

The logo for the Social Work Research Center features a large green circle with a white crosshair inside. A thin white line extends from the top-left of the circle to a smaller white circle in the upper left corner of the slide. Another thin white line extends from the bottom-right of the circle to a smaller white circle in the middle of the slide.

Social Work Research Center

Research for Results

Kinship Care: Maintaining Stable Familial Relationships

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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?