

The SAPROF

Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk

General information

The Structured Assessment of Protective Factors for violence risk was developed in 2007 in The Netherlands by Vivienne de Vogel and Michiel de Vries Robbé (Van der Hoeven Kliniek, forensic psychiatric hospital), in collaboration with Corine de Ruiter (University of Maastricht) and Yvonne Bouman (Pompe Kliniek, forensic psychiatric hospital).

The SAPROF is a checklist for the structured assessment of protective factors for violent behavior. Following the SPJ principle, the SAPROF is designed to be used in combination with other risk assessment instruments like the HCR-20 or the HCR:V3. The addition of the structured assessment of protective factors creates a more balanced risk assessment for future violence risk, enabling a more positive approach to (sexual) violence prevention. The SAPROF aims to contribute to an increasingly accurate and well-rounded assessment of risk for future violent behavior. Moreover, the dynamic positive approach of protective factors aims to create new opportunities for effective and achievable treatment interventions.

Results in The Netherlands show good interrater reliability and good predictive validity for violent incidents during treatment as well as for violent recidivism after treatment. Findings have been equally good for violent offenders as for sexual offenders (De Vries Robbé & De Vogel, 2012). Moreover, the changeability of the protective factors in the SAPROF during treatment provides an indication for the usability of the SAPROF as a guideline for positive treatment planning and risk management. Frequent users of the SAPROF in forensic psychiatry state that the instrument can be helpful in formulating treatment goals, justifying stages of treatment, atoning treatment phasing and facilitating risk communication. Several international research projects involving the SAPROF are currently being conducted in various clinical and outpatient samples of adult offenders.

Workshops in the SAPROF can be provided upon request. Upcoming workshops are posted on www.saprof.com. In the workshop the focus will be on the additional value of protective factors for clinical practice. The SAPROF will be introduced and participants are trained in using the SAPROF in combination with risk instrument tools like the HCR-20 or HCR:V3. Advantages for risk assessment and risk management will be discussed and research results with the SAPROF will be presented.

The SAPROF is now available in Dutch, English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Portuguese and Russian. Danish and Chinese translations are in preparation, as well as a SAPROF - Youth version. The instrument is published by Forum Educatief, publisher of the Van der Hoeven Kliniek in Utrecht, the Netherlands. To order the SAPROF manual please send an email to saprof@hoevenkliniek.nl. To order the SAPROF in the UK you may also contact wendy@cognitivecentre.com (Cognitive Centre Foundation). Coding sheets in all languages and additional information are available at www.saprof.com. For further inquiries about the SAPROF, research and training, you may contact the authors at mdevriesrobbe@hoevenkliniek.nl.

