

The paper identifies significant gaps in the current data collection regarding re-entry and services. By highlighting these issues, it lays the groundwork for future research and policy initiatives aimed at preventing re-entries, which is crucial for improving child welfare systems.

The title of the article is timely and relevant, addressing a significant issue in child welfare.

The study offers a broad perspective by integrating state surveys with publicly available data, which helps create a more comprehensive understanding of reunification outcomes. This approach can enhance the depth of analysis and provide valuable insights for multiple stakeholders.

The identification of gaps in data collection regarding re-entry and related services is a crucial point. Recognizing these gaps is the first step toward improving the system and ensuring that families receive the support they need.

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Specific Comments:

This paper tackles a vital and timely issue in child welfare: the connection between trial home visits (THVs) and foster care re-entry in the U.S. By integrating data from diverse sources, including state surveys and publicly accessible information, the authors present a thorough overview that addresses a significant gap in current literature.

The results establish a strong foundation for understanding the impact of THVs on re-entry rates, emphasizing the need for enhanced data collection and reporting practices. The recognition of varying THV policies across states highlights the importance of standardized definitions and procedures, which could significantly improve the effectiveness of child welfare initiatives.

Additionally, the suggestions for improved data integration, such as longitudinal studies that connect key datasets like AFCARS and NCANDS, are crucial for advancing research and policy initiatives. This paper not only offers valuable insights to the academic field but also provides practical recommendations for policymakers and practitioners aiming to enhance outcomes for families within the child welfare system.

The authors' exploration of the intricacies of re-entry, along with their proposals for improving service delivery, positions this study as an essential resource for ongoing discourse in child welfare. Overall, the paper deserves publication due to its innovative methodology, pertinent findings, and actionable suggestions that can lead to substantial advancements in child welfare practices.