TESTING MODELS FOR GLOBAL POLICY DECISIONS: OUTCOMES FOR ABUSED WOMEN'S SAFETY AND FUNCTIONING FOLLOWING A SHELTER STAY COMPARED TO USE OF JUSTICE SERVICES

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TWO GLOBAL MODELS

SHELTERS

Non-Profits

Advocacy & Counseling

Varied Services & budgets

Protection Orders

Government Mandated

Justice Driven

Consistent services & per woman costs

What are the Outcomes & DOSE Effectiveness?

Abuse? Danger? Safety?
Woman Functioning?
Child Functioning?

What are minimum services for maximum impact?

7-Year Prospective, Naturalistic, 2-Group Comparative Design

150 Shelter Women

Eligibility

- **FIRST time user**
- **Age 18 years or older**
- **Never Received Protection Order**
- **One child, age 18mos to 15 years**

(10% of Shelter Women)

150 PO Women

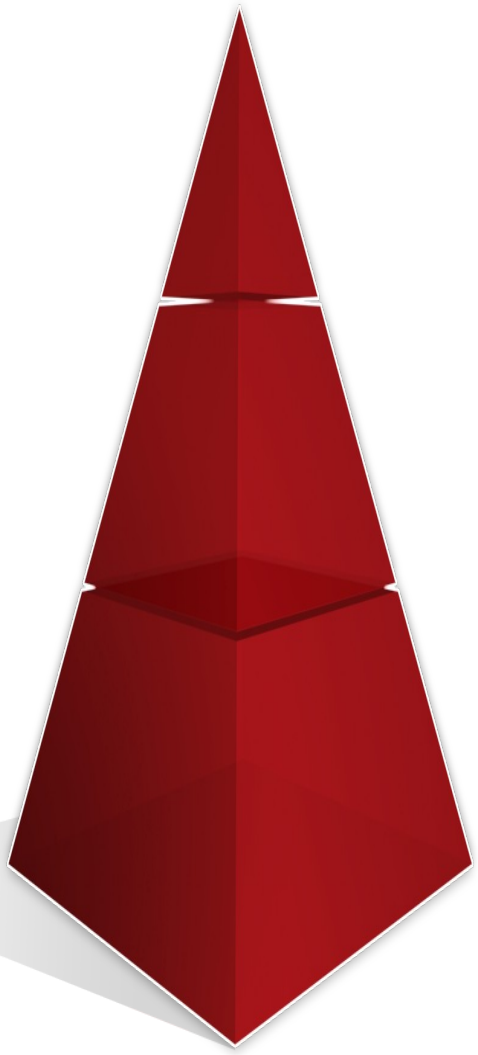
Eligibility

- **FIRST time user**
- **Age 18 yrs or older**
- **Never stayed at a shelter (any type)**
- **One child, age 18 mos to 15 years**

(30% of PO Applicants)

Prevention is Key

To enable FIRST time users of shelters (10% of women) not return to a shelter, & first time PO recipients (30% of applicants) not return, we need EVIDENCE on what helps moms & children heal & obtain better



21 METRICS

Severity of Violence Against Women
Danger for Murder Assessment Scale
PTSD & Depression Inventory
Community Agency Use & Difficulty
Safety Behaviors, Fertility Control
Child & Adult Behavior Functioning
Koci Marginalization Index, Empowerment
General Self Efficacy, Problem Solving Scale
Chronic Pain Scale, General Health
Social Support Index, Food Security
Employment & Schooling & Poverty Index
Adverse Childhood Events

METHODS

- **Face-To-Face Interview Every 4-Mos for 7 years = 21 repeated measures**
- **Incremental compensation - $30, $40 $50, $60, $70, $80, $100, then $70 for remainder of study**
- **At 24 months, 94% of women retained (3% Lost and 3% Withdrew)**

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE - EDUCATION - RACE & ETHNICITY - MARITAL STATUS

30.7

PARTICIPANTS AVERAGE AGE

64%

PARTICIPANTS BORN IN THE U.S.

61%

PARTICIPANTS ALSO INDICATED THEY WERE SPANISH OR HISPANIC

6% OF PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED 4 OR MORE YEARS OF COLLEGE

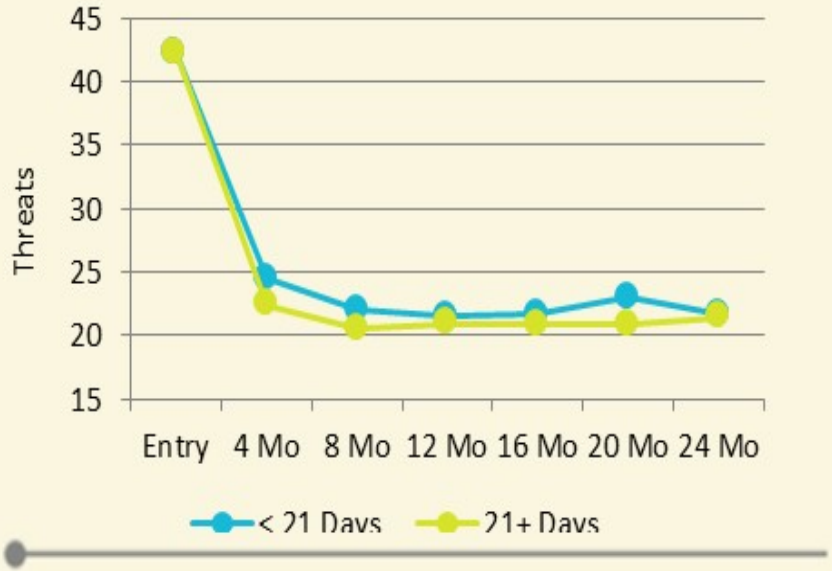
Safe Shelter

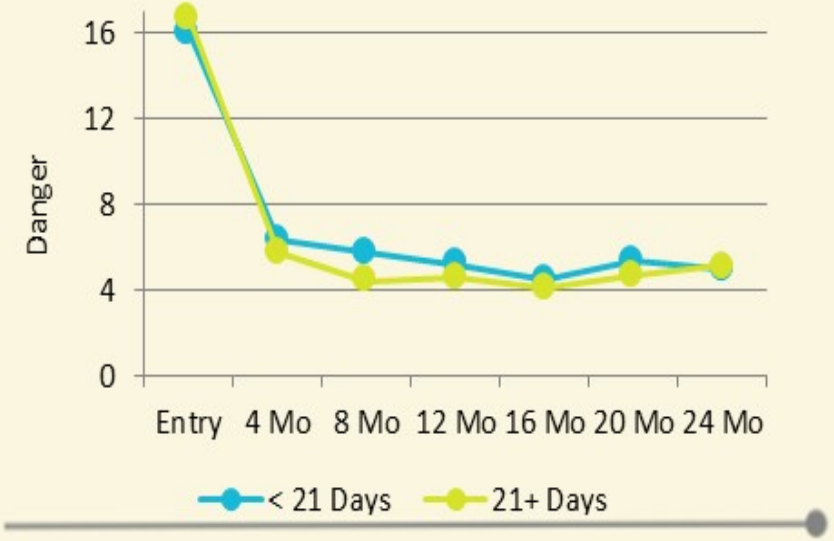
THE FIRST TWO YEARS

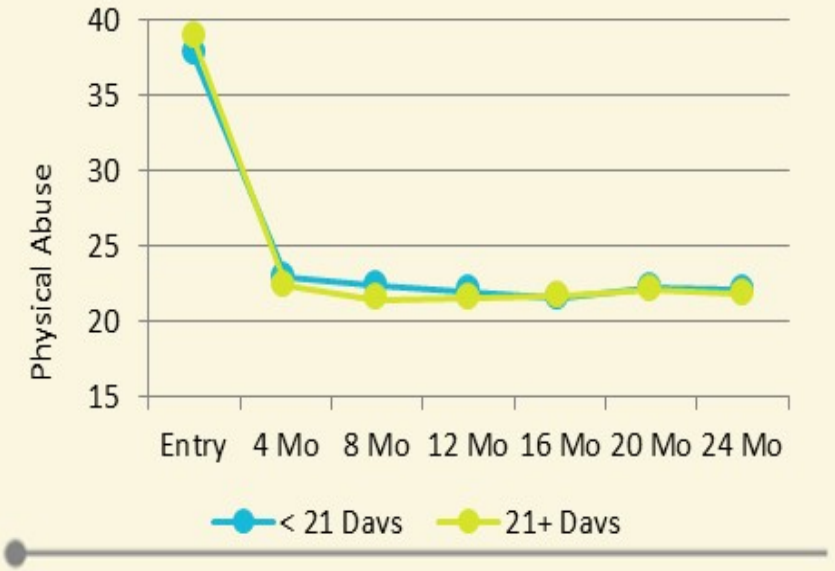
150 women entered safe shelters.
74 (49.3%) stayed less than 21 days,
76 (50.7%) stayed 21 or more days.

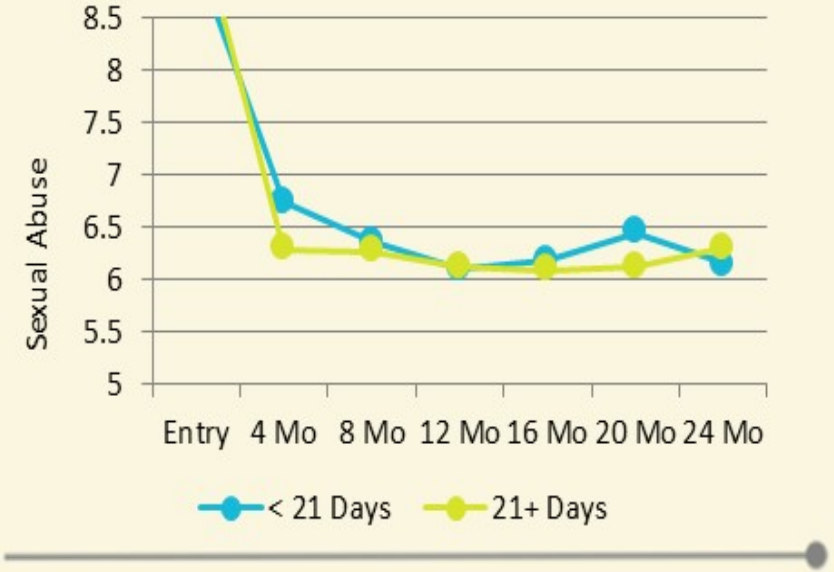
Mothers' Danger & Abuse

Women who stayed less than 21 days and women who stayed 21 or more days in the shelter showed dramatic improvement in danger and abuse in the first 4 months and maintained that improvement through the first two years.

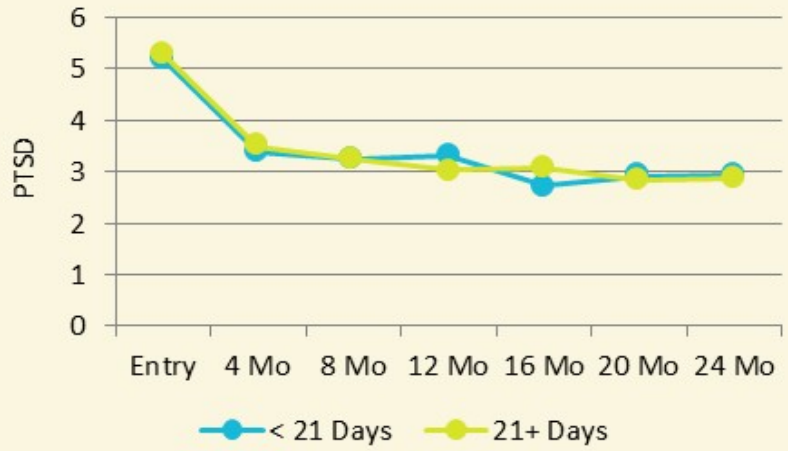




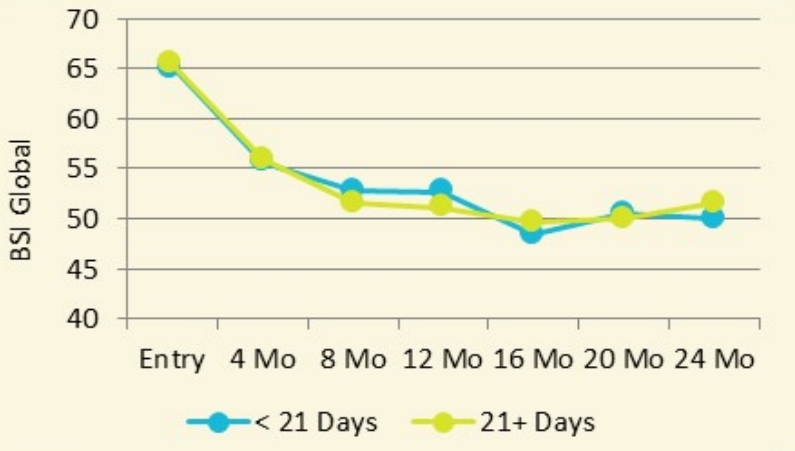




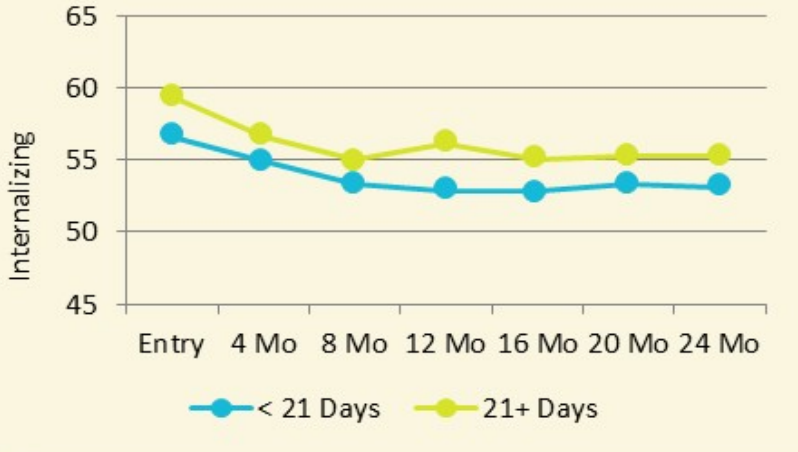
Mothers' Mental Health



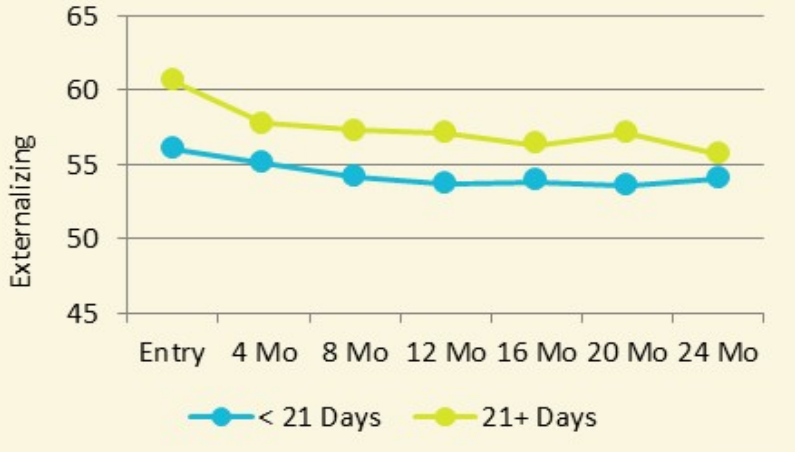
Women who stayed less than 21 days and women who stayed 21 or more days in the shelter showed strong improvement in mental health in the first 4 months and continued to improve through the first year and maintained the improvement through the second year.



Children's Behavior



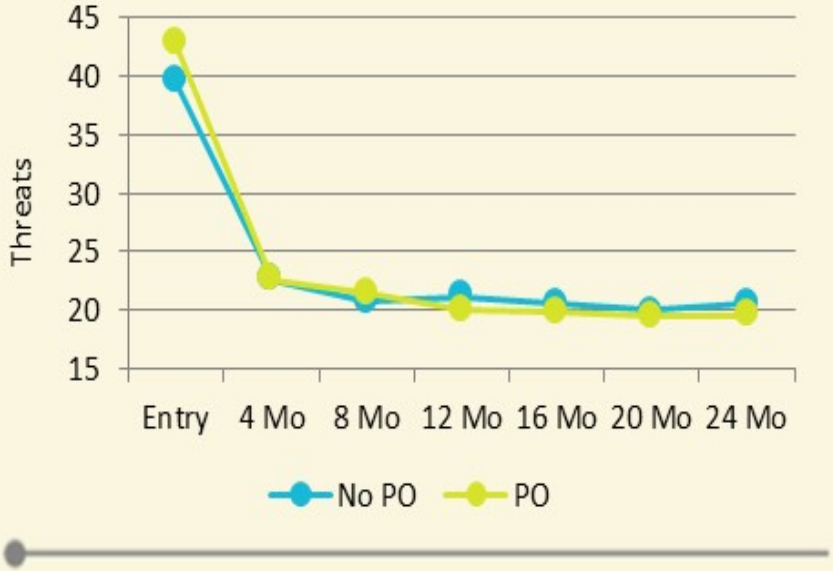
Children of women who stayed less than 21 days and who stayed 21 or more days in the shelter showed improvement in problem behaviors in the first year and maintained the improvement through the second year. < 21 days tended to do better than 21+ days.

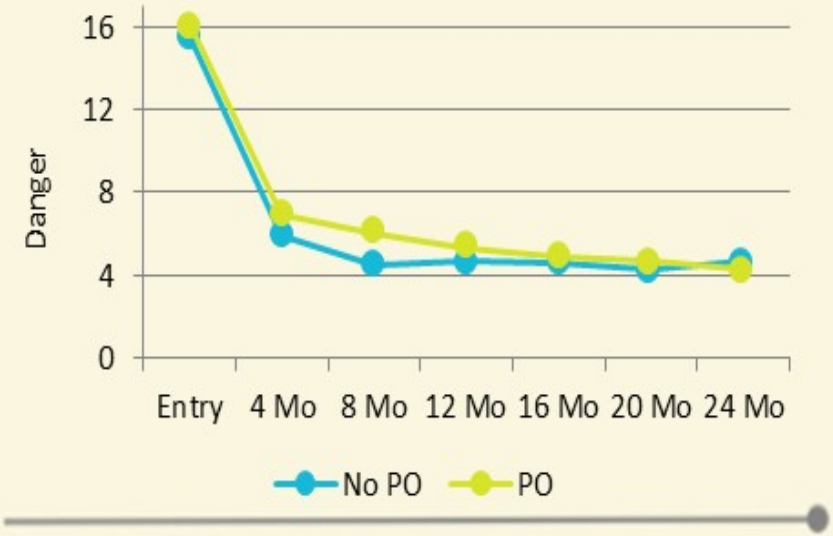


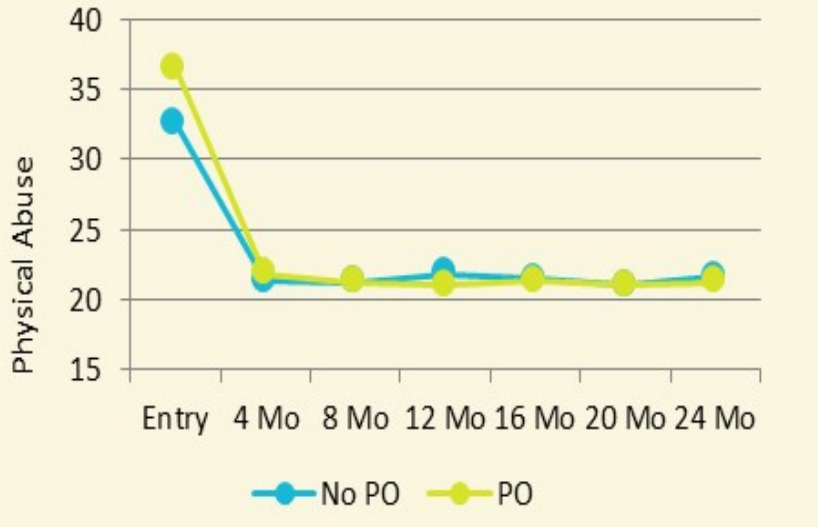
Justice Services
THE FIRST TWO YEARS
150 women were first time users of justice services. 86 (57.3%) received a protective order. 64 (42.7%) did not receive a PO.

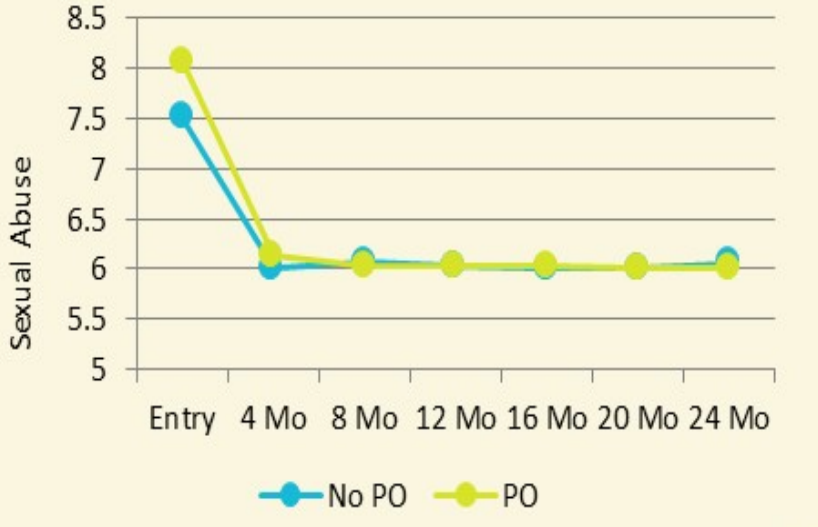
Mothers' Danger & Abuse

Women who received a PO and who did not receive a PO had dramatic improvement in danger and abuse in the first 4 months and maintained that improvement through the first two years.









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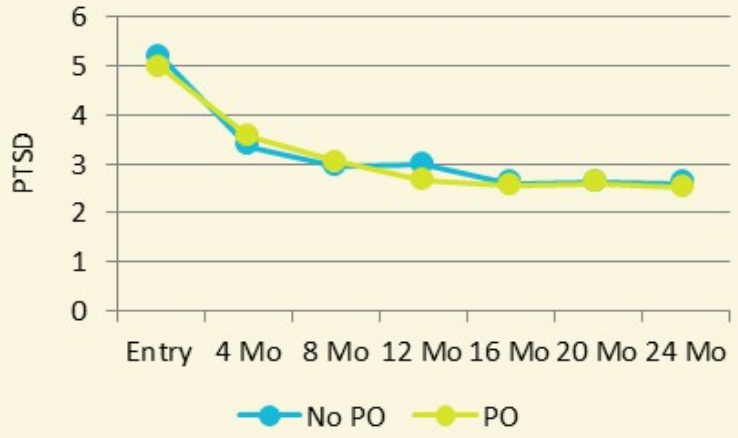
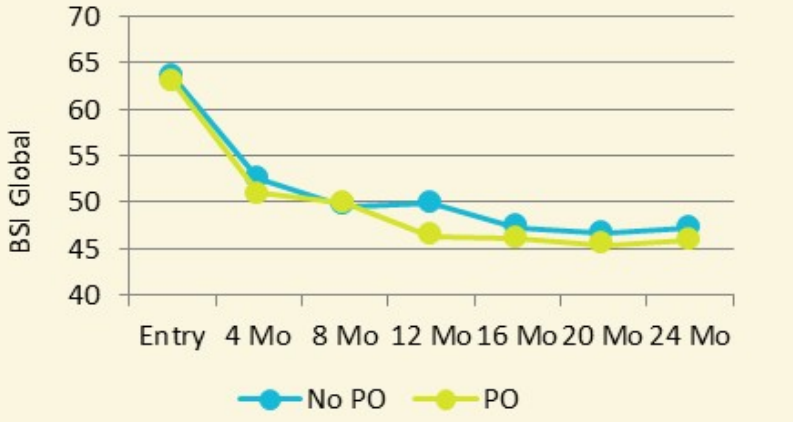
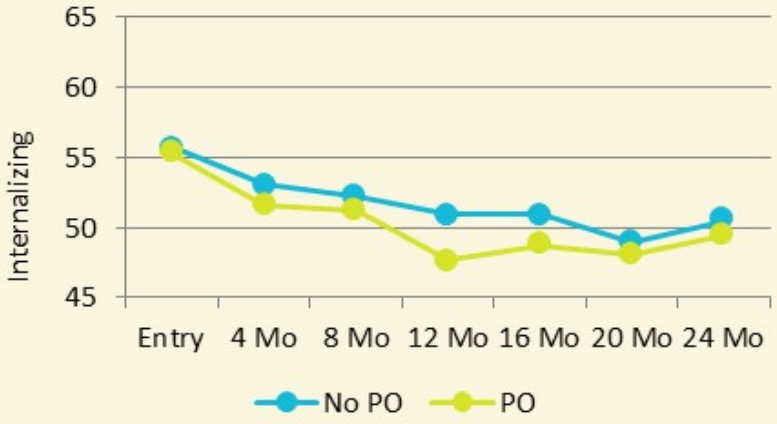
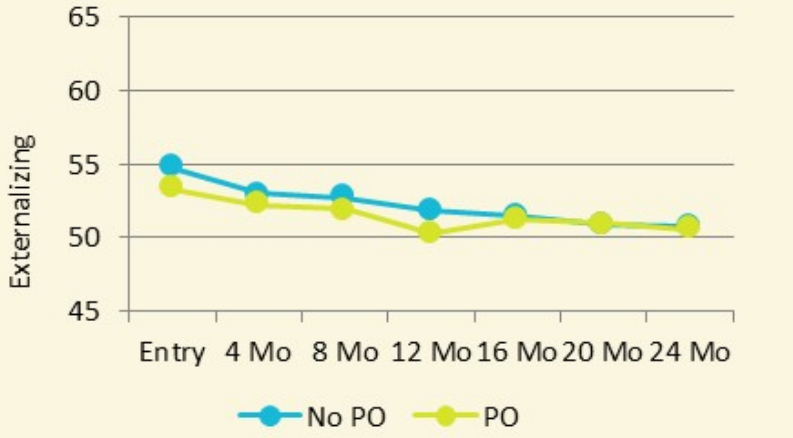




Children's Behavior

Children who received a PO and who did not receive a PO had improvement in problem behaviors in the first year and maintained the improvement through the second year. PO tended to do better on internalizing behaviors than No PO.





Immigrant Status

THE FIRST TWO YEARS

193 U.S. born and 107 immigrant women and their children are interviewed every 4 month.

Spanish & Hispanic Community

Participants were interviewed about their ethnicity and those who reported being of Spanish or Hispanic ethnicity were asked additional questions such as language read and spoken.

Language Preferences

Acculturation Scale

A small majority of women identifying as Spanish or Hispanic ethnicity reported speaking mostly English.
The second most common language preference was speaking only Spanish.

107

Individuals were interviewed about their citizenship status.

61%

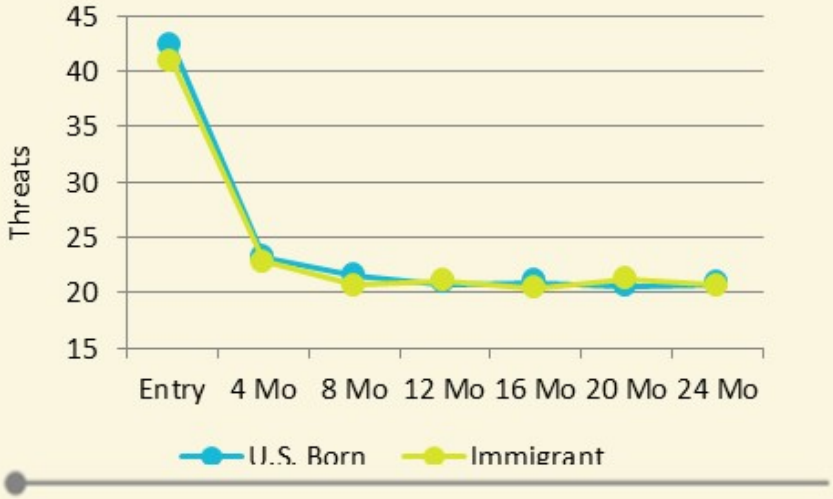
Reported that they were not legal U.S. citizens, in other words...

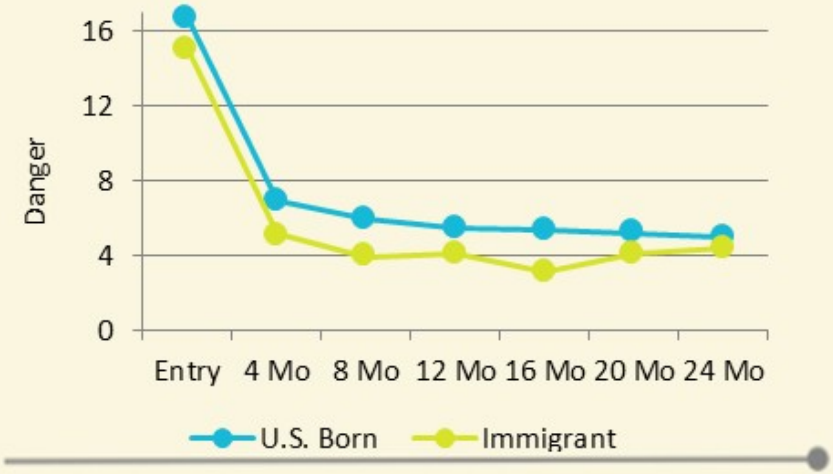
4 out of 6 women

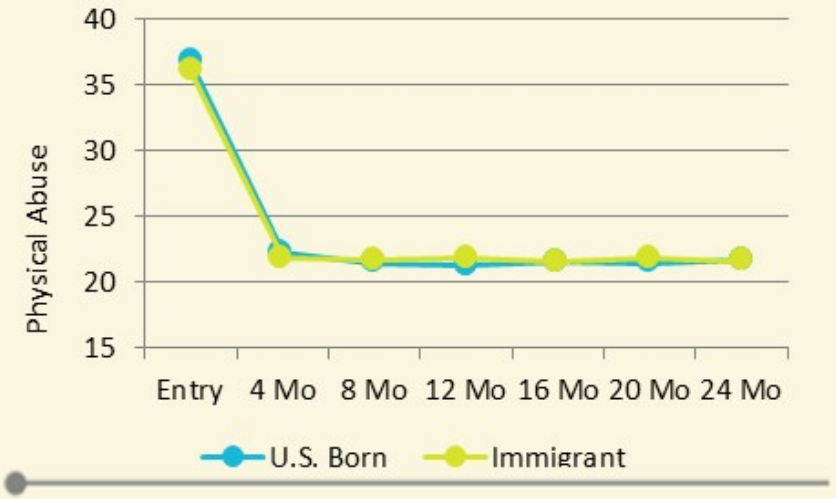
in the study are living illegally in the U.S.

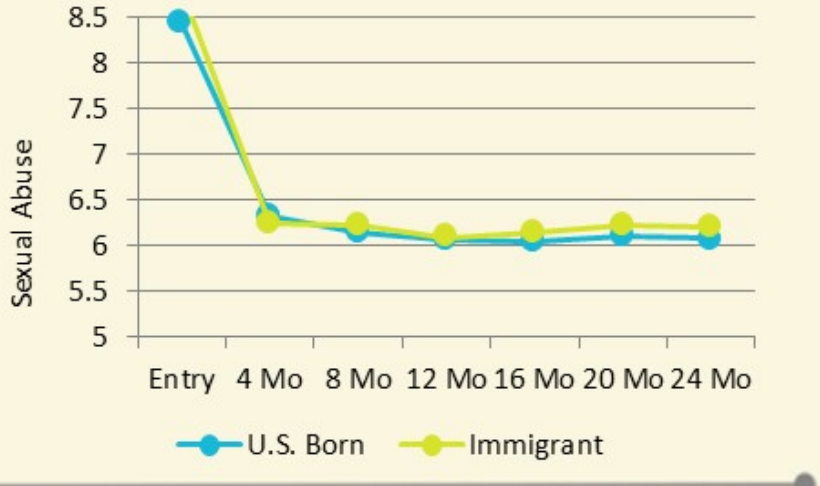
Mothers' Danger & Abuse

Both U.S. born and immigrant women showed dramatic improvement in danger and abuse in the first 4 months and maintained that improvement through the first two years.









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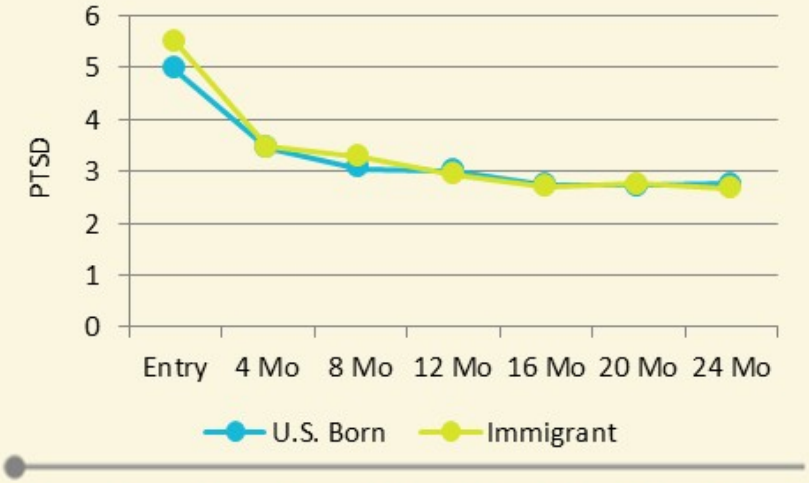
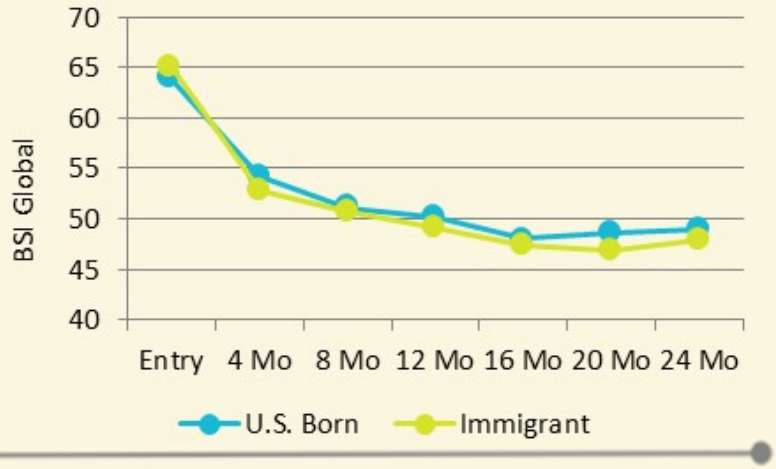
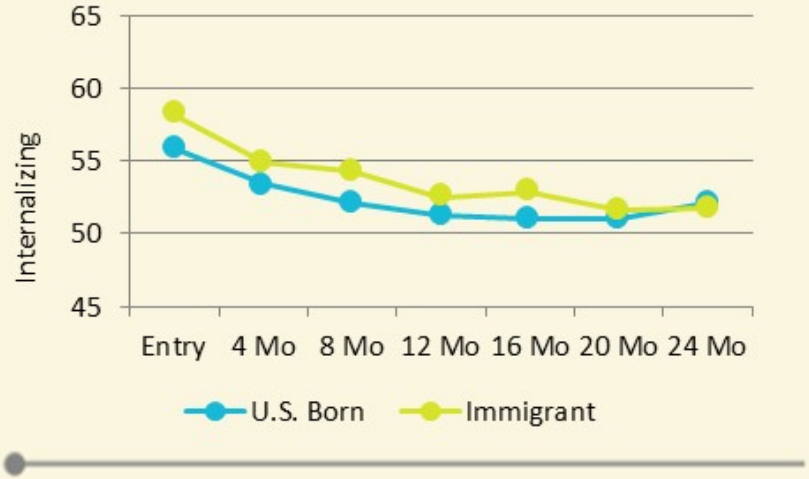
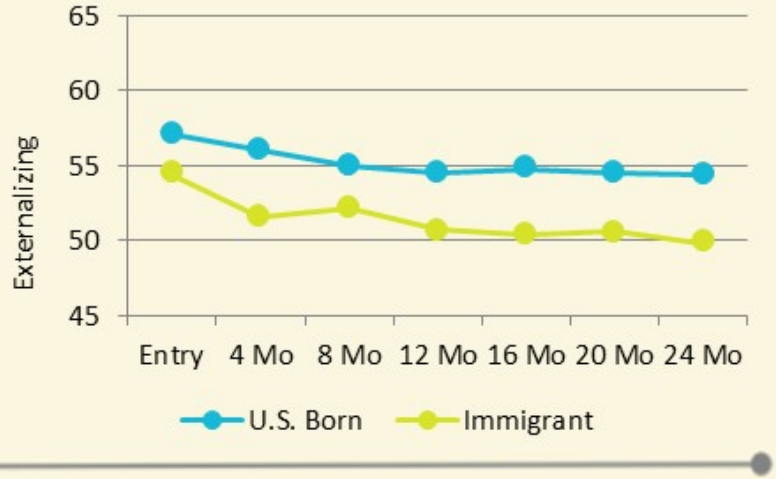




Children's Behavior

Both U.S. born and immigrant children showed improvement in problem behaviors in the first year and maintained the improvement through the second year. Immigrant children tended to do better than U.S. born on externalizing behaviors.





Outcomes by Shelter Days & Protection Order Receipt

- **No differences in outcomes by number of days at shelter or protection order receipt.**

- **Mental Health, Abuse, Danger & Child outcomes improved ($p<.01$) at 4-months for Shelter and protection order women, regardless of dose, and MAINTAINED at 24-months.**

What Happened?

Why did length of shelter stay not affect outcomes?

Why did receipt of a protection order not affect outcomes?

What are global policy & program implications?

Intergenerational Impact?