

# Chapin Hall's Integrated Database on Child and Family Programs

*Integrating Health and Human Services and Education Data to  
Inform Public Policy – Fall 2011 Conference*

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**ChapinHall** at the University of Chicago  
Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

# Outline of the talk

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Chapin Hall mission

What is an IDB?

What's included in the Illinois IDB?

Stages of development

Conclusions

An example

# Chapin Hall Mission

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To build knowledge that improves policies and programs for children and youth, families, and their communities.

Our guiding principles are the following:

- Policies and programs affecting children and adolescents must be based on continuous and reciprocal knowledge building.
- Better policy emerges when researchers engage with policymakers and practitioners in long-term collaborations.
- Rigorous research and an independent perspective guide our work.
- Communication strategies to diverse audiences maximize the impact of our research.

# IDB Problem Statement

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State government leaders do not have adequate information to make some of the highest stakes decisions in Illinois

- Yet, the State has the raw data
- But, the State lacks the processes for combining and the tools for analyzing the data across programs
- And, the State lacks the expertise to conduct the analysis.

The IDB Project's goal is to improve the information that is available to Illinois leadership, by improving both the data and the resources available to state and other analysts

# What is an IDB?

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A data warehouse built primarily with administrative data that is used to address questions about comprehensive set of services and programs in which individuals and their families participate

Individual's records across services and programs are linked. Individuals are linked to others through case or household membership

Longitudinal, individual-level

Contains addresses of residences and service providers

# Why is Record-Linkage Needed?

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The first principle is that you go to the best source of data and in order to use the best sources together, you need to link them

IDB is an ongoing research resource: data is always being collected regardless of researcher's attention to it and when you need the data, you need to link it.

# Identifiers used for matching

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Depends on what is available in two datasets

Typically use name, birthday, race/ethnicity, gender, address, SSN

As you add more datasets, you can use accumulated information about individuals and their relationships to conduct your matches

Our example using welfare records to get SSN

# Spells and Careers

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Child or Parent



Spells and Events

**TANF**

**Juvenile  
Incarceration**

**Foster Care**

**Special Ed**

Age 0

Age 5

Age 10

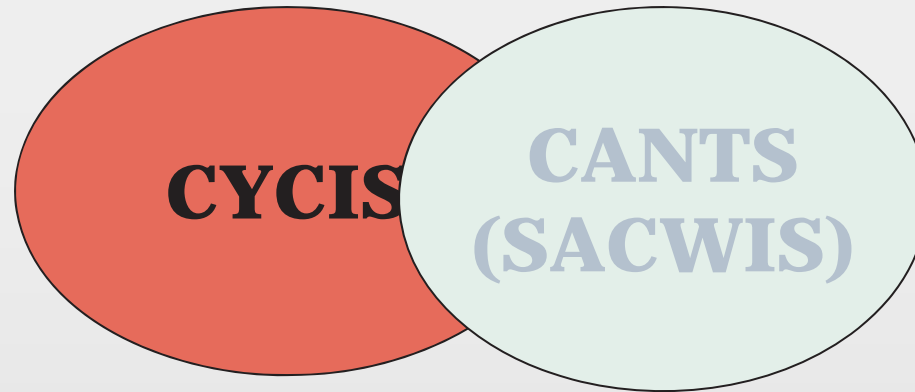
Age 15

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# Child welfare system data

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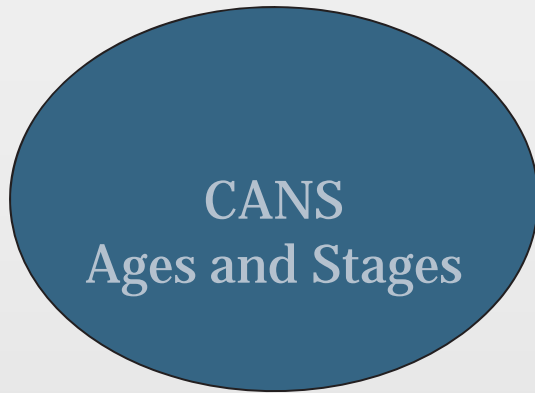


1977-PRESENT  
OPEN CASES  
**FOSTER CARE**  
FAMILY INFO  
PROVIDERS  
CASE MANAGERS

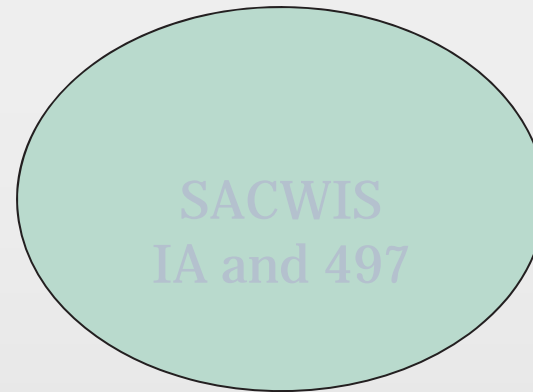
1981-PRESENT  
**A/N ALLEGATIONS**  
**INVESTIGATIONS**  
HOUSEHOLD INFO

## More child welfare system data

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Child Assets and Needs  
Developmental Screen



2005-PRESENT  
Integrated Assessment  
Service Plans (497)

# Income maintenance, SNAP, medical

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**CUSTOMER INFORMATION  
SYSTEM CLIENT DATABASE  
(CDB)**

Individual and Case-level 1989-  
PRESENT

AFDC/TANF, SNAP, Medicaid Eligibility  
Monthly w/ 2 yr history (not purged  
since 2000)

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# Criminal and Juvenile Justice

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**Cook County  
Juvenile Court**

**Illinois  
Departments of  
Corrections and  
Juvenile Justice**

**Illinois  
State Police  
Arrest**

**Chicago Arrests  
And Incidents**

Protection and Delinquency  
1990-present  
Hearing-level Events  
Individual-level

Adult and Juvenile  
1991-present  
Individual-level

Adult and Juvenile  
1991-present  
Individual-level

Arrests and Incident  
1992-present  
Individual-level

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# Medicaid



## **Medicaid Claims**

For adults and children

Providers

1990-present

Service type (events/spells)

Prescriptions

Diagnosis

Eligibility file (2001-present)

# Yada, Yada, Yada

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**Illinois  
Child Care  
Tracking  
System**

Subsidies for  
working  
parents  
1990-present

**Child Public Schools  
Student Information  
System**

Enrollment, Test scores,  
health (2004-) and  
special education,  
bilingual, transcripts,  
discipline (2003-), Pre-K  
1991-present

**Chicago  
Head Start**

2003-  
present

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And finally,

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Individual-level  
1995-present  
Quarterly

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# Just kidding. More Health.

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**Vital Stats**

Birth and death  
Certificates  
1978-1998  
No identifiers

**WIC**

Children < 5  
1995-present

**Family  
Case  
Management**

Health-related  
1995-present

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# Background

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## Political environment

Service recipients are dependent and resources are scarce, so programs are at-risk of cancellation

## Conflict

- Leaders - Avoid “negative” information
- Researchers - Disseminate research results

Compromise is needed

# Infancy

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A strong leader - Governor James Thompson

A recognized lack of information

*State of the Child in Illinois 1980*

- Used primarily existing, published data

The important and necessary relationship-building

Raw existing data source

# Childhood

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Organization with a mission to improve well-being of children – Chapin Hall

Academic and policy domains

Organizational and database development

*State of the Child in Illinois 1985*

- Used microdata and published data

Important and necessary relationship-building

Creation of integrated child welfare data

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# Early adolescence

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Learning lessons of collaboration –  
particularly compromise

“Growing pains” (research to newspapers)

Two major studies, one of which provided  
negative results

Through it all ... personal connections  
remained in place

# Adolescence

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Stakes increased - more public interest

Lack of research capacity at DCFS

Built on previous relationships

Quick Response project

Researchers learning directly about the  
major policy issues

# Early adulthood

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Conducted many research projects

Internal research director, an academic,  
which helped link state government to the  
universities

DCFS, during this time, begins to greatly  
value research and evaluation (Still a  
relatively unique situation in the U.S.)

# BH lawsuit

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Necessity to monitor the implementation of the consent decree

Creation of Child and Family Research Center at the University of Illinois School of Social Work to monitor the consent decree in 1996

CFRC included researchers from other universities in their efforts

Began sharing of administrative data – a shared database -- across universities

# Adulthood

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8 years of contractual work to address research needs of Director

Ongoing development of new data sources

Greater cooperation of state agencies around data sharing issues

Inter-university collaboration and sharing of information

Provision of data to many external research efforts

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# Example

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Use of institutional care in Illinois CW system  
Intensive care and very costly (\$30K-100K/yr)  
Sharp decline in the use of this care  
Pointed to practice failures

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *Thirty-six percent* of first time entrants into residential care had eleven or more placements at the time of approval.

**Agency Action:** A new “Integrated Assessment” process will provide DCFS with a better understanding of the youth’s needs before his or her first placement. Needs and appropriateness of service level will be assessed and adjusted in the *Child & Youth Investment Team (CAYIT)* after two placement disruptions.

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *A third* of youth who are approved for residential placement have not received any form of intensive services prior to approval.

**Agency Action:** Streamlined decision-making process and mandatory review events will ensure that youth receive necessary services earlier before problems become more complex.

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *Fifty-nine percent* of youth who entered residential care in 2002 and then left before the end of 2003, experienced negative discharge outcomes compared to forty-five percent of entrants in 1995.

**Agency Action:** The Residential Performance Unit will provide us with the ability to track the progress of youth during their stay in a residential facility to both to ensure progress in his or her treatment plan and to ensure timely discharge back to community based living. This unit will also allow us to monitor the ability of providers to successfully serve the youth in their care.

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Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *Multiple placements* prior to residential care strongly correlated to negative discharge outcomes. Youth had negative outcomes 30% or 50% more often depending, respectively, on whether the youth had 3-4 prior placements, or 5 or more prior placements.

**Agency Action:** Multiple moves for children in the system will trigger a reassessment and a treatment team meeting.

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *Forty-nine percent* of youth discharged from residential placement in 2003 returned to residential placement within 90 days from his or her first residential placement compared to only 24% in 1999.

**Agency Action:** *CAYIT and Integrated Assessment, Residential Performance Unit*

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding:** *The more placements* prior to residential care equated to a higher the likelihood of a failed foster care placement after residential care.

**Agency Action:** *CAYIT and Integrated Assessment, Residential Performance Unit*

Key Findings in Chapin Hall Study &  
Reforms Embedded in PIP and Child & Youth Investment Team

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**Finding: Disconnected processes** delay the receipt of needed services and foster discontinuity in communications and feedback regarding the youth according to a qualitative analysis of the current system for admitting youth to residential care and other intensive services.

**Agency Action:** The re-design will streamline the decision-making processes for available services. A caseworker will no longer have to work at least four independent processes to access necessary services for a child or youth.

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# Conclusion

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**Changes led to a reduction in residential placement**

**Build on a more detailed analyses of mental health service receipt**

**We are now evaluating the IA program**

**Many services that should be available are not**