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Current Projects

Data SMART

This NIH-funded research study brings together teams of researchers from five states to use existing longitudinal administrative data to answer policy-relevant questions about child maltreatment and involvement with the child welfare system. This project represents the first attempt to create standardized, replicable computer programs that any state could use to answer critical questions related to identifying child maltreatment risk, child welfare response, and child health outcomes.

Youth Villages Evaluation Partnership

Youth Villages is a national non-profit focused on children's mental and behavioral health, with a focus on children in foster care. In North Carolina, Youth Villages implements two evidence-based programs: LifeSet, a program for youth aging out of foster care, and Intercept, an intensive in-home treatment program. We are working with Youth Villages to identify potential administrative data sources and study designs to examine the effectiveness of these programs in North Carolina.

Behavioral Health Services for Children in Foster Care

This study uses Medicaid data to examine need for and access to behavioral health services among children in foster care in North Carolina. A major focus of this research is on the use of residential care, including psychiatric residential treatment facilities, and how community-based alternatives to residential care can be used to effectively support children in foster care with high mental health need.