

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

- Are there differences between gender and racial/ethnic groups in the reporting of clinically significant levels of mental health symptoms on the MAYSI-2 nationwide?
- Where differences exist, were these differences consistent (homogenous) across all JJ sites and across demographic subgroups?

N=70,423 from 283 facilities in 19 states

Gender: Boys - 78% Girls - 22% **Age (years):** 12-14 - 29% 15-17 -71%

Ethnicity/Race: Black - 33% Hispanic - 24% White - 39% Other ->2% Gate: Probation - 36% Pretrial Detention - 42% Corrections - 22%

Density: Urban - 78% Rural - 22%

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%

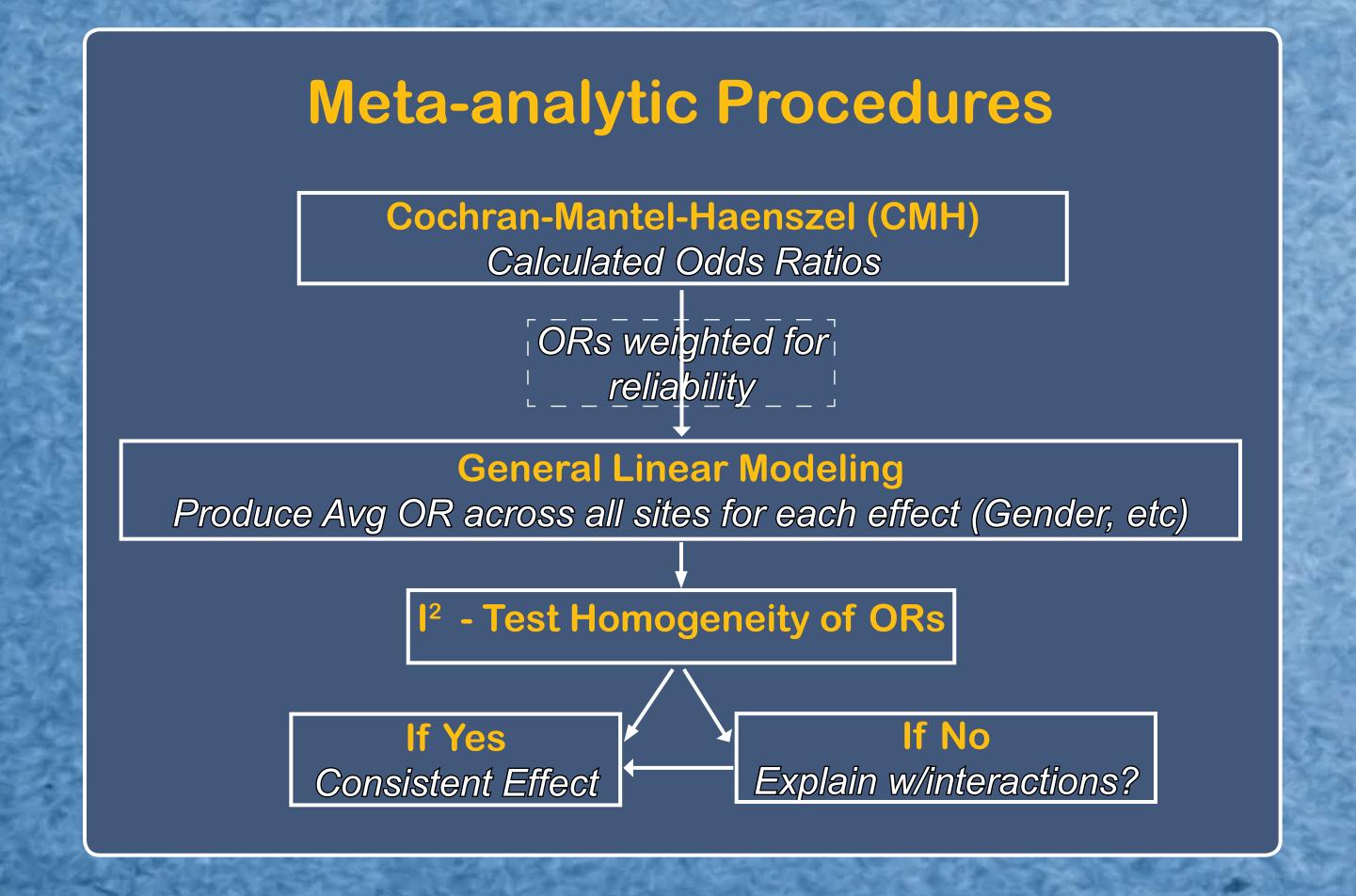
Meta-analytic Procedures

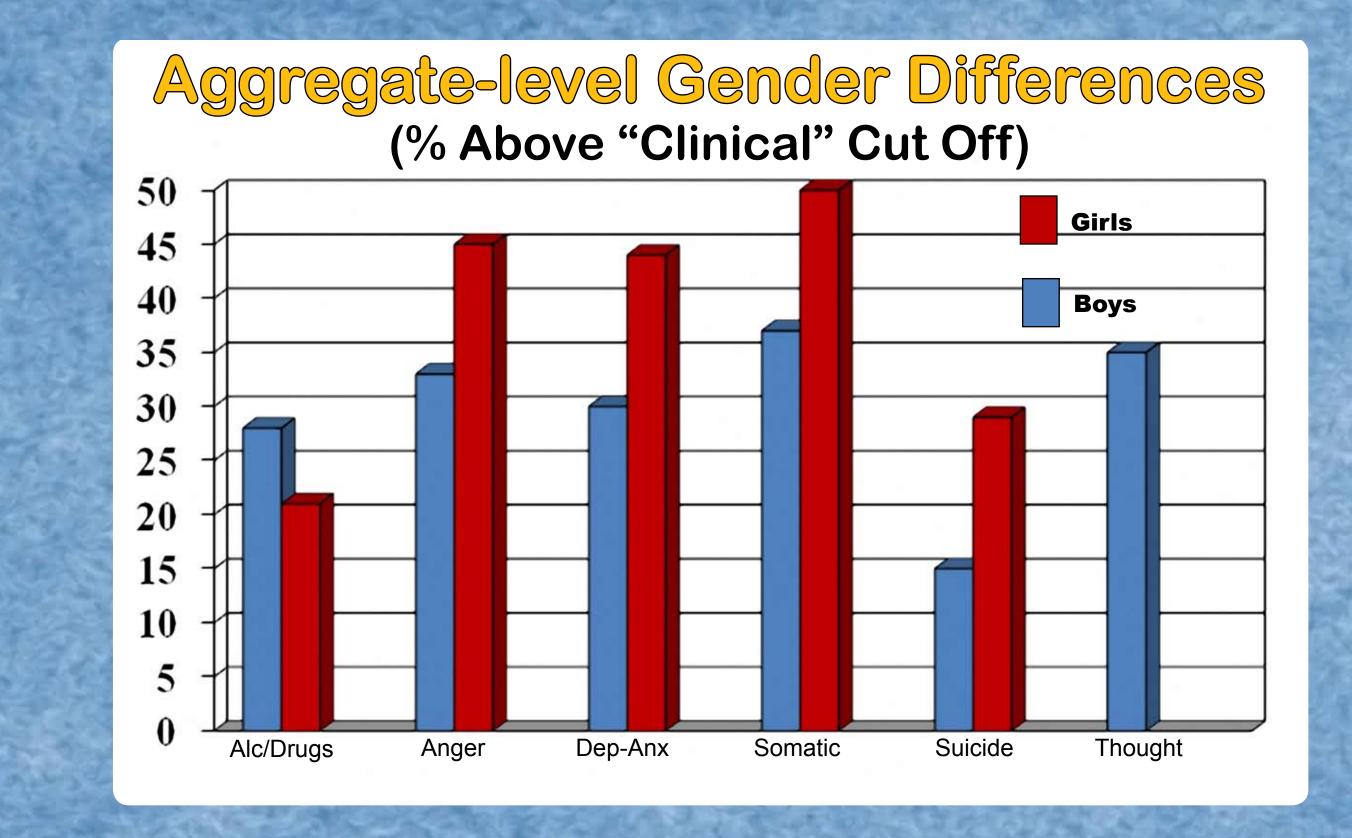
- Unit of Analysis Site (JJ Facility)
- Separate Analyses for Each MAYSI-2 Clinical Scale TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES not included
- Examined Odds of Scoring > Caution Cut-offs

-Past research was done to determine clinically significant levels of disturbance.

- Variables for Testing Interactions/Controls

 - Age Group (12-14, 15-17)
 - Race (Black, Hispanic, White)
 - Legal Status (pre vs. post-adjudication)
 - Time of MAYSI-2 Administration





Gender Effect Averaged Across Sites

- Large Effects:
 - $^{\circ}$ Suicide Ideation OR = 2.4

Medium Effects:

 $^{\circ}$ Angry-Irritable OR = 1.8

Operation OR = 1.95 - 2.14

Somatic Complaints OR = 1.8

No Effect:

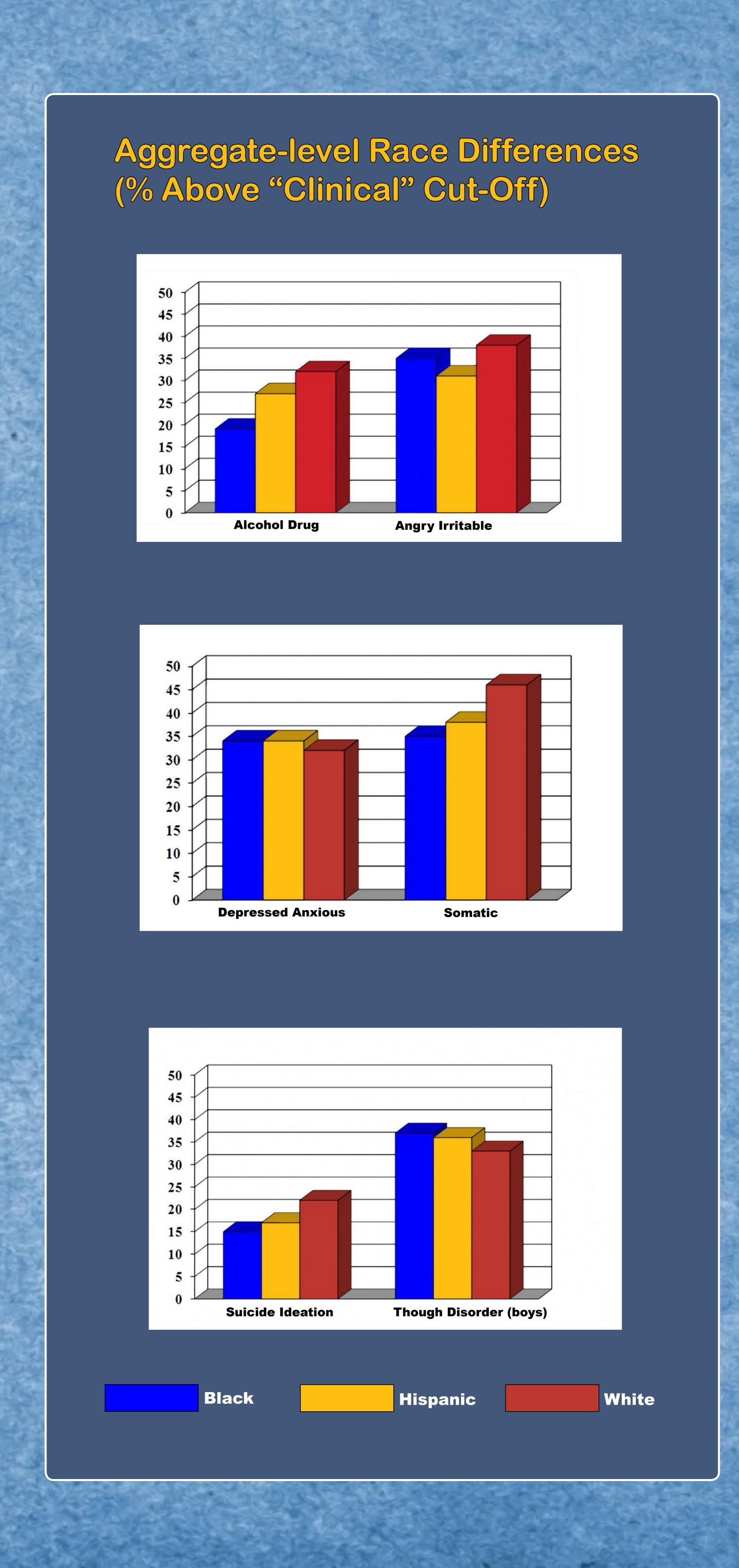
- $^{\circ}$ Alcohol-Drug Problems OR = 1.04, but interacts with age: 12-14 year olds – girls > boys (OR=1.6)
 - 15-17 year olds no gender difference

Comalusione

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

- Higher rates of symptoms in girls than boys in JJ are not site specific findings – generalizes across the U.S.
- Even for alcohol-drug use, at least for younger youths

- Girls who enter the JJ system may represent a more disturbed or difficult subpopulation of girls.
- Clinicians should anticipate "age-inappropriate" increased risk of substance use among younger girls



Race effect averaged across sites

- Some are and Some are Not.
- Whites, on average, were more likely to report clinically significant levels of symptoms than Blacks or Hispanics

Medium to Large Effects

Alcohol Drug Scale

Whites > Blacks OR = 2.3 Large ES Hispanics > Blacks OR = 1.7 Medium ES

Small Effects

O Suicide Ideation (SI) W v. B = 1.45; W v. H = 1.16

O Somatic Complaints (SC) W v. B = 1.46; W v. H = 1.26

When Do Racial Differences Vary Across Youths?

- Findings on the Alcohol-Drug scale and scales other than SI and SC were not consistent across sites
- Potential moderators in the variability in the magnitude of the odds ratios between Whites & Blacks:
 - Age (larger for older youths)
 - O Gate (larger for pre-adjudicated youths)
 - State

There is wide variability in racial differences across sites

- White youths were most likely to report problem levels of alcohol or drug use, but the disparity varied widely across gates and states
- Race effects were non-existent or small on all other MAYSI-2 scales

- Most race-related differences in JJ were small and in the same general direction as national reports of differences in the community.
- The alcohol-drug race differences in JJ may be due to "real" community differences, rather than a difference produced by racial discrimination in detention decisions