

# The Hidden Impact of Out-of-Home Foster Care

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## Introduction

In 2016, approximately 421,000 children were in out-of-home foster care. Thirty-five percent of these children experienced two or more placement changes. Recidivism (the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend) for youth in out-of-home placement is four times higher than children who have never been involved with the child welfare system. Since this is an at risk population, this research is important for understanding, preventing and intervening to decrease recidivism as adults.

## Research Questions

- ❏ How does out of home foster care placement correlate with criminal justice involvement and recidivism for young adults and juveniles?
- ❏ Are juveniles more likely to re-offend after being placed in out of home foster care?
- ❏ What are the links between the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system?

## Methodology

This research was approached using a literature review of peer reviewed quantitative data. The information for this research was gathered over 8 weeks and will be used for further research on the topic.

## Discussion

- ❏ Information on this subject was gathered using the Drake Memorial Library database, and Google Scholar.
- ❏ Keyword search included “foster care”, “recidivism”, “juvenile”, “criminality”, and “prison”.
- ❏ Continuing this research will help with future legislation that can defer juvenile delinquency from the path of adult recidivism.



## Results

- ❏ Children who entered the foster care system, are at a higher risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.
- ❏ The magnitude of the risk of jail time is much greater and accelerated for children who were placed in care later in life.
- ❏ Children who experienced multiple foster care placements had a higher risk for juvenile justice involvement.

## Limitations

- ❏ The limitations of this study include difficulty locating research literature about the correlation between out of home foster care and criminal justice involvement.
- ❏ When a child ages out of the foster care system, the information regarding recidivism is only limited to the criminal justice system.
- ❏ All data gathered from research journals is quantitative, and reasons for why youth entered the foster care system is not recorded.

## References

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