

A decorative green line starts from the left edge of the slide, passes through a black sphere with white dots, and curves upwards and to the right, ending in a loop.

# **BSSI: Interagency Collaboration Survey & Social Network Analysis**

Stacey R. Friedman, Ph.D., Jesse Reynolds, B.A.,  
Ellen Ross, M.A., Cindy A. Crusto, Ph.D. &  
Joy S. Kaufman, Ph.D.

Yale University

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# Background

- What is collaboration?
  - “...a process in which organizations exchange information, alter activities, share resources, and enhance each other's capacity for mutual benefit and a common purpose by sharing risks, responsibilities, and rewards.”  
(Himmelman, 2004)



# Background (cont.)

- Why measure collaboration?
  - One measure of service system maturation:
    - Intended to provide access to a seamless array of services (Hernandez & Hodges, 2003; Hodges et al., 2003)



# Interagency Collaboration Scale (IACS)

- Developed by Paul E. Greenbaum & modified for BSSI evaluation
- 3 Subscales
  - Collaboration Values (13 items)
  - Collaborative Activities (20 items)
  - Connectedness (5 items)
  - Retest: .78, .86, .81; Alpha: .72, .96, .73
- Most Important Barriers & Facilitators
- The Collaborative Network



# Method

- Baseline survey in spring of 2002;  
18-month follow-up in fall of 2003
- 39 staff representing 33 agencies in round one; 40 staff representing 40 agencies in round two
  - 28 agencies participated in both rounds

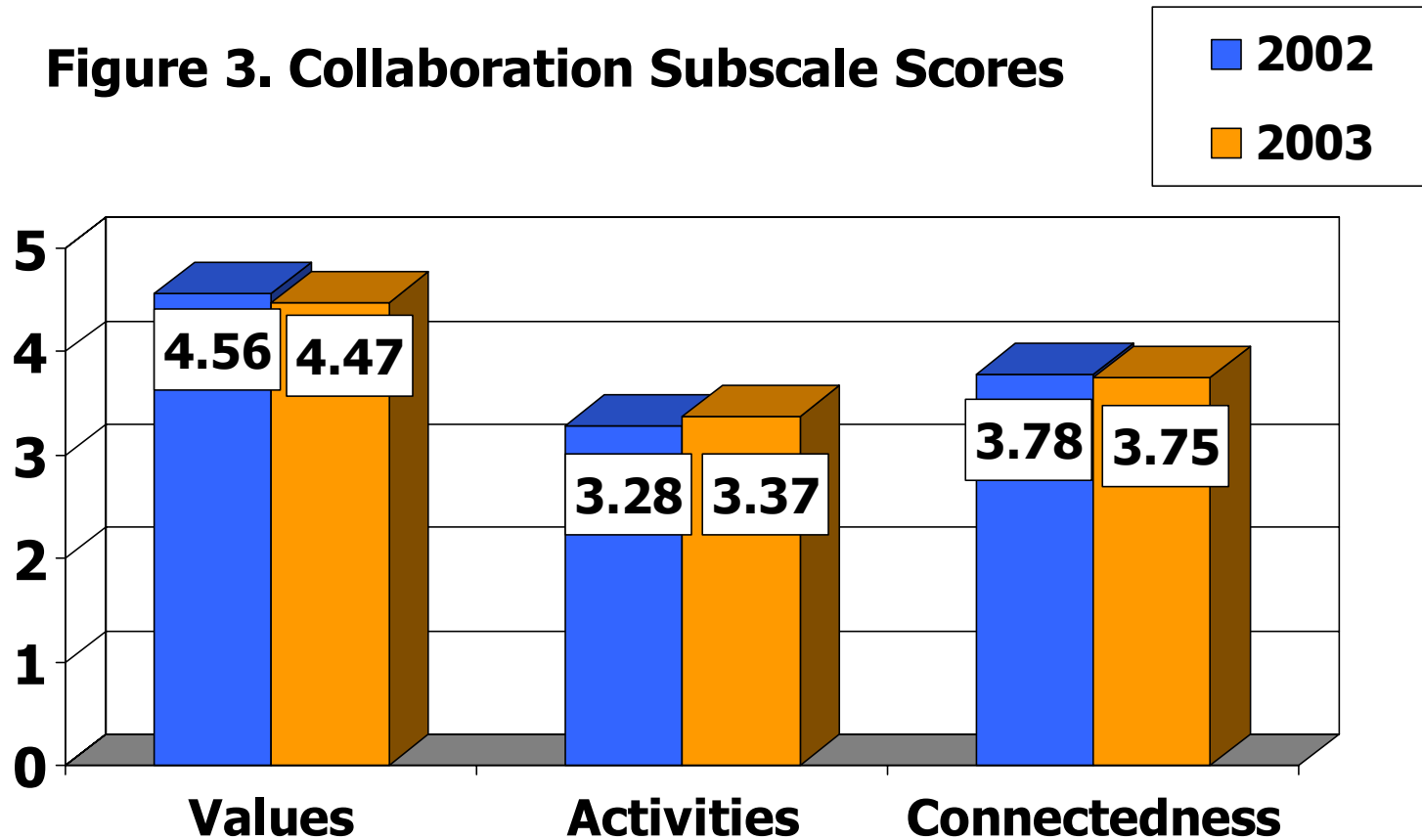


# Results - Demographics

- Respondent demographics
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race/Ethnicity
- Agency characteristics
  - Linguistic capabilities,
  - Whether provides direct services to children 0-6 or their families

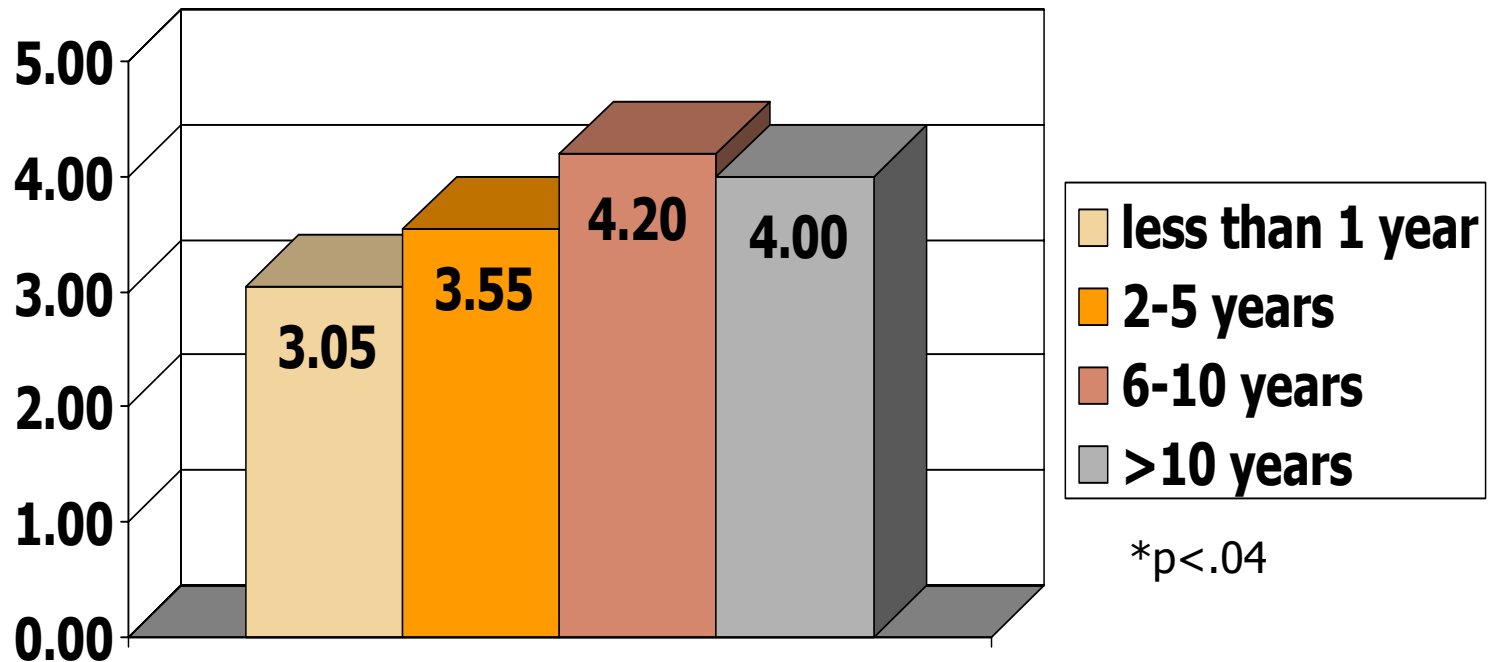
# Results – Collaboration Subscales

Figure 3. Collaboration Subscale Scores



# Comparisons between Participants

Figure 4. Average Connectedness Score in 2003, by Years at Agency\*





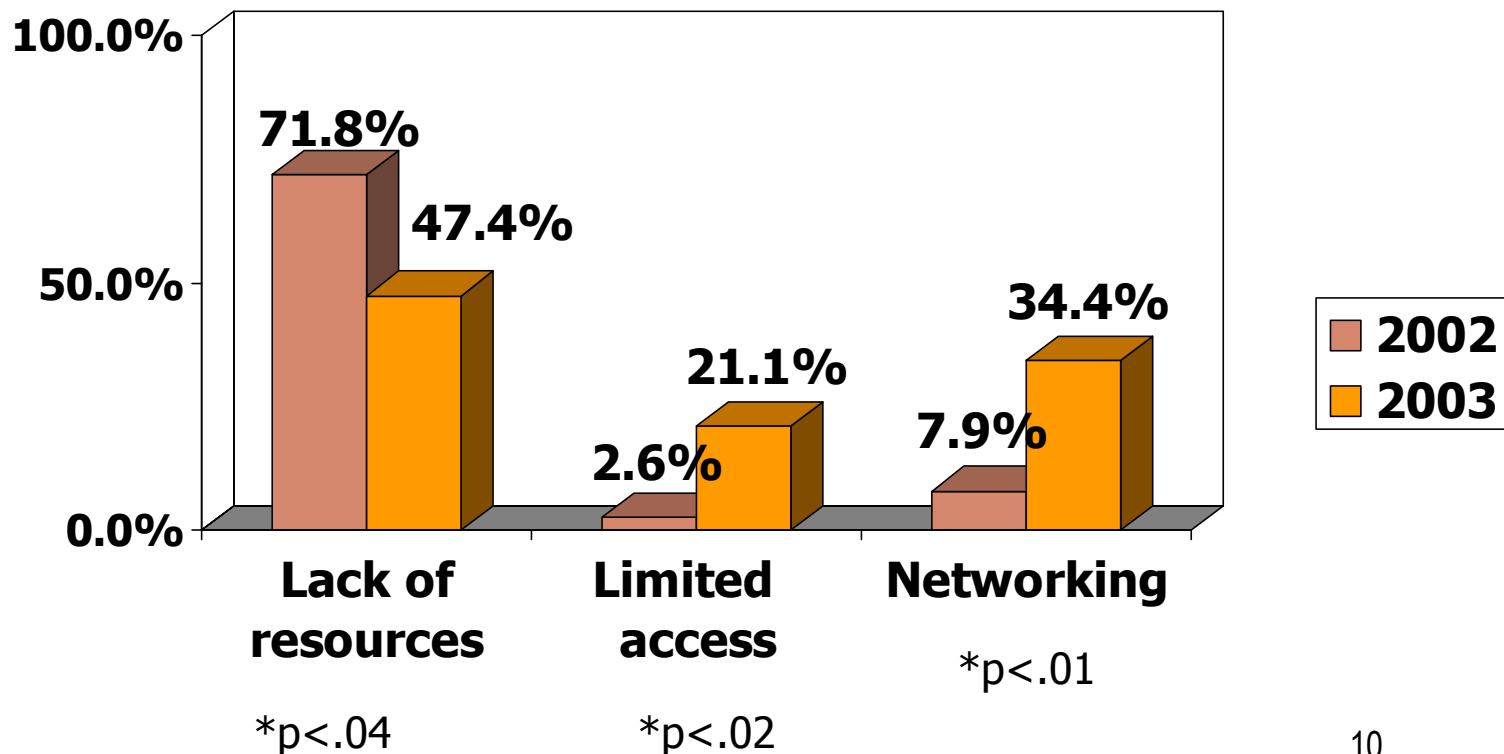


# Barriers & Facilitators

- Most important barriers
  - Lack of agency resources (59.7%)
  - Lack of ownership of responsibility/follow-through/initiative (18.2%)
- Most important facilitators
  - Networking (20.0%)
  - Interagency meetings (18.6%)
  - Leadership/initiation (15.7%)

# Barriers & Facilitators (cont.)

**Figure 5. Significant Changes in Frequency of "Most Important" Barriers & Facilitators**

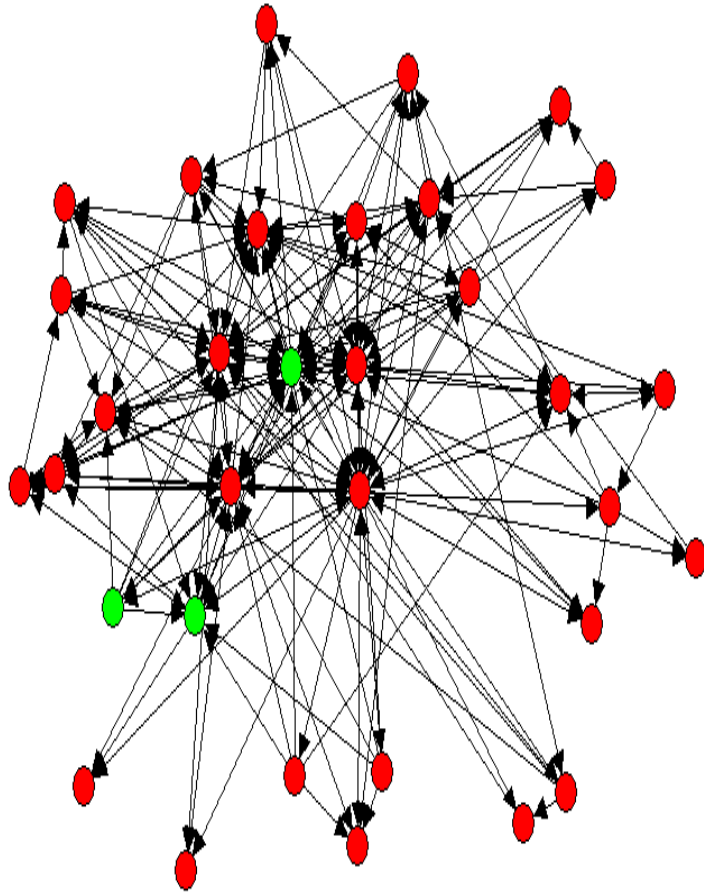




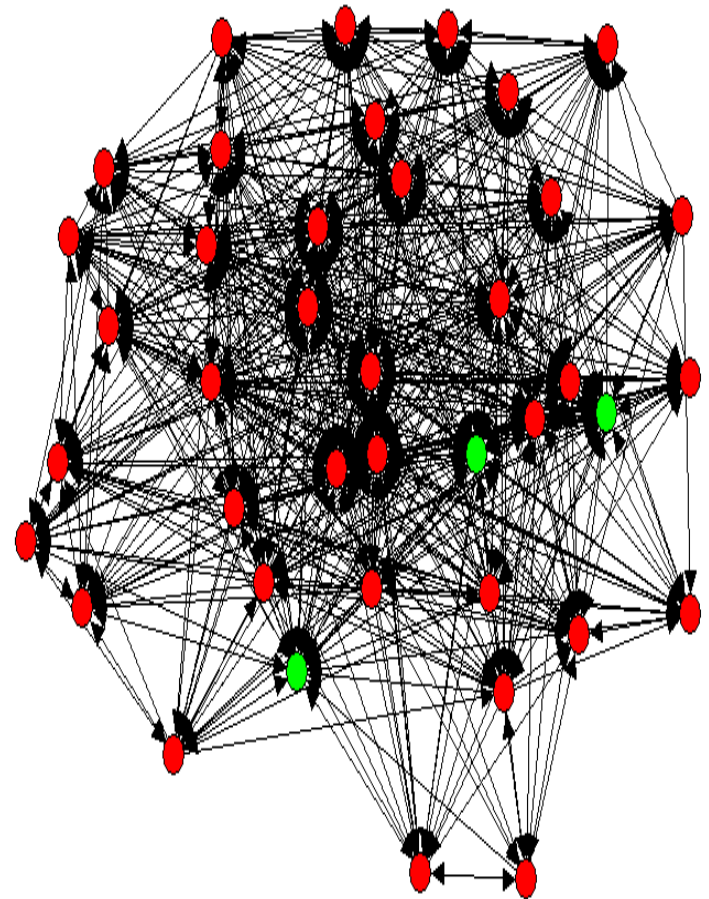
# The Collaborative Network

- Social Network Analysis Measures:
  - Geodesic Distances (Degrees of Separation)
  - Density
  - Degree Centrality (Outreach & Recognition)
  - Strength of Relationships (2003 data)

# Diagrams of Network

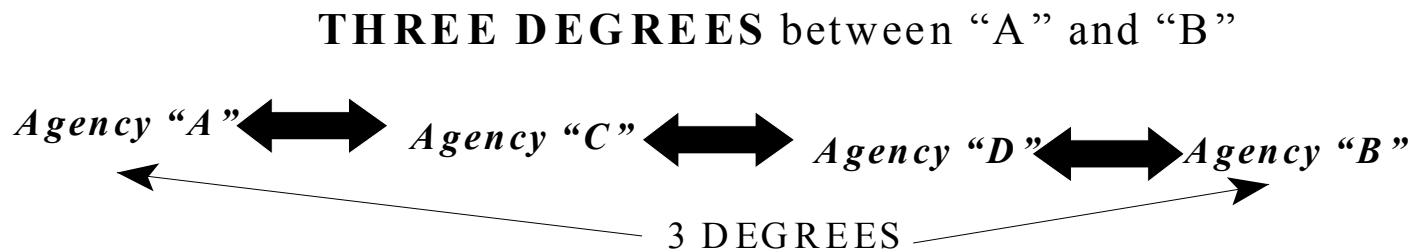
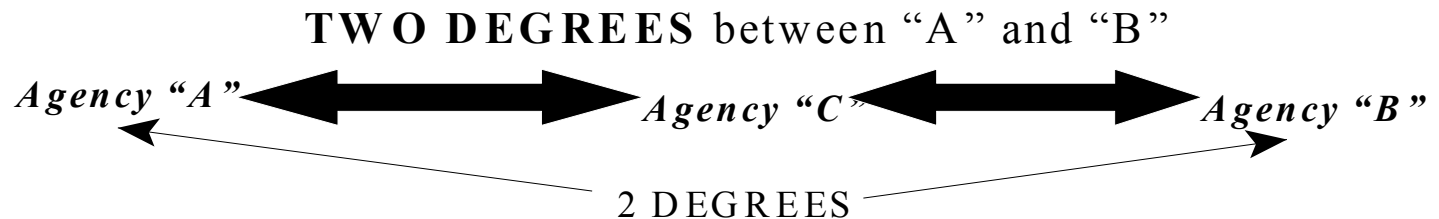
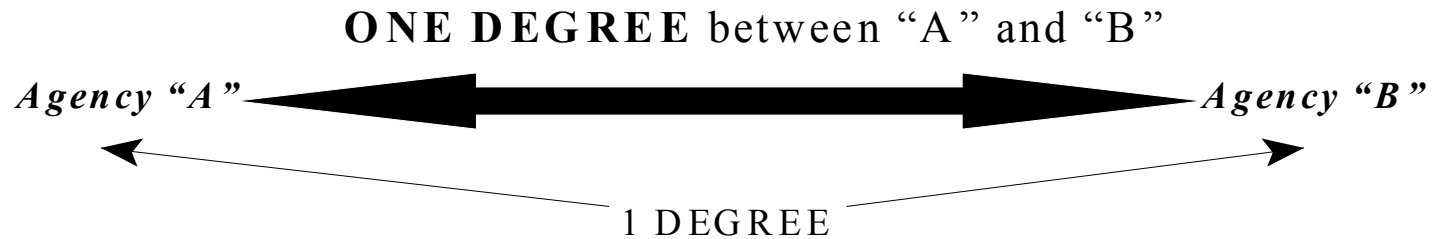


**2002**



**2003**

# Closeness of Collaborative Relationships



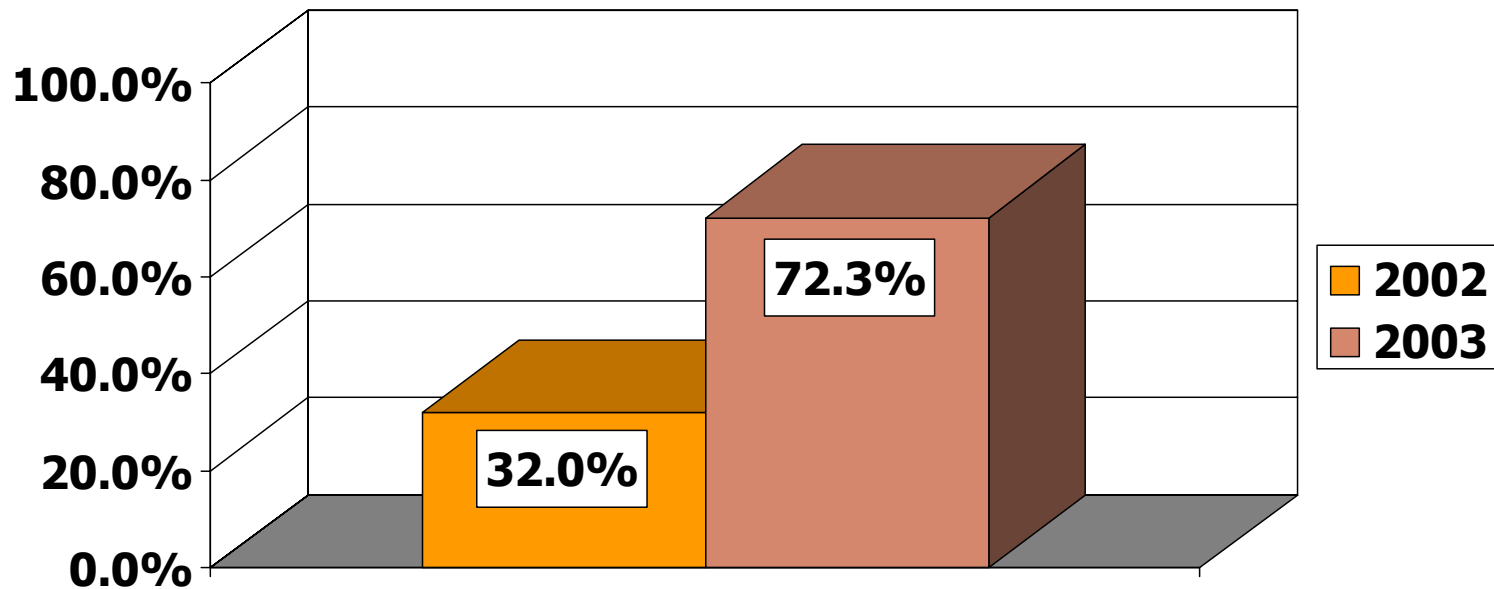


## Closeness (cont.)

- 2002: max of 3 degrees, average of approximately 2 degrees
- 2003: max of 2 degrees, average of approximately 1.5 degrees

# Density

**Figure 7. Proportion of Active Collaborative Relationships\***



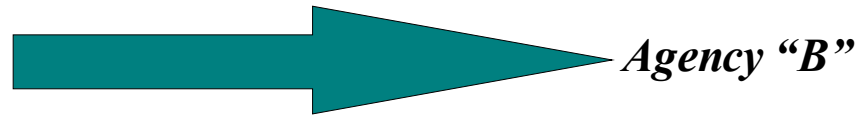
\* $p < .001$

# Outreach & Recognition

*Example #1*

**OUTREACH** to another agency:  
"A" collaborates with "B"

*Agency "A"*



*Example #2*

**RECOGNITION** by another  
agency: "B" collaborates with "A"

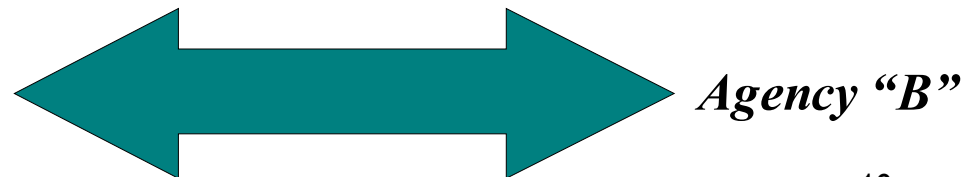
*Agency "A"*



*Example #3*

**Outreach & Recognition:**  
**RECIPROCAL** Collaboration

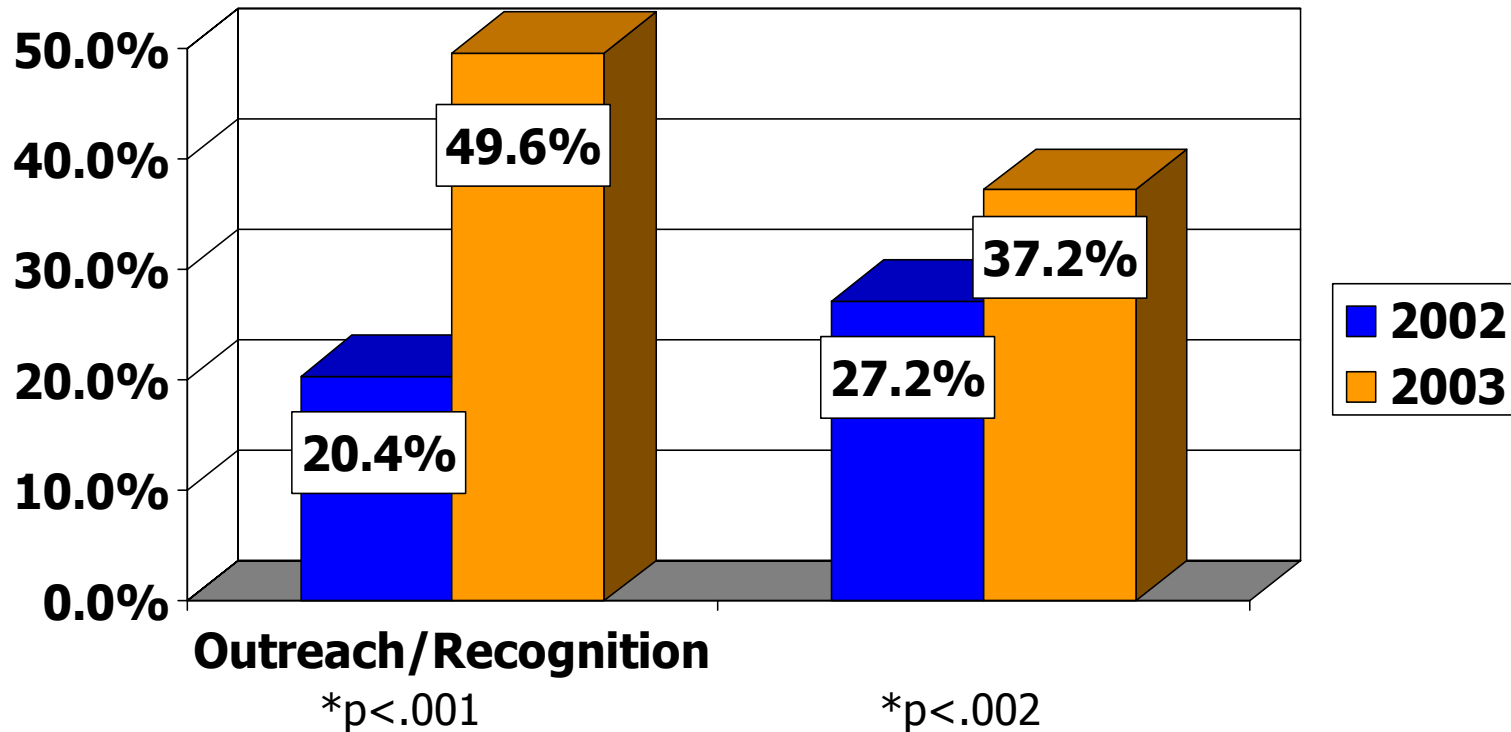
*Agency "A"*





# Outreach & Recognition

Figure 8. Outreach/Recognition & Reciprocity





# Summary of Findings: Changes over 18 months

- Several indicators of increased collaboration over 18 months
  - Increased proportion of active collaborative ties, with more reciprocal ties
  - More “close-knit” (increase in direct collaborative relationships)



## Summary of Findings: Changes over 18 months (cont.)

- Increased recognition of networking as facilitator of collaboration
- Less frequent identification of lack of resources as barrier to collaboration
- More frequent identification of lack of access to services as barrier



# Implications for the Community

- Agencies in the community can direct resources & policies to promote activities identified as facilitating collaboration:
  - networking opportunities
  - interagency meetings & trainings
  - pro-collaboration activities in which agency leadership take an active and visible role



## Implications (cont.)

- Agencies can utilize this information to advocate for resources and policies needed to address key barriers to collaboration:
  - Lack of agency resources
  - Limited client access to services



## Implications (cont.)

- Agencies can focus efforts to encourage collaboration around selected activities, based upon data.
- Agencies may find it valuable to take inventory of their collaborative partnerships, including the distribution of responsibility and resources.



## Implications (cont.)

- Continued collection of longitudinal data will provide information about the evolving collaborative network in the community.