Motivational Interviewing
(with a Criminal Justice Focus)
Motivational Interviewing Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction

Motivational Interviewing (MI) was introduced to the field of corrections in the 1990s through the Evidence-based Practices Model as a method for enhancing intrinsic motivation. Since that time, agencies throughout the U.S., in all criminal justice settings, have—to a greater or lesser degree—explored if, when, and how to implement this approach to communicating, building rapport, and tapping into the internal motivation of the clients and staff members they work with.

This annotated bibliography contains the written resources pertaining specifically to the criminal justice field. In addition, certain documents considered seminal to the training, implementation, evaluation, coaching, and quality assurance of MI skills are included.

We are confident you can obtain these resources either through the Internet, the NIC Information Center, the authors, or by ordering them. We invite contributions to this list, as well as additions submitted material to the NIC Library, such as articles and training resources.

Forthcoming compilations:
- Information about options for coding and coaching MI skills.
- Audiovisual resources used for training and coaching MI.
Bibliography


The utilization of motivational interviewing (MI) by probation officers is explained. MI “is a communication style that involves strategic use of questions and statements to help clients find their own reasons for change” (p. 61). Topics discussed include: evidence-based practice; role of the probation officer; MI in criminal justice; the eight stages of learning motivational interviewing; MI training—a model plan; and future directions.  
http://nicic.gov/Library/025045


Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) recently embarked upon a journey to change its program model to incorporate evidence-based practices and knowledge of “what works” nationally in the field of corrections. For years, our program model has included educational instruction and testing, substance abuse treatment, life skills courses, and spiritual groups. Each of these programs is essential for helping our inmates move beyond a criminal lifestyle, but experience has shown us that curriculum alone isn't enough. The most valuable tool in our toolbox is the ability to plant the seed that changes offenders' behavior and thinking about committing crime. To truly engage offenders in the process of self-change, Louisville Metro is taking advantage of a communications tool known as Motivational Interviewing (MI). [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]


This study evaluated the effects of a brief offending-focused motivational interviewing (MI) intervention on reconviction in male prisoners servicing sentences for diverse crimes” in New Zealand (p. 1). Results are given for: effect of MI intervention on recidivism; interactions between the MI intervention and completion of criminogenic programs; validation stage of change ratings; prediction of recidivism outcomes using stage of change and other variables; and stage of change and post-MI referral to criminogenic programs. MI had a considerable impact on recidivism. Those prisoners in the MI intervention had 21% less reconviction rates and 17% less re-imprisonment rates than non-participants.  
http://nicic.gov/Library/025183

This research evaluated the effectiveness of an adaptation of motivational interviewing (the Short Motivational Programme) to enhance motivation to change in a high risk offender sample. The Short Motivational Programme (SMP) aimed to increase offenders’ motivation to change prior to their release from prison. The results provided preliminary evidence for the effectiveness of SMP to increase the motivation to change of high risk offenders.

[AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

This article begins a two-part series on increasing motivation with involuntary clients, focusing on mandated offenders placed under probation supervision by court orders. In our own field of criminal justice, evidence-based practice as outlined by criminologists has recommended that justice staff be responsive to motivational issues with offenders (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). This series attempts to lend substance to that recommendation with suggestions for direct practice application. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Clark, Michael D., Scott Walters, Ray Gingerich, and Melissa Metzler. "Importance, Confidence and Readiness to Change: Motivational Interviewing for Probation and Parole." Perspectives 30, no. 3 (2006): 36-45. [Part Two].
This article completes a two-part series on increasing motivation with involuntary clients, focusing on mandated offenders placed under probation supervision by court orders.

This article examines the ingredients for human behavioral change. Four common factors appear to be present in all effective treatment models. These transtheoretical factors are: client factors; relationship factors; hope and expectancy; and model and technique. When these factors are taken into account, the following practice implications arise: all probation staff can increase their therapeutic approach; require balance and sensibility; provide new learning opportunities for the youth; become change-focused; and build an alliance. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

This article begins a two-part series on increasing motivation with "involuntary clients," focusing on mandated offenders placed under probation supervision by court orders. In our own field of criminal justice, evidence-based practice as outlined by criminologists has recommended that justice staff be responsive to motivational issues with offenders (Andrews & Bonta, 2003). This series demonstrates practical ways to respond to that recommendation. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Motivational Interviewing aligns with evidence-based practice. It can help the officer get “back into the game.” MI will change who does the talking and will help prepare the client for change. This article will suggest several benefits from the importation of Motivational Interviewing into probation practice. This article gives eight reasons to consider the MI approach to working with justice-involved individuals.


Motivational interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based communication method that can be effective in engaging incarcerated juveniles in substance abuse programming and other treatment services. However, MI can be difficult to learn and often requires several training exposures for skill change. Few studies have examined MI training outcomes over time. This study reports outcomes for 222 juvenile corrections workers trained in MI in a three-day introductory and two-day advanced training. Those who attended their second training within nine months of the first training were more likely to score in the proficiency range.

[JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2011.601986](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2011.601986)


Substance use alone leads to increased rates of violence, reduction in adherence to treatment regimes, and other negative psychiatric sequelae. Given the high rates of co-occurring substance use and family violence-related problems, substance use was assessed among offenders of domestic violence who were mandated by court to attend anger management classes. Rates of substance dependence diagnoses ranged from 33 to 50%, while rates of substance abuse diagnoses ranged from 60 to 75%. This study evaluated the effectiveness of a motivational enhancement intervention on readiness to change substance use. Results indicate that a motivational enhancement intervention is feasible and effective in increasing readiness to change substance use among domestic violence offenders.

[JOURNAL ABSTRACT]


This article covers some of the proposed forensic applications of Motivational Interviewing (MI) with reference to group work contexts. It briefly describes actual techniques, discusses some of the differences between mainstream MI and Forensic MI and speculates upon some of the possible advantages of the latter. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Motivational interviewing (MI) is a client-centered, directive counselling style for helping people to explore and resolve ambivalence about behaviour change and shown to decrease drug and alcohol use. A five-session semi-structured MI intervention [Beteende, Samtal, Förändring (BSF; Behaviour, Counselling, Change)] was implemented in Swedish prisons. To examine whether, in a real-life implementation of semi-structured MI, staff receiving ongoing MI training, based on audio-recorded feedback in peer groups (BSF+), possess greater MI skill compared with staff receiving workshop-only MI training (BSF), and staff conducting usual prison planning interviews (UPI). Prisoners were randomised to one of the three interventions. Overall, staff were rated as not having achieved beginning proficiency. Our findings suggest that staff delivering motivational interviewing programmes for substance-misusing prisoners in Sweden are not being given sufficient training for the task. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]


Sex offenders present a difficult treatment challenge, and constitute a group for whom motivational interventions are particularly warranted. Although specific treatment goals differ across offenders, the general goals for all offender include giving up a highly reinforcing and typically long-established pattern of behavior. The offender’s motivation for change is the most important determinant of treatment outcome, which means that motivation-enhancing strategies are absolutely critical in working with this population. This chapter has outlined various obstacles and intervention strategies for working with offenders at different stages of treatment. [SECTION FROM CHAPTER CONCLUSION]


The use of motivational interviewing (MI) to keep offenders wanting to be involved in programs that help them to stop their criminal behavior is explained. Sections of this chapter following an introduction are: motivational issues in criminal justice settings—motivation and the criminal justice culture, self-determination theory and the culture, motivation and treatment uptake, and motivation and treatment progress; motivational interviewing with offenders—MI with sexual offenders and MI with offenders with substance abuse problems; MI as a treatment adjunct; possible drawbacks to using motivational interviewing with criminal justice populations; and conclusion. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]
Harper, R., and S. Hardy. “An Evaluation of Motivational Interviewing as a Method of Intervention with Clients in a Probation Setting.” *British Journal of Social Work* 30 (2000): 393-400. This article describes the quantitative part of a research project undertaken within Middlesex Probation Service to evaluate the introduction of motivational interviewing as a technique to aid probation officers in their assessment and supervision of offenders who misuse alcohol and drugs. Results suggest that, irrespective of stratification, all offenders indicated an improvement in their questionnaire scores during their contact with the probation service. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

Hartzler, B. and E. Espinosa. “Moving Criminal Justice Organizations Toward Adoption of Evidence-Based Practice via Workshop Training in Motivational Interviewing: A Research Note.” *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 22, no. 2 (2011): 235-253. The National Institute of Corrections urges use of motivational interviewing (MI) techniques by its workforce, and it is incumbent on criminal justice organizations to find effective methods of personnel training in this evidence-based practice. The current study evaluates impact of a 2-day, advanced MI workshop on personnel skills. Results indicated robust and reliable skill improvements across cohorts and skill domains, with nearly 80% of trainees attaining a proficiency criterion upon leaving the workshop. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Hohman, Melinda, Neal Doran, and Igor Koutsenok. “Motivational Interviewing Training for Juvenile Correctional Staff in California: One Year Initial Study.” *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 48, no. 7 (2009): 635-48. This study reports initial results of a program designed to train California corrections staff (n = 576) in motivational interviewing (MI), a method of communication that is based on a client-centered, collaborative style. After three days of training, participants made significant gains in terms of knowledge of MI principles and reflective listening skills. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Kear-Colwell, Jon and Philip Pollock. “Motivation or Confrontation. Which Approach to the Child Sex Offender?” *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 24, no. 1 (1997): 20-33. Applying Prochaska and DiClimente’s stages of change model to understanding the sequence of events necessary for an individual to alter patterns of behavior, this article examines the relative merits and problems of two intervention approaches—confrontational techniques and motivational interventions—to working with child sex offenders. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Mann, Ruth E. and Steven Rollnick. “Motivational Interviewing with a Sex Offender who Believed he was Innocent.” *Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy* 24 (1996): 127-134. Motivational Interviewing (Miller, 1983; Miller and Rollnick, 1991) is an approach originally developed for problem drinkers but assumed to have wider applications. This paper describes one such application through the case of Mr. D, an imprisoned sex offender who...
was identified under the procedures of the Prison Service Sex Offender Treatment Programme. A full assessment of his offending suggested that he had made cognitive and behavioural errors prior to the act of intercourse and so motivational interviewing was employed to help him decide whether or not to participate in the treatment programme.

**[JOURNAL ABSTRACT]**


The effectiveness of expert-led (EX) and train-the-trainer (TT) strategies was compared to a self-study approach (SS) for teaching clinicians motivational interviewing (MI). Twelve community treatment programs were assigned randomly to the three conditions. EX and TT conditions used skill-building workshops and three monthly supervision sessions guided by treatment integrity ratings, performance feedback and coaching techniques. The study found EX and TT, in comparison to SS, improved clinicians’ adherence and competence significantly, with higher percentages of clinicians reaching clinical trial standards of MI performance and few differences between EX and TT. This study supports the combined use of workshops and supervision to teach community program clinicians MI and suggests the train-the-trainer approach may be a feasible and effective strategy for disseminating empirically supported treatments. **[AUTHOR ABSTRACT]**


This article reviews some of the research evaluating the effectiveness of motivational interviewing (MI) as an approach to motivating offenders to change behavior and reduce recidivism. A review of nearly 20 studies showed that MI can lead to better treatment retention, improved motivation to change, and reduced re-offending.


This book discusses the importance of, and ways to, enhance offender motivation and engagement in treatment as a means to help facilitate recidivism reduction. Partial article available at:

http://books.google.com/books?id=HZ8fSSIAJNoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Motivating+offenders+to+change:+A+guide+to+enhancing+engagement+in+therapy&source=bl&ots=l1lbW5Z5h&sig=z8oXemHBhyhMN08Mb5Ub17EqZ4&hl=en&ei=lsp_Td2JJYv6sAOy6uD6BQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CD0Q6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false


In this short article, the author comments on the spread of motivational interviewing from the addictions field into corrections, pointing out the perception of ‘the clients’ in the addictions field was once similar to how “criminals” are regarded today.

http://motivationalinterview.net/clinical/prosandcons.htm

Professional training in motivational interviewing, as on many other topics, is often delivered via a one-time clinical workshop. To what extent do practitioners actually acquire skillfulness through such training? Twenty-two counselors participated in training, of whom 15 completed a study of changes in practice behavior up to 4 months after a motivational interviewing workshop. While practice behavior changed to a statistically significant extent, the effect of training was apparently not large enough to make a difference in client response. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]


The steps one takes to learn motivational interviewing (MI) are briefly described. This outline is useful for creating a MI training structure and for plotting where the trainee is at in the learning process. Available at: [http://motivationalinterview.org/Documents/8%20Stages.pdf](http://motivationalinterview.org/Documents/8%20Stages.pdf)


The authors explain current thinking on the process of behavior change, present the principles of MI, and provide detailed guidelines for putting it into practice. Case examples illustrate key points and demonstrate the benefits of MI in addictions treatment and other clinical contexts. [SECTION FROM GOOGLE BOOKS]


The authors try to clean away 26 years of accumulated misgivings from what motivational interviewing entails. The ten things MI is not are: the transtheoretical model of change; a way of tricking people into doing what you want them to do; a techniques; decisional balance; assessment feedback; cognitive-behavioral therapy; client-centered therapy; easy to learn; practice as usual; and a panacea (p. 129).

[http://nicic.gov/Library/025182](http://nicic.gov/Library/025182)


The Evaluating Methods for Motivational Enhancement Education trial evaluated methods for earning motivational interviewing (MI). Licensed substance abuse professionals (N = 140) were randomized to 5 training conditions: (a) clinical workshop only; (b) workshop plus practice feedback; (c) workshop plus individual coaching sessions; (d) workshop, feedback, and coaching; or (e) a waiting list control group of self-guided training. Relative to
controls, the 4 trained groups showed larger gains in proficiency. Coaching and/or feedback also increased post-training proficiency. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Murphy, Christopher M. and Victoria A. Baxter. “Motivating Batterers to Change in the Treatment Context.” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 12, no. 4 (1997): 607-619. Many treatment programs for domestic abuse perpetrators rely on consistent, direct, and often intense confrontation of defenses. These interventions may unwittingly increase rather than decrease resistance and defensiveness and may reinforce the belief that relationships are based on coercive influence. Supportive strategies are available to increase motivation to change in resistant clients. These techniques rely on a comprehensive model of the change process and match therapist interventions to the client’s readiness for change. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]


Rosengren, David B. *Building Motivational Interviewing Skills: A Practitioner Workbook: Applications of Motivational Interviewing*. New York: The Guilford Press, 2009. This manual is meant for practitioners across a variety of intervention and professional spectrums. Although I use the conventions of “practitioner” and “client” for convenience, this manual would be equally applicable for corrections workers, paraprofessionals, peer counselors, as well as a host of other working in helping situations. Each chapter provides an overview of concepts to which a trainee would be exposed to if he or she took a standard MI workshop. This manual contains numerous worksheets and exercises useful for training, coaching, and applying motivational interviewing. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

http://books.google.com/books?id=R_TEGNa35eIC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

Saunders, Bill, Celia Wilkinson, and Mike Phillips. “The Impact of a Brief Motivational Intervention with Opiate Users Attending a Methadone Programme.” *Addiction* 90, (1995): 415-424. During the 1980s Motivational Interviewing emerged as one of the memes of the addictions field. In this paper findings of a controlled trial of a brief motivational intervention with illicit drug users (n = 122) attending a methadone clinic are reported. Over the 6-month follow-up period the motivational subjects demonstrated a greater, immediate, commitment to abstention, reported more positive expected outcomes for abstention, reported fewer opiate-related problems, were initially more contemplative of change, complied with the methadone programme longer and relapsed less quickly than the control group. There was, however, no difference in terms of the severity of reported opiate dependence and the control group fared better on reported self-efficacy. It was concluded
that motivational interventions of the type investigated are useful adjuncts to methadone programmes. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

Stein, L A R, Suzanne M. Colby, Nancy P. Barnett, Peter M. Monti, Charles Golembeske, and Rebecca Lebeau-Craven. "Effects of Motivational Interviewing for Incarcerated Adolescents on Driving Under the Influence After Release." The American Journal on Addictions / American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions 15, no. 1 (2006): 50-7. Motivational Interviewing (MI) to reduce alcohol and marijuana-related driving events among incarcerated adolescents was evaluated. Effects were moderated by levels of depression. At low levels of depression, MI evidenced lower rates of these behaviors; at high levels of depression, effects for MI and RT were equivalent. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

Stein, L A R, Rebecca Lebeau, Suzanne M. Colby, Nancy P. Barnett, Charles Golembeske, and Peter M. Monti. "Motivational Interviewing for Incarcerated Adolescents: Effects of Depressive Symptoms on Reducing Alcohol and Marijuana Use after Release." Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs 72, no. 3 (2011): 497-506. This study evaluates the efficacy of MI [motivational interviewing] versus RT [relaxation training] in reducing substance use outcomes for incarcerated adolescents and examines the role of depressive symptoms in moderating outcomes." While MI is shown to be effective in reducing the use of alcohol in adolescents with low and high levels of depression and marijuana use in individuals with low levels of depression, it appears RT is better suited to marijuana-involved adolescents with high depressive symptoms. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

http://nicic.gov/Library/025180

Walker Daniels, Jill and Christopher M. Murphy. "Stages and Processes of Change in Batterers' Treatment." Cognitive and Behavioral Practice 4 (1997): 123-145. The transtheoretical model of change (Prochaska & DiClemente, 1984) has been widely researched in the areas of substance abuse and health promotion. This model is applied to the problem of domestic violence, specifically to group treatment for abuse perpetrators. These interventions could benefit by incorporating the transtheoretical model's focus on motivational factors and stage-specific interventions. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT]

Walters, Scott T., Matson, S.A., Baer, J.S., and D. M. Ziedonis. "Effectiveness of Workshop Training for Psychosocial Addiction Treatments: A Systematic Review." Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment 29, no. 4 (2005): 283-293. Workshop training for psychosocial substance abuse treatment has been an important part of the transfer of evidence-based approaches into larger practice. Although they are widely used, training methods such as self-study reading, internet-based courses, and educational workshops have not traditionally been the focus of empirical investigations. Based on electronic and manual searches of the literature, we summarize 17 evaluations of workshop training that describe the training program and the educational outcomes. In general, training tends to improve attendees' knowledge, attitudes, and confidence in working with clients who have substance abuse problems. [JOURNAL ABSTRACT]

This study was designed to evaluate the effect of a modest MI [motivational interviewing] training program on probation officer skill, on client outcome, and the overall relationship between officer skill and client outcome" (p. 318). This training program increased some MI skills that were maintained over six months, had no effect on some key probationer outcomes, and had little relationship between MI practice and offender outcome. [http://nicic.gov/Library/025181](http://nicic.gov/Library/025181)


This chapter addresses the perils and possibilities of a group-based motivational interviewing (GMI) through four sections. We begin with a review and analysis of the early empirical findings of group-based motivational applications. This review is followed by a discussion of evidence that one might be able to conduct motivational interviewing in the context of a group with minimal loss of fidelity. We then turn to the process itself, as well as the questions that inevitably arise when structuring the motivational group. [AUTHOR ABSTRACT] [http://addiction.persiangig.com/document/Motivational%20Interviewing.pdf](http://addiction.persiangig.com/document/Motivational%20Interviewing.pdf)


This publication "provides probation and parole officers and other correctional professionals with both a solid grounding in the principles behind MI [motivational interviewing] and a practical guide for applying these principles in their everyday dealings with offenders" (p.2). Seven chapters are contained in this guide: how MI fits in with evidence-based practice; how and why people change; the motivational interviewing style; preparing for change; building motivation for change; navigating through tough times--working with deception, violations, and sanctions; and from start to finish--putting MI into practice. [http://nicic.gov/Library/022253](http://nicic.gov/Library/022253)