

RESEARCH BRIEF

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

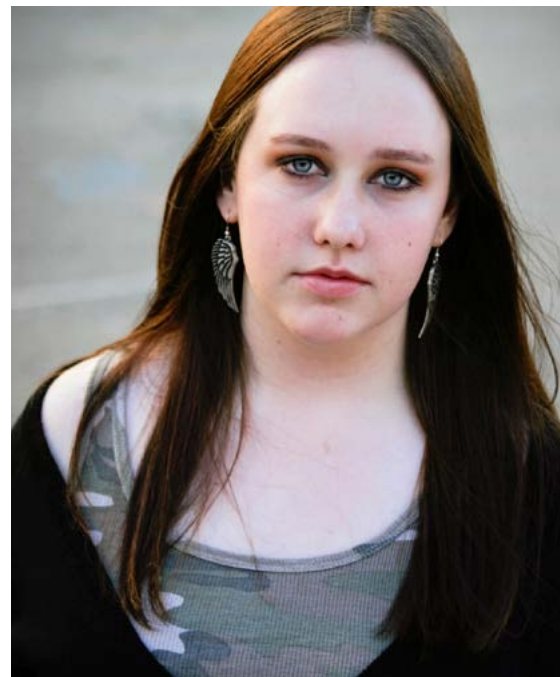
This study examined youth outcomes of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) in an urban county in Minnesota. "Crossover youth," or dually involved youth, are maltreated youth who have engaged in delinquency. The CYPM is an innovative conceptual model and guide to systems change through strengthened collaborations and increased family engagement to improve outcomes for crossover youth.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Maltreated youth are at a 47% greater risk for becoming involved in delinquency than youth from the general population (Ryan & Testa, 2005). The dual involvement of youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems can compound vulnerable youth's risks for problematic developmental outcomes (e.g., Morris & Freundlich, 2004). The CYPM is a conceptual model and guide to systems change through strengthened collaborations, especially between child welfare and juvenile justice system professionals, in order to improve outcomes for crossover youth. Its overarching aim is to minimize maltreated youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system, primarily through earlier and more appropriate intervention, and increased family engagement. At the time of this writing, the CYPM had been implemented in 88 counties in 20 states (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, 2014). A number of internal reports suggest improved outcomes for youth involved with the CYPM (e.g., Herz, Lee, Lutz, Stewart, Tuell & Wiig, 2012). Prior to the current study, however, external outcome evaluations of the CYPM by groups not involved in its development or implementation had not been published in peer reviewed journals.

Relative to youth not receiving CYPM services we hypothesized that:

- 1. CYPM youth will be less likely to be adjudicated (i.e., found guilty) and more likely to receive stays-of-adjudications or dismissals.**
- 2. CYPM youth will spend fewer days in out-of-home placements.**
- 3. Of those crossover youth in out-of-home care, CYPM youth will be less likely to be placed in congregate care settings (i.e., group homes, residential centers, and correctional facilities)**
- 4. CYPM youth will be less likely to recidivate (i.e., to re-offend).**



THE DUAL INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN THE CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS CAN COMPOUND VULNERABLE YOUTH'S RISKS FOR PROBLEMATIC DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES

METHODS

We linked administrative data bases to examine child welfare and juvenile justice outcomes for youth participating in the CYPM in Oak County (pseudonym) and those of propensity – score matched comparison groups. We used a quasi-experimental, posttest-only design with independent pretest and posttest samples.

FINDINGS

Relative to their counterparts receiving services as usual, youth participating in the CYPM were less likely to re-offend. They were not less likely to be found guilty or be placed in congregate care, nor did they spend less time in out-of-home care.

Through Minn-LInK, we linked state-level data from the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS) with child protection data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Social Service Information System (SSIS) and education data from the Minnesota Department of Education's Minnesota Automated Report Student System (MARSS). This linked data was used to create the groups for this study. Youth from all groups were between the ages of 10 and 17, had open child protection cases and subsequently became involved with the juvenile justice system. All were tracked for 12 months after their target offense date. **The CYPM Oak County¹ treatment group** (*T* in Table 2) was comprised of crossover youth from Oak County who received CYPM services between January, 2011 and August, 2013 (*n*=57). The **pre-treatment, Oak County comparison group** (*C*₁ in Table 2, *n*=57) was comprised of dually involved youth from Oak County who received "services as usual" between June 2008 and December, 2010 (i.e., prior to the implementation of the CYPM; *n*=57). The **pre-treatment, neighboring county comparison group** (*C*₂ in Table 2) was comprised of crossover youth from six different counties that share borders with Oak County and who received "services as usual" between June, 2008 and December, 2010 (*n*=57). The **post-treatment, neighboring county comparison group** (*C*₃ in Table 2) was comprised of dually involved youth from six different counties that share borders with Oak County and who received "services as usual" between January, 2011 and August, 2013 (*n*=57). The inclusion of these comparison groups allowed for estimation of the effects of CYPM after controlling for time (pre and post CYPM implementation) and location (Oak or neighboring counties) effects.

Across the four groups, a mean of 32% to 61% of all youth had their cases adjudicated (i.e., were found guilty). Multinomial logistic regression analyses indicated that after controlling for time- and locale-effects and the other covariates, CYPM treatment youth were not more likely than comparison group youth to have their cases dismissed (*b*=1.45, S.E.=1.22, *p*=0.23, Exp(*b*)=4.27) or receive a continuance or stay of adjudication (*b*=1.87, S.E.=1.07, *p*=0.08, Exp(*b*)=6.47) rather than be adjudicated.

Over the 12 month period following their target offense, approximately half of all youth were in out-of-home placements, with means across the four groups ranging from 181-258 days. Multiple regression analyses indicated no significant differences across groups in the expected number of days youth were placed in out-of-home care (*b*=-62.09, S.E.=63.48, *p*=0.33).

Of the 19 CYPM treatment youth in out-of-home care at the target offense date, 16 (84.2%) experienced congregate care within the next year. Logistic regression analysis predicting placement in congregate care indicated no significant difference between treatment and comparison groups after controlling for the effects of time, locale, severity of offense, and type of OHP at the target offense date (*b*=2.95, S.E.=1.66, *p*=0.07, Exp(*b*)=19.06).

Table 1

STUDY DESIGN: A Quasi-experimental, Posttest-only Design with Independent Pretest and Posttest Samples

	Pre-CYPM	Post-CYPM	
Oak County	<i>C</i> ₁	CYPM	<i>T</i>
Neighboring Counties	<i>C</i> ₂		<i>C</i> ₃

Table 2

Frequency of Recidivism of CYPM Treatment and Independent Comparison Groups.

	Recidivism	
	#	%
CYPM: Post-Oak	18	(31.6%)
Non-CYPM*	82	(48.0%)
Pre-Oak	31	(54.4%)
Post-Neighbor	26	(45.6%)
Pre-Neighbor	25	(43.9%)

Non-CYPM^{} is the sum of the three comparison groups: pre-treatment in Oak County, post-treatment neighboring counties, and pre-treatment neighboring counties.

¹To maintain anonymity a pseudonym has been used in describing the results of this study

Over the 12 month period following the target offense, the mean number of days youth in the four groups were in congregate care ranged from 83.95 to 158.21 days. Regression analysis on the days spent in congregate care indicated no significant differences between treatment and comparison groups ($b=-62.09$, $S.E.=63.48$, $p=0.81$).

OVER THE 12 MONTH PERIOD FOLLOWING THE TARGET OFFENSE, THE MEAN NUMBER OF DAYS YOUTH IN THE FOUR GROUPS WERE IN CONGREGATE CARE RANGED FROM 83.95 TO 158.21. REGRESSION ANALYSIS ON THE DAYS SPENT IN CONGREGATE CARE INDICATED NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TREATMENT AND COMPARISON GROUPS.

During the year following the target offense, 31.6% of the Oak County CYPM treatment group youth, and an average of 48% of the three comparison group youth were adjudicated for one or more additional criminal charges (see Table 2). Logistic regression analyses indicated significant differences between treatment and comparison groups after considering the effects of time, locale, and other covariates (see Note 2, Table 3). Compared to the pre-treatment Oak County comparison group, the log odds of recidivism versus no recidivism significantly decreased for the Oak County CYPM treatment group (see comparison 1 in Table 3). Compared to the post-treatment neighboring counties comparison group, the log odds of recidivism were also significantly lower for the CYPM treatment group (see comparison 2 in Table 3). In contrast, there were no significant differences in the log odds of recidivism between the pre-treatment neighboring counties and the post-treatment neighboring counties comparison groups

Table 3

Logistics Regression Analysis for the Effect of CYPM on Recidivism

Comparison	Estimate ⁺	S.E.	Exp (Estimate)
(1) Treatment vs. Pre-treatment Oak	-1.65**	0.56	0.19
(2) Treatment vs. Post-treatment neighbor counties	-1.35*	0.58	0.26
(3) Pre Treatment vs. Post-treatment neighbor counties	0.24	0.46	1.27
(4) Treatment vs. all comparison groups	-1.74**	0.65	0.18

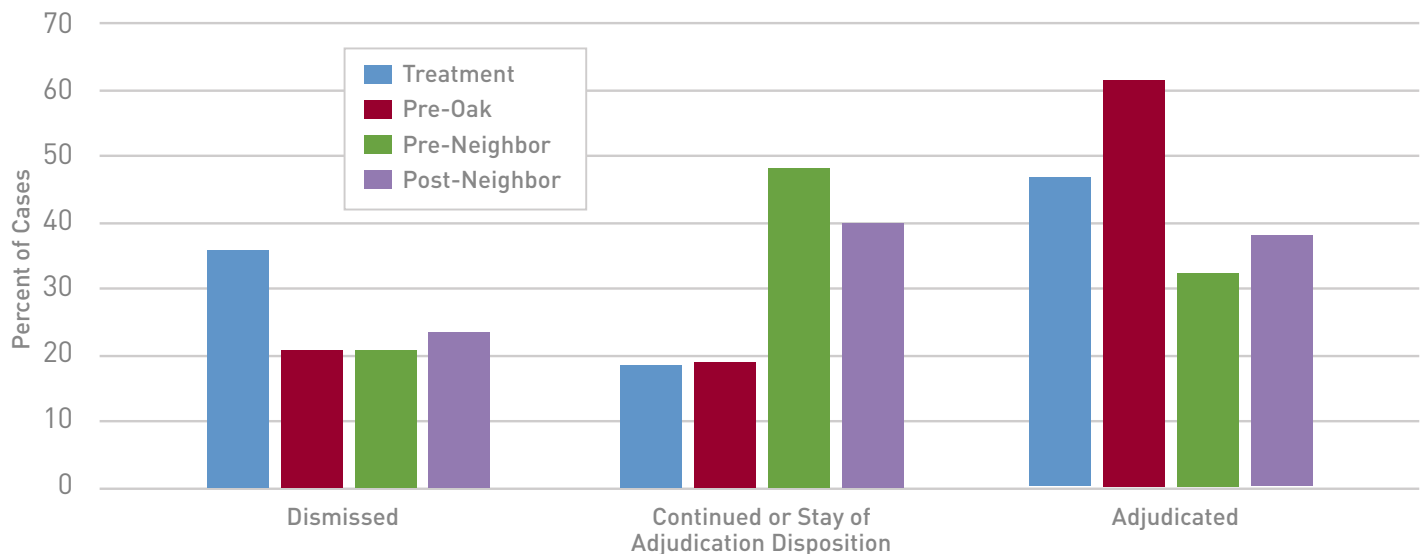
* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$; +In comparison (1), (2), and (4), the estimates are the coefficient for the variable of 'CYPM' whereas in comparison (3), the estimate is the coefficient for the 'Time Post'.

Note 1. Dependent variables, recidivism, are dichotomous variables: those who (1) recidivated, (2) and did not recidivate. The reference group is those who did not recidivate.

Note 2. The regression models included control variables: type of offense, number of the child protection service cases prior to the target offense date, out of home placement status at the offense date, degree of offense, gender, age at the offense date, race/ethnicity, economic status, special education eligibility, allegation in child protection service –neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, age at the first offense date, number of the previous juvenile justice cases, age at the first involvement in child protection service. As well as those control variables, the regression model for comparison (4), Post-treatment Oak vs. all comparison groups, also include time and locale effects terms.

(see comparison 3 in Table 3). Finally, after controlling for time (pre- and post-treatment) and location (Oak County and neighboring counties) as well as the other covariates (see Note 2, Table 3), the log odds of recidivism were significantly lower for the CYPM treatment group compared with the combined comparison groups (see comparison 4 in Table 3).

Figure 1. Percentage of Sentence Types by Groups



Conclusion

The CYPM is an important effort to change policy and practice to interrupt the negative developmental trajectories of many crossover youth by minimizing their involvement in the juvenile justice system. We conducted an external, outcome evaluation of the early implementation of the CYPM in Oak County (the first 2-1/2 years). We were not involved in the design of the CYPM, or its implementation. In contrast to internal evaluations from other locales (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, 2012), we did not find that CYPM youth were less likely to be adjudicated or placed in congregate care settings, or spend less time in out-of-home placements. Consistent with internal evaluations (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, 2012), we did find that involvement in the CYPM reduced youth's risks of recidivism.

In Oak County, youth involved with the CYPM may be committing fewer subsequent offenses than their counterparts receiving services as usual. This interpretation is consistent with the perceptions of professionals working within Oak County and other counties in Minnesota where the CYPM has been implemented. In a series of qualitative interviews, professionals reported that as a result of the CYPM, youth and their families were more promptly receiving more appropriate services which were improving youth's functioning (Haight, Bidwell, Marshall, & Khatiwoda, 2015). Alternatively, it is possible that CYPM youth are as likely as their counterparts not receiving CYPM to commit subsequent offenses, but because they are targeted in the juvenile justice system as "crossover youth," they are being diverted from juvenile justice to social services. Minnesota does not track such diversion, and thus there was no way for us to determine how many youth were diverted after arrest or initial contact with law enforcement officers. In either case, if CYPM practices are resulting in youth and families receiving effective social and psychological services, maltreated youth's subsequent delinquent behavior should be reduced.

LIMITATIONS

We evaluated the impact of the CYPM relatively early in its implementation (the first 2-1/2 years). System change and the subsequent impact of such change on clients do not happen quickly. CYPM youth participating during early implementation may not have consistently experienced the full model. If fidelity to the model was compromised for some youth, then outcome analyses would be weakened.

Also, we did not have access to data that would have allowed us to evaluate a primary goal of the CYPM: the immediate diversion of youth from juvenile justice involvement to social services. Our use of court data meant that we only had access to youth who had already "touched" both systems. Subsequent research would be enhanced by access to police as well as court data.

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Suggested citation: Haight, W., Bidwell, L., Choi, W. & Cho, M. (2016). An evaluation of the crossover youth practice model (CYPM) (Minn-LInK brief No. 27). Available at: http://casw.umn.edu/portfolio_tags/minn-link/

Manuscript citation: Haight, W., Bidwell, L., Choi, W. & Cho, M. (2016). An evaluation of the crossover youth practice model (CYPM): Outcomes for maltreated youth involved in the juvenile justice system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 65, 78-85.

Funding & Other Acknowledgements: This report was made possible through collaboration with Casey Family Programs, and funding from the Gamble-Skogmo endowment of the University of Minnesota, School of Social Work.

Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children and families across America. Founded in 1966, Casey works in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live. For more information see <http://www.casey.org/about/>.

The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) is a resource for child welfare professionals, students, faculty, policy-makers, and other key stakeholders concerned about child welfare in Minnesota. **Minn-LInK** is a unique collaborative, university-based research environment with the express purpose of studying child and family well being in Minnesota using state administrative data from multiple agencies.

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