

Understanding Trauma Exposure in Crossover Youth



Talk with Youth,
Don't Just Read
Their Records

Modrowski, Chaplo, and Kerig (2023)¹ examined group differences in:

- **trauma exposure**
- **posttraumatic stress symptoms**
- **offending**

among youth involved in the juvenile justice system only versus youth with dual system involvement (i.e., juvenile justice system and child welfare system).

RESULTS

Compared to youth solely involved in the juvenile justice system, crossover youth reported:

- *more* exposure to traumatic events
- *more* severe posttraumatic stress symptoms
- *more* self-reported offending

Who are Crossover Youth?

Youth who have, at some point, experienced maltreatment (sexual abuse, domestic abuse, physical abuse, or neglect) and engaged in offending behavior, regardless of whether they have been formally involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

Key Takeaways

1. The Importance of Asking, Not Just Reading Records

More differences in trauma exposure were observed between crossover youth and youth solely involved in juvenile justice system when looking at **self-report measures** versus **system records** alone.

There are significant **benefits in screening youth** for histories of maltreatment rather than relying on administrative records.

2. Crossover Youth are at Higher Risk of Trauma Exposure

Crossover youth report more and varied types of adverse childhood experiences compared to youth solely involved in the juvenile justice system.²

Compared to youth solely involved in the juvenile justice system, **crossover youth are more likely to experience negative outcomes**, which can include:

- mental health difficulties
- substance use problems
- decreased educational attainment

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1. Modrowski, C. A., Chaplo, S. D., & Kerig, P. K. (2023). Youth Dually-Involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: Varying definitions and their associations with trauma exposure, posttraumatic stress, & offending. In *Children and Youth Services Review* (Vol. 150, p. 106998). Elsevier BV. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2023.106998>

2. Baglivio, M.T., Wolff, K.T., Piquero, A.R. et al. Maltreatment, Child Welfare, and Recidivism in a Sample of Deep-End Crossover Youth. *J Youth Adolescence* 45, 625-654 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-015-0407-9>