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

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Gender and Race Differences in Juvenile Mental Health Symptoms: MAYSI-2 National Norm Study
Gina Vincent, PhD, Thomas Grisso, PhD, Anna Terry, BA, & Steve Banks, PhD, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Supported by William T. Grant Foundation, (PI: Grisso), Law and Psychiatry Program

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 instrument?
2. Where differences exist, are these differences 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
- Ethnicity: White, 39%; Hispanic, 24%; Black, 23%; Other – 4%
- Region: West, 17%; Midwest, 44%; South, 17%; Northeast, 22%
- Time of MAYSI-2 Administration (hrs after intake):
  - First few hours: 56%    6 to 24 hrs: 32%     >48 hrs: 12%
- Gate:
  - Probation: 36%    Pretrial Detention: 42%    Corrections: 22%
- Other:
  - Female: 33%    Male: 67%

Research Questions
1. What are the gender and racial/ethnic differences in mental health symptoms across sites?
2. Where differences exist, are these differences consistent across sites and across demographic subgroups?

Meta-analytic Procedures
- Use of Auditory-SCREEN System
- Separate Analyses for Each MAYSI-2 Clinical Scale
- Excluded Gates of Detention – Census Courts
- General Linear Modeling
- Meta-analytic Procedures
  - Cohort
  - Gender
  - Race
  - Age
  - Addictions
  - Jails
  - Facilities

Calculations
Girls in JJ were much more likely than boys to report clinically significant levels of symptoms
- Higher rates of symptoms in girls than boys (girls vs. boys: 95% CI: 1.02-1.04)
- Girls were more likely to report mental health symptoms in JJ

Findings on the Alcohol-Drug scale and scales other than SI and SC were not consistent across sites
- Potential moderators of the variability in the magnitude of the odds ratios between White & Black girls
- Age (larger for older girls)
- Girls (larger for pre-adjudicated girls)

Conclusions
- There is wide variability in racial differences across sites
- Girls in JJ were much more likely to report mental health symptoms in JJ
- Potential moderators of the variability in the magnitude of the odds ratios between White & Black girls
- Age (larger for older girls)
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Aggregate-level Race Differences (% Above “Clinical” Cut-Off)
- Some are and Some are Not
  - Higher rates of symptoms in girls than boys (girls vs. boys: 95% CI: 1.02-1.04)
  - Differences in JJ may be due to “real” community differences, rather than differences produced by racial discrimination in detention decisions

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When Do Racial Differences Vary Across Youths?
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