

# Psychosocial Changes Among Special Populations in a Prison-based Therapeutic Community

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**David Farabee, Michael Prendergast, & Jerome Cartier**  
**University of California, Los Angeles, Drug Abuse Research Center**  
**1640 S. Sepulveda, Suite 200**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90025**  
**Ph: 310.445.0874, Fax: 310.473.7885**

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# Background

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- ◆ Expansion of SAPs in prisons has raised concerns over the appropriateness of integrating “special populations” into programs for the general inmate population (De Leon, 1997).
- ◆ Of particular interest for the California DOC are sex offenders and mentally ill.
  - ◆ **Sex offenders**--limited interaction and disclosure due to stigmatization of offense;
  - ◆ **Mentally ill offenders**--cognitive impairments and emotional instability may mitigate effects of TC program.

# Purpose

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- ◆ The current study examines in-treatment changes (over a period of 6 to 12 months) in five areas of psychological functioning (self-esteem, depression, anxiety, decision-making, and self-efficacy) and three areas of social functioning (hostility, risk-taking, and social conformity) among sex offenders and mentally ill inmates in a prison-based therapeutic community.

## Purpose (cont.)

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- ◆ Research Questions:
  - ◆ Does in-treatment psychosocial change occur at a differential rate for TC vs. non-TC inmates?
  - ◆ Does the level of change vary as a function of mental illness or sex offender status?
  - ◆ Within these sub-groups, does the level of change vary by treatment condition (i.e., is there a time x group [T x G] interaction)?

# Overview of the SATF Outcome Study

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- ◆ **Two-group design:**
  - ◆ Treatment (SATF; N=400) & matched comparison (Avenal; N=400)
- ◆ **Matching criteria:**
  - ◆ Age, race/ethnicity, commitment offense, custody score, sex offender status
- ◆ **Baseline, discharge, and 12-month follow-up interviews (including Self Rating Form)**
- ◆ **UAs (at follow up)**
- ◆ **Return to custody**

# Psychosocial Domains

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- **Eight items selected from the TCU Self-Rating Form:\***
  - Self Esteem
  - Depression
  - Anxiety
  - Decision Making
  - Self Efficacy
  - Hostility
  - Risk Taking
  - Social Conformity

\*Knight, K., Holcom, M., & Simpson, D. D. (February, 1994)

# Background Characteristics of SATF and Comparison Subjects (N=453)

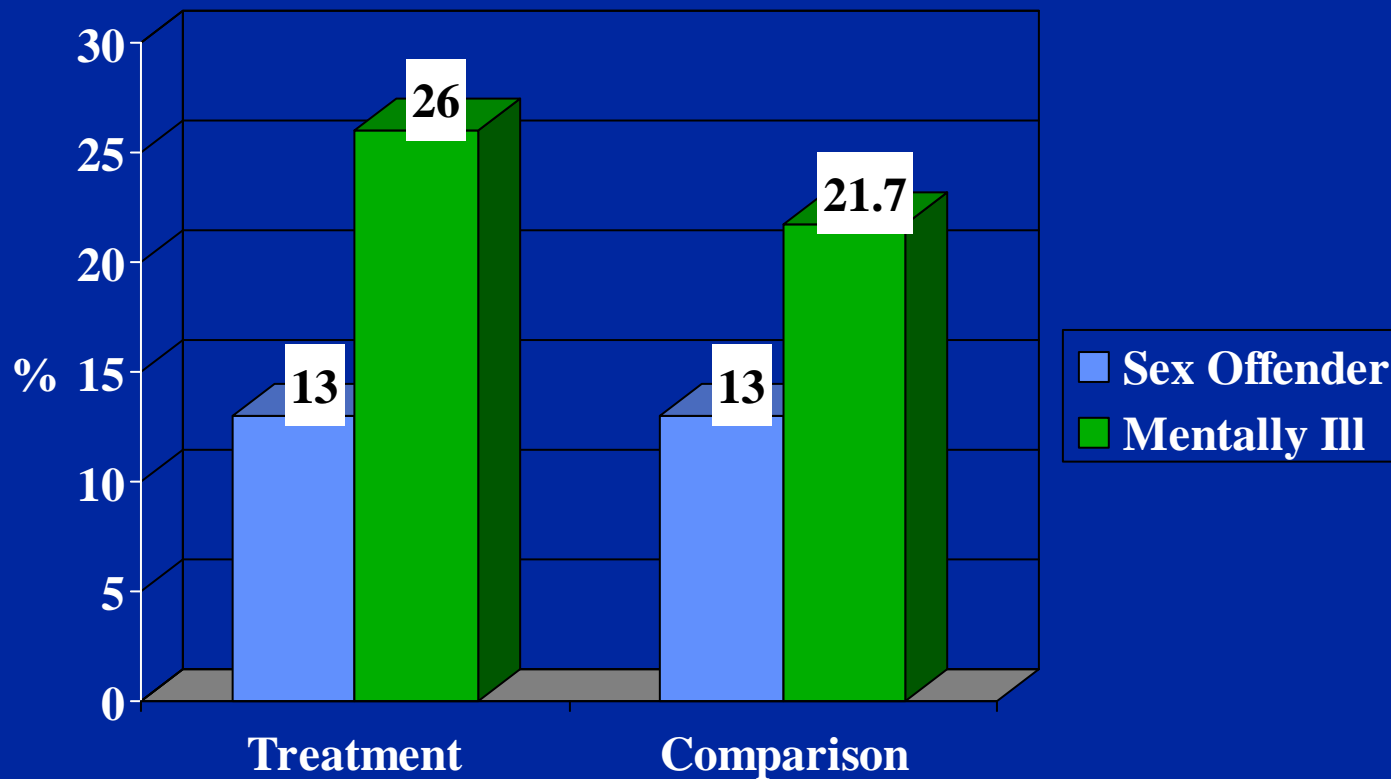
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<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>SATF (N=234)</u>	<u>Comparison (N=219)</u>
Age	36.5	35.8
Race/ethnicity		
<i>African American</i>	43.2	42.9
<i>Hispanic</i>	19.7	19.2
<i>White</i>	32.5	35.6
<i>Other</i>	4.7	2.3
Education	11.1	11.4
Never Married	43.4	37.9 *
FT employment (6 mos.)	40.6	47.5 *
Alcohol use (6 mos.)	73.1	68.0
Any drug use (6 mos.)	84.2	69.4 ***
<u>Times arrested (lifetime)</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>17</u>

\*\*\* p<.001, \*\*p<.01, \*p<.05

# Distributions of Sex Offenders and MICAs by Condition (N=800)

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# During-Treatment Psychosocial Change: Non-Mentally Ill (N=342)

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<b>Variable</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>T x G</b>
Depression	***	**
Self Esteem	***	**
Anxiety	***	**
Decision Making	*	**
Self Efficacy	*	*
Hostility	**	
Risk Taking		
Social Conf.		

# During-Treatment Psychosocial Change: Mentally III (N=108)

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<b>Variable</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>T x G</b>
Depression		
Self Esteem	*	
Anxiety		
Decision Making		
Self Efficacy		
Hostility		
Risk Taking		
Social Conf.		

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# During-Treatment Psychosocial Change: Non-Sex Offenders (N=391)

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<b>Variable</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>T x G</b>
Depression	***	*
Self Esteem	***	**
Anxiety	***	*
Decision Making	***	***
Self Efficacy	*	*
Hostility	**	
Risk Taking		
Social Conf.		

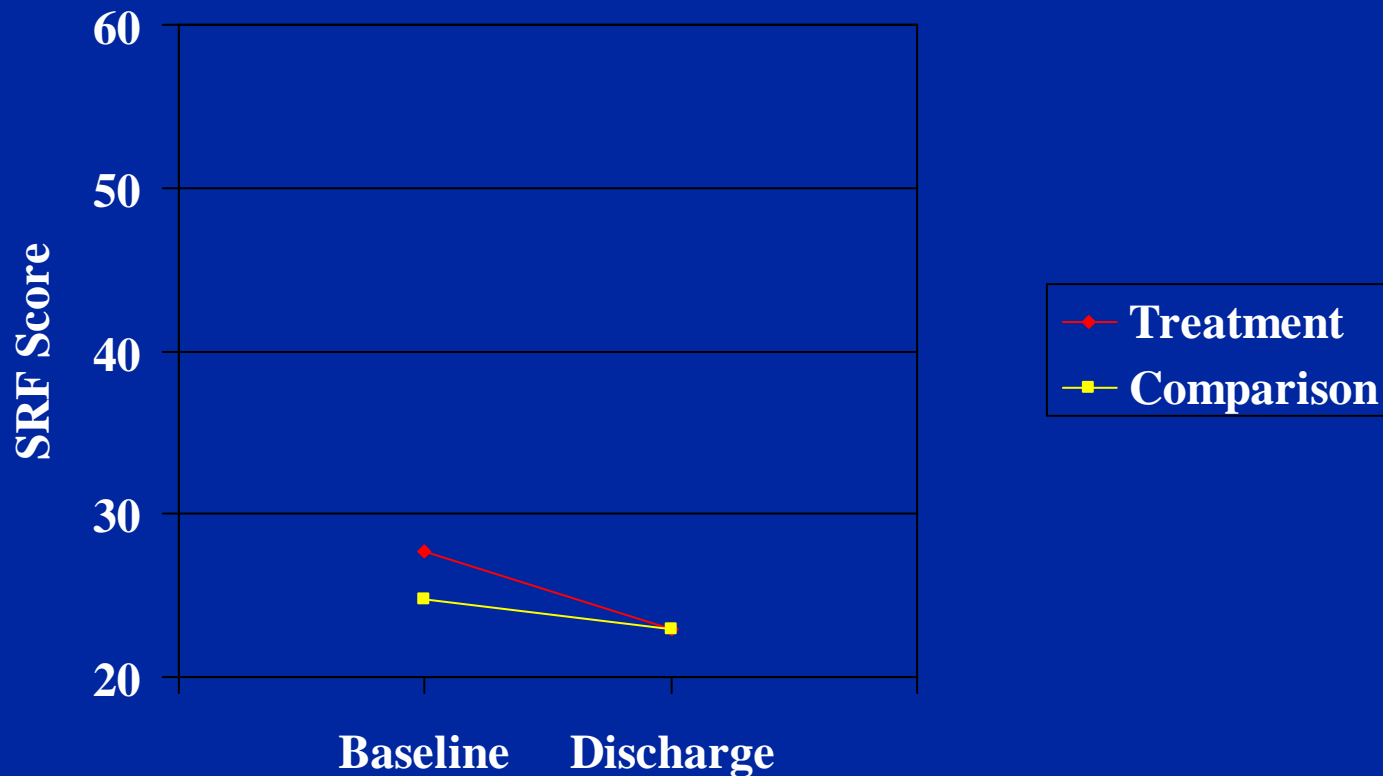
# During-Treatment Psychosocial Change: Sex Offenders (N=58)

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<b>Variable</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>T x G</b>
Depression	*	
Self Esteem		
Anxiety	*	
Decision Making		
Self Efficacy		
Hostility		
Risk Taking		
Social Conf.		

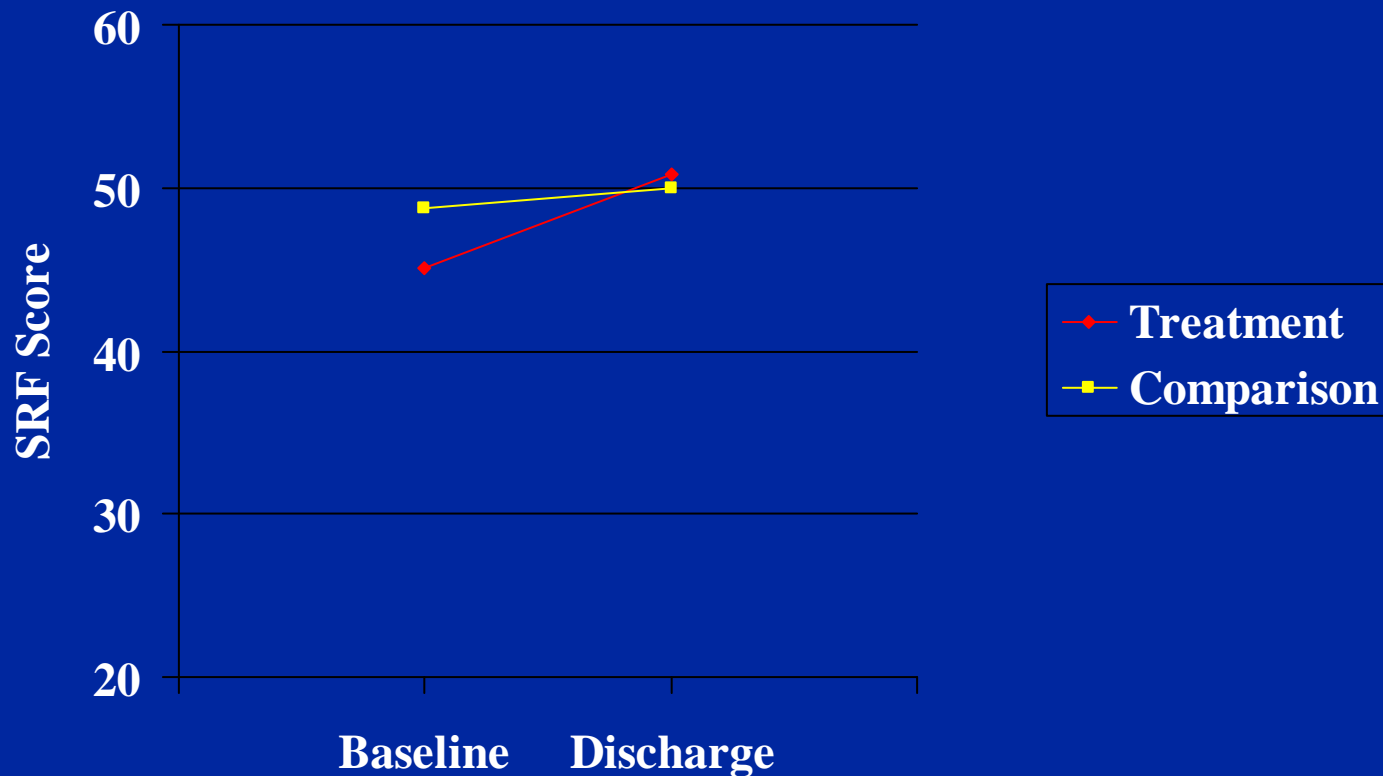
# Depression: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Mentally Ill Inmates (N=342)

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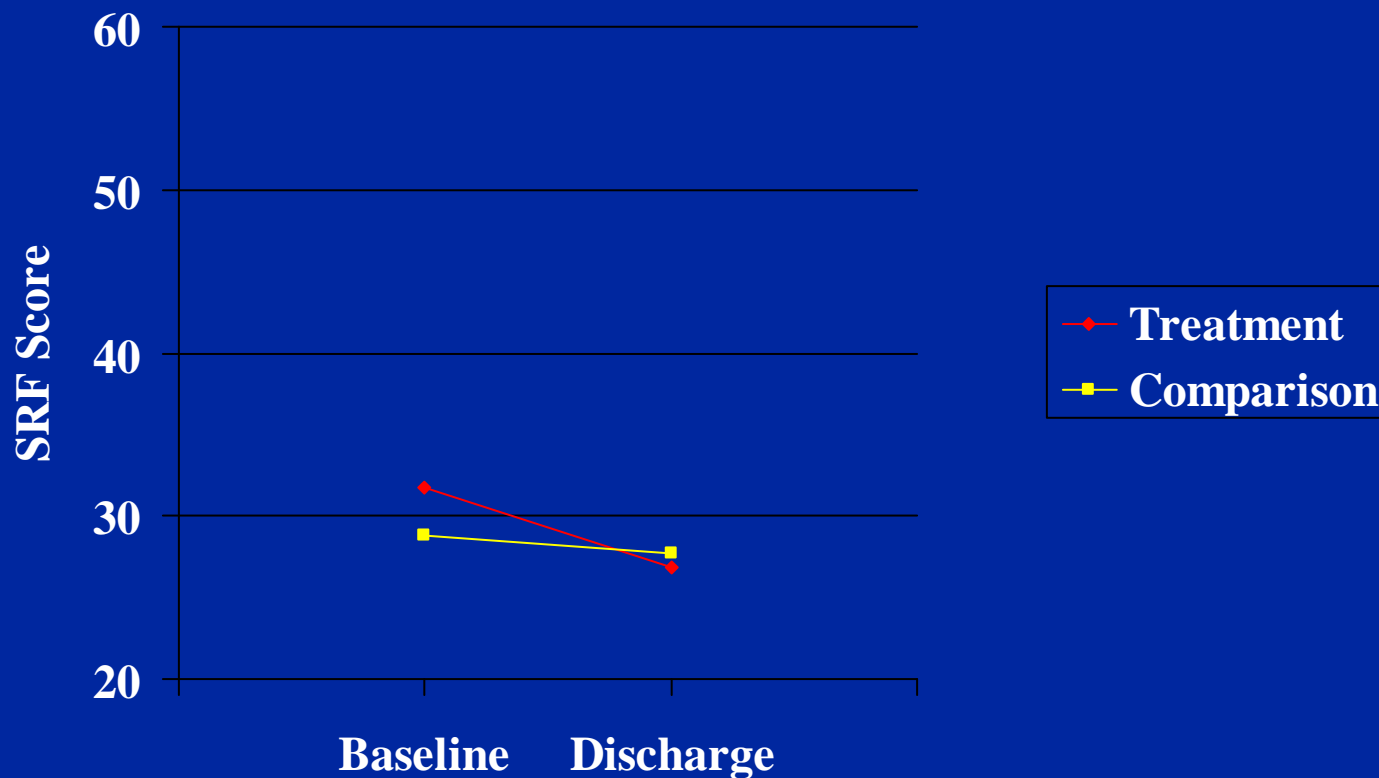
# Self Esteem: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Mentally Ill Inmates (N=342)

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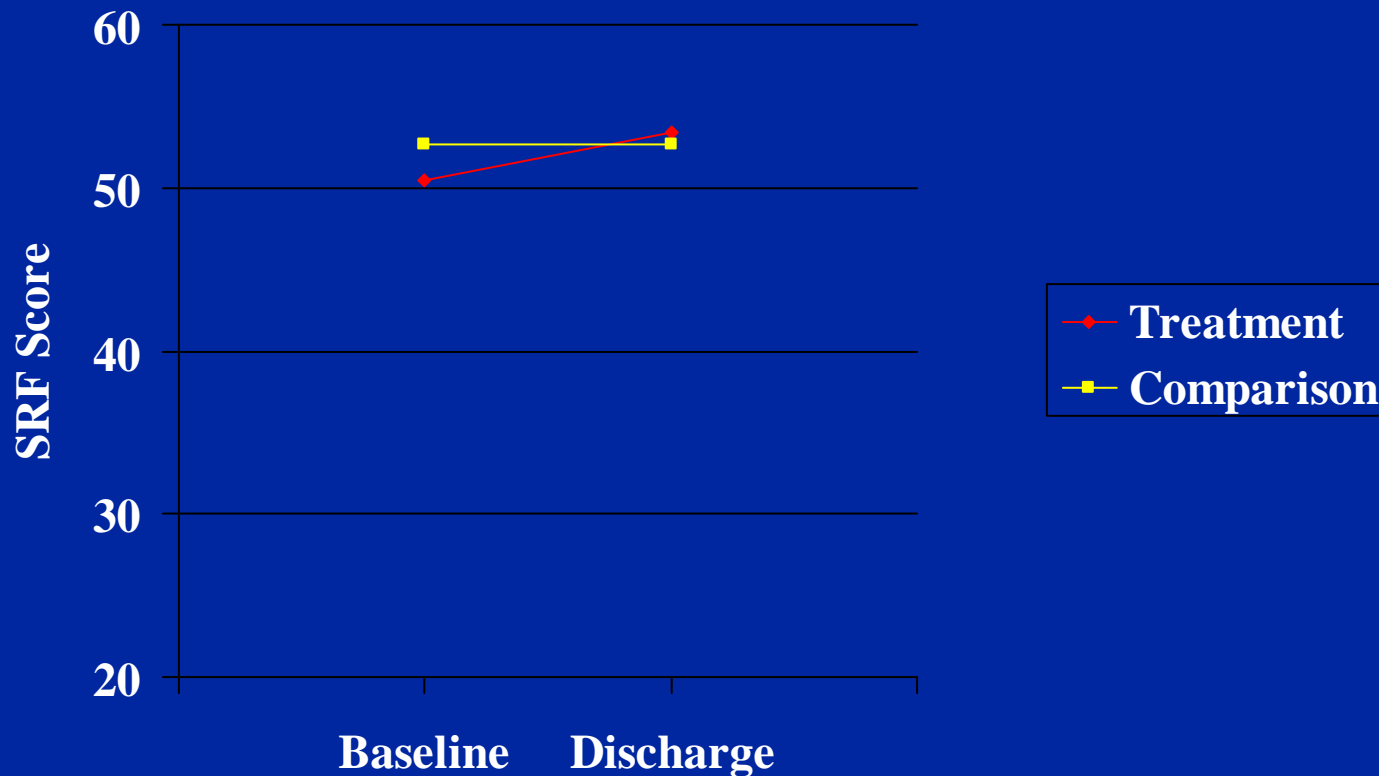
# Anxiety: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Mentally Ill Inmates (N=342)

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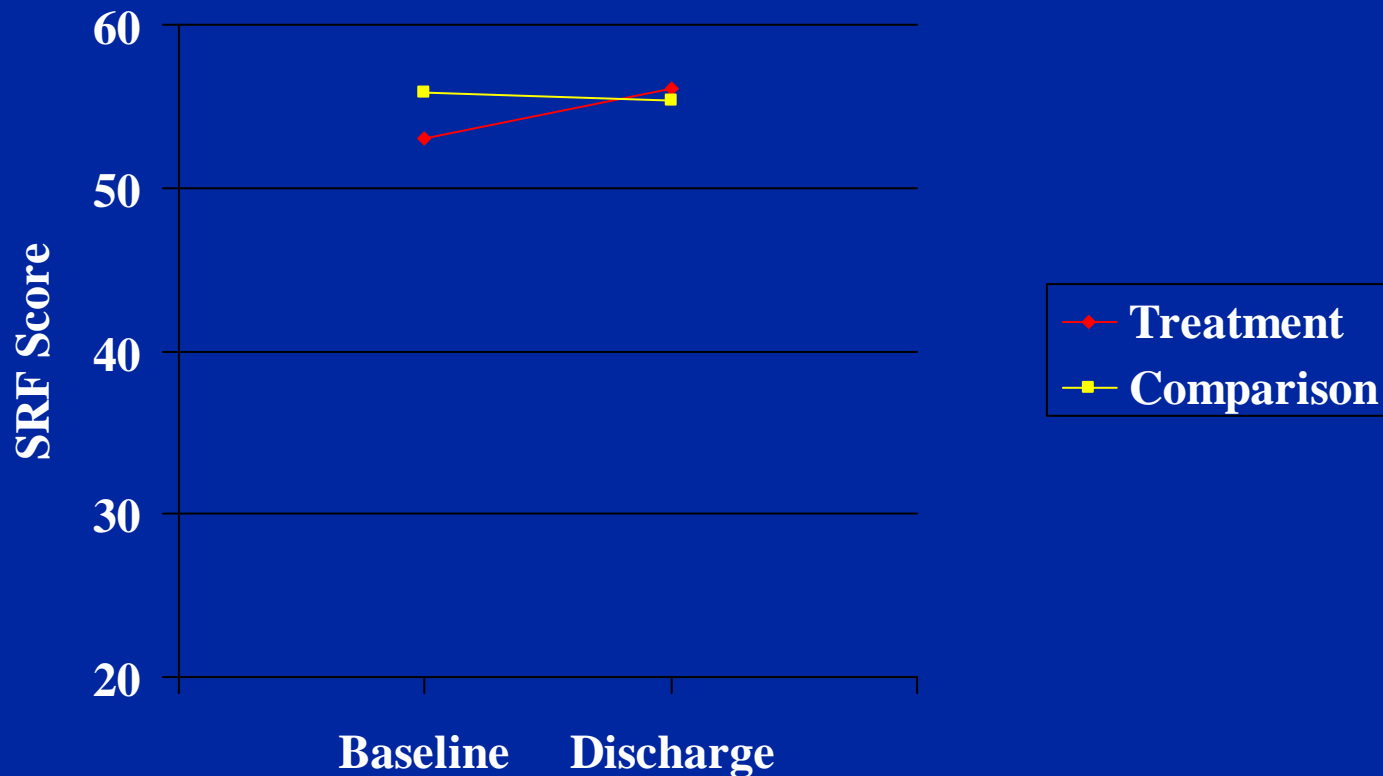
# Decision Making: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Mentally Ill Inmates (N=342)

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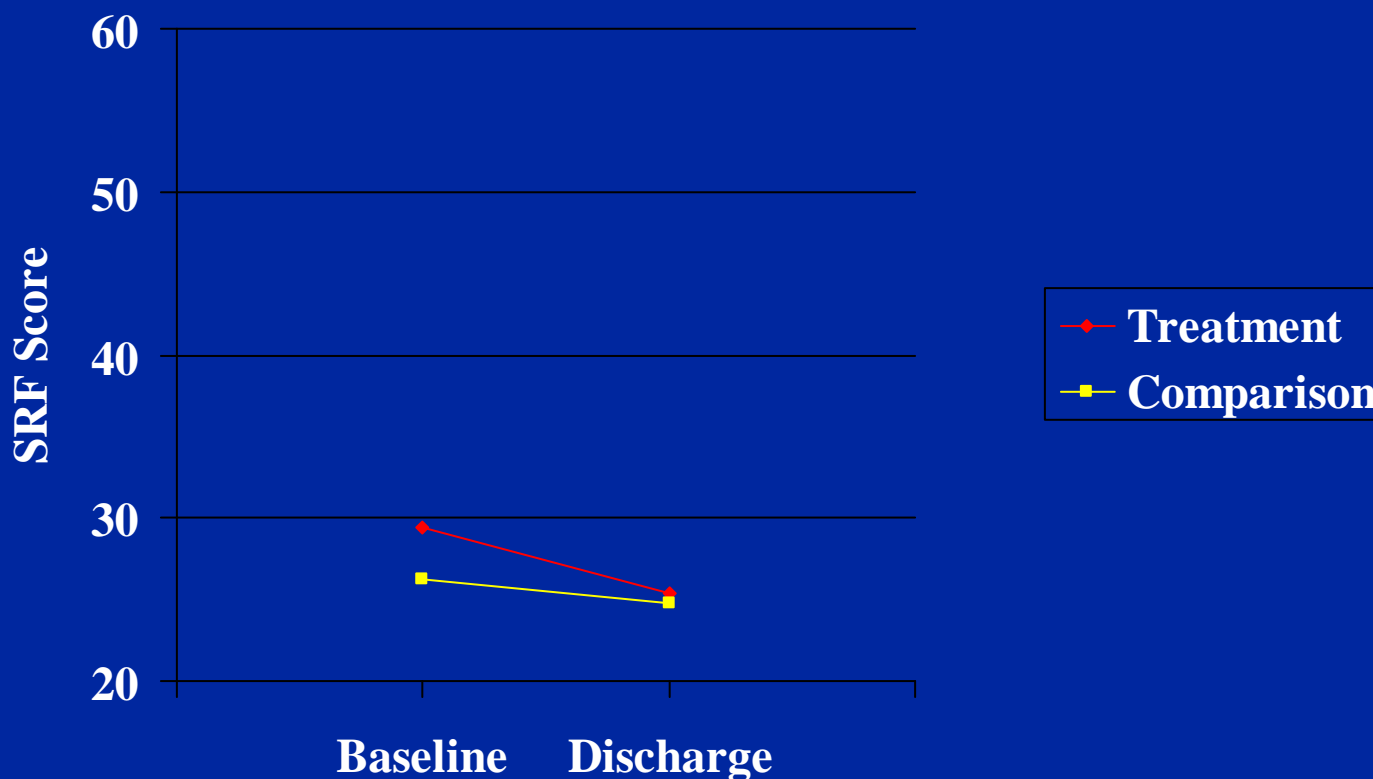
# Self Efficacy: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Mentally Ill Inmates (N=342)

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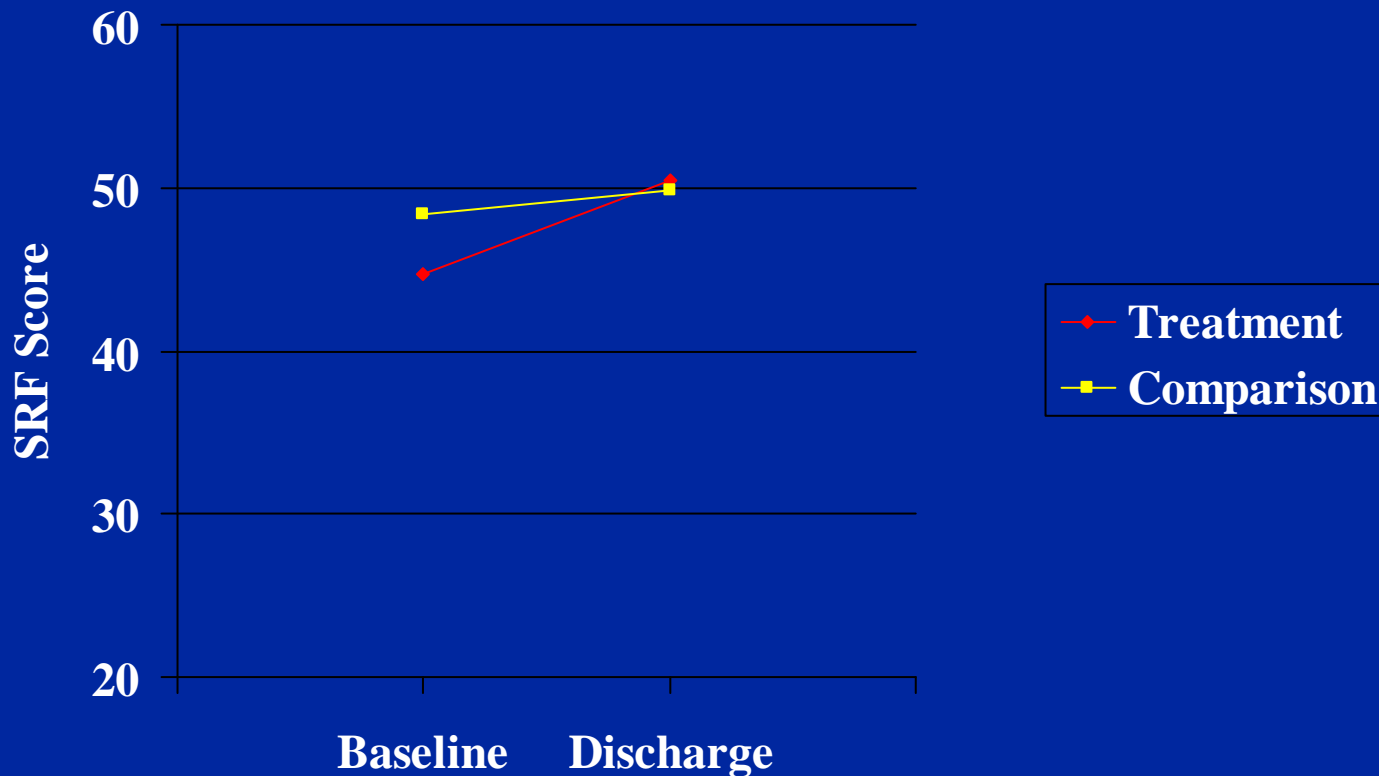
# Depression: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Sex Offender Inmates (N=391)

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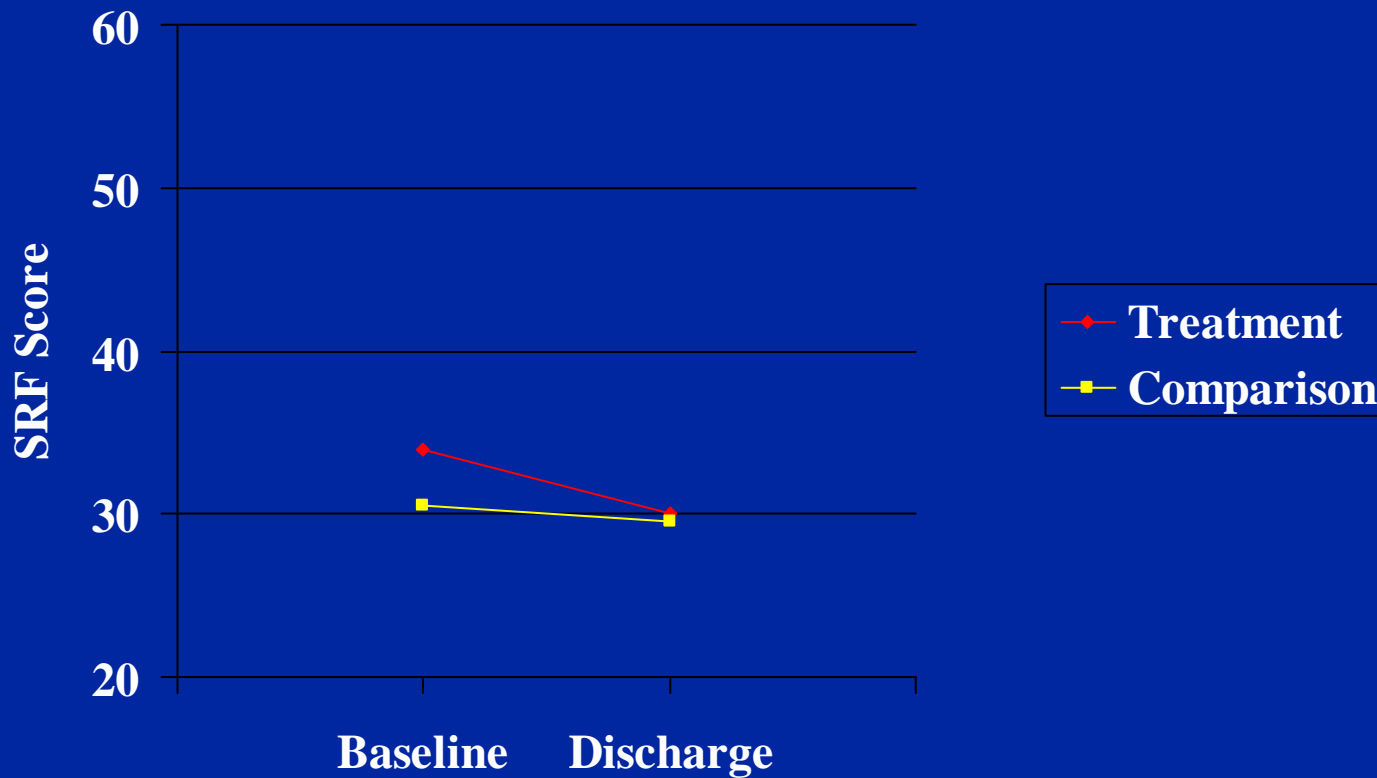
# Self Esteem: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Sex Offender Inmates (N=391)

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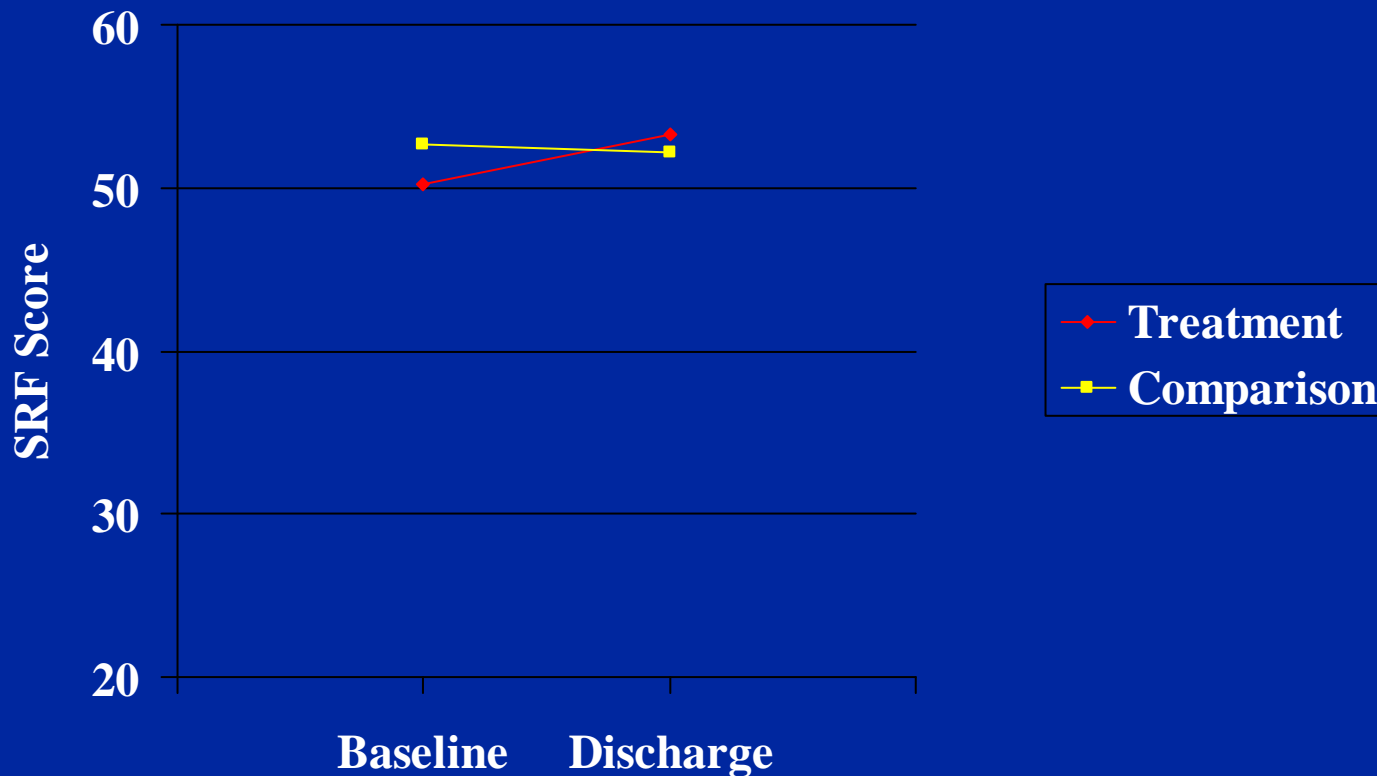
# Anxiety: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Sex Offender Inmates (N=391)

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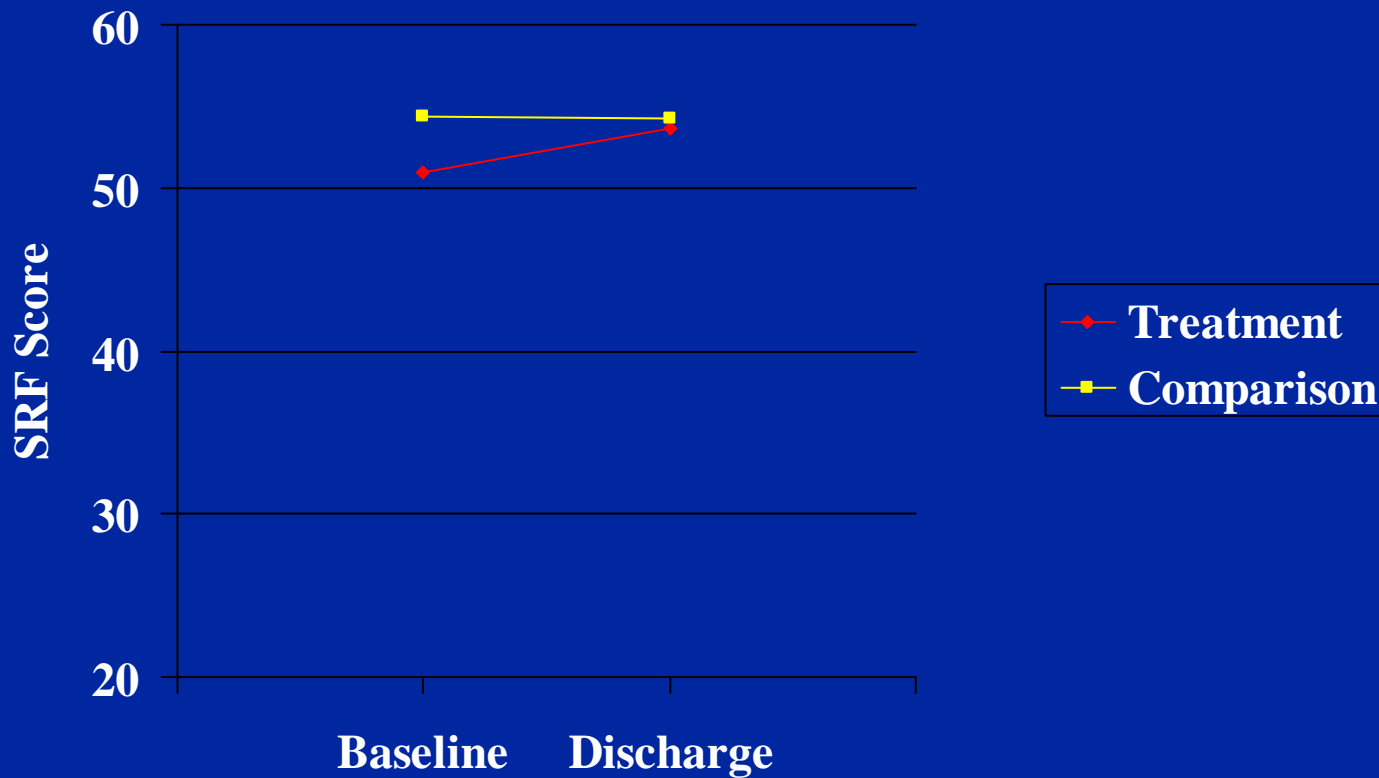
# Decision Making: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Sex Offender Inmates (N=391)

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# Self Efficacy: Time x Group Interaction Among Non-Sex Offender Inmates (N=391)

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# Conclusions

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- ◆ These data provide some support for the perception that sex offenders and MICAs are less likely to benefit from prison TCs than general population inmates.
  - ◆ However, even among the general population inmate samples, psychosocial changes were slight (and no changes occurred for hostility, risk taking, or social conformity).
  - ◆ Furthermore, all of the significant T x G interactions were driven by the higher levels of baseline problem severity among the treatment cohort, and the reduction of this between-group disparity over time.
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