

## Anxiety and Overinclusion

By A. E. MAY

It has been suggested (Mednick, 1958) that high drive acting "upon remote response tendencies is a major root of the disordered thinking of schizophrenics". Thought disorder would be a product of a high level of drive, increasing generalization and reducing discrimination. The relevant drive in this context is anxiety.

Payne and Hewlett (1960) have demonstrated that a battery of tests differentiated schizophrenics from normals, hysterics, dysthymics and depressives. These tests have high loadings on a factor of "Over-inclusion" and reflect the schizophrenics' difficulty in discriminating between what is appropriate and inappropriate for a concept.

Overinclusion might be a product of anxiety peculiar to schizophrenia. This study was conducted to see if any association could be found between these two variables.

### METHOD AND PROCEDURE

#### *Subjects*

The subjects were 50 patients diagnosed as schizophrenic, who had been admitted to a psychiatric hospital for the first time within a

year prior to testing, and who were recorded in their case-notes as having exhibited delusions or hallucinations. There were 32 males and 18 female patients. The mean age for the group was 28.5 years, S.D. 11.5.

Each subject was administered the following tests.

#### *Measure of Drive:*

Taylor Manifest Anxiety Scale (1953), total number of responses indicating anxiety.

#### *Measure of Thought Disorder:*

1. Goldstein-Scheerer Object Sorting Test over-inclusion score.
2. Mean number of words used to interpret proverbs. Gorham's Proverbs Form I (1956) was substituted for Benjamin's Proverbs, as Benjamin's were not obtainable.
3. Payne's Object Classification Test, total number of Non 'A' responses.

The scores for these three tests were derived from the raw scores using Payne and Hewlett's transformations.

The null hypothesis tested was that there is no significant association between scores on the

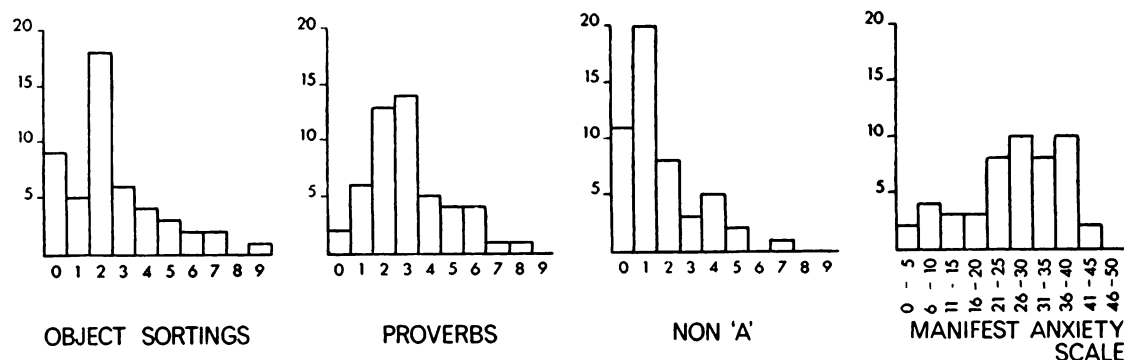


FIG. 1.

TABLE I  
*Drive and Overinclusion*

	Contingency Coefficients		
	Object Sortings	Proverbs	Non 'A'
Manifest Anxiety Scale .. ..	0.059	0.059	0.094
	p = > 0.70	p = > 0.70	p = > 0.80

Manifest Anxiety Scale and the scores on any of the three measures of overinclusion.

#### RESULTS

The data (Fig. 1) were heavily skewed, so the Contingency Coefficient non-parametric measure of correlation was used (Siegal, 1956).

The null hypothesis was upheld. There is no significant association between drive and overinclusion as measured.

#### REFERENCES

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