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## Substance Abuse and the Functioning of Transition-Aged Youth with Psychiatric Disorders

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MA Department of Mental Health*

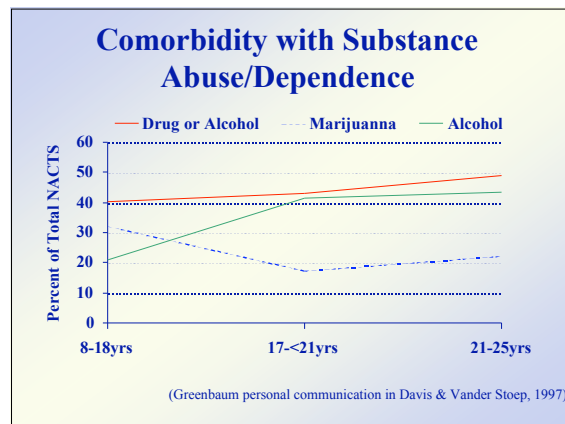
## Youth with SED Struggle as Adults

- ◆ **Few Graduate from High School**  
23-30% vs. **61% in community** vs. 81-93% in general population
- ◆ **Employment Rates are Low**  
46-51% vs. **59%** vs. 78-80%
- ◆ **Greater Risk of Homelessness**  
30% vs. 7% in general population
- ◆ **Higher Pregnancy Rates in Women**  
38-50% vs. **38%** vs. 14-17%
- ◆ **Higher Arrest Rates**  
**43-64% arrested, 24% trouble, 11-30% non SED/PD**

(Valdes et al., 1990; Wagner et al., 1991; Wagner et al., 1992; Wagner et al., 1993; Kutash et al., 1995; Silver et al., 1992; Vander Stoep, 1992; Vander Stoep and Taub, 1994; Vander Stoep et al., 1994; Vander Stoep et al., 2000; Davis & Vander Stoep, 1997)

## Tapping Different Populations

- ⊙ Service-based sampling captures served population and follows functioning regardless of subsequent setting.
- ⊙ Community-based samples capture unserved and some served children (with families in community) and follows functioning regardless of subsequent setting.
- ⊙ Comparison suggests on most outcomes community-based sample functioning intermediate though impaired (Vander Stoep et al., 2000)



## National Comorbidity Survey (NCS)

- ⊙ Nationally representative cross-sectional mental health survey conducted from 9/90 – 2/92
- ⊙ Household sample of non-institutionalized, civilian persons aged 15-54 in the 48 contiguous states, including a supplemental sample of student living in campus group housing
- ⊙ *DSM III-R* assigned using a modification of the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (UM-CIDI)

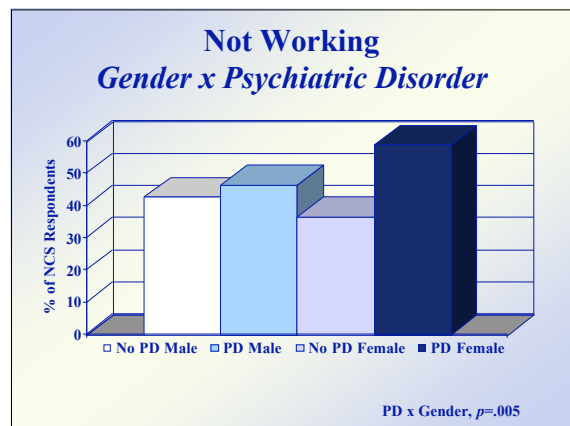
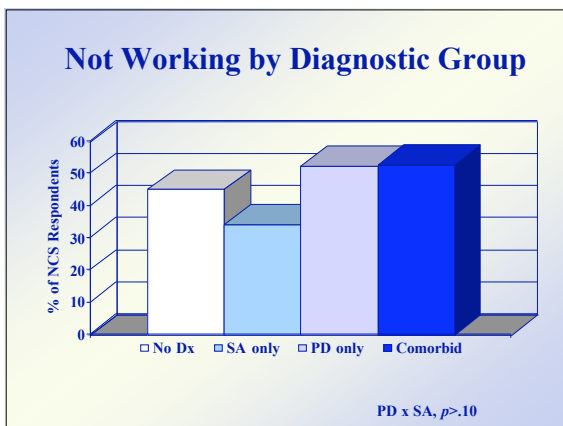
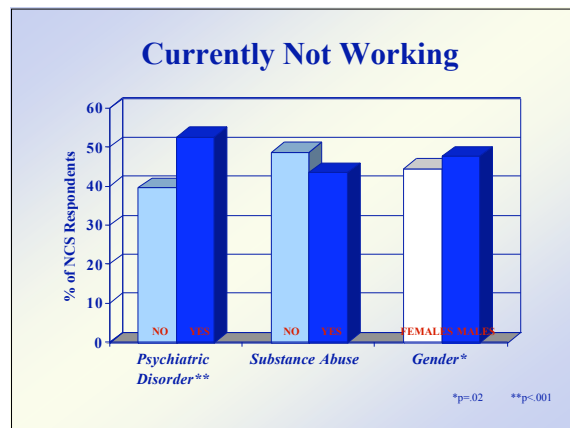
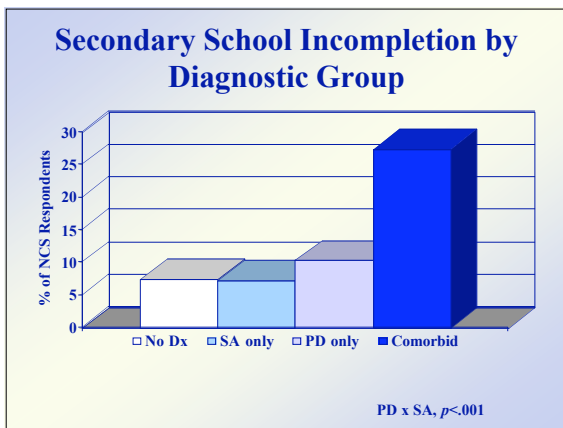
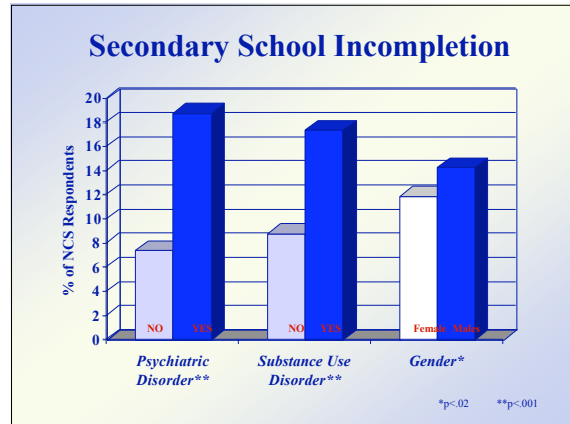
## Methods

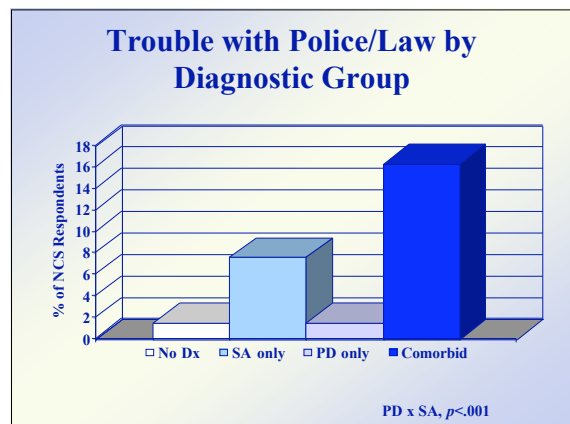
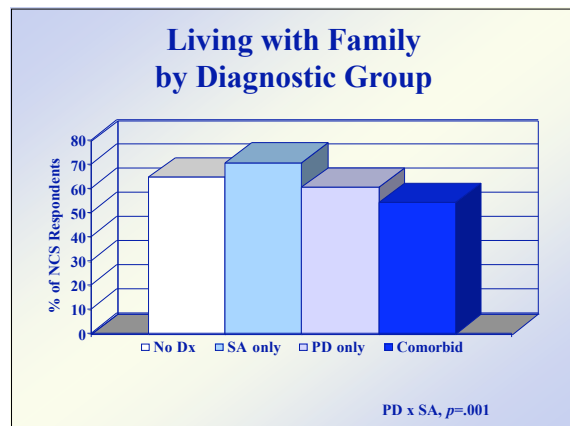
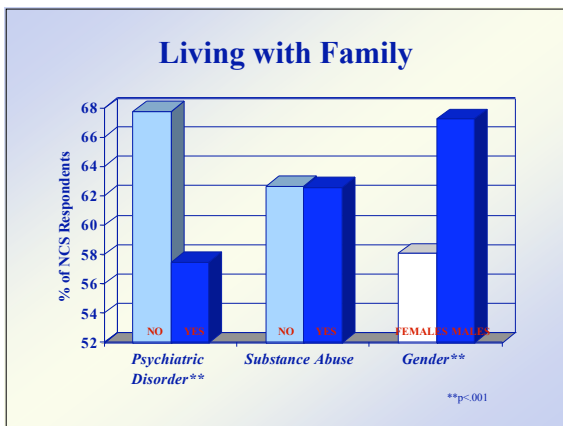
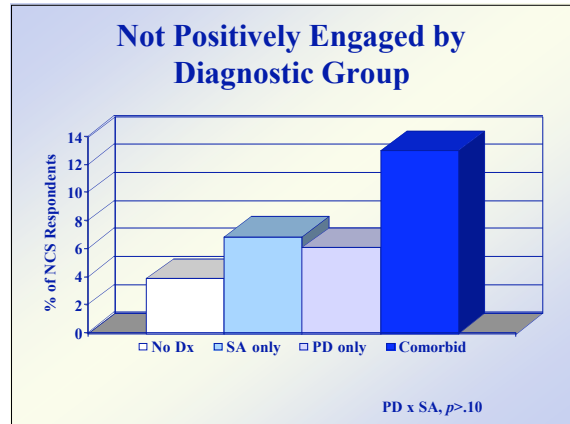
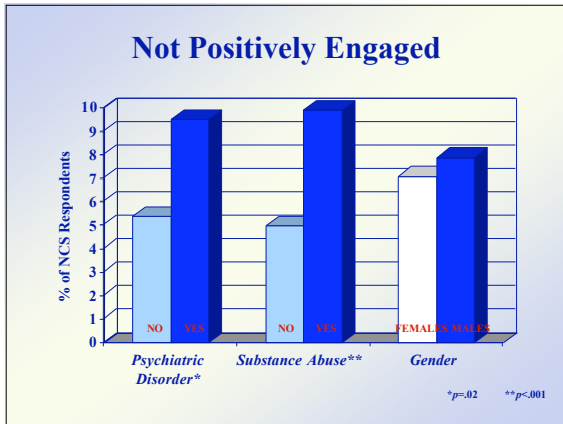
- ⊙ Analyses used 15 – 25 year olds from the Part II subsample (*n*=1598)
- ⊙ Used lifetime prevalence of substance use and psychiatric disorders.
- ⊙ Used four diagnostic groups: No diagnosis, Substance abuse only, Psychiatric disorder only, and Comorbid.
- ⊙ Independent variables included: gender, minority status, age, history of physical abuse, geographic region, urbanicity, parental education level, and having been raised by natural mother

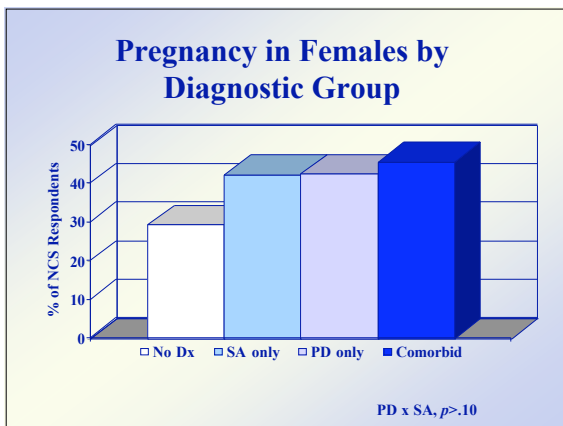
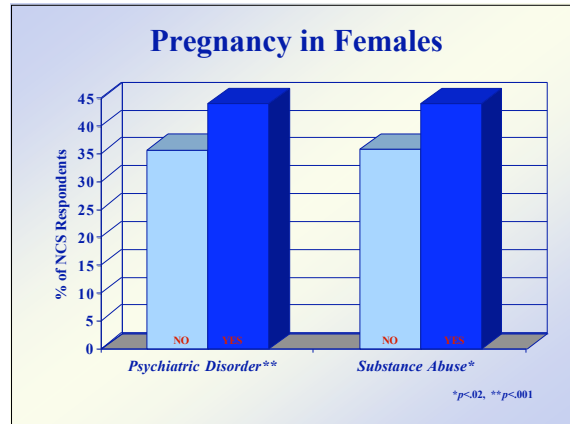
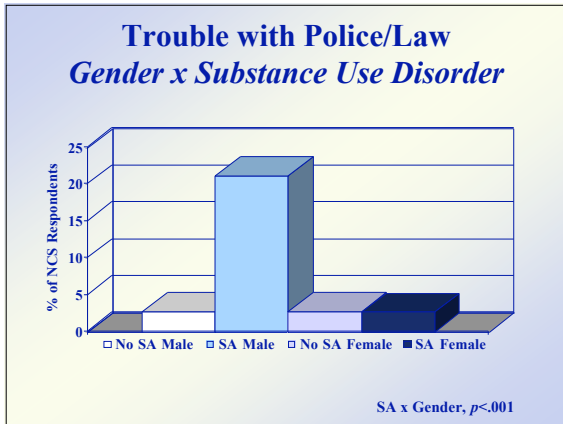
### Diagnostic Group Differences Among NCS Respondents Age 15-25 Years (n=1598)

	None n=756	Psych Only n=441	SA only n=122	Comorbid n=216
Male Gender*	49%	40%	77%	56%
Non White Race*	35%	36%	9%	19%
Mean Age (S.D.)*	19.4 (3.2)	19.3 (3.2)	21.0 (2.5)	20.9 (2.9)
Physical Abuse History<15*	20%	31%	25%	41%

\* p<.001 Geographic Region also significantly different (p=.011)







## Conclusions

### Limitations

- ◆ Findings generalizable to youth in transition functioning in “household” situations
- ◆ Psychiatric/Substance Use condition is lifetime occurrence at any level that meets dx criteria (includes many with less severe than SED)

## Conclusions

**There are major gender differences in the completion of developmental tasks during the transition to adulthood, particularly in**

- ◆ High School Incompletion
- ◆ Not Working
- ◆ Living with Family
- ◆ Trouble with the Law
- ◆ (Pregnancy)

**It is important for transition studies to examine transition issues for each gender**

## Conclusions cont'd

The presence of Substance Use Disorders is significant in understanding young adult outcomes among youth with Psychiatric Disorders; particularly for

- ◆ High School Incompletion
- ◆ Positive Engagement
- ◆ Living with Family
- ◆ Trouble with Police/Law

Less so for not working or pregnancy

**Conclusions** cont'd

**Youth with comorbid SED and Substance Use Disorders are likely to fare much worse during the transition period than youth with either condition alone for most areas of functioning.**