

2 Truths & a Lie

Inpatient Length of Stay and Outcomes Edition



True or False: Almost half of inpatients have a length of stay of 6 days or less



The average inpatient stay for patients who discharge home is 8.6 days, but 45% of patients have short or even ultra-short stays.



Ultra-Short Stay
(1-3 days)

12%



Short Stay
(4-6 days)

33%



Week+
(7 or more days)

55%

True or False: Inpatients with shorter lengths of stay have lower admission severity



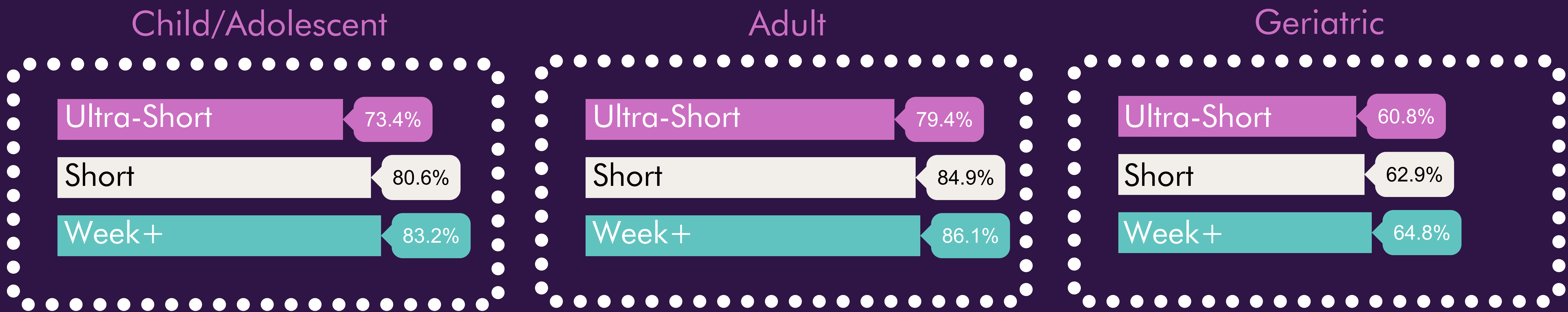
Average Admission Severity

	Ultra-Short	Short	Week+
Child/Adolescent	0.93	1.03	1.08
Adult	1.78	1.83	2.03
Geriatric	6.42	7.18	7.64

True or False: Inpatients with shorter lengths of stay do not achieve improvement in outcomes



The truth is, across all age groups, a large percentage of ultra-short and short stay patients achieve statistically meaningful improvement!



No matter a patient's length of stay, measurable improvement can be achieved.

With less room for improvement in symptom severity and fewer days to achieve it, the natural assumption is that outcomes don't matter for ultra-short and short stay patients. Data clearly show this assumption to be FALSE!

Data are for patients discharged to home with self-reported admission severity greater than zero. For all instruments used, higher scores indicate greater severity:

- Child/Adolescent: Child and Adolescent Behavior Assessment - Youth; scale of 0-3
- Adult: Behavior And Symptom Identification Scale; scale of 0-4
- Geriatric: Geriatric Depression Scale - Patient; scale of 0-15