Ten years on: Language skills of young offenders in custody in England

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SLT & Young Offenders
Language and communication difficulties in juvenile offenders

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Abstract

†‡§: Studies of the prison population with language and communication. However, the focus on specific...
New SLT Services & Screening
Numbers in custody

Youth Custodial Population UK

Population

Year
Methods - Proposed

1. Recruit (n=50)
2. Assessment Battery
3. Additional Information
Methods - Actual

• 15 consecutive admissions
And
• 30 subsequently referred to service =
  • 36 fully completed CELFs
  • 29 Social Skills Questionnaires
  • 30 speech ratings
Population

- N = 45
- Age = 17,2
- Ethnicity: 40% black, 27% white
- SES: 50% lowest, 6.6% highest third
- Av time in custody: 382 days
- 7 previously known to SLT services
- 23 previously known to CAMHS
- 19 LAC
- 27 expelled
- 34 cannabis users
Standard Score

Mean = 70
Social Skills Questionnaire

Mean = 20.41
Speech Difficulties

- Yes: N=6
- No: N=24
CHAT Score

Mean = 2.12
Conclusions

• Majority have impaired language skills
• More likely to have accessed CAMHS and been excluded than accessed SLT
• Higher screening score does not necessarily lead to referral
Take Away

- Does your screen highlight those that need the support?
- Does the screen lead to the correct referrals?
- Are other factors taken into consideration when looking at referrals?