Taking Steps to Avoid Intergenerational Welfare Use

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One Stop Model – TANF, Child Care, WIA, UI, Refugee Services, Medicaid eligibility

Eligibility Services/Workforce Development

DWS partnership with Social Research Institute
Intergenerational Welfare Initiative

2012 Utah Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act
- Senator Stuart Reid

DWS to provide annual report

DWS as lead agency

Inter-agency collaboration – Dept of Health, Human Services, Education, Juvenile Court

Internal DWS initiatives – TANF/FEP
What’s the question?

Intergenerational Poverty

Intergenerational Welfare (IGW)

- An individual who has used public assistance as both a child and adult
- Non-Situational: Use of public assistance exceeds 12 months for both child and adult
- Situational: At least one time period (child or adult) of public assistance use was less than 12 months
TANF Study

Purpose
- To understand the experiences of first-time cash assistance recipients

Scope
- Information on a wide variety of topics including demographics, childhood experiences, work history, physical health, mental health and experiences and expectations of state TANF programs and services

Method
- A random sample of 1,144 first time cash assistance recipients were interviewed in 2006.
- Voluntary, in-person, generally at home interviews were conducted by MSW graduate students.
Intergenerational Sub-Sample

Sample Criteria:
- Ages 17-24
  - Reflects participants for whom administrative data were available for children from at least age 6
- Intergenerational Welfare Use:
  - Identified as a child on another’s public assistance case (SNAP, Medicaid, cash)
  - Received cash assistance as an adult
Comparison Groups

Sample Size = 307

Group 1: Non-Situational Use (n = 134)
- Total adult cash assistance more than 12 months (as measured 60 months post interview)
- Total child public assistance use more than 12 months

Group 2: Situational Use (n = 173)
- Total adult cash assistance use 12 months or less
- Total child public assistance use 12 months or less
- Race
- Marital Status
- Housing Status
- Age of first pregnancy
- Married at first birth
- Alcohol Dependence
- Drug Dependence
- PTSD Diagnosis
- Hx of homelessness
- Hx of physical abuse
- Hx of sexual abuse
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Physical Health Issues
- Two Parent Home
- Current or Past Hx of DV
- Being a teenager at first birth
- Education of Father
- Education of Mother

No significant differences on any of these variables
Differences

Non-Situational respondents were significantly more likely to report:
- Having both a learning disability and a reading/writing issue*
- NOT having a HSD or GED*
- Enrolled in resource classes as a child/teen*
- None to limited parental involvement in education*
- Their mother being a teenager when her first child was born*
- Being emotionally abused prior to age 18*

*p<.05
Differences

Non-Situational Recipients were significantly less likely to report that as a child they:

- Liked school**
- Cared about doing well in school**
- Believed school was important**
- Believed school was a safe place**

Education is most significant within this sample

**p<.01
Issues for Consideration

Literature Suggests
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Family Economic: Asset Deprivation
  - Education
- Family Stability/Functioning
- Child/Adolescent Behaviors
- Cognitive/Educational Outcomes
- Accumulated Risk

Social Policy
- Risk & Resilience
Issues for Consideration

The fact that the initial findings are not consistent with the literature around known factors impacting intergenerational welfare suggests a need to re-evaluate the definition used by the state.

A common definition could enhance the ability to evaluate and compare groups within and across states.