

# Foster Youth Discharge Outcomes: The Association Between Pre-Placement Maltreatment and Daily Living Activities

Kaitlin N. Scott

Professor Anjanette Wells, Ph. D.

College of Allied Health Sciences, Department of Social Work

## BACKGROUND

- There are over 400,000 children in the United States foster care system (1).
- Majority of the foster care population has experienced a form of pre-placement maltreatment, including:
  - Neglect
  - Physical Abuse
  - Sexual Abuse
- Childhood adversities, such as maltreatment, leave children without the tools that are necessary for everyday functioning.
- Assessments and services are generalized and do not account for the differing affects of each form of maltreatment.

## PURPOSE

This study aims to identify an association between form of pre-placement maltreatment experienced and daily living assessment scores for youth discharged from foster care.

Implications could result in assessments and services tailored to individuals pre-placement maltreatment experience.

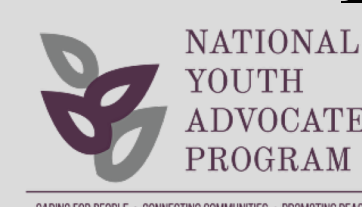
## PARTICIPANTS

- National Youth Advocate Program discharged foster care youth, ranging from 14-18 years old.
- N=39
- 20 females, 19 male
- All participants entered the foster care system after experiencing neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse.

## METHODS

### Quantitative Explanatory Study

- The setting: National Youth Advocate Program in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Used secondary data; available agency records
- Focus on overall research question:
  - Does the DLA-20 assessment show improved or diminished scores for children who have experienced different form(s) of PPM?



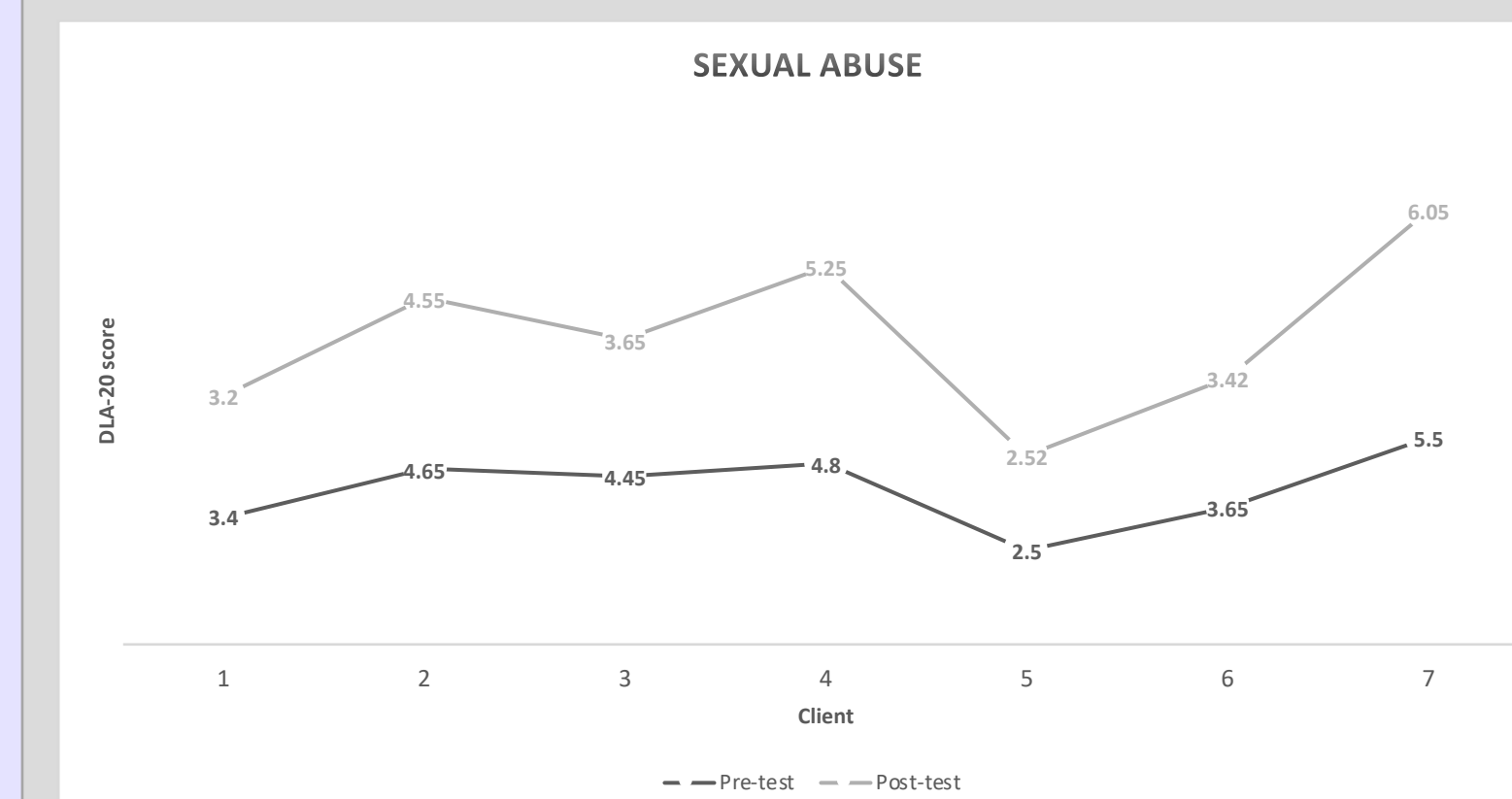
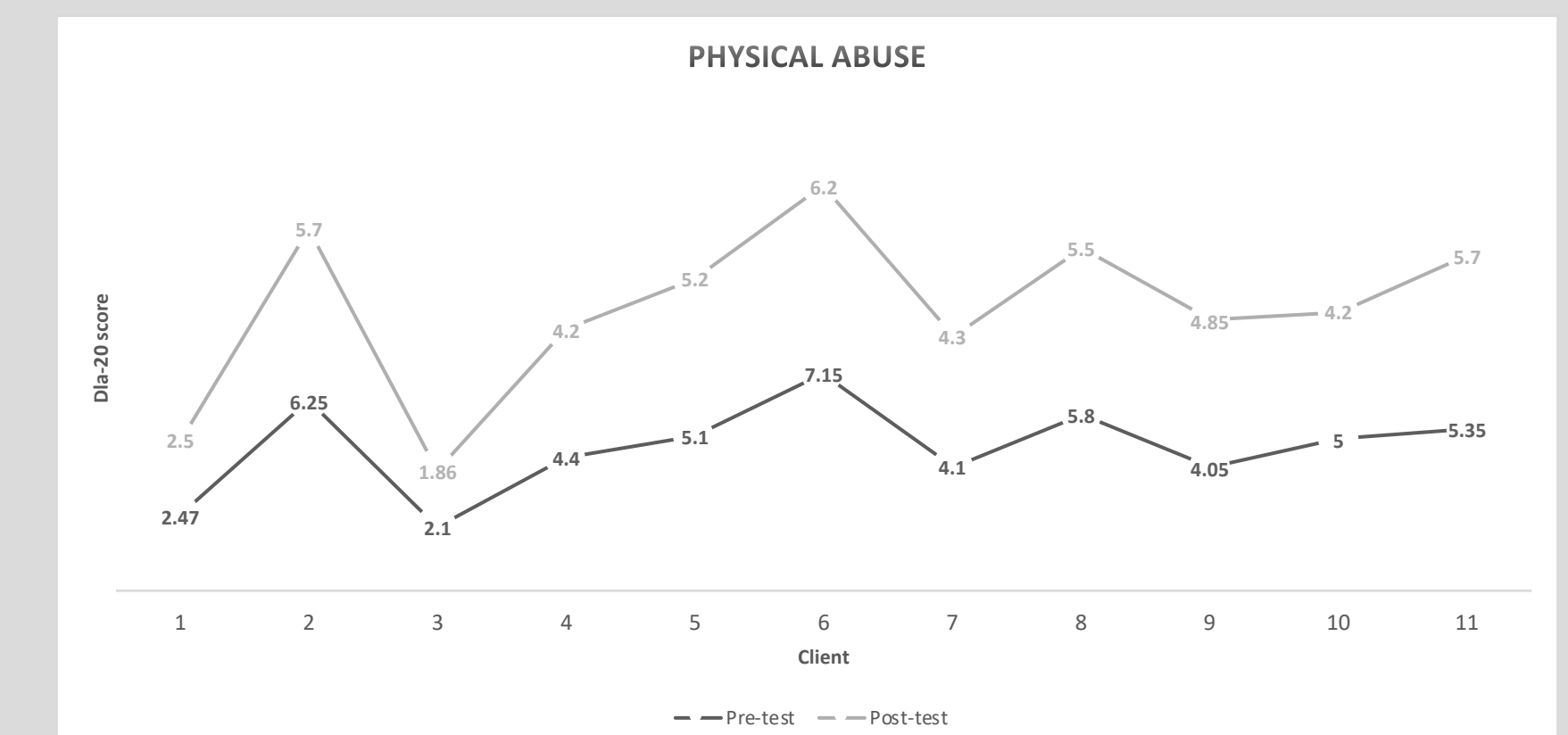
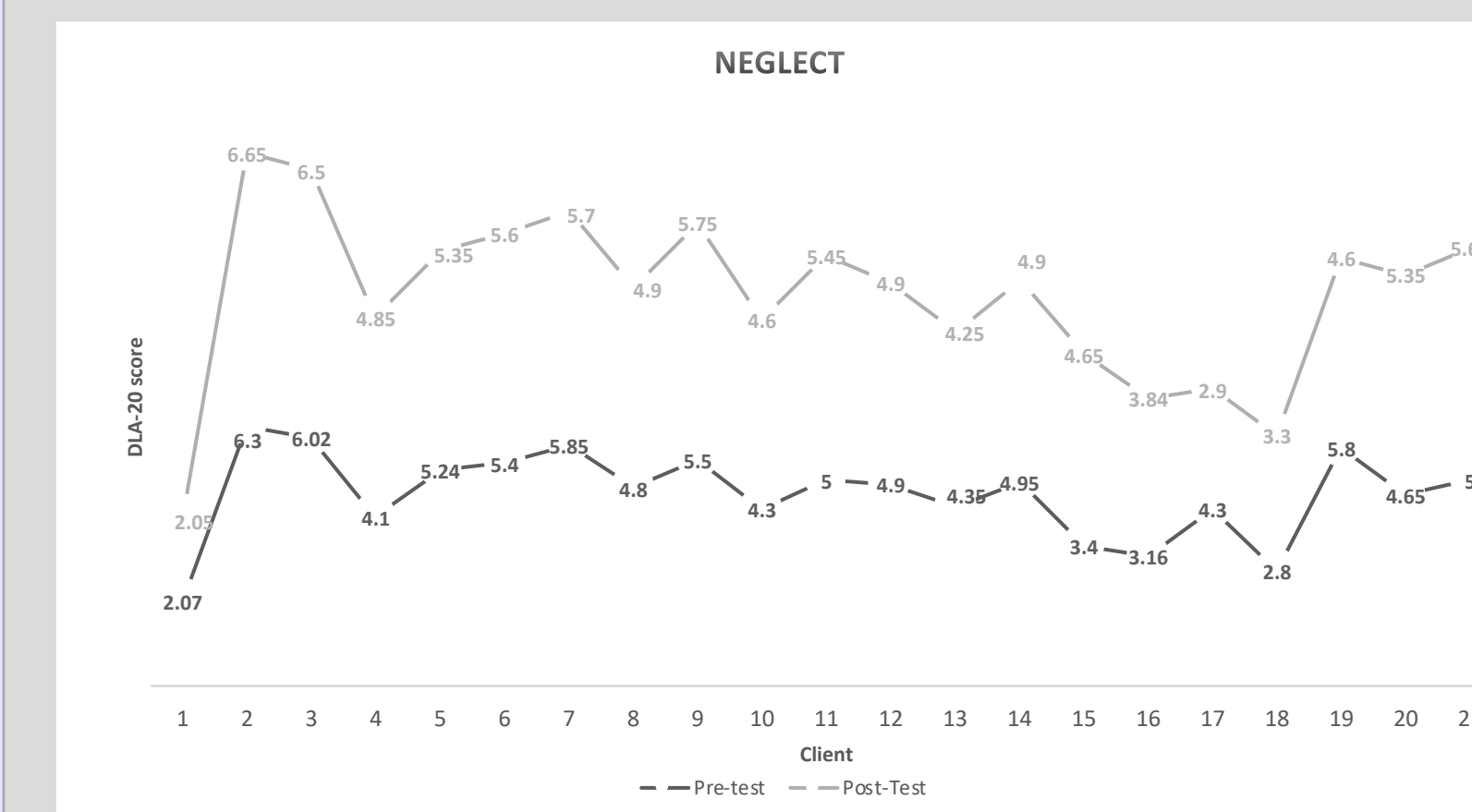
## AGENCY RECORDS

### Service Data Outcome & Daily Living Assessment

## DATA ANALYSIS

- Single-system statistical analysis design
- Compare pre-test and post-test scores for three subgroups within the sample
  - Subgroups based on pre-placement maltreatment experience

## RESULTS



## DISCUSSION

The results show diminished test scores for children who experienced physical or sexual abuse, while majority of those who experienced neglect show improved scores. Existing literature supports the findings in many ways. Sexual and physical abuse are correlated with more negative foster care experiences, while neglect is not. It is critical to note that 76% of youth in foster care experienced pre-placement neglect (2).

## CONCLUSIONS

The form of pre-placement maltreatment an individual experiences prior to coming into foster care affects their level of daily living functioning. Services and assessments should take the differences between experience affects into account and find room for improvement.

## REFERENCES

1. Children's Bureau. (2017). *Data brief: Comparing outcomes reported by young people at ages 17 and 19 in NYTD cohort 2* (No. 2). National Youth in Transition Database.
2. Scannapieco, M., Smith, M., & Blakeney-Strong, A. (2016). Transition from foster care to independent living: Ecological predictors associated with outcomes. *Child Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 33, 293-302. doi: 10.1007/s10570-015-0426-0