

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)

Translating research to practice may be difficult, yet a better understanding of current research is necessary to ensure child welfare workers engage in best practices when working with children and families. The Minn-LInK Discussion Guide is designed to help facilitate thoughtful discussions about the information presented in the research brief in order to inform practice and enhance discussion surrounding meaningful issues.

In this issue, we examined youth outcomes of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) in an urban county in Minnesota. Crossover 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. In this study, we were interested in evaluating whether or not CYPM youth were less likely to be adjudicated, if they spent fewer days in out-of-home placements, and whether they were less likely to recidivate. Overall, findings indicate that relative to their counterparts receiving services as usual, youth participating in the CYPM were less likely to re-offend. However, crossover youth were not less likely to be adjudicated delinquent or be placed in congregate care, nor did they spend less time in out-of-home care.

Discussion on Practice Implications

- 1.** This study found that crossover youth who were served through the Crossover Youth Practice Model were less likely to reoffend. Does your county have CYPM in place? If so, in what ways have you been involved in this effort? What changes to your practice would help you be more successful in your county's efforts? If your county does not have CYPM in place, what information or training do you need to support your work with crossover youth?
- 2.** At the heart of CYPM is coordination and collaboration among human service and corrections professionals resulting in coordinated, comprehensive planning that includes professionals from both systems as well as parents. Regardless of whether your agency has adopted CYPM, in what ways do you work with professionals from other systems to support crossover youth? What strategies do you use to support crossover youth? What additional knowledge or skills do you need to further support your work with crossover youth?

Discussion on Agency- & System-Level Changes

- 1.** This study found that crossover youth who were served through the Crossover Youth Practice Model were not less likely to be adjudicated delinquent or be placed in congregate care, nor did they spend less time in out-of-home care (though other studies have found positive outcomes in these areas). What agency- or system-level factors may have contributed to these findings? Are there agency- or system-level barriers that exist within your agency in supporting crossover youth? How could your agency reduce these barriers?
- 2.** Would changes to agency, state, or federal policies be needed to best support crossover youth?