

# Congregate Care and Recidivism: Does Child Welfare System's Response to Returning Delinquent Wards Matter?

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# Outline

- Introduction to dual-involvement
- Literature review
- Research question
- Methods
- Results
- discussion

# Introduction to dual-involvement



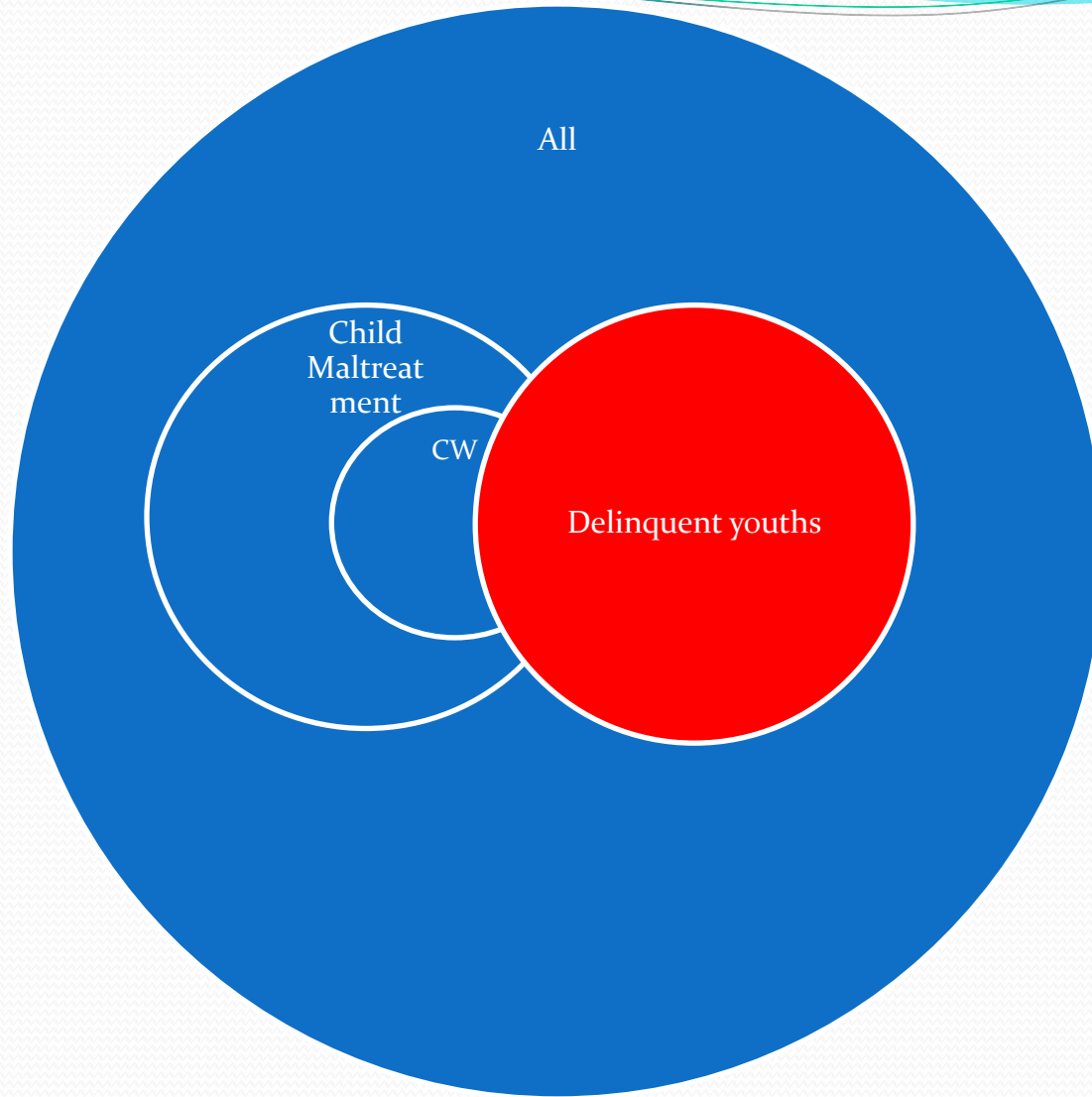
Child Maltreatment



Out-of-home Placement



Juvenile Delinquency



All

Child  
Maltreat  
ment

CW

Delinquent youths

# Child welfare and first time offending

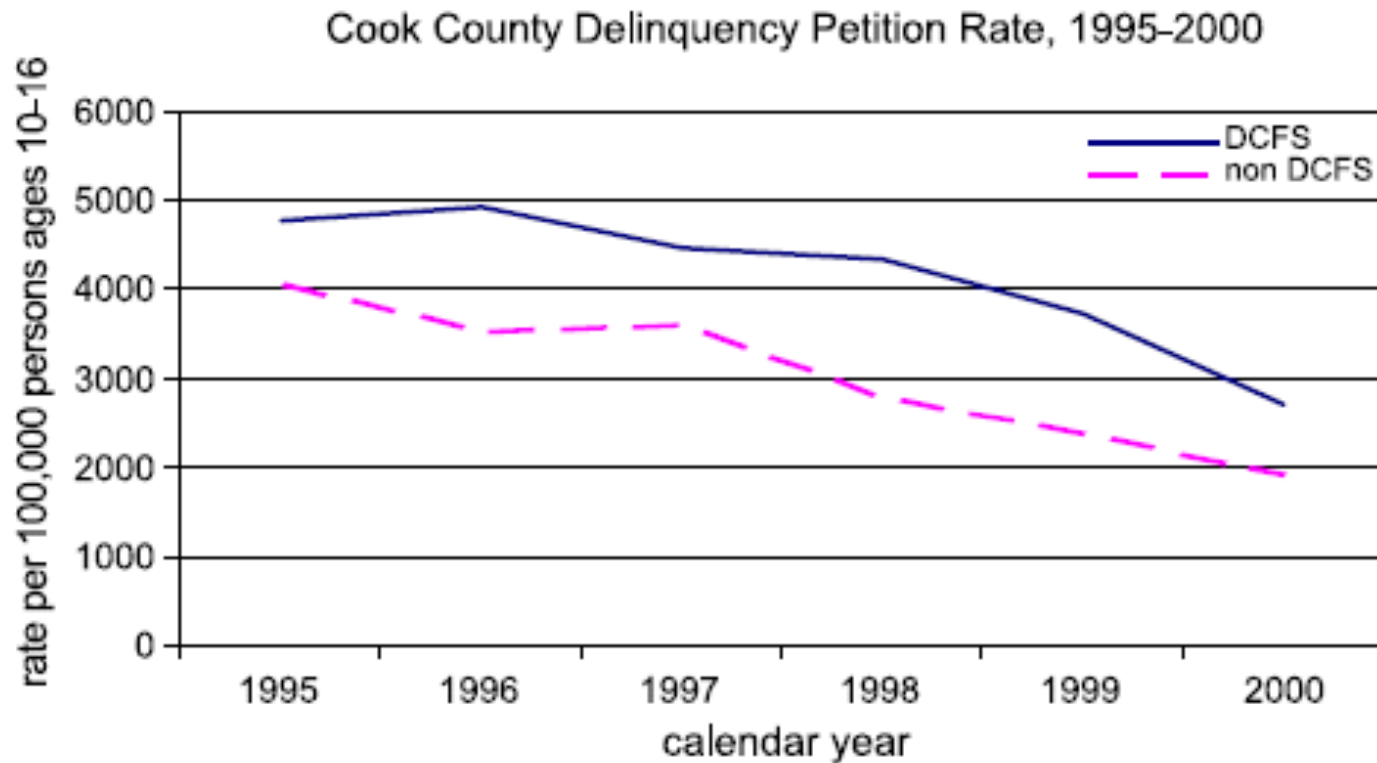


Fig. 1. Cook County delinquency petition rate, 1995-2000.

Cited from:

Ryan, J.P. & Testa, M.F. (2005). Child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency: Investigating the role of placement and placement instability. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27, 227- 249.

# Literature on dual-involvement

- Theories
  - Social control theory
  - Social learning theory
  - Social strain theory
- Empirical findings
  - placement instability
  - congregate placement (e.g. group home)
  - Demographics (i.e. gender, race, age at maltreatment, maltreatment type)

# Child welfare and recidivism

Regions	Comparisons	Results
Rhode Island	Crossover vs. Non-crossover	71% vs 46%
Arizona	Dually-involved vs. Non-dually-involved	62% vs 30%
Los Angeles County	Dually-involved vs. Non-dually-involved	56% vs 41%

# Research question on recidivism

- Was child welfare system's response to returning delinquent wards associated with the risk of recidivism?
- Compare recidivism rates between three groups:
  1. Delinquency only
  2. Dually-involved (i.e. dually involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems) but not moved into group home
  3. Dually-involved and moved into group home



# Methods

- Sample selection: the first time offenders arrested for a violent offense between 2003 and 2005 in Los Angeles (LA) County; removed the offenders who stayed in correctional facilities; the final sample size is 5,630.
- Data sources: administrative data from the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Probation in LA County.
- Analytic method: logistic regression

# Timeline of data collection

The first arrest  
between 2003-  
2005: extract  
juvenile justice  
data

The 1<sup>st</sup> three  
months following  
the first arrest:  
extract child  
welfare data

Two years follow-  
up: extract juvenile  
justice data on  
recidivism

# Sample description

Variables	N	%
Male	3,943	70.0
Race		
Black	2,162	38.4
Hispanic	2,824	50.2
White	644	11.4
Additional charge		
weapon	291	5.2
property	276	4.9
Substance	46	0.8
Other	393	7.0
On probation	2,298	40.8
Child welfare placement		
Delinquency only	5,240	93.1
Dually-involved but not moved into group home	320	5.7
Dually-involved and moved into group home	70	1.2
Recidivism within 2 years	1,852	33

# Results of logistic regression

	B	SE	Exp (B)
Constant	-2.841***	.328	.058
Male	.625***	.067	1.867
Race (reference: Black)			
Hispanic	-.398***	.062	.672
White	-.822***	.105	.440
Additional charge (reference: no additional charge)			
weapon	.115	.128	1.122
property	.279*	.130	1.322
Substance	.218	.307	1.243
Other	.265*	.111	1.303
Age at first arrest	.127***	.022	1.136
On probation	.049	.059	1.050
Child welfare placement (reference: delinquency only)			
Dually-involved but not moved into group home	.515***	.120	1.673
Dually-involved and moved into group home	1.082***	.250	2.952

# discussion

- Dual-involvement was associated with higher risk of recidivism
- Dually-involved and moved into group home was associated with higher risk of recidivism
- The effect of congregate care on recidivism