MMPI-3 Publication Announcement
Minneapolis, MN
October 2020

The University of Minnesota Press is pleased to announce the publication of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-3 (MMPI-3). The MMPI-3 is the most recent major project in the research/development program on the MMPI instruments to which the Press made a commitment when it resumed direct publication of the original MMPI in 1982. The MMPI-3 builds on the history, research base, and strengths of the original MMPI (1942), the MMPI-2 (1989), and the MMPI-2-RF (2008) to create a well-validated, psychometrically up-to-date instrument for use in a broad range of settings.

The primary goals for the MMPI-3 were to enhance the item pool, update the test norms, optimize existing scales, and introduce new scales where warranted. The MMPI-3 features a new, nationally representative normative sample, selected to match the 2020 U.S. census projections for race and ethnicity, education, and age. Additionally, for the first time, Spanish-language norms are available for use with the U.S. Spanish translation of the MMPI-3. New scales assess disordered eating, compulsivity, impulsivity, and self-importance, and several existing scales have been enhanced.

MMPI-3 development was led by co-authors Yossef Ben-Porath and Auke Tellegen, with editorial guidance of the Press and its Advisory Board. Data for developing, norming, and validating the MMPI-3 were obtained from over 28,000 individuals. Field data were collected for mental health, medical, forensic, and public safety settings. The MMPI-3 Technical Manual includes extensive empirical correlate data for these settings and analyses indicating that the MMPI-2-RF literature can guide MMPI-3 interpretation.

Overview and history of the MMPI-3 development project:

The MMPI-3 builds on the history of an active research/development program that began in 1982 when the Press resumed publication of the MMPI. The first major developmental efforts produced the MMPI-2, a revision of the original MMPI for use with adults, and the MMPI-A, the first version of the test developed for adolescents.

The MMPI-2 was published in 1989, having been developed by a Restandardization Committee composed of James Butcher, Grant Dahlstrom, John Graham, and Auke Tellegen. The committee set as its goals improving the test while maintaining as much continuity as possible with the original MMPI. As the name of the committee indicates, the major aim was developing new test norms to replace the “Minnesota Normals” collected in the late 1930s. Minor changes were made in the test items to delete outdated content and content deemed offensive, but the number of items remained almost identical (566/567). Major psychometric innovations were introduced with the Uniform T scores, developed to correct the percentile non-comparability of the linear T scores, and the Inconsistency Scales, validity indicators measuring the tendency of test takers to respond to items in an inconsistent or contradictory manner. A new set of Content Scales captured new item content. However, the original Validity and Clinical Scales were retained largely intact.

Major projects initiated during the 1990s included ongoing updates of the Minnesota Reports by author James Butcher, validation studies of the MMPI-2 and MMPI-A by John Graham and Yossef Ben-Porath, and research by Auke Tellegen leading to the development of the Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales, the first-ever revision of the original Clinical Scales designed to deal with the long-recognized challenges of the scales—excessive scale intercorrelations and heterogeneous, over-inclusive item content. Continuing development of the
MMPI-2, the RC Scales were added to the test in 2003, documented by a monograph, *The MMPI-2 Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales: Development, Validation, and Interpretation* by Tellegen and colleagues, published by the Press.

Building on the wealth of research generated by the release of the MMPI-2, the Press sponsored further research and development work by Ben-Porath and Tellegen, which produced the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF), published in 2008. The MMPI-2-RF is composed of 338 items, drawn from the 500+ items of the MMPI and the MMPI-2, with the Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales at its core. The MMPI-2-RF Substantive Scales linked the inventory to modern conceptualizations of personality and psychopathology. A reference list for the extensive MMPI-2-RF peer-reviewed literature, which can be applied to MMPI-3 interpretation, is available on the Press web site: https://www.upress.umn.edu/test-division/MMPI-2-RF/mmpi-2-rf-references.

The University of Minnesota Press sponsored development of the MMPI-3 under the auspices of the Press’s Research and Product Development program, which is overseen by the University’s Office of the Vice President for Research and an external Advisory Board. The Board, composed of five members who are researchers and/or clinical practitioners credentialed in personality assessment and knowledgeable in the application and interpretation of personality instruments, including the MMPI tests, is responsible for working with the Test Division in setting r/d priorities; advising on the preparation and dissemination of requests for r/d proposals; reviewing r/d proposals submitted annually for Press funding; and reviewing all proposed publications of the Test Division.

References