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Child Abuse & Neglect

Volume 11, Issue 1, 1987, Pages 53-62

The medical and psychosocial needs of children entering foster care

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0145-2134\(87\)90033-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0145-2134(87)90033-0)

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Abstract

The estimated three to four hundred thousand children in foster care represent a population at high risk for medical and psychosocial problems. Their problems are compounded by the lack of adequate resources available to them while in foster care. This study provided a medical and psychosocial screening of 149 abused and neglected children entering the foster care system. The goal was to generate a profile of the medical and psychosocial needs of children entering the foster care system as a first step toward development of a better health care delivery system. Results indicated that these children have a much greater incidence of chronic medical conditions, are likely to weigh significantly less and be significantly shorter than the general population. require significant amounts of medical sub-specialty care, have a high incidence of developmental delays, and major deficits in adaptive behavior and have a large number of behavioral problems often associated with psychiatric disorders. Results are discussed in terms of

the development of a regional model to effectively manage the health care needs of children entering foster care.

Resumé

Les quelques 300 000 à 400.000 enfants qui, aux États-Unis, vivent en foyers nourriciers, représentent une population à risque élevé de problèmes psycho-sociaux et médicaux. Ces problèmes sont compliqués par la déficience en moyens adéquats destinés à les aider pendant leur séjour en placement. La présente étude avait pour but de dépister les problèmes médico-sociaux présentés par 149 enfants victimes de maltraitance-négligence au moment où ils entraient dans le système de placement nourricier. L'objectif de l'étude était de décrire le profil des besoins médicaux et psycho-sociaux des enfants entrant dans le système de placement afin d'améliorer le système de santé mis à leur disposition. L'enquête a révélé que ces enfants ont, avec une grande fréquence, des affections médicales chroniques: ont tendance à avoir un poids en dessous de la moyenne et d'être un peu plus petit que leur père au même âge; ces enfants ont besoin également de soins médicaux spécialisés considérables, ils ont avec une grande fréquence un retard psycho-moteur, des déficiences dans leur comportement adaptatif et un nombre élevé de problèmes comportementaux majeurs à des syndromes franchement psychiatriques. Les auteurs discutent leurs résultats d'où devrait découler un modèle de prise en charge des besoins de santé des enfants entrant dans le système régional de placement.



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Keywords

Child abuse and neglect; Foster care; Medical and psychosocial screening

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Educating children in residential and foster care, in the streets and wastelands, boys fly kites, and girls play with wooden rackets with multi-colored patterns in Han, with the allusion uniformly discord the guilty explosion.