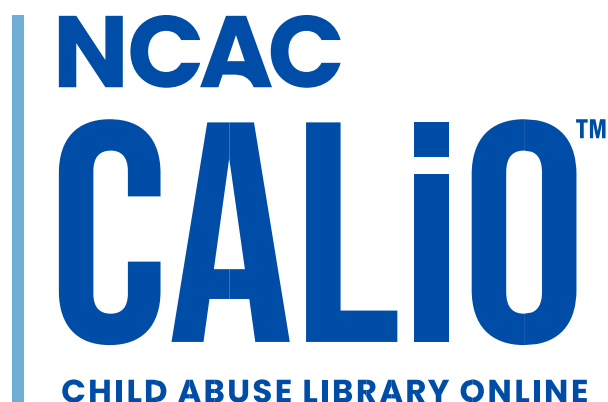




Dual System Youth

A Bibliography

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**Championing and Strengthening the
Global Response to Child Abuse**

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Scope

This bibliography lists publications covering a wide variety of issues related to children and youth who are simultaneously involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This vulnerable population is often referred to as Dual System, Dual Status, or Crossover Youth.

Organization

Publications include articles, book chapters, reports, and research briefs and are arranged in date descending order. Links are provided to full text publications when possible. However, this collection may not be complete. More information can be obtained in CALiO™, the Child Abuse Library Online.

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Dual System Youth

A Bibliography

Couture, S., Villeneuve, M. P., Hélie, S., Durette, M., & Lemieux, A. (2026). The association between type of maltreatment and placement instability: The influence of runaway and dual system involvement. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 19(1), 223–233. DOI:10.1007/s40653-025-00761-7

One of the challenges in the intervention with adolescents placed in residential care centers is to provide a stable placement. Interventions must take maltreatment experiences into account as these experiences could increase behavioral problems, such as delinquent behaviors and runaways, and possibly lead to more instability/change in placements. The current study explores whether the association between type of maltreatment (emotional, physical or sexual abuse, emotional or physical neglect) and placement instability (number of moves and environments) can be explained by the frequency of runaways and the presence of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Mediation models using self-reported and administrative data from 175 males aged 15 to 17 years placed in a residential care center under the Youth Protection Act were tested via Structural Equation Modeling. Results indicate that the association between emotional neglect severity and placement instability is explained by runaway. Interventions with adolescents presenting a history of emotional neglect, should focus on preventing runaways to reduce placement instability.

Kurpiel, A., Jones, D. M., Connell, C. M., & Font, S. A. (2026). [Is concurrent child welfare intervention associated with recurrent juvenile justice contact? Evidence from Pennsylvania](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 175, 108016. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2026.108016

Previous research has documented a relationship between child welfare system (CWS) involvement and juvenile justice system (JJS) involvement. However, research has not sufficiently examined how the nature of CWS involvement that occurs concurrently with initial JJS contact influences continued JJS involvement. This study aimed to determine

how different types of CWS involvement experienced concurrently with an initial JJS disposition affect recurrent JJS contact relative to nonconcurrent involvement among a cohort of dual system youth. Using linked administrative data from Pennsylvania ($N = 10,554$), we used flexible parametric survival models to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) predicting the risk of a new JJS referral within 3 years of an initial JJS referral. Relative to nonconcurrent CWS involvement, placement in a foster home, kinship care, or group home at the time of initial JJS involvement was associated with reduced risk of recurrent JJS contact among males & youth with mental health disorders. In-home CWS services were not associated with reduced risk of recurrent JJS involvement relative to nonconcurrent involvement. Reducing the use of noninstitutional forms of out-of-home care, including group homes, may not benefit dual system youth absent substantial improvements to alternative service responses. Practice reforms that increase timely identification of youth mental health service needs and expand direct provision of CWS services to youth warrant consideration.

Magalhães, E., Park, K., d'Eça, L., & Brazão, N. (2026). Dual system involvement: A scoping review on the intersection of child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 178, 108147. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2026.108147

Youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems represent a highly vulnerable population facing overlapping adversities and complex mental health needs. It is therefore critical to synthesize existing research in ways that inform further research, practice, & policy. This scoping review maps research on dual-system involvement (DSI) and identifies areas requiring further investigation, with particular attention to population characteristics across ecological systems, contributing factors, and youth challenges. A comprehensive literature search was conducted in April 2025 across Web of Science, Scopus, EBSCO, ProQuest Central, and APA PsycArticles. Inclusion criteria comprised peer-reviewed empirical studies published in English, Portuguese, French or Spanish. This criterion enhances the ecological validity of the review by acknowledging socio-cultural

influences. Study selection & screening followed PRISMA-ScR guidelines. A total of 51 studies met the inclusion criteria, conducted in English-speaking countries (United States, Australia, Canada), which may reflect differences in system structures. Most studies examined individual-level characteristics (race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age), with youth histories of trauma & maltreatment commonly reported. Macrosystemic factors received limited attention, although socioeconomic disadvantage emerged as a key risk factor for DSI. Youth challenges most frequently addressed mental & behavioral health, followed by academic support & housing stability. Current research on DSI remains largely framed through a pathogenic lens, with limited attention to strengths-based approaches. Future research should adopt intersectional, ecological, & strengths-focused perspectives across diverse contexts to better inform policy and practice.

Blakemore, T., Rayment-McHugh, S., Menzies, K., Randall, E., Rak, L., Harris, M. K., & McCarthy, S. (2025). [Now.see.hear!: A visual conversation tool for trauma-informed practice with justice-involved youth](#). *Australian Social Work*, 78(4), 429–441. DOI:10.1080/0312407X.2025.2517611

This article introduces Now.See.Hear!(NSH!), an innovative visual conversation tool for trauma-informed practice with justice-involved youth. Developed through a collaborative process involving practitioners, researchers, and young people, NSH! addresses gaps in existing trauma assessment tools by providing a developmentally appropriate, engaging method for understanding young people's experiences that prioritises cultural safety. The tool comprises photo cards, conversation prompts, and a reflective conversation map. Initial testing with 235 culturally diverse participants across various settings indicates high acceptability and potential utility in youth justice contexts. Now.See.Hear! offers a promising approach for enhancing trauma-informed practice and improving engagement with justice-involved youth.

Cutbush Starseed, S., Kluckman, M., Tueller, S., Yu, L., & Scaggs, S. (2025). Verified human trafficking allegations among single and dual system-involved children: Predicting initial and repeat victimization. *Child Maltreatment*, 30(3), 460–472. DOI:10.1177/10775595241302058

There is a dearth of research examining repeat human trafficking victimization among children involved with the child welfare system (i.e., single system involvement) and children involved with both the child welfare & juvenile justice systems (i.e., dual system involvement). This study uses longitudinal statewide linked administrative data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to investigate initial and subsequent verified human trafficking allegations among single & dual system-involved children. We conducted logistic regression models to identify youth characteristics, prior DCF experiences, and prior DJJ experiences that predict initial & subsequent trafficking victimization. We also conducted survival analysis to identify time until human trafficking victimization & revictimization. Prior maltreatment, placement history, missing child events, referral without adjudication, community supervision, & residential facility placement predict initial trafficking victimization. These same indicators predict revictimization, except for prior placement history, residential facility commitment, prior physical abuse & prior sexual abuse. Approximately 1 in 5 child victims experience trafficking revictimization and the median time between initial and subsequent revictimization is about 6 months.

Eastman, A. L., Park, K., Herz, D., Dierkhising, C. B., McCroskey, J., & Guo, L. (2025). [Contact with foster care and the juvenile delinquency court: A prospective examination from birth through age 18](#). *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 42(3), 375–388. DOI:10.1007/s10560-024-00964-1

Research has demonstrated a link between out-of-home foster care and subsequent juvenile justice involvement. Understanding factors that may contribute to dual system involvement for young people who entered foster care is essential for disrupting this relationship. We used population-based linked administrative records to examine the

prevalence of juvenile delinquency court petitions among individuals placed in out-of-home foster care in Los Angeles County from birth to age 18. By integrating records from child welfare and probation, this analysis of individuals born between 1998 and 2001 and who lived in the county's out-of-home foster care system ($N = 29,434$) showed that 2,554 (8.7%) had encountered a juvenile delinquency court petition prior to turning 18. Regression results showed an increased rate of dual system involvement among young people in foster care who experienced unstable living conditions, periods of absence from care, commercial sexual exploitation, or group homes. Instability in living situations (staying in care for more than a year, with three or more homes or placements) and history of group home care were significantly associated with a heightened rate of dual system involvement. As shown in the gender-stratified models, the magnitude of associations between dual system involvement and foster care experiences differed by gender. The current study aligns with prior studies showing a relationship between residential instability and group homes to subsequent delinquency court involvement. Findings set a baseline so future work can explore if policies aiming to reduce reliance on group care are associated with changes in the likelihood of dual system involvement.

Gillespie, M. L., Fessinger, M. B., Beardslee, J., Randolph, I., Smith, C., IV, & Cauffman, E. (2025). [Differences in detection: Offending and descriptive profiles of boys with juvenile justice system and dual child welfare system contact](#). *Journal of Criminology*, 58(4), 608–628. DOI:10.1177/26338076251333150

We leveraged administrative & self-report data to compare male youth involved in the juvenile justice system (Juvenile-Justice-only (JJ) youth) and who were additionally involved with the child welfare system (Dual-System (DS) youth) in Orange County, California. Data were available for 532 youth (346 JJ youth, 186 DS youth). Analyses examined differences in individual factors, contextual factors, and offending behaviour before and at age 18. Although DS youth had more arrests before age 18 compared to JJ youth, the groups did not differ on self-reported offending & other factors (mental health,

substance use, neighbourhood disadvantage, peer delinquency). Moreover, these higher arrest rates were significant even after controlling for self-reported offending & exposure to violence. Thus, results isolate child welfare involvement as uniquely linked to a greater risk for arrest. Data expands existing knowledge on high-risk youth populations who have involvement in one or more systems of care. Discussion includes implications for researchers and practitioners, including the importance of combining self-report and administrative data to distinguish between the detection of behaviour within a system (e.g., arrest) from the behaviour itself (e.g., offending).

Herz, D. C., Eastman, A. L., Suthar, H., & McCroskey, J. (2025). [Exploring child welfare pathways and dual system involvement](#). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 98, 102421. DOI:10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102421

This study used sequence analysis to explore whether the timing and nature of child protective services (CPS) experiences led to CPS pathways & differential rates of juvenile justice involvement (i.e. dual system involvement). Retrospective cohorts of young people born between 1998 & 2001 and involved with CPS in Los Angeles County between birth and 18 were identified. Subsequent DSI was measured using linked administrative data from probation. Sequence analysis was applied prospectively to analyze how CPS experiences manifested into CPS pathways. Four CPS pathways were produced: Early Exit Pathway; Childhood Limited Pathway; Adolescent Pathway; and Persistent Pathway. The DSI rate was 5.0 %; however, DSI rates varied across pathways. The lowest rate was found for the Early Exit Pathway, and highest rate was for the Persistent Pathway. All pathways had increased likelihoods for DSI compared to the Early Exit Pathway, but the Persistent Pathway had largest likelihood increase. Youth with persistent CPS involvement had the highest likelihood of DSI while those in the Adolescent Pathway accounted for the largest share of DSI. Findings highlight the importance of developmentally tailored strategies that respond to the timing of CPS involvement to reduce DSI.

Moriarty, A., Papalia, N., Spivak, B., Ali, M. M., Luebbers, S., & Shepherd, S. (2025). [Exploring factors associated with chronic and serious offending in detained dual system youth](#). *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 31(8), 915–937. DOI:10.1080/1068316X.2024.2318377

Young people who have both child protection and youth justice contact have been termed 'dual system youth'. Dual system youth have been found to engage in more frequent and serious offending than justice-involved youth without child protection histories. It is unclear which psychological factors contribute to offending amongst dual-system youth. This study aimed to examine associations between child protection involvement, psychological/behavioural factors, and justice system involvement. The sample comprised 192 young people detained in juvenile correctional centres across two sites in Victoria, Australia between July 2011 and June 2012. Instruments were administered to gauge psychopathology and behaviour, while information regarding demographic details, child protection history, and offence data were obtained from client files. Results indicated that having a child protection history was associated with having both a violent index offence and a higher number of previous orders. Sensitivity to anger was also associated with having a violent index offence, while being male and aged 17–18 were associated with a higher number of previous orders. Child protection history moderated the relationship between Indigenous status and the number of prior orders, and between externalising symptoms and prior orders. Implications for clinical practice and future research are discussed.

Thompson, C., Hurren, E., Ogilvie, J., Broidy, L., Sapkota, D., Allard, T., Haaja, J., Crissman, B., Little, S., Chrzanowski, A., & Dennison, S. (2025). [Criminal justice system involvement across adolescence and early adulthood: Elucidating the high-risk features of child protection and mental health system contacts and characteristics](#). *Journal of Criminology*, 58(4), 643–661. DOI:10.1177/26338076251381647

This study fills existing knowledge gaps by examining the links between Child Protection System (CPS) notifications and Criminal Justice System (CJS) contacts into young

adulthood, with consideration of both lifetime Mental Health (MH) system contacts and the characteristics of CPS contacts (including Out-Of-Home Care [OOHC]). We utilised state-wide longitudinal linked administrative data for all individuals registered as born in Queensland, Australia in 1990. Data include all CPS notifications & periods of OOHC, all official offending contacts from age 10 to 24 years (police cautions, proven offences in court, detention/incarceration), and MH contacts between ages 4-24 years. Findings extend understanding of the complexity of CPS-CJS links. While many CPS-involved individuals remain free of CJS involvement, findings elucidate especially high-risk features of child maltreatment experiences- adolescent & persistent maltreatment, neglect, OOHC experienced ≥ 10 years of age, and comorbid CPS and MH contact. Though the CPS-CJS link was especially pronounced for youth offending, increased risk for adult-onset offending was also evident. Results support cross-sector holistic care for maltreated individuals, trauma-informed responses within detention & correctional practices, and increased intervention & support for adolescents in OOHC. These results provide a reminder that intervention should occur early in a problematic pathway.

Wingert, A. C., Lehmann, P. S., & Azimi, A. M. (2025). The intersection of formal labeling and child maltreatment in young adult offending. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 98, 102404. DOI:10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102404

Corresponding with the expectations of labeling theory, much scholarship has observed that justice system contact and exclusionary school punishments can have long-term criminogenic consequences. However, limited work has examined family-related factors that might moderate the effects of formal labeling events. Exposure to abuse & neglect during childhood represents a key risk factor for offending, but it also is theoretically plausible that child maltreatment can operate as an informal label that further amplifies the crime-producing effects of official interventions. We use data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health to assess (1) the independent effects of formal labeling in adolescence & child maltreatment on self-reported offending

in young adulthood and (2) whether child maltreatment moderates the effects of formal labels. We find that arrest, juvenile court adjudication, expulsion from school, and child maltreatment are independently and positively related to young adult offending. Additionally, the effects of arrest & adjudication, but not school discipline, are strengthened by exposure to child maltreatment. Through the lens of labeling theory, the results suggest that child maltreatment may operate as a type of informal labeling mechanism that aggravates the disadvantages associated with justice system contact.

Ball, R., Baidawi, S., & FitzGerald, A. (2024). [Approaches for supporting youth dually involved in child protection and youth justice systems: An international policy analysis](#). *Journal of Criminology*, 57(4), 445–468. DOI:10.1177/26338076241247856

The high representation of children involved across both child protection and youth justice systems remains a pressing concern. Contributing factors include unnecessary police intervention for behavioural difficulties in residential care, and deficient systems integration between child protection and youth justice. In the past 15–20 years, policy reforms have aimed to prevent and address this concern across jurisdictions such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The study offers an updated review and analysis of these policies, targeting researchers, policymakers, & practitioners in the field. Examination of selected available policies identified four main strategies utilised: joint practice protocols, policies aimed at reducing the criminalisation of children in out-of-home care, crossover court lists, and specialised practice models like the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). There is promising evidence for some approaches, notably the CYPM, however, most suffer from a lack of implementation & outcomes evaluation, insufficient diversity considerations, and minimal inclusion of lived experience in design & implementation. Findings suggest future policy reforms should prioritise the development of whole-of-government strategies, involve children's perspectives, emphasize prevention, multi-agency collaboration, ongoing support for implementation, and rigorous evaluation.

Boatswain-Kyte, A., Hélie, S., & Royer, M. N. (2024). A critical examination of youth service trajectories: Black children's transition from child welfare to youth justice. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 157, 107411. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107411

In Canada, and more specifically Quebec, little research exists regarding Black children's exits from the child welfare system (CWS) and subsequent involvement under the youth criminal justice system. This study uses longitudinal clinical administrative data to examine racial differences in youth justice involvement among maltreated youth and adolescents. Our sample cohort is based on the child welfare records of 7592 children who were first referred for ongoing child welfare services between January 1st, 2007, and December 31st, 2017. Cox proportional hazard model was used to investigate the associations between youth justice involvement and various predictor variables. From our cohort, 12.7% of children had youth justice involvement after having committed an offence under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA). Child and social risk factors found to predict youth justice involvement included age at the initial child welfare investigation, sex, language, and race. First-generation immigrant youth were less likely to transition to youth justice. Regarding CWS case characteristics, source of the child welfare report, investigations for behavioural disturbance, placement instability and placement in a rehabilitation centre also predicted youth justice involvement. Longer duration of CWS involvement was found to decrease the likelihood of youth justice involvement. These findings raise important implications for critically examining racial disparity in Quebec.

Eastman, A. L., Herz, D. C., Palmer, L., & McCroskey, J. (2024). [Comparing maltreatment experiences for young people with child protection or dual system involvement](#). *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 41(5), 747–753. DOI:10.1007/s10560-023-00918-z

This study examined how single & multiple types of maltreatment allegations differed for young people with child protective services (CPS) only and dual system (CPS & juvenile delinquency court petition) involvement by gender, race and ethnicity. Allegation types were documented for young people with CPS only or dual system involvement using

linked CPS and Probation records for Los Angeles County for a cohort of children born between 1998 and 2001 with a history of at least one CPS maltreatment investigation between birth and age 18. The CPS only and dual system groups were compared using chi-square tests, and a generalized linear model was constructed to assess the relationship between key variables and dual system involvement. Two thirds of young people with dual system involvement (68.2%) experienced two or more allegation types, compared with less than half of young people with CPS involvement only (46.0%). More than three quarters of girls (77.1%) and Black young people (75.3%) with dual system involvement experienced multiple types of maltreatment. 11% of young people with only CPS involvement experienced sexual abuse with another maltreatment type, compared to 22.7% of young people with dual system involvement and 38.6% of girls with dual system involvement. The findings highlight the complex CPS histories of young people with dual system involvement, especially among girls and Black young people. These findings should facilitate discussion of gender-responsive services for young people with traumatic sexual experiences, given the frequency of sexual abuse allegations among girls with dual system involvement.

Keels, M. (2024). [Responding to the trauma that is endemic to the criminal legal system: Many opportunities for juvenile prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation.](#) *Annual Review of Criminology*, 7(1), 329–355. DOI:10.1146/annurev-criminol-022222-040148

There is increasing pressure for the juvenile criminal legal system to address trauma; this is in response to advances in the science of trauma& adversity, evidence from interventions showing promising outcomes for juveniles coping with trauma, and development of systemic frameworks for providing trauma-informed care. This review details how exposure to potentially traumatic events can create primary, secondary, and tertiary effects that are relevant to how the criminal legal system engages with juveniles coping with trauma. Associations that could be dismissed on methodological challenges

can no longer be ignored as an increasingly sophisticated body of prospective studies replicate previous cross-sectional & retrospective studies, which found a higher prevalence of trauma among system-involved juveniles and show that exposure to potentially traumatic events & trauma symptoms play causal roles in engaging in behaviors that can be classified as criminal offending. Additionally, several examples are used to illustrate how racialized exposure to systemic trauma across generations underlies racialized disparities in persistent criminal offending—overexposure to potentially traumatic events and underexposure to coping resources. A broad range of developmental and criminological research is drawn upon to provide frameworks for implementing trauma-informed care as a systemic intervention aimed at minimizing retraumatization and using every interaction that juveniles have with the criminal legal system to contribute to recovery and prevent recidivism.

Tzoumakis, S., Whitten, T., Laurens, K. R., Dean, K., Harris, F., Carr, V. J., & Green, M. J. (2024). [Levels of involvement with child protection services associated with early adolescent police contact as a victim and person of interest](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 39(11-12), 2708–2732. DOI:10.1177/08862605231223468

The relationship between childhood maltreatment and subsequent offending/victimization is well established. However, the magnitude of this relationship for different levels of child protection services (CPS) involvement is poorly understood, due to measurement issues, lack of longitudinal data, and reliance on reports of substantiated maltreatment, which can underestimate the impact of maltreatment. This study examined associations between CPS involvement during childhood (ages 0 to <11 years) and police services contact (as a victim and/or a person of interest) for criminal incidents in early adolescence (11 to ~14 years), differentiated according to levels of CPS involvement (i.e., no risk of significant harm [non-ROSH], unsubstantiated ROSH, substantiated ROSH, and out-of-home care; each examined relative to no CPS contact). Data for 71,465 children were drawn from the New South Wales Child Development Study,

an intergenerational, longitudinal investigation that uses administrative records from CPS and police alongside other health, justice, and education data. Multinomial regression analyses were conducted to determine associations between increasing levels of CPS involvement and police contact as a victim only, a person of interest only, and as both victim and person of interest while accounting for covariates (i.e., child's sex, Aboriginal, and/or Torres Strait Islander background, socioeconomic status, maternal age at child's birth, and parental offending history). Children exposed to any of the four levels of CPS involvement had higher odds of police contact, relative to children with no CPS involvement. Odds ratios were higher for contact with police as both a victim and a person of interest, compared to police contact as a victim or a person of interest only. These findings highlight that children with even unsubstantiated CPS reports (i.e., non-ROSH and unsubstantiated ROSH reports) are at heightened risk of police contact compared to children who are unknown to CPS, underlining the need to support all families in contact with CPS.

White, J., Evans, P., & Katz, I. (2024). [Children dually involved with statutory child protection and juvenile justice in Australia: A developmental cascade framework](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 161, 107645. DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2024.107645

Children who experience dual involvement by child protection and juvenile justice statutory systems have poorer life outcomes attributable to higher levels of disadvantage and more complex needs compared to single system involved children. Literature regarding dual involved children in high income, western, and democratic nations are largely based on US studies. Whilst child protection and juvenile justice systems across the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia have somewhat similar legislative systems, cohort outcomes and relationships between risk factors and offending trajectories for dual involved children are influenced by differing legislative, geographic, and demographic contexts. Compared to international literature, significant

gaps exist regarding the Australian context. Further, within Australia, there are no evaluated specific responses and/or strategies directed towards supporting this highly vulnerable cohort towards increased long-term positive outcomes. This is the first comprehensive review of Australian studies that examines the characteristics of children who have had dual involvement with juvenile justice and child protection agencies within Australia. Using a thematic analysis 25 studies with dual involved samples were analysed, examining the individual, familial, environmental, and systemic factors that contribute to the likelihood of children becoming involved in both child protection and juvenile justice systems within Australia. Six thematic factors emerged that characterised the trajectories of dual involved children: cumulative & destabilising adversity; maltreatment type & timing; offending onset & context; educational disadvantage & disengagement; co-occurring challenges; and First Nations overrepresentation. Our findings are applied to Developmental Systems Theory, extending on previous literature to depict an Australian first developmental cascade framework illustrating the context specific pathways of dual involved children and opportunities for intervention in Australia. Future research, policy and practice would benefit from continued reforms that focus resources on co-ordinated system responses and cohort specific services; namely, culturally appropriate diversion strategies that promote behavioural de-escalation and educational engagement. This is important because of the nuanced differences between dual involved characteristics across different legislative and geographic contexts, with particular relevance to the experiences of First Nations children and families.

Baidawi, S., & Ball, R. (2023). [Child protection and youth offending: Differences in youth criminal court-involved children by dual system involvement](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 144, 106736. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2022.106736

The over-representation of children from child protection backgrounds in youth justice systems presents a long-standing concern. This study adds to a growing body of research that identifies how such dual system youth differ from other criminal court-

involved youth. It also investigates heterogeneity among dual system youth based on the concurrent (dually-involved) or non-concurrent (dual contact) nature of their systems involvement. Socio-demographic characteristics, offending profiles and support needs of 300 dual system youth with statutory child protection involvement and who appeared in three Australian youth criminal courts were compared with those of a matched sample of 268 justice-only youth. Results indicated dual system youth were on average younger, more likely to be female, had more prior adjudications, current charges, and more violent offending. Importantly, the findings demonstrate that dually-involved children experience greater polyvictimisation, out-of-home care placement, and more serious offending, relative to both justice-only and dual contact youth. Among those sentenced to youth justice supervision, dually-involved children were less likely to have a relative caregiver and had more complex support needs related to neurodisability, mental illness, and substance misuse. Findings support the utility and importance of proposed frameworks for defining the heterogeneous pathways of dual system youth, and the need for targeted and collaborative strategies across court and youth justice systems to address such children's unique needs.

Baidawi, S., Papalia, N., & Featherston, R. (2023). [Gender differences in the maltreatment youth offending relationship: A scoping review](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(2), 1140-1156. DOI:10.1177/15248380211052106

Maltreated and child welfare-involved youth are over-represented in juvenile justice systems. These youth are at a greater risk of serious offending and justice system entrenchment relative to their non-maltreated peers. Understanding gender differences in the pathways to justice involvement and the nature of offending among maltreated children is critical for informing policy and practice. Yet, this body of evidence is fragmented. This scoping review identified and narratively synthesized evidence from studies reporting on gender differences in the individual characteristics, maltreatment experiences, child protection involvement and offending profiles of maltreated youth who

offend. A comprehensive search of four databases generated 11,568 publications, from which 180 met the review's inclusion criteria. These primary studies included participants aged 8–21 years with a history of childhood maltreatment and youth offending and reported at least one gendered analysis. Some consistent findings were reported across studies. A greater level of child welfare involvement and maltreatment exposure (particularly sexual abuse and multi-type maltreatment) was found for justice involved girls, relative to boys. Maltreated and child welfare-involved boys appear more likely to offend than girls, but findings about how gender moderates the maltreatment-offending relationship were inconsistent. Child welfare systems involvement (particularly foster care and residential care) appeared to be an important moderator for girls, and school performance mediated outcomes for boys. Across this body of evidence, few studies accounted for under-reporting of abuse and neglect when using youth self-report measures of maltreatment. Future research is needed which explicitly explores how gender moderates the maltreatment-offending relationship.

Barboza-Salerno, G. E., & Remillard, A. (2023). Early child adversity and delinquent behavior in foster care youth: Do future expectations and sexual identity moderate the mediating role of posttraumatic stress?. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 16, 945–957. DOI:10.1007/s40653-023-00548-8

Purpose: Delinquency in youth is a significant public health concern for individuals who experienced adversity and complex trauma as children. The present study explored the longitudinal associations between adverse child experiences and future engagement in delinquent behavior. Methods: Using a sample of 1,245 foster youth who are aging out of the child welfare system, mediation, moderation, and moderated mediation analysis was used to test the mechanistic role of post-traumatic stress symptoms and the moderating role of sexual identity and positive future expectations on engagement in delinquent behavior. Results: Results showed a positive and significant association between adverse child experiences and engagement in delinquent behavior. Post-traumatic stress

symptoms partially mediated the ACEs–delinquency relationship. In addition, sexual minority youth and youth who were less optimistic about the future, but who experienced more ACEs, were at risk for heightened levels of post-traumatic stress. Conclusions: Interventions that promote positive future outlooks may minimize the psychological sequelae of early child adversity and delinquent behavior particularly when tailored to the needs of sexual minority youth.

Cain, C. M. (2023). Comparing the risk factors of youth detained for running away or commercial sexual exploitation to more serious youth offenders. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 48(4), 1028–1061. DOI:10.1007/s12103-023-09735-7

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of minors is a major social justice concern in the U.S. and youth who run away from their home or placement are at an increased risk of experiencing CSE. Runaway youth have higher rates of prior victimization, substance abuse, depression, suicidal behavior, and problems at school compared to youth who do not run away. When youth run away repeatedly, youth may end up arrested and detained for this status offense. Detaining runaway youth and those who are CSE victims can be detrimental to their health and well-being, in addition to being against federal laws. However, it is unknown whether runaway youth and CSE victims, when compared to other juvenile delinquents, present unique risk factors when they enter the juvenile justice system. Using a nationally representative sample of justice-involved youth, this study examines the risk factors of youth who are detained for running away or CSE victimization. This paper then compares these youth whose most serious offense is running away or “prostitution” to the characteristics of youth detained for more serious offenses. Comparing the characteristics of youth incarcerated for running away or CSE victimization to other incarcerated youth has not yet been done with a nationally representative sample. This study finds significant differences in many of the characteristics among runaway and sexually exploited youth who are detained,

compared to youth incarcerated for more serious offenses. Policy and programs recommendations are given to reflect of the unique needs of these vulnerable youth.

Dierkhising, C. B., Eastman, A. L., & Chan, K. (2023). [Juvenile justice and child welfare dual system involvement among females with and without histories of commercial sexual exploitation](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 150, 106989. DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.106989

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is related to both child welfare (CW) and juvenile justice (JJ) system involvement, yet research of CSE largely examines single system involvement. Using a sample of justice involved females with histories in out-of-home care, this study explores dual system contact for females with CSE experiences (n = 225) compared to a matched sample of females without a history of CSE (n = 237). Differences between the samples' system experiences were compared using chi-square analyses or t-tests of group mean differences. Nearly all females had a history of at least one maltreatment allegation and between 69% and 76% of the samples were classified as dual system females as measured by the justice-involved youth also having a substantiated case of maltreatment. The CSE sample, compared to the no-CSE sample, had significantly more contact with the juvenile justice system including more arrests, petitions filed, bench warrants, and entrances to detention. Findings highlight the extent of dual system involvement among justice involved females with histories of CSE and out-of-home care, and the need for cross-systems collaboration to improve youth outcomes.

Hoskins, D., Meza, J. I., Holloway, E. D., Brown, L., Kemp, K., & Tolou-Shams, M. (2023). Pathways from early childhood maltreatment to adolescent dating violence: The role of traumatic stress and substance use among juvenile justice-involved youth. *Traumatology*, 30(4), 647–660. DOI:10.1037/trm0000489

Court-involved youth are more likely to report early childhood maltreatment histories, and these maltreatment histories can lead to subsequent risk behaviors such as

adolescent dating violence (ADV). We used longitudinal data from the Epidemiological Project Involving Children in the Court on youth (N = 192) at first contact with the juvenile court to examine early childhood maltreatment with subsequent ADV, assessing pathways of alcohol, cannabis use, and traumatic stress. Using structural equation modeling, we found that early childhood maltreatment increased the risk for experiencing future ADV, traumatic stress, and alcohol use among youth in first-time contact with the legal system. Transgender youth were at greater risk of experiencing traumatic events, including ADV. Interventions to address traumatic stress and alcohol use among youth with ADV histories at the front door of system contact could reduce ADV likelihood over time. Such interventions should also consider the specific heightened needs of transgender youth, for whom available options are few.

Mueller, K. C., Cavitt, J., & Carey, M. T. (2023). Future orientation in justice-involved youth: The effects of adverse and positive childhood experiences, and being dual status. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 141, 106230. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106230

Background: Justice-involved youth face diverse challenges and are likely to experience more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and fewer positive childhood experiences (PCEs), which can have implications for their orientation toward their future. Future orientation is thought to influence behavior, but little is known about how it is shaped. While future orientation and its correlates likely matter for all justice-involved youth, the recently recognized subcategory of Dual Status Youths (DSYs) might be especially sensitive to influences on future orientation. Objective: This study explores the effects of cumulative adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), cumulative positive childhood experiences (PCEs), and DSY classification on the likelihood of having a positive orientation toward the future. Participants and setting: The researchers analyze a sample of 3604 justice-involved youth on probation in a large metropolitan area in Texas. Method: The sample includes juveniles who received the full Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) risk/needs assessment. The analytical plan included t-tests and

two logistic regression analyses. Results: Findings were that DSY are exposed to more ACEs and fewer PCEs than non-dual status justice-involved youth. Results indicated that a greater number of PCEs is associated with future orientation, but DSY status and ACEs are not. Conclusions: Juvenile justice programming must strive to cultivate PCEs in justice-involved youth prior to the completion of their probation supervision.

Simmons-Horton, S. Y., Kolivoski, K., & Garza, D. (2023). Black girl magic: Empowerment stories of black dual status girls. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 152, 107047. DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.107047

Youth formally involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, referred to as dual status youth-face unique challenges in their systems involvement. There is a steady increase of Black dual status girls. Black dual status girls experience compounding racially gendered discrimination and inequities in these systems, including occurrences of sexual abuse in out-of-home placements and harsher juvenile punishments for minor delinquent acts. These gruesome realities can be overwhelming for Black girls leaving them tasked to navigate toward positive outcomes independently or with limited positive support. Still, Black girls demonstrate a strong ability to overcome discriminatory adversities, through a relentless dismissal of narratives of racialized and gendered stereotypes; and using their empowered voices to recount personal stories of their lived experiences of dual system involvement. Theoretical frameworks for understanding the empowerment of Black dual status girls have focused on deficits, and disregarding the powerful intersectional, gendered systemic racism they endure. Thus, this study proposes a conceptual framework to view the protective factors and positive racialized and gendered identity of Black dual-status females. The approach in this study is to integrate Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Black feminism. Using a qualitative phenomenological approach, six Black women, 18–36 years old ($M = 25$) with previous dual system involvement were interviewed with their responses explored in a retrospective analysis. The participants described obstacles related to their dual system involvement and their

outcomes of living powerful and successful lives in adulthood. Key themes from findings are: 1) unveiling structural and gendered experiences of Black dual status girls; 2) trauma and triumph: navigating adversity through resistance, critical interrogation of oppressive systems, and engaging in collective responsibility; and 3) Black girl magic: celebrating the strengths and empowerment demonstrated by Black women and girls through centering their voices, raising the collective consciousness, and emphasizing collective responsibility. Illuminating the voices of Black empowered girls in this study is critical in interrupting racial and gender discrimination in these systems and will contribute to how anti-oppressive practices for Black girls are reimagined.

Tuell, J., & Martin, J. (2023). Achieving the possible on behalf of dual status youth. *Journal of Community Justice*, 33(1), 7–12.

The article focuses on the challenges and strategies related to dual status youth who have contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Topics include the prevalence of dual status involvement, the impact of child maltreatment on future delinquency, and the need for developmentally appropriate approaches to improve outcomes for these vulnerable youth.

Cioffi, C. C., Schweer-Collins, M. L., & Leve, L. D. (2022). [Pregnancy and miscarriage predict suicide attempts but not substance use among dual-systems involved female adolescents](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 137, 106494. DOI:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2022.106494

Background: To examine the associations between adolescent pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes on substance use and suicide attempts in a sample who is at greater risk for substance use and suicide attempts – those who have been involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Methods: Using a prospective, longitudinal design, we examined the role of adolescent pregnancy outcomes on risk for suicide

attempts and substance use among a sample of 166 female adolescents with juvenile justice system and child welfare involvement. Results: Of participants, 36% (n = 60) reported at least one adolescent pregnancy with a total of 109 pregnancies reported. Adolescent pregnancy was associated with an increase in later suicide attempts (aOR = 1.68, 95% CI 1.06–2.72). Miscarriage was associated with a 2-fold increase in the likelihood of later suicide attempts, (aOR = 2.12, 95% CI 1.10–4.12). No participants who reported induced abortion (n = 13) reported suicide attempts. Adolescent pregnancy, miscarriage, and abortion were not significantly associated with later substance use (Ps > 0.05). Conclusions: Healthcare professionals should conduct routine screening for suicidality in the months following a miscarriage, offer education to caregivers about how to support youth who experience pregnancy loss, provide additional social supports and familiarize themselves with local and virtual behavioral health resources to prevent suicide attempts among female adolescents who are at high risk and experience miscarriage.

Farley, T. M., McWey, L. M., & Ledermann, T. (2022). [Thought problems and aggression over time among youth in foster care](#). *Child Youth Care Forum*, 51, 795–810.
DOI:10.1007/s10566-021-09652-y

Youth in foster care may demonstrate high levels of aggression and thought problems. There is a growing trend to consider mental health symptoms of youth involved with the foster care system from a developmental trauma perspective. The aim of this study was to test if trauma, race, age, and gender predicted variability in thought problems and aggression for youth in foster care. The sample (n = 303) included youth in out-of-home placements with a mean age of 14 years, a diverse racial demographic, and almost an equal percentage of males and females. Participants were assessed over three waves using a series of multilevel growth curve models. Results indicated significant decreases in thought problems and aggression and youth with higher levels of trauma reported higher initial levels and swifter decreases of both thought problems and aggression over time. While trauma was associated with aggression and thought problems, results found

that youth demonstrated significant decreases in aggression and thought problems over time. A better understanding of the long-term effects of trauma on thought problems and aggression of youth in foster care is needed. While our findings suggest foster care may be protective in fostering resilience, additional research on the nature of potential positive effects of foster care on aggression and thought problems is suggested.

Garcia, A., Kim, M., & Barnhart, S. (2022). Do mental health services influence child welfare involvement among juvenile justice system involved youth. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 31(7), 1908–1921. DOI:10.1007/s10826-021-02143-7

There is limited understanding of mental health service utilization among youth in the juvenile justice system (JJS). Using administrative data, the current study examined service system trajectories of two cohorts of youth who initially entered the JJS in 2003 (N = 10,170) and 2012 (N = 5,787). We tracked mental health (MH) service utilization and dosage and child welfare system (CWS) involvement for 3 years and found that utilization and dosage of MH services increased between both cohorts. Notably, MH service use positively associated with CWS involvement and concurrent (dual) involvement in the CWS and JJS associated with decreased MH dosage if youth remained at home versus being placed in out-of-home care. Lastly, African American children received less services than their Caucasian peers. Future efforts should focus on preparing MH providers to detect youth who are dually involved and tailor services to enhance collaboration and information sharing across systems.

Kolivoski, K. M. (2022). Applying critical race theory (CRT) and intersectionality to address the needs of African American crossover girls. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 39(2), 133–145. DOI:10.1007/s10560-020-00726-9

Youth who are victims of maltreatment and engage in delinquency are at a greater risk of adverse emotional and behavioral outcomes compared to those in the general

population (Herz and Dierkhising in 2018; Herz et al. in 2019; Stouthamer-Loeber et al. in 2001). “Crossover youth” is a common, collective term for youth who experience maltreatment and engage in delinquency. Current studies suggest girls and African American youth are more likely to experience crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Yet, there is little existing scholarship, especially conceptual articles, specific to consideration of both race and gender regarding crossover youth. Critical Race Theory (CRT) and intersectionality are utilized to analyze and better understand the overrepresentation of African American girls who cross over from the child welfare to the juvenile justice system. This article concludes with implications for social work action strategies, for micro and macro social work, including policy and research, to better address the unique needs of this population. Race and racism, and how these overlap with experiences as girls and young women, are central and cannot be disentangled and need to be included as social work pays more attention to addressing the needs of this especially vulnerable sub-population of crossover youth.

Modrowski, C. A., Chaplo, S. D., & Kerig, P. K. (2022). [Advancing our understanding of the risk factors associated with crossover youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: A trauma-informed research agenda](#). *Clinical Child and Family Psychological Review*, 25(2), 283–299. DOI:10.1007/s10567-021-00370-4

Previous research has provided robust evidence demonstrating that a notable proportion of youth become involved in both the child welfare (CW) system and the juvenile justice (JJ) system, a population often referred to as crossover youth. Prior work has identified a number of risk factors associated with crossing over between these systems. However, there are limitations to the extant literature, key among which is a lack of systematic attention to the influence of trauma exposure and posttraumatic sequelae on the crossover trajectory. In contrast, viewing this research through a trauma-informed lens promises to enhance our ability to integrate findings across studies and to derive theoretically derived hypotheses about underlying mechanisms which will better inform

future research and the development of effective prevention and intervention efforts. Accordingly, the purpose of this article is to present a trauma-informed research agenda that would strengthen future research in the field. After providing a brief critique of the existing studies that has documented known risk factors associated with the crossover population, we outline ways in which future research could apply relevant theoretical trauma-informed approaches, including developmental traumatology, to further advance our knowledge of risk factors and mechanisms associated with the crossover trajectory. We conclude by discussing policy and system-wide implications related to the proposed research agenda.

Puzzanchera, C., Hockenberry, S., & Sickmund, M. (2022). [Youth and the juvenile justice system: 2022 National report](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/youth-and-juvenile-justice-system-2022national-report). National Center for Juvenile Justice.
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/youth-and-juvenile-justice-system-2022national-report>

This report is part of a series, previously titled “Juvenile Offenders and Victims,” that presents the most-requested information on youth and the juvenile justice system in the U.S. The report draws on reliable data and relevant research to provide a comprehensive and insightful view of youth victims and offending by youth, and what happens to them when they enter the juvenile justice system. The target audience of the report includes Congress, state legislators, other state and local policymakers, educators, juvenile justice professionals, and concerned citizens. It offers empirically based answers to frequently asked questions about the nature of youth victimization and offending, and the justice system’s response. Chapter topics are as follows: youth population characteristics; youth victims; offending by youth; juvenile justice system structure and process; law enforcement and youth; youth in juvenile court; and youth in corrections. The report is structured as a series of briefing papers on specific topics and includes information on youth and their involvement with the U.S. justice system through the 2019 data year; each chapter ends with a list of data sources.

Tolou-Shams, M., Holloway, E. D., Ordorica, C., Yonek, J., Folk, J. B., Dauria, E. F., Lehn, K., Izamora, I., & Wiley, H. M. F. (2022). [Leveraging technology to increase behavioral health services access for youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems: A cross-systems collaboration model](#). *The Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*, 49(4), 422–435. DOI:10.1007/s11414-022-09808-1

Behavioral health services access for justice- and child welfare-involved youth is limited despite significant need. Structural interventions to address limited access are nascent. Technology can advance access, but few interventions focus on system-impacted youth and their mental health needs & challenges. This article describes the development, process, and initial outcomes of the Youth Justice and Family Well-Being Technology Collaborative (JTC) that was formed to leverage technology within and across justice-related & public health systems to promote increased behavioral health services access. Cross-system considerations are identified to successfully integrate technology into practice to expand access to these critical services.

Cavanagh, C., LaBerge, A., & Cauffman, E. (2021). Attitudes toward legal actors among dual system youth. *Journal of Social Issues*, 77(2), 504–527. DOI:10.1111/josi.12441

The role of contact with the child welfare system (CWS) in legal socialization is not well understood. This is particularly true of youth who have contact with both the juvenile justice system and the CWS, known as dual system (DS) youth. Furthermore, much of the legal socialization research excludes Latinx youth, for whom legal socialization may function differently. Is CWS contact, compared to—and in addition to—juvenile justice system contact, associated with Latinx youths' attitudes toward police and judges? The present study addresses this research question among a sample of 417 Latinx youth who had been arrested for the first time, 74 of whom were DS youth. Results indicated that DS youth perceive police as less biased, and both police and judges as more legitimate, than their juvenile justice system-only counterparts. CWS contact was not associated with perceptions of situational procedural justice for police or judges, suggesting that CWS

contact colors general attitudes toward legal actors' bias and legitimacy, but not specific interactions with legal actors. The results suggest that CWS contact, above and beyond juvenile justice system contact, has a nuanced impact on children's legal socialization.

Heldman, J. K., & Gaither, G. A. (2021). [An examination of racism and racial discrimination impacting dual status youth](#). *Children's Legal Rights Journal*, 42(1), 21–51.

Racial disproportionality & disparity have long been characteristic of both the child welfare and youth justice systems. Discriminatory policies & practices present at the origin of these systems continue to plague children, families, & communities. The impact of racism upon dual status youth (children who encounter both the child welfare & youth justice system) is particularly concerning. Dual status youth tend to experience worse outcomes in a number of domains than youth involved in only one system. Dual status youth are also disproportionately Black, significantly more so than in any single system. Efforts to reform the youth justice system in recent years have included initiatives to improve outcomes for dual status youth, interruption of the trajectory of dual system involvement, and to reduce or eliminate racial disproportionality and disparities within both the child welfare and youth justice systems. This article suggests that both systems must commit to transformative solutions, acknowledge their shared history of racial discrimination, and inform one another in efforts of reform.

Herz, D. C., Eastman, A. L., Putnam-Hornstein, E., & McCroskey, J. (2021). [Dual system youth and their pathways in Los Angeles County: A replication of the OJJDP Dual System Youth Study](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 118, 105160.
DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105160

Background: The estimated number of youth who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, or "dual system" youth, varies widely because studies use different methodologies. Recent work using linked administrative data shows promise

for identifying a stable range of dual system rates, generalizable to other jurisdictions and useful for understanding the nature and timing of system involvement. Objective: This study replicates the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Dual System Youth Design Study methodology to explore dual system overlap and six distinct dual system pathways defined by the type (i.e., nonconcurrent or concurrent) and timing (i.e., first contact with child welfare or juvenile justice) of dual system contact in Los Angeles County. Participants and setting: Using data from the Los Angeles Probation Department, a cohort of youth born in/after 1998 with a first juvenile justice petition between 2014 and 2016 was identified (N = 6877) and matched to statewide child welfare records between 1998 and 2017. Method: Descriptive statistics were produced for dual system youth and pathways, and differences across groups were tested using chi-square and t-tests. Results: Two-thirds of youth with a first juvenile justice petition interacted with the child welfare system. The majority of dual system youth did not have contact with both systems at the same time and nearly all dual system youth were involved with the child welfare system before the juvenile justice system. Female and Black youth were more likely to be dual system youth and to have more extensive involvement with the child welfare system. Probation experiences and outcomes were associated with the nature and chronicity of child welfare involvement. Conclusion: Implementing a delinquency prevention continuum that starts with community-based supports and continues throughout all levels of child welfare and juvenile justice involvement is essential to disrupting dual system involvement.

Kelley, B. T., & Haskins, P. A. (2021). Dual system youth: At the intersection of child maltreatment and delinquency. *NIJ Journal*, 283, 61-70.

The Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice published "Dual System Youth: At the Intersection of Child Maltreatment and Delinquency," which discusses challenges faced by child welfare and juvenile justice systems when serving youth engaged with both systems. Dual system youth are juveniles who have been both victims of

maltreatment and have committed delinquent acts. The article details the findings of the recent Dual System Youth Design Study and lists areas for reform put forward by the study's authors.

Kim, M., Garcia, A. R., & Lee, L. H. (2021). Dual system youth: Subsequent system re-entry after receiving mental health services. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 127, 106104. DOI:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2021.106104

Dual system youth, referring to those involved in the child welfare (CW) and juvenile justice (JJ) systems, require attention as they are particularly vulnerable to mental health (MH) problems. Although many of them receive MH services during their time in the CW and JJ systems, little is known about what happens to them afterward, in terms of system re-entry. Using administrative data on two cohorts of dual system youth in 2003 and 2012, we explored the proportion of dual system youth who re-enter the CW and/or JJ systems after receiving MH services, and the association between individual and case characteristics and the likelihood of system re-entry. We found that 85% of the dual system youth who received MH services became re-involved with the CW and/or JJ systems. Results from multinomial logistic regression showed that youth in the second cohort and females were less likely to become re-involved with the systems. However, youth who were older, experienced out-of-home placement and were diagnosed with disruptive behavior and anxiety disorders experienced greater odds of subsequent system re-entry.

Simmons-Horton, S. Y. (2021). "A bad combination": Lived experiences of youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 38(6), 583–597. DOI:10.1007/s10560-020-00693-1

Youth with involvement in foster care and the juvenile justice system, often called dual-status youth, are at increased risk for negative outcomes as they transition into

adulthood, including homelessness, and involvement in the adult criminal justice system. Increase of interest in the phenomenon of youth dual involvement within the last decade, reveals focus on challenges associated with the dual-status population, the importance of multi-system collaboration, and foster care factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. This study aims to build on the current literature, through exploration of how dually-involved youth make sense of their experiences in the juvenile justice and foster care systems; and what youth believe are their unique challenges of being in two systems? This phenomenological study engaged ten individuals in Houston, Texas, between the ages of 18 and 24 years old, and previously involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems. Research subjects participated in-depth, semi-structured, and audio-recorded interviews, disclosing their experiences in two systems. Interviews were transcribed and entered in the qualitative analytical program, Atlas.ti, where common themes of participant responses were extracted. Accounts from participants highlighted three key experiences: (1) experiences of and leading to dual involvement, (2) traumatic experiences, and (3) absence of normalcy. Study results are categorized based on their pathways to dual-involvement. This current study offers rich insights into how dually-involved youth make sense of their experiences in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Implications for enhanced service provision among child welfare and juvenile justice professionals are offered.

Taussig, H. N., Dmitrieva, J., Garrido, E. F., Cooley, J. L., & Crites, E. (2021). [Fostering Healthy Futures preventive intervention for children in foster care: Long-term delinquency outcomes from a randomized controlled trial](#). *Prevention Science*, 22(8), 1120–1133. DOI:10.1007/s11121-021-01235-6

Child maltreatment and foster care placement are strong risk factors for delinquency and juvenile justice involvement and there is substantial cross-over between youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This study examines the long-term impact of the Fostering Healthy Futures (FHF) program, a 30-week mentoring and skills group

preventive intervention for preadolescent maltreated children in foster care. Participants included 426 children recently placed in out-of-home care who were randomized to intervention or control conditions. Outcomes included both self-reported delinquency, measured at multiple time points between 6 months and 12 years post-intervention, as well as court records of delinquency charges, which were measured for 7 consecutive years beginning 3 months after the intervention began. Results from multilevel models indicated that the intervention group self-reported 30–82% less total and non-violent delinquency than the control group between ages 14–18. Court charges for total & violent delinquency in mid-adolescence were also 15–30% lower for the intervention group. These findings indicate that a mentoring & skills training program in preadolescence can reduce delinquency and justice involvement for children who are at high risk.

Goodkind, S., Shook, J., Kolivoski, K., Pohlig, R., Little, A., & Kim, K. (2020). From child welfare to jail: Mediating effects of juvenile justice placement and other system involvement. *Child Maltreatment*, 25(4), 410–421. DOI:10.1177/1077559520904144

This study examines the effects of child welfare, mental health, and drug/alcohol system experiences on jail involvement, as mediated by juvenile justice placement, for Black and White youth/young adults. The sample was comprised of individuals born between 1985 and 1994 with child welfare involvement in an urban Pennsylvania county and an out-of-home placement (OOHP) subsample. Four path models were estimated (2 full samples, 2 subsamples; separate models for Black and White youth). For all models, juvenile justice placement was positively related to jail involvement. For the full samples, out-of-home child welfare placement was associated with an increase in juvenile justice placement. Within the Black placement sample, child welfare placement experiences had complex relationships with juvenile justice placement. Providing drug/alcohol services may be a protective factor for Black youth prior to juvenile justice contact. Articulating these relationships helps identify youth most at risk of justice system involvement and better targets services, especially mental health and drug/alcohol services.

Flores, J., Hawes, J., & Bhinder, B. (2020). Incarcerated girls, criminal pathways and multiple forms of abuse. *Journal of Family Violence*, 35(5), 509–518.
DOI:10.1007/s10896-019-00122-7

Researchers have long been concerned with the reasons that lead young people into a life of crime, yet most of this work has focused on the experiences of males and how they end up behind bars or eventually leave a life of crime. Mainstream criminological thought often lacks an inclusive understanding about the experiences that lead girls into the criminal justice system. With this study, the researchers seek to add to the understanding of how girls end up behind bars, specifically exploring the relationship between experiences of abuse and juvenile justice. Using two years of ethnographic research with incarcerated girls at a juvenile detention center in southern California, this article questions the abuse experiences of justice-involved girls and the connection between abuse and juvenile justice involvement for girls. Interviews with the 33 girls in the study were analyzed for disclosures of abuse and mistreatment, yielding the experiences of 14 different girls included in this article's analysis. Our findings demonstrate that prior to being incarcerated, participants experienced multiple forms of abuse, or polyvictimization, both inside and outside of the home. Further, the authors highlight how the experiences of girls contribute to their eventual incarceration. Participants had to negotiate mistreatment across various institutions and by multiple people, with little help from schools, the juvenile justice, or child welfare systems. As a whole this work provides valuable insight into the experiences of girls before they are incarcerated.

Narendorf, S. C., Brydon, D. M., Santa Maria, D., Bender, K., Ferguson, K. M., Hsu, H. T., Barman-Adhikari, A., Shelton, J., & Petering, R. (2020). System involvement among young adults experiencing homelessness: Characteristics of four system involved subgroups and relationship to risk outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 108, 104609. DOI:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2019.104609

Young adults experiencing homelessness (YAEH) have been found to have high rates of prior involvement with foster care and juvenile justice, but little is known about whether

YAEH differ in their risk behaviors based on exposure to different systems. This study used a dataset of 1426 YAEH from 7 different US cities to examine the historical risk and resilience characteristics of those involved in foster care alone, juvenile justice alone, both systems (dual status), and no system involvement. Logistic regression was used to examine whether different types of childhood system involvement predicted risk behaviors in young adulthood including substance use, trade sex, suicide attempts, unplanned pregnancy, and involvement in the adult criminal justice system. Notably, 57% of youth had been exposed to one of the systems – 20% foster care only (n = 291), 18% juvenile justice only (n = 254), and 18% dual status (n = 261). YAEH without a history of system involvement had significantly lower childhood trauma scores and lower rates of lifetime mental health diagnoses compared to all three system involved groups, with dual status youth having the highest rates of both. In relation to risk outcomes, youth with dual status histories had higher odds of trading sex and those with juvenile justice involvement, either alone or as dual status, had higher odds of being arrested after age 18 and of problematic substance use. Results suggest YAEH with prior involvement in child-serving systems have unique risk characteristics that vary by type of system involvement, with dual-system involved youth at particularly high risk. Findings highlight the need for foster care and juvenile justice systems to work collaboratively in providing preventive interventions prior to system exit.

Franz, D. J., Griffin, A. M., Saldana, L., & Leve, L. D. (2019). [A longitudinal examination of service utilization and trauma symptoms among young women with prior foster care and juvenile justice system involvement](#). *Child Welfare*, 97(5-6), 199-215.

We investigated the prediction of young adult service utilization and trauma symptoms from adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adolescent mental health symptoms in young women with dual child welfare and juvenile justice system involvement. A sample of 166 females (ages 13 to 17) was followed to examine the transition to young adulthood. Path models indicated that more ACEs were associated with poorer adolescent mental

health. Adolescent mental health symptoms were associated with more young adult trauma symptoms and service utilization. Implications for service providers and policy-makers are discussed.

Herz, D. C., Dierkhising, C. B., Raithel, J., Schretzman, M., Guiltinan, S., Goerge, R. M., Cho, Y., Coulton, C., & Abbott, S. (2019). [Dual system youth and their pathways: A comparison of incidence, characteristics and system experiences using linked administrative data](#). *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 48(12), 2432–2450. DOI:10.1007/s10964-019-01090-3

Insight into the characteristics and system experiences for youth who touch both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems has increased over the last decade. These youth are typically studied as one population and referred to as "crossover youth." While this literature contributes valuable insight into who crossover youth are, studies are virtually silent on distinguishing characteristics and experiences across different pathways leading to dual system contact. This study reviews what is currently known about dual system youth generally (i.e., youth who have contact with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems) and introduces a framework for consistently defining dual system youth and their pathways. The utility of the framework is then explored using linked administrative data for cohorts of youth aged 10 to 18 years old with a first petition to delinquency court in three sites: Cook County, Illinois between 2010 and 2014 (N = 14,170); Cuyahoga County, Ohio between 2010 and 2014 (N = 11,441); and New York City between 2013 and 2014 (N = 1272). The findings show a high prevalence of dual system contact overall, ranging from 44.8 to 70.3%, as well as wide variation in the ways in which youth touched both systems. Specifically, non-concurrent system contact is more prevalent than concurrent system contact in all sites, and individual characteristics and system experiences vary within and across these different pathway groups. Based on study findings, implications for future research on dual system youth and for developing collaborative practices and policies across the systems are discussed.

Summersett, F. C., Jordan, N., Griffin, G., Kisiel, C., Goldenthal, H., & Martinovich, Z. (2019).
An examination of youth protective factors and caregiver parenting skills at entry
into the child welfare system and their association with justice system
involvement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 99, 23–35.
DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.01.001

This study sought to distinguish youth in the child welfare system who became involved with the justice system from youth who did not become involved with the justice system based on the youth's protective factors and their caregivers' parenting skills. This was accomplished by examining the frequency of specific youth protective factors and their caregivers' parenting skills. It was also accomplished by examining the differences in the total number of youth protective factors and the total number of their caregivers' parenting skills at entry into the child welfare system based on justice system involvement. We also sought to describe the demographic characteristics of youth protective factors and caregiver parenting skills. Using chi-square and analysis of variance (ANOVA) tests, study findings indicated that while the majority of children did not become justice involved, of those kids who did become justice involved, the majority of them were minority youth. There was also a higher proportion of youth with identified child-specific protective factors at baseline without later justice involvement compared to the proportion of youth who later became involved with the justice system. In addition, youth with a higher number of protective factors and caregiver parenting skills at baseline did not have future involvement with the justice system compared to youth with a lower number of protective factors and caregiver parenting skills. Lastly, in terms of parenting practices, the most notable demographic differences were related to race/ethnicity. Findings indicated that the biological parents and caregivers of White youth had more parenting skills compared to the biological parents and caregivers of minority youth. One of the implications of these findings is that reducing dual involvement for youth in the child welfare system may be achieved through strength building and providing additional services to youth and families at the beginning of the youth's care in the child welfare system.

Vidal, S., Connell, C. M., Prince, D. M., & Tebes, J. K. (2019). [Multisystem-involved youth: A developmental framework and implications for research, policy, and practice.](#) *Adolescent Research Review*, 4(1), 15–29. DOI:10.1007/s40894-018-0088-1

Multisystem-involved youth are children and adolescents concurrently served in the child welfare, behavioral health, and/or juvenile justice systems. These youth are a high risk and vulnerable population, often due to their experience of multiple adversities and trauma, yet little is known about their multiple needs and pathways into multisystem involvement. Multisystem-involved youth present unique challenges to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. In this article, we summarize the literature on multisystem-involved youth, including prevalence, characteristics, risk factors, and disparities for this population. We then describe a developmental cascade framework, which specifies how exposure to adverse experiences in childhood may have a "cascading" or spillover effect later in development, to depict pathways of multisystem involvement and opportunities for intervention. This framework offers a multidimensional view of involvement across service systems and illustrates the complexities of relationships between micro- and macro-level factors at various stages and domains of development. We conclude that multisystem-involved youth are an understudied population that may represent majority of youth who are already served in another service system. Many of these youth are also disproportionately from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds. Currently, for multisystem-involved youth and their families, there is a lack of standardized and integrated screening procedures to identify youth with open cases across service systems; inadequate use of available instruments to assess exposure to complex trauma; inadequate clinical and family-related evidence-based practices specifically for use with this population; and poor cross-systems collaboration and coordination that align goals and targeted outcomes across systems. We make recommendations for research, practice, and systems development to address the needs of multisystem-involved youth and their families.

Ezell, J. M., Richardson, M., Salari, S., & Henry, J. A. (2018). [Implementing trauma informed practice in juvenile justice systems: What can courts learn from child welfare interventions?](#) *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 11(4), 507–519.
DOI:10.1007/s40653-018-0223-y

Many youth entering juvenile court systems show manifestations of psychological trauma. Focusing on rural juvenile courts, systems with greatly underserved and under-researched populations, we assessed practices, barriers, and recommendations around trauma-informed practice, an evidence-based approach for addressing trauma and reducing delinquent behavior and recidivism. As part of a pilot trauma-informed practice initiative at four rural Michigan juvenile courts, semi-structured qualitative interviews were conducted with 15 court staff, including probation officers, referees, judges, and on-site clinical therapists. Respondents expressed an ideological affinity for trauma-informed practice, describing growing inclinations to rely on referral-making around mental health treatment in lieu of traditional (punitive) sentencing. Key implementation barriers included limited access to local mental health resources, insufficient buy-in from K-12 schools, government, and police, and concerns over professional abilities/boundaries. Respondents recommended additional technical trainings on trauma-informed practice and cross-disciplinary education for clients' families and external stakeholders.

Flores, J., Hawes, J., Westbrook, A., & Henderson, C. (2018). Crossover youth and gender: What are the challenges of girls involved in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems?. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 91, 149–155.
DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.05.031

In this paper we discuss the struggles of young women who are “crossover youth.” Crossover youth are children who are simultaneously involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Utilizing in-depth interviews collected during a 24-month ethnographic study among detained adolescent girls we discuss how being in both of these systems complicates the lives of the young women in our study. Namely,

we find that girls spend more time behind bars and are negatively treated in their group homes because of their dual status. Our findings shed light on this topic and also provide a much-needed discussion of the experiences of young women who are crossover youth.

Hirsch, R. A., Dierkhising, C. B., & Herz, D. C. (2018). Educational risk, recidivism, and service access among youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *Children and Youth Services Review, 85*, 72–80.
DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.12.001

Dually-involved youth represent a population of youth who receive some level of supervision from both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems concurrently. The current study examined education-related risk factors, recidivism, referrals for services, and service access among dually-involved youth in Los Angeles County. Specifically, whether increased educational risk was associated with referrals to, and access of, educational services and supports and whether higher receipt of educational services reduced recidivism approximately six months post-disposition. Data for this study consisted of a sample of dually-involved youth (N = 131) who were adjudicated delinquent and also had a child welfare case open. An Educational Risk Index (ERI) was developed and included school attendance, credit deficiency, problem school behavior, and current grades. Results indicate that educational risk was negatively associated with mental health services accessed, demonstrating that those with higher educational risk accessed less mental health services. Educational risk, however, was not associated with increased educational service referrals or access, suggesting a possible mismatch in educational need and service referrals. Lastly, there were no significant differences between those that recidivated and those that did not recidivate in service access and educational risk.

Robertson, A. A., & Walker, C. S. (2018). Predictors of justice system involvement: Maltreatment and education. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 76, 408–415. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.12.002

Decades of research have established that experience of abuse and/or neglect in childhood is related to negative outcomes, such as juvenile delinquency. Existing research has shown that involvement in child welfare services is also related to juvenile delinquency, particularly for children who are victims of neglect. Research has also identified educational factors such as chronic absenteeism as significant predictors of involvement in the juvenile justice system. However, little research has investigated the combined influence of educational factors, child abuse, and involvement in child protective services on justice system involvement. The current study examined the influence of educational factors and involvement in child protective services on justice system involvement. The study utilized records from an educational database of children who attended a school within a county of Mississippi in any year from 2003 through 2013. Cases were then matched with records from the county Youth Court, Law Enforcement agencies, and Child Protection Services. A multivariate logistic regression controlling for gender, race, current age, and time at risk was conducted to involvement in the justice system. In general, educational factors were stronger predictors of justice system involvement than allegations of maltreatment.

Kolivoski, K. M., Goodkind, S., & Shook, J. J. (2017). Social justice for crossover youth: The intersection of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *Social Work*, 62(4), 313–321. DOI:10.1093/sw/swx034

Social workers are critical to promoting racial and social justice. "Crossover youth," a term used to describe youths who have contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, are an especially vulnerable but often overlooked population with whom social workers engage. A disproportionate number of crossover youth are African American. Empirical research on crossover youth is growing, but such scholarship rarely engages

with a human rights and social justice perspective. African American children and youths have a distinct place within the history and current context of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These systems have historically excluded them or treated them differently; now, African American youths are overrepresented in each of them, and evidence suggests they are more likely to cross over. The purpose of this article is to describe the historical and current context of crossover youth, with a particular focus on African American youths, to provide the foundation for a discussion of what social workers can do to promote racial and social justice for crossover youth, including specific implications for practice and policy, as well as broader implications for human and civil rights.

Vidal, S., Prince, D., Connell, C. M., Caron, C. M., Kaufman, J. S., & Tebes, J. K. (2017). [Maltreatment, family environment, and social risk factors: Determinants of the child welfare to juvenile justice transition among maltreated children and adolescents](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 63, 7–18. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.11.013

This study prospectively examines the transition from the child welfare system into the juvenile justice system among 10,850 maltreated children and adolescents and explores how patterns of risks, including severity and chronicity of maltreatment, adverse family environment, and social risk factors, affect service systems transition. Almost three percent of maltreated children and adolescents had their first juvenile justice adjudication within an average of approximately six years of their initial child protective services investigation (CPS). Social risk factors, including a child's age at index CPS investigation (older), gender (boys), and race/ethnicity (Black and Hispanic) significantly predicted the risk of transition into the juvenile justice system. Recurrence of maltreatment and experiencing at least one incident of neglect over the course of the study period also increased the risk of transition into the juvenile justice system. However, subtypes of maltreatment, including physical, sexual, and other types of abuse did not significantly predict the risk of juvenile justice system transition. Finally, family

environment characterized by poverty also significantly increased the risk of juvenile justice system transition. These findings have important implications for developing and tailoring services for maltreated children, particularly those at-risk for transitioning into the juvenile justice system.

Wright, E. M., Spohn, R., Chenane, J., & Juliano, N. (2017). [The importance of interagency collaboration for crossover youth: A research note](#). *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 15(4), 481–491. DOI:10.1177/1541204016686663

Crossover or dually involved youth are youth enmeshed in the child welfare system (CWS) and juvenile justice system (JJS). Given their dual status and high needs, attention has recently focused on how to best respond to them in an integrated, interagency fashion. The Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) is designed to facilitate interagency collaboration between CWS and JJS in order to enhance services and diversion to these youths. This study reports on the benefits & challenges that JJS and CWS, as well as the personnel working within them, experience by participating in a CYPM effort, and provides recommendations for continued improvements in interagency collaborations.

Baglivio, M. T., Wolff, K. T., Piquero, A. R., Bilchik, S., Jackowski, K., Greenwald, M. A., & Epps, N. (2016). Maltreatment, child welfare, and recidivism in a sample of deep-end crossover youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45(4), 625–654. DOI:10.1007/s10964-015-0407-9

Although research has oft-documented a maltreatment-delinquency link, the effect of involvement in-and timing of-child welfare system involvement on offending has received less attention. We examine whether the timing of child welfare involvement has differential effects on recidivism of deep-end juvenile offenders (youth who have been adjudicated delinquent by the court and placed in juvenile justice residential programs). The current study uses a large, diverse sample of Florida youth completing juvenile justice residential programs between January 2010 to June 2013 (55 % Black, 11 % Hispanic, 13%

female). Additionally, we explore the direct effects of childhood traumatic events on delinquency, as well as their indirect effects through child welfare involvement using structural equation modeling. The findings indicate that adverse childhood experiences fail to exert a direct effect on recidivism, but do exhibit a significant indirect effect on recidivism through child welfare involvement. This means that while having exposures to more types of childhood traumatic events does not, in and of itself, increase the likelihood of re-offending, effects of such experiences operate through child welfare placement. Differences in the effects of maltreatment timing and of adverse childhood experiences are observed across sex & race/ethnicity subgroups. Across all racial subgroups, exposures to adverse childhood experiences have a significant effect on the likelihood of child welfare placement, yet child welfare placement exerts a significant effect on recidivism for White & Hispanic youth, but not for Black youth. Only Hispanic female and White male youth with overlapping child welfare & juvenile justice cases (open cases in both systems at the same time during the study period) were more likely to recidivate than their delinquent-only counterpart youth. Crossover status (child welfare & juvenile justice involvement, whether prior or open cases) was essentially irrelevant with respect to the re-offending of Black youth completing juvenile justice residential programs. The findings indicate the effects of exposure to adverse childhood experiences, and child welfare system & juvenile justice system involvement on re-offending are not uniform across subgroups of youth but that earlier child welfare involvement is more detrimental than concurrent child welfare system involvement when it does matter.

Haight, W., Bidwell, L., Choi, W. S., & Cho, M. (2016). An evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM): Recidivism outcomes for maltreated youth involved in the juvenile justice system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 78–85. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.03.025

This study examined youth recidivism outcomes of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). Crossover youth are defined as maltreated youth who have engaged

in delinquency. Decreased recidivism is one of the primary outcomes targeted by the CYPM. Previous internal, exploratory research on recidivism indicates positive outcomes for CYPM youth. In the current study, we used a quasi-experimental, post-test only design with independent historical and contemporaneous comparison samples. We linked state-level data from the State Court Information System with the Child Protection Administrative Data and the Automated Report Student System. Youth receiving CYPM services were less likely to recidivate than propensity score matched youth receiving “services as usual” even when controlling for location, time and other key covariates. Study limitations and implications are discussed.

Onifade, E., Barnes, A., Campbell, C., Anderson, V., Petersen, J., & Davidson, W. (2014). Juvenile offenders and experiences of neglect: The validity of the YLS/CMI with dual status youth. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 46, 112–119.
DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2014.08.004

The extant literature suggests that youth present in both child welfare & juvenile justice systems (dual-status) represent a unique subset of young offenders. Sparse attention has been given to the predictive validity of risk assessment measures with this uniquely vulnerable subpopulation. The focus of this research was the validity of a commonly used recidivism risk/need assessment, the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI), with dual-status adolescents. One hundred twenty-eight dual-status youth from a probation division were administered the YLS/CMI and monitored during a 24 month follow-up for recidivism. The YLS/CMI demonstrated poor predictive validity for the dual-status youth. Recommendations for future research and policy are presented.

Lennon-Dearing, R., Whitted, K. S., & Delavega, E. (2013). Child welfare and juvenile justice: Examining the unique mental health needs of girls. *Journal of Family Social Work, 16*(2), 131-147. DOI:10.1080/10522158.2013.765326

This study investigated the prevalence of mental health problems among girls who are involved in child welfare or juvenile justice systems. The sample consisted of 1,193 girls ranging in age from 4 to 18, the majority (82.3%, n = 982) of which were older than age 12. Differences based on race/ethnicity and developmental age groups were examined. Consistent with other research, this study found that the mental health needs of girls involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems are several times higher than in the general population. Intervention approaches must be developed that take into consideration differences in gender, age, and racial and ethnic group.

Ryan, J. P., Williams, A. B., & Courtney, M. E. (2013). Adolescent neglect, juvenile delinquency and the risk of recidivism. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 42*(3), 454-465. DOI:10.1007/s10964-013-9906-8

Victims of child abuse and neglect are at an increased risk of involvement with the juvenile justice and adult correctional systems. Yet, little is known about the continuation and trajectories of offending beyond initial contact with law enforcement. Neglect likely plays a critical role in continued offending as parental monitoring, parental rejection and family relationships are instrumental in explaining juvenile conduct problems. This study sought to determine whether neglect is associated with recidivism for moderate and high risk juvenile offenders in Washington State. Statewide risk assessments and administrative records for child welfare, juvenile justice, and adult corrections were analyzed. The sample was diverse (24 % female, 13 % African American, 8 % Hispanic, 5 % Native American) and included all moderate and high risk juvenile offenders screened by juvenile probation between 2004 and 2007 (n = 19,833). Official records from child protection were used to identify juvenile offenders with a history of child neglect and to identify juvenile offenders with an ongoing case of neglect. Event history models were

developed to estimate the risk of subsequent offending. Adolescents with an ongoing case neglect were significantly more likely to continue offending as compared with youth with no official history of neglect. These findings remain even after controlling for a wide range of family, peer, academic, mental health, and substance abuse covariates. Interrupting trajectories of offending is a primary focus of juvenile justice. The findings of the current study indicate that ongoing dependency issues play a critical role in explaining the outcomes achieved for adolescents in juvenile justice settings. The implications for improved collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice are discussed.

Whitted, K. S., Delavega, E., & Lennon-Dearing, R. (2013). The youngest victims of violence: Examining the mental health needs of young children who are involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 30(3), 181–195. DOI:10.1007/s10560-012-0286-9

Children placed in the state's custody due to neglect, abuse or maltreatment are one of America's most vulnerable populations. Seventy-five percent of child victims of maltreatment are under the age of 12. Not only is their suffering a problem, these children are also at increased risk for delinquent behavior later in life. While research has documented the potential long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect, the mental health needs of young children involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems have been largely overlooked. This study examined the social, emotional and behavioral difficulties of 670 children, age 3–11, who were involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Children in this study were living in residential treatment facilities, group homes, foster care homes or were receiving intensive home-based services. To assess the children's mental health needs caregivers completed the parent form of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 38:581–586, 1997). The findings indicated a high prevalence of mental health problems, with 81 % of the children in the sample having a total difficulties score in the

borderline or abnormal range and 90 % of the children having borderline or abnormal scores on at least one of the subscales (conduct, emotional, peer or attention problems). When characteristics such as gender, race and age were considered significant differences were found among boys and girls, Caucasian and minority children, and age groups. The findings highlight the importance of mental health assessment and interventions that are gender and culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate.

Herz, D., Lee, P., Lutz, L., Stewart, M., Tuell, J., & Wiig, J. (2012). [Addressing the needs of multi-system youth: Strengthening the connection between child welfare and juvenile justice](#). Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

It has often been said that the youth known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems—often referred to as crossover or dually-involved youth—tend to go undetected, following a stealth-like pathway between these two systems. As a group of children and youth suffering from the effects of childhood trauma, they are often underserved as they move from one system to another, experiencing the consequences of too little cross-systems coordination in developing case plans that will best serve them. This work has taken place in two distinct iterations. The first was the work of the Systems Integration Initiative (SII) launched at the Child Welfare League of America in 2000 through the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (now continued at RFK with the ongoing support of the foundation), followed by the development of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) by CJJR in partnership with Casey Family Programs in 2009. The SII introduced a structure that supports the kind of cross-system efforts involving the child welfare, juvenile justice, and related systems that crossover youth need to achieve more positive outcomes. As the authors of this paper describe, often it is structural barriers that block the kind of progress we would otherwise see on behalf of crossover youth. Through the use of a four-phase planning process, the SII assists jurisdictions in overcoming these types of structural barriers, while developing and improving integration and coordination of services.

Chuang, E., & Wells, R. (2010). [The role of interagency collaboration in facilitating receipt of behavioral health services for youth involved with child welfare and juvenile justice](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32(12), 1814–1822.
DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2010.08.002

Unmet need for behavioral health care is a serious problem for crossover youth, or those simultaneously involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Although a large percentage of crossover youth are serious emotionally disturbed, relatively few receive necessary behavioral health services. Few studies have examined the role of interagency collaboration in facilitating behavioral health service access for crossover youth. This study examined associations for three dimensions of collaboration between local child welfare and juvenile justice agencies – jurisdiction, shared information systems, and overall connectivity – and youths' odds of receiving behavioral health services. Data were drawn from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, a national survey of families engaged with the child welfare system. Having a single agency accountable for youth care increased youth odds of receiving outpatient and inpatient behavioral health services. Inter-agency sharing of administrative data increased youth odds of inpatient behavioral health service receipt. Clarifying agency accountability and linking databases across sectors may improve service access for youth involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Herz, D. C., Ryan, J. P., & Bilchik, S. (2010). Challenges facing crossover youth: An examination of juvenile-justice decision making and recidivism. *Family Court Review*, 48(2), 305–321. DOI:10.1111/j.1744-1617.2010.01312.x

Although a substantial amount of research documents the increased likelihood of maltreated youths to engage in delinquency, very little is known about them once they cross into delinquency. These youths are often referred to as “crossover youth,” “dual jurisdiction,” or “dually involved” youth, and based on a growing amount of research, it appears these youths face a number of challenges. They have significant educational problems, high rates of placement changes and high rates of substance abuse and

mental health problems, and when they enter the juvenile justice system, they are more likely to stay longer and penetrate deeper into the system than their nonmaltreated counterparts. Using data from Los Angeles County ($N = 581$), the purpose of this study is to identify what characteristics among a crossover population are more likely to result in receiving harsher dispositions and higher recidivism rates.

Siegel, G. (2009). The King County (Washington) systems integration initiative: A first look at the Kent district dual system youth pilot program. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 60(4), 44-59. DOI:10.1111/j.1755-6988.2009.01035.x

King County is one of five counties in Washington State participating in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change juvenile justice reform initiative. One key aspect of King County's Models for Change participation involves ongoing "systems integration" work intended to improve how youth who have cross-over involvement in multiple systems—e.g., juvenile justice, child welfare, education, mental health, and/or others—are handled. These cross-over cases often present a range of challenges to juvenile courts including substantial risk factors that increase their likelihood of continuing system involvement. This article provides a first look at an emerging pilot project in King County that is intended to improve how cross-over cases are handled by child welfare and juvenile probation with the longer term goal of improving outcomes for these difficult cases.

Abrams, L. S., Shannon, S. K., & Sangalang, C. (2008). Transition services for incarcerated youth: A mixed methods evaluation study. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30(5), 522-535. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2007.11.003

Despite a considerable overlap between child welfare and juvenile justice populations, the child welfare literature contains sparse information about transition and reentry programs for incarcerated youth. Using mixed methods, this paper explores

the benefits and limitations of a six-week transitional living program for incarcerated youth offenders. Logistic regression analysis found that only age at arrest and number of prior offenses predicted the odds of recidivism at one-year post-release. Youth who participated in the transitional living program and dual status youth (those involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice systems) were slightly more likely to recidivate, but these differences were not statistically significant. Qualitative interviews with youth and staff revealed that both groups viewed the transitional living program as having many benefits, particularly independent living skills. However, follow-up with youth in the community lacked sufficient intensity to handle the types of challenges that emerged. Implications for future research and transition programming with vulnerable youth are discussed.