Infants in Out of Home Care

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Infants differ from older children in out of home care…

- Incidence
- Duration
- Placement Experience
- Child Characteristics
- Birth Family Characteristics
- Context

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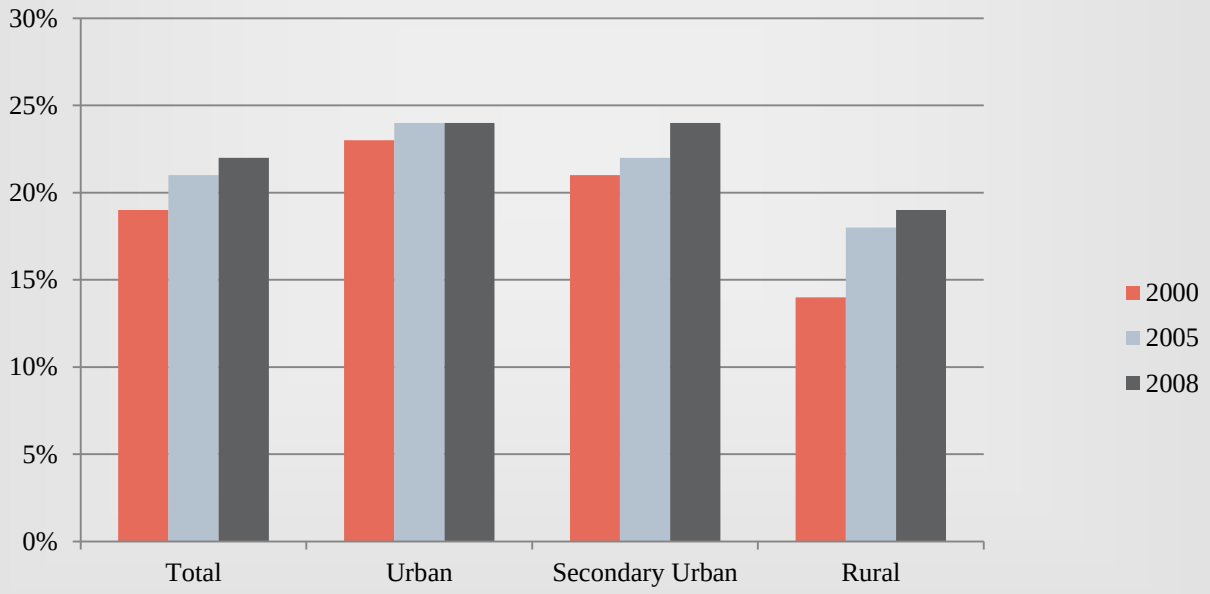
Incidence*

Percentage of First Time Admissions to Care that are Infants by Location and Year



*Data from The Multistate Foster Care Data Archives

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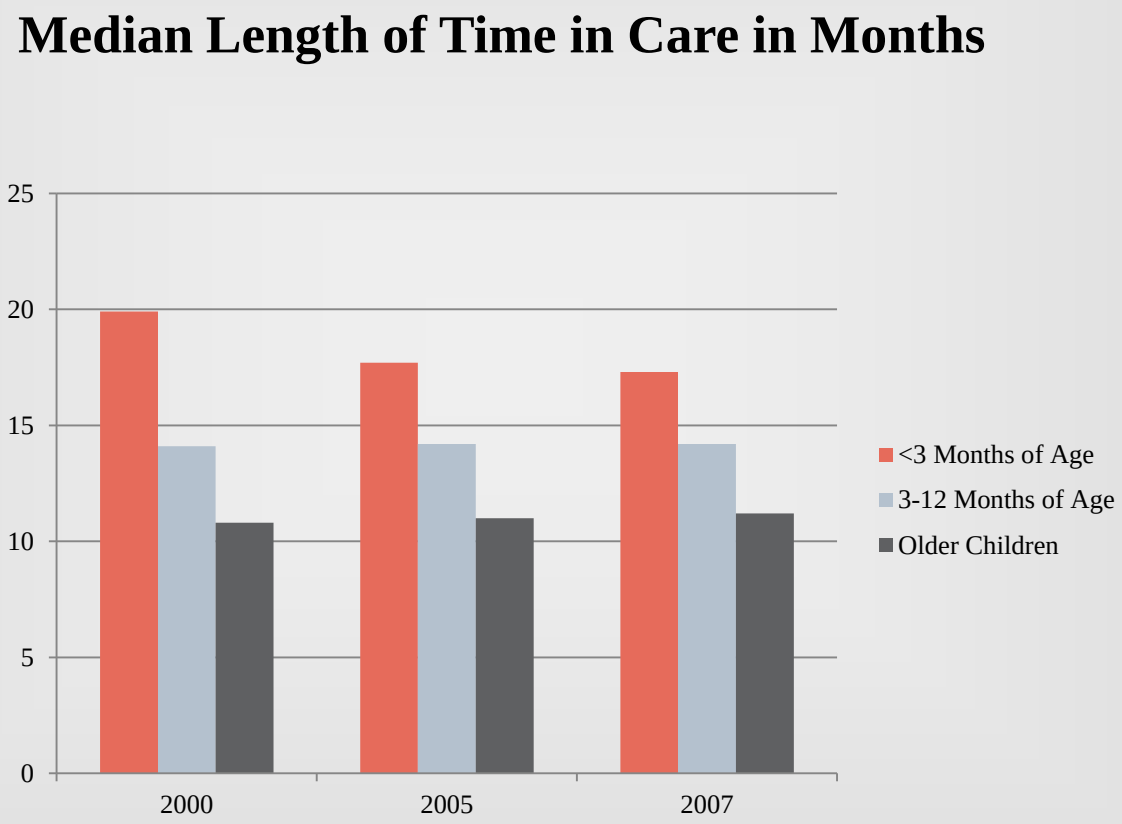
Duration*



*Data from The Multistate Foster Care Data Archives

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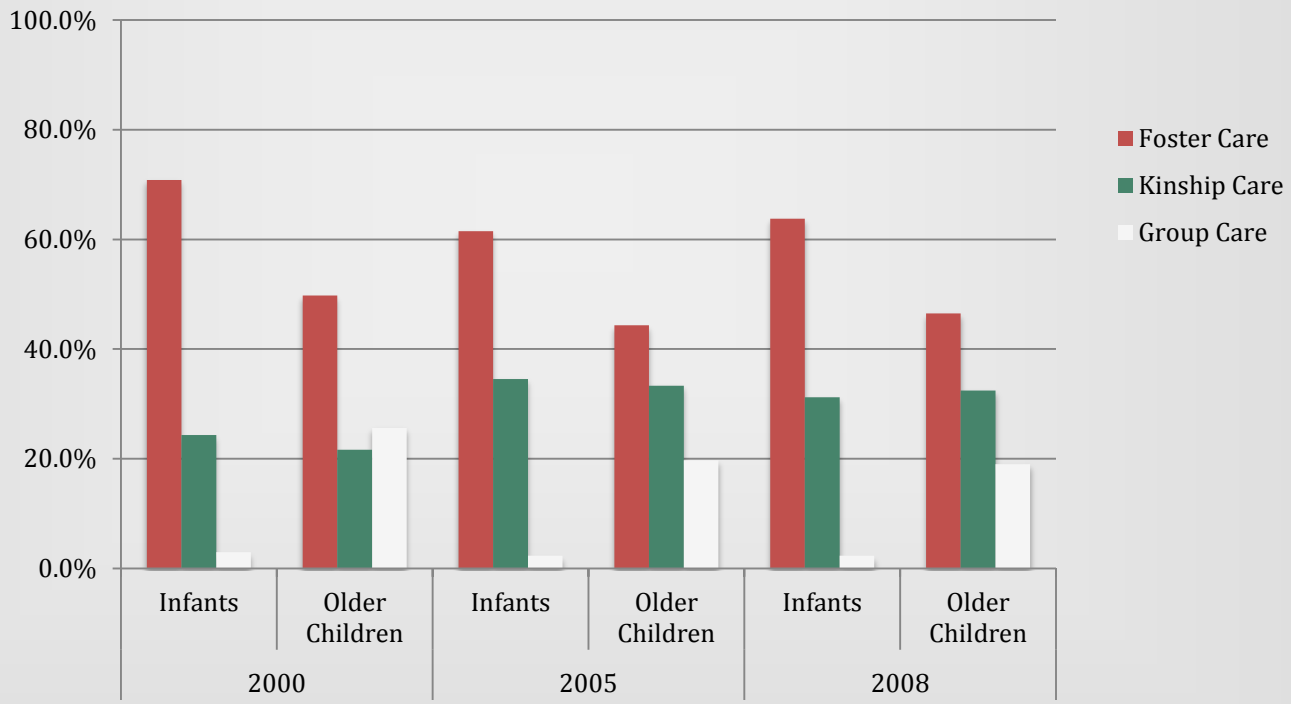
Placement Experience*

Percentage of Infants Spending the Majority of their Time in Care in Each Placement Setting by Age and Year



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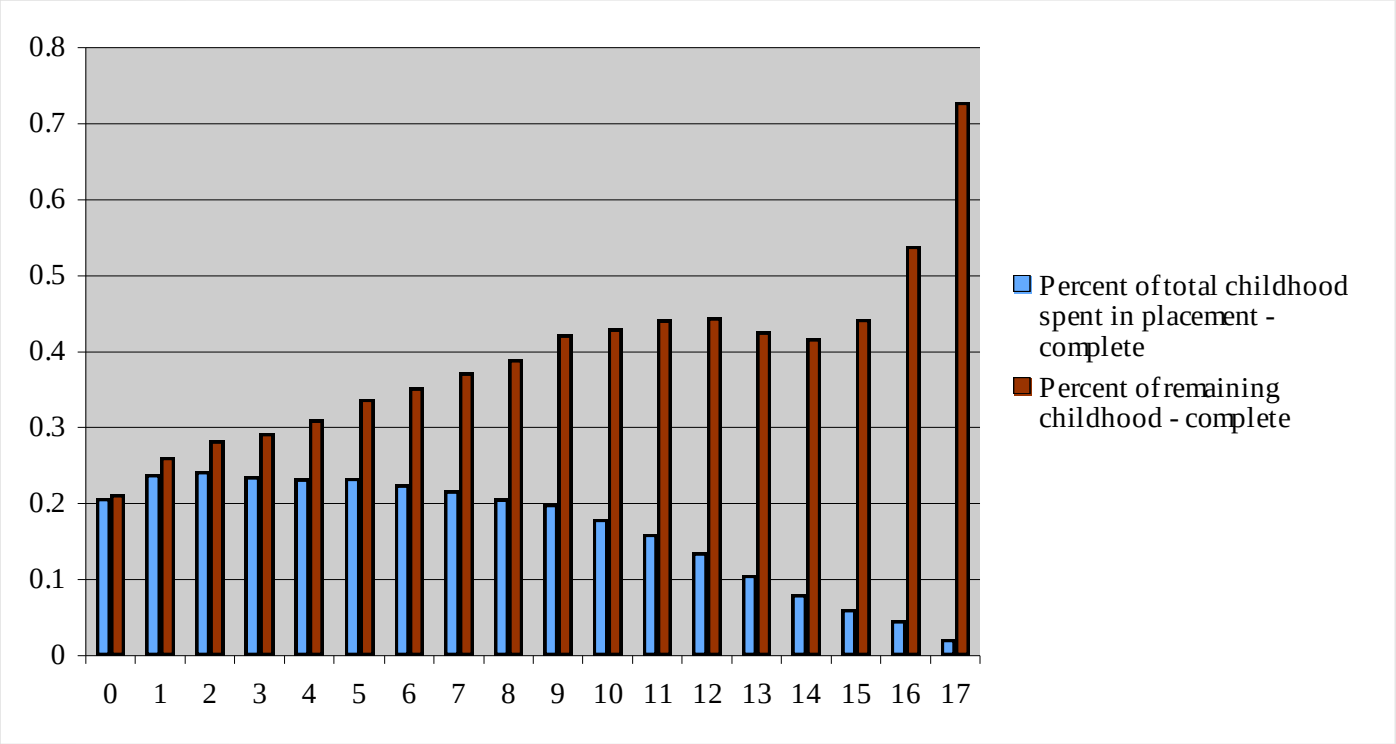
Foster Care in the Context of Childhood



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Characteristics of the infants*

		Infants		Children	
		Number	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Race/Ethnicity	White	129	30%	410	48%
	Black	190	39%	396	33%
	Hispanic	81	21%	152	13%
	Other/Missing	39	10%	72	6%
Child Health Status	Excellent	153	39%	347	34%
	Very Good	116	22%	355	39%
	Good	99	22%	241	18%
	Fair/Poor	69	19%	87	10%
Child Health Ins.	Private, self-pay, other	25	5%	130	21%
	Medicaid and State Programs	412	95%	900	79%
Child Abuse Type	Neglect – didn't provide	213	46%	259	21%
	Neglect – no supervision, abandon	68	16%	246	28%
	Emotional, Sexual, Moral Maltreatment	16	5%	209	16%
	Physical maltreatment	67	11%	182	20%
Gender	Male	216	47%	485	47%
	Female	221	53%	545	53%
Chronic Health Condition	Yes	119	28%	180	14%
	No	318	72%	850	86%

*Data from NSCAW

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Characteristics of the birth families*

		Infants		Children	
		Number	**Percent***	**Number**	**Percent**
Prior Involvement with Child Welfare	Yes	262	65%	705	66%
	No	135	27%	233	23%
Caregiver Drug / Alcohol Abuse	Yes	269	61%	469	41%
	No	119	29%	427	45%
Prior/Active Domestic Violence	Yes	172	46%	409	37%
	No	197	40%	499	50%
Difficulty Paying Necessities	Yes	226	57%	432	39%
	No	146	31%	467	50%
Caregiver Recent Arrests	Yes	165	43%	280	24%
	No	193	44%	565	52%
Child with Special Needs/ Behavior Problem	Yes	105	25%	404	33%
	No	286	68%	523	56%
Caregiver Serious Mental Health Problem	Yes	181	42%	377	28%
	No	182	44%	482	55%

*Data from NSCAW

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Characteristics of the birth families (cont.)*

		Infants		Children	
		Number	Percent*	Number	Percent
Caregiver Intelligent/Cognitive Impairment	Yes	71	15%	131	9%
	No	300	71%	745	75%
Caregiver Unrealistic Expectation of Child	Yes	139	29%	492	38%
	No	229	57%	382	46%
Caregiver Poor Parenting Skill	Yes	307	70%	754	69%
	No	76	18%	165	19%
Caregiver Excessive Discipline of Child	Yes	44	13%	318	26%
	No	336	75%	575	60%
Caregiver High Stress in Family	Yes	322	79%	694	62%
	No	59	10%	224	26%
Low Social Support	Yes	220	46%	489	46%
	No	171	45%	420	42%
Caregiver History of Child Abuse/Neglect	Yes	191	48%	353	28%
	No	195	42%	536	56%

*Data from NSCAW

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Their context*

		Infants		Children	
		Number	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**
Neighborhood Quality	No Serious Problem	399	90%	931	88%
	Serious Problem	38	10%	99	12%
Urbanicity of PSU	Non-urban	49	16%	750	16%
	Urban	388	84%	880	84%
Child Service Setting	Foster Home	260	53%	476	36%
	Kin Care Setting	163	45%	409	45%
	Group Home/ Res Program	7	1%	97	10%
	Other OOHC Arrangement	7	1%	48	9%

*Data from NSCAW

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