Protective factors for violent and sexual offenders:
Retrospective results with the SAPROF
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The present study
This study presents retrospective findings on the predictive validity and changeability of the protective factors in the SAPROF for a sample of 188 male discharged offenders. The study was carried out at the Van der Hoeven Kliniek in The Netherlands, a forensic psychiatric hospital. Files were collected on 105 violent and 83 sexual offenders. The SAPROF, the HCR-20 and the PCL-R were scored for all offenders at discharge from inpatient forensic psychiatric treatment. Follow-up data retrieved from criminal records concerned new convictions for violent offenses after treatment.

Changes during treatment
For 120 cases two assessments were carried out: an initial rating at the start of treatment and a discharge rating at the end of treatment (on average 5.5 years later). For the purpose of measuring change, the 17 SAPROF items were divided into Static (1-2), Dynamic improving (3-14) and Dynamic decreasing (15-17) items, according to their expected change during treatment.

Interrater reliability
Interrater reliabilities were calculated for 40 cases of the violent offender group as well as for 30 cases of the sexual offender group. ICC’s for the total scores and the Final Protection Judgments were .88 / .85 for the violent offenders and .85 / .73 for the sexual offenders.

Results: Predictive validity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-up (N=188)</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>3 year</th>
<th>11 year (M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total score SAPROF</td>
<td>.85**</td>
<td>.75**</td>
<td>.73**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total score HCR-20</td>
<td>.84**</td>
<td>.73**</td>
<td>.64**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total HCR-20 – Total SAPROF</td>
<td>.87**</td>
<td>.76**</td>
<td>.70**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Protection Judgment</td>
<td>.80**</td>
<td>.72**</td>
<td>.66**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrative Final Risk Judgment</td>
<td>.79**</td>
<td>.67**</td>
<td>.66**</td>
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</tbody>
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Predictive validity (AUC-values) for violent reconvictions of post-treatment ratings for discharged offenders. ** = p < .01.

Results showed good predictive validities for violent reconvictions with short- as well as long-term follow-up for the SAPROF and the combined HCR-SAPROF. These results were equally good as for sexual offenders. Overall, the combination of HCR-SAPROF was the best predictor for violent recidivism and provided significantly better predictions than the HCR-20 alone. Most SAPROF factors showed significant individual predictive validity. The items Self-control, Work, Attitudes towards authority, Coping and Life goals were the best predicting factors.

Results: Changeability of the SAPROF items

The SAPROF
Internal factors
1. Intelligence
2. Secure attachment childhood
3. Empathy
4. Coping
5. Self-control

Motivational factors
6. Work
7. Leisure activities
8. Financial management
9. Motivation for treatment
10. Attitudes towards authority
11. Life goals
12. Medication

External factors
13. Social network
14. Intimate relationship
15. Professional care
16. Living circumstances
17. Supervision

Final Protection Judgment
SAPROF
low, moderate, high

HCR-20/SAPROF
low, moderate, high

Changes in SAPROF item scores during treatment (N=120).

The SAPROF Dynamic improving items demonstrated to improve significantly during treatment, while the external Dynamic decreasing items declined during treatment. Moreover, offenders who changed the most on their Dynamic improving protective factors during treatment, recidivated the least after discharge. This effect was found for violent as well as sexual offenders.

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To order the SAPROF guidelines or download free coding sheets see www.forumeducatief.nl