

Following the Example of Others: Two Program Evaluation Case Studies

Research Partnership with
Parent Aide programs in:

- ★ Dallas, Texas
- ★ Jacksonville, Florida

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Research Partnership...

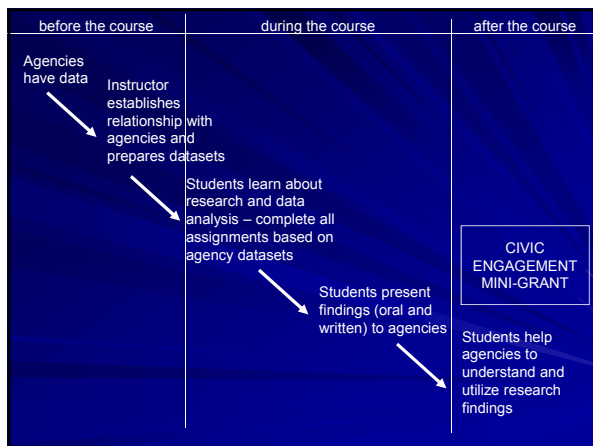
1. Provides needed research services to community agencies, free of charge.
2. Provides opportunities for social work graduate students to learn and apply their knowledge and skills in research.

Community agencies gain:

1. Valuable research services, at no charge, including an analysis of existing data, a literature review, and recommendations.
2. Written research reports, prepared by graduate-level social work students, that can be used to document and improve service delivery and for grant-writing.
3. Exposure to graduate-level social work students.

Students gain:

1. Opportunity to learn and apply knowledge and skills through service-learning in the course: SOWK 8190 Research and Computer Applications.
2. Exposure to community agencies and services provided by them.
3. Opportunity to provide a vital service to a community agency.



Research Partnership has completed research projects with:

- Camp Fire USA, Omaha
- **Child Abuse Prevention Center, Dallas, Texas (3x)**
- Children's Square, Council Bluffs
- **First Coast Family Center, Jacksonville, Florida (2x)**
- Nebraska AIDS Project, Omaha
- Strengthening Neighborhoods for Children, South Omaha
- Take Flight Farms, Omaha
- YWCA, Omaha

January 2006-present

Child Abuse Prevention Center
Parent Aide program
Dallas, Texas

Executive Director: Margaret Patterson
mpatterson@excap.org

Case Manager: Amy McShane
amcshane@excap.org

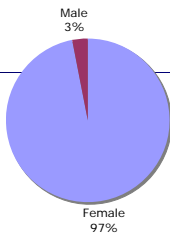
Semesters:
Summer 2007
Summer 2006
Spring 2006

Description of research completed:

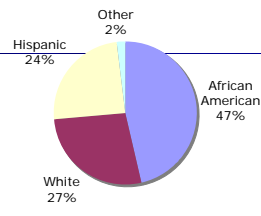
- Description of sample
 - Data collected Jan 2000 - March 2007
 - 205 clients
- Dependent variables:
 - Close reason
 - Parenting Stress Index scores (PSI-SF)

Description of Dallas Sample

Gender of Participants



Race of Participants



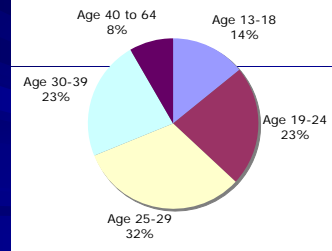
Description of Dallas Sample

Age Range: 13-64 years

Mean Age: 27 years

Nearly all referrals came from CPS.

Ages of Participants

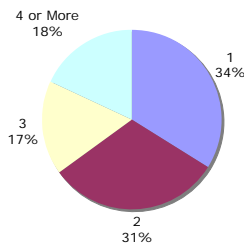


Description of Dallas Sample

of children range: 1-8 children

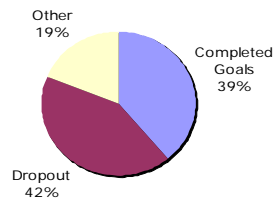
of children mean: 2.3 children

Number of Children



Dallas Completion Rates

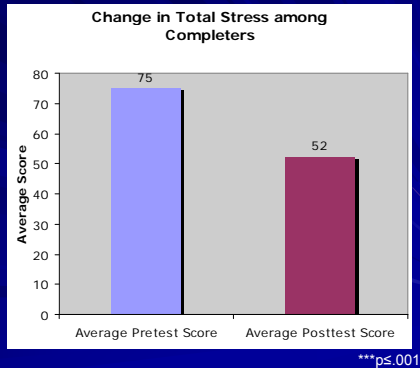
Reasons for Case Closure



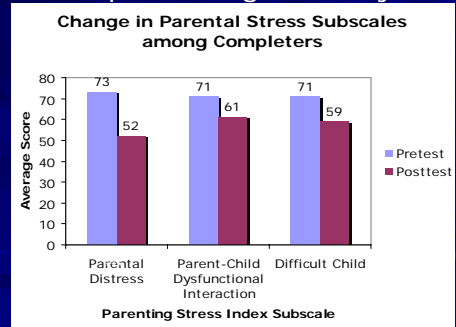
(of those who received an INA)

PSI-SF Scores Improved Significantly

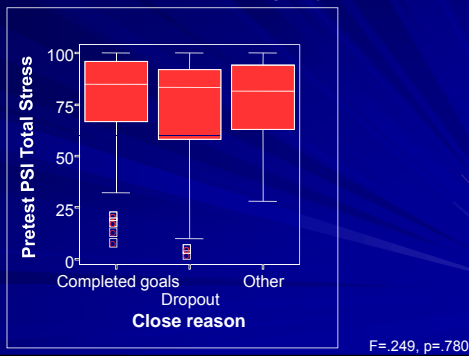
Average decrease of 23 points
n=58



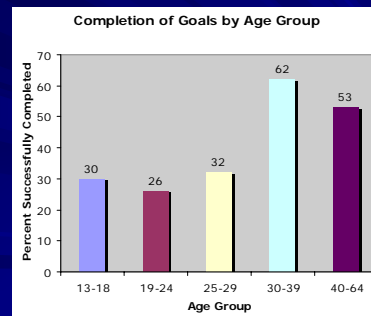
All PSI-SF Subscale Scores Improved Significantly



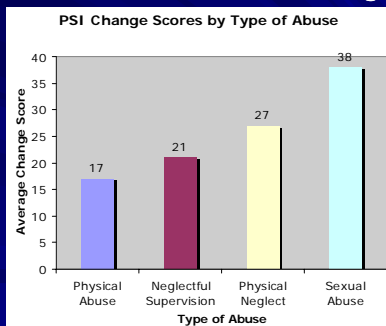
PSI-SF Pretest Scores and Completion Category



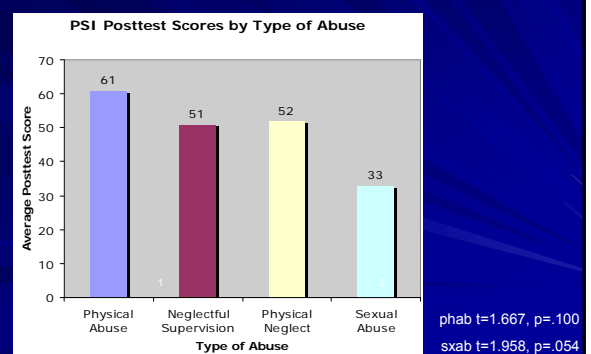
Student Hypothesis: Age x Close reason



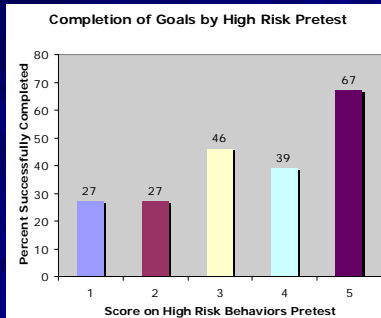
Student Hypothesis: Type of Abuse x PSI-SF change score



Student Hypothesis: Type of Abuse x PSI-SF posttest score



Student Hypothesis:
High-Risk Behavior at pretest x
Close Reason



$\chi^2=19.243, p \leq .01$

Student Hypotheses without
Statistical Significance

| Independent Variable | Dependent Variable |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Type of Abuse | Close Reason |
| # of Children | Close Reason |
| Marital Status | PSI-SF change scores |
| Race | PSI-SF change scores |
| # of Children | PSI-SF scores |
| Age | PSI-SF scores |

First Coast Family Center
Parent Aide program
Jacksonville, Florida

Parent Aide Supervisor:
Carrie (Plocher) Cohan

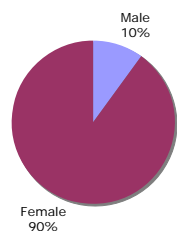
Semesters:
Fall 2006
Summer 2006

Description of research completed:

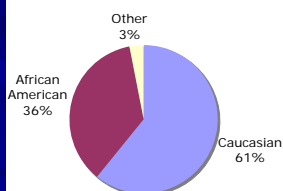
- Description of sample
 - Data collected 2005-2006
 - 352 clients
- Dependent variables:
 - Close reason
 - AAPI scores

Description of Jacksonville Sample

Gender of Participants



Race of Participants

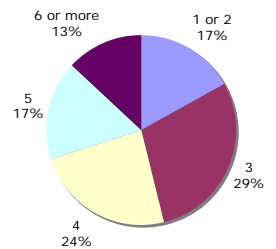


Description of Jacksonville Sample

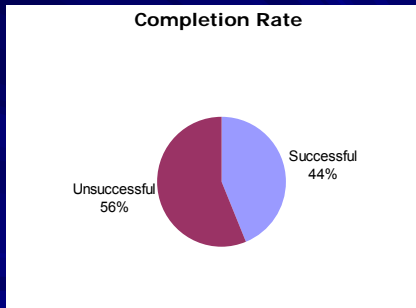
of family members range:
1-9

of family members mean:
3.9

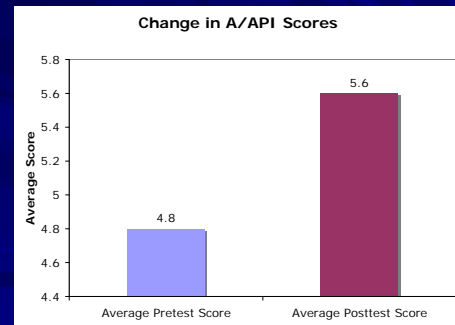
Number of Family Members



Jacksonville Completion Rates

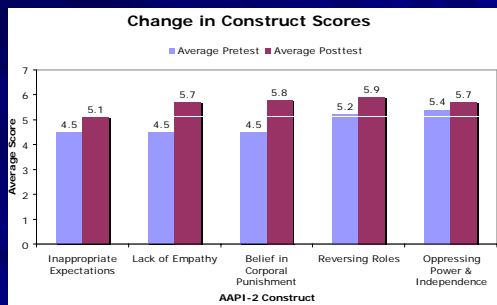


AAPI Scores Improved Significantly



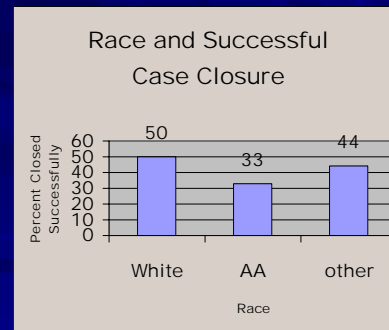
***p≤.001

Significant Improvement in each of the AAPI Constructs



p≤.01 *p≤.001

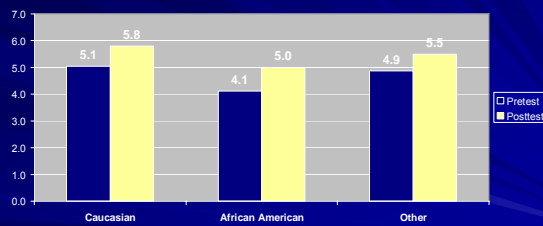
Student Hypothesis: Race x Close Reason



p≤.05

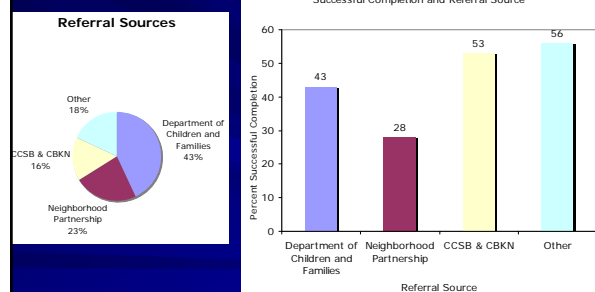
Student hypothesis: Race x AAPI scores

Figure 13. Mean Pretest and Posttest Scores by Race



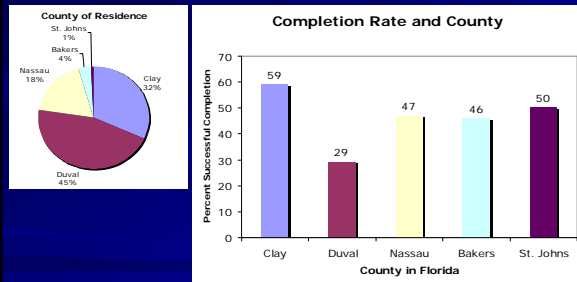
Pretest: p≤.00 Posttest: p= .15

Student Hypothesis: Referral Source x Close Reason



$\chi^2=10.477, p \leq .015$

Student Hypothesis: County x Close Reason



$\chi^2=20.445, p \leq .001$

So what?!

- Seeing changes in test scores makes an incredible (and positive!) difference in attaining funding, increasing morale, and boosting confidence.
- If I know one demographic group (i.e. age, race) is faring better than another, I can adjust my program accordingly.
- If I find out that most of my unsuccessful cases are closing at 4 months, I can pay closer attention to clients at that time.

Can I do this?!

- YES!
- Collect data consistently.
- Use your data to make program decisions.
- Partner with a consultant and/or university if you need help.

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