

Crossover Youth Practice Model

LYMAN LEGTERS
HELEN JONES-KELLEY

Who are Crossover Youth?

Crossover Youth
Youths who have experienced maltreatment and engaged in delinquency.

Dually-Involved Youth
A subgroup of crossover youth who are simultaneously receiving services, at any level, from both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Dually-Adjudicated Youth
A subgroup of dually-involved youth, encompassing only those youth who are concurrently adjudicated by both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

What are the Pathways to Crossing Over?

- Youth has an Open Child Welfare Case → Youth is Arrested → Enter the Juvenile Justice System
- Youth has an open child welfare case → Child welfare case is closed → Youth is arrested → Youth enters the juvenile justice system
- Youth is victim of maltreatment but it is undetected by CW system → Youth is Arrested → Youth Referred to the Child Welfare System
- Youth is arrested and put in a correctional facility → Youth is released from the facility but family abandons him/her → Youth referred to the child welfare system

What Contributes to Crossing Over?



- ▶ There is a link between maltreatment and delinquency
- ▶ There is a debate over what causes the link between maltreatment and delinquency
- ▶ Understanding the link provides insight into how to prevent delinquency from occurring

The Research & Characteristics of Crossover Youth

- At least five studies have examined crossover youth characteristics (Herz & Ryan 2008b; Widom & Maxfield 2001; Halemba, Siegel, Lord, & Zawacki 2004; Kelley, Thornberry, & Smith 1997; Saetern & Swain, 2009).
- Although these studies are not identical in their methodology, they all examine characteristics of crossover youth and report a tremendous amount of similarity.
- All provide evidence that childhood abuse and neglect are associated with an increased risk of crime and violence; it is important to highlight though that this relationship is neither inevitable nor deterministic.

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How Many Youth in Child Welfare Cross Over into Delinquency

Between 7% and 30% of Youth Aged 10 or Older in the Care of Child Welfare are Subsequently Arrested
(Note: % is higher when self-reports of maltreatment and delinquency are used)

Experiences with Abuse/Neglect and the System
*Persistent maltreatment and type
*Type of placement
*Placement instability
*Absence of positive attachments

Demographics
*More likely to be male
*Increased likelihood of being female
*More likely to be African-American
*Younger at the age of their first arrest than youth not involved in the child welfare system

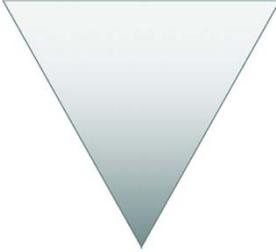
Characteristics of Crossover Youth

- Child Welfare Experiences**
 - Extended period of care with the child welfare system for a long period of time, entering the system as a young child
 - Significantly, high number of placement changes during their time in care of the child welfare system
 - Often, they are living in a group home at the time of arrest
- Individual Characteristics**
 - Many youth are not attending school or have attendance problems
 - Many have special education issues that may or may not have been identified
 - Many come from families that have a history of mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and/or criminal behavior
- Juvenile Justice Experiences**
 - Slightly less than half of these youth are charged with violent offenses, many of which are assaults (misdemeanor or felony)
 - One quarter to one-half were detained at the time of arrest
 - Many have had prior contact with the system for previous criminal or status offense charges

Overarching goals of CYPM

- Reduction in the number of youth placed in out-of-home care
- Reduction in the use of congregate care
- Reduction in the disproportionate representation of children of color; particularly in the crossover population
- Reduction in the number of youth crossing over and/or becoming dually-adjudicated

The Crossover Youth Practice Model



- Phase I**
Practice Area 1: Arrest, Identification, & Detention
- Practice Area 2: Decision Making Regarding Charges
- Phase II**
Practice Area 3: Case Assignment, Assessment & Planning
- Phase III**
Practice Area 4: Coordinated Case Management & Ongoing Assessment
- Practice Area 5: Planning for Youth Permanency, Transition & Case Closure

<http://cjr.georgetown.edu/pm/practicemodel.html>

CYPM Principles

1. We **serve every child** individually based on their history and experiences, seeking to achieve a sense of normalcy for all youth on a daily basis.
2. We believe the most advantageous place for youth to grow up is in their own family. We seek to ensure that all youth are provided a **safe, nurturing, and permanent family environment and community**. When immediate family is not available other viable extended family and community resources will be identified.
3. We believe that **youth and families have strengths**, and systems must learn about and use these strengths in order to effectively meet their needs. We must ensure that these strengths are being utilized to address the entire context of youth and family functioning.
4. We ensure **authentic, intentional, and meaningful involvement of youth and families** in policy and practice development, service planning and delivery.

5. We use an **integrated approach** between juvenile justice, child welfare, the courts, education, and behavioral health believing that partnerships are the best way to meet the needs of crossover youth and their families.
6. Our practices guarantee fair and equitable treatment for all youth and families regardless of race, ethnicity, and national origin. Service delivery honors and respects the beliefs and values of all families
7. We actively seek to reduce racial disproportionality and eliminate disparities within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
8. We provide opportunities for professional development and ensure adequate supervision for all staff. This is essential in ensuring workforce efficacy.
9. We ensure that policy and practice decisions are based on reliable data and evidence.
10. When out of home placement is necessary, it should be time limited, in the least restrictive environment with appropriate supports, while maintaining a focus on youth permanence.

RESOURCES

- **Useful Links**
- By Topic:
- [Juvenile Justice Reform](#)
- [Violence Prevention](#)
- [Disproportionality](#)
- [At-Risk Populations](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Health Policy/Health Care](#)
- [Child Welfare](#)
- [Youth Development](#)
