Introduction

The traumas that precede foster care placement are well established, but the intra-system effects are less well known. Nearly 6% of all children are ever placed in foster care, but these numbers are much high for underrepresented minorities. Particularly, notable are how some children frequently transition between settings and the factors that may differentiate these children from those with fewer moves.

Foster children average 7 transitions and nearly 5 unique caregivers throughout their experience. While kinship care and reunification is increasingly emphasized, 30% of kinship care and reunification are unsuccessful. One third never achieve long term placement stability. Psychiatric and behavioral issues of foster children are largely attributed to maladaptive systemic improvements to ameliorate the morbidity they experience.

Why amI made to feel so...

Predicators

- Member of a minority group
- Disability or health problem
- History of sexual abuse
- Maternal Substance Abuse
- Mental health diagnosis
- Parent, particularly birth mother, incarceration

Outcomes

- Behavioral problems
- Absenteeism from school
- Lower odds of receiving a diploma or GED
- Obesity Risk
- Less than “excellent” physical health
- Smaller social networks
- Homelessness in adulthood

Reference: