

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

5. Increased levels of stability and permanency

- Rebecca L. Hegar & James A. Rosenthal, *Kinship Care and Sibling Placement: Child Behavior, Family Relationships, and School Outcomes*, 31 CHILD. & YOUTH SERVS. REV. 670 (2009), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/223721596_Kinship_care_and_sibling_placement_Child_behavior_family_relationships_and_school_outcomes

This study relies on data from the Child Protective Services Sample, Long Term Foster Care, and NSCAW data which include quantitative and qualitative data from 2,472 youth in kinship or non-kinship foster care. The authors find that kinship care placements are more stable than non-kinship placements. Additionally, the study finds that kinship foster care can result in increased emotional support particularly for children in minority groups. The study also finds that children experience lower levels of internalizing problems (i.e., depression and self-blame) when placed with their siblings; this benefit was more pronounced for children in non-kin placements but was still applicable to children placed with kin.

- Eun Koh, *Permanency Outcomes of Children in Kinship and Non-Kinship Foster Care: Testing the External Validity of Kinship Effects*, 32 CHILD. & YOUTH SERVS. REV. 389 (March 2010), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S019074090900276X>.

This study examines permanency outcomes for children in kinship foster homes and non-kinship foster homes in the Foster Care Improvement Project states (Arizona, Connecticut, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee). The study relies on Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data and limits the sample size to children who are placed at kinship or non-kinship foster homes within 60 days of removal and who stay at their placement for at least a week. The study took place between 1999 and 2005 and finds that children in kinship care are more likely to experience placement stability. Placement instability is defined as experiencing “three or more placements within a year of entry.”

- Eun Koh & Mark F. Testa, *Propensity Score Matching of Children in Kinship and Non Kinship Foster Care: Do Permanency Outcomes Still Differ?*, 32(2) SOC. WORK RES. 105 (2008), <https://academic.oup.com/swr/article-abstract/32/2/105/1620753?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

This longitudinal study relies on mandatory data collected from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting Systems (AFCARS) from 1998 to 2007. Researchers selected a random sample of records of Illinois children which included over 30,000 children and specifically matched a subset of 1,500 kinship children to 1,500 foster care children and compared the sample. The authors find that children generally experienced more placement stability in kinship care settings as compared to non-kinship placements: 71.2% of children placed with kin do not experience a placement disruption, compared to 62.9% of children in non-kinship homes.

- Eun Koh & Mark F. Testa, *Children Discharged from Kin and Non-Kin Foster Homes: Do the Risks of Foster Care Re-Entry Differ?*, 33(9) CHILD. & YOUTH SERVS. REV. 1497 (2011), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227414007_Children_discharged_from_kin_and_n-on-kin_foster_homes_Do_the_risks_of_foster_care_re-entry_differ

The authors compare exit events from kinship and non-kinship foster care (adoption, guardianship, or return to birth parents) as well as rates of re-entry into the foster system. “[C]hildren in kinship foster homes experience greater stability during their out-of-home placements than children in non-kinship foster placements.” The authors note that “[k]in children are more likely to stay in out-of-home care for a shorter period of time than non-kin children in the samples of reunified and guardianship children, but the opposite finding is reported for adopted children.” Children in kinship foster placements have a lower rate of re-entry into the system following discharge due to reunification (16.7%) or guardianship (1.3%) than non-kinship placements (21.6% and 4.3%, respectively).

- 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, when out-of-home care is necessary, kinship care is the best option for children because it provides greater stability, leads to fewer emotional problems for children, and keeps children connected to their family.

- Marc A. Winokur, et al., *Matched Comparison of Children in Kinship Care and Foster Care on Child Welfare Outcomes*, 89 FAMILIES IN SOC’Y: J. CONTEMP. SOC. SERVS. 338 (2018), <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1606/1044-3894.3759>

This study uses a comparative design to review differences between children in kinship care and children in foster care by focusing on permanency, safety, and stability outcomes. The sample included children who lived in their placements for 60 days or longer and who spent 90% of their total days in the placement. The resulting sample included 1,377 children: 505 in kinship care and 872 children in foster care from 12 Colorado counties. The primary findings are: (1) non-kinship foster care children are more likely to be in multiple placements; (2) non-kinship foster care children are more likely to be reunified than kinship children; (3) kinship care children are more likely to achieve permanency through guardianship; (4) non-kinship foster care children are about 10 times more likely to have a new allegation of institutional abuse or neglect while in care; (5) non-kinship foster care children are more likely to be involved with a detention or commitment facility; and (6) non-kinship foster children stay in care placements longer than children in kinship care.

- 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

The authors review and evaluate 102 quasi-experimental studies and extract outcome data for meta-analysis. Their findings show that children in kinship care have less placement disruption; children in non-kinship foster care are 2.6 times more likely to experience three or more placements than children in kinship care.