



Dual Status Youth – What We Know 2017

Prevalence

- It is well established that maltreatment is a risk factor for delinquency (Lee & Villagrana, 2015). However, most maltreated youth do not become involved with the juvenile justice system. Research tells us that only 9-29% of youth involved with child welfare become involved with juvenile justice (Cutuli et al., 2016). Yet, within the population of justice involved youth, a large proportion has been maltreated and has had involvement with the child welfare system.
 - A study out of King County (Seattle) Washington identified that just over 2/3 of youth with referrals to the juvenile court had historical or current involvement with the child welfare system (Halemba & Siegel, 2011).
 - A recent study found that more than 4 out of 5 youth exiting from intensive Probation involvement in Los Angeles had been referred to the child protection system, many experiencing referrals beginning in early childhood (McCroskey, Herz, & Putnam-Hornstein, 2017).
 - In the state of MA, almost ¾ of youth committed to its corrections department had had involvement with the child welfare system (Citizens for Juvenile Justice, 2015).
 - In Washington State, 43.9% of youth referred to the juvenile justice system had a history of involvement with child welfare (Pickard, 2014).

Characteristics and Risk Factors

- Demographic and Family Characteristics
 - Boys are much more likely to become justice involved than girls; however, it has been shown that that the more child welfare involvement a girl has, the more likely she is to be involved in juvenile justice (Goodkind et al, 2013).
 - A recent study confirmed earlier findings that African-American youth in foster care are at greater risk for juvenile justice involvement than Hispanic or non-Hispanic white youth. (Cutuli et al., 2016).
 - Children who enter foster care at an older age are at higher risk of becoming involved with juvenile justice (Cutuli et al., 2016).
 - Many dual status youth have mental health and substance abuse issues as well as parents with a history of justice system involvement and mental health and substance abuse issues of their own (Herz & Ryan 2008).
- Child welfare system experiences themselves can also be risk factors. It has been shown that the following contribute to the risk of delinquency:
 - Out of home placements
 - Multiple placements
 - Placement in congregate care (Cutuli et al., 2016; Goodkind et al, 2013)

Outcomes

- Dual status youth are more likely to be detained and have longer stays in detention (Conger & Ross, 2001; Halemba & Siegel, 2011).
- Dual status youth have been found to be more likely to recidivate (Lee & Villagrana, 2015; Halemba & Siegel, 2011).

- Dual status youth experience negative outcomes related to permanency, with significant numbers of placement changes and AWOL episodes. For example, in King County, multi-system youth placed out of home had an average of 12 placement changes during the two year study period, as well as an average of three AWOL episodes (Halemba & Siegel 2011).
- Recent studies revealed that dual status youth were more likely than youth in one system to have adult criminal justice involvement, to be on public assistance, to access homeless services, and were less likely to be consistently employed in young adulthood (Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence, 2015).
- Importantly, what we also know is that these outcomes are not inevitable. Research has identified important protective factors – factors that reduce the risk of delinquency. These can be the driving force behind the development of dual status youth practice and policy reforms. Such protective factors include the following:
 - Staying engaged with school
 - Having positive attachments/relationships
 - Engagement with non-delinquent peers (Lee & Villagrana, 2015).

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