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Rural Issues in Child Welfare
2005-2008

Strengthening Rural Families: By the Numbers, Using Data to Drive Action on Behalf of Children and Families.
Rubiner, Betsy.
Annie E. Casey Foundation.
2008
This issue highlights how data collection and analysis can be incorporated into the Casey Foundation’s framework for rural family economic success: Earn It, Keep It, and Grow It. Specifically, this brief portrays how data collection and analysis have underpinned decision-making efforts to improve the well-being of low-income working families in Minnesota. (Author abstract)
http://www.aecf.org/upload/PublicationFiles/StrengtheningFamilies.pdf

The Welfare of Rural Children: A Summary of Challenges.
Belanger, Kathleen.
2008
Abstract unavailable.

Long-Term Effects of Stressors on Relationship Well-Being and Parenting Among Rural African American Women.
2008
Family Relations
57 (2) 117-127
This investigation of the effects of stressful life events on rural African American women’s relationship well-being, psychological functioning, and parenting included 361 married or long-term cohabiting women. Associations among stressful events, socioeconomic status, perceived racial discrimination, coping strategies, psychological functioning, relationship well-being, and parenting were tested. Stressful events were related directly to diminished relationship well-being and heightened psychological distress and indirectly to compromised parenting. The results can inform research and intervention with African American women. (Author abstract)
2008
The Rural Expansion of Adoptive Communities and Homes (REACH) Project is a collaborative effort to increase the number of special needs adoptive families and successful adoptions in rural communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. REACH will help prepare and sustain these rural adoptive families by facilitating the provision of pre and post adoption information, education and support. REACH will offer a special focus on outreach to American Indian communities. The goals will be accomplished through targeted, regional communication campaigns; education and training; web-based resource development and support groups in partnership with state, county and tribal governments and private agencies.

Training for Missouri’s Rural Child Welfare Workers.
2008
Children’s Bureau Express
9 (3) http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?issue_id=2008-04&article_id=1537
Abstract unavailable.

Jennings, Mary Anne.
Missouri State University
2008
Abstract unavailable.

Financing and Sustaining Out-of-School Time Programs in Rural Communities.
Sandel, Kate. Bhat, Soumya.
Finance Project.
2008
This strategy brief describes the funding landscape of rural programs and highlights the unique challenges confronting rural program leaders. It describes the different public and private resources that can support out-of-school time programming and identifies key strategies that can be used to finance and sustain these programs in rural communities. (Author abstract) http://www.financeproject.org/publications/OSTRuralYouth.pdf

Results from the Rural Success Project’s Line Worker and Supervisor Longitudinal Survey.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children’s Resource Program
2008
Abstract unavailable.
Training for Effective Child Welfare Practice in Rural Communities [Texas State University-San Marcos]: October 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008.
Garcia Biggs, Mary Jo.
Texas State University-San Marcos
2008
This project was designed to develop and deliver a Master of Social Work program to qualified Child Protective Service workers in rural areas of Texas. This is possible through the on-going use of web-based technology, including the Blackboard and TRACS course management programs, the Adobe Connect synchronous delivery system (which used to be called BREEZE), telephone and e-mail conferencing, electronic chat rooms and postings, electronic library resources, and limited face-to-face meetings and virtual office hours via web cam. Most electronic delivery is asynchronous (with the exception real-time ?chat? discussions conducted through the TRACS system and the synchronous delivery of the Connect program. These methods are supplemented by intensive in-person workshops scheduled on an academic year basis. Students will complete the MSW degree requirements on a part-time basis, scheduled to be completed in August, 2008 while maintaining employment with Child Protective Services in Texas.

Towards a Delivery System of Services for Rural Homeless Youth: A Literature Review and Case Study.
Skott-Myhre, Hans A. Raby, Rebecca. Nikolaou, Jamie.
Brock University (Canada)
2008
Child and Youth Care Forum
37 (2) p. 87-102
The majority of the literature on homelessness conceptualizes it as an urban problem and a wide body of research exists that provides estimates of metropolitan street youth and qualitatively describes their experiences. Similar descriptions and population estimates are virtually absent for youth who experience rural homelessness despite the number of urban homeless youth with rural origins. Indeed, although some metropolitan literature does remark on rural youth homelessness, it comments only on its invisible nature. This exclusion has significant implications in that it marginalizes the rural homeless and hinders the development of social policy to address the issues this population faces. Drawing on existing literature on rural youth homelessness, discussions with service providers in a rural area and a small number of interviews with youth, this paper begins to explore key issues facing homeless rural youth, existing intervention options and recommendations for the development of service delivery systems. (Author abstract)

2008
Children’s Bureau Express

*Administration in Social Work*
32 (1) p. 77-91

Many child welfare agencies across the country are experiencing a severe workforce crisis involving high staff turnover rates. The purpose of this study was to analyze the similarities and differences on intention to leave among rural, urban, and suburban child welfare districts with an explicit focus on organizational, individual, and supervisory factors. Eight hundred and twenty workers and supervisors from twenty-five child welfare agencies participated in a survey addressing organizational, individual, and supervisory factors related to workforce turnover. ANOVA and Logistic regression models were conducted in the analysis. Findings suggest that there are unique influences on intention to leave among the three localities. Implications for social work education and organizational practice are discussed. (Author abstract)


*Abstract unavailable.*

**The R.U.R.A.L. Project / San Jose State University Research Foundation: October 1, 2007 -- March 31, 2008.**


*Abstract unavailable.*

**Tribal STAR: Addressing the Needs of Rural Native American Foster Youth: San Diego State University School of Social Work.**

*Site Visit Report*
Denniston, Jack. 2007

Sponsoring Organization: U.S. Children's Bureau.
The primary goal of our project is to improve the outcomes of rural Native American foster youth. This will be accomplished through the development and implementation of two comprehensive, competency-based collaborative training programs, one for frontline staff, and the other for supervisory child welfare staff. The training will be developed with input from a variety of Native American voices, including youth, tribal leaders, frontline workers, and professionals. The training will provide participants with a solid understanding of the Indian Child Welfare Act, unique challenges associated with working with rural populations, the importance of operating from a position of cultural competency, the importance of collaboration, the fundamental components of the youth development philosophy, the developmental tasks of normal adolescents, challenges youth face, and assessment.

Howell, Christine. Nelson, Gary M.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children’s Resource Program
2007
*Abstract unavailable.*

**Child Welfare Practice and Child Poverty in Rural NC.**
North Carolina Division of Social Services.
2007
*Training matters*
8 (3) [http://www.trainingmatters-nc.org/tm_v8n3/tm_v8n3.htm](http://www.trainingmatters-nc.org/tm_v8n3/tm_v8n3.htm)
*Abstract unavailable.*

**Training for Effective Child Welfare Practice in Rural Communities [Texas State University-San Marcos]: April 1, 2007 -- September 29, 2007**
Garcia Biggs, Mary Jo.
Texas State University-San Marcos
2007
This project was designed to develop and deliver a Master of Social Work program to qualified Child Protective Service workers in rural areas of Texas. This is possible through the on-going use of web-based technology, including the Blackboard and TRACS course management programs, the Adobe Connect synchronous delivery system (which used to be called BREEZE), telephone and e-mail conferencing, electronic chat rooms and postings, electronic library resources, and limited face-to-face meetings and virtual office hours via web cam. Most electronic delivery is asynchronous (with the exception real-time chat discussions conducted through the TRACS system and the synchronous delivery of the Connect program). These methods are supplemented by intensive in-person workshops scheduled on an academic year
basis. Students will complete the MSW degree requirements on a part-time basis, scheduled to be completed in August, 2008 while maintaining employment with Child Protective Services in Texas.

Virginia Rural Adoptive Family Initiative.
2007
Abstract unavailable.

**Training for Effective Child Welfare Practice in Rural Communities [Texas State University-San Marcos]: October 1, 2006 -- March 31, 2007**
Yarbrough, David N.
Texas State University-San Marcos
2007
This project was designed to develop and deliver a Master of Social Work program to qualified Child Protective Service workers in rural areas of Texas. This is possible through the on-going use of web-based technology, including the Blackboard and TRACS course management programs, the BREEZE synchronous delivery system, telephone and e-mail conferencing, electronic chat rooms and postings, electronic library resources, and limited face-to-face meetings. Most electronic delivery is asynchronous (with the exception real-time "chat" discussions conducted through the TRACS system and the synchronous delivery of the BREEZE program. The Elluminate program noted in previous reports has been entirely replaced by the Breeze and Tracs delivery systems) to allow for flexibility in student response. These methods are supplemented by intensive in-person workshops scheduled on an academic year basis. Students will complete the MSW degree requirements on a part-time basis, scheduled to be completed in August, 2008 while maintaining employment with Child Protective Services in Texas.

Cahn, Katharine. Miller, Judy.
Portland State University, Child Welfare Partnership.
2007
Abstract unavailable.

**Child Welfare Practice in Rural North Carolina.**
2007
Children’s Services Practice Notes
12 (3) Designed for child welfare workers in North Carolina, this volume focuses on child welfare practice in rural areas of the State. It includes articles that address: the UNC-Chapel Hill Rural Success Project; statistics on rural areas in North Carolina; ethics and dual roles in rural child welfare practice; facts about small towns in North Carolina; and findings that indicate rural child welfare agencies in North Carolina are doing as well or better than urban agencies in terms of outcome and process measures. Following articles highlight a success story from the Rural Success Project, discuss barriers and benefits to practicing child welfare in rural areas, and identify components that make collaboration work in a rural context. The volume closes with a summary of key points made about child welfare practice in rural North Carolina.
http://www.practicenotes.org/vol12_no3.htm

Jennings, Mary Ann Lester, Glenda F. Missouri State University. 2007
Goal 1: To develop, implement, and evaluate competency-based training program for child welfare workers and supervisors in 31 rural counties in Missouri. Goal 2: To improve the direct (i.e., with children and families) and indirect (i.e., with communities and other agencies) skills/competencies of the Southwest Region rural child welfare workers and supervisors. Goal 3: To develop relationships with community members and leaders and other related agencies (including faith-based organizations) to increase resource development and collaborative activities. Goal 4: To increase awareness of and access to child welfare services in 31 rural Missouri counties.

Rural After-School Programs: Meeting the Needs of At-Risk Youth and Their Families.
Letiecq, Bethany L. Bailey, Sandra J. Keller, Julie A. Montana State University. 2007
Journal of Youth Development
2 (2) Extant research has focused on out-of-school time among urban and suburban youth, yet there remains scant information on rural low-income youth and their families. This study examines the salience of after-school programs for rural youth. Using an ecological framework, we assess changes in youth behavior and skill acquisition based on reports from 47 youth attending after-school programs in two rural communities, along with their primary caregivers and teachers. Results indicate enhanced life skills and social behaviors among youth attendees. Implications for future research, programming, and policymaking are discussed. (Author abstract)
http://www.nae4ha.org/directory/jyd/showdoc.aspx?id=d1d28728-d2aa-40d8-86e6-1958040f181b
The Results of the Lowcountry ABC Youth Director Survey: Highlights: A Report to the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry.
Robinson, Kathleen K. Wilson.
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Cornerstones For Kids.
Clemson University.
2007
This report provides a snapshot of the characteristics of directors and programs serving children and youth in the Lowcountry of South Carolina during out-of-school time. Using a survey developed by the Next Generation Youth Work Coalition to determine the characteristics of the youth workforce, the supports that are provided to workers, and changes that might improve their employment experiences and increase the stability of the workforce overall, these results supplement the findings of the larger survey and add to our knowledge of this group of child-serving professionals in largely rural areas. (Author abstract)

The 2007 Report to the Secretary: Rural Health and Human Service Issues.
2007
This annual report by the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services examines three key topics in health and human services and their effects in rural areas: Medicare Advantage, Head Start, and substance abuse. For each topic, the report explains why the committee focused on the topic, what is known about the topic in rural areas, key rural issues related to the topic, and the current role of the U.S. Health and Human Services and governmental role in addressing the topic. Recommendations are also provided in each area. The section on substance abuse shares statistics on drug use in rural areas and discusses access to services, using alcohol abuse, methamphetamine abuse, and prescription drug abuse for illustrative purposes. The federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative is described, as well as State initiatives and federal programs. The shortcomings of the current response are then summarized before recommendations are given.

Short, Glenda F. Lester.
Missouri State University
2007
Abstract unavailable.
Rural Child Traumatic Stress Virtual Program Center (CTS-VPC) [Website].
2007
Sponsoring Organization: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
This project focuses on developing and evaluating a national training and technical assistance center for rural, frontier and Tribal professionals and organizations who work with children and their families who have experienced trauma. (Author abstract)
http://childtrauma.isu.edu/

Cahn, Katharine. Miller, Judy.
Portland State University, Child Welfare Partnership.
2007
Abstract unavailable.

Missouri Training Program for Rural Child Welfare Workers: Southwest Missouri State University.
Site Visit Report
Denniston, Jack.
2007
Sponsoring Organization: U.S. Children's Bureau.
Southwest Missouri State University proposes to develop and conduct the Missouri Training Program for Rural Child Welfare Workers (MTP) to prepare frontline child welfare workers and supervisors to serve the unique needs of people living in rural counties. A total of 33 counties comprise the Southwest Region of the Missouri Division of Family Services and are located in the central, west central, southwest, and south central parts of the state.'

Rural Targeted Community Outreach (RTCO): Semi Annual Report # 8, April 1, 2007 to September 29, 2007
Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
2007
So far in 2007, 243 individuals have attended at least one NOAS pre-placement class which is the highest number since the start of the grant. Not all families make application with NOAS, some choose a public agency and some choose infant adoption. However, it clearly shows that we are making an impact in getting families to consider adoption.

RURAL Project (Resources to Address the Unique Needs of Rural Communities for Availability/Accessibility of Local Services): Site visit report.
Site Visit Report
Denniston, Jack.
2007
Sonoma State University’s RURAL project (Resources to Address the Unique Needs of Rural Communities for Availability/Accessibility of Local Services) will provide statewide training/technical assistance in California. The project goals are to create and disseminate a field-tested, competency-based training curriculum to enhance frontline/supervisory staff capacity to provide effective, high quality child welfare services in rural California by managing barriers to service access, strengthening families, improving access to faith-based and community resources, and partnering with State, local and tribal governments.

Thorsen, Barbara. Nissen, Diane.
Sonoma State University California Institute on Human Services
2007
Abstract unavailable.

Case Series: Mental Health Needs and Perspectives of Rural Children Reared by Parents Who Abuse Methamphetamine.
2007
46 (4) p. 500-5007
This case-based, mixed-methods study was undertaken to understand the perspectives and mental health needs of rural children exposed to parental methamphetamine abuse. METHOD: Participants were 23 children involved with a state child protective agency because of parental methamphetamine abuse. A semistructured interview provided information on children’s perspectives of their families. Information on children's mental health needs was obtained from the Child Behavior Checklist and Trauma Symptom Checklist. Case records and caseworker reports provided information on children’s family experiences. RESULTS: Children described emotional pain; few social resources for coping with emotions, problem solving, or talking about their experiences; and avoidant or passive coping skills. Sixty-five percent of children evidenced significant dissociative or posttraumatic symptoms on standardized assessments; 57% had other significant emotional and behavioral problems. Challenges to understanding children's perspectives included children's perceptions that talking about methamphetamine abuse was taboo and underreporting of significant symptoms on the Trauma Symptom Checklist. CONCLUSIONS: The high rate of mental health problems suggests the need for nontraditional strategies for services delivery in rural areas that are targeted toward these vulnerable children.
Early identification and treatment of mental health problems should be a priority. Clinicians should be alert to the complexities in assessing children’s mental health needs. (Author abstract)

**The Relationship Between Childhood Abuse and Adult Suicidal Behavior Among Rural Former Mental Health Patients.**
Richards, Karen E. Molina, Irma A.
2007
*Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*
4 (1/2) p. 61-78
This article explores the relationship between childhood abuse and adult suicidal behavior among former mental health patients in a rural area. Historical data from 1999-2005 were used and analyzed from an outpatient mental health center. Suicidal ideation and attempts were found to be significantly correlated to all types of childhood abuse, such as mental, physical, and sexual. We conclude with recommendations for future research and implications for future social work practice. (Author abstract)

**Services in Rural and Frontier Communities: Summary of the Special Forum Held at the 2006 Georgetown University Training Institutes.**
Stroul, Beth A. Sebian, Joyce.
National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health. Georgetown University Training Institutes (2006: Orlando, Fla.)
2007
A series of Special Forums were held at the Georgetown University Training Institutes in July 2006 to provide opportunities for dialogue about critical issues in order to contribute to the development of future policy and technical assistance. The Special Forums were designed as interactive discussions about communities and populations with unique service needs, requiring specialized planning and service delivery approaches within systems of care. Specifically, the goals of the Special Forums were to: (1) Summarize issues and challenges related to each topic; (2) Identify effective service delivery strategies for local systems of care; and (3) Develop recommendations for policy and technical assistance that will support communities in implementing these effective service delivery strategies. Each Special Forum began with brief framing presentations summarizing issues and challenges related to the topic and offering examples of effective service delivery strategies. The remainder of the forum consisted of facilitated discussion among forum participants focusing on recommendations for services, financing, policy, advocacy, information development and dissemination, and training and technical assistance. The Special Forums were tape recorded and transcribed, and additional input was collected from participants through worksheets completed at the conclusion of each forum. These materials were used to prepare a paper summarizing the issues and recommendations resulting from each Special Forum. This paper presents the issues and recommendations from the Special Forum on Services in Rural and Frontier Communities. Presenters included: Joyce Sebian, M.S. Ed., Senior Policy Associate, National Technical Assistance Center for Children’s Mental Health, Georgetown University Center for Child and
Human Development, Washington, DC; Peggy Nikkel, UPLIFT Executive Director, Wyoming SAGE Initiative Lead Family Contact, and Parent, WY; Amber Reagan, UPLIFT Family Outreach Specialist, Wyoming SAGE Initiative Youth Coordinator, WY; and Nikki Brown, Youth Representative, UPLIFT and Wyoming SAGE Initiative, WY. (Author abstract)

http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/TrainingInstitutes/SpecialForums/Services%20in%20Rural%20and%20Frontier%20Communities.pdf

Nissen, Diane. Thorsen, Barbara.
Sonoma State University
2006
Abstract unavailable.

Nelson, Gary M.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children's Resource Program
2006
Abstract unavailable.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children’s Resource Program
2006
Abstract unavailable.

Recruiting Rural Parents for Indian Children.
Quash-Mah, Susan Baxter.
Independent Adoption Center.
2006
This final report describes the activities and outcomes of the first three years of a five-year federally funded project designed to improve the recruitment of rural Native American adoptive parents for Indian children in California. The report discusses major activities and accomplishments, problems the project encountered, significant findings and events, dissemination activities, additional activities undertaken by the project, and future activities. The project resulted in contact with 175 parents or households with interest in becoming a resource for Native American children, and the recruitment of 51 families for preparation for foster care licensing/certification between October 1, 2004 and November 13, 2006. Seven families have been
licensed/rectified for foster care/permanency through November 14, 2006, and there have been eight child placements. Professional referrals from tribes or other Native American social services has been found to be the most effective means of engaging interested parents in the process of becoming foster care or other types of family resources for Native American children.

**From Isolation to Teamwork: Mississippi’s Story of Cultural Change in Child Welfare.**
*Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education.* 9 (2) p. 65-77
Professional isolation is a major impediment to positive morale among public child welfare supervisors in rural settings. In this project Mississippi supervisors in two regions were provided the opportunity for on-going peer support by engaging in structured learning laboratories of their own design followed by regular mentoring sessions with university faculty. Using a quasi-experimental design an external evaluation team assessed the perceived changes in organizational culture, supervisee assessment of self-efficacy and worker turnover rates between the experimental and control areas and found significant positive impact from the model employed. The article offer practical suggestions on implementation of organizational change through supervisor development. (Author abstract)

**Poverty and youth violence exposure: experiences in rural communities.**
Carlson, Karen Townsend. 2006
*Children and schools* 28 p. 87-96
Violence exposure among rural youths is a significant public health problem, yet little research has been conducted on violence in this setting. This study explored rural youths’ direct and indirect experience of violence in the neighborhood, school, and home. The author used hierarchical regression analyses to explore youth violence exposure, aggressive behaviors, mental health symptoms, attitudes toward guns and violence, and community poverty level, measured by percentage of free and reduced-price lunch, at four different southeastern Ohio schools. Results indicated that higher levels of poverty are significantly related to higher levels of direct exposure to violence in school, and to dissociation, damaging property of others, and some measures of violence proneness. Responses to violence exposure at the community, school, and individual practitioner level are explored. (Author abstract)

**Promotion of Evidence-Based Practices for Child Traumatic Stress in Rural Populations: Identification of Barriers and Promising Solutions.**
*Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 7 (4) p. 260-273
Child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, and other forms of traumatic stress in childhood are unfortunately quite prevalent. Although most children exhibit striking resiliency in the face of such harrowing experiences, the ubiquity of childhood trauma translates into a significant number of children in need of clinical services to address resultant unremitting distress. Encouragingly, a number of effective interventions for child traumatic stress have been developed in the past several years, and these services are increasingly available in urban areas. Unfortunately, residents of rural and frontier regions may remain underserved despite the existence of effective treatments. This article briefly reviews the prevalence and sequelae of childhood trauma and depicts the numerous barriers to effective treatment faced by rural populations. The authors then briefly review promising evidence-based interventions for child traumatic stress and conclude by enumerating mechanisms for increasing rural populations' access to these services. (Author abstract)

Nelson, Gary M.
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children’s Resource Program
2006
Abstract unavailable.

Virginia Rural Adoptive Family Initiative (RAFI): Children's Bureau Demonstration Grant Report, October 2006 Executive Summary
Virginia Rural Adoptive Family Initiative.
2006
Abstract unavailable.

The Health and Well-Being of Children in Rural Areas: A Portrait of the Nation, 2005.
The National Survey of Children’s Health.
2006
This chartbook highlights major findings of the National Survey of Children’s Health on the health of children in rural areas. The survey presents national- and State-level information on the health and well-being of children (ages 0-17) and their use of health services by location and by major demographic characteristics such as age, sex, race and ethnicity, and family income. Data collection began on January 29, 2003 and ended on July 1, 2004, with a total of 102,353 interviews conducted. Data is presented in the following areas: overall child health status; children with moderate or severe health conditions; breastfeeding; children with moderate or severe socio-
emotional difficulties; the impact of socio-emotional difficulties; overweight; injury; parents? concerns; current health insurance; coverage consistency; preventive health care visits; preventive dental visits; medical home; staying home alone; repeating a grade; regular physical activity; parenting aggravation; smoking in the household; safety of the child in the neighborhood; and child care. The survey found that children in urban and rural areas are equally likely to be healthy, with about 84% of children reported to be in excellent or very good health regardless of location. Rural children were more likely than their urban peers to get regular exercise and to be safe in their neighborhoods, according to their parents; however, children in rural areas faced some specific health risks. Rural children were less likely to be breastfed for at least six months and were more likely to live in households where someone smokes than children in urban areas. In addition, rural children in low-income families were more likely to have moderate or severe socio-emotional difficulties than children of the same income level in urban areas. An appendix presents information about the survey sample and methodology. 25 references.
http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/

Social Support as a Means to Well-Being for Rural Low-Income Mothers.
Ohio State University.
2006
Objective measures of well-being are not strongly linked to the reported satisfaction of respondents, and most researchers studying the well-being of poor families have concentrated on the objective components of wellbeing. In order to gain a more complete picture, family well-being of low-income rural mothers is measured multidimensionally, using objective measures and subjective assessments. Cluster analysis identified relatively homogeneous combinations of well-being outcomes. Well-being antecedents of mothers' personal and family attributes, support network characteristics, and types and amount of support are described for each cluster. Differences between the well-being clusters were found for objective measures. (Author abstract)

Thorsen, Barbara.
Sonoma State University California Institute on Human Services
2006
Abstract unavailable.

Trauma interventions and systems change in rural areas: the role of the juvenile court judge in collaboration with mental health professionals.
Juvenile and family court journal 57 (1) p. 71-77
This article will focus on the evolution of the collaborative work of the Louisiana Rural Trauma Services Center (LRTSC), a Center within the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and the 23rd Judicial District, a jurisdiction in south Louisiana serving three rural parishes. We will describe how the collaboration and joint efforts, and the changes that have been made in terms of availability of evaluation and treatment resources, seem to be influencing both the educational and judicial systems in St. James Parish and potential sustainability of some of the identified resources. The article will examine how the court and LRTSC work together with emphasis on the evaluation, reporting and recommendation processes, outcomes and benefits to date, and challenges for the future. (Author abstract)

Delivering a Maternal Substance Abuse Intervention Program Along the Rural Route (P. 29-34 of The National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network Awards for Excellence 2004: Submitted and Award-Winning Papers).
Technical Assistance Publication Series ; 28.
Ettlinger, Trudee.
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (U.S.) 2006
We sought to design and deliver an indicated-level substance abuse prevention program for lower income mothers living in rural Vermont. The Rocking Horse program employed best practices for working with rural mothers, used sensitive outreach, and built the program in the community. This 10-week psychoeducation group modality, led by a maternal/child specialist and a licensed substance abuse treatment professional, provided education about the risks of alcohol and illegal drugs for women's health during pregnancy, and for young children living in substance-abusing families. Health education was delivered in a highly supportive format that emphasized building personal competencies. The short-term results suggest that this program is increasing knowledge of the harms caused by substance abuse and bolstering personal capacity to move away from this behavior. (Author abstract)

An overview of rural family economic success: earn it, keep it, grow it.
Annie E. Casey Foundation.
2006
This report discusses the economic challenges rural families face and outlines the following earn it, keep it, and grow it strategies for assisting rural families: retrain the existing workforce, provide employment opportunities, close the earnings gap by providing tax credits, expand affordable options for meeting basic needs, build financial literacy, provide low-cost savings options and Individual Development Accounts, provide a positive climate for business and
entrepreneurs and attractive places to live and work, and build linkages with the regional economy.

http://www.aecf.org/upload/PublicationFiles/RF2022K559.pdf

**Effects of family risk factors on dosage and efficacy of a family-centered preventive intervention for rural African Americans.**


2006

*Prevention science*

7 (3) p. 281-291

This study was designed to test hypotheses about family risk factors and their links to dosage and efficacy of a family-centered preventive intervention. Participants were 172 families with an 11 year-old child randomly assigned to the intervention condition in the Strong African American Families Program (SAAF). Two family risk factors, ratio of adults to children in the household and youth unconventionality, were negatively related to dosage, defined as number of intervention sessions attended. Dosage, in turn, was associated with changes in targeted parenting behavior across the 7 months between pretest and posttest. The effect of family risk factors on the link between program dosage and changes in parenting behavior was stronger for families experiencing more risks. The results highlight the need for engagement strategies for recruiting and retaining high-risk families in preventive interventions. (Author abstract)


Nissen, Diane. Thorsen, Barbara.

Sonoma State University

2006


*Abstract unavailable.*

**Impact of family abuse on running away, deviance, and street victimization among homeless rural and urban youth.**

Thrane, Lisa E. Hoyt, Danny R. Whitbeck, Les B. Yoder, Kevin A.

2006

*Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*

30 (10) p. 1117-1128

Problem Various demographic and familial risk factors have been linked to runaway behavior. To date, there has not been a systematic investigation of the impact of size of community on runaway behavior. This study will compare runaways from smaller cities and rural areas to their urban counterparts. Methods A convenience sample of 602 adolescents was interviewed between 1995 and August of 1996 in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, USA. Multiple regression was used to examine the association between gender, neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, geographic and family structure change, and community size of first runaway to predict age at
first runaway, deviant subsistence strategies, and street victimization. Results Findings indicate that adolescents exposed to neglect (β = −.20) and sexual abuse (β = −.16) ran away sooner and were more likely to be victimized on the street. Rural adolescents who experienced higher levels of physical abuse relied more heavily on deviant subsistence strategies (β = .15) and remained in abusive homes longer (β = .15) than their similarly situated urban counterparts. Conclusions Rural youth who have been subjected to elevated levels of familial abuse are at greater risk of deviant subsistence strategies, which increase the likelihood of street victimization. (Author abstract)

Telephone Survey of Rural Success Project Online Learning Participants: Telephone Script with Consent Information
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families, Family & Children's Resource Program
2006
Abstract unavailable.

Rural disparities in baseline data of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study: a chartbook.
*Rural Early Childhood report* ; no. 3.
2006
This report introduces the results from an analysis contrasting young children’s care and development in rural and non-rural settings using baseline data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS) birth and kindergarten cohorts (ECLS-B and ECLS-K). These are coordinated studies carried out by the U.S. Department of Education, one following a nationally representative group of babies through entry into school, and the other following a nationally representative group of kindergarteners through elementary school. The chartbook contains a discussion of key findings related to child care use, early literacy skills, and mental health. It also contains sets of tables showing rural and non-rural rates for dozens of indicators, as well as rates within the rural and non-rural sub-groups by ethnicity, income range, and geographic region. (Author abstract)
http://ruralec.msstate.edu/reports/default.htm

*Rural Early Childhood report* ; no. 4.
Mississippi State University. National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives.
2006
This report includes presentations given during a one-day federally funded forum on hurricane recovery and emergency preparedness for early childhood providers, policymakers, and researchers held on December 4, 2005 in Mobile, Alabama. It includes presentations that address:
the experiences of a day-care facility during Hurricane Rita; the Chevron Child Care Recovery Effort that worked to restore child care facilities after Hurricane Katrina; referring families to resource services at the Austin Convention Center after Hurricane Katrina; and the development of the Early Childhood Atlas for displaying early childhood indicators for counties, States, and other geographic areas, and its use after Hurricane Katrina. The report also summarizes key points and recommendations in discussions among participants on: mental health prevention, screening, and treatment following trauma; Head Start and Child Care and Development Fund eligibility for displaced children; rebuilding child care facilities and meeting early childhood standards; and early care and education emergency response. 
http://www.ruralec.msstate.edu/reports/hurricane-forum-rpt.pdf

**Methamphetamine exposure: a rural early intervention challenge.**

Brown University. Center for the Study of Children at Risk. 
2006 
*Zero to three.* 
26 (4) p. 30-36 
In the Infant Development, Environment and Lifestyle (IDEAL) Study of methamphetamine (MA) effects on children, the authors screened approximately 27,000 newborn infants for MA exposure, and from that pool derived a sample of in utero MA-exposed children as well as a comparison group matched for other drug use and other factors. IDEAL measures cognition, social relationships, neuromotor development, neuroendocrine function, and general health. Preliminary analyses from the neonatal period have yielded findings in several areas. (1) Pregnant users and nonusers of MA did not differ in race, age, education, type of insurance, current partner status, or religious preference. After adjusting for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and SES, no differences were found in total depression and psychiatric symptom scores between the two groups; (2) MA-exposed newborns had lower birth weight and were 4.5 times more likely to be small for gestational age than babies born to non-MA users; and (3) MA use during the first trimester was related to more signs of stress in infants. Use in the second trimester was associated with more lethargy. Use in the third trimester was related to poorer quality of movement and greater physiological stress. Authors recommend providing MA-involved families with parenting support, medical support, and mental health care. (Author abstract)

**Media Outreach Guide for Rural Child Welfare Agencies.**

Jaudon, Brian. McMahon, John. 
Rural Success Project. 
2005 
This guide is meant to help directors, administrators, and supervisors from rural child welfare agencies assess and expand their ability to communicate with community stakeholders using the media.
Evaluation of a rural Healthy Families America (HFA) program: the importance of context.
Whipple, Ellen E. Nathans, Laura L.
Michigan State University.
2005
Families in society: the journal of contemporary social sciences.
86 p. 71-82
This paper describes sociodemographics, program involvement, and outcomes for 115 families involved in a rural HFA program. HFA-involved families fared well in concrete areas, yet demonstrated fewer positive changes in abstract goals. Subgroup analyses revealed relationships between mothers' sociodemographic characteristics and outcomes. HFA programs must allow for variability in implementation based on context. The effectiveness of persistent outreach in a geographically-dispersed area with families who do not engage with home visitors merits reexamination. While the riskiest families should always be given the opportunity to participate, we suggest that rural implementation may be most effective when utilized as part of a triage case management model which better integrates child welfare, mental and physical health care systems. (Author abstract)

Advocating for children in rural areas.
Meyer, Harvey.
2005
Connection: news and information from the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.
21 p. 6-8
This article explores the challenges of court appointed special advocates (CASA) programs in rural areas, including an anemic fundraising climate, scant numbers of volunteers, and rural families in denial about abuse. The impact of poverty on substance abuse is also noted. Examples of how rural CASA programs have addressed recruiting and fundraising challenges are provided.

http://www.casanet.org/library/advocacy/connection_Spring05.pdf

Cultural Competence in the Assessment of Poor Mexican Families in the Rural Southeastern United States.
Hancock, Tina U.
Campbell University (North Carolina)
2005
Child Welfare
84 (5) p. 689-711
Increasing numbers of poor Mexican immigrant families are settling in the rural southeastern United States. Most of these families are from isolated agrarian communities in Mexico and are headed by unskilled laborers or displaced farm workers with little education. Child welfare
workers and other service providers in rural communities may be poorly prepared to address the needs of this population. This article provides an overview of the cultural, social, and family dynamics of first generation, working class Mexicans to promote cultural competency among helping professionals. An ecological perspective is used to examine the strengths that poor Mexicans bring from their culture of origin, stresses of the migratory experience and ongoing adaptation, shifts that may occur in family structure and functioning, disruptions in the family life cycle, the role of social supports in family adaptation, and effect of institutional discrimination on family well-being. Suggestions also are made for essential components of adequate in-service education. (Author abstract)

Adoption and Foster Care of American Indian Children: Closing the Cultural Divide.
Jackson, Kate.
2005
Social Work Today
5 (5) p. 30
This article highlights the efforts of the Rural Expansion of Adoptive Communities and Homes (REACH) Project to establish permanent homes for American Indian children in need without taking them away from their culture, their community, and their families. The program facilitates preadoption and postadoption services to adoptive families in rural communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Its overarching goal is to connect families willing to adopt to children with special needs, including American Indians. Cultural differences in American Indian families and efforts by REACH to help communities adopt and adapt legal yet culturally appropriate alternatives to traditional formal adoption are discussed, as well as the role of social workers and the unique cultural sensitivity of American Indian social workers.

"In these bleak days": parent methamphetamine abuse and child welfare in the rural Midwest.
University of Illinois. School of Social Work.
2005
Children and youth services review: an international multidisciplinary review of the welfare of young people.
27 p. 949-971
This report describes the impact of parent methamphetamine abuse on the development and well-being of school-aged children, and considers implications for culturally appropriate child welfare services. Thirty-five adult informants from several, adjacent rural Midwestern counties in the United States were interviewed as part of a larger ethnographic study. These child welfare workers, other community professionals (educators, counselors, law enforcement personnel, and substance abuse treatment providers), and foster caregivers described their experiences with families involved with methamphetamine. Overall, informants described that children are brought by their methamphetamine-abusing parents into a rural drug culture characterized by distinct, antisocial beliefs and practices. Children's experience of this culture includes
environmental danger, chaos, neglect, abuse, loss, and isolation. Informants believed that children develop antisocial beliefs and practices such as lying, stealing, drug use, and violence through direct teaching by their parents and, indirectly, through observing parents’ own antisocial behavior. Informants described children as displaying psychological, social, and educational disturbances. They also described individual variation in functioning across children that they attributed, in part, to individual (e.g., temperament, intelligence), familial (e.g., extended family), and community (e.g., school) characteristics. Informants noted a need for effective child mental health services in the area, and for ensuring a positive environment for children’s future development through education of the children, foster parents and other community members.

The Impact of Welfare Reform on the Parenting Role of Women in Rural Communities.
Henderson, Debra A. Tickamyer, Ann R. Tadlock, Barry L. Ohio University. 2005
Journal of Children and Poverty
Current family policy suggests that in order to restore family values we, as a society, need to focus on reviving a child-centered household. Full-time mothering is lauded as an honorable choice that will advance this goal and ultimately strengthen traditional family values. However, current welfare policy is contrary to this notion in that mandatory welfare-to-work programs deny women receiving public assistance the choice to be full-time mothers. Based on in-depth interviews with female welfare recipients in four rural Appalachian counties, this paper evaluates the problems women face as they confront the difficult choices of being either a "good mother" or a "good recipient." From a feminist perspective, findings suggest that welfare reform programs in rural communities have put poor women in a proverbial "catch-22" with regard to effective parenting. Although many of the women strive to be ideal mothers as defined by societal standards, they often find that they cannot carry out the role effectively because of welfare reform regulations. (Author abstract)

Mental health and family life among kindergarten children in rural areas.
Sponsoring Organization: United States. Dept. of Education. This brief presents selected findings from a rural analysis of the Kindergarten Cohort of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS-K) by the National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives in collaboration with Child Trends. Findings from the analysis indicate rural kindergartners do not differ from other kindergartners on many indicators of social-emotional health, but that rural kindergartners are at a significant disadvantage in terms of some parenting practices and in potential access to mental health services through formal early childhood.
education programs. The study also found many social-emotional advantages for rural kindergartners, including: rural kindergartners were significantly more likely to demonstrate social competence; significantly more parents in the rural subset perceived that their neighborhoods were safe; rural parents were significantly more likely to demonstrate warmth toward their children than non-rural parents; rural families in middle- and high-income groups were significantly more likely to engage in frequent home activities together; and rural parents were significantly less likely than non-rural parents to indicate that they experienced high levels of aggravation in parenting. Overall, rural children and non-rural children demonstrated no significant differences in rates of externalizing problem behavior. Disadvantages for rural families included a higher rate of maternal depression (6.5% for rural mothers overall vs. 5.6% for non-rural mothers overall). Also, rural white and black parents were significantly less likely than non-rural white and black parents to use positive discipline exclusively with their children. Finally, rural white parents were significantly more likely than non-rural white parents to report that they spanked their children once or more often per week (28.0% vs. 22.2%). 14 references. http://ruralec.msstate.edu/briefs/6-05_brief_mentalhealth.pdf

Challenges faced by rural TANF recipients: regional differences in the outcomes of a lifeskills program.
Zunz, Sharyn J. Wichroski, Mary Anne. Hebert, Susanne M. Hebert.
University of New Hampshire
2005
Journal of human behavior in the social environment.
12 p. 39-57
This paper presents an analysis of the socio-economic disparities between a state’s rural and non-rural counties and describes differences in outcomes between geographically diverse participants in a statewide welfare-to-work lifeskills program. While both rural and non-rural groups made significant gains by program’s end, participants from the most disadvantaged, rural counties were found to have less confidence in their own knowledge and abilities, lower self-esteem, and lower scores on some social support measures. At follow-up, rural participants were working fewer hours, for less pay, and were over-represented in service and laborer jobs. Ways to address the specific needs of rural recipients are discussed.

REACH Project: bi-annual report.
REACH Project.
2005
Sponsoring Organization: Children’s Bureau
The Rural Expansion of Adoptive Communities and Homes (REACH) Project is a collaborative effort to increase the number of special needs adoptive families and successful adoptions in rural communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. REACH will help prepare and sustain these rural adoptive families by facilitating the provision of pre and post adoption information, education and support. REACH will offer a special focus on outreach to American Indian communities. The goals will be accomplished through targeted, regional communication
Rural areas are different from urban areas in their socioeconomic conditions, the status and prevalence of health and human services-related conditions, the availability and characteristics of services and social supports, and the social and cultural factors that can affect the quality, availability, use, and cost of needed services. These factors can affect rural areas in both positive and negative ways, but, in contrast to urban areas, less is known about them. Rural human services research is considerably less developed as a discipline than rural health services research, due in part to the difficulty of finding suitable data for study. The main goal of this
study was to develop an inventory of databases (federal, nonfederal, and state-level administrative data) that researchers could use to study selected human services-related conditions and the accessibility and utilization of human services in rural areas. Three human services issues were focal topics for the project -- work supports for low-income families, substance abuse, and child welfare. While these topics address serious challenges for all low-income families, the potential for limited access or effectiveness of services in rural areas makes research on the rural aspect of these topics particularly important. Volume 1 summarizes contemporary literature on the three focal topics, including rural child welfare, and identifies methodological shortcomings and gaps in existing rural research on each topic. Volume 2 identifies sources of data that include rural samples that could be used to study the three focal topics in rural areas. Twenty federal and nonfederal data sources are described in Volume 2, along with 60 state administrative data sources from 23 states. State administrative data, though not designed or collected for research purposes, have several attributes that can make it useful for rural research, e.g., it includes all (urban and rural) program participants, and it generally includes detailed geographic identifiers for each record. (Author abstract)