

# Effect of Foster Care Wraparound Services on Psychiatric Hospitalization Threshold

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## Background

- Many benefits of foster care wraparound services have been established (Lyons, 2004)
  - Fewer symptoms of serious emotional & behavioral disorders
  - Fewer high risk behaviors
  - Improved functioning

## Wraparound & Psychiatric Hospitalization

- In spite of wraparound's successes, many children in foster care are
  - Referred for crisis assessment & treatment
  - Hospitalized
- 40% of hospital placements of children may be avoidable (Collins & Collins, 1994; Knitzer, 1982)
- Unknown whether wraparound services help to prevent inappropriate psychiatric hospitalization

## Hypotheses

Among children who have had a crisis assessment, children receiving wraparound services have:

1. *Lower* rates of low risk hospitalization &
  2. *Higher* rates of high risk deflection
- than children only in out-of-home care.

## Study Sample

- Intervention group (n=270): children who
  - Received foster care wraparound services as part of Illinois' System of Care (FCSOC) initiative AND
  - Had a crisis assessment through Illinois' Screening, Assessment, and Supportive Services (SASS) program
- Comparison group (n=2015): non-SOC children in out-of-home placements who had a SASS assessment (FC)

## Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria

- Crisis assessment occurred during 7/1/02-12/31/03
- Children were followed for up to 1 year
- For children with multiple SASS episodes or FCSOC episodes, only considered 1<sup>st</sup> episode

## Data & Variables

- Source: SASS report for each child
  - 3-7 items per domain
  - Item scores range from 0 (no evidence) to 3 (severe)
- Childhood Severity of Psychiatric Illness (CSPI) (Lyons, et al., 1997)
  - Symptoms
  - Risk factors
  - Functioning
  - Comorbidity
  - System factors
- Hospital admission or deflection at screening
- Demographic characteristics

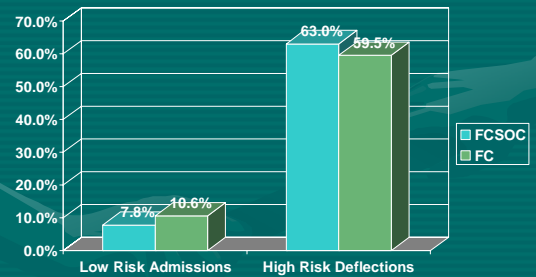
## Demographic Characteristics

	FCSOC (n=270)	FC (n=2015)
Mean (SD) age	12.7 (3.3)	13.8 (3.7)
% Male	54.8	53.0
% Non-White	65.3	68.9
<i>% by Region:</i>		
Cook County	46.8	59.7
Northern	20.5	11.0
Central	27.9	22.1
Southern	4.7	7.3

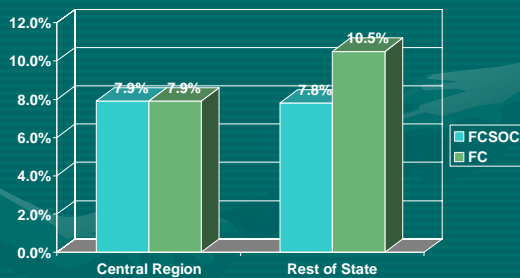
## Psychiatric Hospital Decision Model

- Criterion 1
  - At least one rating of '3' (dangerous) on either
    - Neuropsychiatric (psychosis)
    - Impulsivity
- Criterion 2
  - At least one rating of at least '2' (actionable symptoms) on
    - Neuropsychiatric
    - Impulsivity
    - Emotional (depression/anxiety)
    - Conduct
    - Oppositional Behavior
    - Substance Use
  - AND at least one rating of at least '2' (actionable risk) on
    - Suicide Risk
    - Danger to Others
    - Elongement
    - Sexual Aggression
    - Sexual Development

## Appropriate Hospitalization & Deflection Rates by Group



## Low Risk Admissions



## Next Steps

- Multivariate analysis to consider direct and interaction effects of age and region
- Analyze change in CSPI outcomes from assessment to SASS discharge