A Retrospective Examination of Child Protection Involvement among Young Adults Receiving Homeless Services: Preliminary Findings from Linked HMIS & CWS/CMS Data…

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Harnessing the scientific potential of linked, administrative data to inform children’s programs and policies.
Growing appreciation of the relationship between childhood experiences, particularly childhood abuse and neglect and foster care placement, and risk of homelessness during young adulthood.

- Homeless adults self-report higher rates of history of maltreatment and foster care placements than the general population (Koegel et al., 1995; Winkleby et al., 1992)

- Between 11-46% of youth who age out of the foster care system experience homelessness in the years following emancipation (Dworsky & Courtney, 2010; Fowler, Toro & Miles, 2009; White, Gallegos, O’Brien, Weisberg, Pecora, & Medina, 2011; Dworsky, Napolitano, & Courtney, 2013).

Efforts to align services across these two systems has been challenging. Among a range of issues that have hindered the coordination of public programs across sectors, certainly one is the absence of data which would allow for an understanding of when, where, and for whom these cross-system interactions may be most salient.
Objective

- Limited epidemiological data available from which we can ascertain how many clients served by homeless services have a history of child protective service involvement.

- These data are needed so that we can:
  1. Document the cross-system involvement of vulnerable youth in California.
  2. Monitor trends and evaluate the efficacy of prevention and intervention efforts.
  3. Develop programs that are responsive to what may be unique service support needs for homeless individuals who have been maltreated or were in foster care.
Data

Statewide Child Protection Records (CWS/CMS)

reported for alleged maltreatment in California

abused or neglected, but never reported

18-24yr old youth receiving homeless services in SF between 2011-2014

reported for alleged maltreatment in California

involved with child protection outside of California

homeless, but not receiving services

receiving homeless support services, but not in SF County

SF County Homeless Service Records (HMIS)

involved with child protection outside of California
Record Excerpts

- **CWS/CMS (Q3 2014 extract):** 1,546,558 maltreatment reports involving unique individuals born between 1989-1996 and reported for maltreatment after 1998 (*left-censored observations due to new system*).

- **SF HMIS (Sept. 2014 extract):** 3,704 homeless service records involving unique individuals born between 1989-1996 and with a homeless program service encounter between 2011-2014 (*significant within datasets de-duplication required to arrive at a unique client list*).
Data Processing

Files Prepped
Defined universe of CWS/CMS & HMIS records extracted, cleaned, standardized, coded on non-networked workstation.

Probabilistic Linkages
Initial probabilistic models tested using different blocking and matching variables. Algorithms used to establish record pairs.

Clerical Review

Dataset De-identified
Matched records exported, stripped of identifiers and re-integrated with analytic service variables

Analysis
Descriptive and multivariable analyses conducted using Stata MP (v.14) on secure university server.
Questions

How many children reported for maltreatment and/or in foster care later use homeless services?

Statewide / California Child Welfare Records

How many young adults accessing homeless support services have a history of child protection involvement?

San Francisco HMIS Records

Children’s Data Network
Preliminary Findings: Demographics*

- Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...
  - 3,704 young adults served
  - 51% female, 48% male, <1% transgender
  - 41% black, 25% Hispanic, 16% white, 17% other/missing

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Preliminary Findings: Child Protection History*

Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...

- **55% (n=1,863)** had at least one allegation of childhood maltreatment
- **32% (n=1,096)** had been formally substantiated as a childhood victim of maltreatment
- **23% (n=773)** had spent time in out-of-home foster

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Preliminary Findings: Child Protection History*

Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...

- 18% (n=614) had been reported at least once for alleged sexual abuse
- 32% (n=1,087) had been reported at least once for alleged physical abuse
- 41% (n=1,387) had been reported at least once for alleged neglect

(children reported for two or more types of maltreatment will appear more than once above)

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Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014 who **ALSO** had a history of reported maltreatment...

**Preliminary Findings:**

*Cross-county data*

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18-24 year old young adults receiving homeless services in SF County:
History of First Reported Maltreatment by County
Preliminary Findings: Foster Care Placements*

Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014 AND who had a foster care history...

- 33% (n=249) had a last placement in a group home
- 31% (n=242) had a last placement in a non-kin foster home
- 26% (n=200) had a last placement with kin

(last known foster care placement type is reported above)

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In Preparation…

- Examination of demographic differences among homeless youth based on child protection history
- Examination of differences in the nature of homeless service engagement and program types based on a child protection history
- Examination of out-of-county foster care placements
- Additional geographic examinations of cross-county service patterns
Questions?

www.datanetwork.org
http://www.sfhsa.org/

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