Foster Families and Food Assistance: Results from a National Study

APSAC Colloquium
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June 29th, 2012
Food Insecurity and SNAP

- How many children are food insecure?
- Negative child physical, cognitive, and behavioral results
- Responding to food insecurity
  - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
  - Community food services
  - National School Lunch Programs
  - Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Reasons for non-participation
- Why child welfare should be interested
Purpose

This presentation will:

1. Estimate the percentage of foster care households, both kinship and non-kinship, eligible for SNAP
2. Estimate rates of nonparticipation among placement types
3. Examine the sociodemographic characteristics associated with nonparticipation
Methods

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II

- Baseline data: 2008
- N=2128 - Kin and Non-kin households
- Total family income <130% of federal poverty line

**Outcome Variables:**
Currently receiving food stamps

**Independent Variables:**
Placement type; household size; caregiver race, age, education, employment, marital status, physical health
**Results**

- 71% placed with kin, 29% placed with non-kin
Important differences between placements

< number of household members
> age older than 55

Kin
< education
> poor physical health

Non-kin

Factors contributing to nonparticipation

• Non-kin household (3.3 greater odds)

➢ For kinship households only
• Good caregiver health

➢ For non-kinship households only
• Only a few household members
• Caregiver age over 55
• Less than a high school education
• Being married
Conclusion

- Higher than expected nonparticipation rates
- Unexpected sociodemographic associations
- Policy implications
- Limitations
- Future research
  - Food insecurity of foster families
  - Use of other hunger services
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