

FROM FOSTER CARE TO JUVENILE JUSTICE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH WHO CROSS OVER IN NYC, CHICAGO, AND CLEVELAND

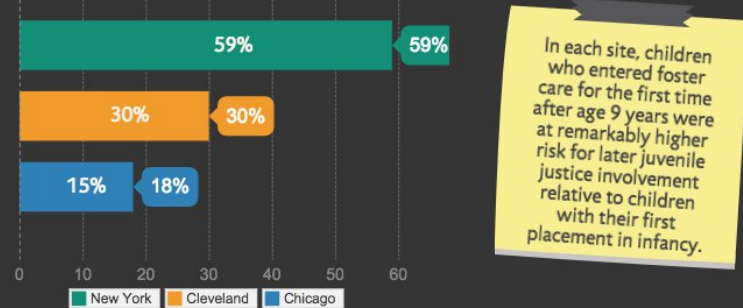
This study utilized integrated administrative data from three major urban areas to describe the proportion of children who experience foster care and later juvenile justice involvement.

Juvenile Justice Involvement Following Foster Care Placement



This confirms that that the dominate crossover pattern is one from foster care to juvenile justice, and not the converse.

Crossover Rates Dramatically Increase when Youth are Placed after Age 9



KEY TAKEAWAY

Integrated data systems (IDS) proved to be a relatively inexpensive and efficient tool that allowed each jurisdiction to understand patterns of child welfare service use over time, and its implications for later juvenile justice involvement.

Additional Study Findings

Children who experienced a greater number of foster care spells had higher risk for juvenile justice involvement

Youth placed in group care were at increased risk for later juvenile justice involvement.

Children placed as infants who experienced fewer foster care spells were less likely to become involved with the juvenile justice system later in life.

The risk of juvenile justice involvement increases as time passes for all children.

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ☆ Target children at the highest levels of risk and tailor services and policies to meet their needs.
- ☆ Increase coordination and collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice agencies to prevent or address developing behavior problems for children on pathways to juvenile justice.
- ☆ Other municipalities can replicate this study's approach to produce actionable intelligence to guide local policy and practice decision making
- ☆ Regularly use IDS to evaluate policies and programs to provide feedback on their effectiveness
- ☆ Additional data sources would allow for a more detailed understanding of risks.