (Pt), Anxiety (A), Manifest Anxiety (MAS), Ego Strength (ES), Social Responsibility (RE), Social Alienation (PD 4A), Social Alienation (SCIA), Social Maladjustment (SOC), Authority Conflict (AUT) Manifest Hostility (HOS), Suspiciousness/Mistrust (TSC-III), Resentment/Aggression (TSC-V), and Tension/Worry (TSC-VII). Stress exacerbates other symptoms of emotional problems. **A high risk (90 to 100th percentile) Stress Coping Abilities score is indicative of markedly impaired stress coping abilities and very likely reflects identifiable emotional and mental health problems.**

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## **OAI Court History**

The Offender Assessment Index (OAI) answer sheet gathers offender demographics and court history. Demographics include: age, marital status, ethnicity (race), sex, education (highest grade), date of birth and date evaluated.

The OAI answer sheet gathers court history. The OAI is an adult test. Item 1. Your age at your **first arrest**: apply to a person's lifetime. In other words the age may be juvenile or adult age. If first arrest were a felony it would be included in item 2. Number of **felony** arrests. Otherwise items 2 through 11 should be answered as an adult (18 years of age or older).

### **Court history as represented on the OAI answer sheet includes:**

- |                                             |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Your age at your <b>first</b> arrest:    | 6. Total number of times <b>arrested</b> :              |
| 2. Number of <b>felony</b> arrests:         | 7. Number of times sentenced to <b>jail</b> :           |
| 3. Number of times on <b>probation</b> :    | 8. Number of times sentenced to <b>prison</b> :         |
| 4. Number of probation <b>revocations</b> : | 9. Number of <b>alcohol</b> -related arrests:           |
| 5. Number of times on <b>parole</b> :       | 10. Number of <b>drug</b> -related arrests:             |
|                                             | 11. Number of months <b>employed</b> in last 12 months: |

**Whenever possible staff should corroborate and correct this information before scoring.** This information is incorporated in the OAI scoring methodology. This court history information (answer sheet items 1 through 11) is summarized for reference on the first page of the OAI report under the heading ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CLIENT.

### **“Recovering” Clients**

A client who does not presently engage in alcohol or other drug abuse may score above zero, but would score in the low risk range. **However, experimentation, casual use or prior involvement with alcohol and other drugs will likely result in an elevated score.** That is why a follow-up interview is recommended. In addition, a significantly elevated score (above the 70th percentile) on the Alcohol or Drug Scale could be obtained by a recovering alcohol or drug abuser. Consequently **the client should be asked if he or she is “recovering,” and if recovering, "how long have they been abstaining" from alcohol or other drug use.**

Questions are included in the OAI that ask of the respondent is a “recovering” alcoholic or drug abuser. Any negative or deviant answer to these questions is included in the report as “significant items.” This procedure is to help staff identify recovering substance abusers. It is important to identify “recovering” alcohol or drug abuse probationers.

### **Minimum Scale Scores**

A offender's prior alcohol and drug arrests are included in the OAI scoring methodology to establish “minimum” Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale scores.

With regard to the Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale scores, one prior substance (alcohol or other drug) arrest automatically establishes a minimum score for the appropriate scale at the 40th percentile, which is the lowest medium risk severity score. Two prior alcohol-related or drug-related arrests establishes a minimum score for the appropriate scale at the 61st percentile, which is the upper medium risk severity range. Three prior substance-related arrests established the minimum score for the appropriate scale at the 72nd percentile, which is a low problem risk or severity score. Four prior substance-related arrests establishes a minimum score for the appropriate scale at the 80th percentile, which is the problem risk range severity score. Five or more prior substance related arrests establish a minimum scale score for the appropriate scale at 89<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is the highest problem risk range.

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When an Alcohol Scale or Drug Scale score is higher than these minimum scores, the higher scale score supersedes the minimum score. In other words the higher scale score is used in the OAI report. The higher score -- whether the scale score or the minimum score -- is used.

**PRIOR ALCOHOL OR DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS SUMMARY**

<u># OF ARRESTS</u>	<u>MINIMUM SCALE SCORE</u>
1 prior arrest	40th percentile
2 prior arrests	61st percentile
3 prior arrests	72nd percentile
4 prior arrests	80th percentile
5 or more prior arrests	89th percentile

When a offender has one or more prior alcohol-related or drug-related arrests, the appropriate scale score cannot be lower than the minimum scores, the higher scale score will be used. And when the number of prior alcohol-related or drug-related arrests is not available, the scale is scored in the usual manner, i.e., cumulative scale score.

**OAI Reports**

OAI reports are designed to meet the needs of client evaluation and probation department assessment programs. The standard OAI report concisely summarizes test data in an accurate and easily understood manner. Staff needs for report-writing, substantiation of decision-making and record-keeping are met with OAI reports.

**OAI reports have been individualized to be in compliance with user's needs. In high volume testing settings, reports can be even further individualized to user's needs. For example, a probation department may desire different scale score related recommendations. And, if so desired, OAI reports can be modified to better meet probation department needs.**

**DSM-IV Criteria**

The Offender Assessment Index (OAI) contains a Substance Abuse/Dependency scale that incorporates the seven DSM-IV Substance Dependency criteria items and the four DSM-IV Substance Abuse criteria items. The OAI Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale measure substance use/abuse severity, and include DSM-IV equivalent items to support DSM-IV criteria items.

Offender admission to three (or more) of the seven DSM-IV dependency items results in Substance Dependence classification. Similarly, offender admission to one (or more) of the four DSM-IV abuse criteria results in Substance Abuse classification.

In summary, OAI Alcohol Scale and Drug Scale scores measures the severity of each offender's substance (alcohol or other drug) related condition. It is emphasized the OAI is to be used in conjunction with an interview, review of available records and experienced staff judgment. And, as a offender moves through screening, adjudication of their cases, intervention, program intake and/or treatment -- the offender's status is continually assessed and adjusted as warranted.

**Risk Level Classification**

Each OAI scale score is classified in terms of the risk range it represents. These risk level classifications are calculated individually for each of the seven empirically based scales as follows:

<b>PERCENTILE RANGE</b>	<b>RISK RANGE</b>
0 to 39th percentile	Low Risk
40 to 69th percentile	Medium Risk
<b>70 to 89th percentile</b>	<b>Problem Risk</b>
<b>90 to 100th percentile</b>	<b>Severe Problem Risk</b>

Scale scores are reported individually and concurrently classified in their appropriate risk range. Each scale score is independently calculated and classified each time an OAI is scored.

### **Control of OAI Reports**

Offender Assessment Index (OAI) reports contain confidential information. Some of the vocabulary may be misunderstood by the offender and others. For these reasons the offender should **not** be given his/her OAI report to read. **Instead we recommend a staff person review OAI results with the offender, but does not give the OAI report to the offender to read.** The offender should **never** be allowed to remove an OAI test booklet or report from the premises. OAI test booklets and reports are privileged, highly sensitive and confidential.

### **Check Answer Sheet for Completeness**

Check the offender’s answer sheet to be sure it has been filled out correctly when it is turned in and before the client leaves. No items should be skipped and true and false should not be answered for the same question.

The offender should be informed that each question must be answered in accordance with instructions, and be given the opportunity to correct or complete their answer sheet. **Skipped answers are scored by the computer in the deviant direction, as it is assumed that these items were omitted to avoid admitting a “negative” response.**

### **Present, Past or Future Tense**

Offenders should answer questions as the questions are stated -- in present tense, past tense or future tense. Questions are to be answered literally as they are presented. There are no trick questions. If an item wants to know about the past, it will be stated in the past tense. If the item inquires about the present, it will be stated in the present tense. And, if an item asks about the future, it will be stated in the future tense. Just answer each question as it is stated.

### **Special Modified Report, or 99th Percentiles**

When the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 95th percentile all other scale scores are automatically set to the 99th percentile. In other words the OAI report is modified due to the extremely inaccurate test protocol. And in place of the scale descriptions or paragraphs explaining scale scores, a one-page explanation of validity - invalidity is printed. A test protocol is inaccurate and invalid when the Truthfulness Scale score is at or above the 90th percentile. This modified report dramatizes the extremely high Truthfulness Scale score (95th percentile or higher). We will await user feedback before deciding to implement this 99th percentile procedure for Truthfulness Scale scores at the 90th and above percentile score.

### **Accurate - Inaccurate Profiles**

The term “inaccurate” is being used instead of invalid. The term validity refers to accurate assessment. In contrast, invalidity refers to distortion of test results due to offender’s attitude, reading abilities, minimization of problems, reading things into the questions, denial and faking. However, many people do not understand the terms valid or invalid. Consequently we are substituting the terms **accurate** and **inaccurate** for valid and invalid.

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Inaccuracy is defined in terms of a offender's Truthfulness Scale score being at or above the 90th percentile. **A Truthfulness Scale score at the 90th percentile or above results in inaccurate tests results, and all scale scores should be considered inaccurate.** Yet, different accurate - inaccurate OAI profiles can be identified. Five examples are discussed.

**Example #1. An elevated (at or above the 90th percentile) Truthfulness Scale score with all other scale scores at or above the 90th percentile.** This profile is often associated with impaired reading skills, acute emotional turmoil, or a very deviant response set . . . Further inquiry is needed with the offender before deciding whether to retest. If emotionally upset, you may want to settle the offender down before retesting. Although rare, some offender's do not take the testing situation seriously and randomly respond. Regardless of the reason this OAI profile is inaccurate and invalid.

**Example #2. An elevated Truthfulness Scale score with at least one other scale score above the 69th percentile and one other scale score below the 40th percentile.** This may be an accurate profile where the offender was either inadvertently "reading things into the questions" or attempting to be "absolutely honest"... After reviewing the instructions with the offender this person would likely be retestable. However, a "focused interview" may be all that is needed to complete this assessment.

**Example #3. An elevated Truthfulness Scale score with all scale scores at or below the 39th percentile.** This offender was attempting to minimize problems and "look good" but was detected by the Truthfulness Scale . . . **This is a classically invalid profile.** This offender can be expected to be defensive and manifest denial. A direct approach is recommended, e.g., you were either attempting to minimize your problems or you were reading things into questions that weren't there. Retest would be contingent upon the offender's attitude.

**Example #4. A low risk Truthfulness Scale score with other scale scores variable is usually considered a valid profile.** However, in very rare cases this represents a "test wise" offender or staff member playing "beat the test." Earlier it was noted the OAI was not standardized on staff and it was recommended they do not take the OAI. Yet, some do. And it would be very rare or unusual for a offender to be that "test wise." First year college students in psychology classes were asked to "lie but don't get caught" and were detected. This respondent's motivation needs to be established in interview.

**Example #5. In very rare instances a offender might answer all test items true or false. If all items are answered true** the Truthfulness Scale would automatically be set to the maximum score. This response set is very rare. Similarly, **if all items were answered false** the Truthfulness Scale score would be very high. The very high Truthfulness Scale score shows the test protocol is inaccurate or invalid . . . Should either of these situations occur, straightforward inquiry is all that is usually needed to clarify the matter. Contingent upon the offender's attitude, retesting might be considered after the oral instructions are reviewed.

### **Discriminant Validity**

Discriminant validity is very desirable in a multiple scale test. **Discriminant validity refers to each scale measuring what it is supposed to measure, while other scales do not measure the same factors.** In other words each scale discriminates in that it is the only scale measuring that factor.

Discriminant validity of the **Alcohol Scale** is demonstrated by the fact that only the Alcohol Scale correlates significantly with prior alcohol-related arrests. And in related research only the Alcohol Scale correlates significantly with the Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) obtained at the time of DUI/DWI arrest.

Discriminant validity of the **Drug Scale** is demonstrated by the fact that only the Drug Scale correlates significantly with prior drug-related arrests.

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Discriminant validity of the **Violence Scale** is demonstrated by the fact that only the Violence Scale correlates significantly with prior offenses involving force, e.g., assault.

### Oral Instructions

The literature is clear that many offenders tend to minimize their problems by substantially under-reporting their alcohol and drug use or violent acts. This emphasizes the importance of oral instructions to the offender before he/she begins the OAI. A straightforward approach is recommended. For example:

**“This questionnaire contains a truthfulness measure to determine how cooperative and truthful you are while completing it. It is also important that you do not read anything into the questions that is not there. There are no trick questions or “hidden meanings.” Your court records may be checked to verify the accuracy of your answers. Please answer all the questions honestly. Just answer each question truthfully.**

Giving the offender an example often helps them understand. The example that you use will be influenced by your client population, experience and intent. Your example should be individualized to your situation and needs. The following example is presented for clarification as to how an example might be included in your oral instructions to the offender.

**“Last week a offender told me while taking the MMPI that he could not answer this question true or false. ‘I am attracted to members of the opposite sex.’ When asked why, the offender replied, ‘If I answer true you will think I am a sex maniac. If I answer false you will think I am a homosexual.’ I told the offender that this item does not ask about being a sex maniac or homosexual. It simply asks if you are attracted to members of the opposite sex. When you interpreted it to refer to sex maniacs or homosexuals you were answering different questions. Do not read anything into these questions that isn’t there, because if you do, you will invalidate the test and you may have to take it over. Simply answer the questions true or false. There are no trick questions or hidden meanings. If you misinterpret or change the questions in the test, you will invalidate the test.”**

### Significant Items

Significant items are self-admissions or important self-report responses. Significant items are identified for reference. Sometimes they help in understanding the offender. **Significant items alone do not determine scale scores.** Significant items are listed at the end of the OAI report for the Alcohol, Drug, Violence and Resistance Scales.

### Multiple Choice Items

The last sequence of multiple choice questions reflect important self-report motivational, attitudinal and perceptual information. Client answer to Section 3 multiple choice items are printed on the last page of the OAI report. These answers represent the offender’s perception of his/her situation and needs, consequently they may differ from objective scale scores. **This enables comparison of the offender’s subjective attitude and motivation with their empirically based objective scale scores.** For example, a offender may report “no problem” with regard to alcohol-related problems, even though the Alcohol Scale score is at or above the 90th percentile (severe range) score.

### Gender Specific Norms

Research identified significant gender (male/female) differences on OAI scales. Based on this research, gender specific norms (separate male and female scoring procedures) have been established in the OAI software program. All of these OAI scales have separate scoring procedures to account for male/female differences. It is important to note that these gender differences may vary. Thus, it is very important that gender specific research continues. This is an example of the importance of annual database research.

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## Expanding Database

A database is a large collection of data in a computer, organized so that it can be expanded, updated and retrieved rapidly for statistical analysis or annual summary reports. A database of test-related information can be very useful.

## Database

Research identified significant gender (male/female) differences on OAI scales. Based on this research, gender specific norms (separate male and female scoring procedures) have been established in the OAI software program. All of these OAI scales have separate scoring procedures to account for male/female differences. It is important to note that these gender differences may vary. Thus, it is very important that gender specific research continues. This is an example of the importance of annual database research.

## Focused Interview

The OAI provides relevant self-report information in a timely (within minutes) manner, thereby facilitating a "focused interview." The focused interview may require 30 minutes to complete, with no compromise in effectiveness or quality. Focused interviews "zero in" on client's problems and concerns. Problem areas are identified so the interview can focus on these areas of concern.

It is noted in each report that no decision should be based solely on OAI results. OAI materials are to be used in conjunction with experienced staff judgment. Whenever possible test results should be augmented with an interview and review of available records.

## Retest

When a offender invalidates their OAI, it is recommended that they be given the opportunity to be retested. **Prior to retesting the oral instructions should be reviewed.** If the retest is invalid, the offender may not be testable at that time.

## Time Savings

The OAI is designed to provide a vast amount of relevant information quickly and accurately. The OAI facilitates a "focused interview" which may take 30 minutes to complete with no compromise in effectiveness or quality. **Focused interviews "zero in" on offender problems and concerns.** Problem areas are identified with the OAI so the interview can focus on those areas of concern. The OAI combined with the focused interview can result in significant time savings -- with no compromise in the quality of the services being provided.

## Test Data Input Verification

This procedure allows the person that is inputting the test data from the answer sheet into their computer to verify the accuracy of their data input. **In brief, the test data is input twice and any inconsistencies between that first and second data entries are highlighted until corrected.** When the first and second data entry match (or are the same) you may continue. This data input verification procedure is optional.

There are two ways in which you may perform the test data input verification procedure: **1) after a new test has been entered,** or **2) by choosing the option from the Supervisor Data Entry task menu.** The verification procedure compares test items entered the first time with the second data entry. If a discrepancy exist between the first and second (verification) data entries the inconsistency is highlighted until corrected. If an error is highlighted the error could be made either when the first data entry was done or when the second data entry was done. To know which is correct you will need to refer to the answer sheet. The test data input verification procedure is discussed in the OAI Computer Operating Guide.

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When you enter a test you may choose to perform the test data input verification procedure after all the test data has been entered. A message is displayed asking if you want to “verify” data input. **Type “y” for “yes” if you want to perform test data input verification, or type “n” for “no” and you will return to the main menu.**

**Delete Client Names, Confidentiality**

**You have the option to delete client names.** This is optional. If you want to use this option, remember that once you delete client names -- they are gone and can not be retrieved. Deleting client names does not delete demographic or test data. When you use this option it only deletes offender names. **This option is provided to protect client confidentiality.** Once the names have been deleted, there is no way for you to retrieve them.