



A RANDOMIZED CONTROL TRIAL ASSESSING AN APS TOOL: CORNELL-PENN INTERVIEW FOR DECISIONAL ABILITIES

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Keck School of Medicine of USC, University of Southern California
National Adult Protective Services Association Annual Conference
November 18, 2020



The California APS Interview for Decisional Ability Assessment Project

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Supported through funding by the Administration for
Community Living Grant #90EJIG0009-01-01



CORNELL-PENN INTERVIEW FOR DECISIONAL ABILITIES CA-3.0

AKA

IDA



IDA = Interview for Decisional Abilities

- Tool developed for APS workers to assess clients' decision-making ability
- Interview clients about a specific risk
- Useful when clients decline services or continue to make unsafe decisions
- Results help guide APS worker/supervisor regarding case management



Interview for Decisional Abilities (IDA 3.0-CA)

1. **Understand:** Does the client understand the risk in general?
2. **Appreciate:** Does the client have insight into how the risk could impact themselves?
3. **Reason:** Does the client have the reasoning ability to weigh pros/cons of options to address the risk?





Development of IDA:

Based on the Assessment of Capacity for Everyday Decision-Making (ACED)

- Jason Karlawish, MD
- James Lai, MD

Developed by the EA team at the NYCEAC

- Mark Lachs, MD
- Risa Breckman, MS

NY Team Advisors for this project

- Pamela Ansell, MSW
- Veronica LoFaso, MD
- Robert Abrams, MD

Training

- 2 full day trainings 6 weeks apart
 - Didactic component
 - Small group realistic role plays
- Participants were asked to submit at least 2 completed IDAs after each training
- Clinical professional trainers:
 - 3 Geropsychologists, 1 Neuropsychologist
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - Geriatric Physician Assistant



Goal of Randomized Control Trial

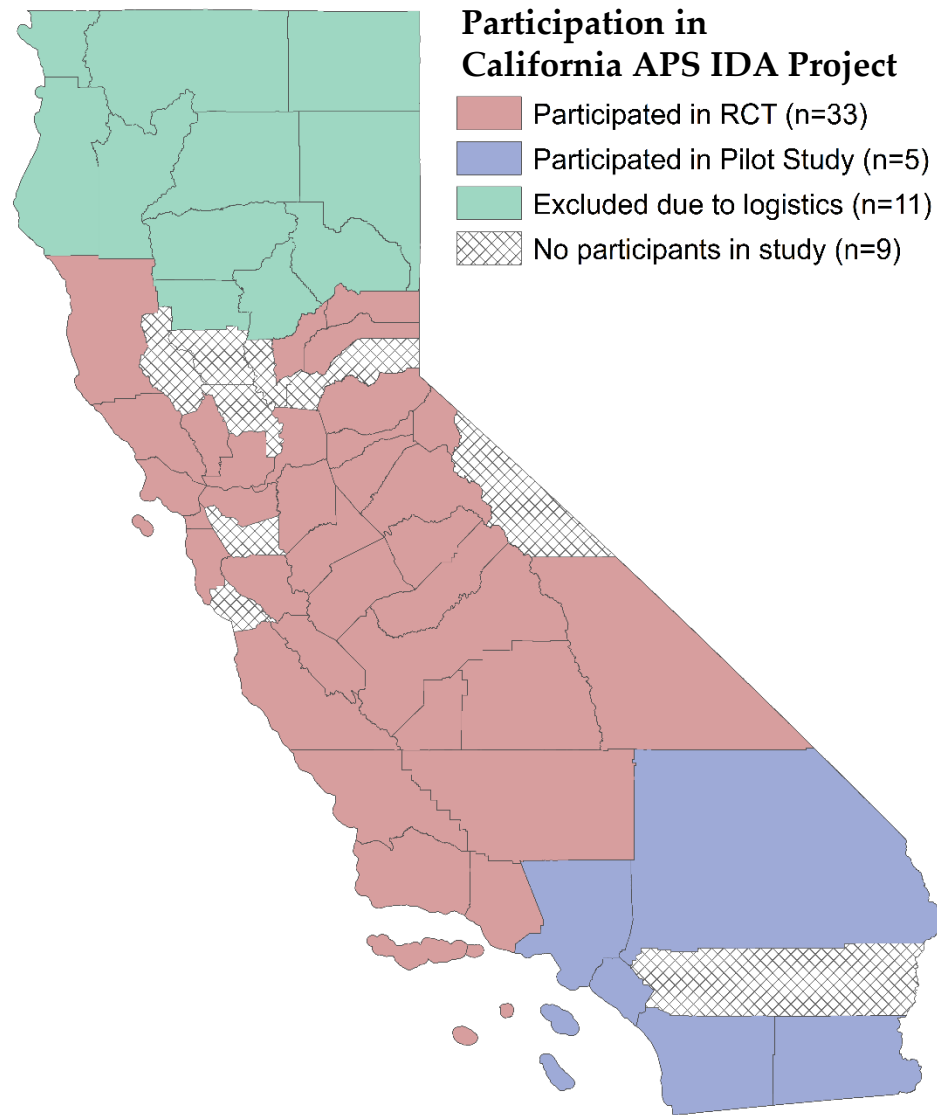
- Evaluate the impact of training and the use of the IDA tool on APS workers:
 - Experiences
 - Knowledge
 - Ability to determine client's decisional ability

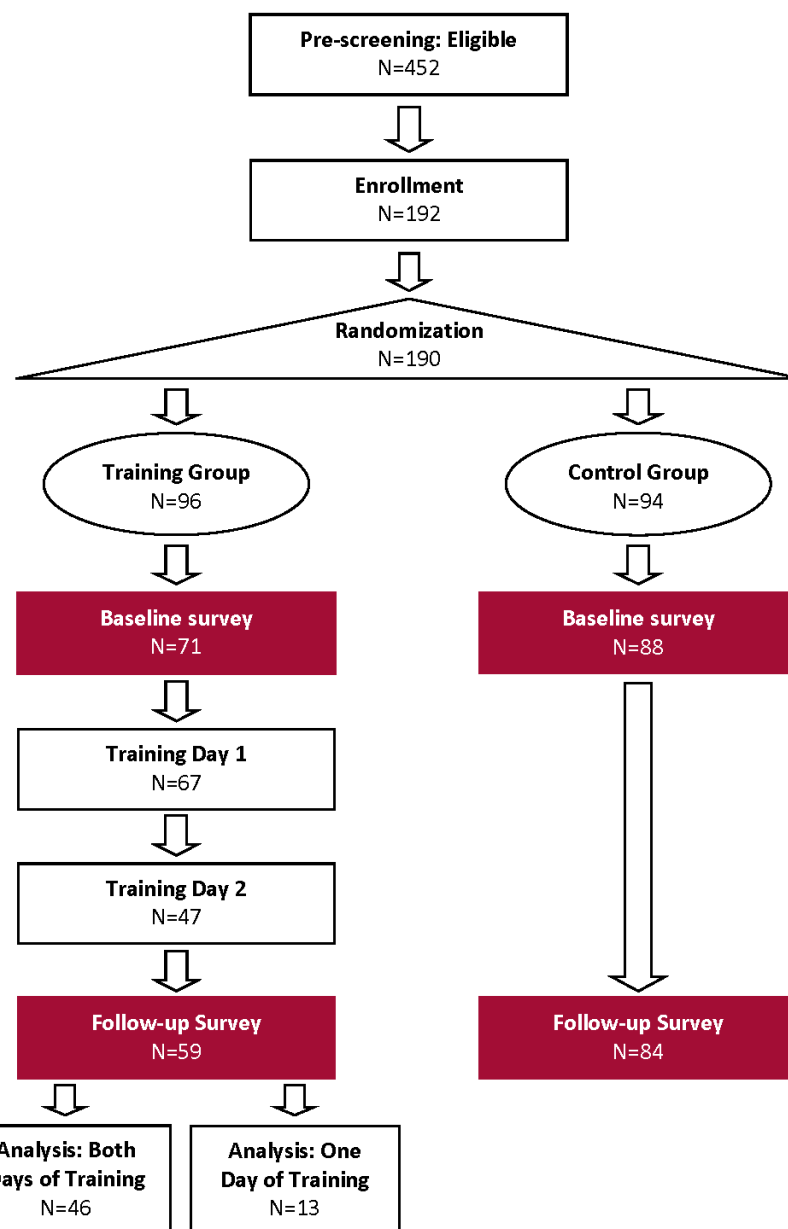


Methods



Recruitment








Measurement

- Developed a survey tool to measure improvement in knowledge, workers' ability to determine decisional ability
- Survey components:
 - Experiences with **client assessments**
 - Experiences with **case management**
 - **Knowledge** of decisional ability
 - Client scenarios

Client Scenarios

- Background information
- Dialogue between APS worker and client
- Judgements about client's ability to
 - (1) Understand
 - (2) Appreciate
 - (3) Reason

About a particular risk they are facing
- Select the line(s) of dialogue that support the APS worker's judgement
- Identify next step in case management

Client Scenario Example

Case #1: Mr. Jones is a 74-year-old African American man who is recently widowed and lives alone in his own home. The client's neighbor, Mark, goes to bank with him and withdraws large sums of money totaling \$30,000 in one month. The bank teller reported this to APS and froze the account pending investigation. You've completed part of your investigation, and you're concerned about **financial exploitation** by the neighbor and the client's decisional ability.

Background information

You engage the client in the following dialogue:

1. **APS Worker:** Have you ever heard of someone being taken advantage of by a friend or neighbor? Maybe someone taking their money and using it for themselves?
2. **Mr. Jones:** Yes, I know these things happen sometimes. You have to be really careful these days. Yeah, Mrs. Sullivan who I know from the senior center was talked into giving away her money on a phone scam. She was really mad when she found out it wasn't real and her money was gone.
3. **APS Worker:** Yeah, that's terrible but it does happen! What could be the consequences of losing your money like this?
4. **Mr. Jones:** Well, depends on how much they take and how much money you have. What do you mean?
5. **APS Worker:** Well, I mean in general, what could happen to someone who isn't careful and lets someone take their money?
6. **Mr. Jones:** You could lose it all, not be able to pay your rent or have money for food I guess.

Dialogue between APS worker and client

A. Based on the identified risk (financial exploitation), please answer the following questions and refer to the dialogue to support your answers:

Judgements
about client's
ability to:
(1) Understand
(2) Appreciate
(3) Reason
about a risk

	Please circle one:	Which line of dialogue <i>best</i> supports this judgment?	Is there another line of dialogue supports this judgment? If so, please write it.
1. Do you think the client understands the risk (financial exploitation) in general?	Yes Maybe No	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Do you think the client has insight that he could personally be experiencing this risk (financial exploitation)?	Yes Maybe No	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Do you think the client has the ability to reason about the potential consequences of this risk (financial exploitation)?	Yes Maybe No	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Select the line(s)
of supporting
dialogue

B. Using the information you have, what do you think is the most appropriate next step to manage this case? Select the best answer:

- ☐ This client does not appear to have decisional ability and you would consider a referral for a professional capacity assessment.
- ☐ Close the case because your client appears to have the ability to make choices even though the choices may have negative consequences.
- ☐ The client appears to have decisional ability and you will assist the client in implementing a plan that they have identified or that you have developed together.
- ☐ Continue your investigation as you don't have enough information.

Next step in
case
management



Results

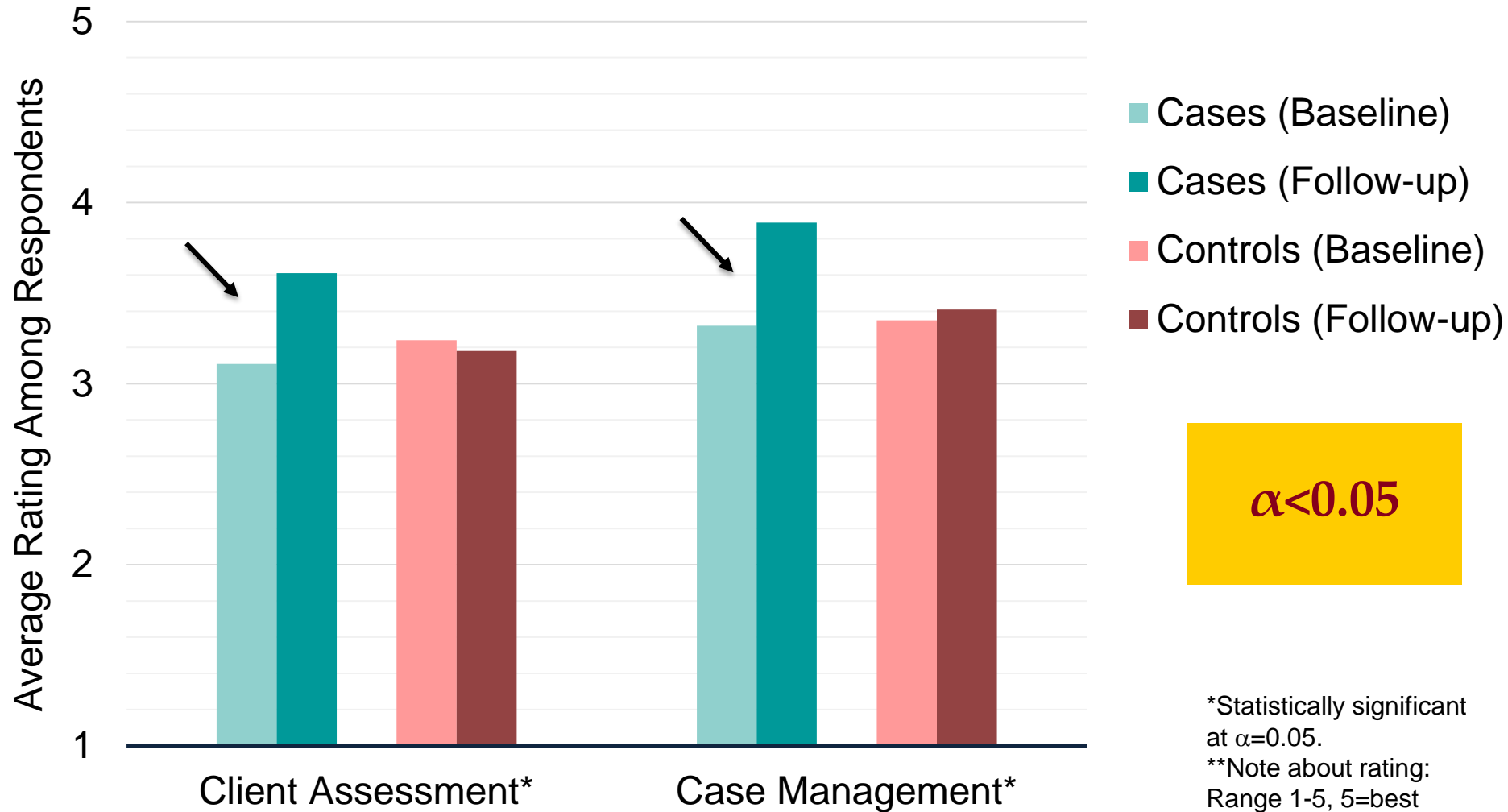


Participant Demographics

	Cases (n=46)	Controls (n=84)	p-value for difference
APS Role			
Supervisor	11 (23.91)	16 (19.05)	0.513
Worker	35 (76.09)	68 (80.95)	
Education			
Associate's degree or lower	2 (4.35)	2 (2.38)	0.772
Bachelor's degree	15 (32.61)	31 (36.90)	
Master's degree or higher	28 (60.87)	51 (60.71)	
APS Employment			
Less than 2 years	20 (43.48)	22 (26.19)	0.098
2 to 10 years	19 (41.30)	44 (52.38)	
10+ years	6 (13.04)	18 (21.43)	
Has social work degree or license	24 (52.17)	40 (47.62)	0.536
Has clinical license (LCSW, LMFT, etc.)	7 (15.22)	12 (14.29)	0.846

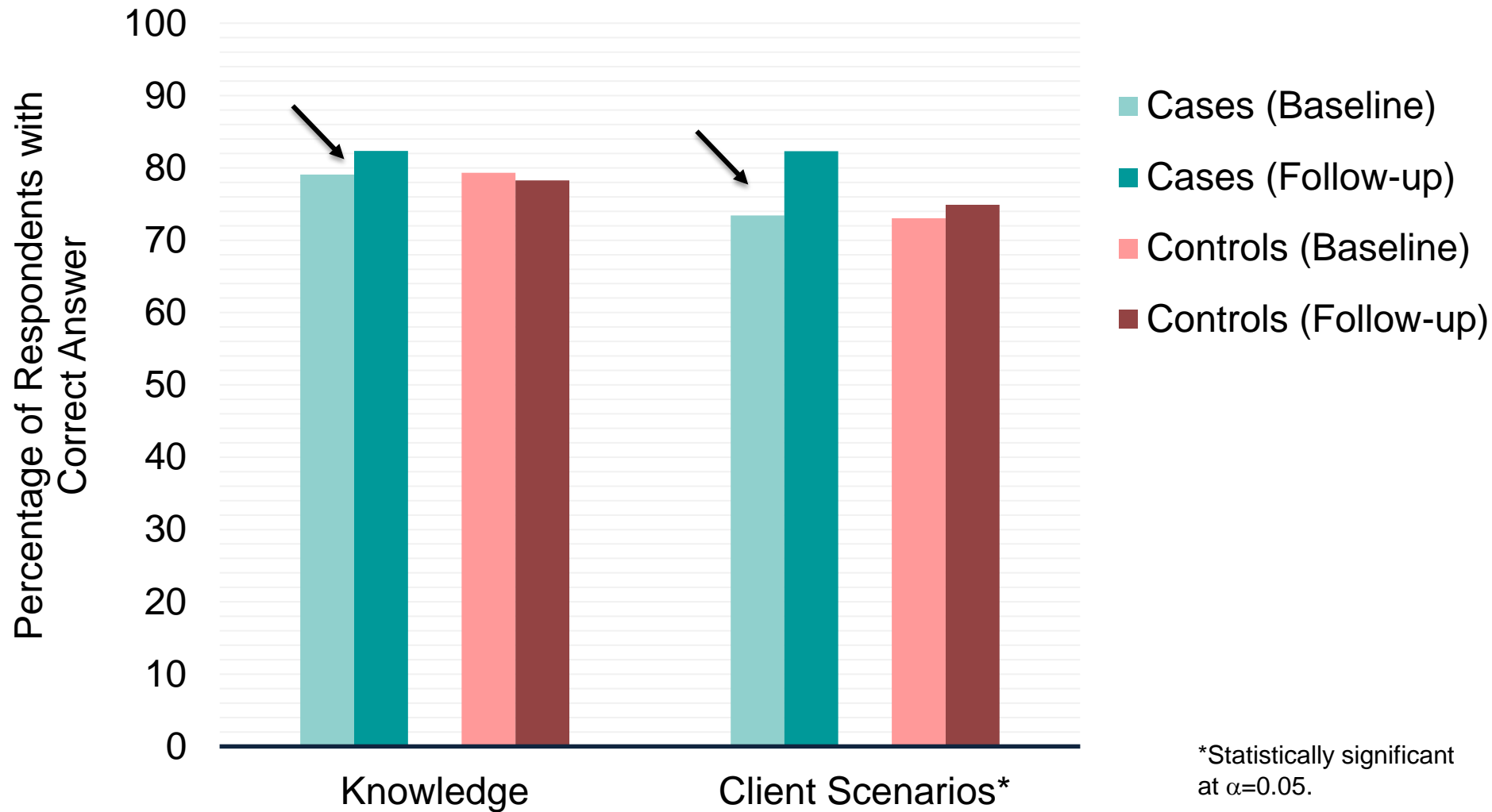


Client Assessment and Case Management





Knowledge and Client Scenarios





Experience Using IDA 3.0-CA



- **97.8%** of trainees agreed IDA 3.0-CA helps document evidence that supports reasoning for closing the case or for requesting professional capacity assessment
- **97.8%** did not believe IDA 3.0-CA is more difficult than it is worth
- **95.4%** did not believe IDA 3.0-CA takes more time than it is worth



Key Take Aways

IDA: An Effective APS Tool

- Workers overwhelmingly endorse use of IDA
- More thorough evidence regarding clients' decisional ability
- Less time to complete assessments
- Better documentation of evidence
- More clarity regarding next steps in case management
- Improved discussions w/supervisors

IDA: Training Impact

- Provided new useful ideas
- Led to improved practice
- Increased workers' confidence with clients

IDA: Practice Implications

- Systematic approach to assessment of decisional ability
- Client-centered
 - Incremental goal setting
 - Elicit client wishes
- Documentation of reasoning for declining services
- Clarity regarding referral for professional capacity assessment

IDA: Study Limitations

- High dropout rate
- Potential ceiling effect of Knowledge Scale
- Scripted vignettes insensitive to subtleties of APS/Client interactions



Research Recommendations

- For the IDA to be most effective, perhaps both supervisor and worker need to be trained
- APS workers may require mentoring as they apply the IDA 3.0-CA tool in the field
- APS workers with clinical degrees may be better equipped to effectively use the IDA tool
- Filmed vignettes may provide a more self evaluation method



Broader Research Recommendation

Study the impact of IDA on
client outcomes
when integrated into APS investigations!

Building the Evidence Base for IDA

- Outcome of the study supports use of IDA in APS practice
- Comports with mandates from National Voluntary Consensus Guidelines for APS Practice

thank you!

- To the APS agencies in the state of California for supporting research
- To Lori Delagarammatikas for her commitment to increasing the professionalism of APS
- To ACL for their commitment to work that supports improved response to elder mistreatment

