

Full fidelity wraparound for youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED)

Children's Mental Health: Serious Emotional Disturbance

Literature review updated July 2018.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

Program Description: Wraparound is an intensive, individualized care planning and management process for children with complex emotional and behavioral needs. Commonly, children are also diagnosed with one or more mental health disorders including: conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder, or anxiety disorder. During the wraparound process, a team of people who are relevant to the child or youth collaboratively develop an individualized plan of care, implement this plan, monitor the efficacy of the plan, and work towards success over time. The wraparound plan typically includes formal services and interventions, together with community services and interpersonal support and assistance provided by friends, kin, and other people drawn from the family's social networks. After the initial plan is developed, the team continues to meet to monitor progress and revise interventions and strategies when needed. Typically, families can be expected to receive case management for a minimum of eight weeks.

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect size and standard error			Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			ES	SE	Age	ES	p-value
Disruptive behavior disorder symptoms	4	166	-0.491	0.141	13	-0.491	0.001
Internalizing symptoms	4	166	-0.259	0.136	13	-0.259	0.056
Out-of-home placement	1	47	0.194	0.317	12	0.194	0.540
Permanent placement	1	54	0.418	0.219	15	0.418	0.056

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model. WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our [Technical Documentation](#).

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Clark, H.B., Prange, M.E., Lee, B., Stewart, E.S., McDonald, B.A., & Boyd, L.A. (1998) An individualized wraparound process for children in foster care with emotional/behavioral disturbances: follow-up findings and implications from a controlled study. In M. H. Epstein, K. Kutash, & A. Duchnowski (Eds.), *Outcomes for children and youth with emotional and behavioral disorders and their families: Programs and evaluation best practices* (pp. 513-542). Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.
- Evans, M. E., Armstrong, M. I., Kuppinger, A. D., Huz, S., & McNulty, T. L. (1998). Preliminary outcomes of an experimental study comparing treatment foster care and family-centered intensive case management. In M. H. Epstein, K. Kutash, & A. Duchnowski (Eds.), *Outcomes For Children And Youth With Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and Their Families: Programs and Evaluation Best Practices* (pp. 543-580). Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.
- Mears, S., Yaffe, J., & Harris, N. (2009). Evaluation of wraparound services for severely emotionally disturbed youths. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 19(6), 678-685.
- Rast, J., Bruns, E.J., Brown, E.C., & Peterson, C.R. (2007). *Wraparound for youth in child welfare custody: Results of a matched comparison study*. Unpublished program evaluation.
- Swenson, C.C., Randall, J., Henggeler, S.W., & Ward, D. (2000). The outcomes and costs of an interagency partnership to serve maltreated children in state custody. *Children's Services*, 3(4), 191-209.

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