



SCHUBERT CENTER
FOR CHILD STUDIES

Exploring the Impact of Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Involvement on Future Youth Outcomes



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Exploring the Impact of Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Involvement on Future Youth Outcomes



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Background

Purposes

- Inform community partners working to improve outcomes for at-risk youth
- Demonstrate the power of Integrated Data Systems (IDS) to identify potential strategies across multiple systems



NATIONAL
NEIGHBORHOOD
INDICATORS
PARTNERSHIP



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
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Why focus on system involved youth?

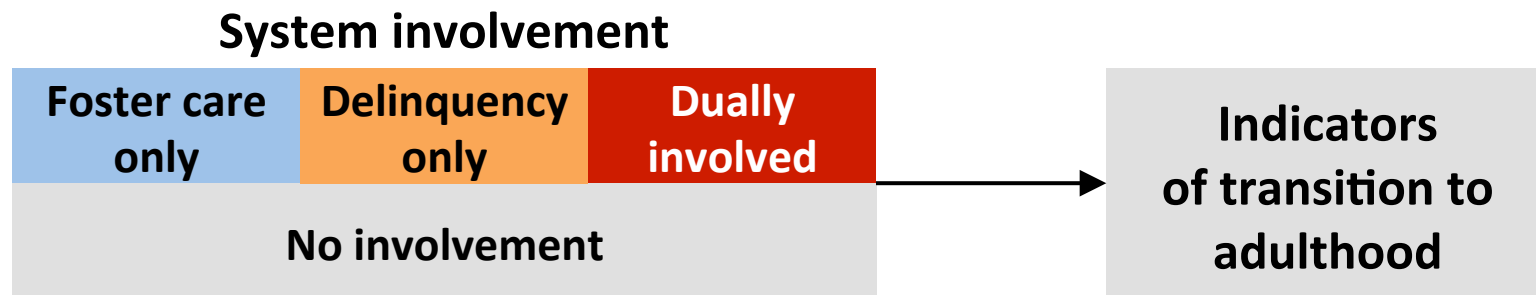
- High level of community concern about youth aging out of foster care and youth involved in juvenile justice system
- Problematic outcomes based on empirical studies
 - High school drop out rates
 - High unemployment rates
 - Homelessness episodes
 - Involvement with criminal justice system
 - Disproportionate impact on youth of color

Why an Integrated Data System (IDS) approach?

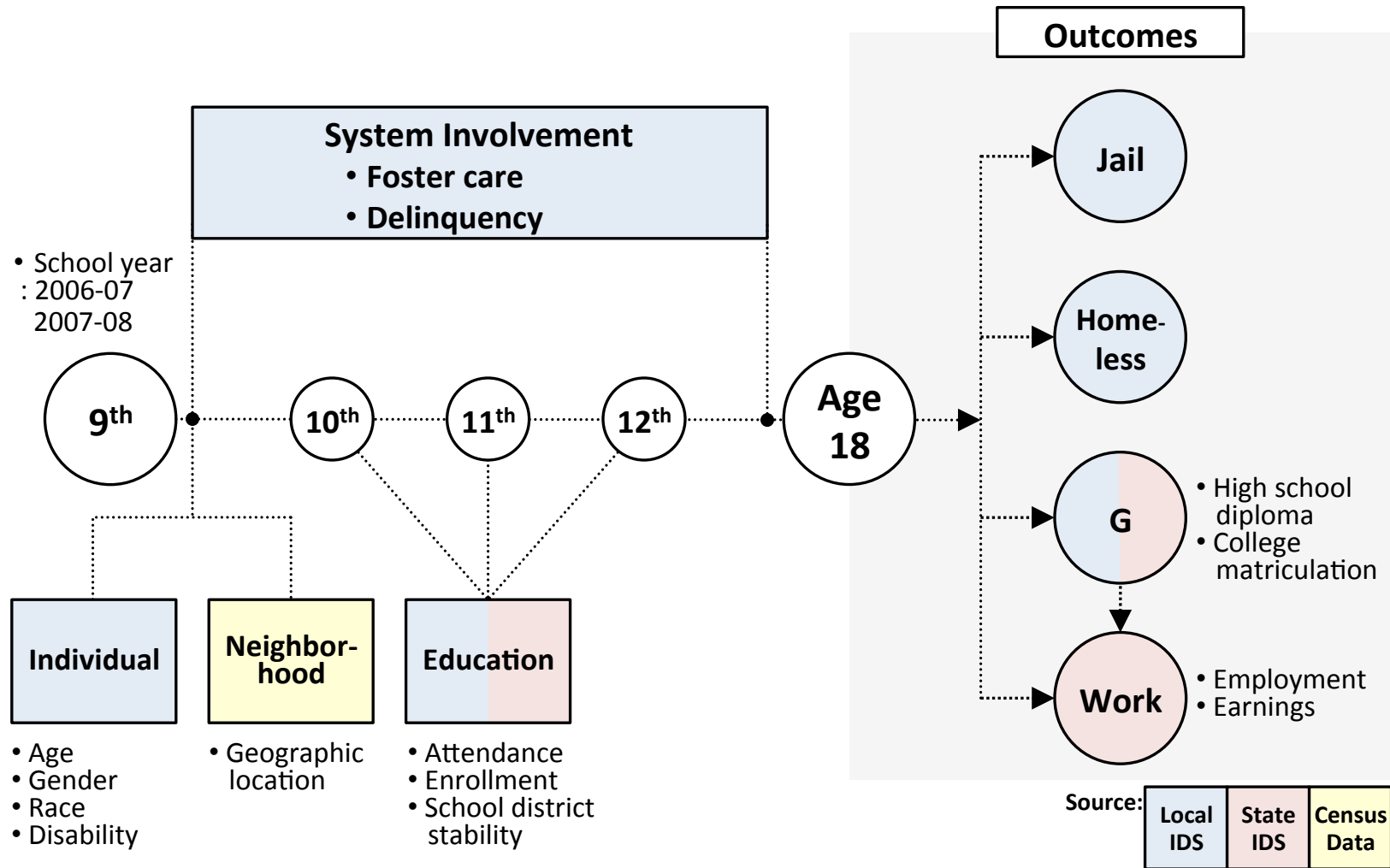
- IDS breaks down data silos through automated data linkage
- Provides local partners information across multiple systems
- Allows system involved youth to be compared with peers who are not system involved
- Tracks events and outcomes over developmental stage (e.g. ages 14-21)
- Helps providers and other decision-makers customize services to the most vulnerable youth

Research question

How do system involved youth differ from their school and neighborhood peers on selected indicators of problems in transition to adulthood?



Adult transitions for system involved youth : Longitudinal IDS model



Sampling

- Sampling criteria
 - Youth who were enrolled for the first time in 9th grade at CMSD in school year 2006/07 and 2007/08^a
 - Youth were born after 01/01/1991^b
- Sample
 - 10,086 students
- Data
 - School attendance at CMSD until age 21
 - Graduation and employment status until age 21 (waiting for data)
 - Foster care spell and/or delinquency filing until age 18
 - Homelessness or jail spell 18-21

Note. CMSD (Cleveland Metropolitan School District, OH), a) Unduplicated cases, b) Data availability

Foster care and delinquency of 9th grade cohorts : Between 9th grade and age 18

System involvement	n	%
Foster care only	175	1.7
Dually involved	174	1.7
Juvenile justice (delinquency) only	2,096	20.8
No system involvement	7,641	75.8
Total	10,086	100.0

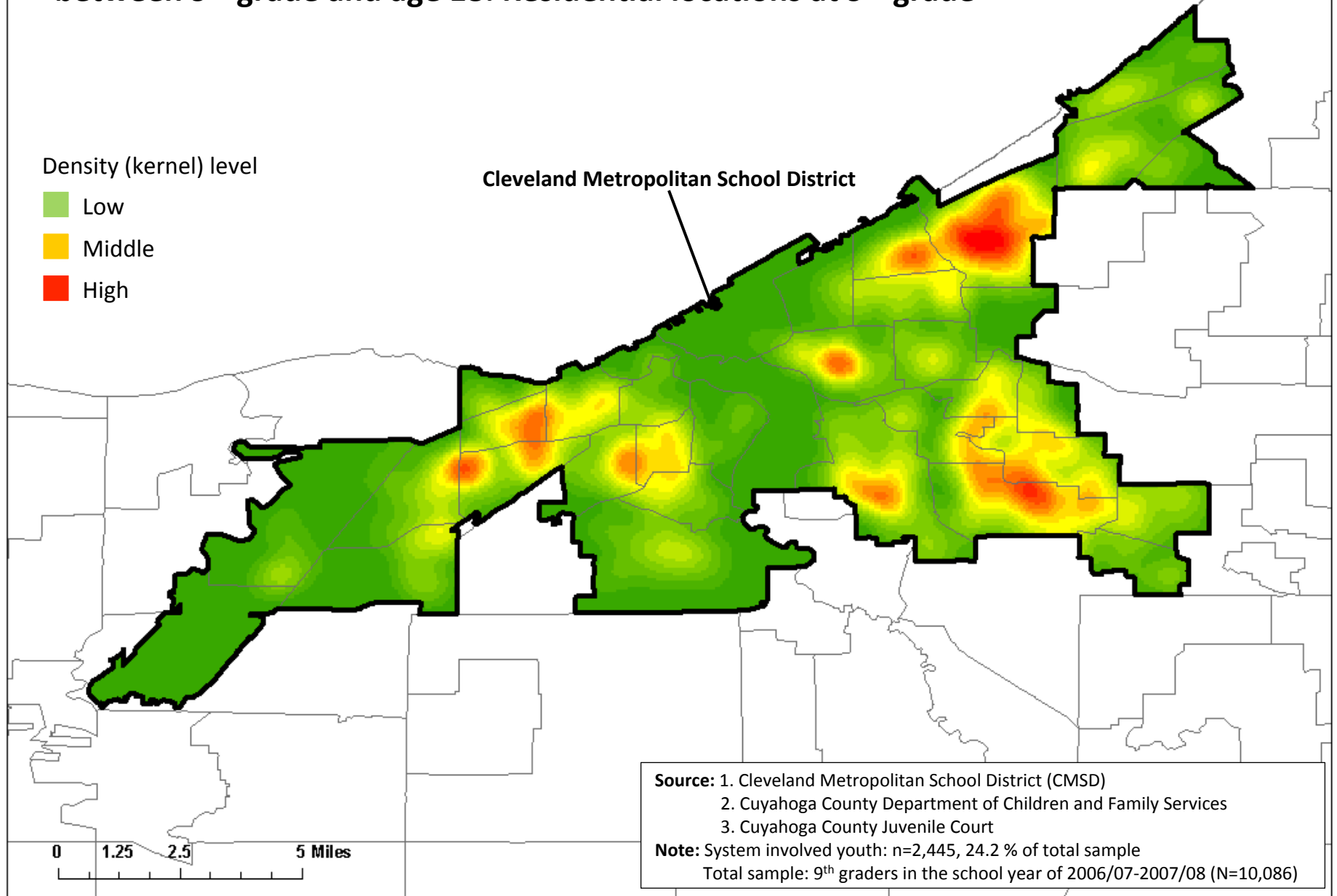
**Density of system involvement (foster care and/or delinquency, n=2,935)
between 9th grade and age 18: Residential locations at 9th grade**



Density (kernel) level

-  Low
-  Middle
-  High

Cleveland Metropolitan School District



Source: 1. Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD)

2. Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services

3. Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court

Note: System involved youth: n=2,445, 24.2 % of total sample

Total sample: 9th graders in the school year of 2006/07-2007/08 (N=10,086)

Selected outcomes by system involvement (N=10,086)

Variable	No system involvement	Foster care only	Delinquency only	Dually involved
Chronic absenteeism in 9 th grade (%) (missing more than 10%)	52.9	57.1	79.5	52.9
CMSD stability (%) (stay in CMSD for 3 years)	54.1	23.4	33.4	22.4
Homeless services use after age 18 (%)	1.8	9.1	3.5	14.4
Jail involvement after age 18 (%)	5.8	15.4	36.3	33.3
Total (n)	7,641	175	2,096	174

Predictive model of homeless services and jail :Results of Poisson regression analysis (N=10,086)

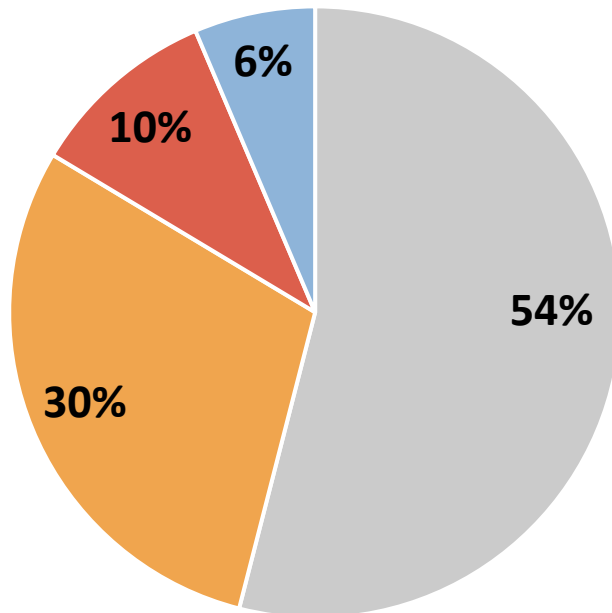
Variable	Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR)	
	Homeless	Jail
Age at 9th grade	0.80	1.44***
Gender (Female=1)	1.67*	0.08***
Race (Reference=White)		
African American	3.83**	2.20***
Hispanic	1.67	0.98
Disability	1.97*	1.27*
Foster care (Ref=no foster care)	4.44***	1.59***
Delinquency (Ref=no delinquency)	1.94*	7.43***

Note. * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$;

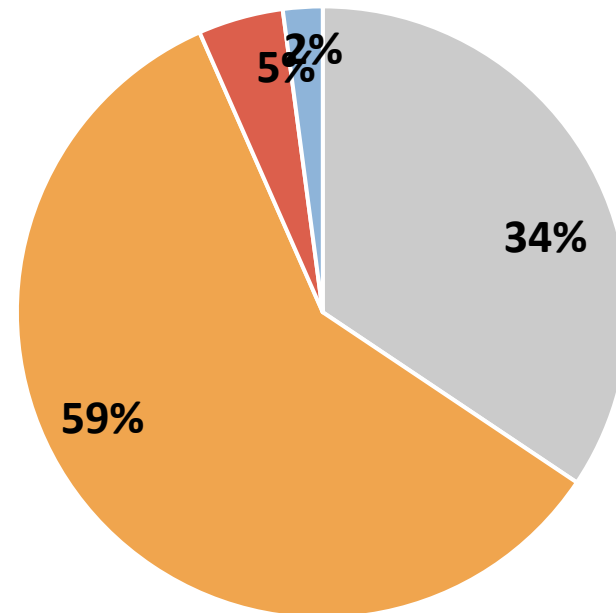
Foster care and delinquency=between 9th grade to age 18

Percent of homeless services usage and jail episodes attributable to system involved youth (in 9th grade cohorts)

Homeless services usage (n=250)



Jail episodes (n=1,288)



■ No involvement ■ Foster care only ■ Dually involved ■ Delinquency only

Conclusions

- Almost 25% of 9th grade students in Cleveland were touched by the foster care and/or juvenile justice systems by age 18.
- System involved students more likely to be chronically absent or to switch schools and districts than their peers. Majority do not stay in CMSD until graduation.
- Foster care youth at over 4 times risk of homelessness.
- Delinquent youth at over 7 times the risk of jail.
- 46% of the homelessness service use after age 18 is accounted for by system involved youth (median stay=85 days).
- System involved youth account for the majority (66%) of jail episodes (median stay=79 days) in this cohort.

Future research

- More data is being requested
 - Ohio Department of Education (ODE): Information on students who moved out of CMSD (other high schools in Ohio)
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS): Employment data
 - National Student Clearinghouse: High school graduation and college matriculation data
- Additional analysis
 - A more in-depth analysis of the frequency and type of foster care placements and delinquency filings and their relationship to youth's chances of problematic outcomes could inform prevention efforts.



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Thank you!
Q / A



Contact Information

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Resources

- Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development: <http://povertycenter.case.edu/>
- NEO CANDO: <http://neocando.case.edu/>