DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES
Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities

Office for Research & Evaluation

Outcome Comparisons for Children Exiting from Out-of-State Care and In-State Care Setting: January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2014

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SUMMARY

Comparison 1 – **Three groups:** Out-of-State congregate care (CC) exits where the next event is In-State placement or Out-of-State placement and In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement

- *Discharge to a preferred outcome*: There was no statistically significant difference in rate of discharge to a preferred outcome between children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement and children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement. However, children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State CC were less likely to be discharged to a preferred outcome than children of in-state CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.
- *Time to legal discharge ≥ 12 months*: When age at exit was controlled for, there were no statistically significant differences regarding time to discharge ≥ 12 months between children of In-State whose next placement were In-State care and either types of children of Out-of-State.
- *Higher level of care*: Children of Out-of-State CC exits (no matter next event being In-State placement or out-of-statement placement) were significantly less likely to enter into a higher level of care than children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.
- *Current DCF involvement*: Children of Out-of-State CC exits (no matter next event being In-State placement or out-of-statement placement) were significantly less likely to have current DCF involvement than children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.
- *Subsequent maltreatment*: There was no any statistically significant difference for subsequent maltreatment among these three groups.

Comparison 2 – **Two groups:** Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge vs. In-State CC Exits where the next event is discharge

- *Reentry to DCF placement*: There was no statistically significant difference for reentry to DCF placement between the two groups

- *Current DCF involvement*: Children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next exit is discharge were less likely to have current DCF involvement than children of In-State CC Exits where the next event is discharge.
- *Subsequent maltreatment*: There was no statistically significant difference for subsequent maltreatment between the two groups.

COMPARISON RESULTS

Comparison 1: Out-of-State congregate care (CC) exits where the next event is In-State placement or Out-of-State placement and In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.

Table 1 summarizes comparison results among three groups: 1. Out-of-State congregate care (CC) exits where the next event is In-State placement, 2. Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State placement, and 3. In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.

Significant differences were observed for all factors in Table 1 except age at initial removal. For example, among the three groups, children exiting from Out-of-State CC where the next event is In-State placement had the highest percentage (70%) of time in placement ≥ 6 months, the percentage was 53% for children exiting from Out-of-State CC where the next event is Out-of-State CC and 31% for children exiting from In-State CC where the next event is In-State placement ($p < 0.0001$).

About 24% children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement and 17% children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement had a preferred discharge outcome, while only 4% children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State CC were discharged to a preferred setting.

The percentages of time to legal discharge ≥ 12 months among the three groups (i.e., Out-of-State congregate care (CC) exits where the next event is In-State placement or Out-of-State placement and In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement) were 54%, 49% and 63%, respectively.

Regarding next placement, 16% children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement went to a higher level of care, while only 5% children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement went to a higher level of care.

About 23% children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State placement had current involvement with the Department, while the other two groups were 36% and 40%, respectively.

Children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement and children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement had a similar rate of subsequent maltreatment, while this rate was only 1% for children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State placement.

It should be noted that the group differences for the five outcomes (i.e., discharge to a preferred outcome, time to discharge ≥ 12 months, higher level of care, current DCF involvement and subsequent maltreatment) may be confounded by different characteristics (e.g., age at exit and having previous episode) that were observed. Therefore, to exclude such possibility, we then conducted logistic regression to examine whether the three groups had different outcomes.

Table 1. Comparisons among Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement or Out-of-State and In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement (N = 4,958)

Factors	Out-of-State Next: In-State (n = 272)	Out-of-State, Next Out-of-State (n = 131)	In-State, Next In-State (n = 4,555)	P-value
Age at initial removal (year)	12.7 (3.6, 0.0-18.5)	12.9 (3.9, 0.2-18.1)	12.9 (4.3, 0.0-18.9)	0.97
Age at exit (year)	15.5 (2.9, 0.0-20.0)	16.0 (2.3, 10.0-21.0)	14.5 (3.8, 0.0-21.0)	<.0001
Female gender	35.3%	38.9%	44.0%	0.01
Race/ethnicity				0.02
Non-Hispanic white	34.2%	42.0%	28.9%	
Non-Hispanic black	30.5%	22.1%	30.8%	
Hispanic	30.5%	30.5%	33.8%	
Other	4.8%	5.3%	6.5%	
Having previous placement episode	78.3%	82.4%	67.2%	<.0001
Time in placement ≥ 6 months	69.9%	52.7%	31.0%	<.0001
Discharge to a preferred outcome	16.7%	3.8%	24.1%	0.0008
Time to legal discharge ≥ 12 months	53.6%	49.1%	63.1%	0.03
Next placement				<.0001
Same or lower level	94.8%	93.1%	84.5%	
Higher level	5.2%	6.9%	15.5%	

Current involvement	35.7%	22.9%	39.9%	0.0002
Subsequent maltreatment	4.8%	0.8%	6.0%	0.03

[a] The numbers in the table for continuous variable including age at initial removal and age at exit (standard deviation, range); for other variables are percentages.

[b] P-value was obtained using ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) for continuous variables (log-transformed due to skewness) and Chi-square test for categorical variables.

Table 2 shows the results from logistic regression for five outcomes (i.e., discharge to a preferred outcome, time to discharge ≥ 12 months, higher level of care, current DCF involvement and subsequent maltreatment) among Out-of-State congregate care (CC) exits where the next event is In-State placement or Out-of-State placement, and In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.

Discharge to a preferred outcome: There was no statistically significant difference in the rate of discharge to a preferred outcome between children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement and children of In-State CC exits where the next event is In-State placement (odds ratio = 0.65, p = 0.17). However, children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is Out-of-State CC were less likely to be discharged to a preferred outcome than children of in-state CC exits where the next event is In-State placement (odds ratio = 0.10, p = 0.002).

Time to legal discharge ≥ 12 months: When age at exit was controlled for, there were no statistically significant differences regarding time to discharge ≥ 12 months between children of In-State whose next placement were In-State care and either types of children of Out-of-State.

Higher level of care: Children of Out-of-State CC exits (no matter next event being In-State placement [odds ratio = 0.37, p = 0.004] or out-of-statement placement [odds ratio = 0.39, p = 0.008]) were significantly less likely to enter into a higher level of care than children of in-state CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.

Current DCF involvement: Children of Out-of-State CC exits (no matter next event being In-State placement [odds ratio = 0.76, p = 0.04] or out-of-statement placement [odds ratio = 0.42, p <.0001]) were significantly less likely to have current DCF involvement than children of in-state CC exits where the next event is In-State placement.

Subsequent maltreatment: There was no any statistically significant difference for subsequent maltreatment among these three groups.

Table 2. Logistic regression for level of next care, current DCF involvement and subsequent maltreatment (N = 4,958) [a]

Factors	Discharge to a preferred outcome	Time to discharge ≥ 12 months	Higher level of next care	Current DCF involvement	Subsequent maltreatment
Age at initial removal (year)	0.80 (0.77-0.83), p <.0001	–	0.97 (0.94-0.99), p = 0.01	–	1.19 (1.10-1.28), p <.0001
Age at exit (year)	Not Included [b]	0.90 (0.86-0.93), p <.0001	1.12 (1.08-1.17), p <.0001	1.02 (1.00-1.04), p = 0.02	0.79 (0.73-0.85), p <.0001
Female gender	–	–	–	–	1.42 (1.12-1.81), p = 0.005
Race/ethnicity	–	–		–	–
Non-Hispanic white			Reference group		
Non-Hispanic black			0.76 (0.62-0.94), p = 0.01		
Hispanic			0.90 (0.74-1.10), p = 0.30		
Other			1.11 (0.79-1.54), p = 0.55		
Having previous placement episode	0.22 (0.16-0.31), p <.0001	–	1.25 (1.03-1.53), p = 0.03	–	1.50 (1.12-2.00), p = 0.006
Time in placement ≥ 6 months	–	–	0.36 (0.29-0.44), p <.0001	1.22 (1.08-1.39), p = 0.002	–
Congregate care exits					
In-State, next In-State	Reference group	Reference group	Reference group	Reference group	Reference group
Out-of-State, next In-State	0.65 (0.36-1.21), p = 0.17	0.74 (0.49-1.13), p = 0.17	0.37 (0.21-0.64), p = 0.004	0.76 (0.59-0.99), p = 0.04	1.02 (0.57-1.81), p = 0.96
Out-of-State, next Out-of-State	0.10 (0.02-0.44), p = 0.002	0.69 (0.39-1.20), p = 0.19	0.39 (0.20-0.78), p = 0.008	0.42 (0.28-0.63), p <.0001	0.15 (0.02-1.11), p = 0.06

[a] The numbers in the table were odds ratio and its 95% confidence interval, and p-value for the association.

[b] Not included because it overlaps with part of the outcome (i.e., aging out of the system).

Comparison 2: Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge vs. In-State CC Exits where the next event is discharge

Table 3. Comparisons between Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge and In-State CC exits where the next event is discharge (N = 2,548)

Factors	Out-of-State (n = 250)	In-State (n = 2,298)	P-value
Age at initial removal (year)	14.0 (3.6, 0.2-21.2)	14.5 (3.2, 0.0-21.2)	0.06
Age at exit (year)	17.0 (2.6, 0.0-21.0)	16.2 (2.8, 0.0-22.0)	0.0005
Female gender	20.4%	34.8%	<.0001
Race/ethnicity			0.01
Non-Hispanic white	42.0%	31.9%	
Non-Hispanic black	24.4%	31.5%	
Hispanic	28.8%	31.6%	
Other	4.8%	5.0%	
Having previous placement episode	64.0%	63.3%	0.82
Time in placement ≥ 6 months	83.6%	49.8%	<.0001
Reentry to DCF placement	4.8%	8.1%	0.06
Time to reentry to DCF placement among reentries (month)	8.8 (7.0, 0.0-26.9)	9.3 (8.2, 0.0-39.7)	0.97
Current involvement	24.4%	41.6%	<.0001
Subsequent maltreatment	2.8%	4.6%	0.20

[a] The numbers in the table for continuous variable including age at initial removal, age at exit and time to reentry to DCF placement among reentries (standard deviation, range); for other variables are percentages.

[b] P-value was obtained using Student's t test for continuous variables (log-transformed due to skewness) and Chi-square test for categorical variables.

Table 3 summarizes comparison results between Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge and In-State CC exits where the next event is also discharge. The two groups had similar age at removal (p = 0.06), having previous placement episode (p = 0.82), and subsequent maltreatment (p = 0.20). Compared to children of In-State CC exits where the next event is discharge, children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge were older (p =

0.0005), less proportion of girls (p <.0001), higher proportion in placement ≥ 6 months (84% vs. 50%, p <.0001), and lower proportion of current involvement (24% vs. 42%, p <.0001).

For the similar reason as Comparison 1, we conducted logistic regression to examine the group differences for two outcomes (i.e., current DCF involvement and subsequent maltreatment).

Table 4. Logistic regression for reentry to DCF placement, current DCF involvement and subsequent maltreatment among children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next event is discharge and In-State CC exits where the next event is discharge (N = 2,548)

Factors	Reentry to DCF placement	Current DCF involvement	Subsequent maltreatment
Age at initial removal (year)	1.29 (1.14-1.46), p <.0001	_	1.36 (1.12-1.64), p = 0.002
Age at exit (year)	0.64 (0.57-0.72), p <.0001	0.88 (0.86-0.91), p <.0001	0.62 (0.51-0.74), p <.0001
Female gender	2.01 (1.47-2.73), p <.0001	_	1.58 (1.06-2.37), p = 0.03
Race/ethnicity	_		_
Non-Hispanic white		Reference group	
Non-Hispanic black		1.38 (1.12-1.69), p = 0.002	
Hispanic		1.23 (1.00-1.51), p = 0.048	
Other		1.18 (0.79-1.74), p = 0.34	
Having previous placement episode	_	_	1.77 (1.13-2.78), p = 0.01
Time in placement ≥ 6 months	_	_	_
Congregate care exits			
In-State, next discharge	Reference group	Reference group	Reference group
Out-of-State, next discharge	0.88 (0.47-1.67), p = 0.70	0.50 (0.37-0.68), p <.0001	0.95 (0.42-2.16), p = 0.91

Note. The numbers in the table were odds ratio and its 95% confidence interval, and p-value for the association.

Current DCF involvement: Table 4 demonstrates that the odds of having current DCF involvement for children of Out-of-State CC exits where the next exit is discharge were half of In-State exits where the next exit is discharge (odds ratio = 0.50, p <.0001), after adjusting for significant potential confounders. This table also shows that both among children who exited from CC and

next event being discharge, non-Hispanic Africa American and Hispanic children were more likely to have current DCF involvement than white children.

Reentry to DCF placement: There was no statistically significant difference for reentry to DCF placement between the two groups (odds ratio = 0.88, p = 0.70).

Subsequent maltreatment: There was no statistically significant difference for subsequent maltreatment between the two groups (odds ratio = 0.95, p = 0.91).