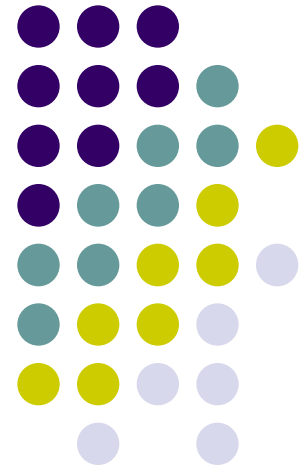
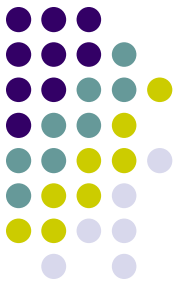


Asante probation Officer FASD Screening Tool Evaluation

Deepa Singal, Teresa Brown,
Albert E. Chudley

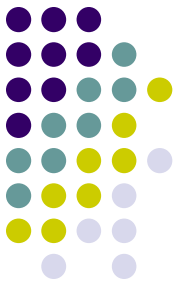


Acknowledgements



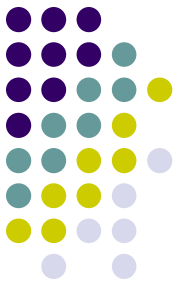
- Staff at Manitoba Youth Justice
- Probation officers from Manitoba Youth Justice
- Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centers
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Drs. Julianne Conry and Christine Loock for their advice and support

Background



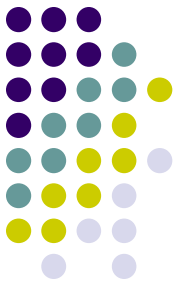
- A substantial proportion of youth diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) are involved with justice systems (Fast et al, 1999; Harvie, Longstaffe and Chudley, 2011).
- FASD is a complex disorder and many affected youth are invisible in the system
- Diagnosis of FASD would ensure fair treatment and consideration for sentencing, targeted rehabilitation and may reduce recidivism.

The Asante Screening Tool



- Asante Centre for FASD developed a screening tool to aid youth probation offices to identify youth offenders at risk for FASD
- Designed to increase capacity and validity of probation officers to identify youth likely to meet a FASD diagnosis after a full diagnostic assessment.

Manitoba FASD Youth Justice Program

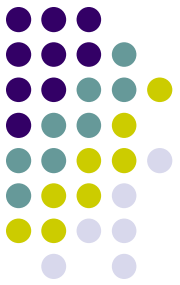


- Program implemented in Manitoba Youth Corrections (MYC) Centre in 2004 as a pilot project funded by Justice and in 2006 was fully funded by the Province of Manitoba.
- This program screens, diagnoses and aids in the rehabilitation of young offenders with FASD.
- However, no validated and systematic way for center staff to screen or identify youth who are at risk for FASD

“Red Flag Method”

- Currently youth at risk for FASD are identified by multiple professionals who have dealt with the youth
- Informal training for staff to look out for youth with FASD symptoms
- Staff refer youth at risk for FASD to the FASD program.
- Coordinators investigate alcohol histories, medical histories and engages with the family
- Youth are referred to the diagnostic team for FASD diagnostic assessment.



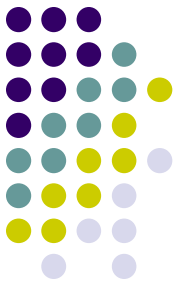


Purpose of Research

- **Rational**: Asante Tool will facilitate a *consistent* and *systematic* manner in which centre staff can identify youth at risk for FASD and refer them for a full diagnostic assessment
- **Objective**: To assess how valid, applicable, and accurate the Asante Probation Officer Screen is to facilitate FASD diagnosis among young offenders in Manitoba
- Undertaken two studies:
 - Part 1: Retrospective chart review – completed
 - Part 2: Prospective study – in progress



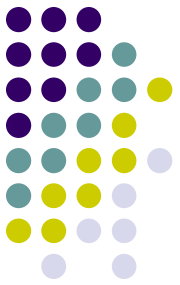
Part 1: Retrospective Study Research Questions



1. Is there **adequate information** in charts from the Manitoba Youth Centre Data to administer the Asante Centre screening tool in a useful way?
2. What proportion of youth **screened positive** for being at risk for FASD by the Asante Centre tool, **screened negative** by the tool, or had **missing information**?
3. How **sensitive** is the tool in identifying youth referred to the MYC FASD Program?
4. How **specific** is the Asante Centre FASD Screening tool in identifying youth referred to the MYC FASD program?



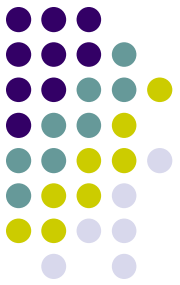
Study Design



- Retrospective chart review
- Inclusion criteria:
 - Youth (0-18 years) admitted to the MYC between 2006-2009
 - Youth who have a probation officer and a pre-sentence report (PSR)
- **378** charts met inclusion criteria
- Of the 378, 323 had PSR's.



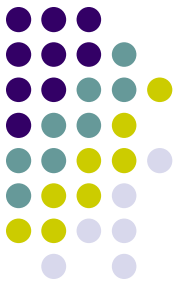
Results



- 70 youth were screened positive using the Asante tool
- 36 of these youth were referred to the FASD program using the current red flag method
- 38 were screened negative – none of these youth were referred to the program using the red flag method
- 215 had missing information
- 69 youth had previously been referred to the program

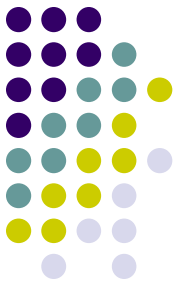


Sensitivity and Specificity



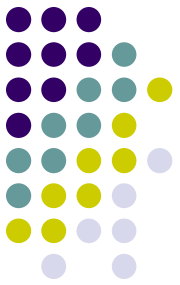
Variable	# of charts
True positives	36
False positives	34
True negatives	184
False negatives	69

- **Sensitivity** of Asante Tool in referring youth at high risk for FASD = 34%
- **Specificity** of Asante Tool in referring youth at high risk for FASD = 84%



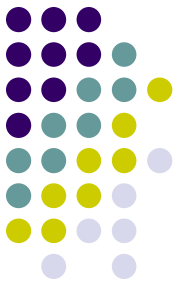
Discussion

- A definitive conclusion cannot be made regarding youth who were screened positive by the Asante tool but not referred by the red flag method
 - No gold standard for referral
 - Staff could be missing youth
- Asante Tool has reasonable specificity – indicating that it is better at ruling out youth who are not at risk for FASD



3 Key Findings:

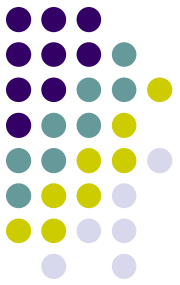
1. The Asante Centre Tool screens more youth to be at higher risk for FASD than the current method.
2. The Asante Centre Tool is more specific than sensitive.
3. There was a high proportion of missing information in existing youth charts that prohibited a definitive conclusion regarding further FASD assessment using the Asante Centre Tool.



Limitations of Chart Review

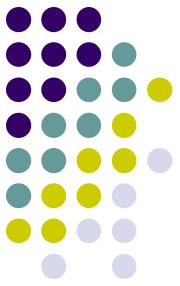
- Results may change over time – in 2009 MYC staff were more aware of FASD and may have picked up more youth with their current method
- Missing information

Implications & Recommendations

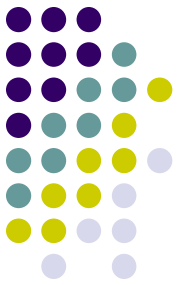


- Due to the high proportion of missing information available in charts and the higher number of youth identified to be at increased risk for FASD by the Asante Centre Tool, probation staff may be missing youth that could require further FASD assessment.

Implications & Recommendations



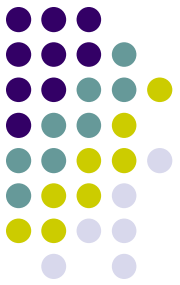
- A prospective study should be conducted that compares the current “red-flag” method to the Asante Screening Tool before recommending that this tool be implemented at the MYC.
- Implementation of the Asante tool can encourage further awareness of FASD in the young offender population.



Part 2: Prospective Study

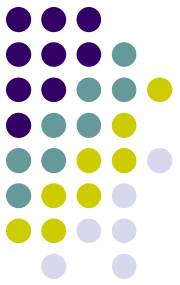
Objective:

- Compare the current “red flag” screening method utilized at Manitoba Youth Corrections to the Asante Probation Officer Screen in identifying youth at risk for FASD
- To receive constructive feedback regarding the ease and effectiveness of the Asante Centre Tool from probation officers.



Research Questions

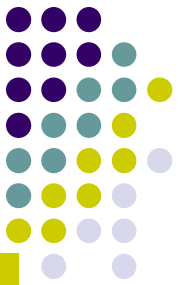
1. How many youth **screened positive** using the **current red flag methodology** at MYC?
 - How many of these youth receive a full FASD diagnostic assessment?
2. How many youth are **screened positive** using the **Asante Centre Screening Tool** at MYC?
 - How many of these youth receive a full FASD diagnostic assessment?
3. What are the opinions of probation officers on the **ease and usefulness** of the Asante Centre Screening Tool, as well as the red-flag method in identifying youth with potential FASD?



Study Participants

- Probation officers are key personnel that can help identify youth at high risk for FASD
- Recruited probation officers across four Manitoba Youth Justice sites and randomized them to two groups:
- Group 1: Asante Tool users
- Group 2: Red Flag method

Study Design:



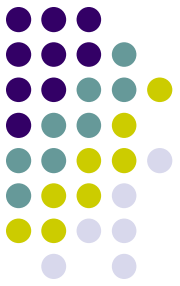
Group 1: Screening Tool

- Apply the Asante Centre Tool on all youth assigned to their case load during the study period
- Youth with PSR – new and existing cases
- Data collection sheet at the end of the month asking how many new youth you referred to the FASD program using the Asante Screen
- Survey at the end of the study

Group 2: Control group

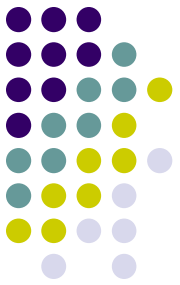
- Red Flag approach – business as usual
- Data collection sheet at the end of the month asking how many new youth you referred to the FASD program
- Survey at the end of the study

Ethics



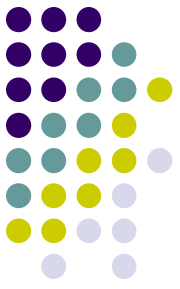
- Studying a vulnerable population – complex
- Permissions from University HREB, Judges at MYC, Administration at MYC
- Although probation officers are primary study participants records of youth involved in justice system are being used
 - Therefore verbal consent from youth is required
 - Brings up issues of retention, privacy, stigma

Community Engagement



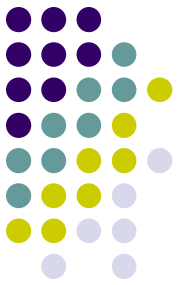
- Important to have support and engagement from key players on the front lines – *especially if ultimately screening tool will be implemented*
- Buy In from key members of the community: FASD Youth Justice Program, Judge, Administration, Probation officers
 - Empathize importance of role in study and feedback
 - Empathize positive study implications to youth
- Show appreciation for study participant's time:
 - Woo with pizza lunch!
- Information packages & study package – minimize their work

Study Timeline

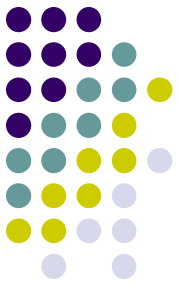


- **Phase 1:** Recruitment and training of Youth Probation Officers December – January 2013 – completed – **21 recruited**
- **Phase 2:** Data Collection from Probation Officers February 2013 to August 2013 – 6 months
- **Phase 3:** Data Collection from Manitoba Youth FASD Youth Justice program & completion of survey regarding the Asante Centre Screening Tool – August 2013-June 2014 (to obtain which youth referred from screening actually received a diagnostic assessment and/or diagnosis of FASD)
- **Phase 4:** Data Analysis and study write up – June 2014

Knowledge Translation



- Key component of conducting research in the community
- Will provide a “one pager” of study results and conclusions to study participant upon completion of study



Policy Implications

- Tool may enhance the capabilities of probation officers to MYC to accurately screen for FASD
- May ensure that more youth who require full diagnostic assessments for FASD receive these services.
- Can ultimately increase the well-being of young offenders afflicted with FASD by increasing the fairness and appropriateness of sentences, and tailoring the rehabilitation and treatment for this vulnerable population.

