

Gender and Foster Care Disruptions: An Exploratory Study

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BACKGROUND

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.

PURPOSE

This study seeks to understand the link between gender and behavior-related foster care disruptions at Focus on Youth.

PARTICIPANTS

- Research participants include all of Focus on Youth's clients who have disrupted from a foster placement.

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

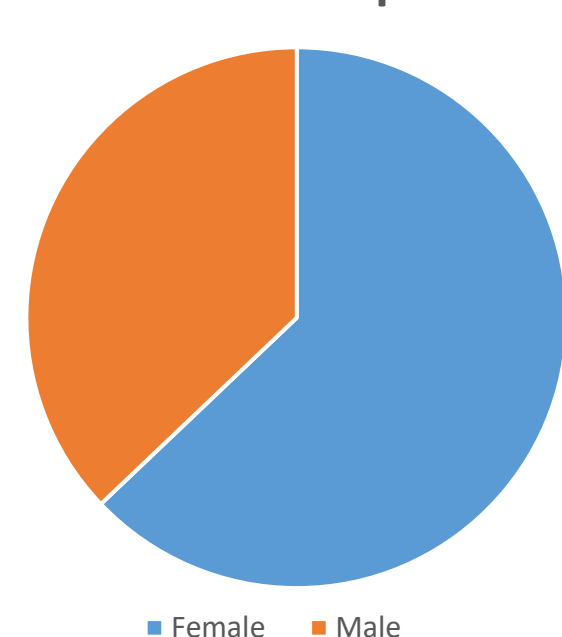
EQUIPMENT

- Focus on Youth's AWARDS system, which keeps track of client data

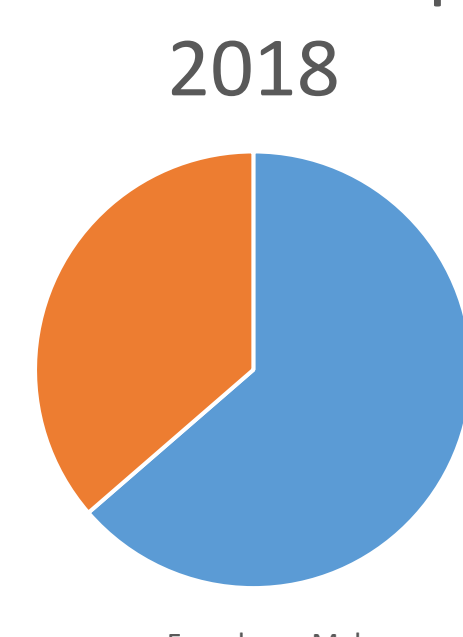
RESULTS

- 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.

Total Disruptions



Behavioral Disruptions 2018



DISCUSSION

- 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

LIMITATIONS

- 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.

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