



Children *and* Family
Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Children with Chronic Health Conditions in Foster Care: Differences in Health Care Service Utilization by Placement

SSWR 2013

Jesse J. Helton & Theodore P. Cross

January 19th, 2013



Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CCHC)

- Children entering foster care at a high risk for CCHC
- These conditions require more intensive health care, rehabilitation, and developmental services
- Routine care also critical to tracking child wellness



Health Care Utilization

- CCHC are less likely to receive health care services compared to children without chronic health conditions
- Children in foster care less likely to receive necessary health services
 - 12% did not receive routine care
 - 32% had some of health care needs unmet (GAO 1995)



Hypotheses

1. CCHC in foster care will utilize routine and acute care at lower rates than children without chronic health conditions.
2. CCHC in kinship foster care will utilize routine and acute care services at lower rates than CCHC in traditional foster care.



Methods

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing

Wave 1: March 2008 to September 2009

Wave 2: October 2009 to January 2011

Substantiated and unsubstantiated allegations

Open and closed cases following investigation

Only youth in family foster care at W1 interview

N=1886



Measures

Health Care Utilization

- Routine care
- Acute care
- Unable to get services needed

CCHC

- Caregiver reported

Placement

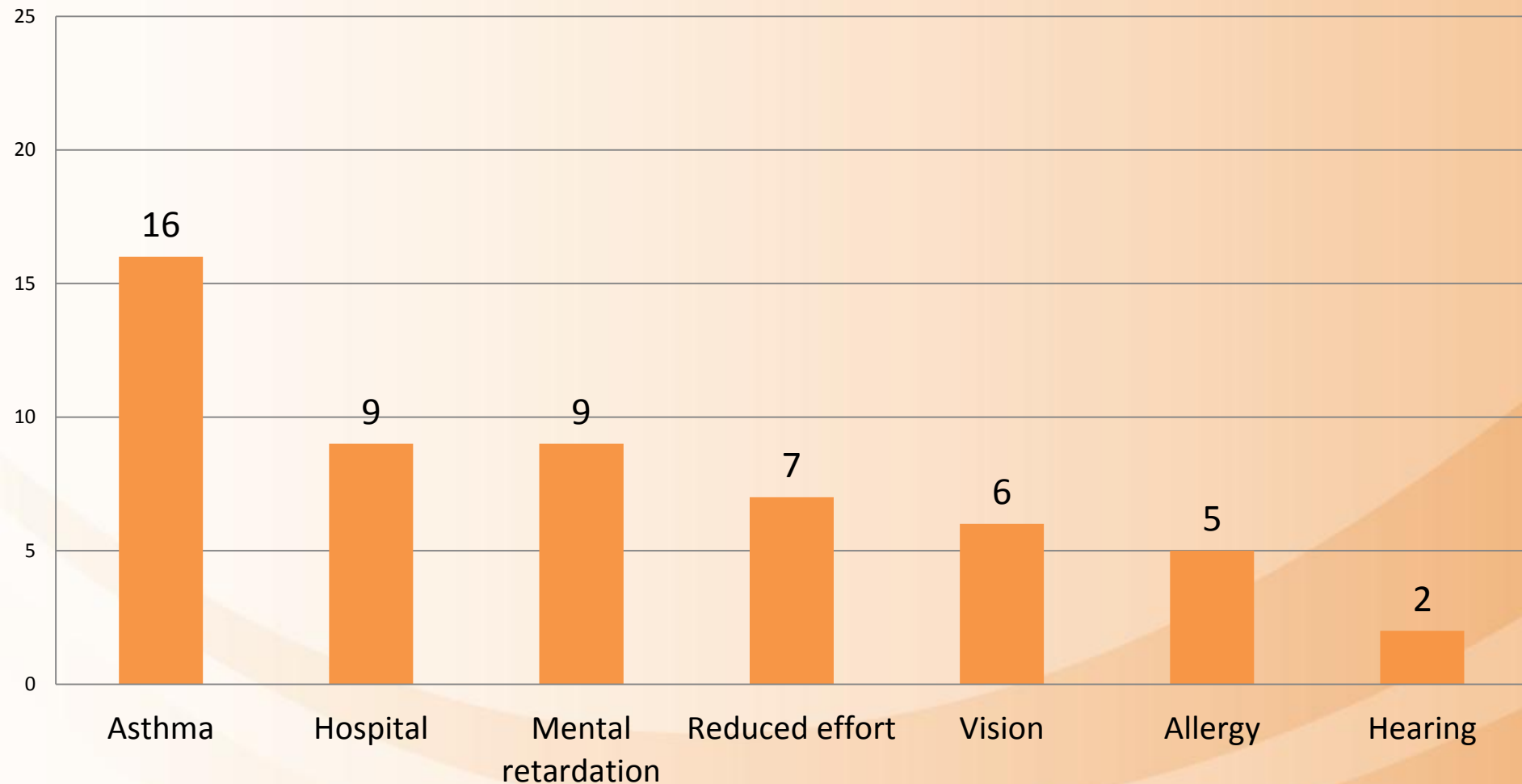
- Kinship or non-kinship care (traditional)



Results

- 32% CCHC

Chronic Health Conditions





Routine Care

| | Wave1 | | | Wave2 | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Kin</u> | <u>Nonkin</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Kin</u> | <u>Nonkin</u> |
| Well-child | | | | | | |
| CHC | 67% | 70% | 60% | 52% | 51% | 56% |
| No | 46% | 41% | 53% | 53% | 52% | 60% |
| Dentist | | | | | | |
| CHC | 72% | 73% | 69% | 72% | 68% | 90% |
| No | 53% | 51% | 56% | 75% | 73% | 86% |
| Immunization | | | | | | |
| CHC | 97% | 99% | 92% | 99% | 98% | 100% |
| No | 97% | 97% | 97% | 99% | 99% | 100% |



Acute Care

| | Wave1 | | | Wave2 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Kin</u> | <u>Nonkin</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Kin</u> | <u>Nonkin</u> |
| ER/Urgent Care | | | | | | |
| CHC | 29% | 33% | 21% | 33% | 33% | 32% |
| No | 15% | 18% | 11% | 22% | 22% | 22% |
| Hospitalization | | | | | | |
| CHC | 12% | 11% | 11% | 7% | 6% | 12% |
| No | 2% | 2% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 5% |
| Unable to get service | | | | | | |
| CHC | 9% | 4% | 18% | 2% | 1% | 7% |
| No | 5% | 5% | 6% | 4% | 2% | 7% |



Conclusions

CCHC health care use compared to non-CCHC:

- Larger proportion reported well child visits
- Larger proportion reported dental visit
- Larger proportion reported ER and urgent care visit

CCHC in kin care health care use compared to CCHC in nonkin care:

- Smaller proportion reported dental visit (Wave 2)
- Larger proportion immunized
- Smaller proportion reported a hospitalization (Wave 2)
- Smaller proportion reported unable to get services



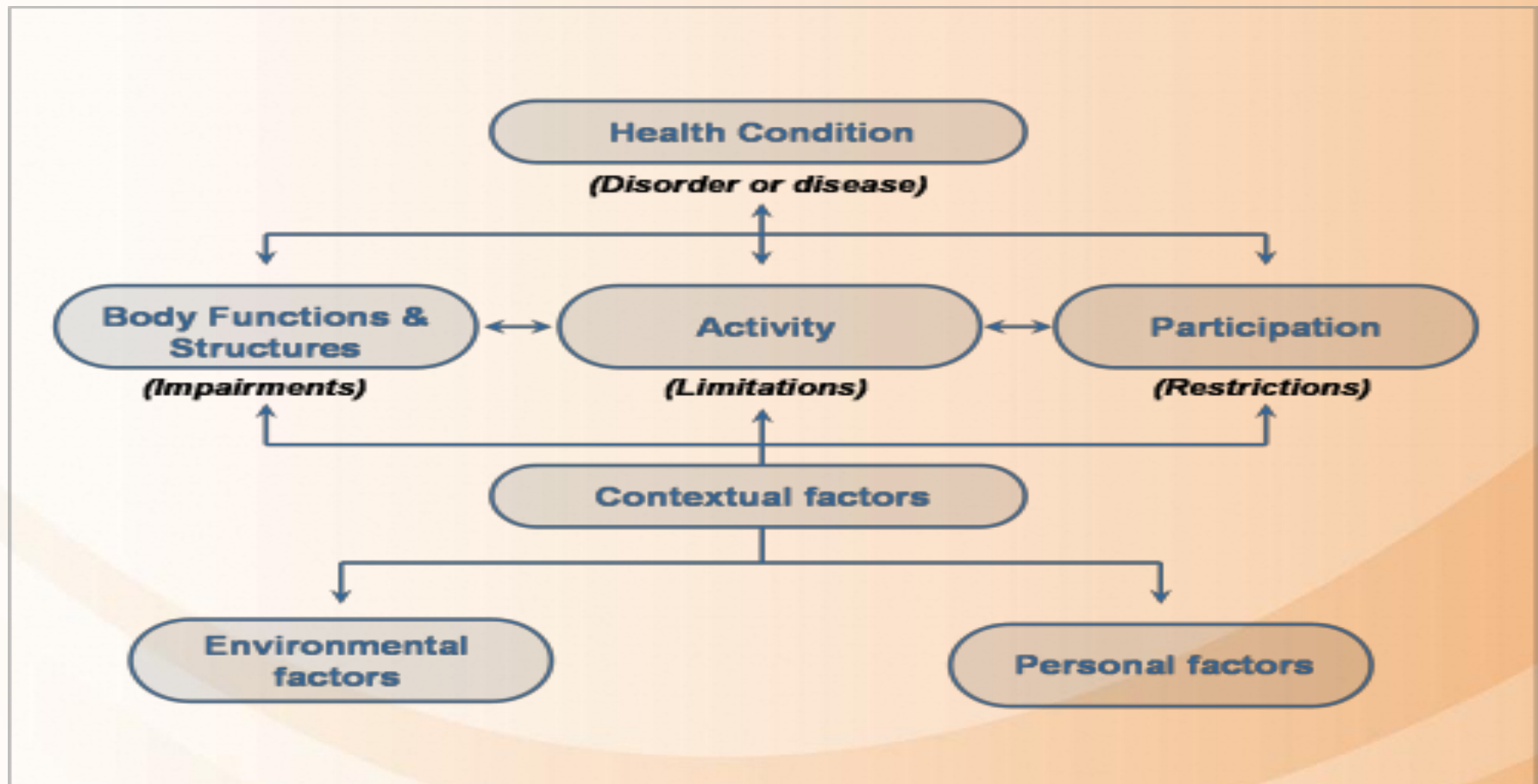
Limitations

- Questionable report of service use and need
- Change of caregiver at Wave 2 was not controlled
- Did not compare differences in utilization by specific condition
- Did not compare differences in health conditions or health care utilization by developmental age



Implications

Unmet service need impacts child wellbeing





Contact information

Jesse J. Helton

jhelton2@illinois.edu

Ted P. Cross

tpcross@illinois.edu