

Maltreatment Histories of Foster Youth Exiting Out-of-Home Care through Emancipation: A Latent Class Analysis

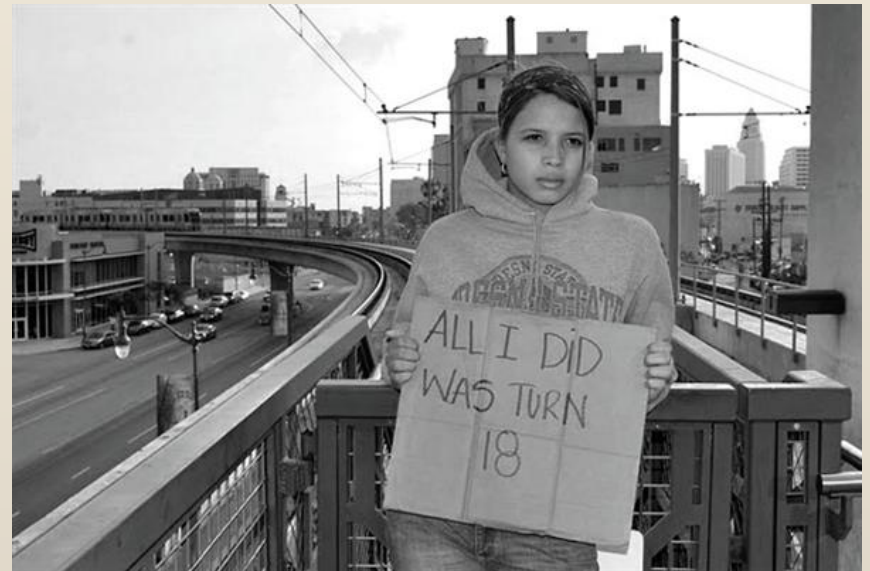
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Foster Youth Emancipating From Care

- ▶ 25,000-30,000 foster youth leave care once reaching state age limits for eligibility¹
- ▶ Research suggests foster youth evidence significant difficulties negotiating the tasks of adulthood²⁻⁴
- ▶ Limited attention given to events prior to- or during foster care
- ▶ Increased attention given to well-being



Maltreatment Histories

- ▶ Maltreatment histories of emancipated foster youth are believed to be serious and extensive ⁵
 - ▶ Late age at entry
 - ▶ Multiple spells
 - ▶ Failure to achieve permanency/TPR
- ▶ Surprisingly few studies have looked at maltreatment histories of aging foster youth in any depth
- ▶ What is known is that when asked these youth report high rates of abuse and neglect in foster care



Dimensions of Maltreatment

- ▶ Research suggests that the impact of maltreatment on youth development may vary depending on:
 - ❖ Timing/age⁷⁻⁸
 - ❖ Chronicity⁹⁻¹²
 - ❖ Type(s) of maltreatment¹³
 - ❖ Severity¹⁴
 - ❖ #/Types of perpetrator(s)¹⁵
 - ❖ Frequency

 - ▶ The research on 'aging out' youth has yet to apply advances that have been made in our understanding of maltreatment as a complex, multi-dimensional experience.
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Current Study & Empirical Concerns

1. Do profiles of maltreatment exist? If so what do these profiles look like?
2. How are profiles related to demographic characteristics and experiences in out-of-home care?



Study Sample & Data Sources

- ▶ Drawn from administrative data in Illinois
 - ▶ A cohort of 801 foster youth that turned 18 in FY2008-2009
 - ▶ These 801 youth were the subject of 9,041 substantiated (51.8%) and unsubstantiated (48.6%) maltreatment allegations
 - ▶ More males (55.3%) than females (44.7%)
 - ▶ Majority are African American (71.2%) followed by Caucasian (23.2%) and Other (5.6%)
 - ▶ Majority from Cook County (62%) followed by 16% in Central, 11% in Northern and 8.1% in southern regions.
 - ▶ Mean age at 1st entry into foster care is 8.2 years
 - ▶ One quarter of the sample had 2+ entries into foster care



Measures

# Types of Maltreatment (1-8)	Chronicity
1) 1-2	1) 1 developmental period
2) 3-4	2) 2 developmental periods
3) 5-8	3) 3 or more
Predominant Maltreatment Type	# Perpetrators
1) Sexual Abuse	1) 1 person
2) Physical Abuse	2) 2 people
3) Neglect	3) 3+



Empirical Strategy

- ▶ Latent Class Analysis (LCA) was used to determine whether multiple dimensions of maltreatment could be used to classify profiles of maltreatment
 - ▶ Latent Gold used for all analyses ¹⁶



Results: Model Selection

<i>Model</i>	<i>L²</i>	<i>df</i>	<i># Parameters</i>	<i>p-value</i>	<i>Bootstrap p-value</i>	<i>BIC_{LL}</i>	<i>AIC_{LL}</i>	<i>% Reduction in L²</i>
One-class	649.13	72	8	<0.001	<0.001	6564.97	6527.48	-
Two-class	157.57	66	14	<0.001	<0.001	6113.53	6047.92	75.7
Three-Class	96.84	60	20	0.002	0.004	6092.91	5999.19	85.1
Four-Class	45.71	54	26	0.78	0.78	6081.89	5960.06	92.9
Five-Class	35.22	58	32	0.91	0.91	6111.52	5961.58	94.6
Six-Class	30.49	42	38	0.91	0.77	6146.90	5968.84	95.3



Latent Class Profiles

	Class 1 .376	Class 2 .269	Class 3 .195	Class 4 .159
<u>Multiple Types (1-8)</u>				
1-2 types	.017	.244	.838	.289
3-4 types	.418	.656	.160	.632
5+ types	.565	.100	.002	.079
<u>Predominant Type</u>				
Sexual abuse	.160	.284	.170	.001
Physical abuse	.202	.271	.124	.081
Neglect	.638	.445	.706	.918
<u>Chronicity (1-5)</u>				
1 developmental period	.002	.349	.826	.023
2 developmental periods	.195	.610	.172	.523
3+ developmental periods	.803	.041	.002	.454
<u># Perpetrators (1-9)</u>				
1 person	.001	.014	.756	.419
2 people	.089	.353	.239	.532
3+ people	.910	.633	.005	.049



Latent Class 1

- ▶ Largest class, representing 37% of the sample
- ▶ High probability of having allegations representing:
 - ❖ 5+ types of maltreatment
 - ❖ Maltreatment in 3+ developmental periods
 - ❖ 3+ different perpetrators
 - ❖ Predominant neglect

**Chronically
Maltreated**



Latent Class 2

- ▶ Second largest class
- ▶ 26% of the sample
- ▶ Highest probabilities of:
 - ❖ 3-4 maltreatment types
 - ❖ Maltreatment in 2 developmental periods
 - ❖ Predominant Sexual Abuse
 - ❖ Predominant Physical Abuse

**Predominant
Abuse**



Latent Class 3

- ▶ This class represents 19% of the sample
- ▶ Highest Probabilities of:
 - ❖ 1-2 maltreatment types
 - ❖ One developmental period
 - ❖ 1 perpetrator
- ▶ Second highest probability of Predominant Neglect.

Situational Maltreatment



Latent Class 4

- ▶ Smallest class
- ▶ 16% of sample
- ▶ High probabilities of:
 - ❖ 3-4 maltreatment types
 - ❖ Predominant neglect
 - ❖ Maltreatment allegation in 2- to 3+ developmental periods
 - ❖ 1-2 perpetrators

**Predominant
Neglect**



Validation of Classes

	Chronically Maltreated	Predominant Abuse	Situational Maltreatment	Predominant Neglect
<u>Demographic</u>				
Male	53.8%	54.8%	51.0%	63.7%
Black	64.1%	67.1%	78.1%	83.6%
Cook	55.5%	62.4%	65.2%	69.9%
<u>Maltreatment</u>				
Age 1 st Report	2.5 (2.5)	7.3(3.9)	9.5(4.8)	3.8(2.9)
# Allegations	18.8 (10.6)	7.3 (3.9)	9.5 (4.8)	3.8(2.9)
<u>Out-of-Home</u>				
Age 1 st Entry	7.1 (4.9)	9.0(4.5)	9.6(4.8)	8.0(4.5)
Any re-entry	36.2%	22.9%	18.1%	32.2%
1 st Placement Length (Days)	291 (595)	262 (604)	557 (1,119)	302 (708)

Discussion

- ▶ Instead of being universally extensive in this sub-group of foster children, the findings revealed distinct differences across profiles.
- ▶ The most common maltreatment profile was characterized by enduring exposure to abuse and neglect.
- ▶ The next most common profile was marked by particularly high impact forms of abuse.
- ▶ Together the most common profiles represent two-thirds of the sample
- ▶ Suggests a need to assess for multiple forms of maltreatment and symptoms of trauma
- ▶ More research needed about how transitional/independent living programs integrate trauma



Implications

▶ Front-end of foster care

- ▶ Increase linkages between CPS and family support systems when multiple allegations of neglect do not warrant sufficient response (Daro & Dodge, 2009).
- ▶ Screen for exposure to multiple-forms of maltreatment
- ▶ Assess for traumatic responses
- ▶ Expand use of evidence informed interventions for psychological trauma (TARGET, TF-CBT, Integrative Treatment for Complex Trauma)
- ▶ Increase education/training/support/monitoring of substitute caregivers/caseworkers

▶ Back-end of foster care

- ▶ Integrate education and awareness of trauma with services offered during transition to adulthood



Questions

AGING **OUT**



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Thank you!!!

