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Do Adult Mental Health Services Need to be Developmentally Appropriate?

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INTRODUCTION

Background
- State level adult mental health administrators express little belief in training developmentally appropriate adult mental health services, and few such programs exist across the country.

Study Questions
- Do individual functioning differ across adult age groups within individuals with psychiatric disorders?
- Is the rate of developmental change different in younger than older adults with psychiatric disorders?

Statistical Methods
- Weighted & nationally representative sample (N=6,090)
- Preliminary findings (adjusted variance)

Question 1
- Test age groups (younger & older) on the basis of Chi-square

Quagles?
- Develops a single skill in seven levels of a sequence of observations (e.g., states of an age range).
- The observed rate for each age produces a sequence of rates over the age range, with a minimum and maximum rate value.
- Rates (e.g., not working) are transformed into an average, T, by the formula:
  \[ T = \frac{1}{2} (x + \sqrt{x^2 + 4xy}) \]
- A unit vector is then constructed, with co-ordinates (x, y, z), and t, for each unit and these vectors are summed and plotted.

RESULTS

- Functioning by Age Group
- In School
- Daily Contact with Friends
- In Trouble with the Law
- Never Married

Conclusions

- Important developmental changes in functioning occur between emerging adulthood and older adulthood.
- Rapid changes occur during emerging adulthood, with low variability among older individuals.
- Adult mental health services need a developmental perspective.
- Specialized services or approaches for young adults are needed.

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REFERENCES: