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Gender and Race Differences in Juvenile Mental Health Symptoms: MAYSI-2 National Norm Study

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MAYSI-2 National Norm Study

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Comments
Gender and Race Differences in Juvenile Mental Health Symptoms: MAYSI-2 National Norm Study
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Research Questions
1. Are there differences between gender and racial/ethnic groups in the reporting of clinically significant levels of mental health symptoms on the MAYSI-2 measure?
2. Where differences exist, are they consistent across sites and across demographic subgroups?

Sample Characteristics
N=70,423 from 283 facilities in 19 states

Gender: Boys:78% Girls:22%
Age (years): 12-14:28% 15-17:72%
Ethnicity: Race:Black:33% Hispanic:24% White:39% Other:2%
Gender: Male:63% Female:37%
Employment: Male Job:50% Female:50%
Ethnicity: Race:Black:33% Hispanic:24% White:39% Other:2%
Time of MAYSI-2 Administration (hrs after intake):
First few hours: 56% 6 to 24 hrs: 32% =/> 48 hrs: 12%

Meta-analytic Procedures

Research Questions
Some are and Some are Not

Gender Effect Averaged Across Sites

Large Effects:
• Suicide Ideation OR=2.4

Medium Effects:
• Angry-Irritable OR=1.8
• Depressed-Anxious OR=1.95–2.14

No Effect:
• Alcohol-Drug Problems OR=1.04, but interacts with age:
  12-14 year olds — girls > boys (OR=1.0)
  15-17 year olds — no gender difference

Could these differences be due to recruitment procedures?

Conclusions
Girls in JJ were much more likely than boys to report clinically significant levels of symptoms

When Do Racial Differences Vary

Aggregate-level Race Differences (% Above “Clinical” Cut-Off)

• Alcohol-Drug Scale
  Whites: 2.3
  Hispanics: Blacks: OR = 1.3, Medium ES

When Do Racial Differences Vary

Referrals on the Alcohol-Drug scale and scales other than SI and SC were not consistent across sites

Potential moderators include the stage of the referral process between Whites & Blacks, local community and race discrimination in detention decisions

Conclusions
There is wide variability in racial differences across sites

Substance use among younger girls may be due to “real” community differences, rather than differences produced by racial discrimination in detention decisions.