

Project Context

First Connections is a 4.5-year project, funded by First 5 LA. This collaboration of six community based agencies and the USC UCEDD as the Training and Technical Assistance provider is:

- developing replicable and sustainable models for developmental screening in young children in underserved communities
- linking families with early intervention services
- educating parents about developmental milestones and the early intervention service system

Background

- In the U.S., 9.5% to 14.2% of children ages birth to 5 experience significant social-emotional problems (Foy, 2010)
- Social-emotional screening is recommended by *Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive*, Bright Futures, Natl Center for Children in Poverty, and AAP
- Young children are not reliably identified or treated for mental health problems (Weitzman, 2015)

Sample

- N = 605 children
- Ages 2 months – 60 months
- 52% Spanish; 48% English

Measures

- Ages & Stages Questionnaire – 3
- Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional

Setting & Screening Procedures



NORTHEAST VALLEY
HEALTH CORPORATION

Federally Qualified Health Center
Screening during well child visits
Ages 9, 18, & 24 months



Working Hand in Hand to Change Lives

Screen all children
ages birth – 5 at intake
& every 6 months
Head Start/Early HS,
Family Preservation,
Family Childcare,
Foster Care

How many children showed social-emotional concerns on ASQ:SE?

14% of children (n = 87)

Would those children have been identified using the ASQ-3 alone?

No

- Only 49% had concerns on the ASQ-3
- Only 51% responded “yes” to “Do you have concerns about your child’s behavior?” on ASQ-3

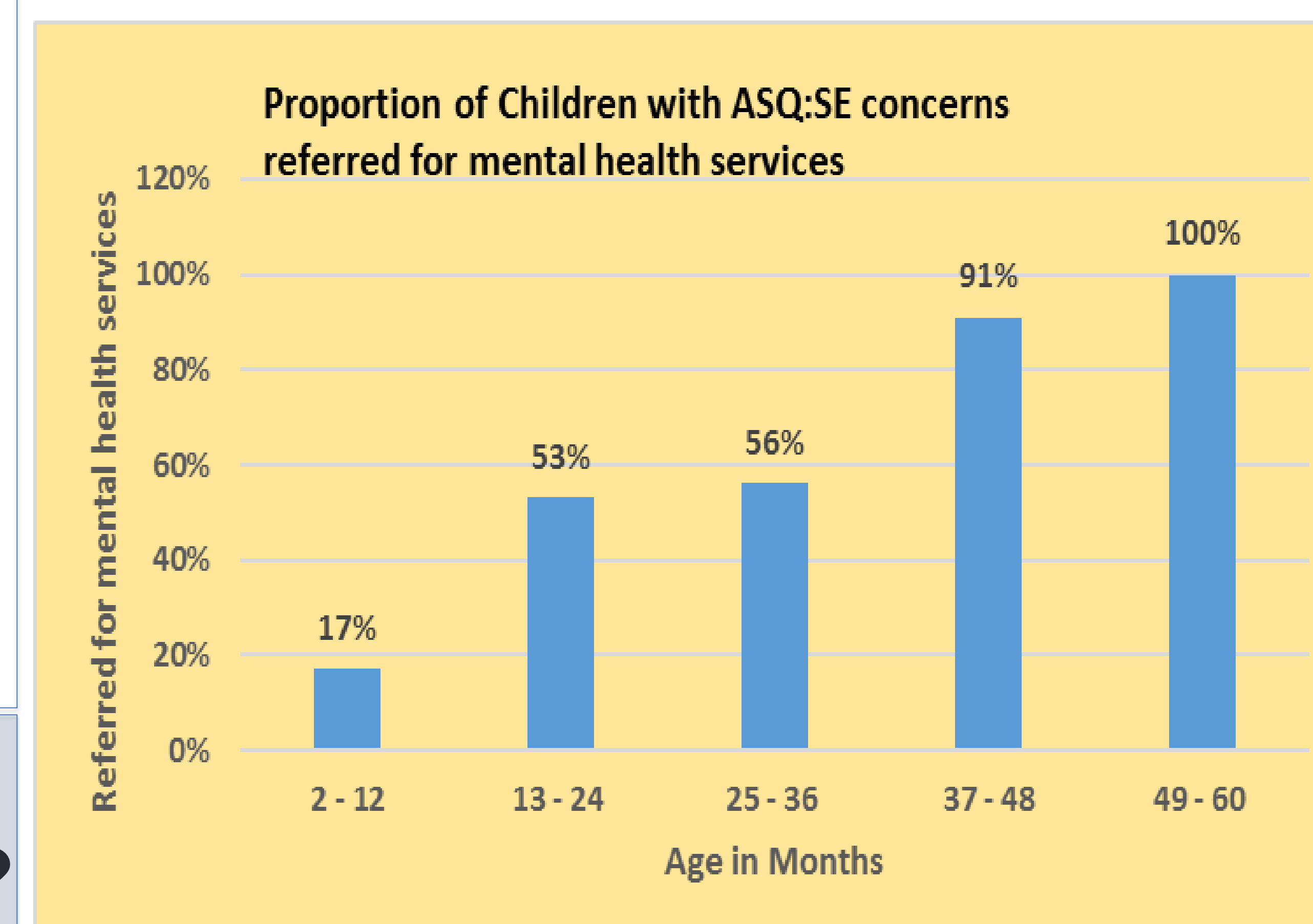
Is there one ASQ-3 domain that best predicted concerns on ASQ:SE?

No

Children with concerns on ASQ:SE who also had concerns on ASQ-3:

Communication:	28%
Gross Motor:	12%
Fine Motor:	24%
Problem-Solving:	26%
Personal-Social:	13%

Were children with ASQ:SE concerns referred for mental health services?



Conclusions

- Most social-emotional concerns would be missed if only the ASQ-3 is used to screen
- No domain or question on the ASQ-3 predicts which children will have concerns on the ASQ:SE
- Providers are more likely to refer preschool-aged children for mental health services, but may neglect referrals for infants
- **Universal developmental screening should include social-emotional**

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Champions For Our Children