

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

**1. Reduced trauma upon removal**

- Heidi Redlich Epstein, *Kinship Care is Better for Children and Families*, 36 ABA CHILD L. PRAC. TODAY 77 (2017), [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_interest/child\\_law/resources/child\\_law\\_practice\\_online/child\\_law\\_practice/vol-36/july-aug-2017/kinship-care-is-better-for-children-and-families/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practice_online/child_law_practice/vol-36/july-aug-2017/kinship-care-is-better-for-children-and-families/)

This review of social science research concludes that children have better mental health measures when placed with relatives than when placed in non-kinship foster care. First, placing children with kin caregivers minimizes the trauma that comes with removal. When children are removed from their homes, they often lose all prior attachments. Placement with a relative diminishes the loss that comes with removal from parents. Additionally, children who live with relatives have fewer school changes and a better relationship with their caregiver than children who live with unrelated foster parents. Moreover, children who live with relatives are more likely to live with or stay connected to their siblings.

- Jennifer Ehrle & Rob Geen, *Kin and Non-Kin Foster Care – Findings from a National Survey*, 24 CHILD. & YOUTH SERVS. REV. 1-2, 15-35 (Feb. 2002), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740901001669>

This article explains that children placed in kinship care can experience less trauma upon removal because of the familiarity, continuity, and connection to family ties these placements offer. Despite these benefits, kinship caregivers are provided fewer financial and family support resources than non-kinship caregivers, which hampers kinship caregivers' ability to provide care and reduce trauma.