

### **ICPSR 27062**

Crime During the Transition to Adulthood: How Youth Fare As They Leave Out-of-Home Care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, 2002-2007

Mark E. Courtney *University of Washington* 

Gretchen Ruth Cusick University of Chicago

User Guide





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# **Bibliographic Description**

ICPSR Study No.: 27062

Title: Crime During the Transition to Adulthood: How Youth Fare As They

Leave Out-of-Home Care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, 2002-2007

Principal Investigator(s): Mark E. Courtney, University of Washington

Gretchen Ruth Cusick, University of Chicago

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and Social Research [distributor], 2010. doi:10.3886/ICPSR27062

# Scope of Study

Summary: The purpose of the study was to examine criminal behavior and criminal

justice system involvement among youth making the transition from out-of-home care to independent adulthood. The study collected data from two sources: (1) survey data from the Midwest Study of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (Midwest Study), and (2) official arrest data. The Midwest Study was a longitudinal panel study that was part of a collaborative effort of the state public child welfare agencies in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and the University of Washington. The participating states funded and/or operated the full range of services supported by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. The Midwest Study survey data were collected directly from the youth in the sample every two years over three waves, between May 2002 and January 2007. A total of 732 respondents participated in at least one of the in-person interviews over the three waves. This data collection includes some variables that were directly measured from the original Midwest Study survey instrument and other variables that were computed or derived from variables in the original data for purposes of the current study. To supplement the survey data, the research team accessed official arrest data from each state for this study. Researchers obtained data on all criminal arrests that occurred between the respondents' Wave 1 interview and August 31, 2007, a date

by which all of the study participants were at least 21 years old. The study contains a total of 85 variables including indicator variables, demographic and background variables, delinquency and crime variables, out-of-home care experiences variables, and social bonds variables.

Subject Term(s):

arrest records, child welfare, criminal histories, criminal justice system, criminality prediction, delinquent behavior, independent living, juvenile offenders, risk factors, social support, youthful offenders

Smallest Geographic Unit: state

Geographic Coverage: Illinois, Iowa, United States, Wisconsin

Time Period: May 2002 - August 2007

Date(s) of Collection: May 2002 - August 2007

Unit of Observation: individual

Universe: All youth from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin between May 2002 and

August 2007 who reached the age of 17 years old while in out-of-home care, were in care for at least one year prior to their 17th birthday, and were placed in out-of-home care for reasons of abuse or neglect rather

than delinquency.

Data Type: administrative records data

survey data

### Methodology

Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of the study was to examine criminal behavior and criminal justice system involvement among youth making the transition from out-of-home care to independent adulthood. The larger purpose of the Midwest Study of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (Midwest Study) was to gather information about services provided to selected youth served in participating states and the adult self-sufficiency outcomes achieved by the youth. The research team considered the importance of experiences within the child welfare system on criminal behavior during the transition to adulthood. In addition, they examined whether social bonds predict criminal behavior and the risk for criminal justice involvement among former foster youth. The following research questions were addressed:

1. Are offending patterns during the early transition to adulthood (ages 17-22) among youth formerly in out-of-home care different from those of the general population?

- 2. Do experiences in out-of-home care, including number of placements, placement type, age at entry, and receipt of independent living services predict later criminal behavior or criminal justice involvement during the transition to adulthood among youth aging out of the child welfare system? Is the relationship between out-of-home care experiences and crime moderated by race?
- 3. Above and beyond prior experiences with maltreatment and within the child welfare system, do the bonds to parents or caregivers, education, or employment that foster youth have as they approach the transition to adulthood predict later criminal behavior or criminal justice involvement?

### Study Design:

The study collected data from two sources: (1) survey data from the Midwest Study of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (Midwest Study), and (2) official arrest data.

The Midwest Study was a longitudinal panel study that was part of a collaborative effort of the state public child welfare agencies in Illinois, lowa, and Wisconsin, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and the University of Washington. The participating states funded and/or operated the full range of services supported by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (e.g., life skills training, mentoring, tutoring, employment services, transitional housing), but these services varied considerably in availability between and within the states. In addition, the policy regimes differed across the three states in ways that affected the supports available to youth who aged out of care. For example, at the time of this study, youth in Illinois were legally permitted to remain in care until age 21, while youth in lowa and Wisconsin remained in care until approximately age 18.

The Midwest Study survey data were collected directly from the youth in the sample every two years over three waves, between May 2002 and January 2007. A total of 732 respondents participated in at least one of the in-person interviews over the three waves. The interviews were approximately 90 minutes long and were made up almost entirely of fixed response questions. A portion of the survey was administered using Audio Computer Aided Self Interviewing (ACASI). Study participants listened to a recording of questions about criminal behavior through headphones and entered their responses into a computer.

During the first wave of interviews, conducted between May 2002 and March 2003, 732 interviews were completed. Youth were between the ages of 17 and 18 when they were first interviewed. The second interview took place in March through December 2004, between respondents' 19th and 20th birthdays. A total of 603 youth completed the Wave 2 survey. The third wave of interviews, conducted between March 2006 and January 2007, took place as soon as possible after respondents' 21st birthday. A total of 590 individuals from the original sample

completed the Wave 3 survey. This data collection includes some variables that were directly measured from the original Midwest Study survey instrument and other variables that were computed or derived from variables in the original data for purposes of the current study.

To supplement the survey data, the research team accessed official arrest data from each state for this study. Youth were matched to arrest records based on identifying information such as name, date of birth, social security number, gender, and race. In each of the 3 state databases, researchers obtained data on all criminal arrests that occurred between the respondents' Wave 1 interview and August 31, 2007, a date by which all of the study participants were at least 21 years old. Official arrest information was obtained for 728 of the original 732 sample.

Sample:

Youth from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin who met the following basic criteria were eligible for inclusion in the original sample: (1) they reached the age of 17 years old while in out-of-home care, (2) they had been in care for at least one year prior to their 17th birthday, and (3) they were placed in out-of-home care for reasons of abuse or neglect rather than delinquency. The only exclusions from this population were based on random sampling of the eligible population in Illinois and the inability of youth to participate in the survey due to developmental disability, mental illness, or inability to participate in an interview in English.

In the states of Iowa and Wisconsin, the sample reflected the universe of youth in out-of-home care who fit these criteria. In Illinois, a random sample of youth was selected, who represented two-thirds of those youth in out-of-home care that fit the sampling criteria. A group of 767 youths who met the sample selection criteria was identified.

Weight: none

Sources of Information: The Midwest Study of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth

(Midwest Study)

official criminal arrest records

Mode of Data Collection: audio computer-assisted self interview (ACASI)

record abstracts

face-to-face interview

Description of Variables: The study contains a total of 85 variables including indicator variables,

demographic and background variables, delinquency and crime variables, out-of-home care experiences variables, and social bonds variables.

Indicator variables include three variables that indicate whether the respondent participated in the Wave 1 survey, Wave 2 survey, and Wave 3 survey.

Demographic variables include gender, age at Wave 1, Hispanic ethnicity, race (White, Black, mixed or other race), and state of residence at Wave 1. Background risk factors include indicator variables for behavioral or mental health disorders, teen parenthood, maltreatment histories, and alcohol or drug dependence diagnoses.

Delinquency and crime variables measured at Wave 1, Wave 2, and Wave 3 indicate whether the offender deliberately damaged property, stole something worth less than \$50, stole something worth more than \$50, went into a house or building to steal something, sold drugs, hurt someone badly enough to need medical care, used or threatened to use a weapon to get something, participated in a group fight, pulled a knife or gun on someone, and shot or stabbed someone. Other variables include the number of total delinquency items at Wave 1, self-reported arrest at Wave 1, whether the offender had any violent offense or any nonviolent offense at each of the three waves, Wave 3 violent behavior scale, Wave 3 nonviolent behavior scale, whether the respondent was ever arrested at Wave 1 or Wave 2, whether the respondent was arrested since Wave 1 at Wave 2 interview, whether the respondent was arrested since Wave 2 at Wave 3 interview, whether the respondent has an official arrest record, time since Wave 1 interview to first arrest or end of observation period, and latent class analysis assignment.

The out-of-home care experiences variables contain measures that track an individual's experience within the child welfare system. These include age at the time of first placement, the total number of foster care placements, type of placements at the Wave 1 survey (foster care, kinship care, group care, independent living or other care), and sum of any independent living services at Wave 1.

Social bonds variables include measures of parent (both maternal and paternal) and foster caregiver attachment, and two variables indicating whether a respondent had no mother or father present in their life. Other variables include employment, educational aspirations, and school/college enrollment status. There are also two scale variables, one measuring perceived social support (based on the MOS Social Support Survey) and another measuring how likely an individual was to turn to the child welfare system for help.

Response Rates:

Of the 767 youths who comprised the final sample, a total of 732 Wave 1 interviews were completed, yielding a response rate of 95.4 percent. At Wave 2, 603 of the 732 youth completed interviews, for a follow-up response rate of 82.4 percent. At Wave 3, 590 of the 732 youth completed interviews, for a response rate of 80.6 percent.

Of the 732 Wave 1 respondents, 730 (99.7 percent) reported on criminal behavior. Of the 603 Wave 2 respondents, 574 (95.2 percent) reported on criminal behavior. Of the 590 Wave 3 respondents, 504 (85.4 percent) reported on criminal behavior.

Presence of Common

Scales:

The study includes a violent crime scale, nonviolent crime scale, maternal closeness scale, paternal closeness scale, caregiver closeness scale, social support scale (based on the Medical Outcomes Study (MOS) Social Support Survey), and a scale of the likelihood of turning to the child welfare system for assistance after discharge.

Extent of Processing:

Standardized missing values.

Checked for undocumented or out-of-range codes.

# **Access and Availability**

Note:

A list of the data formats available for this study can be found in the <u>summary of holdings</u>. Detailed file-level information (such as record length, case count, and variable count) is listed in the <u>file manifest</u>.

Restrictions:

To protect respondent privacy, certain identifying information is restricted from general dissemination. Specifically, variables that facilitate the indirect identification of individuals are restricted from general dissemination. Users interested in obtaining these data must complete a Restricted Data Use Agreement form and specify the reasons for the request. A copy of the Restricted Data Use Agreement form can be requested by calling 800-999-0960. Researchers can also download this form as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file from the download page associated with this data collection. Completed forms should be returned to: Director, National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Institute for Social Research, P.O. Box 1248, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248, or by fax: 734-647-8200.

Original ICPSR Release:

2010

Dataset(s):

 DS1: Crime During the Transition to Adulthood: How Youth Fare As They Leave Out-of-Home Care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, 2002-2007

### **Publications**

Final Reports and Other Publication Resources:

A list of publications related to, or based on, this data collection can be accessed from the study's download page on the NACJD Web site or

through the ICPSR Bibliography of Data-Related Literature at <a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html">http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/citations/index.html</a>. The list of citations includes links to abstracts and publications in Portable Document Format (PDF) files or text files when available.

Final reports and other publications describing research conducted on a variety of criminal justice topics are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS was established in 1972 by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, to provide research findings to criminal justice professionals and researchers. NCJRS operates specialized clearinghouses that are staffed by information specialists who supply a range of reference, referral, and distribution services. Publications can be obtained from NCJRS at NIJ/NCJRS, Box 6000, Rockville, MD, 20849-6000, 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired is 877-712-9279 (toll-free) or 301-947-8374 (local). The URL for the NCJRS Web site is:

http://www.ncjrs.org/

### **NIJ Data Resources Program**

About the DRP:

The National Institute of Justice Data Resources Program (DRP) makes datasets from NIJ-funded research and evaluation projects available to the research community and sponsors research and training activities devoted to secondary data analysis. Datasets are archived by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

The NACJD maintains a World Wide Web site with instructions for transferring files and sending messages. Criminal justice data funded by the Department of Justice are available via the Internet at this site at no charge to the user. NACJD may be contacted at NACJD/ICPSR, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-1248, 800-999-0960. The URL for the NACJD Web site is:

http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/

# **Data Completeness Report**

Notes: (1) Variables are individually listed only if they have greater than 5% missing data. These variables are listed under the appropriate percentage category in the order in which they appear in the data file. (2) The Data Completeness Report only captures information about system missing or other values that are declared missing. Codes that have a label implying that they are missing but that are not declared missing values are not reflected in this report. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about missing values. (3) Some variables that have 100% missing data may have been blanked by ICPSR to protect respondent confidentiality. Data users should consult the codebook for more specific information about blanked variables. (4) Data do not contain skip patterns or skip patterns are not reflected in the data as coded.

**Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values** 

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 732)	Percent of Cas Missing	
25.9% ( 22 of 85 variables)	have 0% Missing Values	
23.5% ( 20 of 85 variables)	have 0% - 1% Missing Values	
1.2% ( 1 of 85 variables)	have 1% - 3% Missing Values	
3.5% ( 3 of 85 variables)	have 3% - 5% Missing Values	
2.4% ( 2 of 85 variables)	have 5% - 10% Missing Values	
STATE	STATE RESIDING AT WAVE1	6.3%
CLOSEDAD_W1	PATERNAL CLOSENESS SCALE WAVE 1	5.3%
0.0% ( 0 of 85 variables)	have 10% - 20% Missing Values	
30.6% ( 26 of 85 variables)	have 20% - 40% Missing Values	
DEL1_W2	DELIBERATELY DAMAGED PROPERTY W2	22.5%
DEL2_W2	STEAL SOMETHING WORTH LESS THAN \$50 W2	22.4%
DEL3_W2	STEAL SOMETHING WORTH MORE THAN \$50 W2	21.7%
DEL4_W2	GO INTO A HOUSE OR BUILDING TO STEAL SOMETHING W2	21.9%
DEL5_W2	SELL MARIJUANA OR OTHER DRUGS W2	22.7%
DEL6_W2	HURT SOMEONE BADLY ENOUGH TO NEED MEDICAL CARE W2	22.5%
DEL7_W2	USE OR THREATEN TO USE A WEAPON TO GET SOMETHING W2	21.6%
DEL8_W2	TAKE PART IN A GROUP FIGHT W2	22.3%
DEL9_W2	PULL A KNIFE OR GUN ON SOMEONE W2	21.7%
DEL10_W2	SHOOT OR STABB SOMEONE W2	22.1%
DEL1_W3	DELIBERATELY DAMAGED PROPERTY W3	32.7%
DEL2_W3	STEAL SOMETHING WORTH LESS THAN \$50 W3	31.4%
DEL3_W3	STEAL SOMETHING WORTH MORE THAN \$50 W3	31.4%
DEL4_W3	GO INTO A HOUSE OR BUILDING TO STEAL SOMETHING W3	31.7%
DEL5_W3	SELL MARIJUANA OR OTHER DRUGS W3	32.4%
DEL6_W3	HURT SOMEONE BADLY ENOUGH TO NEED MEDICAL CARE W3	31.7%
DEL7_W3	USE OR THREATEN TO USE A WEAPON TO GET SOMETHING W3	31.7%
DEL8_W3	TAKE PART IN A GROUP FIGHT W3	31.4%
DEL9_W3	PULL A KNIFE OR GUN ON SOMEONE W3	31.7%

**Table 1: Distribution of Variables by Percentage of Missing Values** 

Variable Name and Label (Total Cases = 732)		Cases with sing Values
DEL10_W3	SHOOT OR STABB SOMEONE W3	31.6%
DELSUM_W1	NUMBER OF TOTAL DELINQUENCY ITEMS SELF REPORTW. 1	AVE 31.1%
VIOSUM_W3	VIOLENT OFFENSES SCALE SELF REPORT WAVE 3	31.1%
NONVIOLSUM_W3	NONVIOLENT OFFENSES SCALE SELF REPORT WAVE 3	31.1%
EVERARREST_W2	EVER ARRESTED SELF REPORT AT WAVE 2	21.6%
NEWARREST_W2	ARRESTED SELF REPORT AT WAVE 2 SINCE WAVE 1	21.6%
NEWARREST_W3	ARRESTED SELF REPORT AT WAVE 3 SINCE WAVE 2	33.1%
12.9% ( 11 of 85 variables)	have 40% - 99% Missing Values	
VIOLENT_W1	ANY VIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 1	40.2%
NONVIOLENT_W1	ANY NONVIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 1	40.2%
VIOLENT_W2	ANY VIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 2	40.2%
NONVIOLENT_W2	ANY NONVIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 2	40.2%
VIOLENT_W3	ANY VIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 3	40.2%
NONVIOLENT_3	ANY NONVIOLENT OFFENSE WAVE 3	40.2%
CRIME_CLASS	CRIME OVER TIME LATENT CLASS ASSIGNMENT	40.2%
EMPLOYED_W2	CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WAVE 2	40.2%
INSCHOOL_W2	IN SCHOOL WAVE 2	40.2%
EMPLOYED_W3	CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WAVE 3	40.2%
INSCHOOL_W3	IN SCHOOL WAVE 3	40.2%
0.0% ( 0 of 85 variables)	have 100% missing values	