



TARGET POPULATION SUMMARY

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Purpose

- Identify population at greatest risk of Long Term Foster Care
- Describe the population at greatest risk to identify barriers to permanency
- Analyze heterogeneity in the target population to identify characteristics and subgroups amenable to intervention

Background

- Building upon Year One work:
 - Age groups at greatest risk (youth entering after age 9)
 - Regional variation (Cook County higher risk)
 - Applying a trauma lens to understanding barriers
- Working around other federally funded initiatives
 - Kin Connections – intervening at entry with youth ages 6-13 in Cook County
 - Adult Connections – intervening with exiting youth ages 17 and older

Methods

- Westat & University researchers applied multiple methods using historical cohort data
 - Tree modeling
 - Bivariate correlations with LTFC
 - Multivariate regression models
- Findings converged on a set of risk factors for LTFC

Predictors of Risk of LTFC

- Age (over nine at entry)
- Parental rights (no TPR by 2 years)
- Region (Cook County)
- Placement type (ever placed in IGH)
- Placement Instability
- Mental Health/Trauma Symptoms/Risk Behaviors

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Logistic Considerations

- Federal project overlap
 - Age
 - Time point for intervention
- Sample size
 - Requires inclusion of multiple placement types, regions, and parental rights status
- Implementation
 - Exclusion of larger congregate care settings due to established treatment regimens

Target Population Definition

- Age risk factor + federal project overlap=include youth ages 11-16 at the two-year anniversary of entry
- MH/trauma risk + Placement Stability risk + sample size considerations = include youth with *either* 1 placement change *and/or* 1 symptom at two-year anniversary of entry

Confirmatory Analyses: Understanding Heterogeneity

- To understand the relationship between measurement of MH Symptoms & Risk Behaviors and Trauma
- To identify subgroups within the population that may be appropriate for specific Evidence-Based Treatments under consideration by the Intervention Design Group

Latent Class Analysis: Identifying Subgroups

- N=1031 youth with CANS data from three fiscal years
- Defined Complex Trauma as more than one type of trauma experiences from
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Neglect
 - Emotional abuse
 - Witness to family violence
- Measured Symptoms in four trauma symptom clusters
 - Trauma symptoms
 - Behavioral dysregulation
 - Emotional dysregulation
 - Internalizing symptoms

Three Cluster Solution

- **Cluster One (25%) typical Complex Trauma profile**
 - 95% met the Complex Trauma criterion
 - high rates of symptoms in all of the four trauma symptom groups
- **Cluster Two (60%) less Symptom Complexity**
 - 46% met Complex Trauma criterion
 - relatively lower rates of symptoms (13-18%), indicating a lower degree of comorbidity among symptom types
- **Cluster Three (15%) highly Behaviorally Disordered**
 - 53% met Complex Trauma criterion
 - 100% had behavioral dysregulation issues
 - high rates of affect dysregulation (85%)
 - disproportionately male (63%)
 - at least 25% had previous detention

Sample Sizes

- If applying a complex trauma intervention, as many as 60% meet criteria
- If applying a targeted trauma intervention, all youth with symptoms and trauma experiences other than neglect only (75%) are appropriate
- In two years of intervention, estimates of roughly 800 youth becoming available for intervention meeting criteria

Power Analysis

- To determine sample size necessary to detect a true difference between intervention and control groups with sufficient power
- Dependent on effect sizes that are expected for a specified intervention
- With power set at .8 (good), effect size at .3 (small to medium, consistent with TARGET-A RCT outcomes), group size of approximately 190/group.

Population Distribution

- Examined variation in distribution by
 - Region
 - Permanency goal
 - Placement type
 - Agency
- Two data sources
 - Historical cohorts
 - “Start-Up” sample of youth who would enter the sample over the last four months

Placement Type Distribution

Placement Type	Historical		Current	
	N	%	N	%
Traditional Foster Home	154	23.8	23	23
Specialized Foster Home	232	35.9	34	34
Relative Foster Home	239	36.9	37	37
Group Home	22	3.4	7	6
Total	647	100	101	100

Start-Up Sample Permanency Goals

Goal	N
Return home within 5 months	11
Return home within 1 year	43
Return home Pending status hearing	2
Substitute care pending court determination	6
Adoption	13
Guardianship	8
Independence	14
Out of home care	2
Total	99

Agency Distribution

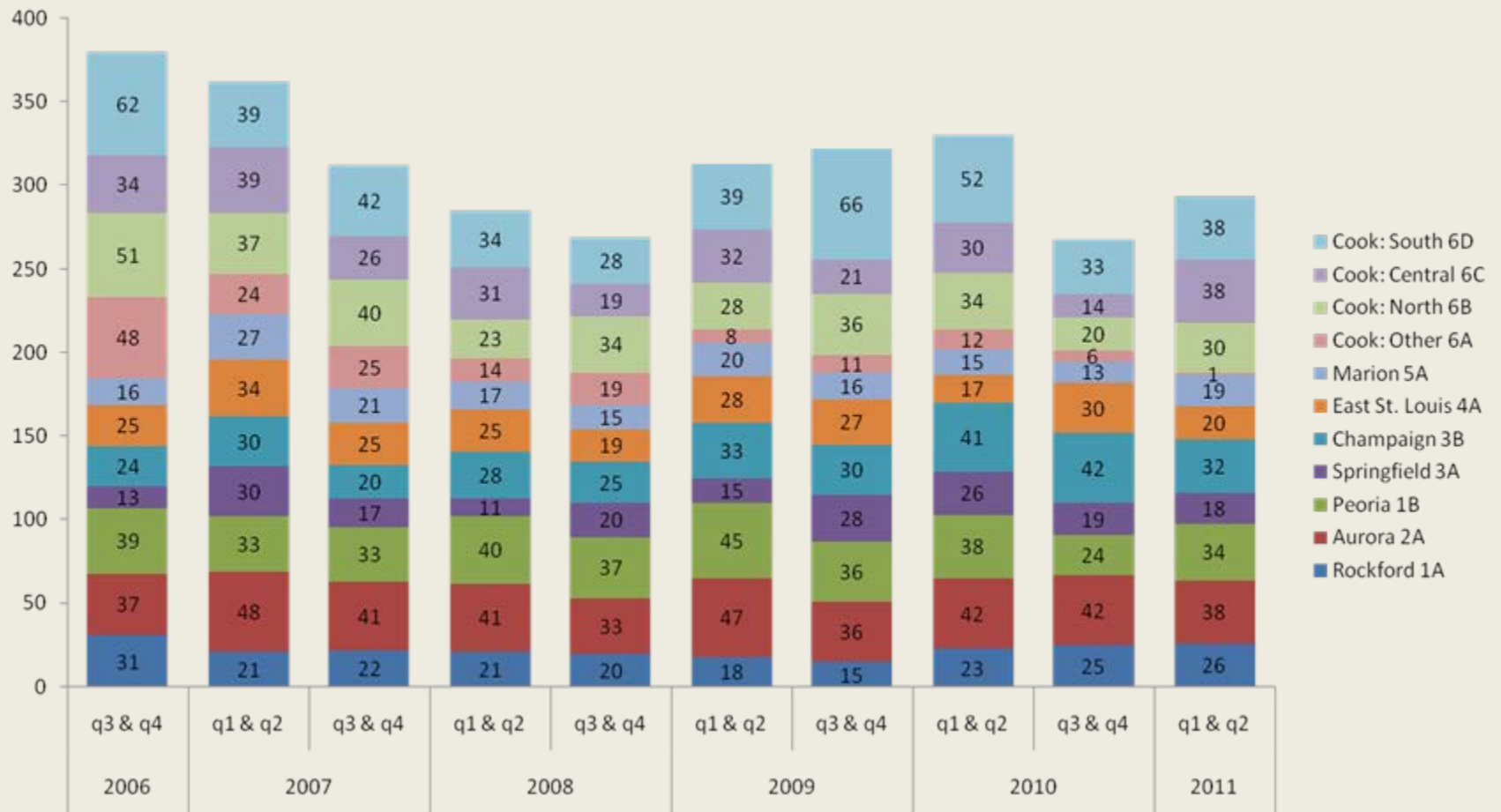
- Cases distributed among many agencies
- Highest volume at
 - DCFS
 - Camelot Community Care
 - Children's Home & Aid
 - Lutheran Child & Family Services
 - Lutheran Social Services

Regional Distribution

Historical vs. Current Regional Distribution of Non-Residentially Placed PII Eligible Youth

	Historical N=646		Current N=101	
Region	#	%	#	%
1A Rockford	49	7.7	9	8.9
1B Peoria	92	14.5	9	8.9
2A Aurora	91	14.3	10	10
3A Springfield	46	7.2	5	5
3B Champaign	49	7.7	20	19.8
4A East St. Louis	55	8.7	15	15
5A Marion	40	6.3	3	3
6B Cook North	64	10.1	9	8.9
6C Cook Central	59	9.3	11	11
6D Cook South	90	14.2	10	10
Total	635	100	101	100

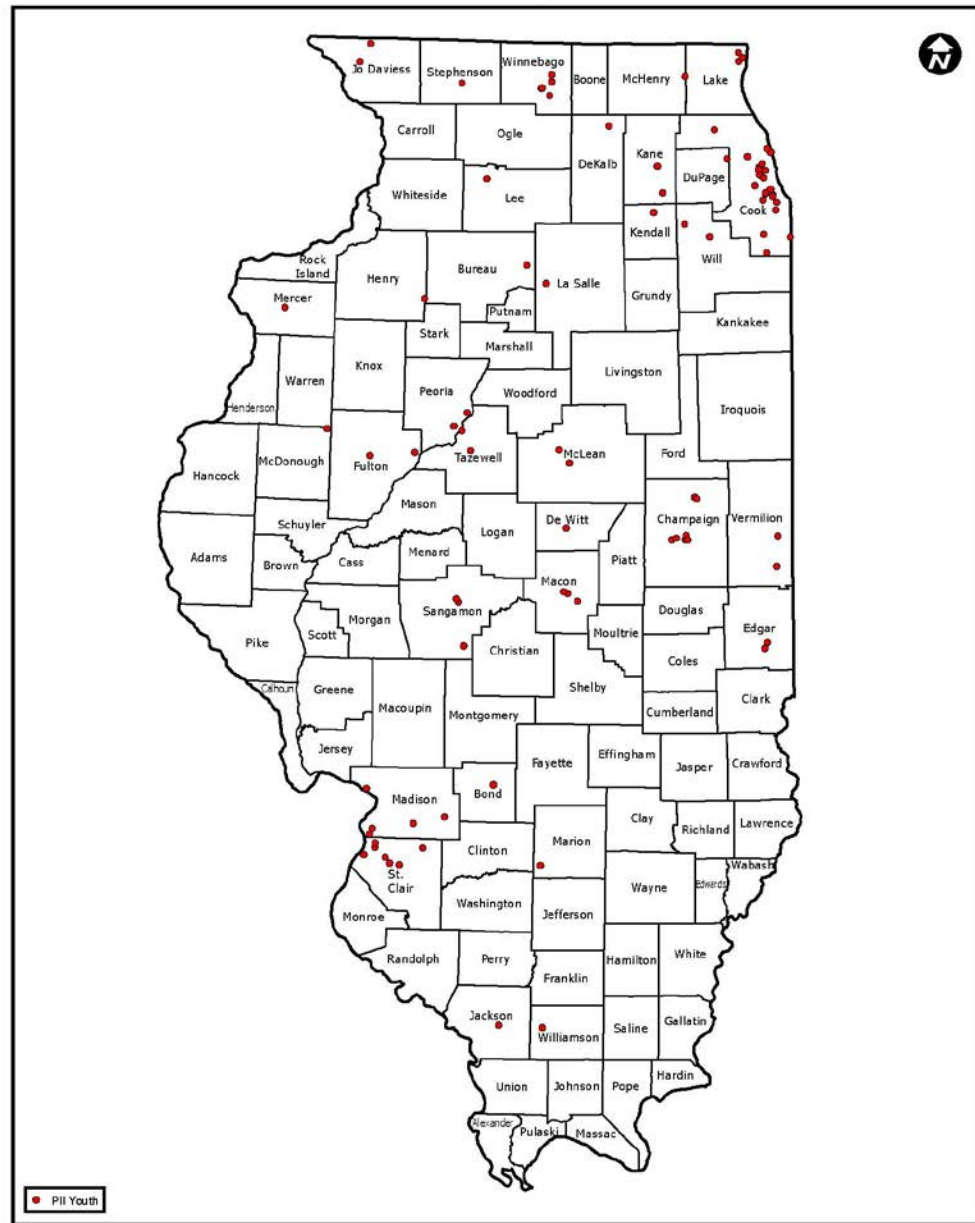
Bi-Annual Eligibility by Region



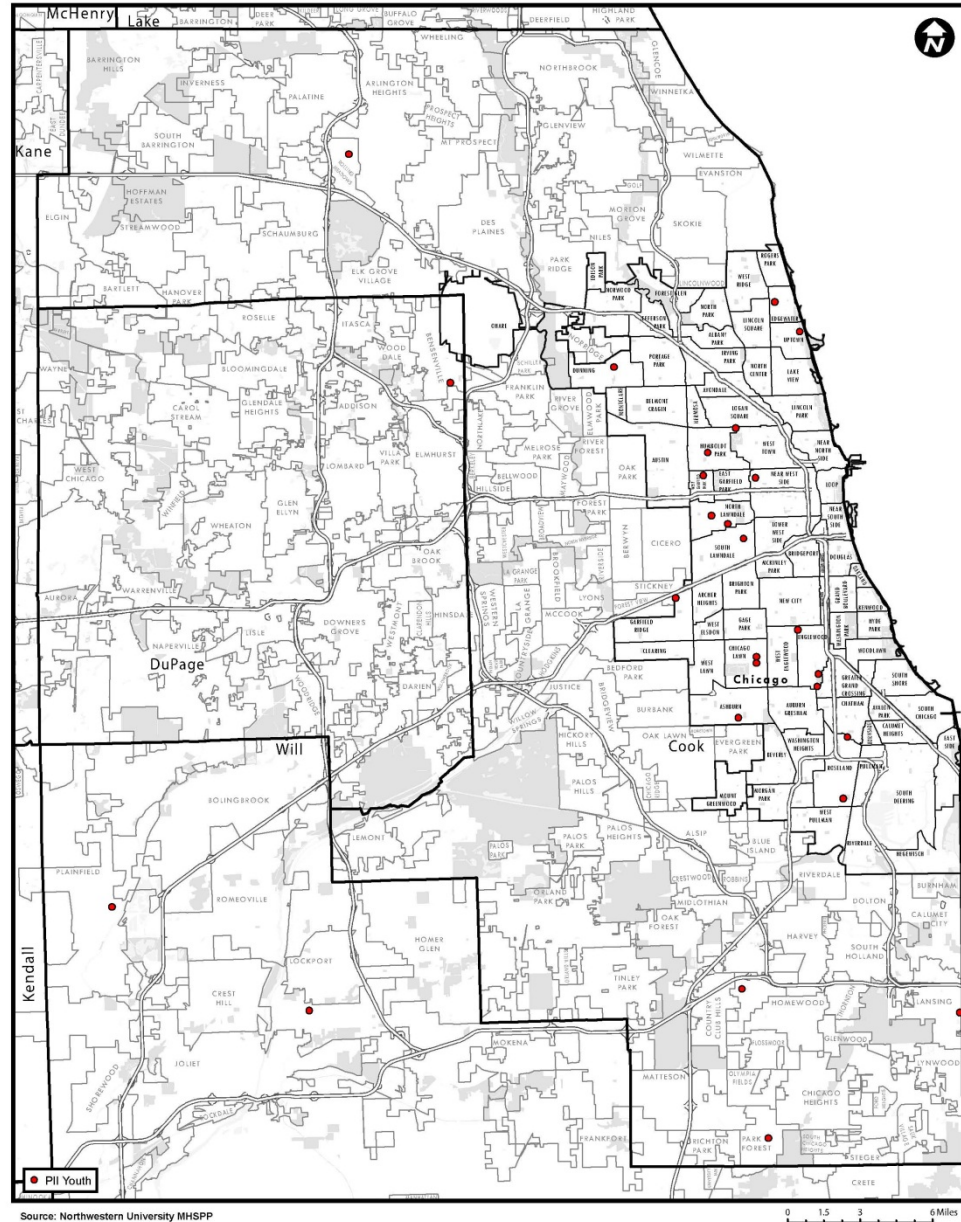
Implementation Considerations

- Compliance with CANS implementation for eligibility determination
- Incentives are available to enhance participation for control & intervention group subjects

Location of Youth Statewide Meeting PII Criteria at 2 Years in Care



Location of Youth Statewide Meeting PII Criteria at 2 Years in Care



Source: Northwestern University MHSPP