

Out-of- school Suspension and Recidivism among Crossover Youth

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 investigated the risk factors associated with recidivism among youth with child protection and juvenile justice system involvement, specifically the relationship between out-of-school suspension and reoffending. In particular, we were interested in measuring the proportion of crossover youth that reoffends, what the trajectories for recidivism are, and to what extent out-of-school suspension impacts recidivism. Overall, findings suggest that crossover youth continue to remain vulnerable to experiencing subsequent offenses after their first offense. In particular, out-of-school suspensions increase the risk of recidivism among crossover youth. Youth with a higher number of suspensions at the time of their reoffending are more likely to recidivate.

Discussion on Practice Implications

- 1.** This study acknowledged the fact that youth's needs often extend beyond the available resources of a single agency. Collaborating with the other professionals involved with crossover youth (social workers, corrections officers, and school personnel) is best practice. How can you as a practitioner ensure regular meetings with other professionals and parents occur?
- 2.** Considering issues of privacy and confidentiality, what types of information should be shared among service professionals to support crossover youth? How should this information be shared and with what frequency? In what situations are parental releases to share information among professionals needed? What educational and engagement strategies can you use to obtain parent releases?
- 3.** In searching for alternatives to out-of-school suspension, what additional school personnel or programs are available to support crossover youth?

Discussion on Agency- & System-Level Changes

- 1.** Is your agency part of an interagency team established to support crossover youth? If not, can your agency be a catalyst to start one? What barriers might exist? How can you overcome these barriers?
- 2.** Does your agency have a periodic or annual meeting of social services, corrections, court, and education staff to discuss strategies for collaboratively supporting crossover youth? What things are working well? What things could be improved?
- 3.** What consequences other than school suspension can be used in response to unacceptable behavior? Are there programs that supporting agencies (social services, corrections, etc.) can use or promote to fill in gaps?