Reading the Record

Enhancing Practice Knowledge and Child Welfare/Probation Outcomes
Through Qualitative Data-Mining

Colleen Henry, MSW, PhD
Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College
City University of New York

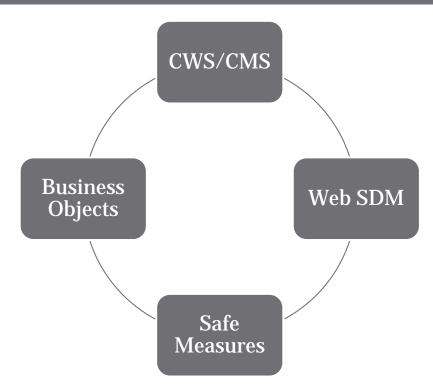
CQI Statewide Conference for Child Welfare and Probation

March 27, 2018

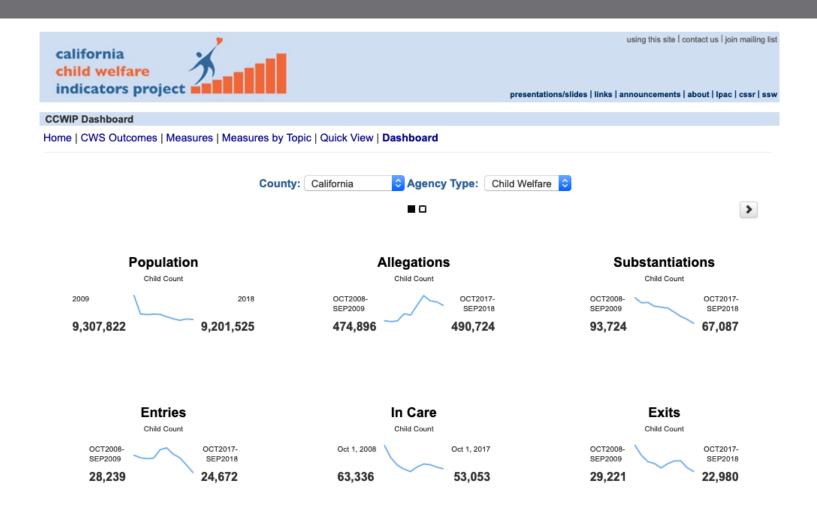
Administrative Data





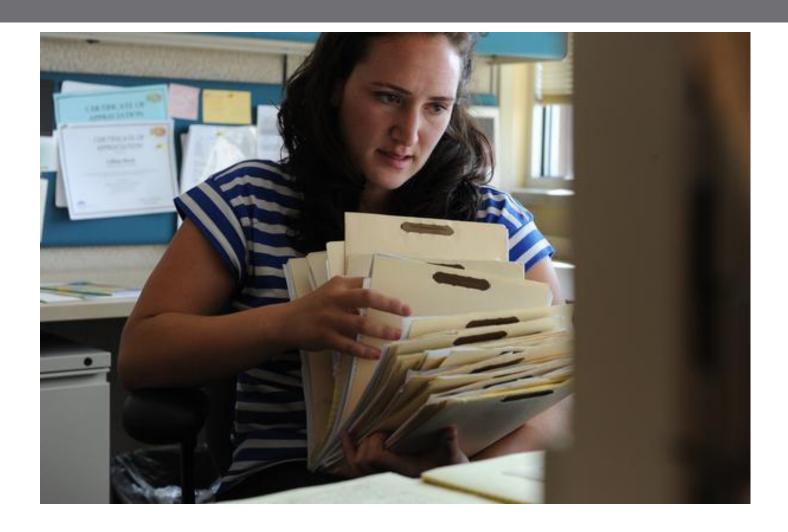


Quantitative Data-Mining



California Child Welfare Indicators Project. (2019). Dashboard. Center for Social Services Research. University of California, Berkeley. http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

Qualitative Data-Mining



Children & Family Services Reviews

CFSR: Onsite Review Instrument

M. Why was/were the case(s) opened for services?			
☐ Physical abuse	☐ Abandonment	☐ Domestic violence in child's	
☐ Sexual abuse	Mental/physical health of parent	home	
☐ Emotional maltreatment	Mental/physical health of child	☐ Child in juvenile justice system	
□ Neglect (not including medical	☐ Substance abuse by parent(s)	☐ Other (specify)	
neglect)	☐ Child's behavior		
☐ Medical neglect	☐ Substance abuse by child		

Question M Instructions:

Indicate the reason(s) for case opening(s) by selecting all that apply. Consider all cases open during the period under review. The reason for case opening should be based on whatever information is available in the case record and from interviews that identifies why the agency opened the case. This would include the maltreatment type that was substantiated or resulted in case opening and it could also include other information that informed the agency's decision to open the case. If "other" was checked as a reason the case was opened for services, the circumstances and reason must be very clearly documented in the narrative.

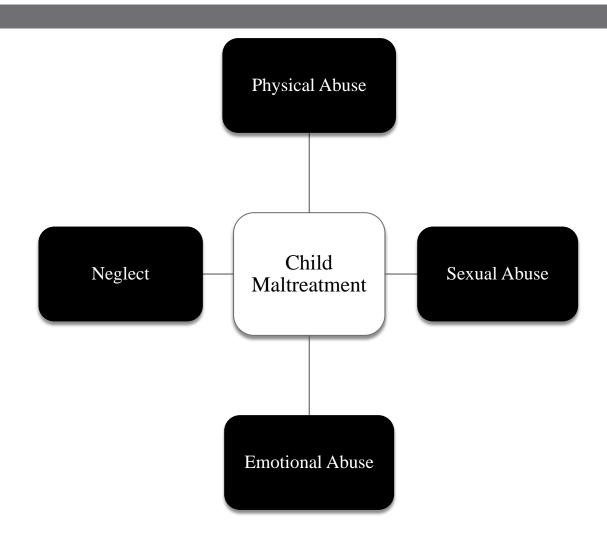
CFSR: Onsite Review Instrument

M. Why was/were the case(s) opened for services?			
☐ Physical abuse	☐ Abandonment	□ Domestic violence in child's	
☐ Sexual abuse	☐ Mental/physical health of parent	home	
 Emotional maltreatment 	☐ Mental/physical health of child	☐ Child in juvenile justice system	
Neglect (not including medical	☐ Substance abuse by parent(s)	☐ Other (specify)	
neglect)	☐ Child's behavior		
☐ Medical neglect	☐ Substance abuse by child		

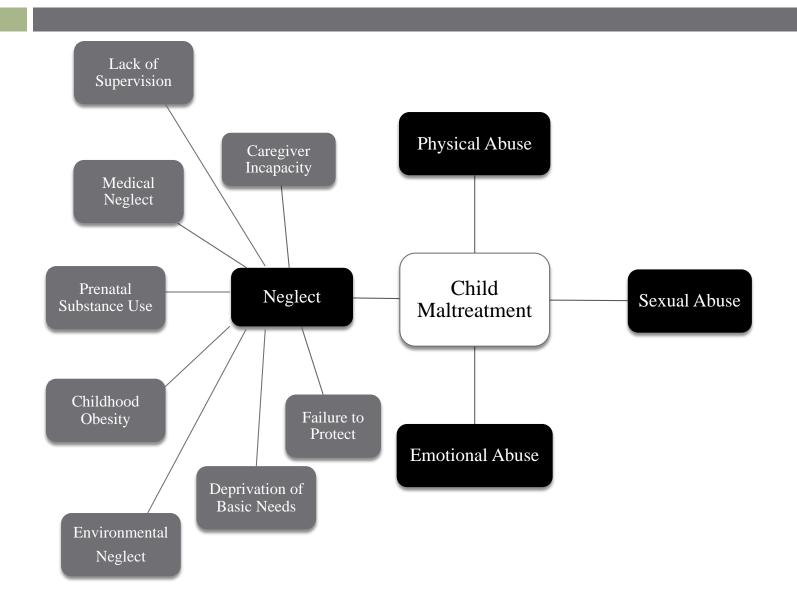
Question M Instructions:

Indicate the reason(s) for case opening(s) by selecting all that apply. Consider all cases open during the period under review. The reason for case opening should be based on whatever information is available in the case record and from interviews that identifies why the agency opened the case. This would include the maltreatment type that was substantiated or resulted in case opening and it could also include other information that informed the agency's decision to open the case. If "other" was checked as a reason the case was opened for services, the circumstances and reason must be very clearly documented in the narrative.

Why was the case opened for service?

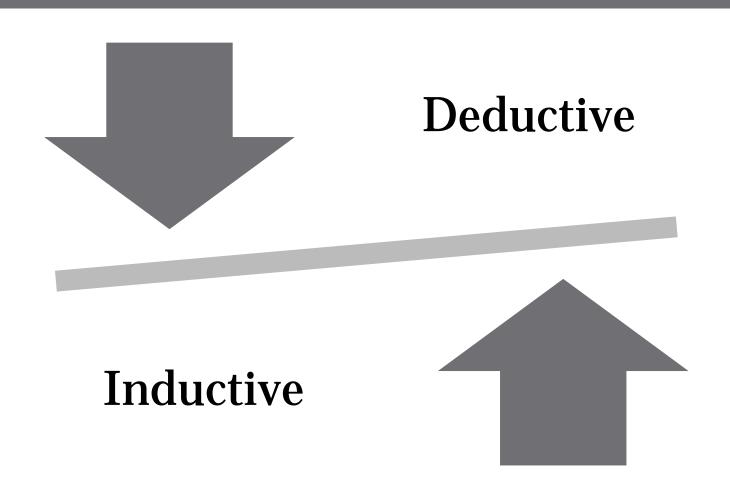


Why was the case opened for service?





Deductive & Inductive



When to Use Qualitative Data-Mining?

- You seek information about something not captured in categorical/quantitative data
- □ You are exploring a topic about which little is known
- You wish to get inside the "black box" of practice, programs, and interventions
- You have reached an impasse in explaining or understanding with quantitative data alone
- □ You wish to study complex processes

Qualitative Data-Mining in Practice

The Child Welfare Qualitative Data-Mining Project

A Practice-Research Partnership





Berkeley Social Welfare



You are exploring a topic about which little is known

How do workers respond to allegations of CEDV?

Child Abuse & Neglect 86 (2018) 79-88





Exposure to domestic violence as abuse and neglect: Constructions of child maltreatment in daily practice



Colleen Henry

Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, City University of New York, 2180 3rd Avenue, New York, NY, United States

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Child welfare
Child exposure to domestic violence
Co-occurrence
Qualitative data-mining
Administrative data

ABSTRACT

Research finds that exposure to domestic violence can adversely affect the emotional, behavioral, and physical health of children. These effects have led some child advocates and policymakers in the United States to conclude that child exposure to domestic violence (CEDV) is a type of child maltreatment warranting state intervention. However, few states have defined CEDV as a type of maltreatment in statute and little is known about how child welfare agencies respond to allegations of CEDV in the absence of other safety threats. This study considers that CEDV itself might prompt an initial child welfare referral and may be construed by workers as a type of statutory maltreatment. Using a random sample (n = 295) of case records, this study analyzed one large child welfare agency's response to referrals alleging CEDV between 2011 and 2012. Findings indicate that CEDV itself did trigger investigation. At time of referral, workers used statutory maltreatment typologies to construe alleged CEDV as a type of maltreatment; however CEDV was not consistently construed as a safety threat and few allegations were substantiated Instead most families were referred to community-based domestic violence services. Findings indicate that CEDV was not consistently construed as a type of statutory maltreatment and infrequently resulted in ongoing child welfare services. Findings suggest that training is needed to help workers better assess CEDV-related safety threats. Findings also raise questions about what types of interventions are needed to protect children from domestic violence and which types of agencies are best positioned to deliver those interventions.

1. Introduction

In recent years increased attention has been given to how domestic vidence adversely impacts children. It is estimated that between 16–25% of American children are exposed to domestic violence during childhood [Riskelbn, Turner, Shattack, & Hamby, 2015; McDonald, Jourille, Ramisetty-Milder, Caetano, & Green, 2006). Researchers find that children exposed to this type of violence exhibit higher rates of emotional, behavioral, and physical health problems (Evans, Davies, & Ditillo, 2008; Relitti et al., 1998; Hoit, Buckley, & Whelan, 2008; Mirzmann, Gaybord, Hoit, & Kenny, 2003, and are at greater risk for child maltreatment than their non-exposed peers (Edisson, 1995; English et al., 2009; Sosfáxy, 2003). These findings have led some to conclude that child exposure to domestic violence (CEDV) – the seeing, hearing, experiencing, or witnessing the aftermath of domestic violence—is a form of child maltreatment warranting public intervention. To date, few states in the U.S. define CEDV as a type of child maltreatment in law continued to the continued of the continue

E-mail address: colleen.henry@hunter.cuny.edu.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.08.018
Received 3 May 2018; Received in revised form 18 July 2018; Accepted 22 August 2018
0145-2134/ © 2018 Elsevier I.d. All rights reserved.



Henry, C. 2018. Exposure to domestic violence as abuse and neglect: Constructions of child maltreatment in daily practice. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 86, 79-99. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.08.018

Art: Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse.

You wish to get inside the "black box" of practice, programs, and interventions

How do workers make the case that substance use is a threat to child safety?

Children and Youth Services Review 93 (2018) 69-78



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Children and Youth Services Review

journal homepage; www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth



Parental substance use: How child welfare workers make the case for court



Colleen Henry ",", Nicole Liner-Jigamian ", Sarah Carnochan ", Sarah Taylor Carnochan ", Michael J. Austin "

- "Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, City University of New York, 2180 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10035, USA
- School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, 20 Hayland Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7400, USA Department of Social Work, California State University, East Bay, 25900 Carlos Bee Boulevard, Hayward, CA 94542, USA

ABSTRACT

Parental substance use (PSU) is a factor in many child welfare cases; however, little is known about how child welfare agencies and their workers make the case to juvenile or family courts that PSU-related acts and omissions are harmful to children. This qualitative data-mining study explores the ways in which child welfare workers draw on child maltreatment statutes, risk assessment tools, and practice guidelines to frame evidence and make the case that PSU is harmful or poses a substantial risk of harm to children. Narrative data were extracted from child welfare court reports located in electronic case records from two California counties Analysis revealed that workers cited multiple sources and types of evidence to make the case that, due to substance use, parents had failed to protect their children from harm or risk of harm and/or had failed to provide for their children's basic needs. Moreover, workers noted that these failures constituted neglect under California law. In addition, similarities and differences emerged within and across counties in how workers made the case that children were in need of protection, which suggested that state and local policy-practice guidelines influenced the structure of court reports and arguments made for state intervention. Implications for policy and practice are discussed and recommendations for future research are identified

1. Introduction

Substance misuse is a widespread social problem in the United States. The 2012-2013 National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions found that 29.1% of adults experience a diagnosable alcohol use disorder (Grant et al., 2015) and 9.9% of adults experience a diagnosable drug use disorder (Grant et al., 2016) at some point in their lifetime. Substance misuse among parents has been shown to disrupt family stability and cohesion (Ryan & Huang, 2014; Ryan, Marsh, Testa, & Louderman, 2006) and affect children's short- and longterm physical and emotional health and cognitive development (Bountress & Chassin, 2015; Felitti et al., 1998; Smith & Wilson, 2016). Studies have found that parental substance misuse can adversely affect parents' ability to meet their children's basic needs (Hayward, DePanfilis, & Woodruff, 2010; Suchman, Pajulo, DeCoste, & Mayes, 2006) and that children whose parents use subtances are at elevated risk of child maltreatment (Berger, Slack, Waldfogel, & Bruch, 2010; Staton-Tindall, Sprang, Clark, Walker, & Craig, 2013). Moreover, each year an estimated 400,000 infants are affected by prenatal exposure to substances (Young et al., 2009). These prenatal exposures can lead to a range of developmental and behavioral outcomes (varying from none to severe) based on the type of prenatal exposure and the duration and timing of that exposure (Behnke & Smith, 2013; Frank, Augustyn, Knight, Pell, & Zuckerman, 2001; Lambert & Bauer, 2012; McQueen &

How child welfare systems should respond to parental substance use, and the impact of parental substance use on infants and children, has been the subject of extensive debate. Concerns in the late 1980s about prenatal exposure to crack cocaine and the potential effect of the crack epidemic on children pushed state and federal legislators to adopt new laws that criminalized prenatal and parental substance use (Gustavsson, 1991; Hacking, 1991; Korn, 2016), Worries about parental use of methamphetamine in the first decade of the 21st century and the impact of the opioid crisis on children in more recent years have again encouraged federal and state lawmakers to enact new criminal and child welfare statutes regarding the use, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances by parents (Guttmacher Institute, 2017; Korn, 2016; Price et al., 2012; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017; Weber, 2006).

Despite decades of concern, few states have explicitly defined par ental substance use (PSU) itself as a type of child maltreatment war ranting dependency; however, nearly all states now incorporate language about PSU into their child maltreatment statutes (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016; U.S. Department of Health, & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2018). Terms such as substance and/or drug misuse or abuse are used in statutory language to convey legislative concerns related to parental use, dependence, and addiction and the resulting impact on children. Review of state statutes



Corresponding author.

E-mail address: colleen.henry@hunter.cuny.edu (C. Henry).

Received 26 January 2018; Received in revised form 3 July 2018; Accepted 5 July 2018

Available online 05 July 2018

0190-7409/ © 2018 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved

You have reached an impasse in explaining or understanding with quantitative data alone

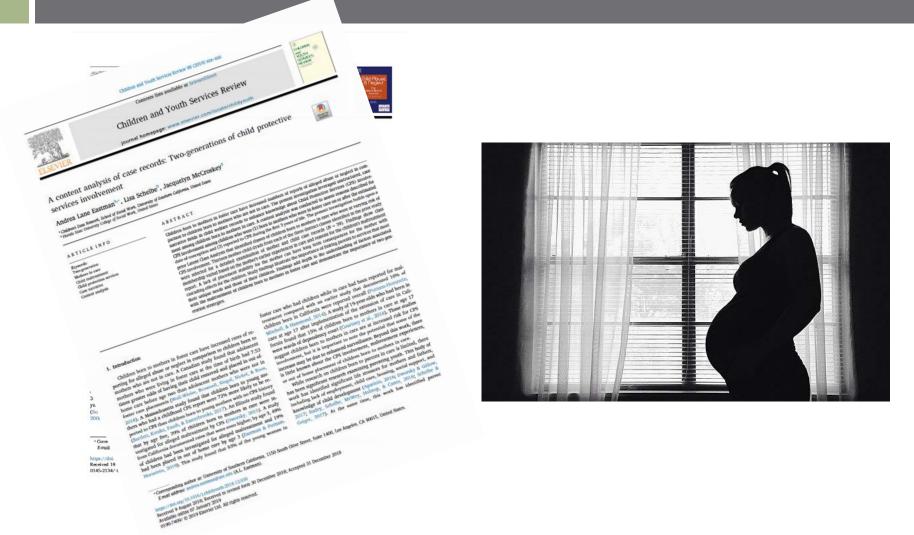
Are some children born to mothers in care at higher risk for child welfare involvement than others?





Eastman, A.L. & Putnam-Hornstein, E. (2019). An examination of child protective service involvement among children born to mothers in foster care. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 88, 31—325. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.11.002

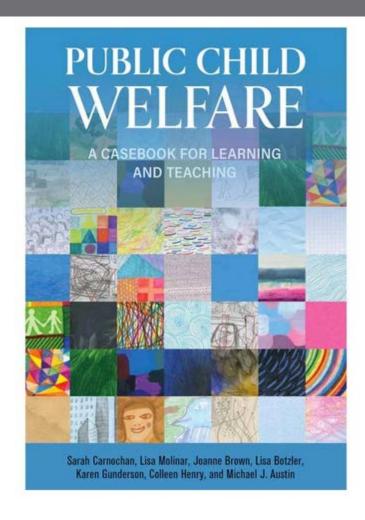
Why are some children born to mothers in care at higher risk for child welfare involvement than others?



Eastman, A.L. Schelbe, L. & McCroskey, J. (2019). A content of analysis of case records: Two-generations of child protective services involvement. *Children & Youth Services Review*, 99, 308—318. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.12.030

Qualitative Data-Mining for Training

Qualitative Data-Mining for Training

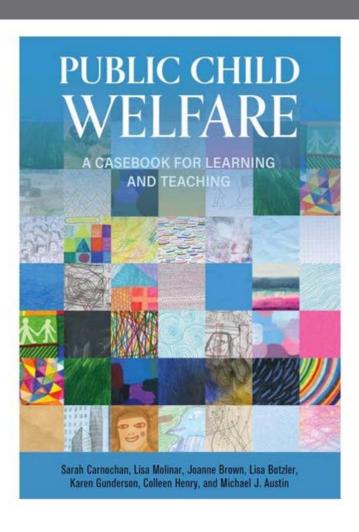


Carnochan, S. Molinar, L. Brown, J., Botzler, L., Gunderson, K., Henry, C. & Austin, M. (2018). *Public child welfare: A casebook for learning and teaching*. USA: Cognella Henry, C., Carnochan, S., & Austin, M. (2017).

In Summary

- Utilizes existing data to better understand and enhance agency practice
- □ Fosters new knowledge about client populations and emerging problems
- □ Generates new knowledge about practice, case complexity, and the factors underlying system outcomes
- Compliments and enhances the CQI process
- Contributes to continuous learning about practice & outcomes

Qualitative Data-Mining Resources



Using Qualitative Data-Mining for Practice Research in Child Welfare

Colleen Henry Hunter College, City University of New York

Sarah Carnochan University of California, Berkeley

Michael J. Austin University of California, Berkeley Qualitative data-mining (QDM), using the narrative data contained in child welfare case records, enables researchers to examine child welfare practice using relatively non-intrusive methods. QDM can increase our understanding of client populations and problems, child welfare worker actions, and case complexity. This paper reports on experiences from the Child Welfare Qualitative Data-Mining Project; outlines a seven-step guide to QDM methods; and describes how

QDM can be used to enhance child welfare practice, research, and education.

Questions?

Thank You colleen.henry@hunter.cuny.edu