

The Flint Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Study (March 2014- January 2016)

**NDACAN Dataset Number 205
USER'S GUIDE**



**National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853-4401
607-255-7799
ndacan@cornell.edu**

<http://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>

INITIAL RELEASE 1/25/2017

THE FLINT MDT STUDY
(March 2014 to January 2016)

Data Collected by

Robbin Pott, JD, MPP
University of Michigan Law School

Funded by

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families,
Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Distributed by

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

User's Guide and Codebook Written by

Holly M. Larrabee, MSHP
National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
in collaboration with
Robbin Pott, JD, MPP
University of Michigan Law School

© 2017 National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

Table of Contents

The Flint Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Study (March 2014- January 2016)	1
Preface.....	6
Acknowledgement of Source.....	6
Publication Submission Requirement.....	7
ABSTRACT.....	8
STUDY OVERVIEW.....	9
Study Identification.....	9
Purpose of the Study.....	9
Study Design.....	9
Date(s) of Data Collection.....	9
Geographic Area.....	10
Unit of Observation.....	10
Sample.....	10
Data Collection Procedures.....	10
Response Rates.....	10
Sources of Information.....	10
Type of Data Collected.....	10
Measures.....	10
Related Publications & Reports.....	10
Analytic Considerations.....	11
Confidentiality Protection.....	11
Extent of Collection.....	11
Extent of Processing.....	12
DATA FILE INFORMATION.....	13

File Specifications.....	13
Data File Notes	13

Preface

The data for *The Flint MDT Study (March 2014 to January 2016)*, have been given to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect for public distribution by Robbin Pott. Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (Award Number: 90CO1047).

Acknowledgement of Source

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and the original collector of the data when they publish manuscripts that use data provided by the Archive. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below.

The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from *The Flint MDT Study (March 2014 to January 2016)* were originally collected by Robbin Pott. Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (Award Number: 90CO1047). The collector of the original data, the funder, NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

Pott, R. (2017). *The Flint MDT Study (March 2014 to January 2016)* [Dataset]. Available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Web site, <http://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Publication Submission Requirement

In accordance with the terms of the *Data License* for this dataset, users of these data are required to deposit a copy of any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data with the Archive. A copy of any completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint should be sent to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Beebe Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853. Such copies will be used to provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of NDACAN resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities among data users and contributors.

ABSTRACT

The Flint MDT Study is one of the projects of the the National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children in Child Welfare (QIC-ChildRep). The Study partnered with a group of five lawyers-guardian ad litem to observe and evaluate a multidisciplinary approach to representing children in child protection proceedings. The study provided the LGALs two social workers and randomly assigned cases to be either represented by the attorney/social worker team or by the attorney alone. This study provides both a description of the functioning of these teams collaborating to represent children and a rigorous evaluation of outcomes compared to a control group. Only quantitative data have been deposited with NDACAN.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Study Identification

The Flint MDT Study (March 2014 to January 2016)

Investigator(s):

Robbin Pott, JD, MPP

University of Michigan Law School, Child Advocacy Law Clinic

Funding Agencies:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Award Numbers: 90CO1047

Purpose of the Study

Research objectives for the study:

- Describe the process of designing and implementing a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to representing children.
- Evaluate whether children have better outcomes when represented by an MDT compared to children represented by an attorney alone.
- Identify the key elements to a successful collaboration.

Study Design

The Flint MDT study uses a mixed-method approach with two distinct components. The first is an observation of the process of designing and implementing a multidisciplinary approach to representing children in child welfare proceedings from the perspective of the child's representation. The study uses qualitative data collected from individual interviews, group meetings, and other observations to construct an in-depth description of the process, and to discern the essential components of an effective approach. The second component is a randomized controlled trial designed to assess outcome difference between children who are represented by the MDT (intervention) and those represented by a single attorney (control). The court randomly assigned a filed petition to a judge/attorney pair and the attorneys participated in the preliminary hearings. If the court authorized the petition, the study assigned the case to the intervention or control group within a week, so the potential impact of the MDT begins after the preliminary hearing.

The study analyzes quantitative administrative court and agency data to evaluate the differences in outcomes, and qualitative data to explain those outcome differences.

Date(s) of Data Collection

Data collection started in March 2014 and concluded in January 2016.

Geographic Area

Genesee County, Michigan

Unit of Observation

The unit of observation represents a child.

Sample

The quantitative data include 409 individual children involved in 216 child abuse and neglect petitions authorized (accepted for consideration by the court) in Genesee County, MI. The study included every new case assigned to a participating attorney's court between March 17, 2014 and October 30, 2015. The court randomly assigned a filed petition to a judge/attorney pair and the attorneys participated in the preliminary hearings. If the court authorized the petition, the study assigned the case to the intervention or control group within a week, so the potential impact of the MDT begins after the preliminary hearing.

Data Collection Procedures

The study collected administrative and other data from the court's web-based database and paper files. Those data include child and family demographics, court hearing dates and hearing results, placement information, allegations, disposition court ordered and additional services for parents and children, sibling contacts, and permanency outcomes.

Response Rates

Not applicable.

Sources of Information

Court and CPS agency records.

Type of Data Collected

Administrative data were collected.

Measures

No measures were administered during the course of the study.

Related Publications & Reports

Users are strongly encouraged to obtain these references before doing analyses. To view a complete list of publications visit our online citations collection called “canDL” by going to <http://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/publications/publications.cfm> , Once on the page, navigate to the DS# 205 folder to view all publication citations relevant to this dataset.

Pott, R. (2016). The Flint MDT study. In D. Duquette, B. Orlebeke, A. Zinn, R. Pott, A. Skyles & X. Zhou, *Children's Justice: How to Improve Legal Representation of Children in the Welfare System* (1st ed., pp. 189-212). Chicago: American Bar Association. Available from <http://shop.americanbar.org/eBus/Store/ProductDetails.aspx?productId=266667402&term=Children%27s+Justice>

Duquette, D.N., Pott, R., Orlebeke, B., & Zinn, A. (2016, September 12). *QIC-Childrep national quality improvement center on the representation of the children in the child welfare system* [video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.improvechildrep.org>

Duquette, D.N., Pott, R., Orlebeke, B., & Zinn, A. (2016). *QIC-Childrep national quality improvement center on the representation of the children in the child welfare system* [PowerPoint slides]. Retrieved from <http://www.improvechildrep.org>

Analytic Considerations

Potential avenues of research for these data, as suggested by the Data Contributor:

1. Parenting time - differences in average level of restriction or changes in level of restriction as predictors of outcomes.
2. Differences in hearings post-adjudication. For example, the Data Contributor found the MDT cases had 10% fewer hearings, but that did not reach significance. These were not fully explored in the current study.
3. What are the differences between intervention and control group post-adjudication?
4. Differences between children at home at authorization and removed at authorization.
5. Services and allegations data – These data were not examined at all. The data could be used to describe distribution of allegations and services across age, race, gender, removal, placements and outcomes. A researcher could see how well services were matched with allegations by each group by creating a scoring matrix.
6. Placement types and number of moves.
7. Compare to AFCARS or other national data.

Confidentiality Protection

All date variables in the data file were recoded to remove day of the month. This means that only month and year are available. The recoded variables contain the original variable name but have an “_R” added to the end of the name. In order to look up additional information about the variable in the Data Dictionary, data users will need to use the original variable name by omitting the _R.

Date of birth (DOB) of the child was removed from the dataset and in its place a derived variable named “chageyrs” was created, which contains the child’s age in years around the time of enrollment into the study.

Extent of Collection

This collection consists of the User’s Guide, one Data Dictionary (excel document converted to pdf format) which was developed by the data contributor, a subset of presentation slides from the QIC-ChildRep national webinar recorded in September 2016, one data file (DS205) native to SPSS & Stata

along with program files and ASCII data for SAS.

Extent of Processing

NDACAN produced the User's Guide, SPSS, and Stata native data files as well as the SAS program files with ASCII data.

DATA FILE INFORMATION

File Specifications

There is only one data file and it is called “DS205.”

Data File Notes

No notes.

Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN.

Please send your inquiries to NDACANSUPPORT@cornell.edu