



Pelican Center
for Children & Families

**EXAMINING PLACEMENT
STABILITY BY RACE IN THE FIRST
30 DAYS OF FOSTER CARE**

Pelican Center for
Children and Families
Disproportionality and
Disparate Outcomes
Committee

AGENDA

Introduction – Thailund Porter-Green, JD

Justification – Mark Harris, JD

Young Children – Sebastian Del Corral, Psy.D

Louisiana Data – Joe Keegan

Recommendations – Amy Dickson, Psy.D

Q & A – Thailund Porter-Green, JD



PELICAN CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Pelican Center is a not-for-profit collaborative that assists the Louisiana Supreme Court with implementation of the Louisiana Court Improvement Program. The overarching goal of our work is working first and foremost with judges, attorneys, agency staff, CASA, service providers and other child welfare stakeholders to help prevent or eliminate the need for removals from their homes. If children must enter the foster care system in order to keep them safe, our work focuses on ensuring that children exit the system into a safe permanent home as soon as it is in the best interest of the child.



DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARATE OUTCOMES COMMITTEE

The DDOC is a standing committee within the Pelican Center. It works to identify, analyze and address issues of disproportionality and disparate outcomes for black children and families versus white children and families.



DISPROPORTIONALITY

Disproportionality is a state of being out of proportion.

Racial disproportionality is a condition where the percentage of a particular race or ethnicity in a target population differs from the percentage of persons of the same group in the general population.

Example: According to recent reports by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, black children represented 14% of the total child population nationally, but account for 22% of all children in foster care. By comparison, white children represent 49% of the nation's child population and only 43% of its foster care population.

DISPARITY

Disparity is a state of being unequal.

Racial disparity occurs when the ratio of one racial or ethnic group in an event is not equal to the ratio of another racial or ethnic group who experienced the same event.

DISPARITY IN CHILD WELFARE

In the child welfare system, racial disparity is used to describe unequal outcomes experienced by one racial or ethnic group at various decision-making points compared to another racial or ethnic group.

Example: According to a 2022 report by the American Bar Association, nationally over 50% of black children will experience a child welfare investigation before their 18th birthday (nearly double the rate for white children). And nearly 10% of black children will be removed from their parents and placed in foster care (double the rate of White children).



LOUISIANA DISPROPORTIONALITY

- According to 2021 federal child welfare statistical data, black children represented 36.2% of all children in the state and accounted for 37.4% of children in foster care.
- In the same data profile, white children accounted for 50.3% of all children in the state and accounted for 52.5% of children in foster care.
- While these average numbers do not look particularly alarming, pockets of much higher disproportionality exist in the state.
- For example, according to 2020 Casey Family Programs reports, in East Baton Rouge Parish black children represented 57% of the general child population, but represented 71% of children in care.
- In the same report for Caddo Parish, black children represented 58% of the child population, but accounted for 66% of the children in care.



Louisiana

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 4) Data Profile
AFCARS and NCANDS submissions as of 12-21-22

February 2023

Risk-Standardized Performance Visualization

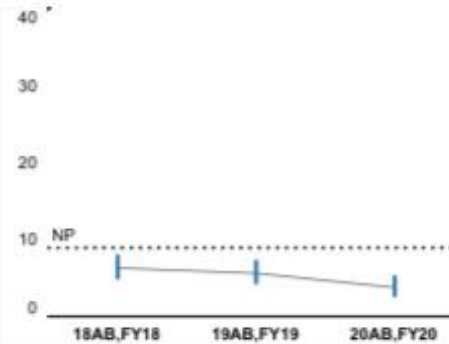
Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) is the percent or rate of children experiencing the outcome of interest, with risk adjustment. The vertical bars in the line graph represent the lower RSP and upper RSP of the 95% RSP (confidence) interval, and national performance (NP) is the dotted black line.

Safety Outcomes

Maltreatment in Care (victimizations/100,000 days in care)

9.07 NP
3.99 RSP

Lower value is desired

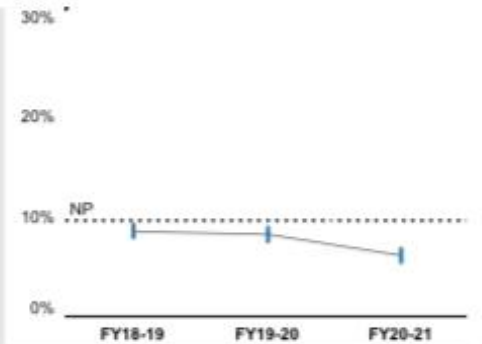


Measured as the rate of abuse or neglect per days in foster care in a 12-month period that children experienced while under the state's placement and care responsibility

Recurrence of Maltreatment

9.7% NP
6.3% RSP

Lower value is desired



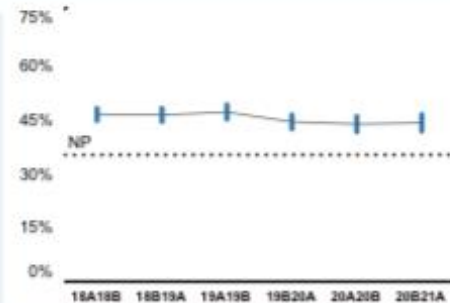
Measured as the percent of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period and who experienced subsequent maltreatment within 12 months of the initial victimization

Permanency Outcomes

Permanency in 12 Months (entries)

35.2% NP
44.3% RSP

Higher value is desired

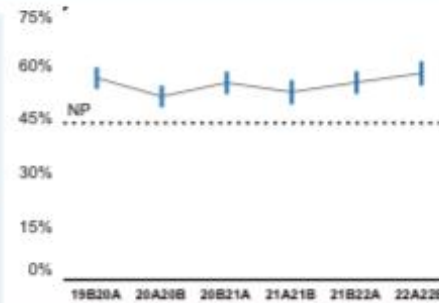


Among children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who exited foster care to reunification, adoption, guardianship, or living with a relative within 12 months of their entry

Permanency in 12 Months (12-23 mos)

43.8% NP
57.9% RSP

Higher value is desired

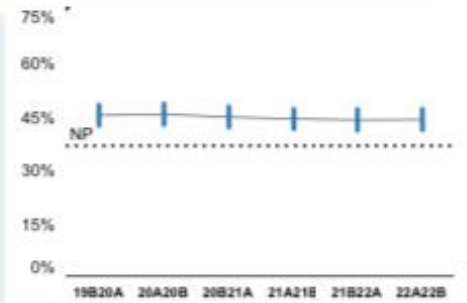


Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care for 12 to 23 months, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

Permanency in 12 Months (24+ mos)

37.3% NP
44.7% RSP

Higher value is desired



Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care 24 months or more, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

Measured as the rate of abuse or neglect per days in foster care in a 12-month period that children experienced while under the state's placement and care responsibility

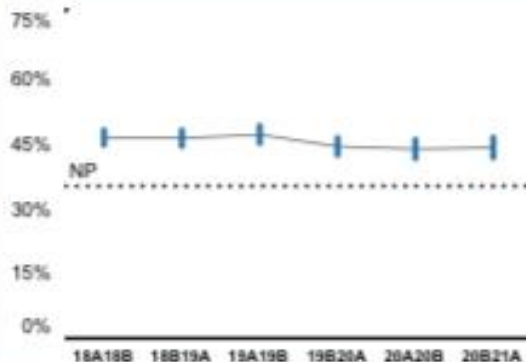
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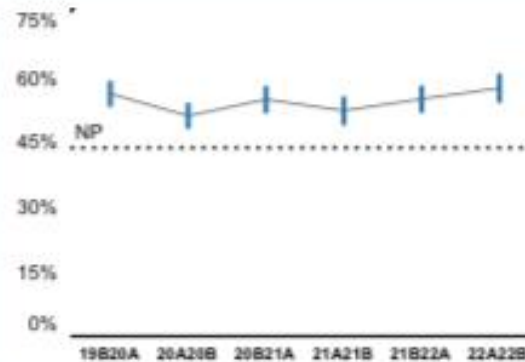


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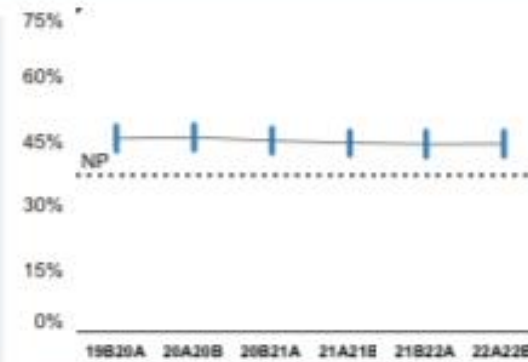


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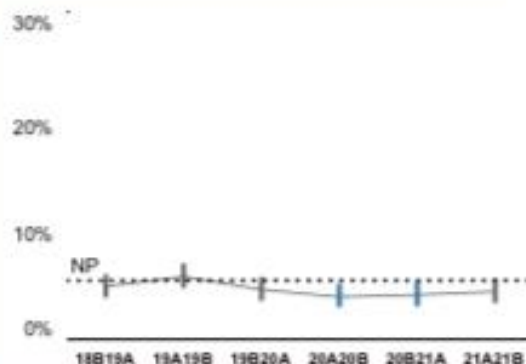


Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care 24 months or more, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

Reentry to Foster Care

5.6% NP
4.7% RSP

Lower value is desired

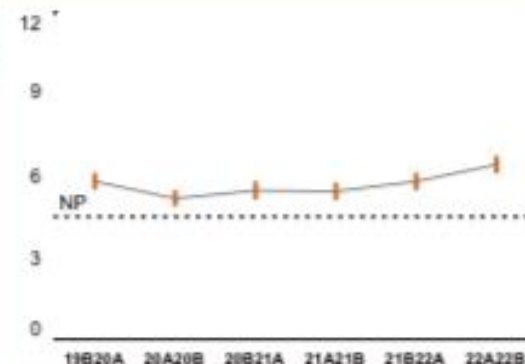


Among children who discharged to permanency (excluding adoption) in a 12-month period, the percent who reentered care within 12 months of exit

Placement Stability (moves/1,000 days in care)

4.48 NP
6.43 RSP

Lower value is desired



Among children who entered care in a 12-month period, the number of placement moves per day they experienced during that year

Performance Key

- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically better than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically no different than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically worse than national performance.
- DQ Performance was not calculated due to exceeding the data quality limit on one or more data quality (DQ) checks done for the indicator. See footnotes for more information.

PLACEMENT STABILITY

LA - CFSR 4 Data Pr...





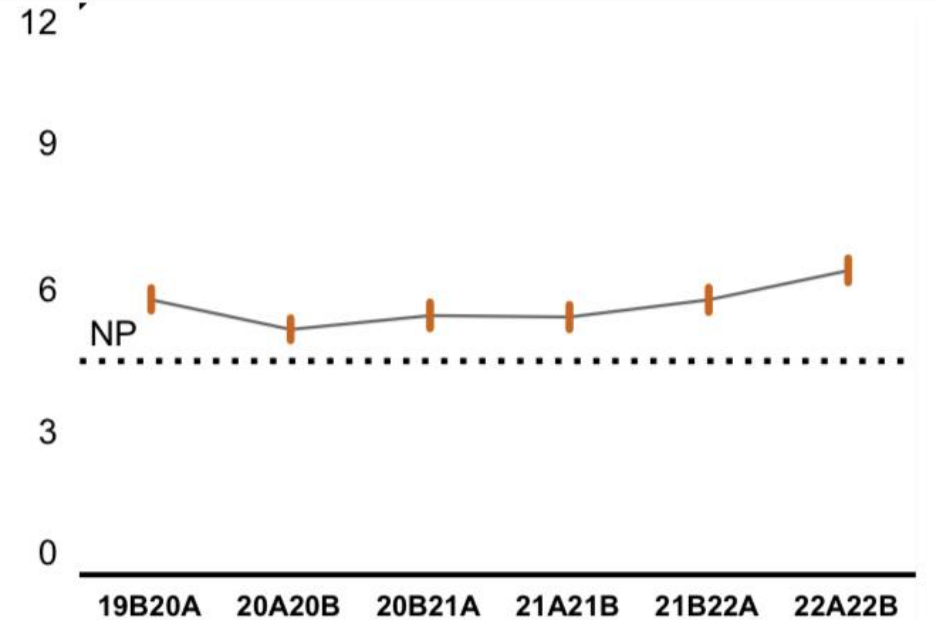

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Placement Stability
(moves/1,000 days in care)

4.48
NP

6.43
RSP

Lower value is desired



Among children who entered care in a 12-month period, the number of placement moves per day they experienced during that year

PLACEMENT STABILITY AND PERMANENCY

- Research by national organizations such as Casey Family Programs has consistently shown a connection between placement stability and time to permanency. More placement changes during foster care more often than not lead to delays in achieving permanency.
- Research also indicates that black children are more likely than white children to experience delays in permanency, especially with multiple placement changes during out-of-home care.
- According to Casey, initial placement decisions are a critical factor in placement stability. With these findings in mind, the Pelican Center's DDOC chose to study placement stability between black and white children during the first 30 days of foster care.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

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Why focusing on 0 to 6 years of age?

Why placement instability is detrimental?

Effects and Factors leading to placement instability

YOUNG CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

Brain is rapidly growing in the first 3 years of life, which lays the foundation for how the child will continue developing

Young children (0-6 years) are the most vulnerable victims of maltreatment given their reliance on caregivers for protection, regulation, communication and meeting their needs



OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT INSTABILITY

Instability is defined as 2 or more changes in placement while in foster care

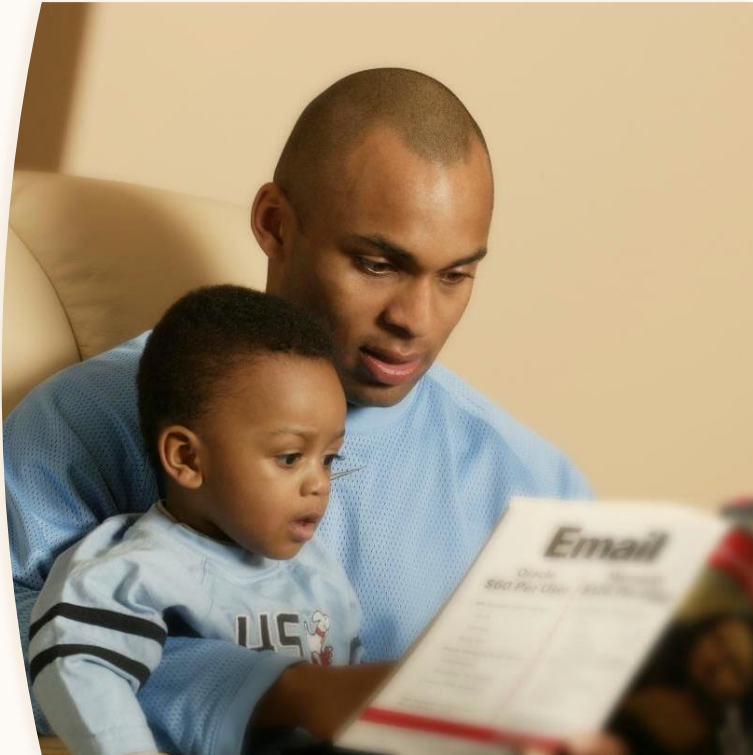
Interpersonal relationships dictate what to expect and what is expected of me

A stable relationship allows children to explore and master their environment

Young children are the largest proportion of children in foster care (Children's Bureau, 2021)



EFFECTS OF PLACEMENT INSTABILITY



- Positive Outcomes of a Move
 - When done in a sensitive and thoughtful manner, 1 move may bring the family closer (Cross et al., 2013) and reunify siblings (Font & Kim, 2022).
- Negative Outcomes of Repeated Moves
 - Disruptions in attachment (Bowlby, 1969/1982)
 - Difficulties forming other relationships (Pickover & Brown, 2016), trusting other adults (Miranda et al., 2019), and becoming preoccupied with safety (Dozier & Rutter, 2016).
 - Repeated changes in placement have also been associated with
 - Poor physical and brain development (Johnson et al., 2018),
 - Greater emotional (Carnochan et al., 2013) and behavioral problems (Rubin et al., 2007),
 - Greater need for mental health services (Fawlen-King & Snowden, 2012),
 - Poor self-control and inhibition (Prentky et al., 2014),
 - More sexual acting out behaviors (Sheerin et al., 2022), and
 - Difficulties relaxing and focusing learning and developing (Dozier & Rutter, 2016).

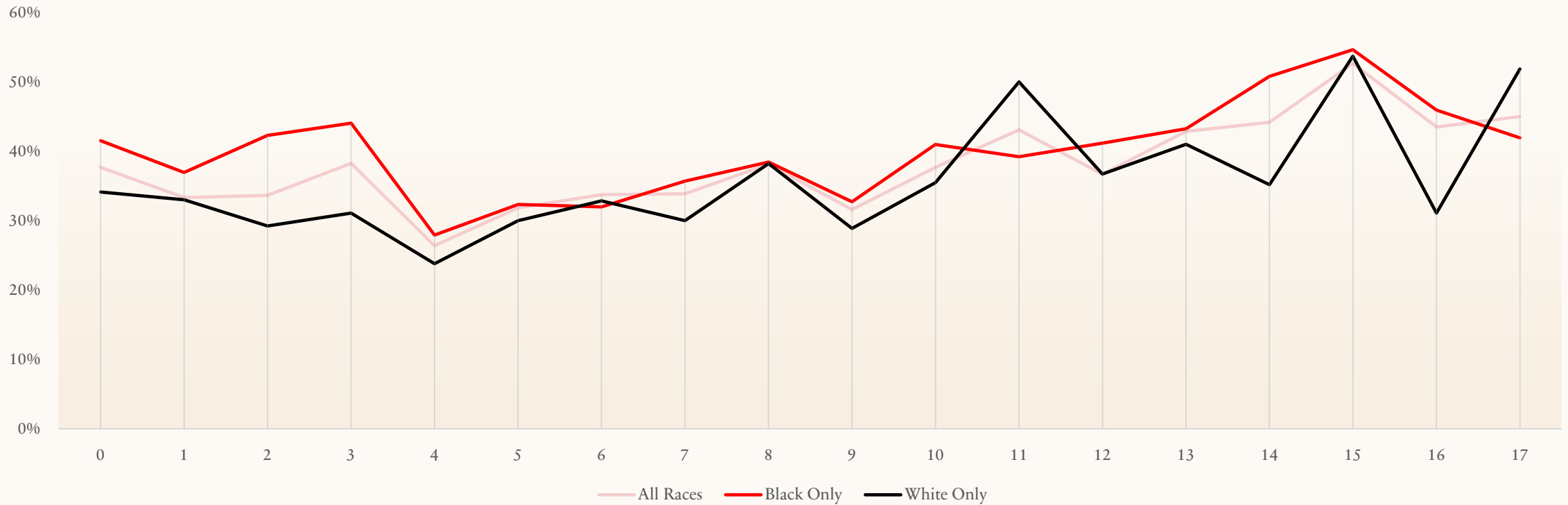
WHY MOVING SO MUCH?

- **Caregiver Characteristics (34%, Cross et al., 2013)**
 - Unforeseeable stressors (Koh et al., 2014)
 - African American caregivers and relatives lead to higher likely of reunification (Collins et al., 2022; Van Horn et al., 2011)
- **Policy Factors (20%, Cross et al., 2013; 70%, James, 2004)**
 - Changes due to external forces: Case worker turnover (Rock et al., 2015), limited funding and system-issued moves (James, 2004).
- **Children's Characteristics**
 - Adolescents at higher risk (Connell et al., 2006)
 - Behavioral problems (James, 2004) and mental health conditions (Koh et al., 2014)
 - **Race:**
 - Lower rates of reunification (LaBrenz et al., 2021),
 - Lengthier foster care cases case time (Cooper, 2013),
 - Lower rates of reunification (Connell et al., 2005), and
 - More out-of-home placements (Chapman, 2016).



BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

FFY22 FC Entries - Pct Setting Changed in 30 Days by Entry Age



WHAT ARE WE STUDYING

What impacts children being moved within 30 days of FC placement.

35.8% of FC Entries were moved within 30 days of FC start date.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

- Foster care entries between 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2022
- 8,078 foster care entries
 - 0-6 years of age at the time of entry
 - Were placed with in a family setting
- 52% male, 48% female
- 45% Black/Biracial Black
 - Given that in this sample, 95% of the Multi-racial group had Black or African American identified as one of their races, the team decided to combine these groups into one (Black/Biracial Black).
- 2.5% Hispanic



THREE GROUPS ANALYZED

01

Model 1 Children Who Spent 30 days or less in FC

- N=636

02

Model 2 Children Who Spent > 30 days in FC and had the time of court order in system

- N=3,715

03

Model 3 Children Who Spent > 30 days in FC

- N=6,222

LESS LIKELY TO BE MOVED IN 30 DAYS - RELATIVE OR KIN 1ST PLACEMENTS

- An ODDS RATIO of 1.000, the chances of being moved within 30 days was the same for children placed with a relative or kin and those not placed with a relative or kin.
- *Model 1, OR = 59% less likely;*
- *Model 2, OR = 71% less likely;*
- *Model 3, OR = 61% less likely)*

MORE LIKELY TO BE MOVED IN 30 DAYS – WEEKEND/AFTER HOURS COURT ORDER

An ODDS RATIO of 1.000, the chances of being moved within 30 days was the same for children with an after hours/weekend court order as one between 7 AM and 3 PM, M-F.

Model 1 OR = 2.1 times more likely;

Model 2, OR = 2 times more likely;

Model 3, OR = 2 times more likely

MORE LIKELY TO BE MOVED IN 30 DAYS – IVE OR SSI CHILDREN

An ODDS RATIO of 1.000, the chances of being moved within 30 days was the same for children who were IVE eligible or received SSI as those not eligible.

Model 1, OR = 3 times more likely;

Model 2, OR = 1.2 times more likely;

Model 3, OR = 2 ½ times more likely.



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LESS LIKELY TO BE MOVED IN 30

DAYS – CHILDREN 0-3 VS 4-6 YO

An ODDS RATIO of 1.000, the chances of being moved within 30 days was the same for children 0-3 and those 4-6.

Model 1, OR = 43% less likely;

Model 2, OR = 29% less likely;

Model 3, OR = 45% less likely.

MORE LIKELY TO BE MOVED IN 30 DAYS – BLACK

- An ODDS RATIO of 1.000, the chances of being moved within 30 days was the same for Black/Biracial Black children as all other children.
- *Model 2, OR = 1.2021,*
 - *97.5% CI [1.0356, 1.3951], p = 0.0155)*
- Essentially, 20% more likely
- It was not significant for Models 1 or 3.

NO IMPACT VARIABLES

- *Hispanic ethnicity approached significance in Models 1 and 3,*
 - *OR = 1.86440, 97.5% CI [0.88154, 3.8523],*
 - *p = 0.0958)*
- Gender and disability had no impact on being moved within 30 days of FC placement

“

DR. DICKSON'S PART ”

Recommendations/Conclusions



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Race and Ethnicity of the Child
 - Policies and Regulations
 - Implicit Biases in Child Welfare
 - Out-of-Home Placement
- Age of the Child
 - Needs and Behavioral Assessment
 - Guidelines and Policies
- Relative/Kinship Placement
 - Preplacement Meetings
 - Identification of Relatives/Kin
 - Foster Care Certification of Relatives/Kin
- Initial Time of the Hold Order
 - Staff Assistance
 - Initial Out-of-Home Placements
- Social Security Income/Title IV-E Eligibility
 - Relatives/Kin
 - Family of Origin

SUMMARY



QUESTIONS



THANK YOU

For more information contact:

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www.pelicancenter.org

