A Profile of Young Children in Westchester County Foster Care

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Objective

● Create descriptive profile of young children in foster care in Westchester.

Methods

● Retrospective records review of children under 5 placed in Westchester County family foster care from 2017-2018.

● Compiled descriptive data.

● Conducted Chi-Square and McNemar’s analyses.

Descriptive Profile (N=124)

- Ethnicity: 63% AA, 23% Latx, 10% Wh
- Gender: 52% male, 48% female
- Age at Entry: 50% placed 0-11 mos
- Length of Stay: 21% 1yr, 44% 2+yrs
- Length of Stay @ RR: 10% 1yr, 25% 2+yrs

- Maternal Status: 68% MSA, 63% MMH
- Kinship Foster Care: 29%
- Dev Status: 30% 1 delay, 25% multiple delays
- Maternal Substance use and child weight (underweight): X²(1, N=63)=5.54, p=0.01
- Maternal American vs. Caucasian: X²(1, N=124)= 61.33, p=0.00
- Maternal American vs. Latinx: X²(1, N=124)= 24.63, p=0.00
- Maternal vs. child weight (underweight): X²(1, N=93)=5.54, p=0.01

Discussion & Next Steps

- Profile suggested: Infants make up at least 1/2 of the sample, LOS is higher than the national average, and developmental needs are prevalent in young children in foster care.

- Notable findings: African American children were disproportionately represented, Maternal Substance Abuse related to children’s weight when placed, and differences between EI/CPSE services pre and post placement.

- Study limitations: Limited health and psychosocial information.

- Next Steps: Continue data collection (2015-2016) and disseminate findings to DSS and family court judges.