

## **PERSONALITY PROFILES FOR SEXUAL ABUSERS BASED ON THE MMPI-2**

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**Summary.** The MMPI profiles of 30 heterosexual pedophiles men (from ages 21 to 56) and 30 homosexuals and 30 normal have been compared so as to identify the relations between the deviant behavior and sexual orientation. We have observed a significant difference between the clinical groups on the paranoia scale and many differences between these two groups and the controls group. This brings us to believe that the profile 4-6/6-4 is associated with the homosexual pedophilia and the code 4-8/8-4 with the heterosexual pedophilia. The existence of the psychological differences gives the characterized image by the pathology.

### **Introduction**

To this day, many authors have attempted to define pedophilia to describe various aspects of behaviour and personality characteristics associated. The DSM-IV-TR (2000) mentions homosexual, heterosexual and bisexual pedophiles. We often read of different types of pedophiles divided in accordance to some particular characteristics (Berlin & Krout, 1986; Bradford, Bloomberg & Bourget, 1988; Olander, 2002). The MMPI is frequently used in the psychological analysis of this category of sexual delinquents (Erickson, Walbek & Seely, 1981; Erickson, Luxenberg, Walbek & Seely, 1987; Langevin & Watson, 1991; Johnston, French, Schouveiller & Johnston, 1992; Tardif & Van-Gijseghem, 2001). Precision in clinical evaluation assures success in treatment so it is essential in understanding a pedophile to ask him how he functions and how he has come to adopt this deviant style (Gudjonson, 1986). The present research was undertaken to answer the question, what are the relations between pedophilia and the sexual orientation at the personality level.

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## Method

### Sample

The sample for this research was composed of 60 men who were in consultation at the Sexology Clinic in Quebec, a group of 30 heterosexual pedophiles and a group of 30 homosexual pedophiles. Further, a control group of 30 representatives of heterosexual men without sexual deviance was examined. The selection of the subjects took into account the penile plethysmography, excluding incest and the violent cases. All three groups were randomly selected. The mean age for heterosexual pedophiles was 41.2 years for the homosexuals 43.1 years, and 36.0 years for the control group.

The author included in each group 11 professionals, 1 businessman, 15 blue collars workers and 3 unemployed.

### Measure

The *Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2* was administered to the participants (Hathaway & McKinley, 1989). In our study, we did not consider subjects whose score was higher than T-score 70 in one of the three validity scales L, F, K. Each person was examined individually.

## Results

A look at the descriptive statistics shows that the homosexual pedophiles obtained higher scores than the heterosexual pedophiles on each scale except one (Hs) and that the heterosexual pedophiles, in return, obtained higher scores than the control men on every scale (see Table 1).

Table 1. Means and Standard Deviations of Scores on MMPI Scales

Scales	1 Homosexual pedophiles <i>n</i> = 30		2 Heterosexual pedophiles <i>n</i> = 30		3 Control group <i>n</i> = 30	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
L	57.33	8.81	58.80	7.19	52.47	7.56
F	63.60	7.15	61.13	7.39	57.40	5.80
K	53.37	10.26	55.23	7.28	58.50	6.16
Hs	61.73	13.68	65.17	13.87	59.33	10.36
D	65.70	12.80	65.53	13.79	58.10	9.81
Hy	60.83	12.87	62.53	11.06	56.43	6.19
Pd	74.73	11.12	70.10	10.11	61.70	8.63
Mf	66.27	12.61	60.60	8.43	58.20	8.21
Pa	70.73	12.18	60.90	8.31	53.17	7.97
Pt	62.83	14.02	62.30	12.40	56.83	9.44
Sc	70.47	14.05	65.53	12.35	60.40	8.30
Ma	66.40	12.06	61.73	11.53	61.67	7.60
Si	55.67	9.70	55.40	7.83	49.10	7.17

The scores on the validity scales were statistically significant in comparisons between the combined clinical groups and the control group, but the L, F, K scales show that all the subject groups answered the questionnaire reliably and have no difficulty recognizing the symptoms of their behaviour.

The means of the three groups were analyzed using Student's t-test to assess which difference between groups was statistically significant. Only one difference was found between the two clinical groups, the paranoia factor Pa ( $t = 2.65, p < .001$ ); the homosexual pedophiles showed a higher paranoia score than the heterosexual pedophiles.

The comparisons between the control group and each of the two clinical groups shows that the homosexual pedophiles obtained higher scores, which differ significantly from the mean of the control group, on six of ten scales (see Table 2).

Table 2. Comparative statistics between the three groups

Scales	Homosexual pedophiles vs. Heterosexual pedophiles		Homosexual pedophiles vs. Control group		Heterosexual pedophiles vs. Control group	
	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
L	–	–	2.30	.05	3.33	.01
F	–	–	3.69	.001	2.10	.05
K	–	–	12.35	.05	–	–
Hs	–	–	–	–	–	–
D	–	–	2.60	.01	2.41	.05
Hy	–	–	–	–	2.64	.01
Pd	–	–	5.07	.001	3.46	.001
Mf	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pa	3.65	.001	6.61	.001	3.68	.001
Pt	–	–	1.94	.05	–	–
Sc	–	–	3.38	.001	–	–
Ma	–	–	–	–	–	–
Si	–	–	2.90	.01	3.25	.01

The clinical interpretation of the scales according to the 2-point code system gives us the profile 4-6/6-4 for the homosexual pedophiles. These individuals have a fragile appearance, often argue, and often feel a certain resentment when we require something from them. They can show periods of aggressiveness, especially in stressful situations and they often have a poor work history. Familial and conjugal problems are common. These people are suspicious of others. The possibility of an erroneous judgement should be considered. They feel depressed, nervous and agitated. Substance abuse can become an important problem. Usually, the self-esteem of these people is

weak and unrealistic. These subjects have a tendency to have hard times in their interpersonal relations. The quality of their social relations is related to their hostile attitudes and behaviours, which makes interacting with others more difficult. These individuals are also passive and dependent. Generally, they show a lack of maturity and are incapable of forming intense emotional commitments. In our case, since on both the Pd and Pa scales they score more higher than  $T=70$ , we have an important proportion of the sample that manifests paranoia or a passive-aggressive tendency (Golden, 1979).

On the other hand, heterosexual pedophiles obtained significantly higher scores than the subjects from the control group on five of the ten scales, and four of these are identical to those on which the homosexual pedophiles differ (see Table 2).

The heterosexual pedophiles are represented by the code 4-8/8-4. The patients having this profile are described as being eccentric, often taking part in rare social movements. Their behavior can be irregular, unpredictable, and they can react in an antisocial way. However, such acts are generally impulsive, cannot be well planned, and can be vicious. These individuals can be insecure, sexually perverted, obsessive, and socially removed and isolated. When the "8" scale is high, the judgement disorder and logical confusion can be predominant. These individuals will show strong paranoid delusions. If there are no signs of psychosis, the most evident diagnoses are the schizoid, paranoid, or sociopath personalities. Borderline profiles can sometimes indicate a prepsychotic configuration. The sexual deviation is reported in the people having this profile.

The control groups obtained a "normal" profile with all of T scores under the critical cut-off of 70.

## Discussion

The  $t$  ratios suggest there is only one significant difference in the personality structure between the homosexual and heterosexual groups, while there are many significant differences between the clinical groups and the control group.

It is possible to assume from these results that the personality structure is associated with pedophilic types deviant behaviors. The profile 4-8/8-4 obtained from the heterosexual pedophiles supports the results of Erickson, Luxenberg, Walbeck and Seely's (1987), and Olander (2004) research, as this type of pedophilia is common among sexual abusers. According to these authors, there would be no significant differences in the code frequencies between homosexual and heterosexual pedophiles. In the same fashion as Bradford, et al. (1988), the majority of these pedophiles who were tested on the MMPI showed a significant elevation on the depression, psychopathy, psychastenia and schizophrenia scales. The results also support Langevin, Paitich, Freeman, Mann and Handy (1978) the hypothesis that homosexual pedophiles will obtain elevated scores on the Pd, Pa, and Si scales because an underlying emotional disorder is present. However, the heterosexual pedophiles manifested a higher tension interfered from a high score on the Hy scale as well as high scores on the D, Pd, Pa, Si scales.

Our research corroborates with those of Kalichman (1991), and Duckworth and Anderson (1986). These pedophiles presented a high score on two neurotic triad scales (Hs, Hy), and on three of the psychotic tetrad scales (Pa, Pt, Sc). The configurations suggest a significant difficulty in development of interpersonal relations, a tendency toward social alienation and a lack of consistent maturity in several behaviors as well as the presence of perverted sexually focussed ideas. The high score on Si suggests that the abuser feels socially inadequate and uncomfortable in the presence of others (Graham, 1990).

A small difference between the averages of the Pa and Sc scales allows us to see that the profiles of the two clinical groups are the same. We can use with some limitation the code type with three numbers for the homosexual group. The code is 4-6-8. The individuals who are so identified are generally diagnosed as having a schizoid, paranoid or sociopath personality. We assume that for the homosexual pedophile of our study, a code for the profile with three numbers is more valid. The 4-6-8 profile seems to describe this sample in an honest way. This code is often associated with a continual or periodic antisocial behavior, including aggression toward others (Golden, 1979).

We can notice that certain personality factors are common to pedophilia (Levin & Stava, 1987). Our research also confirms that for the adult, the sexual appeal of the child is associated with the shyness, social introversion, and a lack of self-esteem. In our study, scores on the scales that describe these traits support this statement. Further, the social insecurity reported felt by those pedophiles is accompanied by paranoia. The MMPI describes the sexual delinquent as being socially and emotionally immature. The MMPI-2 also could then be considered a useful instrument to give a better diagnosis for pedophilic patients.

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