

Using Data to Find Opportunities to Place Youth Closer to Home

Agenda

1 Re-Introduction to APS

2 Out-of-County Placement

3 Preventing Out-of-County Placement?

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Experienced with Foster Care Data

We have spent three years helping child welfare agencies use data to drive better outcomes



Based at the University of Chicago

Our work is informed by data and research, and we have access to world-leading experts



Centered on the Child's Experience

We root our analysis in a ground truth: where the child is placed when they are in care



Focused on Real-World Outcomes

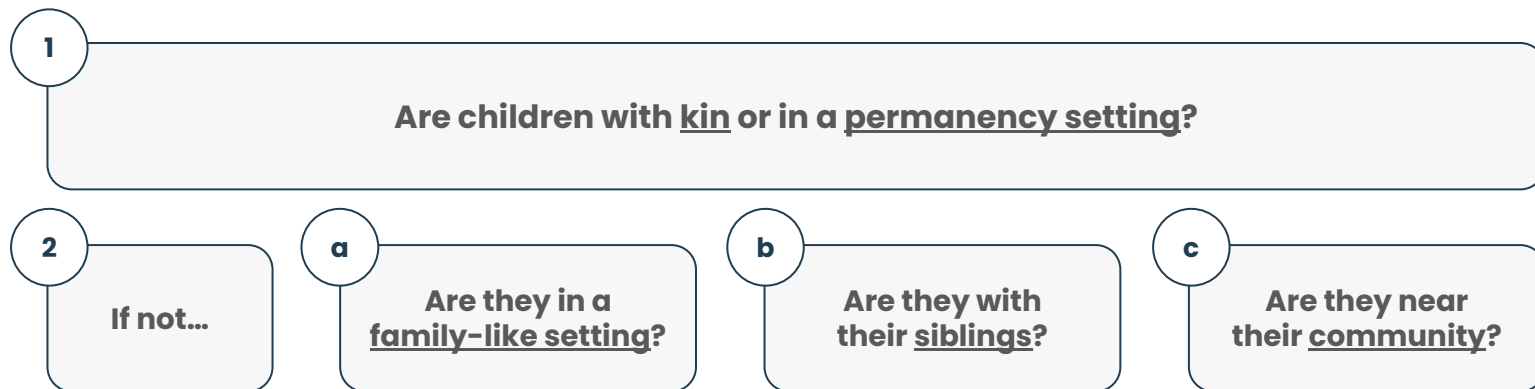
We measure success by impact, not by whether our work gets published in an academic journal



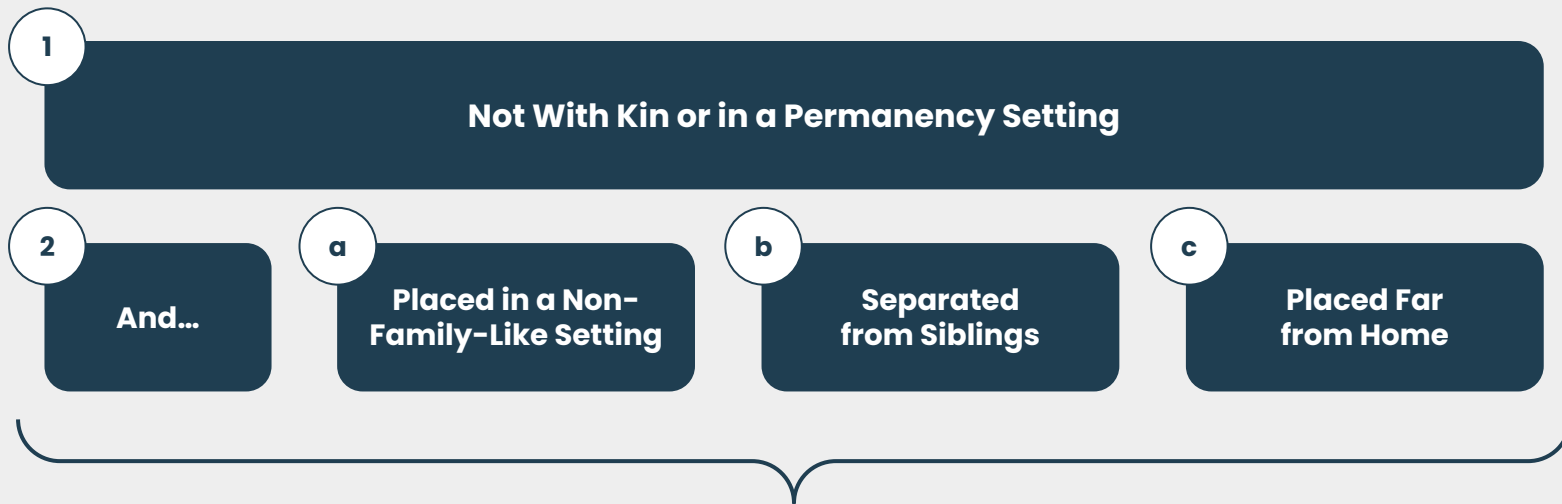
Who we are:

Foster Insights is a nonprofit dedicated to using data to improve child welfare

Using state administrative data, we ask very simple questions



And create a metric to help target supports where gaps exist



Adverse Placement Score (APS) tracks the percent of children who were not with kin or in permanency settings and instead were in an adverse placement.

APS can gauge success and progress jurisdiction-wide

	APS	% Placed in a Non-Family-Like Setting	% Separated from Siblings	% Placed Out-of-County
Jurisdiction	25%	5%	15%	20%

Out-of-county placements are often a significant driver of APS

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Out-of-county placements can be particularly problematic



Placed Child & Their Family

- Makes **Family Visits** Harder
- Moves Children from **Schools** and Other Local **Community**



Local Child & Their Family

- **Less Homes** for Local Youth
- Likely Causes **Out-of-County Placements** for Local Youth



Case Worker Drive Time

- Potentially Drives **Lower Case Worker Retention**
- Turnover Can Be **Disruptive**

Out-of-county placements can signal recruitment need

	# of Children Placed <u>Out</u> of This County
County A	100
County B	75
County C	50

But we often see children placed into these counties at the same time

	# of Children Placed <u>Out</u> of This County	# of Children Placed <u>Into</u> This County
County A	100	25
County B	75	75
County C	50	10

County A and County C likely have foster home shortages

	# of Children Placed <u>Out</u> of This County	# of Children Placed <u>Into</u> This County
County A	100	25
County B	75	75
County C	50	10

County B has enough homes to support local placement need

	# of Children Placed <u>Out</u> of This County	# of Children Placed <u>Into</u> This County
County A	100	25
County B	75	75
County C	50	10

Even Counties A and C may have had preventable OOC placements

	# of Children Placed <u>Out</u> of This County	# of Children Placed <u>Into</u> This County	# of "Preventable" Placements
County A	100	25	25
County B	75	75	75
County C	50	10	10

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There are several reasons why “swapping” might happen

1

Agency Purview

- Agencies may only look to in-agency homes rather than coordinating with other agencies to make the most local placement.
 - Agencies may not receive the information necessary to make the most local placement for the child.
-

2

Placement Processes

- State placement processes may not prioritize placement close to home.
 - For example, in a regional placement system, placement workers look for homes within a region, rather than on the county level. This may lead to more out-of-county placements.
-

3

Timing & Preferences

- Available foster homes are filled as children come into care. Waiting for the perfect home to come available is not an option.
- Homes available at the time of placement may only be in other counties or only be willing to take certain types of placements.

What are the biggest barriers to cross-agency coordination?

1

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Does your placement process prioritize local placements? How?

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Can we place now and move later if it's in the child's best interest?

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Thank You!

Please feel free to reach out: noahd@uchicago.edu