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Expanding the conceptualization of re-entry: The inter-play between child welfare and juvenile services

Stacey L. Shipe, Terry V. Shaw, Sara Betsinger, Jill Farrell

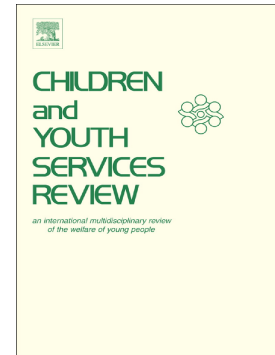
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### **Abstract**

Re-entry in child welfare is traditionally viewed as a child exiting to permanency and then reentering the child welfare system. Using this approach is effective for understanding child welfare practice from a single-system lens, but gives an incomplete picture of how children may move between related child serving systems. The present study expands the definition of re-entry by examining re-entry for 2,259 children who either return to the child welfare system or move into the juvenile justice system after reunification from foster care. When measuring a broader concept of re-entry (into either system) the rate of re-entry went from 18% to 25% - a 33% increase. Regression analyses further suggested that many of the risk and protective factors associated with standard child welfare reentry were also predictive of multisystem re-entry such as having previous child welfare experience (OR=1.79,  $p<.000$ ), and child behavior as a factor at removal (OR=1.75,  $p<.000$ ). Findings of this study support the need to continue increasing the conceptualization of re-entry to be more inclusive of related systems as well as continuing to focus research efforts on understanding effective practices within child serving systems so that re-entry into either system is mitigated.

Keywords: re-entry; crossover youth; foster care

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