UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
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Child Welfare Reentry and Multi-System Involvement: Examining Cumulative risk and protective factors
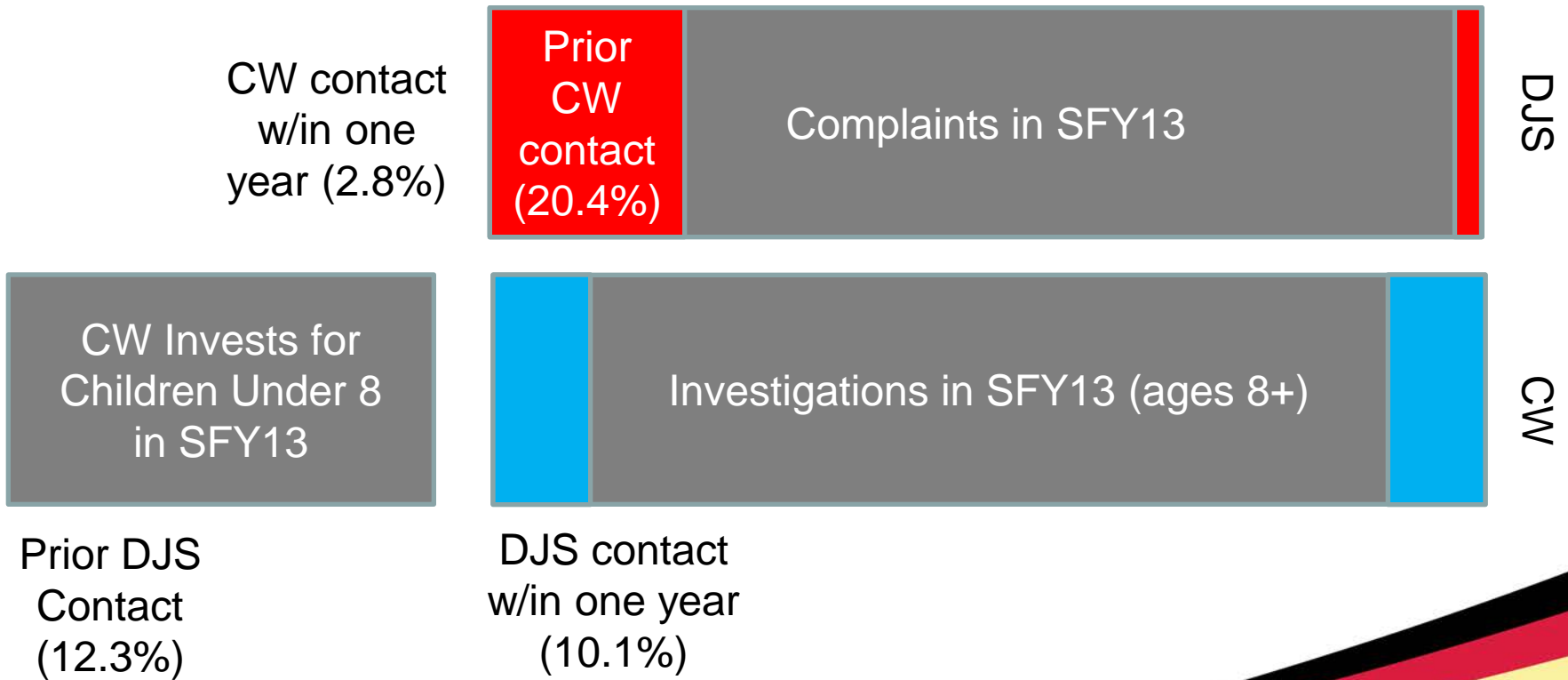
Terry V. Shaw, Emily Goering, Stacey Shipe,
     Sara Betsinger, & Jill Farrell
University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Social Work

Examining Reentry…

- The state has been interested in understanding different facets surrounding foster care reentry.
  - Legislatively mandated report on foster care reentry - Data analysis, Case reviews, survey and interviews with caseworkers;
  - Examining differences between children with prior child welfare experience vs first entries;
  - An examination of an expanded definition of reentry: child welfare or juvenile services;
  - A survival analysis assessing differences across permanency type and risks…

Child Welfare/DJS Overlap

University of Maryland School of Social Work

CW contact w/in one year (2.8%)

Prior CW contact (20.4%)

Complaints in SFY13

DJS

CW Invests for Children Under 8 in SFY13

Investigations in SFY13 (ages 8+)

CW

Prior DJS Contact (12.3%)

DJS contact w/in one year (10.1%)

Dually Involved Youth

- Multiple jurisdictions provide services for this population

- Similarly poor outcomes as CW youth

- Most studies look at these children separately (i.e., juvenile justice lens OR child welfare lens)

Variables Examined

- Trying to understand the different categories of variables and the impact that they have on reentries.

- Child Variables
  - Demographics and behavior
- Family Variables
  - Family characteristics, child welfare history, juvenile services history
- Systemic Variables
  - Policy and timing related variables

Child Level

- Race
- Age
- Physical health
- Behavioral health

Family Level

- Substance abuse
- Reasons for removal
- Prior CPS involvement
- Poverty
- Prior experience

System Level

- Placement type
- Number of placements
- Time in care

Population Characteristics

- Exits from Maryland State Supervised Child Welfare System to Reunification between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2012

- 2,259 Children Exiting Care to Reunification during the period

- Standard definition of child welfare reentry (single system reentry)
  - 18% re-enter within 18 months

- Expanded definition of re-entry (multi-system re-entry)
  - 24% re-enter within 18 months

Logistic Regression, part 1:

	Child Welfare Reentries (single system)			Child Welfare / Juvenile Justice Reentries (multi-system)		
	Coeff.	S.E.	Exp(b)	Coeff.	S.E.	Exp(b)
Intercept	-221.3	125	--	-250.3	116.9	--
Female	0.266	0.122	1.31	0.001	0.113	1.00
Race (*White as baseline*)						
Black	0.183	0.139	1.20	0.207	0.13	1.23
Other	-0.978	0.42	0.38	-0.918	0.371	0.40
Age at Exit (*7 to 11 as baseline*)						
Ages 12 to 13	0.238	0.159	1.27	0.461	0.148	1.59
Ages 14 to 16	-0.19	0.172	0.83	0.082	0.16	1.09
Mother Only Household	0.124	0.125	1.13	0.136	0.116	1.15
Siblings Also In Care	1.101	0.14	3.01	0.903	0.13	2.47
Title IV-E Eligible	-0.092	0.129	0.91	-0.158	0.121	0.85
Parental Incapacity	0.16	0.123	1.17	0.168	0.114	1.18
Voluntary Placement Agreement	-0.167	0.218	0.85	-0.267	0.201	0.77
Neglect as Removal Reason	-0.282	0.134	0.75	-0.275	0.125	0.76

Logistic Regression, part 2:

	Child Welfare Reentries (single system)			Child Welfare / Juvenile Justice Reentries (multi-system)		
	Coeff.	S.E.	Exp(b)	Coeff.	S.E.	Exp(b)
Child Behavior a Factor	0.306	0.156	1.36	0.557	0.141	1.75
Prior Child Welfare Removal	0.622	0.131	1.86	0.582	0.123	1.79
Ever Placed in Residential Care	0.646	0.196	1.91	0.583	0.182	1.79
Last Placement Trial Home Visit	-0.111	0.152	0.90	-0.018	0.139	0.98
Prior Juvenile Justice Complaint	0.518	0.15	1.68	1.421	0.134	4.14
Length of Stay Prior to Reuni						
0 to 3 months	-0.021	0.252	0.98	-0.21	0.239	0.81
4 to 6 months	0.025	0.266	1.03	-0.29	0.254	0.75
7 to 9 months	-0.336	0.29	0.72	-0.49	0.273	0.61
10 to 12 months	-0.082	0.288	0.92	-0.288	0.272	0.75
13 to 15 months	-0.529	0.341	0.59	-0.637	0.316	0.53
16 to 18 months (baseline)						
More than 18 months	-0.734	0.251	0.481	-0.467	0.232	0.63
Any Caseworker Visit After	-0.05	0.007	0.953	-0.025	0.004	0.98
Court Ordered Return Home	0.63	0.274	1.882	0.65	0.274	1.92

...part 2

Examination of "risks"

Number of "Risk" Factors	0	1	2	3	4	5+
	8.92	9.00	17.20	25.66	34.64	48.72
	n=213	n=1,078	n=1,891	n=1,360	n=433	n=80

☐ No Reentry
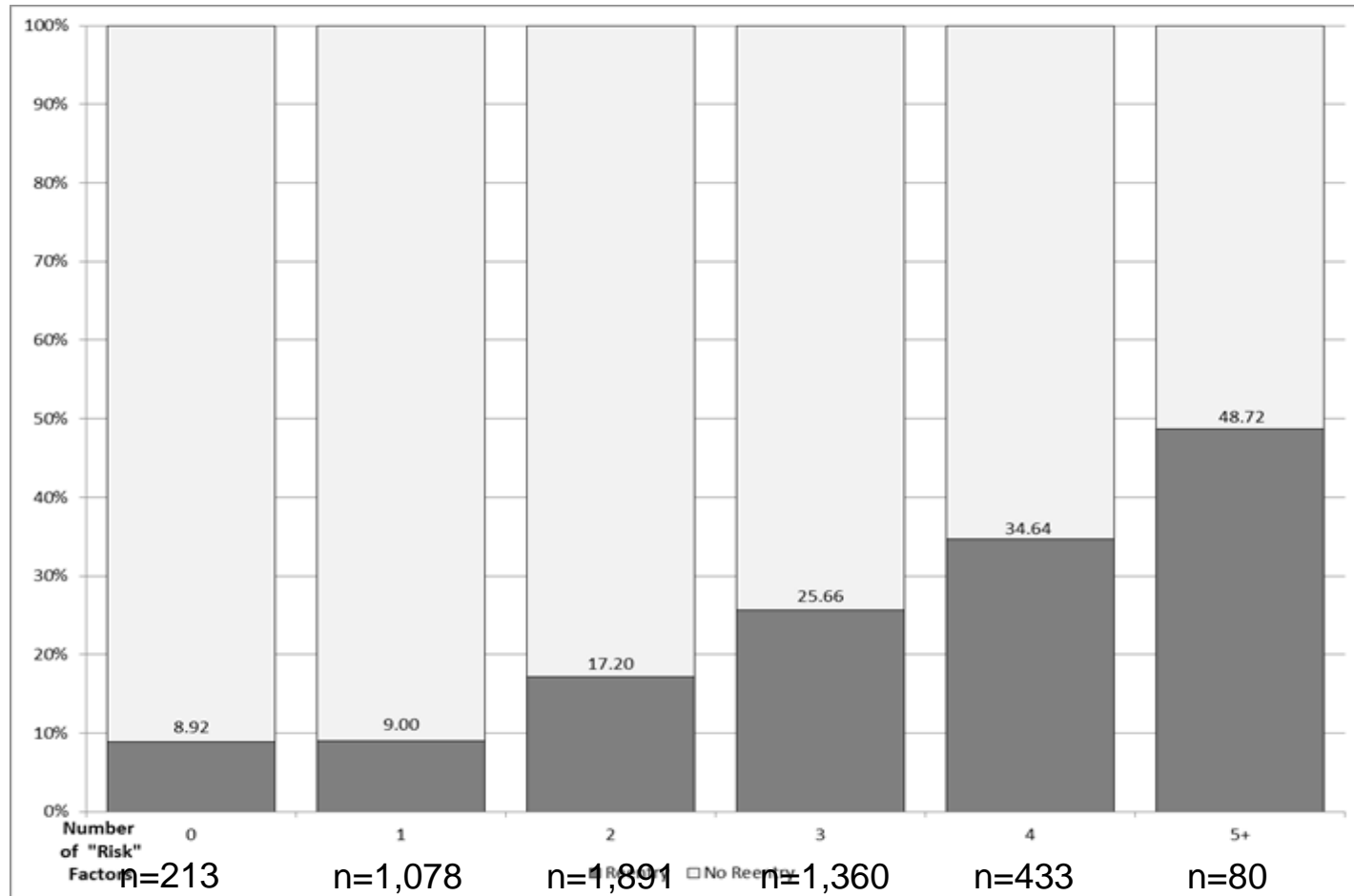
Exploring Cumulative Risk

Category	Value	M (SD) or % (N)
Risk Variable	Child behavior problems	12.3% (995)
	Mother only household	61.1% (4953)
	Prior child welfare involvement	13.6% (1102)
	Siblings in care	74.5% (6036)
	Short length of stay	17.8% (1440)
	Ever placed in residential	5.5% (449)
Cumulative Risk	0	5.5% (442)
	1	24.8% (2,167)
	2	41.5% (3,365)
	3	21.1% (1,713)
	4	4.4% (355)
	5	0.7% (57)
	6	0.1% (8)

Child Welfare Population Survival Analysis

	HR	CI
Race (non-AA/Black)	0.966	0.832-1.121
Age at exit to permanency	0.990	0.977-1.003
Gender (female)	0.841	0.764-1.015
Permanency Type (Reunification)		
Guardianship-kin	0.563**	0.464-0.685
Guardianship-non-kin	1.043	0.680-1.599
Reunification against recommendations	2.076**	1.585-2.726
Services post-reunification	0.878	0.760-.1.015
Cumulative Risk	1.805**	1.690-1.929

Discussion

- Like prior child welfare experience, prior juvenile justice experience is predictive of reentry

- Both models have similar risks for reentry

- The multi-system perspective increased reentries over 18-months from 18% to 24% (a 33% increase in reentries)

  - Single-system examination of reentry is too conservative and does not adequately reflect the effectiveness of the reunification process

Implications

- Continued focus on closely related systems
  - Not doing so misinforms on the adequacy of reunification efforts
- Risk and protective factors were also the same for re-entry
  - More practice research
    - Permanency in child welfare
    - Preparation for re-entry in juvenile justice

Thank You!