Treatment readiness and responsivity: Contributing to effective correctional programming (R-54, 1997)

This report provides an overview of issues related to the effective treatment of offenders. Treatment responsivity is considered to comprise two constructs: treatability, a term used in forensic settings, and treatment effectiveness. The former describes aspects of motivation and treatment compliance, while the latter considers the assessment of treatment gain and generalization of treatment effects.

This paper integrates these constructs into a contemporary model to guide the development of an assessment protocol for use by clinicians and program staff in correctional settings. The resultant protocol is generic, permitting its application across a range of programs. Preliminary data are presented which support its utility, and recommendations are made regarding its further development prior to implementation.

Several key findings resulted from this pilot study. First, many offenders report low readiness for treatment, and this did not change the function of treatment. This has important implications for the planning and delivery of correctional planning and intervention. Second, the Interpersonal Style Ratings proved to be dynamic, with significant pre/post-treatment changes in the desired direction, and these ratings were significantly correlated with post-treatment evaluations. Third, self-report measures are influenced by social desirability and do not significantly correlate with behavioural measures. Related to this finding was the result that offenders' self-reports regarding treatment gain were discrepant from clinicians' evaluations.

The report also identifies several limitations to this pilot study.