
Crossover Youth: How to Define, Understand, and Support

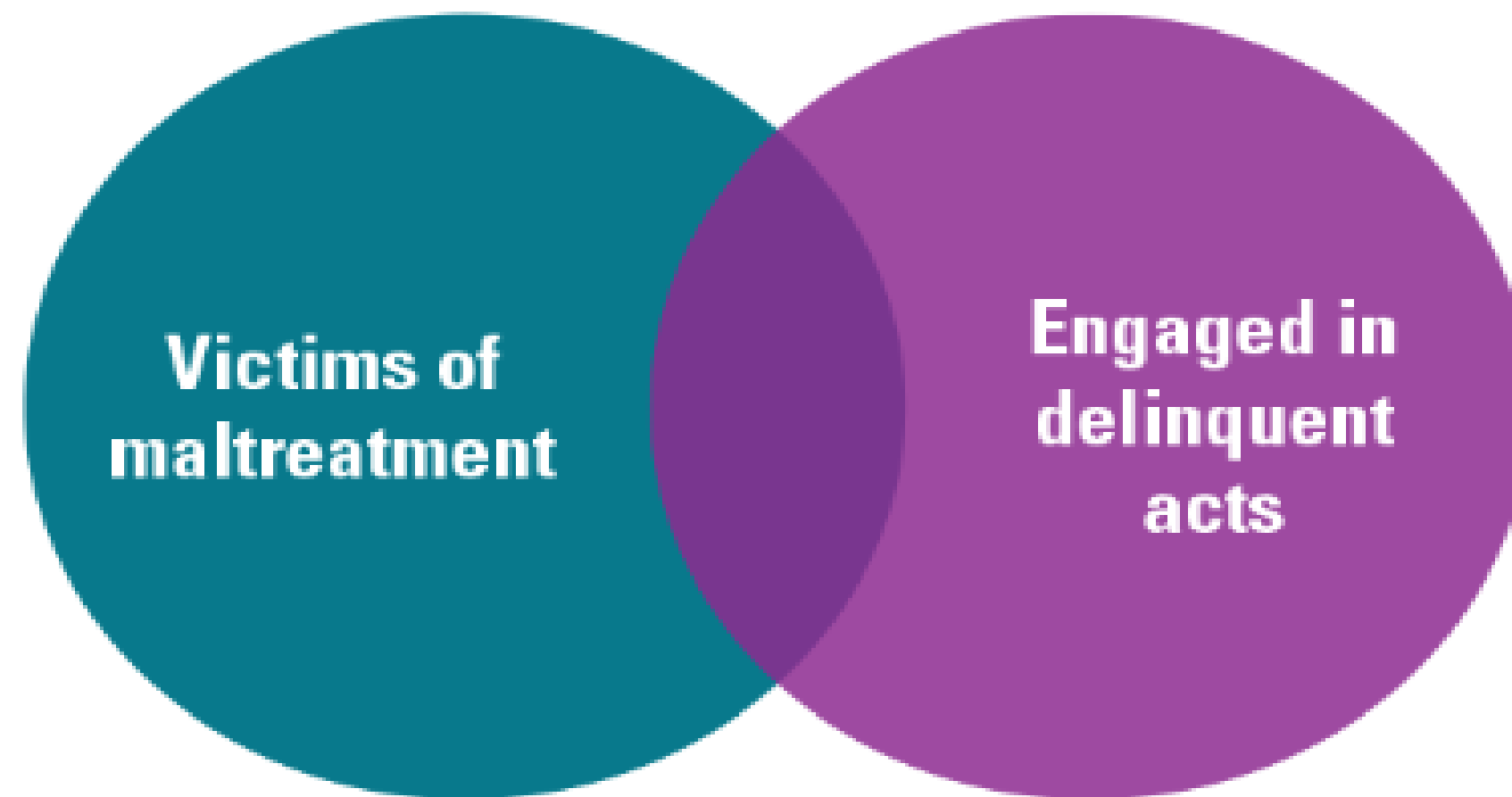
Tow Youth Justice Institute

Monday April 20, 2026

How do you define "crossover youth"?

Crossover Youth

Youth who are ...



Dual System Youth

Crossover youth touch both the ...

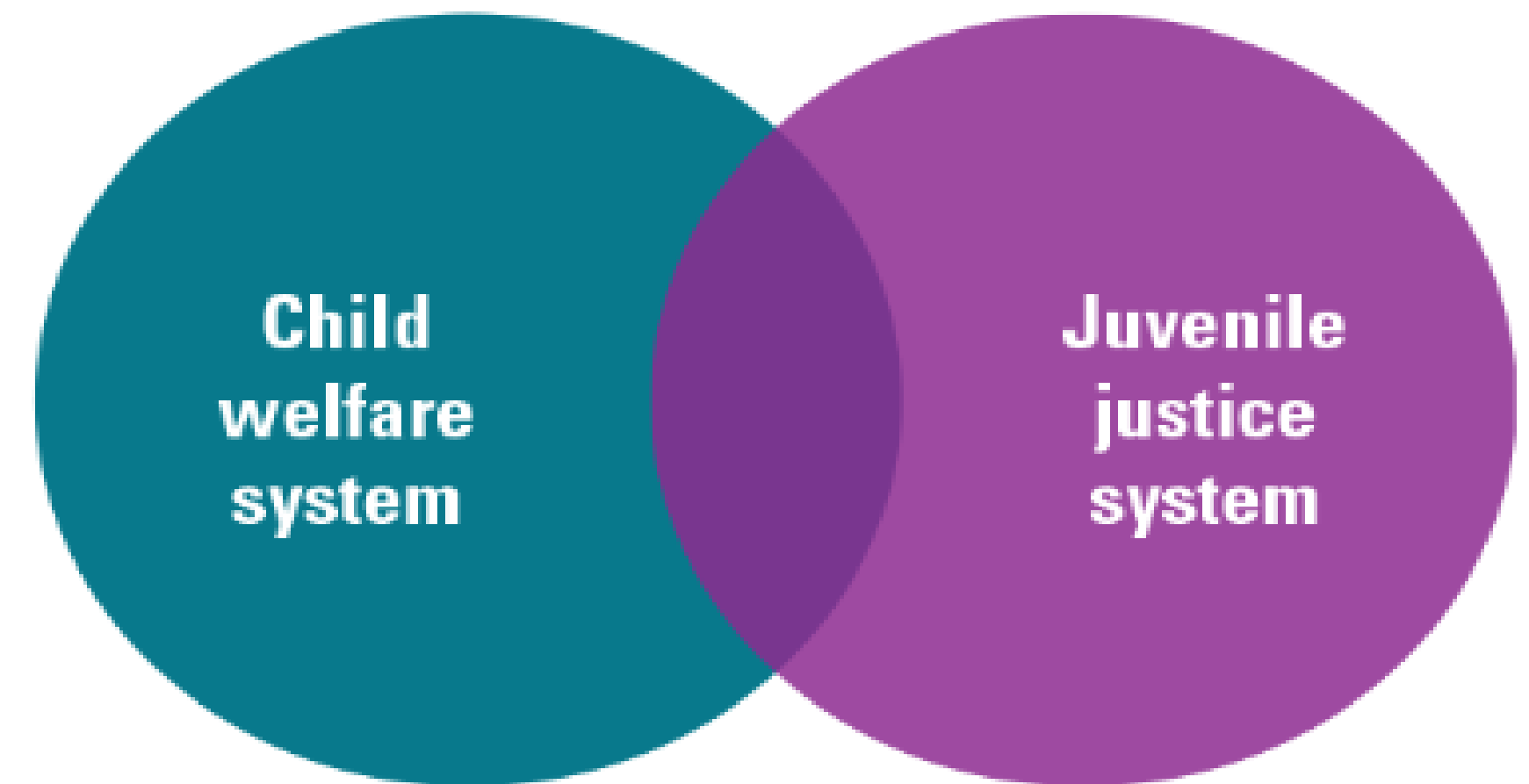


Exhibit 1. Distinguishing Key Terms

Source: Denise C. Herz, "Key Findings from the OJJDP Dual System Youth Design Study," presentation to the Federal Interagency Working Group on Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington, DC, July 2019.

Other terms:

Dual Status/Dual System: Youth with prior or current involvement in both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system

Dual-contact: Youth who's contact in both systems is nonconcurrent

Dually-involved: Youth that are involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system concurrently.

Dually Adjudicated: Youth who are currently involved in the child welfare system and adjudicated in the juvenile justice system

Dually Identified: Youth currently involved in the juvenile justice system and have a history in the child welfare system, but no current involvement

Multisystem-involved: Youth who are concurrently involved in the child welfare, behavioral health, and/or juvenile justice system

An Overview of Pathways Leading to Identification as a Dually-Involved Youth

	Starting Point		Occurrence		Result
Pathway 1	Youth has an open child welfare case	→	Youth is arrested	→	Youth enters the delinquency system
Pathway 2	Youth is arrested	→	Youth has a previously closed child welfare case	→	Referral is made to child welfare
Pathway 3	Youth is arrested—no previous contact with child welfare	→	Upon investigation, maltreatment is discovered	→	Referral is made to child welfare
Pathway 4	Youth is arrested, adjudicated, and placed in a correctional placement	→	Time in correctional placement ends, but there is no safe home to return to	→	Referral to child welfare

From Denise Herz, Philip Lee, Lorrie Lutz, Macon Stewart, et. al., "Addressing the Needs of Multi-System Youth: Strengthening the Connection between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice" (Washington, DC: Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, March 2012), 3, <http://bit.ly/1jwO3mg>. Used with permission.

Universal Profile

Disproportionately
Black, Native
American, Female,
and/or LGBTQ+
youth

High levels
of behavioral
health needs

High levels
of recidivism

Deeper end
of both
systems

Universal Barriers and Issues

Lack of Universal
Definition

Cross System
Communication

Data &
Information
Sharing/Collection

Youth & Family
Engagement

How are Dual-Status Youth Issues Coordinated at the State Level?

State	Data sharing agreements	Standing Statewide DSY Committee/ Taskforce	Committees in multiple agencies	Formal interagency agreements	Informal interagency agreements	Statute requiring interagency collaboration	Court rule requiring interagency collaboration
<i>Separate centralized state departments</i>							
Connecticut	■		■	■	■	■	
Florida	■		■	■		■	■
Maine		■	■	■	■	■	
Maryland						■	
Massachusetts	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
South Carolina	■			■			■
Utah	■	■		■			

What is one key takeaway from the presentation today?

Recommendations

Need for universal
standard
definition

Create legislative terms and
definitions

Educate leaders and staff on the
terminology

Recommendations

Improved data
collection and
data sharing

Information sharing guides

Data and information sharing
agreements

Recommendations

Improved cross
agency
communication

Cross-system training

Service integration

Cross agency casework

Concluding Thoughts

Does Connecticut have shared identifiers to reliably identify crossover youth?

Is Connecticut coordinating services or transferring responsibility?

Moving forward, how will we track implementation efforts across systems?

Michaelangelo Palmieri, Senior Project Manager, Training and Technical Assistance

mtpalmieri@newhaven.edu

Eva Ott Hill, Project Coordinator, Training and Technical Assistance

eotthill@newhaven.edu

References

- Casey Family Programs. (2023, August 7). Is there an effective model for serving youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems? <https://www.casey.org/crossover-youth-practice-model/>
- Center for Coordinated Assistance to States and the American Institutes for Research (March 2023). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System Involvement*. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/library/publications/child-welfare-and-juvenile-justice-system-involvement>
- Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. (2021, February 22). What is the CYPM? <https://cjjr.georgetown.edu/our-work/crossover-youth-practice-model/what-is-the-cypm/>
- Development Services Group, Inc. (2021.) *Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems. Literature review*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews/Intersection-Juvenile-Justice-Child-Welfare-Systems>
- Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. (n.d.). JJIE hub: Key issues - dual status youth. <https://jjie.org/jjie-hub/dual-status-youth/key-issues/>
- Kelly, T. B., Haskins, A. P. (2021, August 10). *Dual System Youth: At the Intersection of Child Maltreatment and Delinquency*, National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/dual-system-youth-intersection-child-maltreatment-and-delinquency>
- Morgan, L. A. (2025). Administering Services for Dual System Youth: A Comparison of Processes Across Three Midwestern Jurisdictions. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(2), 282-310. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862251329649>
- National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (March 2025). State initiatives for dual system youth: A national scan. *National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges*. <https://www.ncjfcj.org/publications/infocus-state-initiatives-for-dual-system-youth-a-national-scan/>
- Flores, J., Hawes, J., Westbrook, A., & Henderson, C. (2018). Crossover youth and gender: What are the challenges of girls involved in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems?. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 91, 149-155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.05.031>