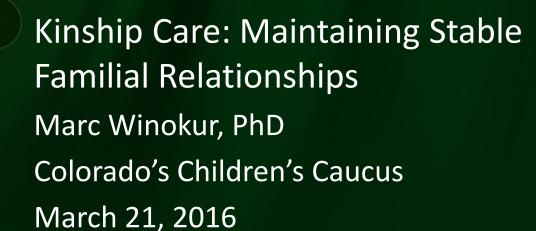
Social Work Research Center

Research for Results





COLLEGE OF APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES

School of Social Work

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Systematic Review

- ☐ Top of the hierarchy of evidence for social science research
- ☐ Comprehensive review of the literature on kinship care from 1993 to 2011
- ☐ Meta-analysis of safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes



Kinship Care Intervention

- ☐ Children removed from the home for maltreatment
- ☐ Formal out-of-home placement with kin caregivers
- ☐ Kinship care placements compared to traditional foster care placements on child welfare outcomes
- ☐ **Kinship care outcomes:** behavioral development, mental health functioning, placement stability, permanency, family relations, service utilization





Well-being Findings

- ☐ Children in kinship care experience:
 - ☐ Fewer behavioral problems
 - ☐ Fewer mental health disorders
 - ☐ Better well-being
 - Less utilization of mental health services





Permanency Findings

- ☐ Children in kinship care experience:
 - Less placement disruption
 - ☐ Higher rates of guardianship
 - ☐ Lower rates of adoption
 - No difference in reunification rates





Lessons Learned

- ☐ Kinship care is a viable out-of-home placement option for children removed from the home.
- ☐ There were no negative effects experienced by children placed in kinship care.
- ☐ Foster care also is an essential placement option, as foster children experience positive outcomes and kinship placements are not always available.



Next Steps

- ☐ Would kinship placements be even more effective with increased levels of caseworker involvement and enhanced service delivery?
- ■Should licensing standards be required for kinship caregivers?
- ☐ Should additional financial resources be made available to kinship caregivers?



