

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System Involvement



While the nexus between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems is not a new phenomenon, there is limited cross-system collaboration to provide youth and families with the services they need. Youth with histories of childhood maltreatment and Child Protective Services intervention are at a heightened risk of serious or violent delinquency. Recent studies suggest that **at least 50% of youth who are in the juvenile justice system have touched the child welfare system at some point** in their lives.



618,399

youth were found to be **victims of maltreatment in FY 2020.**

216,838

youth **entered the foster care system in FY 2020.**

50% or more

of youth in foster care, by age 17, have **experienced an arrest, conviction, or overnight stay in a correctional facility.**

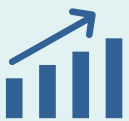
Risk Factors and Disparities



LGBTQIA+ youth experience higher rates of foster care placement than their non-LGBTQIA+ peers in the general population, often due to family rejection or maltreatment.



Housing instability (e.g., eviction, living doubled up, shelter stays) is a **common catalyst for the foster care placements** of youth from low-income families.



Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children are overrepresented in state foster care systems nationwide, relative to their respective representations in the general child population.



Chronic, cumulative trauma histories are common among foster care youth; childhood trauma exposure also heightens the risk of aggressive behavior, hyper-arousal, and **system involvement among youth.**

Key Federal Programs

Title E-IV Foster Care

Through the Title IV-E Foster Care Program, the Children's Bureau supports states and participating territories and tribes to provide out-of-home care for children and youth until they are safely returned home, placed permanently with adoptive families or legal guardians, or placed in other planned arrangements for permanency.

John H. Chafee Foster Care for Successful Transition to Adulthood

The John H. Chafee Foster Care for Successful Transition to Adulthood offers assistance to help both current and former foster care youth (e.g., youth who have voluntarily exited or "aged out") achieve self-sufficiency in such areas as housing, education, and employment.

Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

The Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV) makes vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year available to young adults coming from foster care to support their costs of pursuing higher education.

Crossover youth have been both victims of maltreatment and engaged in delinquent acts.

Dual status youth have entered, at some point, both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

State and Regional Spotlights



1

North Dakota convened an interagency **Dual-Status Youth Initiative** to explore how to mitigate crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; more effectively serve youth who touch both systems; and use research to inform change to better serve youth and families.

2

Los Angeles County uses a statutorily-defined **pre-trial multi-disciplinary team meeting** (MDT) protocol for dual status youth. The goal is for cross-system stakeholders to jointly determine strategies for mitigating further youth involvement with delinquency systems.

3

The New York City Administration of Children's Services has adopted its own **cross-system practice model** that allows agencies working with youth who touch both systems to share information and collaborate.

Promising Approaches

The **Systems Integration Initiative** (SII) model helps jurisdictions plan for the development of coordinated, and integrated juvenile justice and child welfare systems. This includes support for collaborative program development, integrated management information systems, cross-system delivery, and blended funding.

The **Crossover Youth Practice Model** (CYPM) scaffolds the development of research-driven policies and practices that reflect how courts, mental health professionals, and probation officers should collaborate to improve outcomes for youth who touch both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform developed CYPM in 2010; it has since been implemented in 23 states across the U.S.

Family Centered Engagement (FCE) is designed to bring together family members and those with close relationships to dual-status youth. The goals of FCE include jointly assessing families' risks, needs, and strengths; determining if out-of-home placement is necessary and/or appropriate; and engaging families and youth in services to mitigate further involvement in juvenile court systems.

Coordinated Case Planning requires child welfare and juvenile justice staff to communicate the content of their respective case plans, identify gaps or redundancies, and become aware of requirements with which dual system youth and their families must contend. The objective is to develop one integrated case plan between agencies, in a collaborative and ongoing manner.

Featured Resources

[CJJR Multi-System Integration Certificate Program](#)

[National Institute of Justice: Dual System Youth](#)

[RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice: Dual-Status Youth TA Workbook](#)

[Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#)



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