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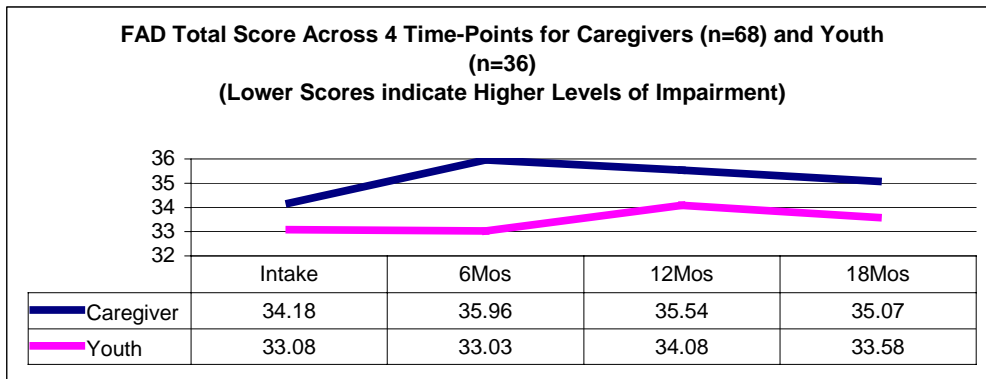
**Family Assessment: Youth versus Caregiver**

For this tenth Data Report, we explored both the Caregiver and Youth (11 or older) responses on the 12-item Family Assessment Device (FAD). This instrument measures how families interact, communicate, and work together. Example questions from this instrument include, “Planning family activities is difficult because we misunderstand each other” or “We confide in each other” or “We avoid discussing our fears and concerns.”

Summing up the scores on the 12-items for both Caregivers and Youth created a total score representing family health and functioning. The lowest score possible would be a twelve and the highest score possible would be forty-eight. For this analysis, we wanted to examine the change in the average FAD total score from intake through the 18-month interview. It is important to know that **lower scores indicate more impairment in the family health and functioning and higher scores mean higher levels of positive family functioning**. This longitudinal analysis included 68 Caregivers and 36 Youth. The findings are based on the most current data set that includes inception to December 2003 evaluation participants.

Our analysis indicated that for Caregivers, improvements in family health and functioning occurred during the time frame between intake and 6-months. The difference between mean scores at these two time points was statistically significant. By contrast, Youth reported improvements between the 6 and 12-month time frame and the difference was not statistically significant. Caregivers consistently reported higher family functioning as compared to Youth at all four time points, yet it is worth noting that this difference was fairly minimal (always less than three points).

These findings suggest that Partnership significantly impacts Caregiver ratings of family health and functioning, which is sustained through the 18-month interview. However, Youth have slightly lower rating (meaning indicating higher levels of family impairment) across all time points but show a slightly positive change between the 6- and 12-month interview.



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