

A. Children removed from their parents generally experience better outcomes when placed with kin, including:

8. Improved placement satisfaction for children and youth

- Mimi V. Chapman, et al., *Children's Voices: The Perceptions of Children in Foster Care*, 74(3) AM. J. ORTHOPSYCHIATRY 293 (2004), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15291706/>

In this paper, researchers review data from 727 children who had been in out-of-home placement for 12 months. The researchers examine the children's perceptions of their foster care experience based on demographics and placement type. They ask the children how they view their current living situation, their thoughts about where they would live in the future, and their view of their biological parents. The study finds that children in kinship care have a greater chance of liking their foster family in comparison to children in group homes and non-kinship care. Additionally, children in kinship placements are less likely to run away. They also experience closer relationships to their kin caregivers as noted by their increased likelihood to talk about personal matters like dating and relationships. Children in kinship homes also report feeling closer to and more cared for by their caregivers, displaying a level of closeness similar to the national average for children out of foster care.

- Tiffany Conway & Rutledge Q. Hutson, *Is Kinship Care Good for Kids?*, CTR. FOR L. & SOC. POL'Y (Mar. 2, 2007), <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/public/resources-and-publications/files/0347.pdf>.

In this factsheet comparing children in kinship care versus non-kinship care, the researchers note that children in kinship care are “[m]ore likely to report liking those with whom they live” and “[m]ore likely to report that they “always felt loved”” during their placement.

- Rebecca L. Hegar & James A. Rosenthal, *Kinship Care and Sibling Placement: Child Behavior, Family Relationships, and School Outcomes*, 31 CHILD. & YOUTH SERVS. REV. 670 (2009), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/223721596_Kinship_care_and_sibling_placement_Child_behavior_family_relationships_and_school_outcomes.

This study, which relies on data from 2,472 youth in kinship or non-kinship foster care, finds that children in kinship care placements are more likely to like living with and feel part of the family, especially when living with siblings. They are also more likely to feel part of the family early into their placement, whereas children in non-kin placements take longer to feel part of their foster family.

- Jed Metzger, *Resiliency in Children and Youth in Kinship Care and Family Foster Care*, 87 CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA 115 (2008), <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.459.956&rep=rep1&type=pdf>.

This study examines self-concept, resiliency, and social support in foster care children

through a private nonprofit child welfare agency contracting with DSS. Data was collected in 1997 via voluntary participation of individuals filling out questionnaires. The questionnaire utilizes the PAIC which measures a child's sense of well-being and self-worth. The sample size includes 107 children in New York City; 55 in family foster care, and 52 in kinship foster homes. The study finds that kinship foster children develop "feelings of being valued" and resiliency to stress because they are often able to maintain stable caretaking and communication with their biological parents while being nurtured by another family figure. Metzger's study also finds that kinship foster mothers provide "a type of enhanced care" – a "reverberation between kinship foster parent and kinship foster child" – that promotes children's self-conception. The study also finds that kinship placements, which often allow for increased contact with the child's biological parents, may promote the child's resiliency and coping strategies.

- Carme Montserrat & Ferran Casas, *Kinship Foster Care from the Perspective of Quality of Life: Research on the Satisfaction of the Stakeholders*, 1(3-4) APPLIED RES. QUALITY LIFE 227 (2006), <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2007-19580-001>.

This study compares the points of view of the following three stakeholders of kinship care within the child protection system in Spain: the kinship caregivers, children placed with kin, and practitioners of the Childhood and Adolescence Interdisciplinary Care Teams. This study measures stakeholders' satisfaction with kinship care situations at least five years after kinship care had started, including the children's satisfaction with kinship care and with life as a whole. Researchers analyzed 451 questionnaires and observed 57 caregivers who participated in caregiver support groups over a year for a total of 109 meetings. The "[r]esults showed that both children and caregivers report high levels of satisfaction with the fostering situation within the extended family." Further, the study notes that "[t]hat the characteristics of kinship care, like the maintenance of family bonds and stability and the existence of a familiar network, may indicate already a more functional support system and suggest a positive aspect for child well-being." Surprisingly, the satisfaction rates of children in kinship homes is higher than that reported by the population of children ages 12-16 as a whole with their natural family.