

Reading the Record

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

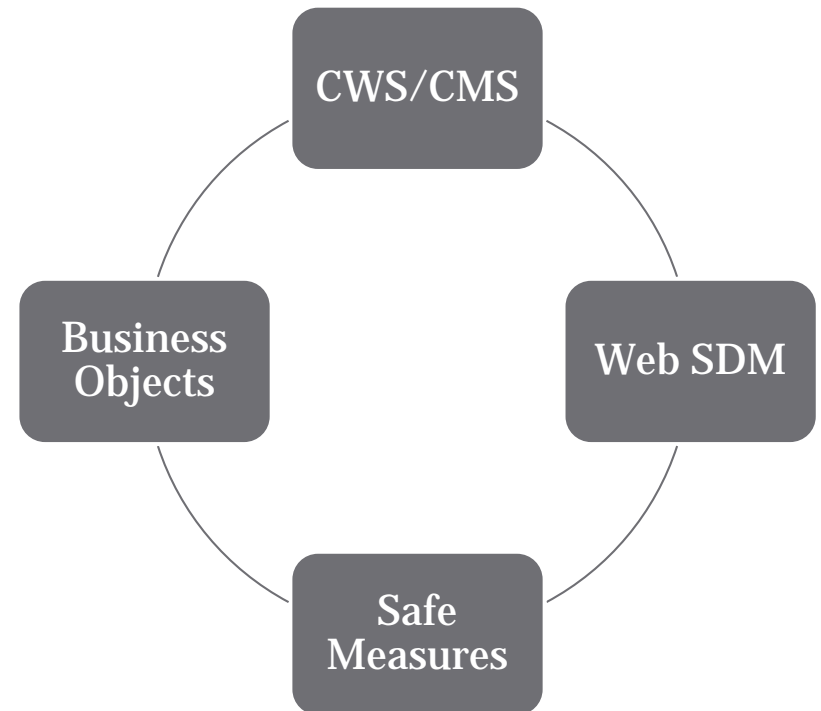
Colleen Henry, MSW, PhD
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City University of New York

CQI Statewide Conference for Child Welfare and Probation

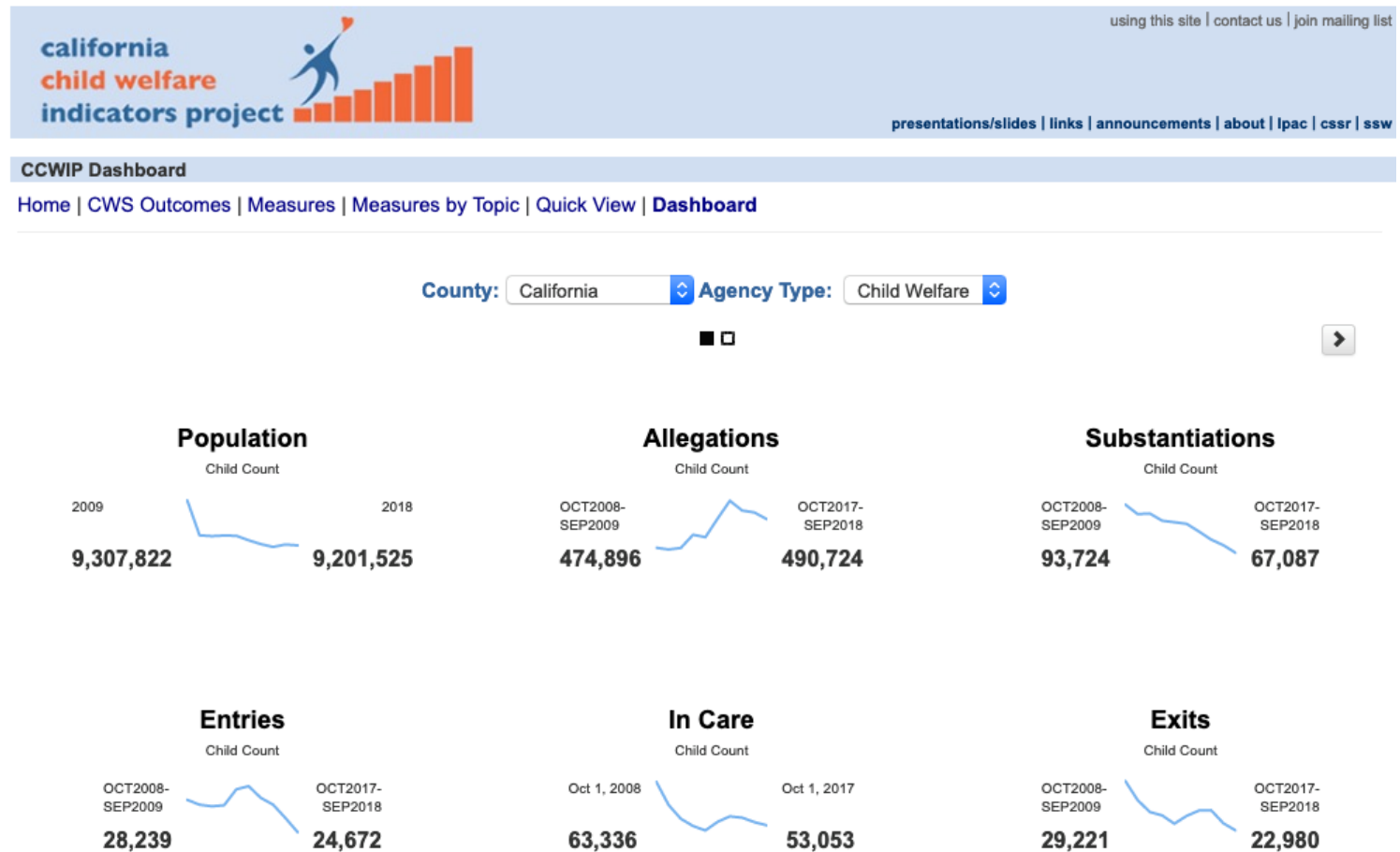
March 27, 2018



Administrative Data



Quantitative Data-Mining



Qualitative Data-Mining



Children & Family Services Reviews

CFSR: Onsite Review Instrument

M. Why was/were the case(s) opened for services?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment | <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence in child's home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental/physical health of parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Child in juvenile justice system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional maltreatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental/physical health of child | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect (not including medical neglect) | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse by parent(s) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> Child's behavior | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

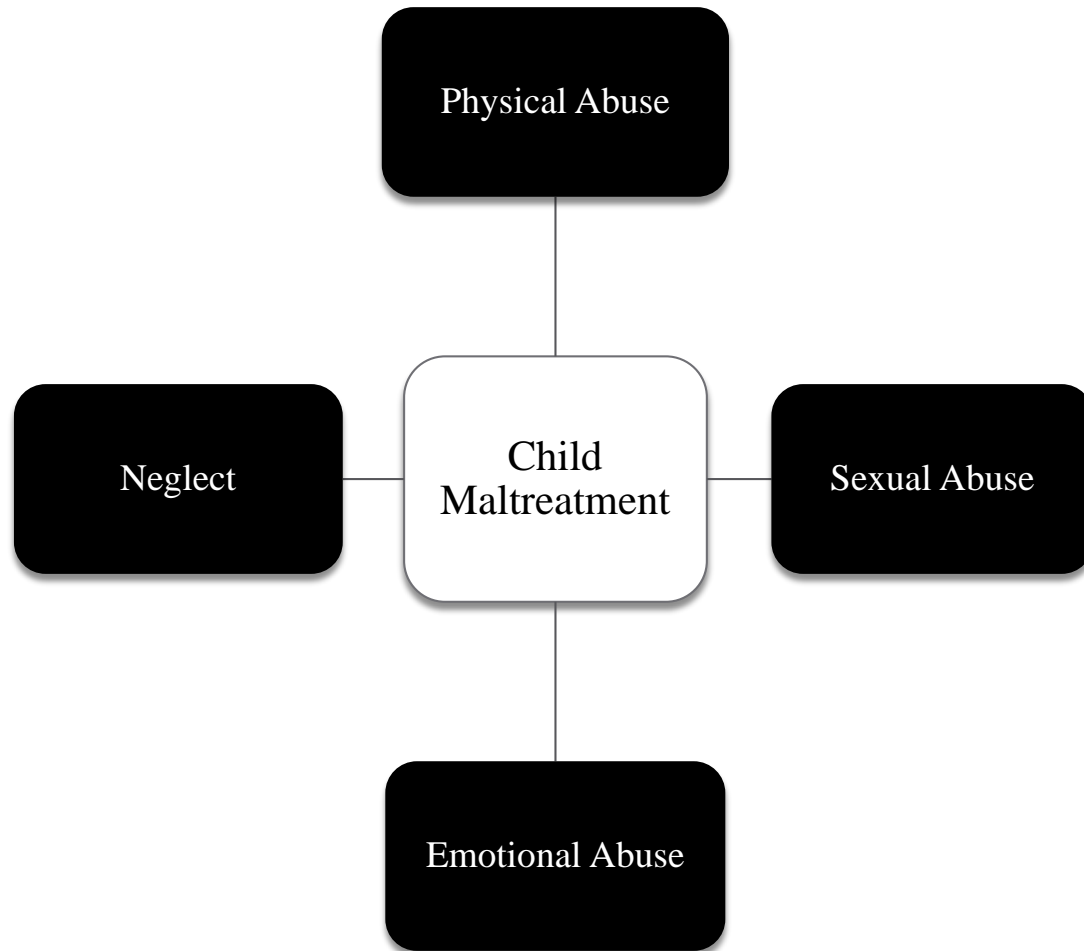
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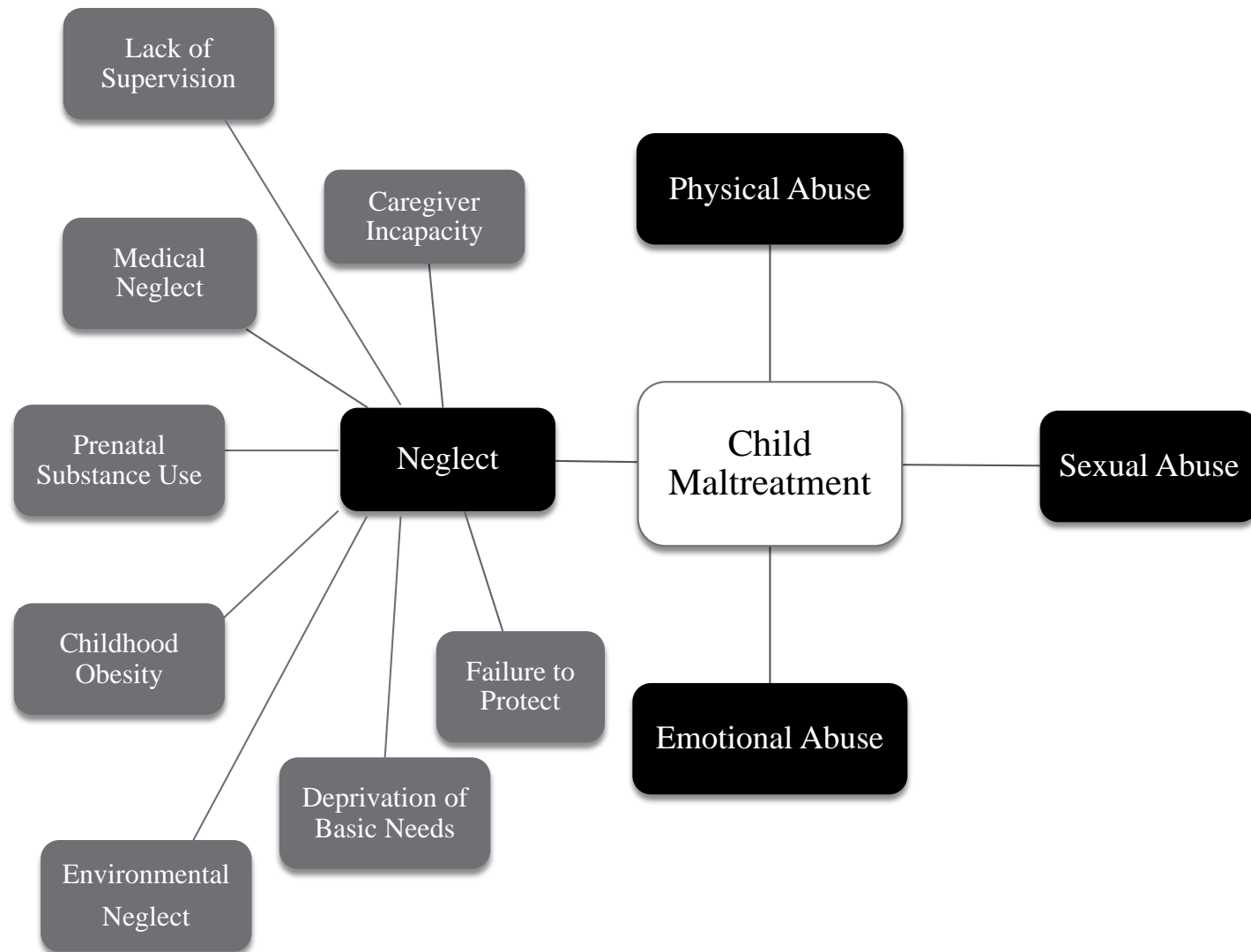
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Why was the case opened for service?



Why was the case opened for service?





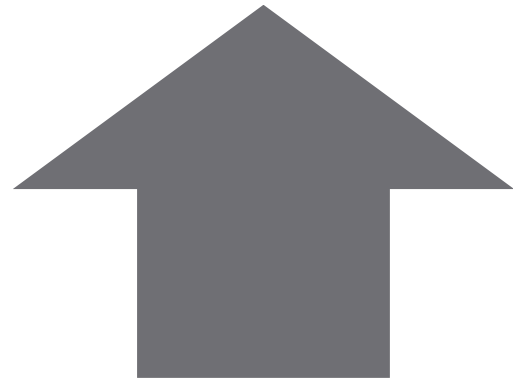
Deductive & Inductive



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



Silberman
School of Social Work

HUNTER

Berkeley Social Welfare

Mack Center

You are exploring a topic about which
little is known

How do workers respond to allegations of CEDV?



1. Introduction

In recent years increased attention has been given to how domestic violence adversely impacts children. It is estimated that between 16–25% of American children are exposed to domestic violence during childhood (Pinkelhor, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby, 2015; McDonald, Jouriles, Ramisetty-Mikler, 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, & Dilillo, 2008; Felitti et al., 1998; Holt, Buckley, & Whelan, 2008; Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt, & Kenny, 2003), and are at greater risk for child maltreatment than their non-exposed peers (Edleson, 1999; English et al., 2009; Osofsky, 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 (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016); however, it is thought that child welfare workers (hereafter *workers*) sometimes use existing child maltreatment statutes to construe CEDV as a type of child abuse or neglect (Cooley, 2007; Henry, 2017; Kantor & Little, 2003).

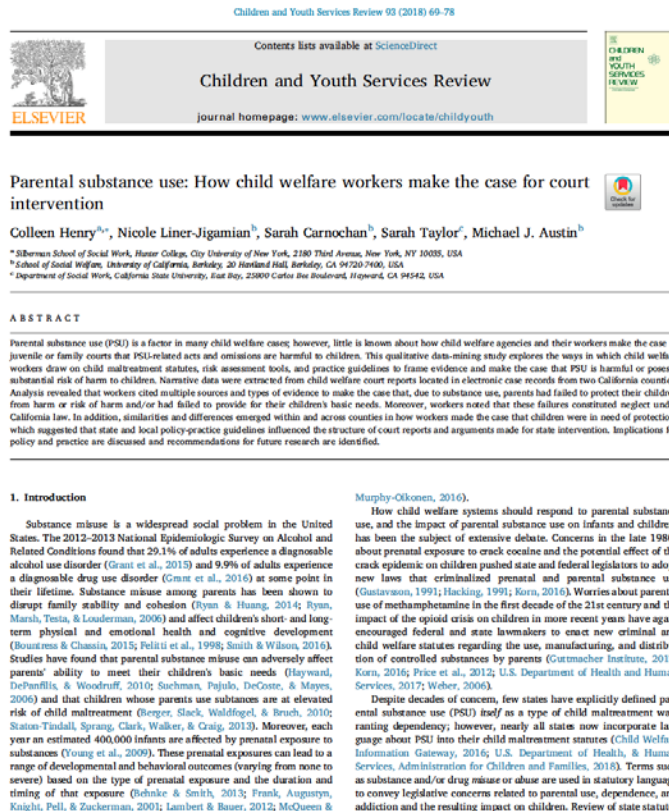
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You wish to get inside the
“black box” of practice, programs,
and interventions

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



Henry, C. Liner-Jigamian, N., Carnochan, S., Taylor, S., & Austin, M. (2018). Parental substance use: How child welfare workers make the case for court intervention. *Children & Youth Services Review*, 93, 69–78. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.07.003>

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>

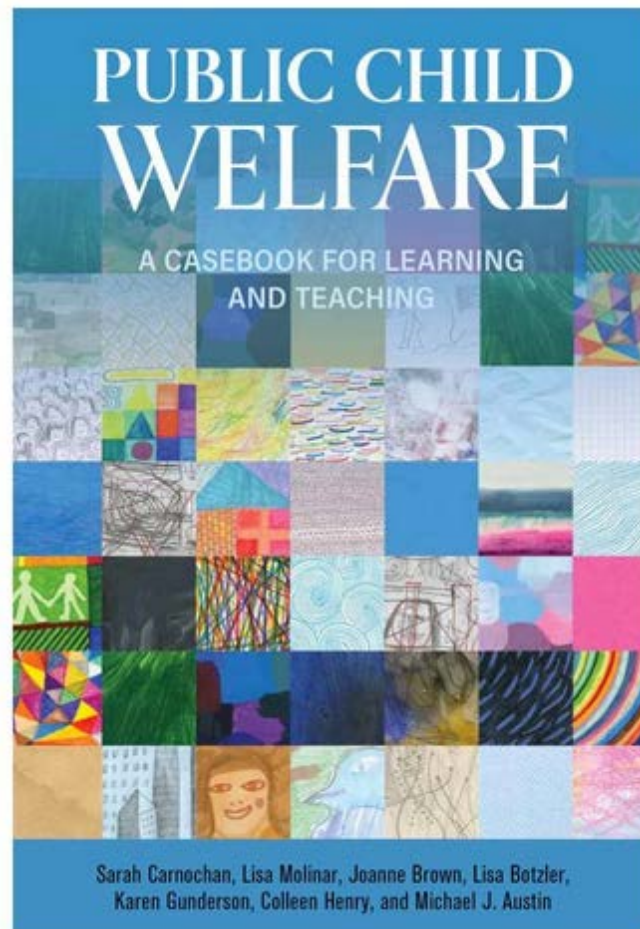
Why are some children born to mothers in care at higher risk for child welfare involvement than others?



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.childev.2018.12.030>

Qualitative Data-Mining for Training

Qualitative Data-Mining for Training

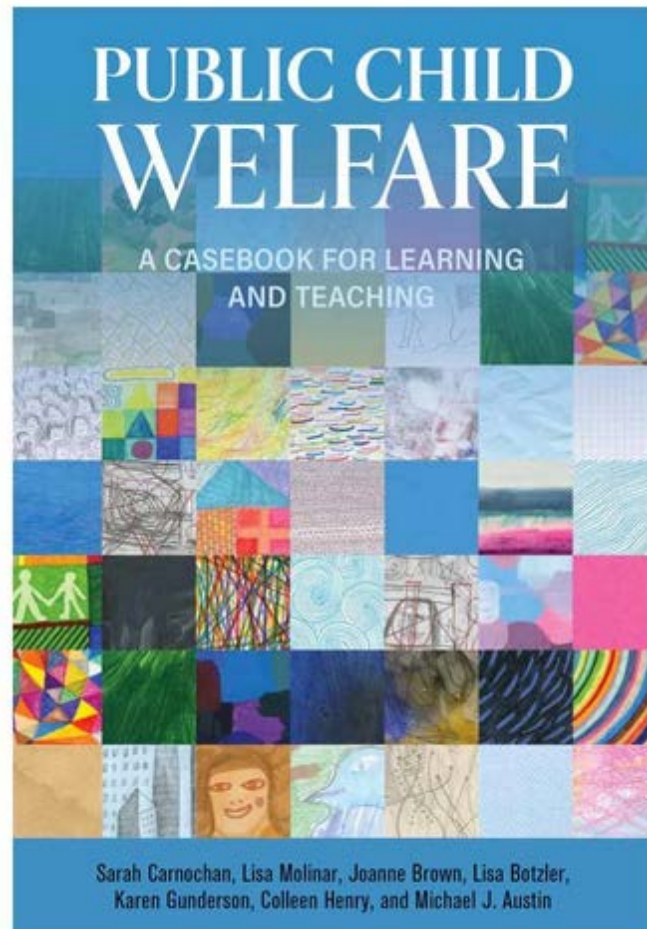


Carnochan, S. Molinar, L. Brown, J., Botzler, L., Gunderson, K., Henry, C. & Austin, M. (2018). *Public child welfare: A casebook for learning and teaching*. USA: Cognella
Henry, C., Carnochan, S., & Austin, M. (2017).

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

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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

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