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SAQ-Adult Probation III
& SAQ-Short Form

2002
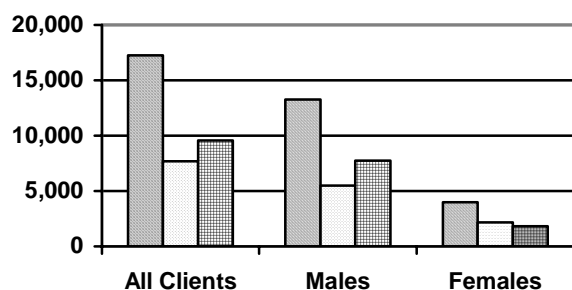## RESEARCH STUDY

This report summarizes SAQ-Adult Probation III (SAQ-AP III) and SAQ- Short Form test data for **17,254** adult offenders. The SAQ-Adult Probation III (12,075) and SAQ- Short Form (5,179) test data was gathered between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002.

Number of Adult Offenders Tested_____

Report data collected in the year 2002. SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form are combined.

- **17,254 adult offenders** were tested

- 12,075 SAQ-Adult Probation III

- 5,179 SAQ-Short Form

- 13,253 offenders were male

- 4,001 offenders were female

- 7,685 or 44.5 percent were first offenders (1 or no arrest),
5,505 (71.6%) were male, 2,180 (28.4%) were female.

- 9,569 or 55.5 percent were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests),
7,748 (81.0%) were male, 1,821 (19.0%) were female.

Over half of the offenders tested (N=9,569) reported having two or more arrests in their lifetime. Having a second and subsequent arrest is indicative of a pattern of problematic behavior. Many of these adult offenders have more than two arrests. 58.5 percent of the males and 45.5 percent of the females were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests).
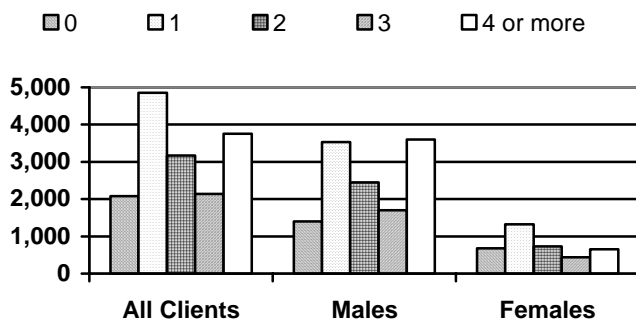
Percent of the Total Population

When number of adult offenders tested is analyzed as percentages, it was found that:

- 76.8 percent were male

- 23.2 percent were female

- 71.6 percent of first offenders were male

- 28.4 percent of first offenders were female

- 81.0 percent of multiple offenders were male

- 19.0 percent of multiple offenders were female
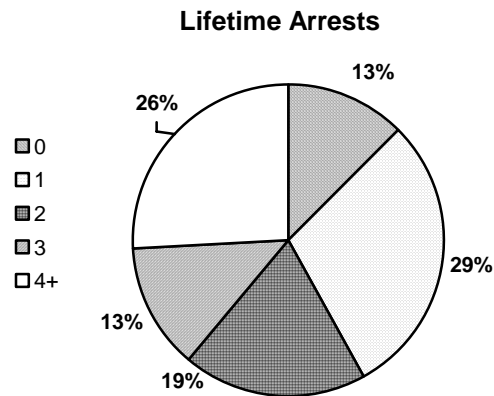
Number of Arrests _____

- 2,082 reported no arrest

- 4,856 reported 1 arrest

- 3,171 reported 2 arrests

- 2,140 reported 3 arrests

- 3,758 reported 4 or more arrests

Note: There were 747 tests with missing arrests information.

First offenders are defined as those people tested who had 1 or no arrest and include any person who had missing information for number of arrests. This was only done so that the count of first and multiple offenders would equal the total number of offenders tested. None of the statistical analyses presented herein contain missing information. Over half (55.5%) of the offenders tested were multiple offenders (2 or more arrests).

Arrests as a Percentage

Lifetime Arrests

When number of arrests is converted to percentages, it was found that:

- 12.6 percent reported no arrest

- 29.4 percent reported 1 arrest

- 19.2 percent reported 2 arrests

- 13.0 percent reported 3 arrests

- 25.9 percent reported 4 or more arrests

The percentage of multiple offenders in this population was 55.5 percent. Over one-fourth (25.9%) of the offenders reported having 4 or more arrests in their lifetime. These percentages do not include the 747 cases with missing number of arrests information.

Court History and SAQ-Adult Probation III Scale Scores_____

Correlation coefficients between court history such as, number of arrests, times on probation, etc., and SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores are presented in the table below (N=12,075). These results demonstrate that **total number of arrests are significantly correlated with all SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores**. These findings support the validity of SAQ-ADULT PROBATION III scales. These correlations demonstrate that there is a positive relationship between number of arrests and SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores. As the number of arrests increase offenders' scale scores increase. However, some first offenders do score high on SAQ-Adult Probation III scales and many of these offenders would be "missed" if only court records were used to determine offender risk. In other words, court records alone are not sufficient to predict offender risk. SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores are needed for accurate prediction.

The correlation between age at 1st arrest and SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores indicate that there is a significant "negative" relationship. This means that the younger an offender is at the time of first arrest the higher SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores are. Correlations are highest for the Antisocial, Aggressiveness and Violence scales.

	Truthfulness	Alcohol	Drugs	Antisocial	Aggressive.	Violence
Number of Arrests	.077*	.464*	.323*	.417*	.448*	.281*
Age at 1st Arrests	-.027**	-.210*	-.197*	-.270*	-.332*	-.279*
Felonies	.023	.200*	.267*	.240*	.289*	.124*
Probation	.022	.357*	.212*	.242*	.330*	.161*
Alcohol Arrests	.017	.511*	.103*	.189*	.182*	.118*
Drug Arrests	-.006	.178*	.374*	.191*	.316*	.135*

Significant at * p<.001, ** p<.01.

Alcohol arrests are correlated highest with Alcohol Scale scores. **Drug arrests** are correlated highest

with the Drugs Scale. Some of the highest correlations are Alcohol Scale related. Many arrests and other court history are alcohol related. These results support the **discriminant validity** of the Alcohol, Drugs, Antisocial, Aggressiveness and Violence scales.

In summary, over 55 percent of the offenders tested had previous arrests. Number of arrests is correlated with SAQ-Adult Probation III scores. Many multiple offenders (having multiple arrests) have established drinking, drugs, antisocial, aggressiveness and violence problems. Court history correlates most with alcohol-related problems and to a lesser degree with aggressiveness problems.
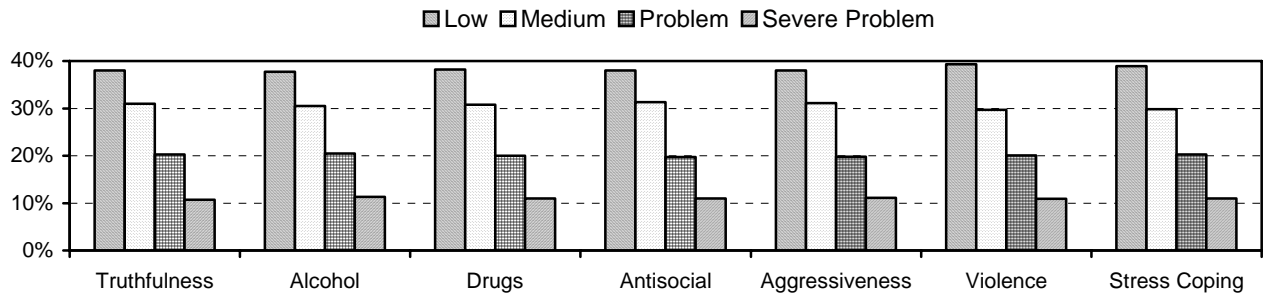
The following pages present test statistics for the SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form. The SAQ-Short Form is an alternative to the SAQ-Adult Probation III (as a retest), and in high volume testing settings or for reading impaired assessment.

Statistics support the SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form as reliable, valid and accurate adult offender tests. A test cannot be valid without being reliable, and test accuracy is required for accurate intervention and treatment referrals.

SAQ-Adult Probation III

Accuracy _____

SAQ-Adult Probation III Accuracy (N = 12,075)

☐ Low ☐ Medium ▣ Problem ▤ Severe Problem

Scale	Low Risk (39%)		Medium Risk (30%)		Problem Risk (20%)		Severe Problem (11%)	
Truthfulness	38.0	**(1.0)**	31.0	**(1.0)**	20.3	**(0.3)**	10.7	**(0.3)**
Alcohol	37.7	**(1.3)**	30.5	**(0.5)**	20.5	**(0.5)**	11.3	**(0.3)**
Drugs	38.2	**(0.8)**	30.8	**(0.8)**	20.0	**(0.0)**	11.0	**(0.0)**
Antisocial	38.0	**(1.0)**	31.3	**(1.3)**	19.7	**(0.3)**	11.0	**(0.0)**
Aggressiveness	38.0	**(1.0)**	31.1	**(1.1)**	19.8	**(0.2)**	11.1	**(0.1)**
Violence	39.3	**(0.3)**	29.7	**(0.3)**	20.1	**(0.1)**	10.9	**(0.1)**
Stress Coping	38.9	**(0.1)**	29.8	**(0.2)**	20.3	**(0.3)**	11.0	**(0.0)**

The four risk ranges (low, medium, problem and severe) and the predicted percentages for each risk range category are shown in bold print in the top row of the above table. The percentages for each SAQ-Adult Probation III scale and risk range category were obtained from the cumulative distribution of offenders scale scores. **All of the offender obtained risk range percentages were within 1.3 percentage points of the predicted percentages. Accuracy of the SAQ-Adult Probation III is shown by the small differences between obtained risk range percentages and predicted percentages. Offenders' scores can be considered 99% accurate. The SAQ-Adult Probation III is an accurate adult offender assessment test.**

Reliability _____

Reliability coefficient alphas for the SAQ-Adult Probation III.
All alphas are significant at p<.001.

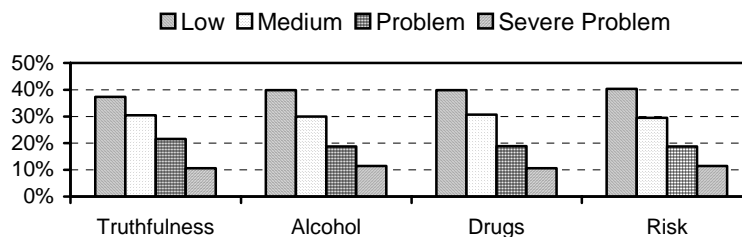| Scale	SAQ-AP III
Truthfulness Scale	**.89**
Alcohol Scale	**.94**
Drugs Scale	**.93**
Antisocial Scale	**.85**
Aggressiveness Scale	**.89**
Violence Scale	**.85**
Stress Coping Abilities Scale	**.93**

All SAQ-Adult Probation III scales have very high reliability coefficients and are statistically reliable. The professionally accepted reliability standard is .75 and higher.

Validity _____

SAQ-Adult Probation III validity results demonstrate that the Alcohol Scale accurately identified **100 percent** of the offenders who had been treated for drinking problems. All of the offenders who had alcohol treatment scored in the problem range on the Alcohol Scale. Similarly, the Drugs Scale identified **100 percent** of offenders who had been treated for drug problems, and, the Violence Scale accurately identified **100 percent** of offenders who admitted being violent. Similarly, the Antisocial Scale correctly identified **100 percent** of offenders who admitted they were antisocial and the Aggressiveness Scale identified **100 percent** of offenders who admitted being aggressive. These criteria of problematic behavior were used because database analysis in real time settings does not lend itself to administering more than one test. Earlier SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form research did use other tests for criterion validity.

SAQ-Short Form Accuracy _____

SAQ-Short Form Accuracy (N=5,179)

□Low □Medium ▨Problem ▨Severe Problem

Scale	Low Risk (39%)		Medium Risk (30%)		Problem Risk (20%)		Severe Problem (11%)	
Truthfulness	37.4	**(1.6)**	30.4	**(0.4)**	21.6	**(1.6)**	10.6	**(0.4)**
Alcohol	39.8	**(0.8)**	30.0	**(0.0)**	18.7	**(1.3)**	11.5	**(0.5)**
Drugs	39.8	**(0.8)**	30.7	**(0.7)**	18.9	**(1.1)**	10.6	**(0.4)**
Risk	40.3	**(1.3)**	29.5	**(0.5)**	18.7	**(1.3)**	11.5	**(0.5)**

The three largest deviations from the predicted risk range percentages were 1.6, 1.3 and 1.1, respectively. This is very accurate assessment. This accuracy is attributed to assessing an entire adult offender population, as opposed to "sampling" the general offender population.

SAQ-Short Form Reliability _____

SAQ-Short Form reliability coefficient alphas. All alphas are significant at p<.001.

Scale	SAQ-Short Form
Truthfulness Scale	**.84**
Alcohol Scale	**.89**
Drugs Scale	**.86**
Risk Scale	**.84**

SAQ-Short Form Validity

SAQ-Short Form scales accurately identified **100 percent** of the offenders who had drinking problems, **100 percent** of offenders who had drug use problems and **100 percent** of offenders who had assault or violence problems. Offenders who attended AA meetings for their drinking, admitted they were dependent on drugs and had been convicted of assault, domestic violence or a violent crime, scored in the problem range on the Alcohol Scale, Drugs Scale and Risk Scale, respectively. As noted above, these criteria of problematic behavior were used because in real time settings administering more than one test is not practical for ongoing validation purposes. Earlier SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form research did use other tests for criterion validity.

Summary

Data for this report was obtained from diskettes that were returned in the year 2002. The SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form were administered to **17,254 adult offenders**. 12,075 offenders completed the SAQ-Adult Probation III and 5,179 took the SAQ-Short Form. There were 13,253 males (76.8%) and 4,001 females (23.2%). The offender population is broadly defined as Caucasian (65.5%), 21 through 40 years of age (60.0%), High School Graduate or better (63.4%) and single (60.8%).

SAQ-Adult Probation III Accuracy, Reliability and Validity

- SAQ-Adult Probation III scale risk range percentile scores are **99 percent accurate**. SAQ-Short Form scores are accurate to within 1.6 percent (98% accurate) of predicted risk range percentages.
- All SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form scales reliability coefficients were .84 or higher. This compares favorably with the professionally accepted reliability standard of .75 or better.
- Validity analyses demonstrate that SAQ-Adult Probation III Alcohol, Drugs, Violence and Antisocial Scales identified all offenders who were problem drinkers, drug abusers, violent and antisocial. Similarly, the SAQ-Short Form identified all offenders who had drinking, drugs and aggressiveness/violence problems.

Offenders' measured "risk" is shown to be 99 percent accurate. Offenders with low risk range (0 to 39th percentile) or even medium risk (40 to 69th percentile) scores on the Alcohol Scale do not represent drinking problems, whereas, offenders who scored in the problem risk range (70th percentile and above) have identifiable drinking problems. Correct identification of alcohol, drugs, antisocial, aggressiveness and violence problems corroborates these findings. The SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form are reliable, valid and accurate tests for adult offender assessment.

Arrests (Offender self-report)

- There were 7,685 (44.5%) First Offenders (1 or no arrest) and 9,569 (55.5%) Multiple Offenders (2 or more arrests).
- 58.5% (7,748) of the males and 45.5% (1,821) of the females were Multiple Offenders.

Over 55 percent of the offenders tested had previous arrests. Over one-third of the offenders had more than two arrests. The percentage of multiple offenders with three or more arrests is in agreement with the SAQ-Adult Probation III problem risk range and supports classifying 30 percent of offenders in the problem risk range. Offenders scoring in the problem risk range (70th percentile and higher) have been shown to have identifiable problems.

Appendix _____

Offender data contained on diskettes returned to Risk and Needs in 2002 are summarized. SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form are combined.

Offender Demographics and Self-reported Court History

Population				
Males		Females		Total
N	%	N	%	N
13,253	76.8	4,001	23.2	17,254

Age Group				
	Males	Females	Total	
Age	N	N	N	%
20 & Under	3,186	782	3,968	23.1
21 - 25	3,380	819	4,199	24.5
26 - 30	1,759	647	2,406	14.0
31 - 35	1,354	539	1,893	11.0
36 - 40	1,257	536	1,793	10.5
41 - 45	1,010	350	1,360	7.9
46 - 50	611	170	781	4.6
51 - 55	322	80	402	2.3
56 - 60	164	34	198	1.2
61 & Over	125	26	151	0.9

Race/Ethnicity				
	Males	Females	Total	
Race	N	N	N	%
Caucasian	8,517	2,719	11,236	65.5
Black	3,219	953	4,172	24.3
Hispanic	1,177	247	1,424	8.3
Asian	51	18	69	0.4
Native American	108	28	136	0.8
Other	102	21	123	0.7

Education				
	Males	Females	Total	
Grade	N	N	N	%
8th grade or Less	884	221	1,105	6.6
Some High School	3,892	1,157	5,049	30.0
HS Graduate/GED	5,892	1,744	7,636	45.4
Some College	1,743	623	2,366	14.1
College Grad	508	170	678	4.0

Marital Status				
	Males	Females	Total	
Status	N	N	N	%
Single	8,135	2,021	10,156	60.8
Married	2,747	847	3,594	21.5
Divorced	1,319	635	1,954	11.7
Separated	542	340	882	5.3
Widowed	63	63	126	0.8

Offender Reported Court-Related History

Age	Age at First Arrest			
	Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)
12 & Under	200	31	231	1.4
13-14	479	78	557	3.4
15-16	1,157	161	1,318	8.1
17-18	3,405	590	3,995	24.7
19-20	2,194	585	2,779	17.2
21-22	1,427	412	1,839	11.4
23-24	752	273	1,025	6.3
25-29	1,097	514	1,611	10.0
30-39	1,072	660	1,732	10.7
40-49	498	260	758	4.7
50 & Over	234	96	330	2.0

Number	Jail Sentences				Prison Sentences			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	7,083	2,524	9,607	57.7	11,206	3,612	14,818	88.4
1	2,632	807	3,439	20.7	1,193	209	1,402	8.4
2	1,329	275	1,604	9.6	320	29	349	2.1
3	697	116	813	4.9	92	10	102	0.6
4	361	53	414	2.5	32	4	36	0.2
5	232	22	254	1.5	31	1	32	0.2
6 +	466	48	514	3.1	12	4	16	0.1

Number	Felony Arrests				Times on Probation			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	7,370	2,358	9,728	58.2	4,880	1,721	6,601	39.2
1	3,431	1,069	4,500	26.9	4,805	1,495	6,300	37.4
2	1,206	285	1,491	8.9	2,193	481	2,674	15.9
3	453	73	526	3.1	659	123	782	4.6
4	174	36	210	1.3	216	35	251	1.5
5	89	19	108	0.6	89	15	104	0.6
6 +	125	26	151	0.9	98	13	111	0.7

Number	Probation Revocations			
	Males	Females	Total	
	N	N	N	(%)
0	10.522	3,347	13,869	83.5
1	1,715	379	2,094	12.6
2	367	74	441	2.7
3 +	172	35	207	1.3

Total Number of Times Arrested				
Number of	Males	Females	Total	
Incidents	N	N	N	(%)
0	1,404	678	2,082	12.6
1	3,533	1,323	4,856	29.4
2	2,445	726	3,171	19.2
3	1,700	440	2,140	13.0
4	1,041	239	1,280	7.8
5	765	162	927	5.6
6	433	73	506	3.1
7-10	904	119	1,023	6.2
Over 10	460	62	522	3.2

	Alcohol Arrests				Drug Arrests			
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total	
Number	N	N	N	(%)	N	N	N	(%)
0	6,612	2,656	9,268	55.3	7,297	2,521	9,818	58.6
1	3,093	774	3,867	23.1	3,821	982	4,803	28.7
2	1,492	233	1,725	10.3	1,120	218	1,338	8.0
3	716	109	825	4.9	331	61	392	2.3
4	359	47	406	2.4	117	24	141	0.8
5	182	21	203	1.2	71	22	93	0.6
6 +	436	31	467	2.8	136	35	171	1.0

The information presented in the above tables is what was reported by offenders on their SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form answer sheets. . Many offenders have histories of criminal behavior. Nearly half (41.8%) of the offenders have been arrested for a felony. Nearly two-thirds (60.8%) have been placed on probation. Over 44 percent of the offenders have one or more alcohol-related arrest and over 41 percent have one or more drug-related arrest. These statistics show that offenders have multiple problems. SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form scales identify these offenders' problems.

Data on the percentages of first offenders and multiple offenders shows that there were more multiple offenders than first offenders. Over half of the offenders had been arrested two or more times in their lifetime. Over one-third (37.6%) of the offenders had their first arrest by the age of 18 and over half (54.8%) had been arrested before the age of 21.

SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form scale score risk ranges are stable and show that the tests continues to accurately assess offender risk. High statistical reliability is maintained in both the SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form. Discriminant validity is supported by correlations between court history variables and SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores. Total number of arrests is correlated with SAQ-Adult Probation III scale scores. Alcohol arrests correlate best with Alcohol Scale scores. Drug arrests correlate best with Drugs Scale scores. Many arrests and other court history are alcohol related. These statistics support the scientifically sound methodologies of the SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form. The SAQ-Adult Probation III and SAQ-Short Form are reliable, valid and accurate tests.

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