Behavioral Health is Essential To Health

Prevention Works

Treatment is Effective

People Recover
The Impact of the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI)

Evaluation Findings on Hispanic Youth in Child Welfare
Highlight the profile of children in the NCTSI program who are in child welfare with special attention to Hispanic children and to discuss the implications for practice.
Background on Child Welfare Involved Youth

• Latino children in the child welfare system are usually younger (between the ages 0-5) at the time of referral and substantiation, which places them at higher risk for out-of-home placement.¹

• The Casey Foundation reported in 2009 62% of Latino served by the child welfare services are placed in out-of-home care compared to 25% in 1997.²

• More than one third (37.4%) of Latino children in family foster care live in relative placements.
Background on Child Welfare Involved Hispanic Youth

- Latino youth living in urban environments are also increasingly more likely to experience the following types of trauma: violence (being the victim and perpetrator), social anxiety disorders, and externalizing behavior disturbances.  
- Hispanic families in the child welfare system are generally economically vulnerable due to poor education and low or restrained economic mobility.
- Hispanic families exist largely on limited financial resources and low-wage earning employment opportunities, and for the most part are uninsured.
NCTSI Program and Evaluation
The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

- 3-tiered Network of 102 grantees
  - 60 currently funded centers
  - 42 alumni centers

Network Mission
To raise the standard of care and improve access to services for traumatized children and their families throughout the United States
Why an NCTSI Evaluation?

Evaluation was a part of the initial congressional authorization (P.L. 106-310, 2001)

2002 GAO Report stated that little was known about the effectiveness of federal grant programs serving children who experienced trauma, and that more information would be coming from the NCTSI.

2003 NFC’s Achieving the Promise Report named trauma as an understudied area under its excellent mental health care delivered and research accelerated (Goal 5)

2010 Trauma and Justice is included as one of SAMHSA’s eight Strategic Initiatives, as is Data, Outcomes and Quality
SAMHSA’s Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative

Reduce the pervasive, harmful, and costly health impact of violence and trauma by integrating trauma-informed approaches throughout health and behavioral health care systems and by diverting people with substance use and mental disorders from criminal and juvenile justice systems into trauma-informed treatment and recovery.

- SAMHSA is one of the leading agencies addressing the impact of trauma on individuals, families, and communities.
- The NCTSI contributes most specifically to the goals of:
  - Building a trauma informed behavioral health system
  - Reducing the impact of trauma
  - Supporting programs to address trauma experienced in childhood
  - Improving the availability of trauma-informed care
Realize an integrated data strategy that informs policy and measures program impact leading to improved quality of services and outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

- SAMHSA has highlighted the importance of supporting programming decisions with high quality data, and of transparency in these decisions by making data readily available to the public.

- The NCTSI Evaluation is guided by the following goals:
  - Improve the quality of SAMHSA’s program evaluations and services research.
  - Improve quality and accessibility of surveillance, outcome/performance, and evaluation information for staff, stakeholders, funders, and policymakers.
The NCTSI Evaluation background

- SAMHSA/CMHS/DPTSSP has funded two NCTSI evaluation (2004 and 2009)
  - Both include(d) a design development year
  - The initial cross-site design was finalized in 2005; Data collection began in 2006
  - A redesign process began in 2009 and will be finalized in 2010

- The current presentation includes the descriptive and clinical outcomes data collected through the NCTSI’s core data set by NCTSI communities funded from 2001 to 2010.
The Descriptive and Clinical Outcomes Data

- The Core Data Set, includes the following instruments:
  - Core Clinical Characteristics
  - Baseline Assessment Form
  - Follow-up Assessment Form
  - General Trauma Form
  - Trauma Detail Form
  - Child Behavioral Checklist (CBCL 1.5-5)
  - Child Behavioral Checklist (CBCL 6-18)
  - Trauma Symptom Checklist (TSCC-A)
  - UCLA PTSD Index for DSM-IV
• Descriptive data include child and family demographic and psychosocial information, child traumatic experience information, and associated problem information. This information is collected from all children upon entry into services.

• Longitudinal data are collected every three months while children remain in services, and then at the end of treatment.
NCTSI Program: Profile of Youth Involved in Child Welfare
## Characteristics of Child Welfare-Involved Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Child Welfare Involved (n=5,634)</th>
<th>Not Child Welfare Involved (n=8,674)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-5 years</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12 years</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-17 years</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-25 years</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/ Alaska Native</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Trauma Exposures

- Child Welfare Involved (n=5,634): 4.4
- Not Child Welfare Involved (n=8,674): 3.1

Source: SAMHSA
Top Traumas Experienced by Child Welfare Involved Youth

- Impaired Caregiver: 35% (Child Welfare Involved), 47% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Domestic Violence: 63% (Child Welfare Involved), 61% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Traumatic loss or bereavement: 16% (Child Welfare Involved), 56% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Neglect: 49% (Child Welfare Involved), 57% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Emotional abuse/Psychological Maltreatment: 16% (Child Welfare Involved), 54% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Physical maltreatment/abuse: 22% (Child Welfare Involved), 49% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Sexual maltreatment/abuse: 19% (Child Welfare Involved), 35% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Sexual assault/rape: 19% (Child Welfare Involved), 14% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Community Violence: 16% (Child Welfare Involved), 18% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
- Physical assault: 10% (Child Welfare Involved), 13% (Not Child Welfare Involved)
Frequency of Trauma Exposure

- **Percentage of Children/Youth Not Child Welfare Involved:**
  - One time event: 32%
  - Repeated Exposure: 63%
- **Percentage of Children/Youth Child Welfare Involved:**
  - One time event: 16%
  - Repeated Exposure: 76%
Presenting Problems* Among Youth with Child Welfare Involvement

*Limited to presenting problems appearing in at least 10% of the population.
Clinical Outcomes of Child Welfare Involved Youth

CBCL Internalizing Behavior

- Child Welfare Involved (n=383)
- Not Child Welfare Involved (n=498)

Average t-score

Baseline 3 months 6 months
Clinical Outcomes of Child Welfare Involved Youth

CBCL Externalizing Behavior

- Child Welfare Involved (n=383)
- Not Child Welfare Involved (n=498)
NCTSI Program: Profile of Hispanic Youth Involved in Child Welfare
## Child Welfare Involved Hispanic Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Hispanic (n=1,138)</th>
<th>Non-Hispanic (3,852)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-5 years</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
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<td>30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-25 years</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>47.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nativity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in the U.S.</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Guardsmanship of Youth with Child Welfare Involvement, by Ethnicity

### Hispanic (n=1,004)
- **Parent**: 55.5%
- **Other adult relative**: 11.0%
- **State**: 25.4%
- **Emancipated Minor**: 0.4%
- **Other**: 0.2%

### Non-Hispanic (n=3,657)
- **Parent**: 40.8%
- **Other adult relative**: 14.7%
- **State**: 37.5%
- **Emancipated Minor**: 0.2%
- **Other**: 6.8%
Presenting Problems* Among Youth with Child Welfare Involvement, by Hispanic Ethnicity

- Behavior at home or in community: Hispanic 56.8% vs. Non-Hispanic 63.0%
- Academic problems: Hispanic 53.1% vs. Non-Hispanic 48.5%
- Attachment problems: Hispanic 52.2% vs. Non-Hispanic 56.3%
- Behavior at school: Hispanic 42.4% vs. Non-Hispanic 48.6%
- Inappropriate sexual behavior: Hispanic 17.2% vs. Non-Hispanic 22.7%
- Suicidality: Hispanic 14.8% vs. Non-Hispanic 13.0%
- Other self-injurious behavior: Hispanic 14.6% vs. Non-Hispanic 13.5%
- Skipping school: Hispanic 14.2% vs. Non-Hispanic 9.9%

*Limited to presenting problems appearing in at least 10% of the population.
Top Traumas Experienced by Child Welfare Involved Hispanic Youth

- Domestic Violence
- Emotional abuse/Psychological Maltreatment
- Traumatic loss or bereavement
- Impaired Caregiver
- Physical maltreatment/abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual maltreatment/abuse
- Community Violence
- Sexual assault/rape
- School Violence

Percentage of Children/Youth

Hispanic
Non-Hispanic
Clinical Outcomes – Child Welfare
Involved Hispanic Youth

CBCL Internalizing Behavior

Average t-score

Baseline 3 months 6 months

Hispanic (n=103)
Non-Hispanic (n=356)
Clinical Outcomes – Child Welfare

Involved Hispanic Youth

CBCL Externalizing Behavior

- Hispanic (n=103)
- Non-Hispanic (n=356)
Clinical Outcomes – Child Welfare
Involved Hispanic Youth

CBCL Total

Average t-score vs. Time

- Hispanic (n=103)
- Non-Hispanic (n=356)

Baseline 3 months 6 months
NCTSN Center Perspective on Implications for Practice

NCTSN Center-Serving Children and Adolescents in Need (SCAN)-Discussion on cultural adaptations and effective strategies to engage Hispanic children and their families in treatment and evaluation?