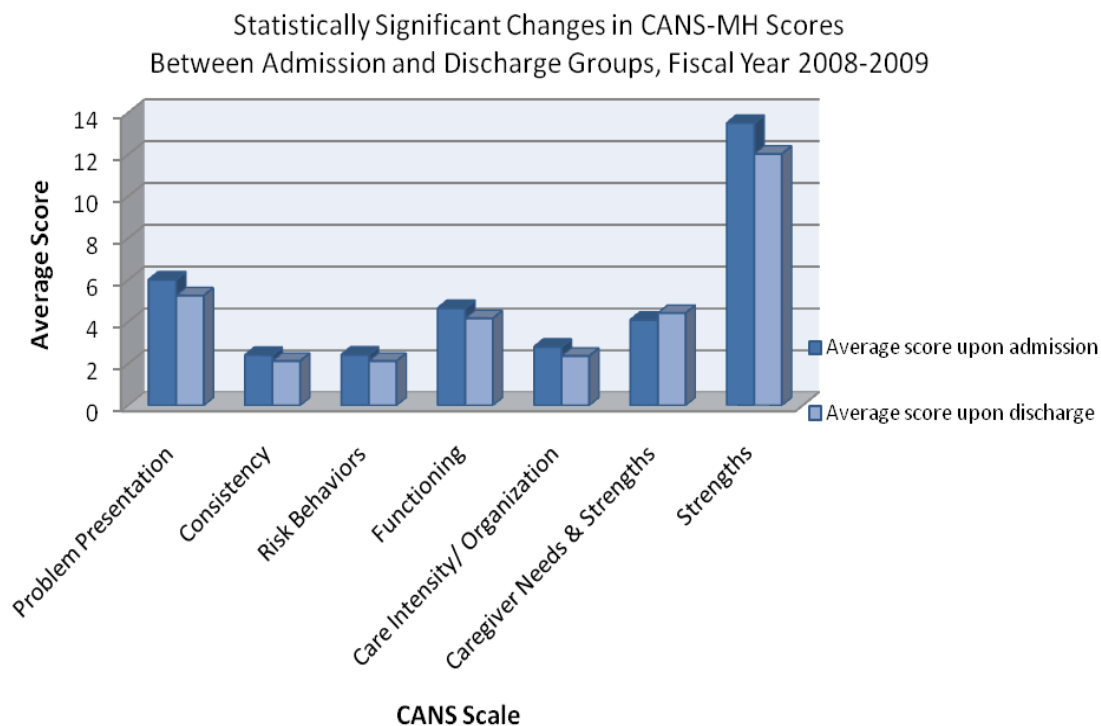


CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS AND STRENGTHS MENTAL HEALTH FINDINGS (AGENCY TREATMENT OUTCOMES) 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR

In our ongoing effort to improve services to clients through the use of an outcomes/effectiveness measurement system, all clinical programs in the Agency continue to assess clients at admission, annually and at discharge using the *Child Adolescent Needs & Strengths-Mental Health version (CANS-MH, Lyons, 2001)*. The measure provides a structured assessment (of children and caregivers) on dimensions considered key in treatment planning, and has been in use across the Agency since 2005. Individual CANS-MH scores are used to influence treatment planning while aggregate program and Agency CANS-MH data are used for program evaluation.

“One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results”
Milton Friedman

The chart below shows the results of an Agency aggregate analysis for the past fiscal year. Average scores for all clients in all clinical programs were calculated at admission and at discharge. Through an analysis of variance, significant changes between average scores at admission and average scores at discharge were identified.



Univariate analysis revealed that clients discharged from treatment across Agency programs tended to exhibit decreased problems and symptoms and improved functioning and strengths upon discharge, as measured by the CANS-MH. Average discharge scores were lower than average admission scores on scales measuring the presence of psychiatric symptoms (Problem Presentation), situational consistency (Consistency), dangerous behaviors (Risk Behaviors) and problems with physical and academic functioning (Functioning). Average scores in the presence of strengths and needs in client’s primary caregiver (Caregiver Needs and Strengths) were significantly higher at discharge indicating a strong relationship between individual child/adolescent gains and their equivalent strengths in the family context. Average scores in client strengths were also higher at discharge. Of note is the fact that clients Agency- wide exhibited significant improvements in all areas measured by the CANS-MH.