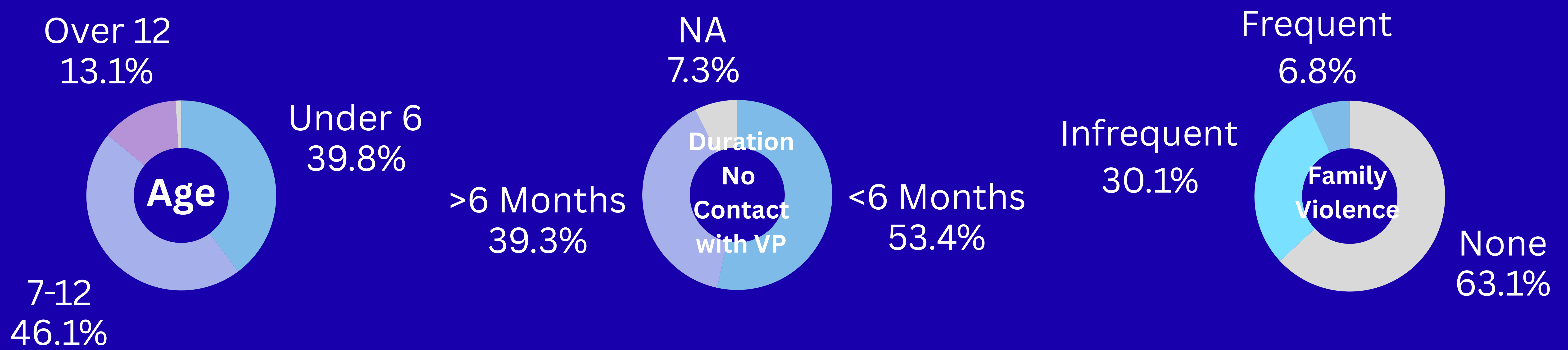


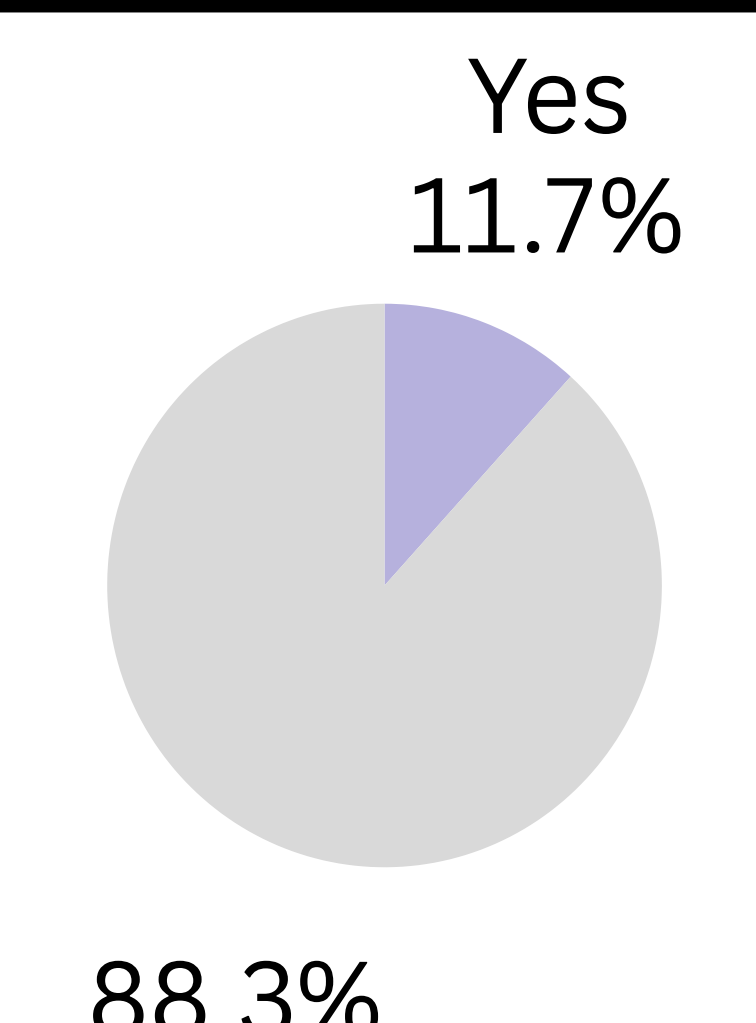
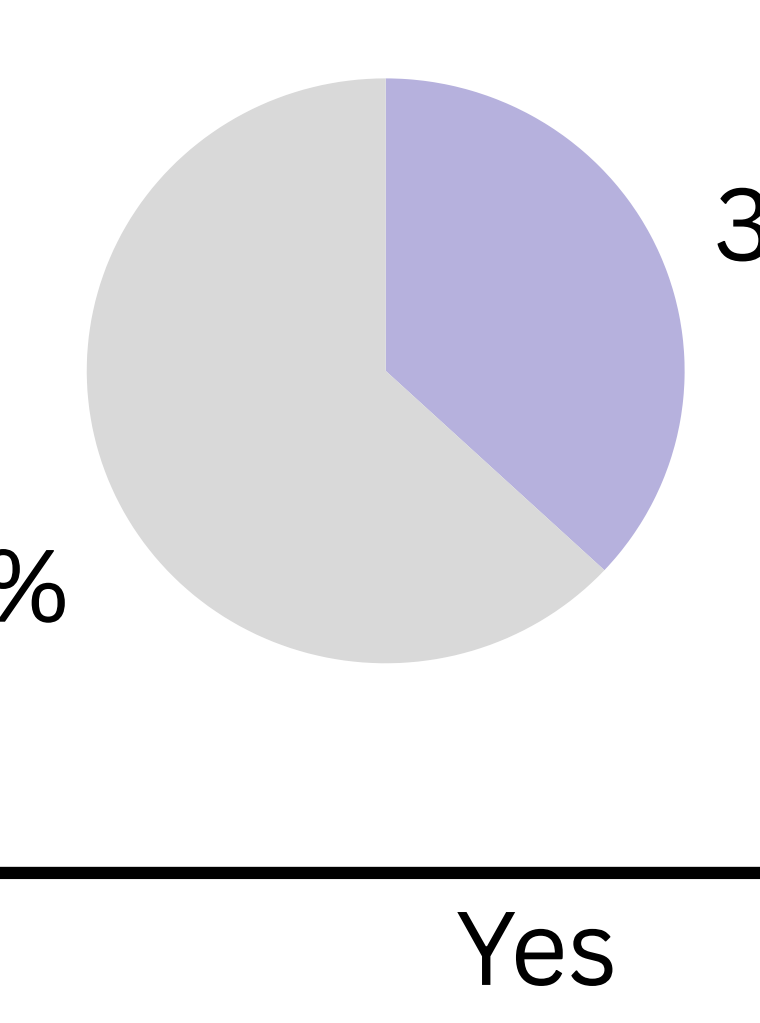
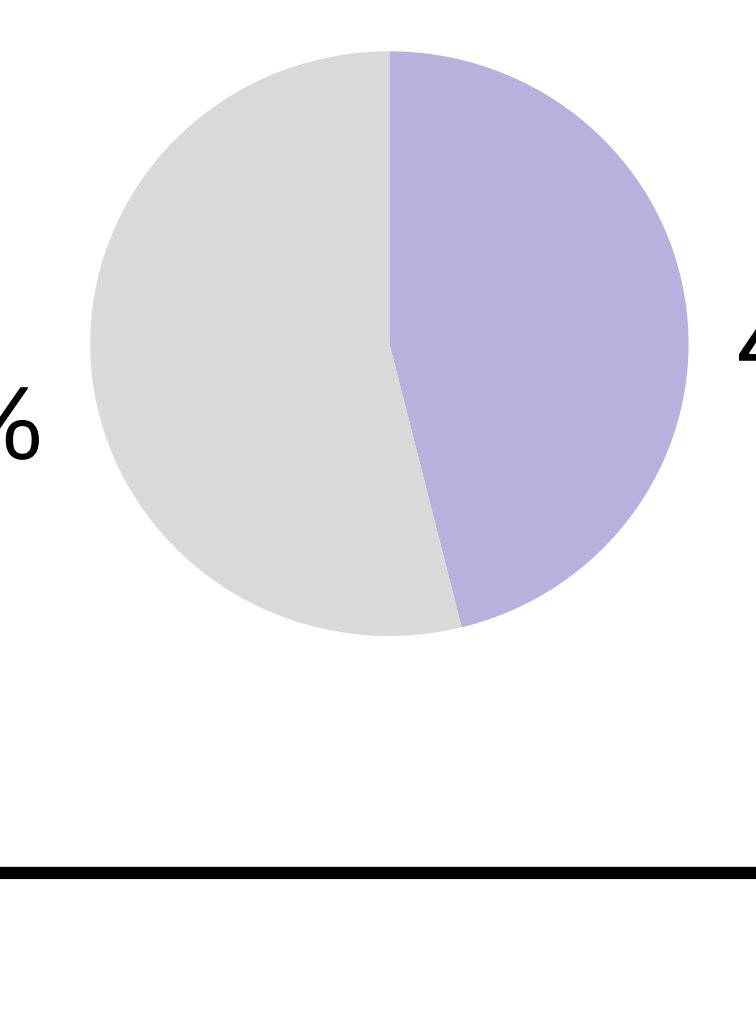
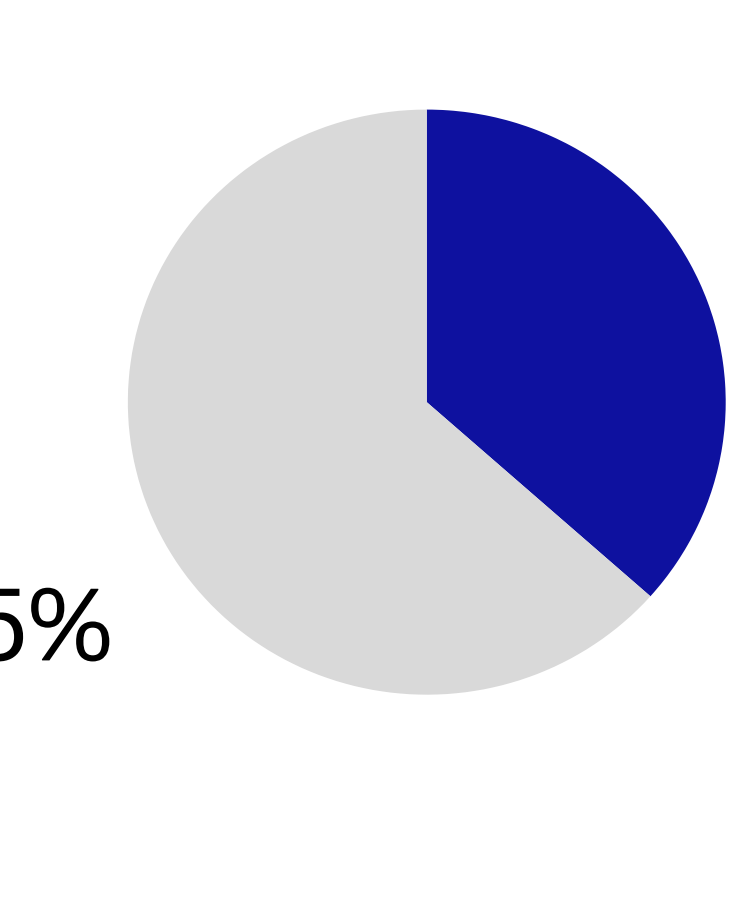
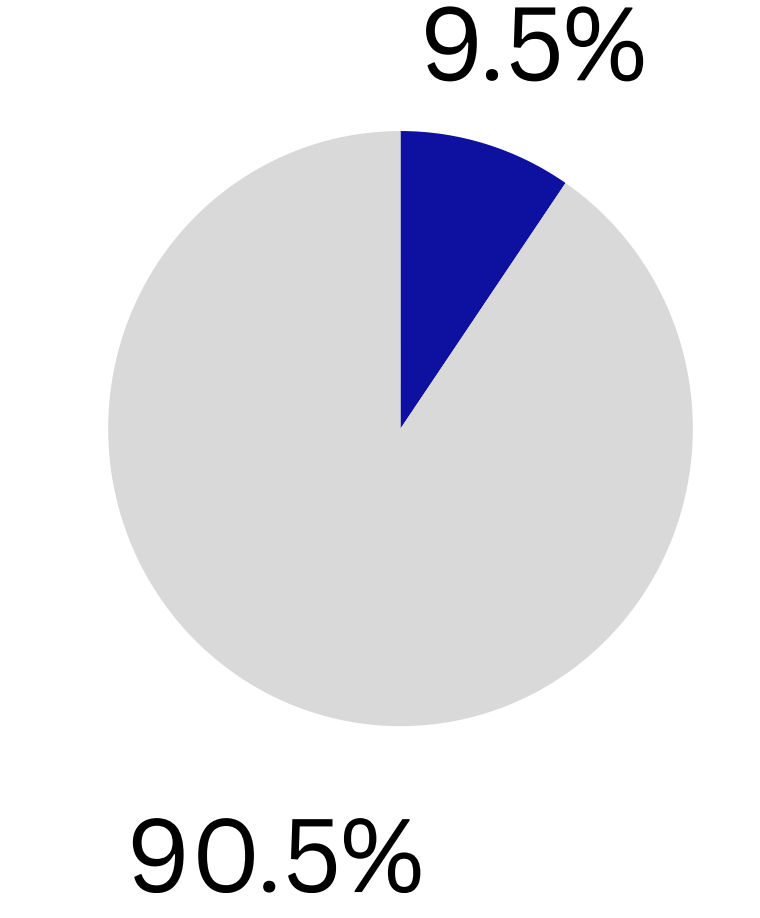
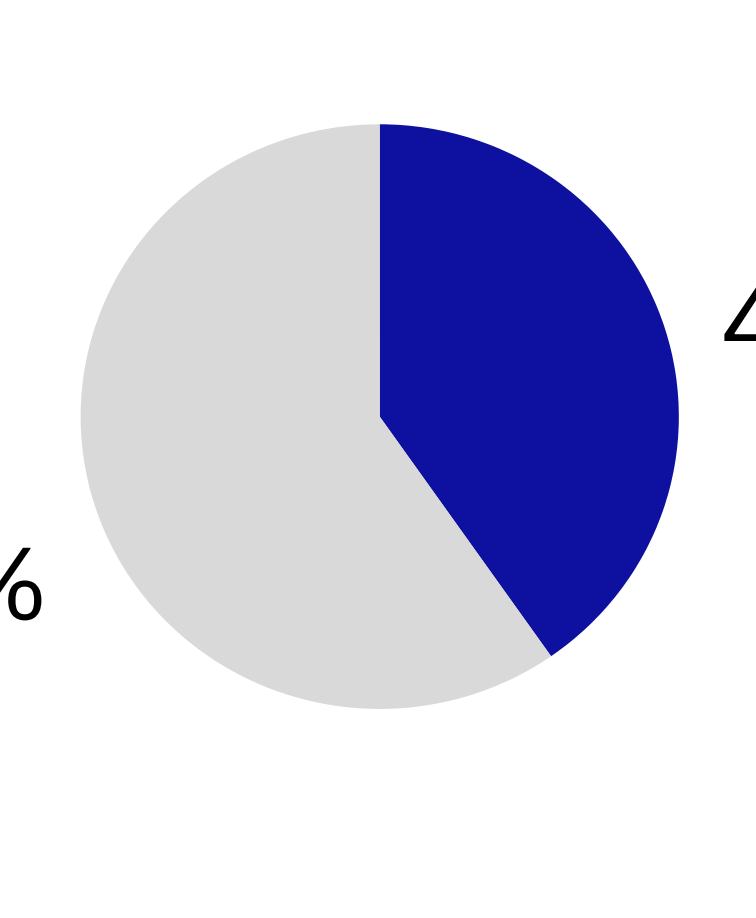
Children's internalising or externalising risk in divorce

Identifying factors linked to mental health risk in case study files by Singapore access practitioners

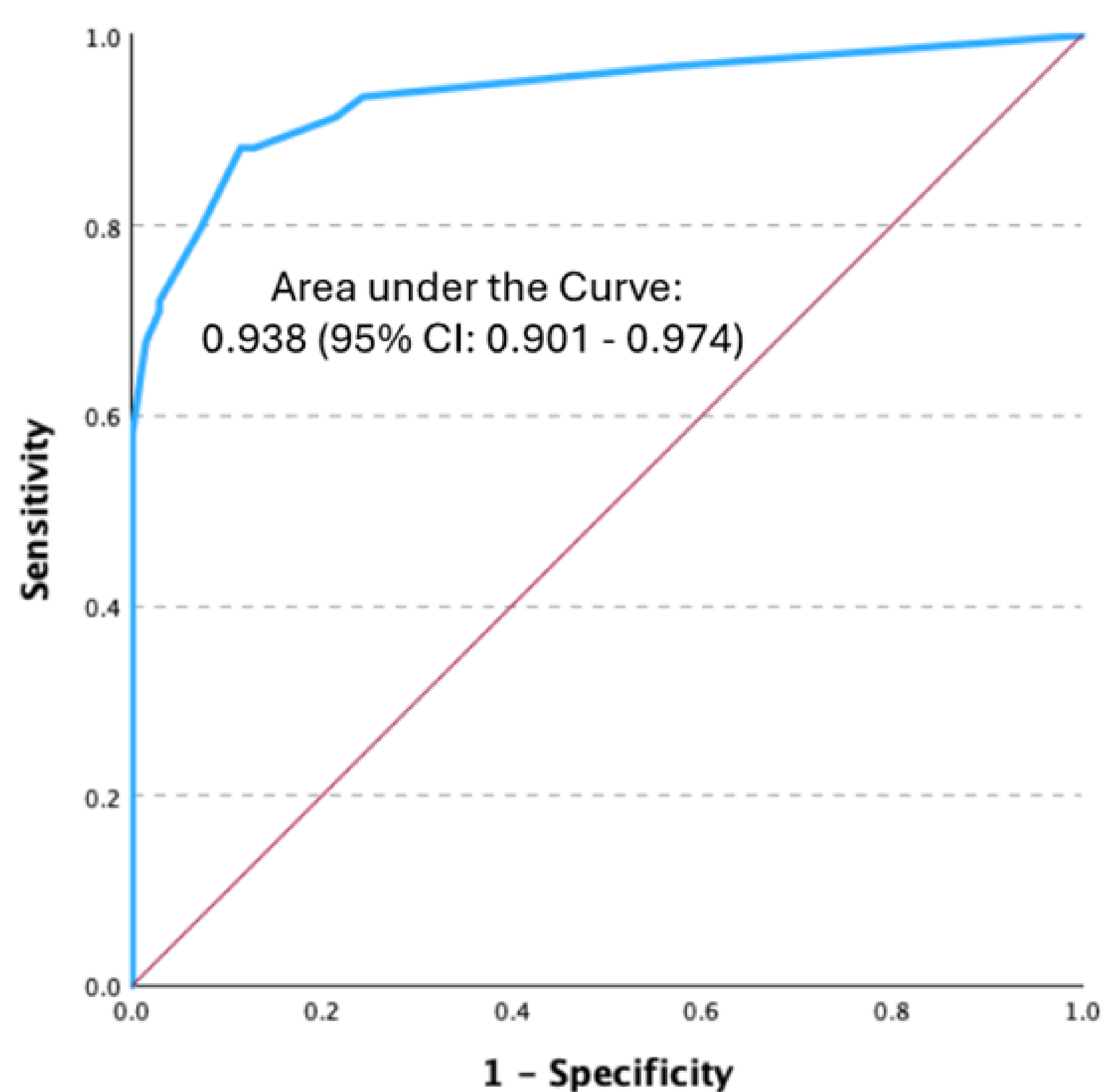
Quantitative Sample: Coding of recorded observations from **172 closed family cases from 2011 to 2017** containing observations of 206 children (48.5% Male) in access program sessions.



Found a **moderate level of agreement (54.1% $\kappa = 0.54$)** between practitioners and parents' assessment:

Mental Health Risk Incidence	Internalising Behavior	Externalising Behavior	Either Internalising or Externalising Behaviour
Parent Reported			
Practitioner Reported			

Multivariate backward stepwise logistic regression identified children's **age, absence of conversation with the VP, eagerness to return to the CP** and **risk as identified by parents** emerged as **key indicators of elevated incidence of mental health risks**



Key behavioral indicators linked to mental health risk (internalising and externalising)	OR (95% CI)	p
1) Child at risk as identified by Parent(s)	52.12 (13.58 – 199.98)	<.001*
2) Child was 7-12 years old	3.11 (1.03 – 9.45)	.045*
3) Child was >13 years old	11.44 (1.81 – 72.24)	.015*
4) Child not willing to engage in conversation with Visiting Parent	0.084 (0.028 – 0.253)	<.001*
5) Child was eager to return to care parent	21.06 (1.95 – 227.07)	<.012*

Clinical Takeways for Practitioners:

- Access practitioners managing divorce cases with children should be aware of the early signs of internalising and externalising behaviors in children.
- Ensure access programs are developmentally tailored with age-appropriate visitation environments containing suitable materials.

Policy & Practice Suggestions

- Extend programs beyond visitation logistics to include emotional regulation strategies for parents and children in high-conflict divorces.
- Consider intergrating a Risk Screening Model into existing CGO case guidelines to identify at-risk children and provide targeted support.