

A. Children removed from their parents generally experience better outcomes when placed with kin, including:

3. Better behavioral and social outcomes

- Amy Holtan, et al., *A Comparison of Mental Health Problems in Kinship and Non kinship Foster Care*, 14 EUROPEAN CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCH. 200 (2005), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/7762944_A_comparison_of_mental_health_problems_in_kinship_and_nonkinship_foster_care

Children in kinship care experience fewer placement changes, maintain greater contact with their biological parents, and stay closer to their original community, all of which are associated with positive behavioral outcomes. This study compares psychiatric problems and placement characteristics of 124 children (ages 4-13) in kinship and 90 in non-kinship foster homes in Norway, with a minimum one-year stay in care. Their caregivers filled out the Child Behavioral Checklist (CBCL), a 120-item questionnaire that reflects their view of the child's behavior. Results show that kinship placements are more stable, and these children have fewer prior placements and foster care breakdowns. Additionally, the kinship group scores significantly higher than the non-kinship group on Total Competence and School Competence scales. Regarding the CBCL Total Problem scales, which measures Total Problems, Withdrawn Behavior, Social Problems, Attention Problems, and Delinquent Behavior, 51.8% of the non-kinship group score above the borderline and only 35.8 % of the kinship group score above the borderline Total Problem score. The kinship group are more integrated with their community and have more contact with their biological parents, which could influence their lower Total Problem scores.

- David M. Rubin, et al., *Impact of Kinship Care on Behavioral Well-being for Children in Out-of-Home Care*, 162(6) ARCH. PEDIATR. ADOLESC. MED. 550-56 (June 2, 2008), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/379638>.

This cohort study examines the association between kinship care and likelihood of child behavior problems after 18 and 36 months in out-of-home care, using a national sample of children who entered out-of-home care. To gather data, interviews were conducted with children, caregivers, birth parents, child welfare workers, and teachers. This study finds that children in kinship care experience fewer behavioral problems than peers in non-kinship care three years after placement. The study characterizes kinship care as a “protective effect” against behavioral problems. Furthermore, children placed directly in kinship care, rather than being placed into foster care and then transitioning later to kinship care, exhibit better behavioral outcomes than children originally placed with non-kin.

- Christina Sakai, et al., *Health Outcomes and Family Services in Kinship Care, Analysis of a National Sample of Children in the Child Welfare System*, 165 ARCH. PEDIATR. & ADOLESC. MED. 159 (Feb.7, 2011), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/384260>.

This three-year study on health outcomes for children in kinship care relies on the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being and utilizes face-to-face interviews and assessments with 1,308 American children and caregivers, with follow-up interviews three years later. Children in kinship placements show “significantly lower risks of behavior problems and poor social skills” in comparison to non-kinship placed children three years post-placement, despite the lack of support for kinship caregivers in comparison to non-kinship foster caregivers.

- Marc A. Winokur, et al., *Systematic Review of Kinship Care Effects on Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes*, 28 RES. ON SOC. WORK & PRAC. 19 (2018), [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288888726 Systematic Review of Kinship Care Effects on Safety Permanency and Well-Being Outcomes](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288888726_Systematic_Review_of_Kinship_Care_Effects_on_Safety_Permanency_and_Well-Being_Outcomes).

The authors review 102 quasi-experimental studies that extracted outcome data for meta-analysis, finding that children in kinship care have fewer behavioral problems and increased well-being. This may be related to the lower levels of placement disruption for children in kinship arrangements.