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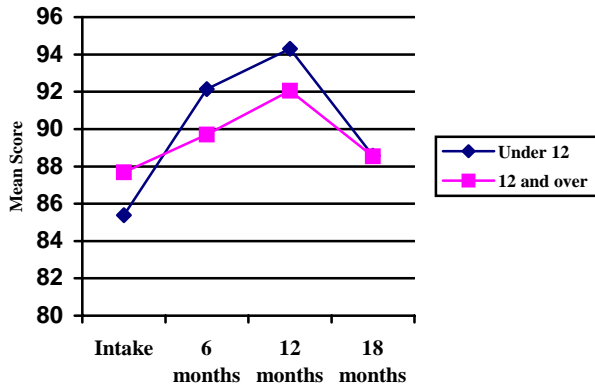
Youth by Age Groups: Presenting Factors and Outcomes

For our 15th evaluation report we looked at how age may relate to both factors presented at intake and outcome scores for youth. Youth were divided into two groups (1) under 12 (at intake) and (2) 12 and over (at intake). Comparisons were made between the two age groups to determine if there were any significant differences in the youths' experiences upon entering into Partnership. As indicated in the following table, there were no significant differences in the youths' experiences that were evaluated at intake. However, one comparison that was almost significant is the relationship between previous sexual abuse and age, for the children 12+ at intake.

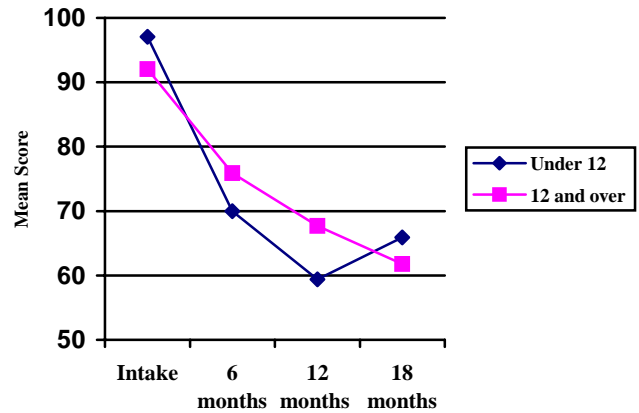
Presenting Factor	Age		Significance
	Under 12	12 and over	
Youth experienced previous sexual abuse	27	51	$p = .051$
Youth experienced previous psychiatric hospitalization	46	52	<i>ns</i>
Youth has asthma	17	15	<i>ns</i>
Youth experienced previous physical abuse	42	68	<i>ns</i>
Youth previously ran away without caregiver knowing location	45	50	<i>ns</i>
Youth has attempted suicide	17	31	<i>ns</i>
Youth has been sexually abusive towards others	12	13	<i>ns</i>
Youth has a history of substance abuse	17	28	<i>ns</i>
History of mental illness in biological family	68	89	<i>ns</i>
History of domestic violence/ spousal abuse in youth's family	69	85	<i>ns</i>
History of substance abuse among biological family members	81	98	<i>ns</i>
History of biological parent(s)' criminal conviction	53	63	<i>ns</i>
History of biological parent(s) admittance to psychiatric hospital	28	37	<i>ns</i>
* p values $\geq .05$ are considered statistically significant, which means there is a significant difference between the two numbers reported given the size of each sample. Note, in all comparisons there was a greater number of youth who were 12 and over			

Comparisons were also made on outcome scores on various tests over an 18-month period between youth who were under 12 and youth who were 12 and over at intake. The four outcomes scores included the **Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale Strengths Quotient (BERS)**, a measure of the youth's strengths as rated by a caregiver; the **Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) Total Score**, a measure of youth's functioning over eight domains; the **Caregiver Strain Questionnaire (CGSQ) Global Strain Score**, a measure of caregiver's strain associated with youth's emotional/behavioral problems; and the **Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) Total Score**, a measure of youth's symptoms and behavioral challenges.

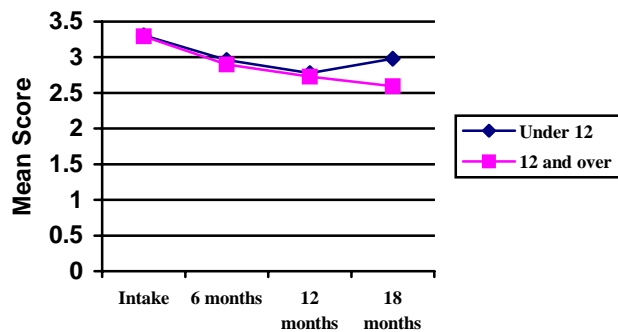
BERS Strength Quotient



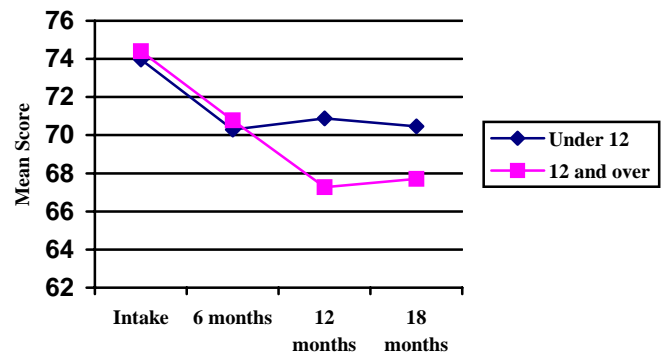
CAFAS Total Score



CGS Global Strain Score



CBCL Total Score



Except for the BERS, higher scores are equated with greater difficulty. The CAFAS Total Score outcomes were not different for the two age groups across any time period. The BERS revealed a close to significant difference ($p = .054$) from intake to 6 months, in which the youth under 12 showed a greater increase in reported strengths than the 12 and over group. The CGS Global Strain Score was significantly different ($p = .014$) between 12 and 18 months, with the under 12 group exhibiting increased caregiver strain. The CBCL Total Score results were statistically significant between 6 and 12 months with the under 12 group demonstrating a slight increase in symptoms and behavioral problems during that time period while the 12 and over group continued to show a decrease in problems and symptoms.

Summary

It is interesting to note that there were very few differences between the two age groups. Contrary to the belief that it may be more difficult to promote change in older children, the analysis showed that when there was a difference, it was in the direction of greater difficulties for the under 12 group rather than decreased difficulties for the younger age group. Additional comparisons were done using a 4-9 year old and a 10+-year-old grouping, yet there were no additional significant differences found when the ages were grouped in this manner.