

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

6. Better cultural, ethnic, racial, and traditional connections

- Child Welfare Information Gateway, *Child Welfare Practices to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity*, U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., ADMIN. FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES, CHILDREN'S BUREAU (April 2021), https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/racial_disproportionality.pdf#page=1&view=Introduction.

This report analyzes racial disparities in the child welfare system and recommends ways to reduce them, including prioritizing kinship care placements. The report discusses the cultural practices of kinship care in “many African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian or Alaska Native communities.” Prioritizing kinship care honors these traditions and promotes “the preservation of family, community, and cultural ties.” The report also emphasizes the need to provide resources for both formal and informal kinship caregivers.

- Tiffany Conway & Rutledge Q. Hutson, *Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?*, CTR. FOR L. & SOC. POL. (Mar. 2, 2007), <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/public/resources-and-publications/files/0347.pdf>.

This fact sheet addresses the various benefits of placing children in kinship care versus non-kinship care. Kinship care reduces racial disparities. In many cultures, “the family and home are understood to include the extended family,” and, as a result, kinship care allows children to remain connected to their “ethnic, racial, and cultural traditions.”

- Marcía Hopkins, *Family Preservation Matters: Why Kinship Care for Black Families, Native American Families, and Other Families of Color is Critical to Preserve Culture and Restore Family Bonds*, JUVENILE LAW CENTER (Sept. 24, 2020), <https://jlc.org/news/family-preservation-matters-why-kinship-care-black-families-native-american-families-and-other>.

This blog post advocates for kinship care to promote racial equity and support permanency for children and youth. The author, a Senior Manager of Youth Advocacy Program & Policy at Juvenile Law Center, shares her lived experience and advocates for kinship care in an effort to pursue racial equity and permanency for children and youth. The author explains how communities of color have, historically, informally used kinship care to care for children and family members. The author explains that remaining with kin can provide long term positive effects such as strong bonds, a sense of community, and cultural identity. By using kinship care instead of non-kinship care, children can “remain within their family of origin” which “ensures children continue to maintain strong bonds with other family members, like siblings, and grandparents.” Consequently, children in kinship care can heal from the trauma of removal and experience a sense of cultural identity and belonging with their family. According to the author, zealously pursuing kinship care is key to promoting racial equity.

- Nat'l Ass'n of Black Social Workers, *Kinship Care Position Paper* (Jan. 10, 2003), https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nabsw.org/resource/resmgr/position_statements_papers/kinship_care_position_paper.pdf.

Written by the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), this position paper argues that kinship care provides “cultural and historical continuity for children who are unable to live with their parents” and serves as a “continuation of the African tradition of caring, supporting and providing cultural continuity for families.” As such, the NABSW provides seven recommendations to improve kinship care: (1) provide more resources to kinship caregivers; (2) remove culturally insensitive licensing standards; (3) entitle kinship families to the same level of foster care stipends as non-related families; (4) provide easily accessible, family/child friendly quality services; (5) lengthen the timeline for termination of parental rights; (6) provide child welfare workers with specialized training related to family legacies and kinship; and (7) expand the definition of kin/relative in policies to include extended non-relative family members.

- Erin Sugrue, *Evidence Base for Avoiding Family Separation in Child Welfare Practice: An Analysis of Current Research*, ALIA INNOVATIONS ORG. (July 2019), https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/18985/alia-research-brief.pdf.

This research report reviews studies addressing the impact of out-of-home placement on children who have been maltreated and the impact of kin foster home placement versus foster home with strangers on children’s wellbeing. The report finds that children in kinship care are often able to remain closer to their biological parents and remain connected to their family history and culture. By living with kin, foster children can retain a “sense of personal and cultural identity” not available to children in non-kin placements. Living with kin can also boost self-esteem as a result of “knowing family history and culture.” These factors positively contribute to the child’s mental health and wellbeing.