

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
 Prepared for  
 Child Advocacy and Parenting Exchange Club Center, Inc.

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*Thank you for the collection and provision of this data. It has greatly enhanced our learning experience and allowed us to apply a "hands-on" approach to research. What follows is a description of the population examined by Child Advocacy and Parenting Exchange Club Center, Inc. and an overview of research findings.*

Sample Description

This project involved a total of 33 clients served by the Child Advocacy and Parenting Place Exchange Club Center's Parent Aide program in Wilmington, NC, between 2006 and 2008. Of those 33, as shown in Figure 1, the majority, or 67%, had at least completed high school, with 37% also having participated in at least some college. A total of 76% of clients were not married, as shown in Figure 2, with the vast majority, or 73%, being single. The overwhelming gender of participants was female (94%), as shown in Figure 3, with the majority being Caucasian (56%), shown in Figure 4. Excluding one client due to missing data, 72% of the 32 clients involved had an annual income of \$30,000 or less.

Figure 1 Client's Education Level

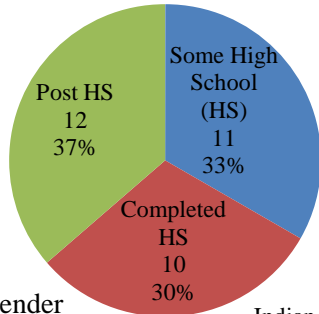


Figure 2 Client's Marital Status

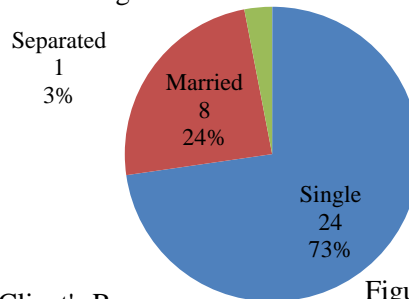


Figure 3 Client's Gender

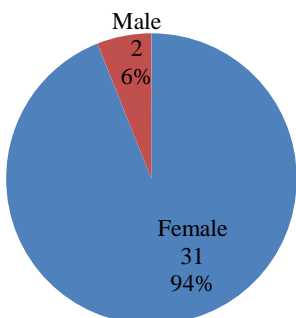


Figure 4 Client's Race

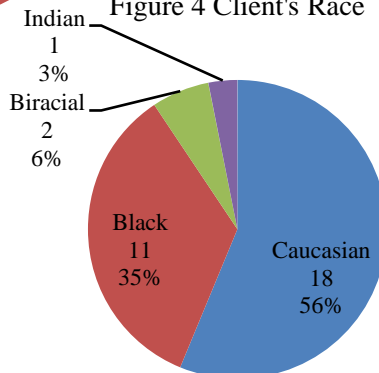
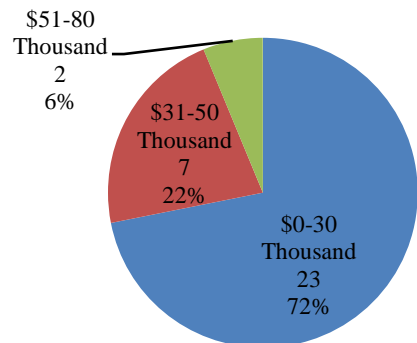


Figure 5 Client's Income



Research Findings

Staff of the Parent Aide program administered the Family Outcome Scale for all participants upon entering and exiting this intervention using a pretest-posttest design. Overall, as shown in Table 1, parents’ scores on the Family Outcome Scale improved statistically significantly from pretest to posttest, with an average improvement of 10 points. The Parent Aide program also utilized a pretest-posttest design in administering a Case Assessment tool to evaluate their clients’ areas of need. Parents’ scores on the Case Assessment tool also improved significantly from pretest to posttest, with an average increase of almost 3 points, as shown in Table 2.

Table 1 Family Outcome Scale

	n	t	Mean
Pretest score	24	-5.892***	37.25
Posttest score			47.42

\*\*\*p ≤ .000

Table 2 Case Assessment

	n	t	Mean
Pretest score	28	-6.059***	8.89
Posttest score			11.61

\*\*\*p ≤ .000

Excluding four cases that were still open at the time of data collection, the closure status of participants was divided into three categories: successfully completed, not successfully completed due to client’s actions (including client refusal, termination, or lack of participation), or not successfully completed due to miscellaneous reasons (including family relocation or inappropriate case). Of the remaining 29 cases, over 50% closed successfully, as shown in Figure 6.

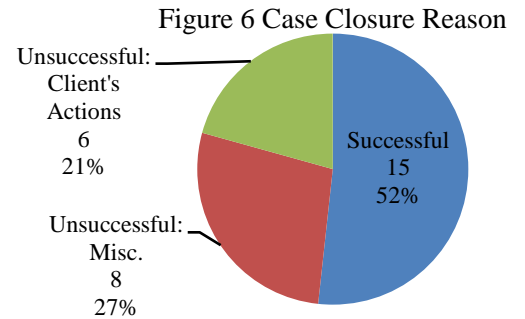
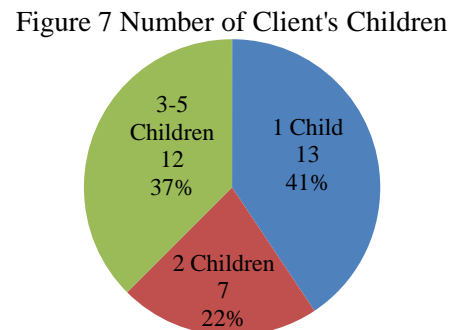


Table 3 shows the independent and dependent variables of each group member, as well as whether a significant relationship was found between those variables. A notable, although not significantly significant, relationship was found between the number of children of a participant and Family Outcome Scale score. No significant relationship was found between age and Family Outcome Scale score. A significant relationship was found between the length of service for a participant and the results of the Case Assessment tool. No significant relationship was found between number of children and Case Assessment score. No significant relationship was found between age and case closure reason.

Table 3 Individual Assignments

Group Member	Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	Findings
Erika L. Wood	# of Children	Family Outcome Scale	Notable relationship
Mary Wittrock	Age	Family Outcome Scale	No significant relationship
Angela Ertzner	Duration of Services	Case Assessment	Significant relationship
Heidi DeGodt	# of Children	Case Assessment	No significant relationship
Howard Hennessey	Age	Close Reason	No significant relationship

In order to best compare the participants’ numbers of children with their average improvement on the Family Outcome Scale, amounts of children were categorized into four categories: one child, two children, and three to five children. As shown in Figure 7, the majority of participants had only one child (41%). Although the findings were not



statistically significant, the participants did show improvement. As shown in Table 4, participants with two children entered the program with the highest pre-test scores, exited the program with the highest post-test scores, and showed the highest level of improvement. Figure 8 further illustrates this, showing that families with two children had a wider range in score changes. Because this difference is not statistically significant, however, the number of children in a family did not appear to significantly affect scores on the Family Outcome Scale. All participants showed increased scores regardless of their amount of children. All participants appear to have received fairly equal benefit from the program. Nine participants were not included in this section due to missing data.

Figure 8 Family Outcome Scale Improvement Based on Number of Children

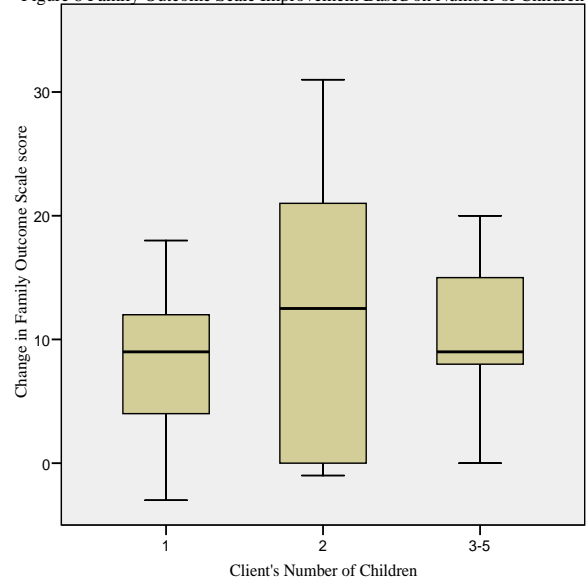


Table 4 Number of Children and Family Outcome Scale

# of Children	<i>n</i>	Mean Pre-Test Score	Mean Post-Test Score	Average Change in Score
1	9	35.67	43.44	7.78
2	6	41.17	53.83	12.67
3-5	9	36.22	47.11	10.89
		$p \leq .09$ $F = 2.636$	$p \leq .17$ $F = 1.899$	$p \leq .54$ $F = .634$

The age of participants, shown in Figure 9, was categorized into three categories: under 25 years, 25 to 32 years, and over 32 years. This was then compared to changes in the Family Outcome Scale. Figure 10 shows that improvements in Family Outcome Scale scores did not differ much between age categories. There was slightly more improvement among the middle 50% of those parents in the “Over 32” age category, and there was a much wider range of scores in the “25 to 32” age category, but overall age did not have much impact on score improvement. Table 5 shows that mean pre-test scores were fairly similar for each category, as were mean post-test scores. Thus, although those in the “Over 32” age category improved slightly more than the other categories, parents of all ages seemed to benefit fairly equally from the program. Nine participants were not included in this section due to missing data.

Figure 9 Client's Age

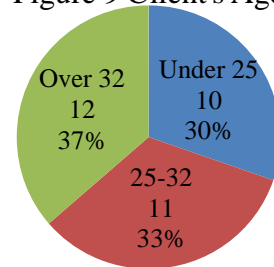


Figure 10 Family Outcome Scale Improvement Based on Age

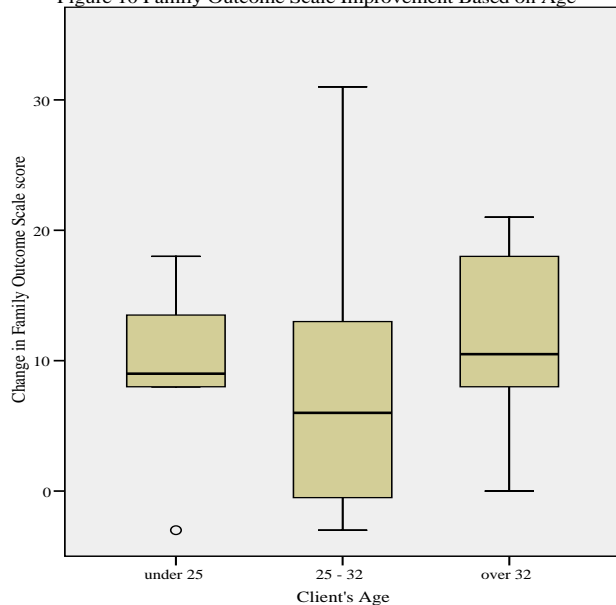


Table 5 Age and Family Outcome Scale

Client's Age	<i>n</i>	Mean Pre-Test Score	Mean Post-Test Score	Average Change in Score
Under 25	7	37.29	46.86	9.57
25 - 32	7	38.57	47.00	8.43
Over 32	10	36.30	48.10	11.80
		$p \leq .693$ $F = .374$	$p \leq .967$ $F = .033$	$p \leq .721$ $F = .332$

As shown in Figure 11, far more than half of the clients (70%) participated in the Parent Aide program for six months or longer. The duration of these services is typically 6-12 months, and 80% (n=8) of those who participated for only 0-6 months did not successfully complete the program. Table 6 shows that participants who were involved with the program for 6+ months entered with higher pre-test scores and exited with higher post-test scores on a statistically significant level. They also showed a greater improvement in scores, although this difference was much less statistically significant. Figure 12 further illustrates this, showing that, although both categories had the same maximum and minimum scores (aside from outliers), the middle 50% of those who participated 6+ months was higher than those who participated 0-6 months. Therefore, those clients that participated longer had higher improvements in their score, although the research also showed that the intervention of the Parent Aide program was effective regardless of length of services. Of the 20 clients who were observed using the Case Assessment tool, 79% (n=22) showed an improvement in their score. Five participants were not included in this section due to missing data.

Figure 11 Length of Services

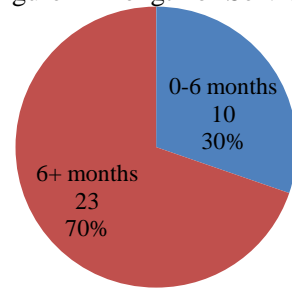


Figure 12 Case Assessment Score Improvement Based on Length of Services

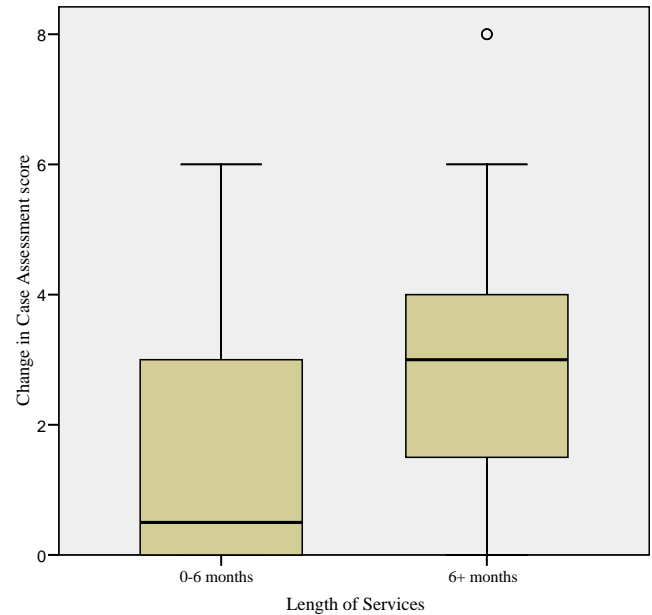


Table 6 Length of Services and Case Assessment Results

Length of Services	<i>n</i>	Mean Pre-Test Score	Mean Post-Test Score	Average Change in Score
0-6 months	8	7.88	9.50	1.63
6+ months	20	9.30	12.45	3.15
		$p \leq .127$ $F = 2.492$	$p \leq .038$ $F = 4.772$	$p \leq .126$ $F = 2.496$

The number of children each participant had was also observed in comparison to the

Figure 13 Case Assessment Score Improvement Based on Number of Children

Case Assessment tool results. As shown in Table 7, there were no major differences in scores for the Case Assessment tool based on the number of children a participant had. Figure 13 illustrates improvements in scores depending upon number of children, showing that the average change in score for each category was nearly identical. Thus, the Parent Aide program improved scores on the Case Assessment tool regardless of participants' numbers of children. Five participants were not included in this section due to missing data.

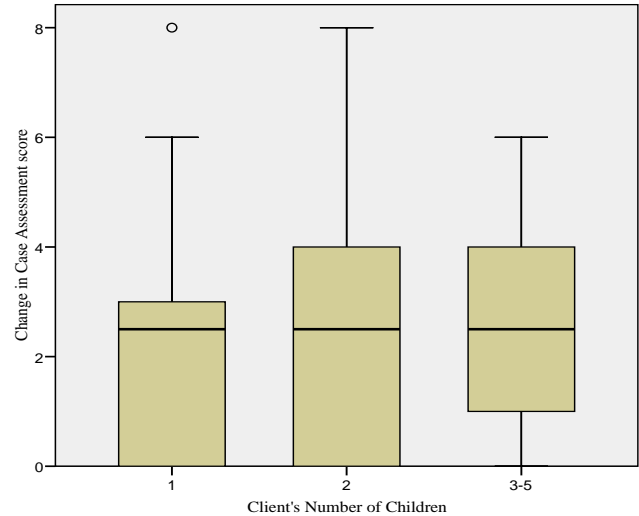


Table 7 Number of Children and Case Assessment Results

# of Children	<i>n</i>	Mean Pre-Test Score	Mean Post-Test Score	Average Change in Score
1	10	8.70	11.30	2.60
2	6	10.50	13.33	2.83
3-5	12	8.25	11.00	2.75
		$p \leq .118$ $F = 2.328$	$p \leq .390$ $F = .977$	$p \leq .981$ $F = .019$

Participants' ages were also compared in relation to case closure reason, as shown below in Figure 14. There was very little difference in case closure reason for each age group, and those cases that were successfully closed were actually represented equally in each age category. Thus, age had no statistically significant impact on whether a case was successfully closed or not ( $p \leq .962$ ). Four cases were still open at the time of this study, and were thus not included in this section.

Figure 14 Client's Age Compared to Case Closure Status

