

The Impact of Safe Babies Court Teams on Re-entering Out of Home Care

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Learning Objectives

- To become familiar with Cradle to Crayons (C2C): The Safe Babies Court Teams Project in Maricopa County, Arizona
- To understand how C2C is associated with re-entry into OOH for infants and toddlers removed from their parent or caregiver
- To understand how risk and protective factors are associated with re-entry

Background

Cradle to Crayons (C2C) ten core components:

- Judicial Leadership
- Local Community Coordinator
- Active Court Team Focused on the Big Picture
- Targeting Infants and Toddlers in Out-of-Home Care (OOH)
- Placement and Concurrent Planning
- Monthly Family Team Meetings to Review All Open Cases
- Parent-Child Contact (Visitation)
- Continuum of Mental Health Service
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Evaluation

Research Questions

- How is C2C associated with re-entry?
- How do rates of re-entry vary by type of exit from OOH?
- How do rates of re-entry compare to the CFSR (2015) standard?
- How do C2C rates of re-entry compare for all children removed versus with those who are rapid removal and return (< 8 days)?
- What risk and protective factors are associated with re-entry?

Methods

Administrative data were collected for 5,025 children age 0-3 removed from their parent or caregiver for the first time from 2010-2013 in Maricopa County, AZ. Children were followed through 2014 for re-entry within 12 months after exit from OOH via reunification or adoption. Recognized risk and protective factors were analyzed using binary LOGIT regression to assess the likelihood of re-entry.

Results

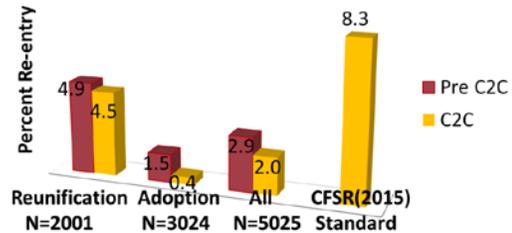


Figure 1: Percent re-entry Pre-C2C v. C2C by type of exit from OOH as compared with the CFSR (2015) standard for children who exited care in greater than or equal to 8 days

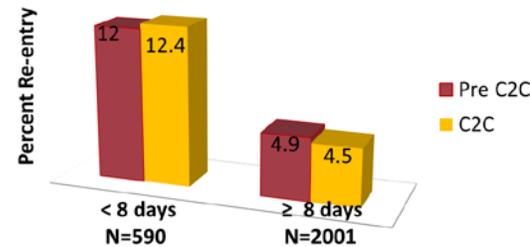


Figure 2: Percent re-entry Pre-C2C v. C2C for rapid removal and return children (< 8 days) as compared with children removed and returned in greater than or equal to 8 days

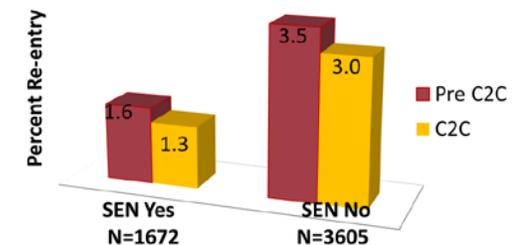


Figure 3: Percent re-entry Pre-C2C v. C2C for substance-exposed newborns (SEN) for children removed in greater than or equal to 8 days



Table 1: Risk and protective factors for re-entry

Significant Factors	B	S.E.	Wald	p	Odds Ratio
REUNIFICATION					
N=2593					
C2C	.425	.153	7.672	.006	1.529
MARRIED	.193	.248	.602	.438	1.212
SEN	.154	.195	.625	.429	1.166
Constant	-2.754	.302	82.950	.000	.064
ADOPTION					
N=3362					
C2C	1.300	.317	16.806	.000	3.670
MARRIED	1.369	.724	3.576	.059	3.931
SEN	1.290	.365	12.459	.000	3.631
Constant	-6.977	.822	72.120	.000	.001

Notes:

- Factors tested that were not significant predictors included: age of child; age of mother; prior reports; type of report, substance abuse; special needs marker; domestic violence marker. Administrative data on number of placements, number of children in the family and service data were not available for analysis.
- Referent categories for LOGIT are: 1) program participation (C2C); 2) marital status=married; 3) presence of a SEN marker. The odds ratio measures the increased likelihood of re-entry for the *non-referent* category.
- Pre-C2C period is defined as all removals where the removal ended in reunification or adoption, 2010-2011; program participation (C2C) is defined as all removals that ended in reunification or adoption, 2012-2013.

Discussion

- Infants and toddlers in Maricopa County experienced a re-entry rate below the CFSR (2015) standard; however, rapid removal and return children (< 8 days) experienced a rate higher than the CFSR (2015) standard.
- Rapid removal and return children (< 8 days) experienced a rate of re-entry almost 3 times that of children who were removed and returned in greater than or equal to 8 days.
- Prior to C2C implementation, children age 0-3 who exited OOH via reunification were 1.5 times more likely to re-enter; no other risk or protective factors were significant in predicting re-entry for children who reunified.
- Prior to C2C implementation, children age 0-3 who exited OOH via adoption:
 - were almost 4 times as likely to re-enter
 - factors significant in predicting to re-entry:
 - SEN marker
 - birth mother was unmarried.

Implications

- Safe Babies Court Teams Projects may reduce the risk of re-entry regardless of how the child exits OOH.
- For children who exited OOH via adoption, two critical protective factors were identified:
 - marriage appears to be a protective factor for re-entry, decreasing the risk of re-entry by 25% if the birth mother was married.
 - A SEN marker appears to be a protective factor for re-entry, decreasing the risk of re-entry by almost 30%.
- The practice of rapid removal and return children (< 8 days) requires further examination.

References

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