

New Hampshire Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System Analysis

Brief Report of VPR & PRS Outreach Scholarship Project

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This project examined foster care placement patterns among adolescents in New Hampshire's child welfare system. The project consisted of two components. First, I conducted focus groups with about 50 New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) staff on the topic of adolescent foster care placement. Second, I collaborated with Melissa Correia (NH DCYF) on an analysis of New Hampshire AFCARS data from 2001-2003.

The focus groups generated a variety of research questions related to foster care placement patterns. These questions were used as a basis for developing a quantitative analysis of New Hampshire AFCARS data.

Prior to beginning the statistical analyses of the AFCARS data, I consulted with a colleague who had done similar research with DCYF in Rhode Island. He provided assistance with using SPSS statistical software to merge NH AFCARS files from 2001, 2002 and 2003. Once the files were merged, he provided consultation on competing risks Cox proportional hazards modeling, the type of statistical analysis I used in this study.

I presented the results of the study at the *International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference*, held in Portsmouth, NH (July 11, 2006). Melissa Correia and I presented our findings at the *9th National Child Welfare Data Conference*, held in Washington, DC (July 20, 2006). We also presented our findings with key DCYF staff members on September 19, 2006. Melissa and I are currently preparing a manuscript for submission to a child welfare journal.