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Exploring Permanency Rates Within the Southern California Counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego

Karrene Turner

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EXPLORING PERMANENCY RATES WITHIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
COUNTIES OF LOS ANGELES, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND SAN
DIEGO

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Karrene N. Turner

May 2023

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Approved by:

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ABSTRACT

The term permanency within child welfare refers to the right for all children to have a childhood with a nurturing and permanent family. For children within foster care, it means a permanent family-based living situation with one of the following: parents, permanent placement with relatives, reunification with parents or adoption (Freundlich et al., 2006). The purpose of this study is to examine the perceived differences in permanency rates within 12 months of entry in child welfare within the Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego within a 10-year time span. The study will use pre-existing data collected by the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP).

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Problem Formulation

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) established the legal definition of permanency relating to children in the foster care system. Children were no longer allowed to remain in long-term foster care if there was no reunification with parents, but included the term planned permanent living arrangement, also known as PPLA (Freundlich et al., 2006). The idea is that foster children are provided a permanent family style living arrangement through one of the following: reunifying with parents, being placed permanently with relatives or adoption, specifically the rate and speed at which the permanency is achieved. (P.L 105-89, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997). It reduced the time a child can remain in foster care without a permanent plan from 18 months to 12 months, shifting the focus to timely decision making to include the parents' reunification ability and encouraging the use of concurrent planning to find permanent or adoptive homes in a more expeditious manner (Becker et al., 2007).

Purpose of the Study

The study will observe the trends of the permanency rates in child welfare within a 10-year period within the Southern California counties of Los Angeles,

Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. This study will examine the permanency rates within the first 12 months of entry.

Significance of the Project for Social Work Practice

Black children statistically enter the child welfare system at a significant disadvantage than their counterparts (LaBrenz et al., 2021). The system does not provide Black children with any accession, despite its efforts to initiate policies from within to specifically target disproportionality (LaBrenz et al., 2021). As a result, they continually fall through the cracks and are often left behind.

For Black children to be successful in the child welfare system, emerge successful from their permanent placements, and decrease the disproportionate numbers, it will take a collaborative effort on behalf of child welfare and its community stakeholders. At a micro level, developing policies supportive of Black families and strengthening services with community stakeholders. Teaching cultural competence to preserve and enhance ethnic and cultural identities regarding discipline techniques and teaching/mentoring new practices for a less punitive approach (Jimenez, 2006). Examining the dynamics of a shared custody approach, where parental rights are not terminated is one such approach. In this case the guardian and the parents share major decisions while the guardian maintains legal custody. The responsibilities of each are outlined by the Court in a shared parenting agreement, like the Court Order Treatment Plan. At a macro

level, enacting legislation like the Indian Child Welfare Act which was significant to cultural preservation and practice could also increase permanency.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter will provide a brief overview of the history of how child welfare came to fruition, along with the policies that have led to practice today. It will also discuss the ways in which children enter the foster care system, thus leading to the issue of permanency.

History of Child Welfare

During the 1870's, the child protection movement began to emerge, being formulated from the humane society, which protected animals against abuse. Before this movement, there was no existing program to protect children and the first known cases of child abuse and neglect were actually reported to animal services. From the movement, the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty for abuse against children was established (Gordon, 2011).

The Social Security Act of 1935 was created to provide federal funds under Title IV to various programs after the Great Depression. Established under Title IV was Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) and later federal funds were provided to the foster care system in 1961 (Gordon, 2011). In 1996 with ADC being appealed, the number of children in need significantly increased. In 1974,

the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act not only provided funding, but also mandated that certain professions, such as doctors, social workers, teachers, report incidents of child abuse/neglect (Gordon, 2011). Within the last 10 years, policy for child welfare has vacillated between child protection and family preservation, which remains conflictual to present day (Gordon, 2011).

In 1980, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (AACWA) was implemented to limit the number of children in the foster care system by one of the following: reunification with the biological family, adoption, or guardianship (Shaw, 2010). The purpose of AACWA was to encourage the adoption of children from foster care by providing financial assistance for those adopted. In 1997, Adoption and Safe Families (ASFA) was implemented to protect the rights of families/children and promote permanent placements (Shaw, 2010). The purpose of ASFA was to shorten the time a child stays in the foster care system by “fast tracking” them to adoption; thereby expediting the road to permanency. Prior to the enactment of both, many children were being left to age out of the system in unfavorable conditions (Shaw, 2010). These policies disproportionately affected Black children by reducing services and favoring termination of parental rights and adoption (Jimenez, 2006).

Breakdown of Child Welfare

Child welfare within California consists of several components. First, the emergency response unit investigates referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect. These include the parental criminal history and prior referral history. Next, if the decision is made to remove children, then a dependency case is opened and psycho-social assessment is completed, also called a Jurisdiction/Disposition report. This report is written to determine if the allegations in the petition are true or not and includes a case plan called the status review report. This report monitors the parents' progress in services and determines if, and when the children will return home or be placed elsewhere.

Child welfare was established to provide services to the public. Under the direction of the state or the county, the child welfare agency provides the four following services: investigations for child abuse and neglect, services and support for families, foster care and adoption (Petersen et al., 2001). The child welfare agency remains open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The agency's help is expected to transcend cultures, genders and socio-economic classes and meet the needs of all the clients which they encounter (Petersen et al. 2001). The child welfare agency is a set of workers whose duty is to uphold these inclusive ideals.

In order to understand how decisions are made, one must first understand the structure of how families meet child welfare agencies. The initial entry into the

child welfare system begins when a suspected child abuse report is made. The referral can be made by anyone of the community or professional members mandated reporters such as teachers and law enforcement. The suspected child abuse report is screened by the intake center - if it does not meet the State's definition of abuse and/or neglect, or there is a lack of information provided in the report, the report is closed. If the report encompasses the following: safety concerns, moderate/significant risk or low risk with minimal safety issues; the decision is made for the report to become an official referral, and a social worker will investigate the allegations. (Petersen et al., 2001).

The next step is determining risk and safety. If there is no risk, the referral is closed. If there is minimal risk, the family can be referred to voluntary or community-based services with the purpose of addressing the family's identified needs. However, if the reported child is determined to have been harmed and is at risk for future harm or there are concerns regarding present safety threats, a petition will be filed in juvenile court. Depending on the circumstances, the child welfare department may leave the child in the home with the family and provide them with court ordered services. If the circumstances are more dire and there are immediate safety concerns, the family is provided services while the child is in out of home placement in either foster care or family/non-extended family member (Petersen et al. 2001).

Tools for Social Workers

Child welfare agencies remove children from their home every year, placing them in out of home care. In comparison with the national average, the largest percentage of children entering the child welfare system are from the State of California (KIDS COUNT Data Center, 2019). These children suffer major consequences including emotional trauma, higher rates of substance abuse, and educational delays. For the families of these children, a disconnection between parental and child relationships are prevalent, as well as sibling relationships. Child welfare workers, primarily known as social workers, have structured tools to assist with the decision-making process, which can help determine whether to remove a child from their home.

In 1998, the Structured Decision Making (SDM) project was first introduced in California in 7 counties, which included San Bernardino County but excluded Riverside County. The SDM provides child welfare social workers with a valid assessment tool for making decisions using a standard set of definitions (Johnson, 2004). In addition to assisting with decision making, the tool collects information to measure its effectiveness and meet Departmental goals. Another purpose of the tool is to use the data to improve child welfare practices (Johnson, 2004). By the middle of 2016, SDM was implemented in all 50 counties throughout California (CDSS, 2021), and implementation in Riverside County occurred in about June 2003 (Johnson, 2004).

SDM is used for the following: intake assessment, safety assessment and risk assessment. The intake assessment is used by the intake workers to decide on the referrals that require an in-person response and the response time, such as an immediate response or a 10-day referral. An immediate response referral requires social worker contact within 24 hours, whereas a 10-day referral means a social worker must make contact within 10 calendar days. The safety assessment is conducted within 24 hours of completing the investigation, which means interviewing all involved parties, and is used to determine if immediate interventions are necessary, including removal. After removal, the road to achieving permanency begins. The risk assessment is completed upon the closure of the referral or within 30 days of the initial contact, whichever comes first, to determine the likelihood of future harm (The California Evidence Based Clearinghouse For Child Welfare, 2019).

Over time, there have been implementations of services to assist in better engaging families in needed interventions and services, which increase reunification with families. Differential Response (DR) was created to keep children safe by supporting families at initial contact within children's services (Semanchin Jones, 2015). It was implemented by most states within the United States by 2013 (Semanchin Jones, 2015). The goal was to provide a more individualized approach of treatment rather than providing "cookie cutter" services. DR allowed child welfare agencies to connect families with resources prior to escalation of removal.

In 2004, there was a major inclination toward Safety Organized Practice (SOP) with the purpose of assessing the stability and security of the child throughout the case process (Hatton-Bowers et al., 2015). SOP specifically targeted children in out of home placements or at-risk for entering/re-entry into foster care. The goals were to: improve services provided to families, provide more individualized care plans with collaboration with the families, increase child safety and improve the timelines for permanency (CDSS, 2022).

Permanency and Black Children

Within the child welfare system, permanency is the key outcome for all children in the foster care system and encompasses providing children with connections to members of their family or other long-term caring adults that are impactful (Salazar et. al., 2018). Permanency is the legal status in the case such as adoption, legal guardianship or reunification with the biological parents and allows the children to form more secure attachments, assisting them with engaging in a more meaningful way to the world around them (Salazar et. al., 2018). For minors entering adulthood, it provides the foundation for preparing them for adulthood such as postsecondary education, reduces homelessness, increases mental and physical health and the ability to have a bank account (Salazar et. al., 2018). Multiple placements place foster care children at the risk of entrance into the delinquency and criminal justice systems (Becker, et al., 2007).

Statistically within child welfare, older children are less likely to achieve legal permanency (Bass et. al., 2004). Besides age, other factors that affect permanency are race, gender, and disability status with race being predictors of the type and length of placement (Becker, et. al., 2007). Black children are less likely to reunify with their parents and have higher rates of reentry than their White counterparts, as well as less likely to be adopted (Becker et al., 2002; Barth, 1997). Subsequently, decreased successful rates of permanency planning and permanency is equated to being African American (Becker et al., 2007). This racial disparity is one of the causes preventing reunification among Black children and families (LaBrenz et al., 2021). Racial disproportionality has been observed via studies at each juncture across cases, such as referrals, substantiation of allegations and the removal of children's (LaBrenz et al., 2021). Other systemic factors include reporting bias and inequity of services (Jimenez, 2006).

The Exclusion of Black Children Within Child Welfare

Child welfare policies implemented were not culturally inclusive and therefore have excluded Black children beginning with slavery in the South (Smith & Devore, 2004). Since their initial exclusion, in recent years they have become over-represented in the same system. Historically, Black families were not viewed as being able to benefit from services or having the ability to properly care for their children (Smith & Devore, 2004). Adults and children who were

slaves were viewed as property and were used and/or disposed of at their owner's discretion. Slaves had no legal right to their children, who were often separated from their parents and siblings with slim chance of reunification. The slave community assumed the care of children whose parental responsibility was terminated due to death, incapacitation, or auction. These patterns of care are synonymous with what is now termed kinship care (Smith & Devore, 2004).

While the aforementioned discusses treatment in the South, treatment in the North was not much better, despite being distant from the institution of slavery. Free African children were placed in almshouses or indentured servitude and were treated more harshly than their White counterparts. While religious institutions assumed the care of children, they failed at addressing the needs of African children (Smith & Devore, 2004). Federal legislation was created, such as The Freedmen's Bureau, to assist Blacks transition to freedom. However, within a year, President Andrew Johnson pushed to terminate the program. The program sought to reunify families separated by slavery and developed orphanages for Black children (Smith & Devore, 2004). Many of the organizations charged with assisting Black families believed they were inferior and extended their services exclusively to Whites, continuing segregation (Smith & Devore, 2004). Segregation led to the advocacy of social workers during the 1920s and 1930s for separate public child welfare agencies for Black children, as the needs of Black families became more emergent. The Black communities

began to develop their own organizations to address the need from within their own community (Smith & Devore, 2004).

Black children began to become over-represented during the 1970s within child welfare with the law of mandated reporting. Subsequently, Black children became at risk for reports of abuse or neglect, coupled with Black children being adopted at high rates by White couples and the system failing to recruit Black families interested in adoption. In addition, social workers were observed to be harsher in their assessments and interventions with Black families; the factors of exclusion for Black children began to be the contributing factors for children being placed in out of home care (Smith & Devore, 2004). Black children began to enter the child welfare system at rates higher than their White counterparts and were staying in foster care at approximately 2 ½ times longer than their White counterparts; this began to grow the disproportionate numbers (Smith & Devore, 2004). In turn, it gave birth to legislation resulting in planning for permanency, promotion of the preservation of family and the emphasis of the safety of children (Smith & Devore, 2004).

Southern California Counties

According to the United States Census Bureau, as of 2021, Los Angeles County's population was 9,829,444 consisting of 70% White, 9% Black, 1.5% American Indian/Alaska Native, 15.6% Asian and 49% Hispanic/Latinx (US Census Bureau 2023). Being as though Los Angeles County is one of the original

counties in Southern California, as it grew, portions of it split into San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (California Historical Society, 2023).

The Department of Children and Family Services operates from 12 locations: Belvedere, Compton-Carson, El Monte, El Monte – Asian Pacific Project, El Monte-Deaf Services, Glendora, Hawthorne, Lancaster, Metro North, Palmdale, Pasadena, Pomona, San Dimas, Santa Clarita, Santa Fe Springs, South County, Torrance, Van Nuys, Vermont Corridor, Wateridge, West LA and West San Fernando Valley (DCFS Investigation, 2023).

Riverside County is the 4th most populated county in California covering 7, 303 square miles with a residential population of approximately 2.4 million. The demographics of the county are: 7% Black, 17% White, 54% Hispanic, 17% Unknown/Missing 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% Multi-Race, and 1% Native American. Males account for 46% and females account for 54% of the population. The largest age range is 35-64 years at 28%, 18-34 years old and 5-17 years old are tied at 27%, less than 5 years of age at 10% and 65+ years old at 8%.

Riverside County practices transparency to public by publishing their annual statistics. The following is taken from the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services Annual Report for 2021-2022. The Children's Services Division (CSD) is under the umbrella of Riverside County Department of Social Services (DPSS), employing 1199 employees, which is approximately 28% of the DPSS sector. CSD operates from 12 locations: Banning, Blythe, Desert Hot

Springs, Hemet, Indio, Lake Elsinore, Mecca, Perris, Riverside-Kidd Street, Riverside-Magnolia Avenue, Riverside-Central Avenue and Temecula. There are 3 juvenile courts to service the community in Indio, Riverside and Murrieta. According to the County's annual report from 2021-2022, CSD served approximately 7,241 children. The intake hotline received approximately 66,336 telephone calls and answered approximately 55,610 telephone calls. The telephone calls generated approximately 30,345 referrals of which 75% required investigation. Of the referrals investigated, 13% had at least one substantiated finding. There were 22,727 investigations completed. CSD operates from a strengths-based and family centered approach and has established the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), whose goal is to assist with safely reunifying children with their parents or stable permanent placement.

San Bernardino County is the largest county within America, covering 20,105 square miles with a residential community of approximately 2.2 million. As of 2019, the county's overall poverty rate was 13.3% with families with children's poverty rate at 15.1%.

The Children and Family Services Division (CFS) operates from 8 locations: Barstow, Fontana, Needles, Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino E Street, San Bernardino Gifford Street, Victorville and Yucca Valley. There are two specialized offices consisting of the child abuse hotline, where the referrals are taken, and the Children's Assessment Center. The Children's Assessment

Center provides forensic interviews and exams for severely physically and sexually abused children. There is one juvenile court.

San Diego County is the second most populated county in California. According to the United States Census of 2021, the population of San Diego County is 3, 286,069 consisting of 75% White, 6% Black, 1.4% American Indian/Alaska Native and 35% Hispanic/Latinx.

San Diego County's Child Welfare Services (CWS) has a 24-hour emergency shelter used upon removing children (Polinsky Children's Center), as well a residential education campus (San Pasqual Academy) for foster youth which is the first in the Nation (Child Welfare Services, 2023). In 2018, the Child and Family Well-Being Department was created to shift the approach of child protective services. It is a collaboration between First 5 Commission and Child Welfare Services to provide essential resources to families enhancing prevention and protection services (Child Welfare Services, 2023).

Similar to Riverside County, San Diego County published the statistics for the fiscal year 2021/2022, making the information available to the public. The following information was extracted from their Child Welfare Services Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Statistics. CWS consists of 6 regions: North Costal, North Central (includes medical/deaf services unit), Central, North Inland, East and South. There were approximately 39,025 abuse/neglect reports made to the intake hotline. Children were counted more than once based on multiple referrals being made throughout the year. Subsequently, the referrals accounted for 67,824

children. Approximately 20,805 of the reports were assigned for investigation, translating the number of children to 39,225. Of the referrals made, 11% were for Black children, 26% White children and 45% Hispanic/Latinx.

CHAPTER THREE:

METHODS

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to explore the effect and impact of permanency rates of child welfare within the Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. counties within the State of California. This chapter will discuss study design, sampling, data collection, procedures, and analysis.

Study Design

This study aims to determine the differences in permanency rates throughout a 10-year time span, between 2010 and 2020, specifically focusing on the Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. This study is descriptive and quantitative, in that it will observe trends and will seek to determine if change in practice has affected the permanency rates

Data

This study uses a secondary data compiled by the California Department of Social Services and researchers from UC Berkeley School of Social Work. The data is then made public via the CCWIP website.

Procedures

Child welfare workers across the State of California enter information about their clients, which includes administrative data such as demographic characteristics and case outcomes, into the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). CWS/CMS is the online case management system, used by child welfare workers. The system is primarily used for case management, but the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) receives the administrative data. A team of researchers at the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare collects the administrative data, de-identifies and aggregates the data at the county and state level. The data is posted to a publicly available website called the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP).

Ethics

Generally, the Institutional Review Board does not require approval when using secondary data. However, the researcher received approval from the CSUSB (California State University, San Bernardino) Institutional Review Board to conduct the study.

Data Analysis

This study examines data originating from the 4 Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. The data was

gathered from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project. The information was input using the graph features in Microsoft Word and the research analyzed the data, specifically the changes in permanency rate for children in the aforementioned counties. This study was conducted using secondary data analysis and the original data did not provide the demographic variable for the children in permanency. Trends were provided for the 10 year period of 2010 to 2020, as a result SPSS was not used for statistical analysis

Summary

This study will observe trends to examine the rates of permanency rates among the four Southern California counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego using a descriptive study.

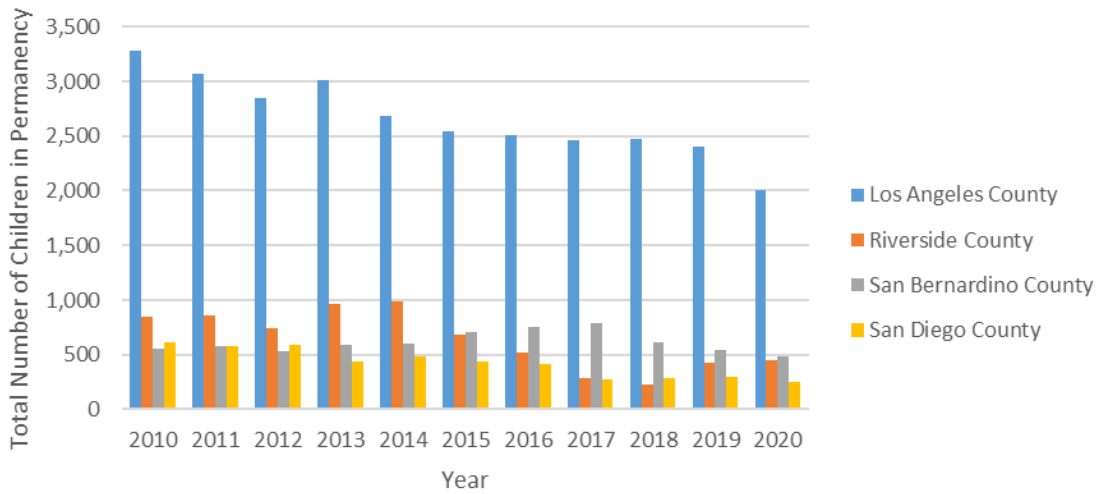
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

Descriptive Results

Descriptive results are provided in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 highlights the total number of children exiting foster and entering permanency across four counties in Southern California between 2010 and 2020. As exhibited in Figure 1, Los Angeles County has been home of the highest number of children in permanency over the past decade. On the other hand, San Diego County has had the lowest number of children in permanency over the same period of time. Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have been above San Diego County in terms of number of children in permanency, but way below Los Angeles County. However, Figure can be deceptive by providing only the total number of children permanency, instead of presenting the rates of permanency. In other words, because Los Angeles is more populated, it is normal for this county to harbor more children.

Figure 1

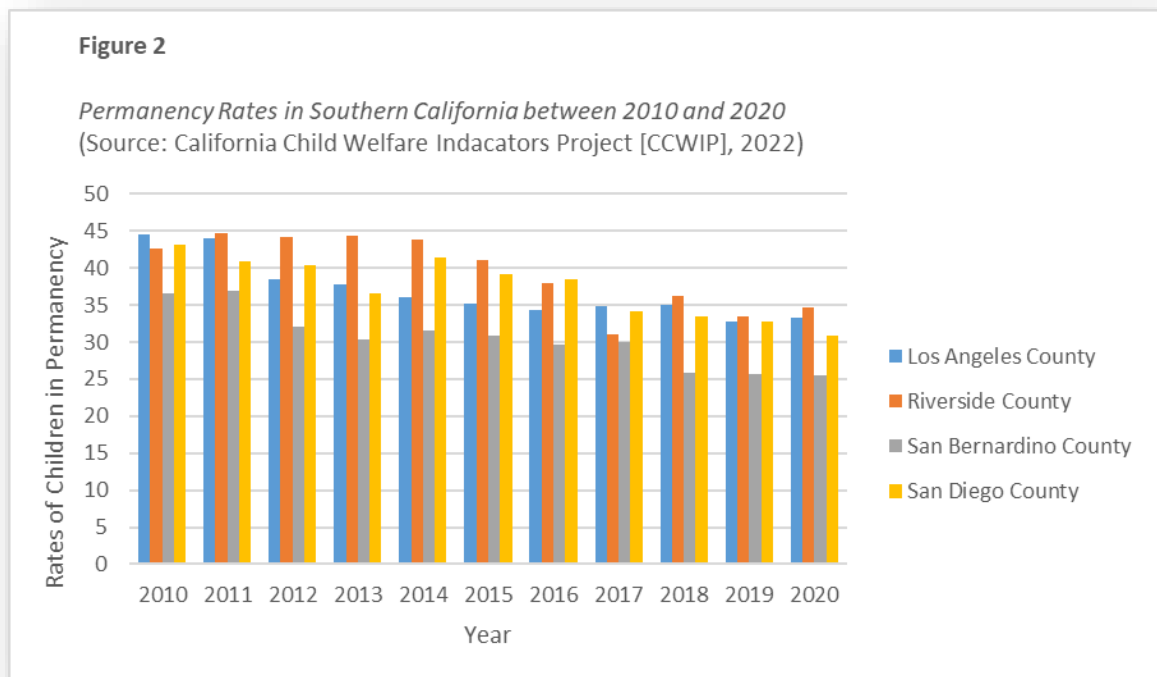
Total Number of Children in Permanency in Southern California between 2010 and 2020
(Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project [CCWIP], 2022)



Limitations

Figure 2 addresses the limitation of Figure 1 by presenting the rates of children in permanency, instead of an overall county of these children. Based on the data in Figure 2, overall Riverside County has performed the best over the past decade in terms of finding stable homes for children who exit foster care. San Diego County is the second-best performer with regard to stabilizing placements for children. Los Angeles County came in third position, ahead of San Bernardino County as dead last. However, none of these counties have

reached the 50 percent mark regarding the permanency of children. Yet, the findings indicate that there is a major difference in permanency rates across the four Southern California counties under consideration in this study.



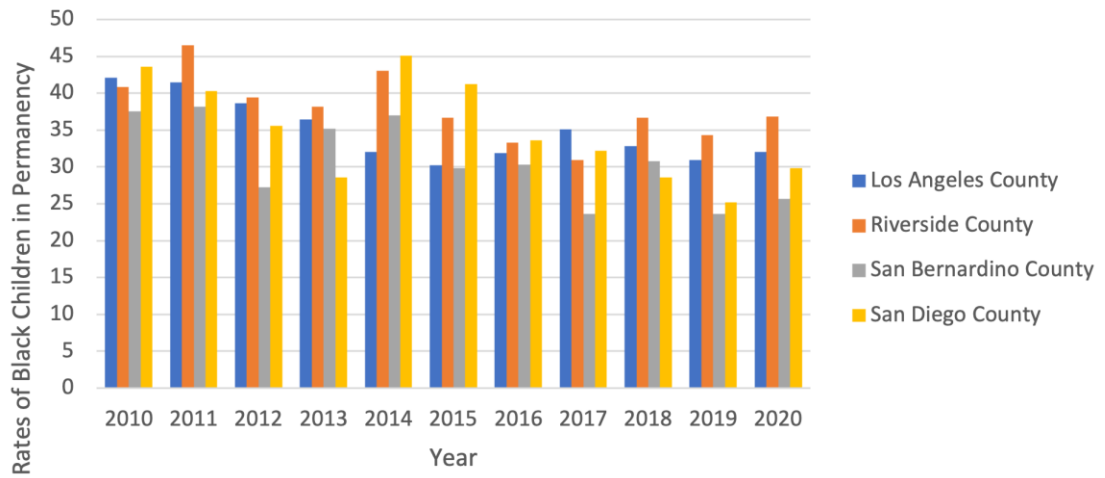
Black Children in Permanency

Figure 3 presents the rates of Black children in permanency within each county. Based on the data in figure 3, overall Riverside County continues to

perform the best throughout the 10-year span. Next is Los Angeles County followed by San Diego County. San Bernardino remains the worst in last position, having the lowest numbers of permanency rates for Black children. Disproportionality can be observed by comparing figure 3, Rates of Black Children in Permanency, with figure 2, Rates of Children in Permanency. In 2017, the Los Angeles County total rate of permanency was 34.8%, but Black children's permanency rate was noted at 35.1% of the total rate. While the permanency rates for Black children appear to have high numbers meaning that Black children are exiting foster care into stable homes, it is also concerning because the percentages are at times higher than the total percentage of children in permanency.

Figure 3

Permanency Rates in Southern California between 2010 and 2020
(Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project [CCWIP], 2022)



CAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine the trending permanency rates in child welfare within the four of the counties of Southern California consisting of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. Permanency is important because it is the desired outcome for all children entering foster care, with the goal being to find permanency within 12 months of entering the system. Permanency allows children to have stability with caregivers which, as previously mentioned, is the foundation for adulthood. This study used pre-existing data collected by the CCWIP during the period of 2010 to 2020 and only included the data from the counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. The results indicate that Riverside County performed the best during the 10-year period, with San Diego as the second-best performer. Los Angeles county came in third, with San Bernardino County being last. San Bernardino County ranking was less than 40% overall and none of the counties reached a rating of 50%. The study showed a significant difference in the permanency rates across the 4 counties. The county with the largest rate of disproportionality is San Bernardino.

Implications

This study used descriptive statistics to look at data collected by CCWIP between 2010 and 2020. The findings show the County of San Bernardino is not doing well at stabilizing children's lives. The Counties of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego were all above San Bernardino County with the County of Riverside having the highest rates of permanency for children exiting foster care within 12 months. The County of San Diego had the second highest rate of permanency followed by the County of Los Angeles.

This study uniquely examined the 4 counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego within Southern California. This is important because combined, these counties serve and cover many children. Additionally, they are close in proximity and share resources and referrals within the community. Within social work practice, a look at this research can be used to improve practice as none of the reviewed counties reached a rating of 50%. San Bernardino county was the worst performer with less than 40% overall and this study can be used to encourage these counties to improve their methods so their rates can increase. Each county should consider enacting policies from within that address working with Black families, including trainings and case staffing to include safety mapping. Within the policy sector, the federal government should provide more funding specifically allocated to hire more social workers. The

increase would allow social workers the ability to have lower caseloads and subsequently improving stability for all children.

Limitations

This study has limitations that must be addressed prior to changes occurring within social work due to its objectivity. The first limitation is this is a descriptive study only, thus providing an overview of the trends across the 4 counties. The second is location as this study is not a reflection of all the counties within Southern California. About 6 counties are not represented. Therefore, the results of this study are only good within the boundaries of the 4 counties represented. Future research should address the limitations of the study by looking at the data of other counties and completing interviews with social workers, children, and their representatives. That being said, this study is an important initiation in exploring the disparities in permanency trends in the child welfare system and encourages future research to explore other disparities more deeply so that they can be ameliorated. Future research could also look at the demographics of children to better determine the milieu within the child welfare system, due to the lack of demographic information collected within the original data.

APPENDIX A:
IRB APPROVAL

IRB APPROVAL

November 22, 2022

CSUSB INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

Administrative/Exempt Review Determination

Status: Determined Exempt

IRB-FY2022-191

Brooklyn Sapozhnikov, Kay Phillips
CSBS - Social Work
California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, California 92407

Dear Brooklyn Sapozhnikov, Kay Phillips

Your application to use human subjects, titled “The Effect & Impact of Permanency Rates Between San Bernardino and Riverside Counties” has been reviewed and determined exempt by the Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of CSU, San Bernardino. An exempt determination means your study had met the federal requirements for exempt status under 45 CFR 46.104. The CSUSB IRB has weighed the risks and benefits of the study to ensure the protection of human participants.

This approval notice does not replace any departmental or additional campus approvals which may be required including access to CSUSB campus facilities and affiliate campuses. Investigators should consider the changing COVID-19 circumstances based on current CDC, California Department of Public Health, and campus guidance and submit appropriate protocol modifications to the IRB as needed. CSUSB campus and affiliate health screenings should be completed for all campus human research related activities. Human research activities conducted at off-campus sites should follow CDC, California Department of Public Health, and local guidance. See CSUSB's [COVID-19 Prevention Plan](#) for more information regarding campus requirements.

You are required to notify the IRB of the following as mandated by the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) federal regulations 45 CFR 46 and CSUSB IRB policy. The forms (modification, renewal, unanticipated/adverse event, study closure) are located in the Cayuse IRB System with instructions provided on the IRB Applications, Forms, and Submission webpage. Failure to notify the IRB of the following requirements may result in disciplinary action. The Cayuse IRB system will notify you when your protocol is due for renewal. Ensure you file your protocol renewal and continuing review form through the Cayuse

IRB system to keep your protocol current and active unless you have completed your study.

- **Ensure your CITI Human Subjects Training is kept up-to-date and current throughout the study.**
- **Submit a protocol modification (change) if any changes (no matter how minor) are proposed in your study for review and approval by the IRB before being implemented in your study.**
- **Notify the IRB within 5 days of any unanticipated or adverse events are experienced by subjects during your research.**
- **Submit a study closure through the Cayuse IRB submission system once your study has ended.**

If you have any questions regarding the IRB decision, please contact Michael Gillespie, the Research Compliance Officer. Mr. Michael Gillespie can be reached by phone at (909) 537-7588, by fax at (909) 537-7028, or by email at mgillesp@csusb.edu. Please include your application approval number IRB-FY2022-191 in all correspondence. Any complaints you receive from participants and/or others related to your research may be directed to Mr. Gillespie.

Best of luck with your research.

Sincerely,

King-To Yeung

King-To Yeung, Ph.D., IRB Chair
CSUSB Institutional Review Board

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