

Functional Family Therapy-Child Welfare (FFT-CW) Child Welfare

Literature review updated September 2017.

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: Functional Family Therapy-Child Welfare (FFT-CW) is a modification of FFT that has been used with youth involved in the criminal justice system. FFT-CW has two tracks, one for lower-risk families (FFT-LR) and another for higher-risk families (FFT-HR). The FFT-LR program is implemented in three distinct phases: Engagement/Motivation, Support/Monitor, and Generalization. The FFT-HR model, based on the original FFT, is more intensive and includes five phases. In the single study included here families received one or the other track, but it is unclear what percentage of the treatment group was assigned to either track. In the study, those in the comparison group received various other services.

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis						Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated			ES	p-value
			ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age		
Child abuse and neglect	1	1625	0.000	0.043	10	0.000	0.043	17	0.000	1.000
Out-of-home placement	1	1625	0.188	0.179	10	0.188	0.179	17	0.188	0.294

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

Turner, C.W., Robbins, M.S., Rowlands, S., & Weaver, L.R. (2017). Summary of comparison between FFT-CW® and usual care sample from Administration for Children’s Services. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 69, 85-95.

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