Focus on Youth is a foster care and behavioral health agency in West Chester, Ohio. When children are placed into foster care, that placement may disrupt for several reasons.

This study is specifically concerned with placements that disrupt due to the foster parent requesting the child be removed from the home due to behavior.

**BACKGROUND**

Focus on Youth provides an exploratory study of gender-related foster care disruptions. The study is concerned with placements that disrupt due to the foster parent requesting the child be removed from the home due to behavior.

**METHODS**

Data will be collected and reviewed of each behavior-related disruption at Focus on Youth.

Supervisors of these cases will be interviewed to find links between gender and behavioral disruptions, if any.

**EQUIPMENT**

Focus on Youth’s AWARDS system, which keeps track of client data.

**RESULTS**

At Focus on Youth in the fiscal year of 2018, 11 disruptions out of 32 were due to behavioral reasons. 7 out of 11, or 63.6%, of behavioral disruptions were female.

In 2019, 8 disruptions out of 28 were due to behavioral reasons. 5 out of 8 or 62.5% of the behavioral disruptions were female.

In both years, females accounted for more disruptions, with disruptions being 62.9% female in 2018 and 63.2% female in 2019.

**LIMITATIONS**

Focus on Youth staff agree with the data that they do not notice a difference in disruption-causing behaviors between males and females.

Aggressive behavior in foster youth is the largest contributor to behavior-related foster care displacement.

Supervisors at Focus on Youth note that teen girls disrupt most, but are also a disproportionately large portion of the youth placed in Focus on Youth care.

**DISCUSSION**

Focus on Youth provides an extremely small sample size, limiting the scope of data.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Focus on Youth’s data does not show evidence of gender being a contributing factor in behavior-related disruptions.

**REFERENCES**


