

# Protective factors for sexual offenders? Research results with the SAPROF

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## The SAPROF

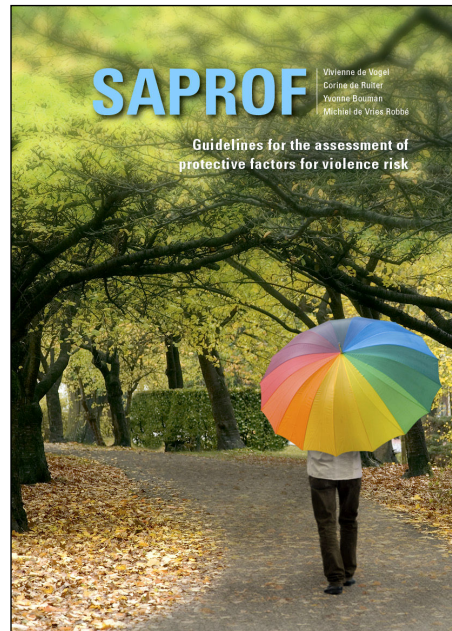
The Structured Assessment of PROtective Factors for violence risk (SAPROF) is a checklist for the assessment of **protective factors** for (sexually) violent behavior. The SAPROF was developed as a positive, dynamic and treatment focused SPJ assessment tool, intended to complement and counterbalance commonly used risk focused tools like the HCR-20, SVR-20 or STABLE. Although the tool is not specifically designed for sexual offenders, the empirical knowledge on protective factors to date suggests the protective factors in the SAPROF should be valuable for violent and sexual offenders alike.

### Advantages

The addition of protective factors creates a more balanced risk assessment for future (sexual) violence risk, enabling a more positive approach to violence prevention. The SAPROF aims to contribute to an increasingly accurate and well-rounded assessment of risk for future (sexually) violent behavior. Moreover, the dynamic positive approach of protective factors aims to create new opportunities for effective and achievable treatment interventions for violent and sexual offenders.

### Translations

The SAPROF is now available in Dutch, English, German, Italian, Spanish, French, Swedish and Norwegian. Portuguese, Russian and Danish translations are in preparation.



## Sexual offenders

### Previous studies

Previous research results with the SAPROF in violent offender samples showed good interrater reliability, good predictive validities for violent recidivism after treatment as well as violent incidents during treatment, and significant improvements in SAPROF scores during clinical intervention. The present studies focus on the value of the SAPROF for sexual offenders.

### Retrospective file study sexual offenders

The file study presents findings on the predictive validity of the protective factors in the SAPROF for a sample of 83 male discharged sexual offenders. The SAPROF, the HCR-20, the SVR-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 after treatment both for any violent offense and specifically for sexually violent offenses.

### Prospective study in clinical practice sexual and violent offenders

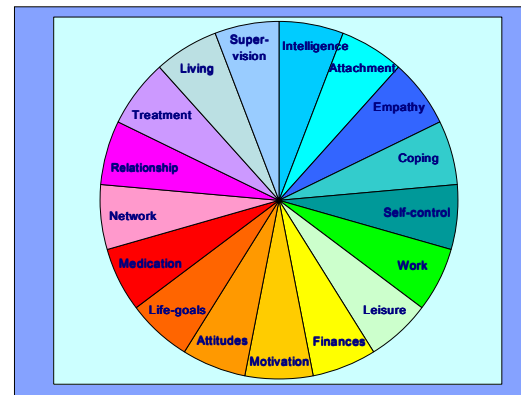
The prospective study presents findings on the predictive validity of the protective factors in the SAPROF for a sample of 245 assessments of male offenders (98 sexual and 147 violent). The tools were scored for all offenders during clinical forensic psychiatric treatment. Follow-up data collected over a 12 month period following the assessment concerned all violent incidents during treatment including both physical violence and severe threats.

## Results file study

Follow-up (N=83 sexual offenders)	1 year		3 year		15 year (M)	
	All	Sexual	All	Sexual	All	Sexual
Total score SAPROF	.83*	.93*	.77*	.76*	.74*	.71*
Total score HCR-20	.91*	.80	.81*	.65	.67*	.59
Total score SVR-20	-	.64	-	.63	-	.58
Final Protection Judgment	.79*	.85	.73*	.65	.66*	.65
Final Violence Risk Judgment	.79*	.85	.70*	.65	.67*	.66*
Final Sexual Risk Judgment	-	.88	-	.68	-	.71*

Predictive validity (AUC-values) for violent reconversions of post-treatment ratings for discharged offenders. \* =  $p < .05$ .

Results show **good predictive validities** for the SAPROF scores for both **sexual violence** and **all violence** with short- as well as long-term follow-up after discharge from treatment. These results are comparable to those in previous studies with violent offenders. The items *Coping*, *Self-control*, *Motivation for treatment* and *Attitudes towards authority* were the best predicting factors for sexual offenders (ICC = .85).



## Results prospective study

Offender type	Sexual Offenders (N=98)	Violent Offenders (N=147)
Total score SAPROF	.81*	.77*
Total score HCR-20	.85*	.74*
Final Protection Judgment	.73*	.69*
Final Violence Risk Judgment	.81*	.75*

Predictive validity (AUC-values) violent incidents during treatment, \* =  $p < .05$ .

### The SAPROF factors

- 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

Results show **good predictive validity** for violent incidents during clinical treatment for the SAPROF. This is true for the sexual as well as the violent offender group; values were even slightly better for the **sexual offenders**. The best individual predicting factors for inpatient violence differed for both groups: Violent offenders: *Self-control*, *Attitudes towards authority*, *Work*, *Motivation for treatment* and *Medication*; Sexual offenders: *Coping*, *Leisure activities*, *Attitudes towards authority* and *Social network*.