

False Feigners, Continued: An Examination of the Impact of Mixed Responding on MMPI-2-RF Content-Based Validity Scales

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Introduction

- The MMPI-2-RF includes Validity Scales designed to detect non-content-based (e.g., random, fixed) and content-based (e.g., overreporting, underreporting) invalid responding.
- Previous research examined the frequency of “false feigners”—individuals incorrectly identified as under- or overreporting when actually responding in a random, acquiescent, or counter-acquiescent manner³.
- Concerns regarding undetected mixed responding on the MMPI-A-RF led to the development of Combined Response Inconsistency (CRIN)—a supplement to VRIN-r and TRIN-r that is scored by summing raw VRIN-r, TRIN-r True, and TRIN-r False scores¹.
- Previous research found support for the incremental utility of an MMPI-2-RF CRIN in the detection of mixed responding^{5/6}.

Aims & Hypotheses

There is a gap in the literature examining the influence of mixed responding on MMPI-2-RF content-based Validity Scales.

Hypotheses

- Based on Burchett et al. (2016), we hypothesized mixed responding would elevate mean scores on F-r, Fp-r, Fs, RBS, and L-r.
- We did not expect an impact on FBS or K-r means.
- We anticipated screening with VRIN-r and TRIN-r would decrease ‘false feigner’ misclassifications and we explored the incremental utility of screening with CRIN.

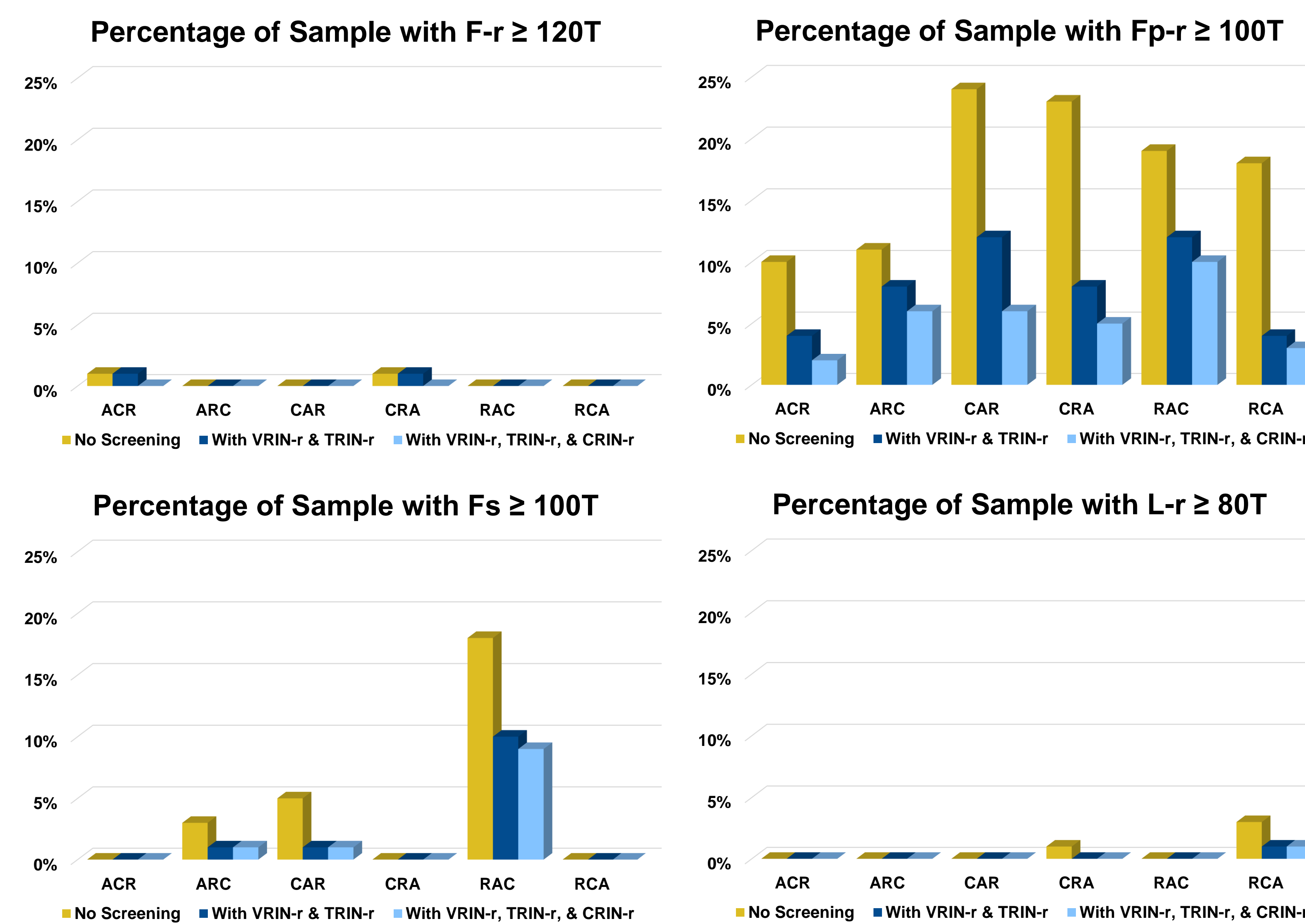
Method

- We inserted computer-generated mixed responses into a forensic inpatient sample with no elevations on MMPI-2-RF Validity Scales.
 - Six datasets with 40% generated mixed responding were created.
 - Dividing participant items into 3 equal parts, we replaced 40% of items in each third of the test with acquiescent (A), counter-acquiescent (C), or random (R) responses (ACR, ARC, CAR, CRA, RAC, RCA).
- We examined mean scores for content-based Validity Scales. We also examined the frequency of elevations on each overreporting and underreporting scale:
 - Without screening for non-content-based invalidity
 - After screening with VRIN-r and TRIN-r
 - After adding CRIN to screen invalid protocols

Table 1: MMPI-2-RF Content-Based Validity Scale Means for Original and 40% Mixed Response Insertion Conditions (N = 156)

	Original	ACR	ARC	CAR	CRA	RAC	RCA
F-r	55.71 (9.07)	76.70 (10.41)	72.14 (9.63)	80.00 (10.53)	84.65 (9.48)	74.89 (11.20)	83.35 (10.61)
Fp-r	51.72 (9.07)	78.78 (14.84)	80.59 (14.84)	88.10 (14.70)	85.83 (13.78)	84.36 (14.66)	83.52 (15.55)
Fs	52.82 (8.85)	64.47 (11.23)	76.53 (13.90)	83.24 (13.78)	74.57 (12.86)	86.69 (14.97)	62.22 (11.26)
FBS-r	50.32 (8.89)	62.88 (8.14)	61.13 (8.09)	56.24 (8.11)	58.79 (8.14)	58.26 (8.07)	61.82 (7.68)
RBS	51.85 (9.53)	70.00 (10.41)	67.57 (10.86)	62.55 (9.90)	63.87 (9.41)	64.16 (10.01)	66.89 (10.22)
L-r	51.90 (7.06)	60.31 (7.23)	58.20 (7.16)	59.81 (7.48)	59.42 (7.98)	58.43 (6.67)	60.60 (8.58)
K-r	50.13 (7.38)	46.65 (6.25)	47.02 (6.38)	52.74 (5.76)	52.48 (6.31)	49.64 (6.15)	48.87 (5.92)

Figure 1: MMPI-2-RF Content-Based Validity Scale Clinical Elevation Frequencies Due to 40% Mixed Response Insertion (N = 156)



Note. No elevations were observed for FBS-r, RBS, or K-r with 40% mixed response insertion. Therefore, figures are not displayed for those scales.

Results & Discussion

- Mixed responses led to notable increases in content-based Validity Scale score means.
 - Fp-r, Fs, and F-r exhibited the greatest elevation changes.
 - FBS-r, RBS, and L-r exhibited moderate increases in mean scores while K-r means remained in the normative range.
- Few content-based Validity Scales exhibited elevations to interpretive thresholds.
 - A notable exception was Fp-r, with 10-24% elevating to 100T or higher.
 - This impact was mitigated when VRIN-r and TRIN-r were used to screen for invalid responding, reducing the number of protocols flagged by Fp-r to 4-12%.
 - Adding CRIN, the Fp-r ‘false feigner’ rate was further reduced to 2-10%.
 - Fs also exhibited some elevations. Fs may be particularly impacted by RAC mixed responding.
- This was the first study to examine the impact of computer-generated mixed responding on the MMPI-2-RF content-based Validity Scales.
- 40% may have been too low to be sensitive to the impact of mixed responding. Future studies should examine results for the full spectrum of 0-100% inserted mixed responses.

References

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