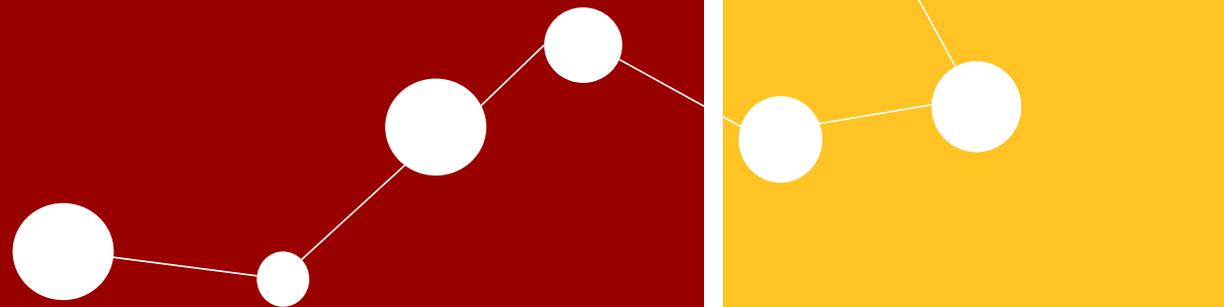


# A Retrospective Examination of Child Protection Involvement among Young Adults Receiving Homeless Services:

*Preliminary Findings from Linked HMIS & CWS/CMS Data...*

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD  
Bridgette Lery, PhD  
Jonathan Hoonhout, BA  
Susanna Curry, MSW  
Shraddha Deshmukh, MS



Thanks!

- Funding for this “proof of concept” data linkage and analysis was generously provided by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (*analysis focused on TAY*), with additional support from First 5 LA (*data linkage*).
- This work was developed in partnership with San Francisco’s Human Services Agency, the California Child Welfare Indicators Project, and the California Department of Social Services.
- The hope is that the coding and these preliminary findings will inform expanded efforts to link these data sources.

Children’s Data Network



Harnessing the scientific potential of linked, administrative data to inform children's programs and policies.

[.org/about-us/](#)



Conrad N. Hilton  
FOUNDATION

USC School  
of Social Work



# Background

- ❖ Growing appreciation of the relationship between childhood experiences, particularly childhood abuse and neglect and foster care placement, and risk of homelessness during young adulthood.
  - ❖ *Homeless adults self-report higher rates of history of maltreatment and foster care placements than the general population (Koegel et al., 1995; Winkleby et al., 1992)*
  - ❖ *Between 11-46% of youth who age out of the foster care system experience homelessness in the years following emancipation (Dworsky & Courtney, 2010; Fowler, Toro & Miles, 2009; White, Gallegos, O'Brien, Weisberg, Pecora, & Medina, 2011; Dworsky, Napolitano, & Courtney, 2013).*
- ❖ Efforts to align services across these two systems has been challenging. Among a range of issues that have hindered the coordination of public programs across sectors, certainly one is the absence of data which would allow for an understanding of when, where, and for whom these cross-system interactions may be most salient.

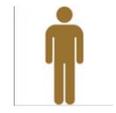
# Objective

- Limited epidemiological data available from which we can ascertain how many clients served by homeless services have a history of child protective service involvement
- These data are needed so that we can:
  1. *Document the cross-system involvement of vulnerable youth in California*
  2. *Monitor trends and evaluate the efficacy of prevention and intervention efforts*
  3. *Develop programs that are responsive to what may be unique service support needs for homeless individuals who have been maltreated or were in foster care*



Data

Statewide  
Child  
Protection  
Records  
(CWS/CMS)



*abused or  
neglected, but  
never reported*

reported for  
alleged  
maltreatment  
in California

*involved with child  
protection outside  
of California*

*homeless, but not  
receiving services*

18-24yr old  
youth receiving  
homeless  
services in SF  
between 2011-  
2014

*receiving homeless  
support services, but  
not in SF County*

SF County  
Homeless  
Service  
Records  
(HMIS)



## Record Extracts

- **CWS/CMS (Q3 2014 extract): 1,546,558** maltreatment reports involving unique individuals born between **1989-1996** and reported for maltreatment after **1998** (*left-censored observations due to new system*)
- **SF HMIS (Sept. 2014 extract): 3,704** homeless service records involving unique individuals born between **1989-1996** and with a homeless program service encounter between **2011-2014** (*significant within datasets de-duplication required to arrive at a unique client list*)

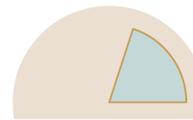
# Data Processing

Files Prepped



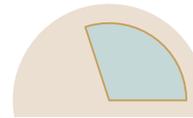
*Defined universe of CWS/CMS & HMIS records extracted, cleaned, standardized, coded on non-networked workstation.*

Probabilistic Linkages



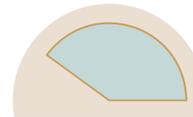
*Initial probabilistic models tested using different blocking and matching variables. Algorithms used to establish record pairs.*

Clerical Review



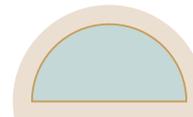
*Clerical / manual review of record pairs. Upper and lower match thresholds established. Match assignments made.*

Dataset De-identified



*Matched records exported, stripped of identifiers and re-integrated with analytic service variables*

Analysis

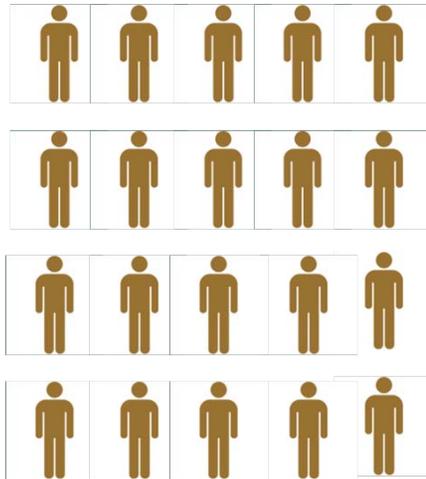


*Descriptive and multivariable analyses conducted using Stata MP (v.14) on secure university server.*

Children's Data Network

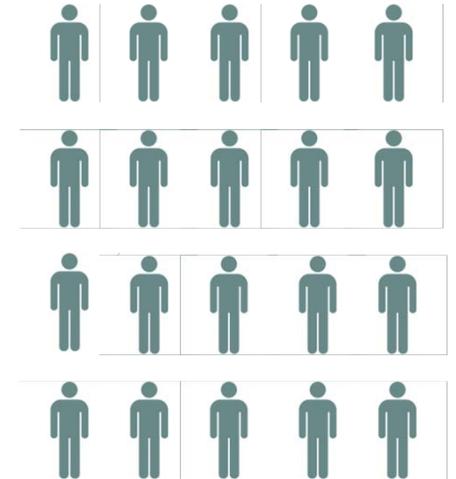
# Questions

~~How many children reported for maltreatment and/or in foster care later use homeless services?~~



Statewide / California  
Child Welfare Records

How many young adults accessing homeless support services have a history of child protection involvement?



San Francisco  
HMIS Records



## Preliminary Findings : *Demographics\**

- Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...
  - 3,704 young adults served
  - 51% female, 48% male, <1% transgender
  - 41% black, 25% Hispanic, 16% white, 17% other/missing

\*DRAFT: Please do not quote or cite without authors' permission

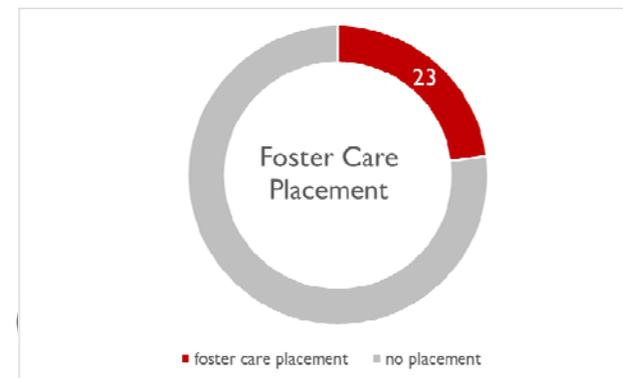
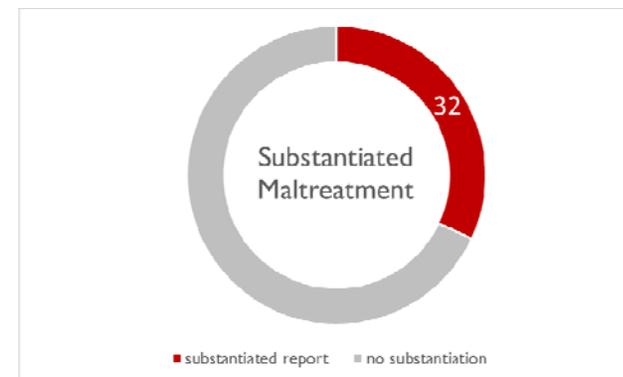
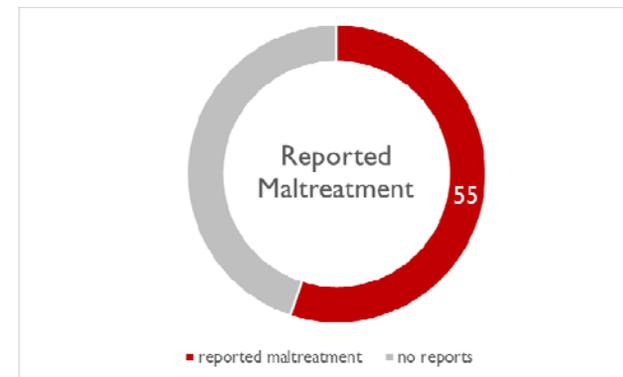
Children's Data Network

# Preliminary Findings: Child Protection History\*

Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...

- **55%** (n=1,863) had at least one allegation of childhood maltreatment
- **32%** (n=1,096) had been formally substantiated as a childhood victim of maltreatment
- **23%** (n=773) had spent time in out-of-home foster care

\*DRAFT: Please do not quote or cite without authors' permission



## Preliminary Findings: Child Protection History\*

- Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014...
  - **18%** (n=614) had been reported at least once for alleged sexual abuse
  - **32%** (n=1,087) had been reported at least once for alleged physical abuse
  - **41%** (n=1,387) had been reported at least once for alleged neglect

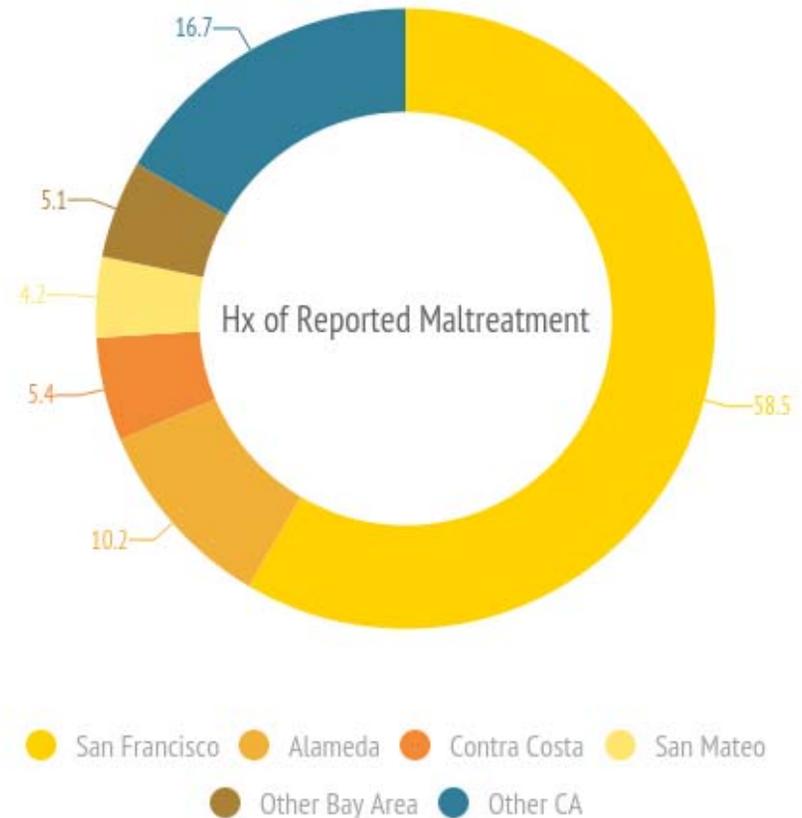
*(children reported for two or more types of maltreatment will appear more than once above)*

\*DRAFT: Please do not quote or cite without authors' permission

Children's Data Network

**Preliminary Findings:**  
*Cross-county data\**

Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014 who ALSO had a history of reported maltreatment...



Distribution of first reports of maltreatment by county.

\*DRAFT: Please do not quote or cite without authors' permission

## 18-24 year old young adults receiving homeless services in SF County: History of First Reported Maltreatment by County



*The population of young adults served in SF County had earlier CPS involvement in just about every county in the state...*

● Bay Area ● Other ● San Francisco

[www.datanetwork.org](http://www.datanetwork.org)



*But past involvements were concentrated in Bay Area counties (as well as LA, which may be largely a function of the size of the county)*

Count  
● < 38  
● 38 - 76  
● 76 - 114  
● 114 - 152  
● 152 - 190

[www.datanetwork.org](http://www.datanetwork.org)

## Preliminary Findings: Foster Care Placements\*

- Among 18-24 year old youth receiving homeless services in SF County between 2011-2014 AND who had a foster care history...
  - **33%** (n=249) had a last placement in a group home
  - **31%** (n=242) had a last placement in a non-kin foster home
  - **26%** (n=200) had a last placement with kin

*(last known foster care placement type is reported above)*

\*DRAFT: Please do not quote or cite without authors' permission

Children's Data Network

## In Preparation...

- Examination of demographic differences among homeless youth based on child protection history
- Examination of differences in the nature of homeless service engagement and program types based on a child protection history
- Examination of out-of-county foster care placements
- Additional geographic examinations of cross-county service patterns
- Inclusion of LA and other Bay Area HMIS data (??)

Questions?

[www.datanetwork.org](http://www.datanetwork.org)

<http://www.sfhsa.org/>

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD ([ehornste@usc.edu](mailto:ehornste@usc.edu))

Bridgette Lery, PhD ([bridgette.lery@sfgov.org](mailto:bridgette.lery@sfgov.org))

Children's Data Network