



Uncovering the Story: Children in Foster Care with Enuresis

LEND Trainees: Susan Burlazzi, JD, Elizabeth Manderski, BA, Sofia Pham, PhD, NCSP

LEND Faculty: Jenean Castillo, PhD

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program

Westchester Institute for Human Development, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and New York Medical College



Background

- Enuresis is the involuntary or intentional repeated voiding of urine
- Chronological age > 5
- Behavior is not attributed to medical condition
- Frequency of 2+ times per week over 3 months OR causes distress/impairment in functioning



Objectives

- To better define prevalence of enuresis in the foster care population
- To investigate correlative factors and risks
- To develop further recommendations for foster parents and providers

Methods

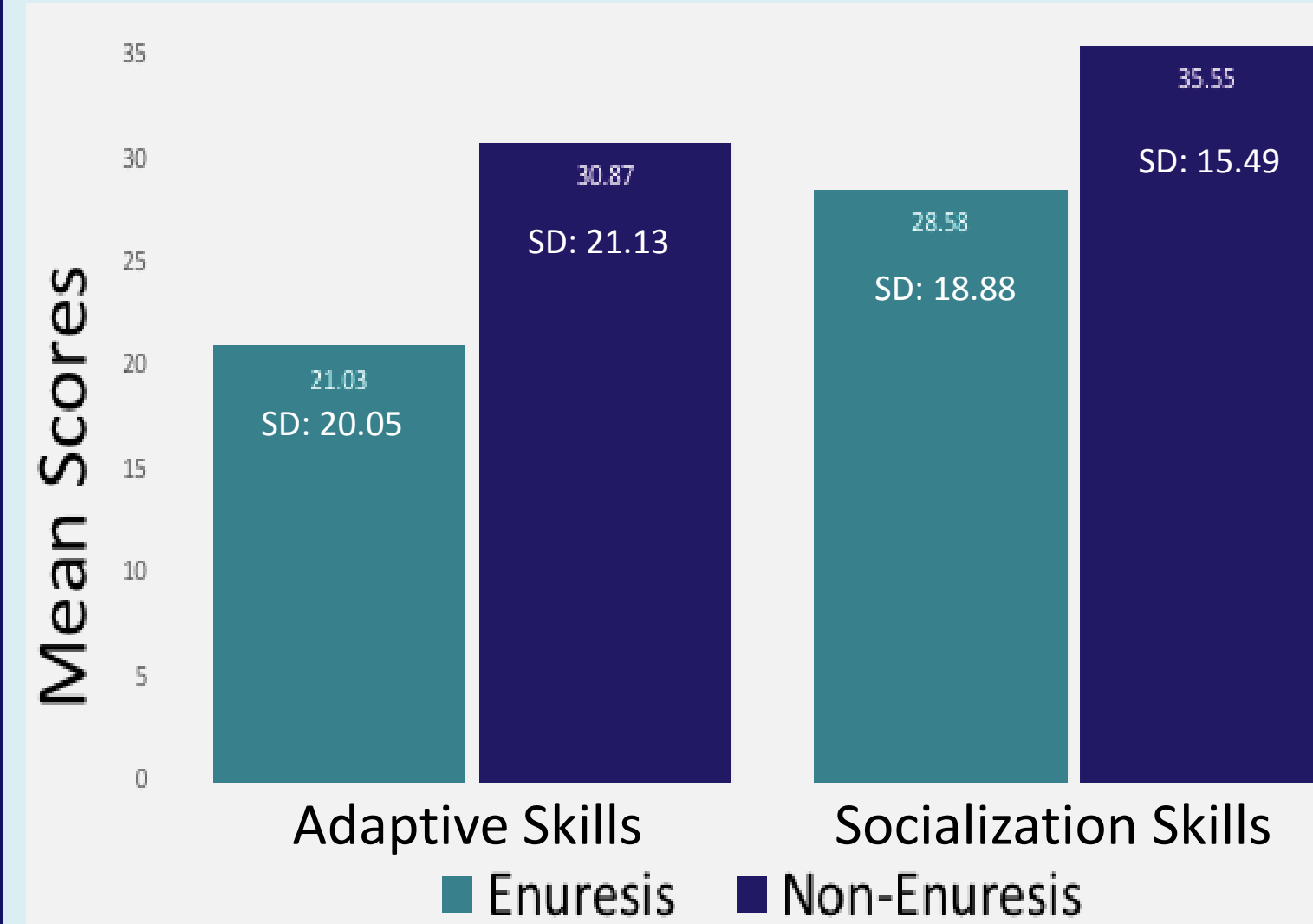
- The participants were children who previously received support through WIHD's child welfare services program
- The methods used included chart review, measures (Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children [WISC], Trauma Symptoms Checklist for Children [TSCC], Child Behavior Checklist [CBCL], Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales [Vineland]), and t-test analysis

Results

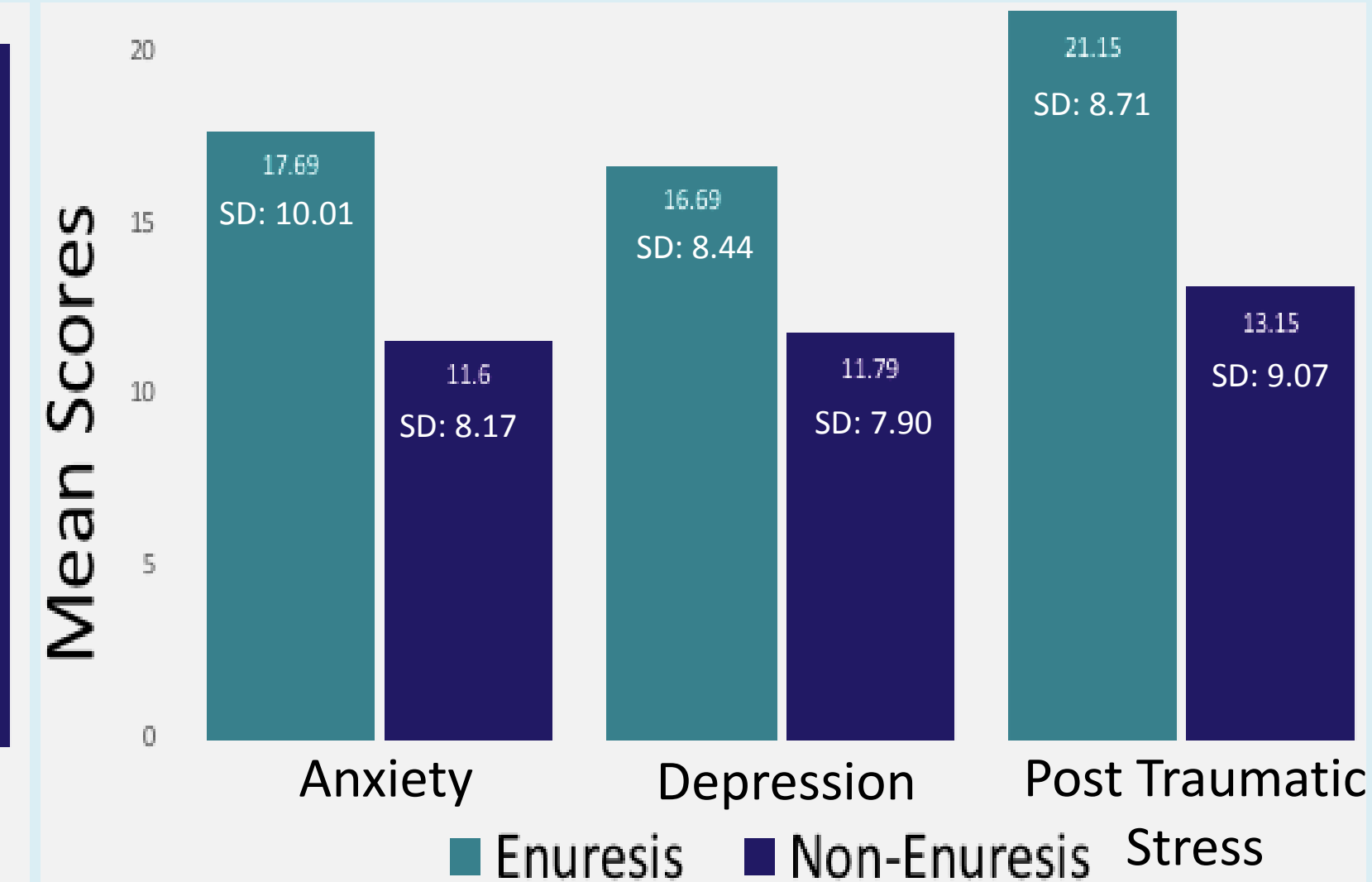
Demographics

	Male	Female	Mean Age (in months)	SD Age (in months)
Enuresis	19	12	88.31 (7.36y)	23.06 (1.92y)
Non-Enuresis	84	113	96.53 (8.05y)	26.06 (2.22y)
Total	103	125	95.58 (7.92y)	25.81 (2.15y)

NON-ENURESIS VS ENURESIS ON THE VINELAND



NON-ENURESIS VS ENURESIS ON THE TSCC



- Participants with enuresis tend to score significantly lower on measures of adaptive and socialization skills. This group also tends to report significantly more symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress (PTS).
- There were no significant differences between participants with enuresis and without enuresis on age, measures of IQ, and the Child Behavior Checklist.

Discussion

- The data supports the conclusion that the incidence of enuresis in the foster care population more likely stems from psychological factors than from developmental factors.
- As a result, it is important that foster care parents and service providers are educated on the psychological factors related to enuresis.
- In addition to traditional behavioral interventions, clinical care should also address socioemotional concerns in this population.

Future Directions

- It is recommended that the Department of Social Services train parents on evidence-based interventions and prevention strategies.
- Our data supports continued counseling and therapeutic services for children in foster care.

Community Partners

- Janet A. Stockheim, MD
Medical Director
Department of Social Services
Pediatric Unit, WIHD
- Westchester County
Department of Social
Services

