Findings from the 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study

Child Development
Children Aged 0 to 5
On three scales of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, more than one-fifth of children either showed signs of possible developmental delay or had scores that suggested the child could benefit from monitoring.
48.4% received a developmental intervention.
42.3% of children who scored in the delay/monitoring range in at least one of the five domains of the ASQ were not receiving developmental interventions.

Physical Health
94.1% of caregivers said their children were in good to excellent health.
Caregiver responses indicated that 46.8% of children had a serious or chronic health problem.
46.9% of youths reported suffering an injury in the previous 12 months and 37.7% had seen a doctor or nurse for an injury during that time.

Emotional and Behavioral Health
Caregivers' ratings on the Child Behavior Checklist showed that 41.5% of children and youth age 6 to 18 scored in the clinical or borderline clinical range, indicating a need for intervention.
85.9% of those with mental health needs were receiving mental health services.
The most common mental health services currently being received were counseling (44.7% of all children), in-school counseling (22.8%), and outpatient psychiatry (19.0%).

Children and Their Foster Caregivers
Large majorities of children felt their caregiver cared about them (88.1%), helped them (78.9%), enjoyed spending time with them (72.4%), and trusted them (55.1%).

Children and Their Birthparents
37% of children and youth in out-of-home care never saw their birth mother, 34.2% saw their birth mother at least once a week, and 28.4% saw their mother less than once a week.
53.6% of children and youth in out-of-home care never saw their birth father, 2.7% saw him at least once a week, and 23.7% saw him less often.

Child Safety
The percentages of children witnessing or experiencing different forms of violence in their current home were generally small.
32.6% of children reported being physically hurt deliberately by someone in the past year.
53.3% of youths aged 15 to 17 reported this, compared to 37.5% of children age 9 to 11 and 13.9% of youths aged 12 to 14.

Resilience
Children Reported
Activities:
76.0% participate in sports
78.7% have a job or chores
37.8% are in clubs or teams
Expectations:
91.3% think they will graduate from high school
81.4% think they will have a good job by the age of 30

About the Study
The 2017 Illinois Study of Child Well-Being (IL-CWB) is a study of the well-being of children and youths who were in out-of-home care through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

This report is a publication of the Children and Family Research Center and is available on our website at: https://cfrc.illinois.edu/pubs/rp_20190619_2017illinoisChildWell-BeingStudy.pdf