Stream Session 2.2

Vulnerable families

With
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Facilitated by
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27 - 28 March 2018, QT Hotel Canberra
Vulnerable families

Merran Butler
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There are three critical elements that constitute FACS’ application of the NSW Human Services Outcomes Framework:

1. Map the client journey
   - Use reliable research evidence of effective interventions to map the client journey through services

2. Define the outcomes
   - Identify the outcomes that truly matter to people and how needs and responses feed into outcomes
   - Define the specific cohorts of interest

3. Measure the impact
   - Evaluate the impact on the person using individually linked, control-adjusted data from multiple sources
Intergenerational child protection issues – single agency
• To explore intergenerational issues within the child protection system

NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS) – multiple agencies
• Aims to determine the timing of risk and protective factors for mental illness, across the early life-course
  • Vaughan Carr, Professor, School of Psychiatry, UNSW
  • Melissa Green, Associate Professor, School of Psychiatry, UNSW
  • With Felicity Harris, Kristin Laurens, Kimberlie Dean, Stacy Tzoumakis

Their Futures Matter – application to policy and service delivery
• A new approach to child protection and wellbeing in NSW
Intergenerational child protection issues

This analysis explored intergenerational child protection issues by focusing on two cohorts:

1. Children and young people who were reported to FACS at risk of significant harm (ROSH) and/or were in out-of-home care (OOHC) during 2014/15 and determining those whose parents had been the subject of a report and/or in an OOHC placement

2. Children and young people who were the subject of a report and/or were in OOHC during the period from 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1990 and determining those whose children had been the subject of report and/or had an OOHC placement during the period from 1 July 1987 to 30 June 2015.
Method/limitations

- Data was from FACS child protection client management systems. No external data.
- The extracted datasets are FACS Annual Statistical Extracts and were available for years, 1987/88 to 2014/15. These datasets were linked together to form a file containing reports over that time.
- Children and parents were linked using ‘relationship’ information extracted from KiDS.
- It was only possible to identify parents or children reported or in OOHC from 1 July 1987 up until the end of the study at 30 June 2015.
- A parent who was born on 1 July 1987 would be aged 28 by the end of the follow-up period. If a parent was older at 1 July 1987 then they would have had a greater chance of having had a child by 30 June 2015.
Children and young people involved with the child protection system in 2014/15

CP status of parents

Report only (no OOHC) | Total
---|---
Report only | 24.7% | 32.5%
Risk of harm | 38.7% | 48.4%
In OOHC | 38.7% | 32.5%
Total | 100% | 100%

CP status of children known to FACS in 2014/15

% with known parents (by CP status of parents):

- Report only
  - 6.9%
  - 17.7%
  - 24.7%

- Risk of harm
  - 26.1%
  - 38.7%
  - 65.8%

- In OOHC
  - 29.3%
  - 48.4%
  - 77.7%

- Total
  - 21.7%
  - 32.5%
  - 54.2%
Children and young people involved with the child protection system in 2014/15

CP status of parents

% with known parents (by CP status of parents)

- Central Coast: 32.3% (12.9% COHC, 29.4% OOHC)
- Far West: 22.8% (12.1% COHC, 29.8% OOHC)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven: 42.7% (12.9% COHC, 29.8% OOHC)
- Mid North Coast: 37.9% (13.5% COHC, 24.0% OOHC)
- Murrumbidgee: 36.0% (11.2% COHC, 24.8% OOHC)
- Nepean Blue Mountains: 35.4% (12.3% COHC, 23.1% OOHC)
- Northern NSW: 31.1% (11.9% COHC, 19.2% OOHC)
- Northern Sydney: 27.2% (12.3% COHC, 14.1% OOHC)
- South Eastern Sydney: 20.7% (7.1% COHC, 13.6% OOHC)
- South Western Sydney: 11.4% (3.6% COHC, 8.7% OOHC)
- Southern NSW: 35.2% (18.8% COHC, 16.4% OOHC)
- Sydney: 23.0% (9.4% COHC, 13.6% OOHC)
- Western NSW: 43.5% (29.4% COHC, 9.5% OOHC)
- Western Sydney: 27.1% (23.7% COHC, 9.4% OOHC)
Children and young people involved with the child protection system in 2014/15 – in OOHC in 2014/15
Children and young people involved with the child protection system in 2014/15

![Chart showing CP status of parents and children](chartimage.png)
# Children and young people involved with the child protection system between 1 July 1987 and 30 June 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort status as at 30 June 2015</th>
<th>Child protection status of the children known to FACS</th>
<th>Total cohort with known children (Reported + OOHC)</th>
<th>Cohort with no known children</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reported (no OOHC)</td>
<td>OOHC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report (no OOHC)</td>
<td>3,176</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>1,558</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOHC</td>
<td>1,738</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,914</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>2,892</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intergenerational child protection issues

- This analysis highlights the extent of intergenerational issues present in the child protection system.

- The links are stronger for those children and young people who were in OOHC and for Aboriginal children and young people.

- Understanding the extent of the intergenerational links in child protection is just the start. In order to look at breaking the cycle of disadvantage we need to understand the factors that impact on these links – what factors increase risk and what factors are potentially protective.

- Further analysis is therefore required to understand how the characteristics and outcomes of those whose children are known to FACS differ from those whose children are not known to FACS. To achieve this we need to incorporate data on housing, health, education, employment, justice and welfare.
NSW Child Development Study (NSW-CDS)

Parental health, mental health and justice records

Child health, education, justice, child protection records

EARLY CHILDHOOD
- Record Linkage 1
- Child Birth
- 5 years

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD
- Record Linkage 2
- 11 years

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
Teacher-rated Early Childhood Developmental Risk Indicators
N=87,026
NSW CDS Record Linkage 1 (n=87,026)

Parent Records (1994-2009)
- NSW Health
  - Admitted Patients Data
  - Mental Health Ambulatory
  - Emergency Department Data
  - Perinatal Data
  - Births, Deaths. Marriages

Bureau of Crime Statistics And Reporting
- Criminal Court Charges

Child Records (birth-2009)
- NSW Health
  - Perinatal Data
  - Admitted Patients Data
  - Emergency Department Data
  - Births, Deaths. Marriages

Department of Education
- Best Start Kindergarten Assessment
- Australian Early Development Census

NSW Family and Community Services
- Child Protection (substantiated reports)
- Out of Home Care

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC; N=87,026 )

Early Childhood Developmental Vulnerability
Latent profiles of early developmental vulnerabilities in a New South Wales child population at age 5 years

Melissa J Green¹,², Stacy Tzoumakis²,³, Kristin R Laurens¹,²,⁴, Kimberlie Dean¹,²,⁵, Maina Kariuki¹,², Felicity Harris¹,², Nicole O’Reilly¹, Marilyn Chilvers⁶, Sally A Brinkman⁷,⁸ and Vaughan J Carr¹,²,⁹

Abstract

Objective: Detecting the early emergence of childhood risk for adult mental disorders may lead to interventions for reducing subsequent burden of these disorders. We set out to determine classes of children who may be at risk for later mental disorder on the basis of early patterns of development in a population cohort and associated exposures gleaned from linked administrative records obtained within the New South Wales Child Development Study.

Methods: Intergenerational records from government departments of health, education, justice and child protection were linked with the Australian Early Development Census for a state population cohort of 67,353 children approximately 5 years of age. We used binary data from 16 subdomains of the Australian Early Development Census to determine classes of children with shared patterns of Australian Early Development Census–defined vulnerability using latent class analysis. Covariates, which included demographic features (sex, socioeconomic status) and exposure to child maltreatment, parental mental illness, parental criminal offending and perinatal adversities (i.e. birth complications, smoking during pregnancy, low birth weight), were examined hierarchically within latent class analysis models.
Early childhood profiles of developmental vulnerability on the AEDC – latent class analysis of 16 dichotomous AEDC sub-domain indicators

Class 1: No risk 77.9% (n=52,495)
Class 2: Mild generalised risk 11.6% (n=7,882)
Class 3: Misconduct risk 6.5% (n=4,368)
Class 4: Pervasive risk 4.0% (n=2,668)
Odds of various risk exposures among vulnerable classes, relative to non-vulnerable group
Odds of various risk exposures among vulnerable classes, relative to non-vulnerable group

- Pervasive risk
- Misconduct risk
- Mild generalised risk

- Male child
- Child maltreatment
- Socioeconomic disadvantage
- Parental mental illness
- Parental offending
- Mother <26 years at child's birth
- Smoking during pregnancy
- Low birth weight (<2,500g)
- Maternal pregnancy complications
NSW CDS Record Linkage 2 (N=91,635)

Cross-sectional Assessments
- Age 5: Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)
- Age 12: Middle Childhood Survey (MCS)

NSW Department of Education
- Best Start Kindergarten Assessment,
  National Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (NAPLAN)

NSW Family and Community Services
- Child Protection (all levels of reports) and OOH

NSW Health
- Admitted Patients Data,
  Mental Health Ambulatory Data
- Emergency Department Data
- Perinatal Data,
  Births, Deaths.

NSW Police
- Victimisation and reporting contacts

Middle Childhood Survey
  Child self-reported
  Mental Health and Wellbeing
  N=27,792
Their Futures Matter – a new approach to child protection and wellbeing in NSW

- NSW Government’s coordinated approach and long term strategy to improve life outcomes for vulnerable children and families
- Client outcomes, strong evidence and needs-based supports are centred around children and families
- Brings together all government agencies, non-government organisations and the community to deliver the right supports to vulnerable children and families.
- The reform is:
  - applying an investment approach to service design and delivery to guide investment and target services
  - using data to identify the most vulnerable groups so we can prioritise their needs
  - introducing child and family-centred tailored support packages
  - establishing a single commissioning entity within FACS that will be responsible for driving the reform process
  - aligning cross-government funding for vulnerable children and families
Working together to promote the best possible mental health outcomes for these vulnerable children and their families

• Identify cross-agency indicators of high-risk ROSH reports (e.g., characteristics of ROSH reports with swift progression to OOHC) to inform improvements to referral review within the current whole-of-service reforms.

• Determine health and wellbeing outcomes (i.e., mental health, physical health, educational achievement, and criminal justice contacts) up to age 13 years for children in with child protection reports, to inform the allocation of cross-agency interventions for vulnerable children and families.

• Determine health cost estimates for children in the cohort who are receiving child protection services to inform investment models for inter-agency referral and child protection services
NSW CDS Record Linkage 3

• Incorporating additional administrative data including
  – Child protection and OOHC data for parents

• Examine:
  – characteristics of children known to FACS compared to children not known to FACS
  – the impact of parental history with the child protection system
  – alongside health and justice variables.