WELCOME TO THE NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES!

- The session will begin at 12pm EST.

- Please turn video off and mute the line.

- This session is being recorded.

- See ZOOM Help Center for connection issues: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us

  - If issues persist and solutions cannot be found through Zoom, contact Andres Arroyo at aa17@cornell.edu.

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NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research

Cornell University

NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILD WELFARE DATA

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES SCHEDULE

- July 1, 2020 **-** Introduction to NDACAN

- July 8, 2020 **-** Historical Data

- July 15, 2020 - Research Example using Historical Data

- **July 22, 2020 - Administrative Data (NCANDS, AFCARS, NYTD)**

- July 29, 2020 **-** Linking Administrative Data in SPSS

- August 5, 2020 **-** Research Example using Linked Administrative Data

INTRODUCTION

TAMMY WHITE
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SESSION AGENDA

- Administrative Data Cluster

- Preview of Linking

- Data Management

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

COVERS PROGRESSION THROUGH CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

NCANDS:
- Child protective history

AFCARS:
- Foster care experience

NYTD:
- Transition out of care

NCANDS

NCANDS - INTRODUCTION

- Case-level data are collected for all children who received a response from a child protective services (CPS) agency in the form of an investigation response or an alternative response.

- NCANDS was created as a voluntary system in response to a 1988 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) amendment.

NCANDS CHILD FILE

- A file containing:
  - child-specific *records* for each report of alleged child abuse and neglect that received a CPS response.
  - completed *reports* that resulted in a disposition (or finding) during the reporting year.

- **Report-Child Pair = NCANDS Record**
  - Combines the Report ID and Child ID to uniquely identify a single record.

CHILD FILE: <u>REPORT</u> CHARACTERISTICS

- A Child File contains many reports. Each report:

  - Is a notification of suspected child abuse

  - May involve one or more children (records)

  - May be substantiated, unsubstantiated, alternative response, or other dispositions

  - May involve multiple perpetrators

CHILD FILE: <u>RECORD</u> CHARACTERISTICS

- A single Child File record contains…

  - Data related to only one child in a given report

  - Data representing a victim or nonvictim

  - Data in all fields (for victim records)

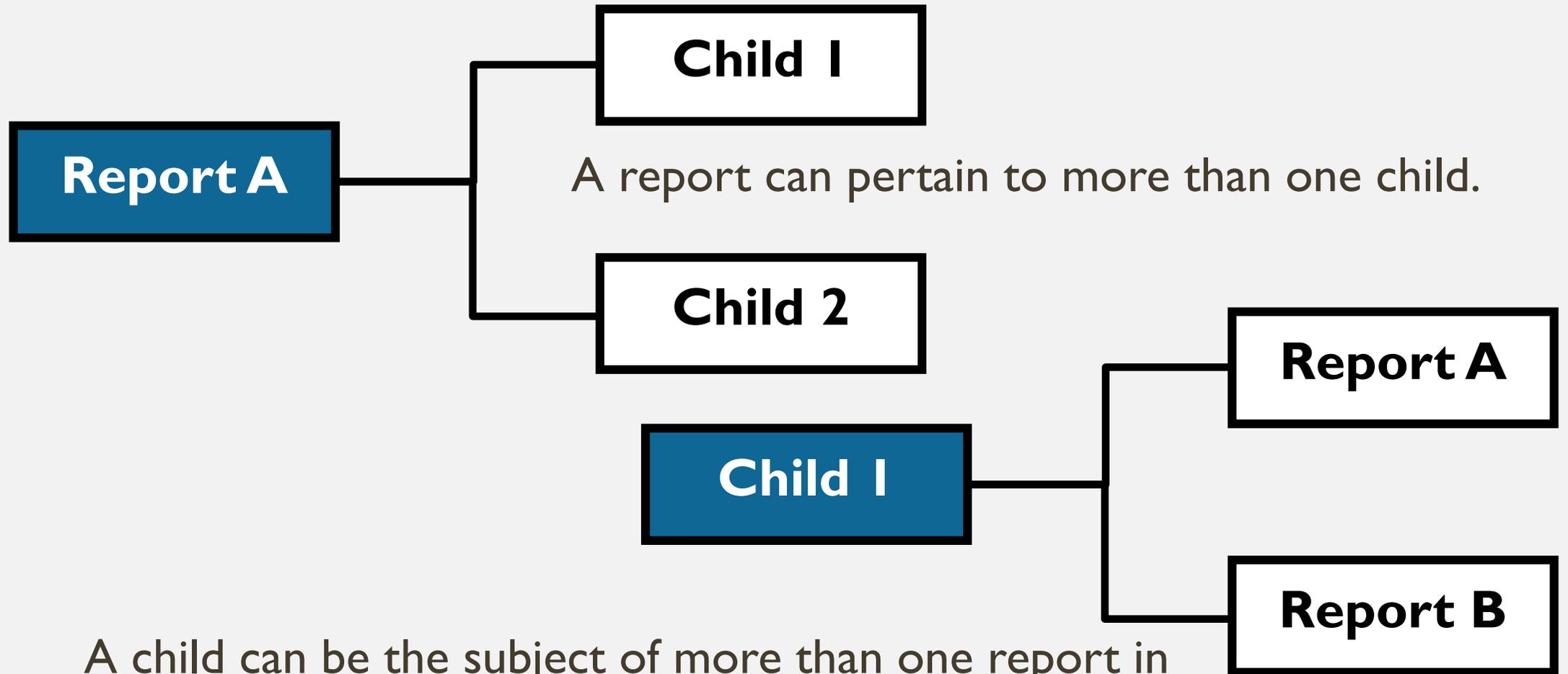 - Data concerning perpetrators (up to three) for victim records

NCANDS - REPORT VARIABLES

- Report Data (report ID, report date, disposition, investigation start date)

- Child Data (child ID, demographics)

- Maltreatment Data (types, individual dispositions, fatalities)

- Child Risk Factors (substance abuse, diagnosed disabilities)

NCANDS - CHILD VARIABLES

- Caregiver Risk Factors (substance abuse, financial problems)

- Services (foster care, adoption, counseling)

- Perpetrator Data (relationship to victim, demographics, sex trafficking)

- Additional Fields (AFCARS ID, date of death, plan of safe care, referral to CARA-related services)
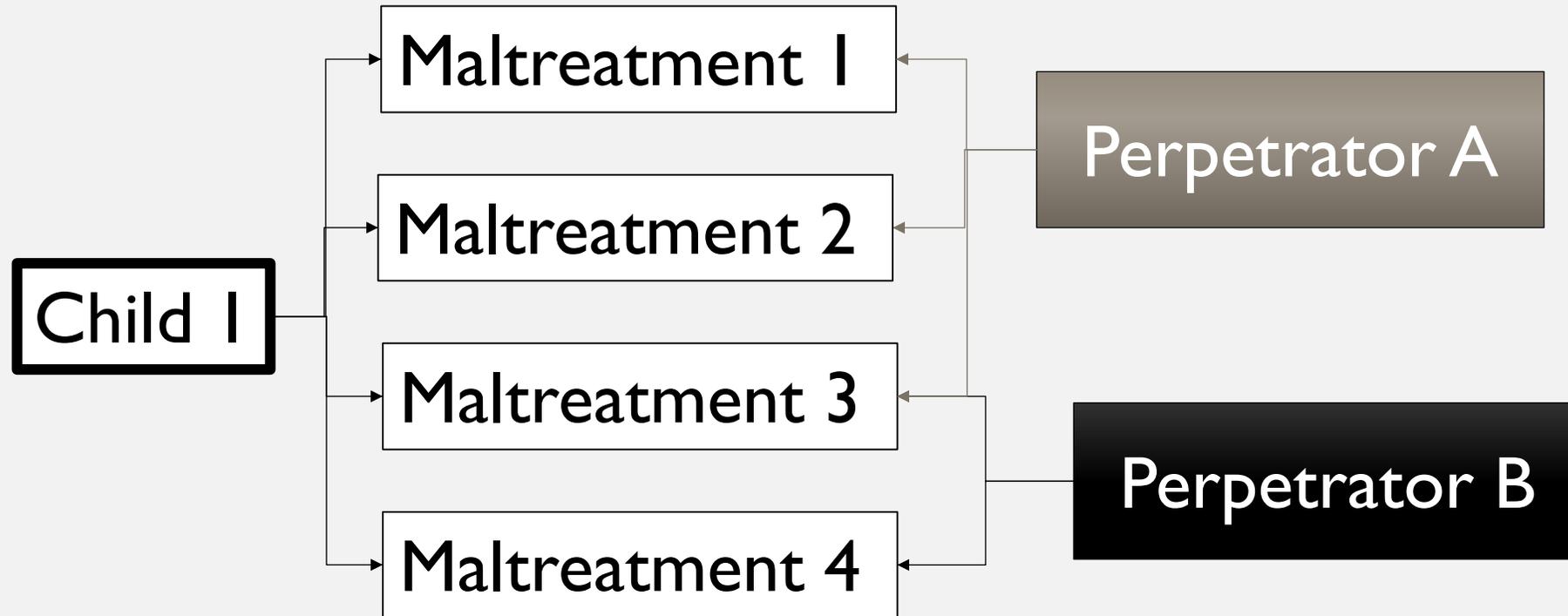
Child File Entity Relationships

Report A

Child 1

A report can pertain to more than one child.

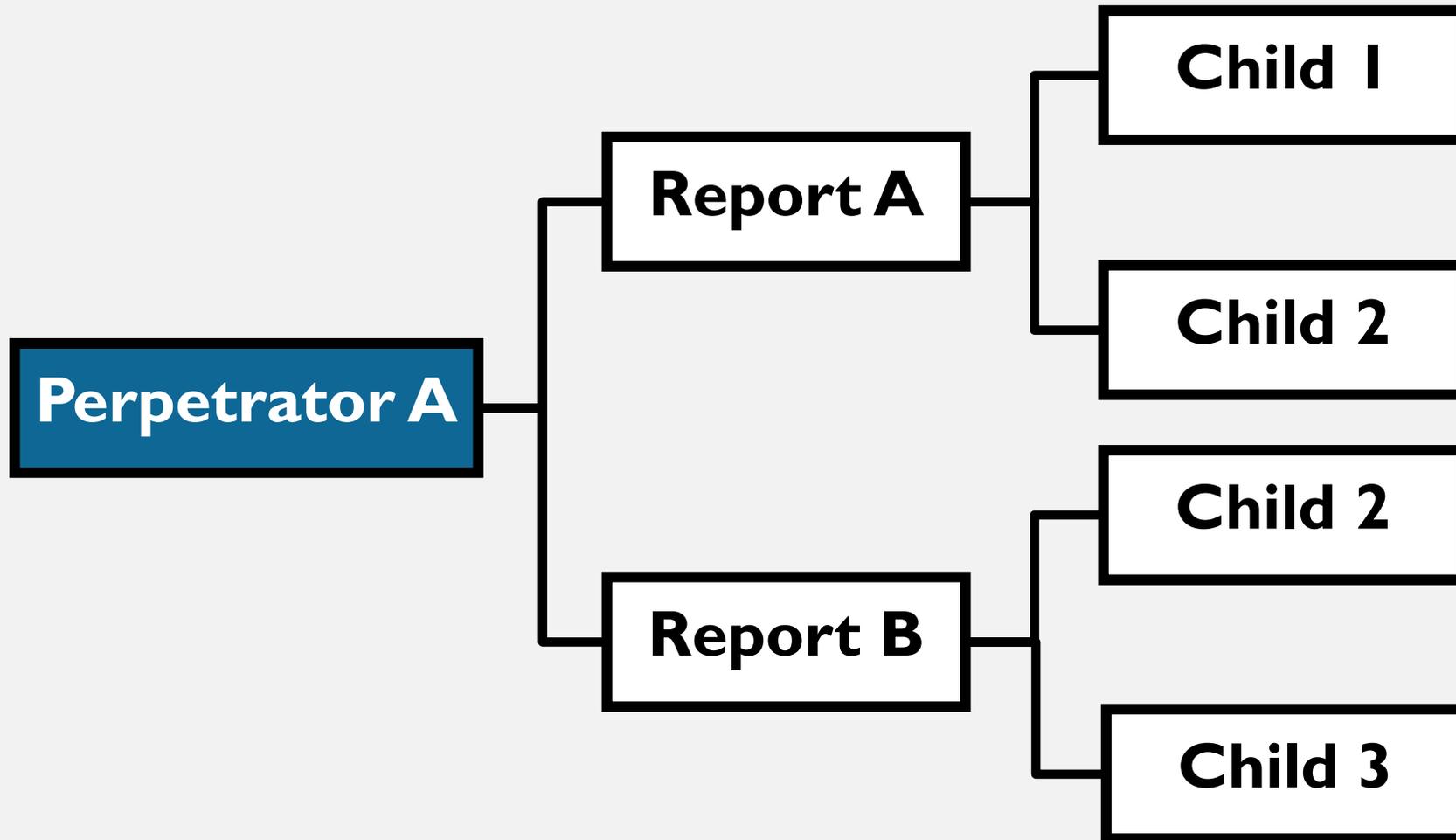**Child 2**

Child 1

Report A

Report B

A child can be the subject of more than one report in the reporting period.

Child File Entity Relationships

For a child in a report, each perpetrator can be associated with each maltreatment.
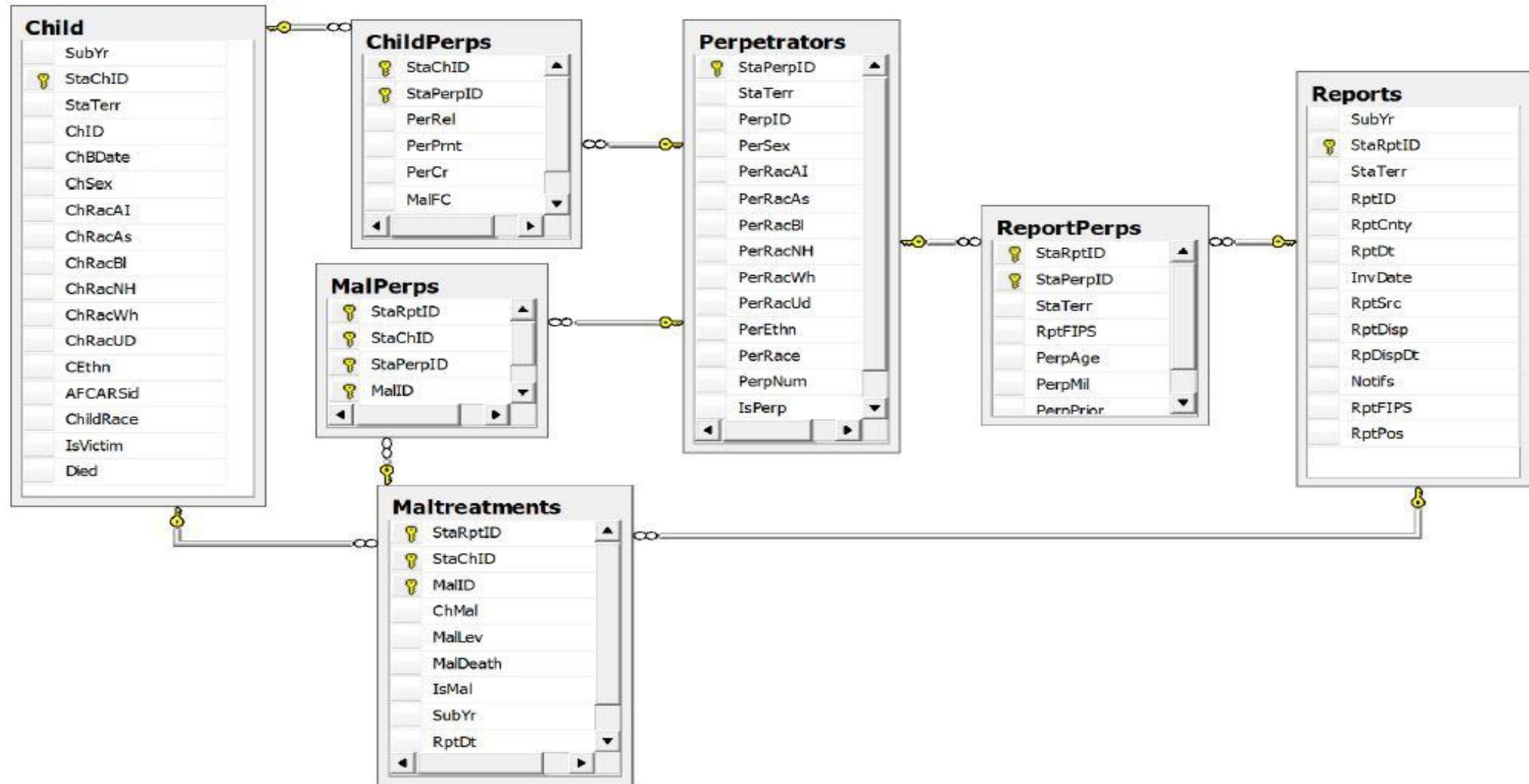
Child File Entity Relationships

A perpetrator can be associated with more than one report and more than one child in a report.

NCANDS AGENCY FILE

- CAPTA required items

- Summary data

  - Prevention Services

  - Referrals and Reports

  - Additional information on Child Victims Reported in the Child File

  - Child Fatalities

  - Part C of IDEA reporting

* Entities can be isolated and analyzed individually

OVERVIEW OF NDACAN

- Promotes scholarly exchange among researchers in the child maltreatment field.

- Acquires data from leading researchers and national data collection efforts and makes these datasets available to the research community for secondary analysis.

- Supports information-sharing through its Child Maltreatment Research List Serve and its *Updata* e-newsletter and provides data analysis opportunities to researchers through conference workshops and its annual Summer Research Institute.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS

- DOB, County of residence, Worker and Supervisor IDs, and Incident Date are not included

- For cases of maltreatment death, State, County, and all IDs are masked

- Codes for counties with fewer than 1000 cases in the file are masked

- Report Date is recoded to the 8th or 23rd

- All other dates are recoded to match the time span since the report date

NCANDS-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Police are responsible for producing about one-fifth of all reports of child abuse and neglect investigated by local child welfare agencies, and low-level interactions with police often result in the initiation of a child welfare investigation. Because police contact is not randomly or equitably distributed across populations, policing has likely spillover consequences on racial inequities in child welfare outcomes. This study shows that police file more reports of child abuse and neglect in counties with high arrest rates, and that policing helps explain high rates of maltreatment investigations of American Indian–Alaska Native children and families. The spatial and social distribution of policing affects which children and families experience unnecessary child protection interventions and which children who are victims of maltreatment go unnoticed.

NCANDS-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Edwards, F. (2019). Family surveillance: Police and the reporting of child abuse and neglect. *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences, 5*(1), 50-70.

AFCARS

AFCARS - INTRODUCTION

- Case-level information on children who are under the placement and care responsibility of IV-E child welfare agencies.

- Collection:

  - States document information in their electronic case record system.

  - States compile data and send to Children's Bureau.

  - Children's Bureau works with states to correct errors.

- Organized by *child*

AFCARS - VARIABLES

- AFCARS includes demographic, removal, placement, and other case related information. Examples include:
  - Date of birth of the child, caretakers of the child, and foster/adoptive parents.
  - Race information (self-identified) on the child and foster parents.
  - Date of first & recent removal, # of removals, and discharge date.
  - Date of placement, # of placements, and placement location.
  - Case plan goals, TPR dates, & sources of federal financial support.

WORKING WITH MULTIPLE YEARS OF AFCARS

- Years of the AFCARS files can be "stacked"

- When more than one year of the Foster Care File is used, there will be duplicated AFCARS IDs (StFCID)

- A child has a record for each year that they are in foster care.

- If resolving data to one row per child, keep the most recent year

AFCARS-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Recent research has used synthetic cohort life tables to show that having a Child Protective Services investigation, experiencing confirmed maltreatment, and being placed in foster care are more common for American children than would be expected based on daily or annual rates for these events. This study extends this literature by using synthetic cohort life tables and data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System to generate the first cumulative prevalence estimates of termination of parental rights. The results provide support for four conclusions.

AFCARS-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

First, according to the 2016 estimate, 1 in 100 U.S. children will experience the termination of parental rights by age 18. Second, the risk of experiencing this event is highest in the first few years of life. Third, risks are highest for Native American and African American children. Nearly 3.0% of Native American children and around 1.5% of African American children will ever experience this event. Comparatively, about .9% of Latinx and 1.0% of white children will ever experience this event. Finally, there is dramatic variation across states in the risk of experiencing this event and in racial/ethnic inequality in this risk. Taken together, these findings suggest that parental rights termination, which involves the permanent loss of access to children for parents, is far more common than often thought.

AFCARS-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Wildeman, C., Edwards, F. R., & Wakefield, S. (2019). The Cumulative Prevalence of Termination of Parental Rights for U.S. Children, 2000–2016. *Child Maltreatment,* 1077559519848499.
https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519848499

NYTD

NYTD-INTRODUCTION

- Collects case-level data on young people to help us understand how (and how well) states prepare youth in the child welfare system for adulthood.

- Data collection is mandated by the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Section 477 of Social Security Act, as amended by P.L.115-123).

- NYTD data collection differs from NCANDS and AFCARS in that it is survey based, and youth participation is completely voluntary.

- Two file—Services and Outcomes

- Three cohorts followed with 3 waves between ages 17 and 21
  - FY 2011, FY 2013, & FY 2017

NYTD-VARIABLES

- **Demographics**
  - DOB, sex, race and ethnicity, foster care status, tribal membership delinquency, education level.

- **Services**
  - Academic supports, career preparation, budgeting, mentoring, health education, housing education, financial assistance, etc.

- **Outcomes**
  - Financial self-sufficiency, educational attainment homelessness, high-risk behaviors, connection with adults, access to health insurance, incarceration, etc.

NYTD DATA COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Reporting Data	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19
Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outcomes W1 (age 17)	✓ Cohort 1			✓ Cohort 2			✓ Cohort 3		
Outcomes W1 (age 19)			✓ Cohort 1			✓ Cohort 2			✓ Cohort 3
Outcomes W1 (age 21)					✓ Cohort 1			✓ Cohort 2	

OUTCOMES REPORTING POPULATIONS

- **Baseline Population:**
  - All youth in foster care who reach their 17th birthdays in FY 2011 or in every third fiscal year following FY 2011.
  - The cohort of youth eligible for follow up at ages 19 and 21 are a subset of these baseline youth.

FOLLOW-UP POPULATIONS

To be eligible for follow up at age 19*:

At age 17, the youth must have:

- participated in the survey within 45 days of turning age 17

- been in foster care at the time of taking the survey

- answered at least one survey question that was not 'declined' or 'not applicable'

FOLLOW-UP POPULATIONS

To be eligible for follow up at age 21*:

- in the follow-up population at age 19

- not reported to be deceased at age 19

* For states that opt to sample, only youth randomly chosen to be in the sample are included in the follow-up population

NYTD DATASETS

Services:
FY 2011 – 2018 Roughly 100,000 young adults have received independent living services each year

Outcomes:
FY2011 Cohort (FY 2011, 2013, 2015):
- 29,565 eligible; 53% participated
- 11,712 eligible; 67% participated
- 11,675 eligible; 60% participated

FY2014 Cohort (FY 2014, 2016, 2018):
- 23,780 eligible; 69% participated
- 12,310 eligible; 72% participated
- 12,273 eligible; 64% participated

FY 2017 Cohort (FY 2017, *2019, 2021*)

- 24,458 eligible; 67% participated

SAMPLING

Sampling frame: All youth who participated in the survey at age 17 (i.e., all youth eligible for follow-up at age 19)

Sample size: a simple random sample at a 90% confidence level plus 30% (attrition)

Questions? Read:
45 CFR 1356.84 (c), Appendix C; Technical Bulletin #5

SAMPLE STATES

Any state where a calculated sample size plus 30% would not be larger than the number of baseline youth is eligible to sample (roughly >85)

Cohort 1: 12 states (GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MA, OH, PA, TN, TX, WA)

Cohorts 2 & 3: 15 states (CO, GA, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MA, MD, MO, OH, PA, TN, TX, WA)

WORKING WITH MULTIPLE YEARS OF NYTD

Services:

- Each year has two reporting periods, so a youth may appear up to twice each year

- Researchers usually summarize the data

Outcomes

- NDACAN provides the Outcomes data in "long" format

- For some analyses, users will have to re-structure the data to "wide" format

Outcomes Files-- Weighting

- **Weighting for Non-Response**
- Subgroups that are over-represented among respondents need less weight; those that are under-represented need more weight
- Subgroups can have any characteristic that is known for both respondents and non-respondents
- Usually with surveys, only a few characteristics of non-respondents are known

Data users have reported (and results have shown) that weighted and unweighted results are very similar

Outcomes Files-- Weighting

- **NYTD data have weights that correct for any potential non-response bias**

- Variables included Sex, Race, and Hispanic Ethnicity

- 32 variables from AFCARS were used in the weighting at Wave 1

- 42 variables were used at Wave 2 and Wave 3

Data users have reported (and results have shown) that weighted and unweighted results are very similar

NYTD-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Children of color are over-represented in the child welfare system. It is important to understand whether the child welfare system is able to diminish these societal level inequities, and consequently disproportionality, by reducing racial/ethnic disparities in outcomes of youth exiting state care. Encouragingly, research in this area has found few racial/ethnic differences in the outcomes of former foster youth. However, these studies are regional and have not investigated outcomes for a broad array of racial/ethnic groups. To fill this gap, the present study uses the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) to examine educational attainment, employment, homelessness, and incarceration for white, African-American, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native emancipated youth.

NYTD-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Results reveal that African-American youth are less likely to be employed and more likely to report incarceration than white youth. However, African-American youth were 36% more likely to enroll in higher education than white youth and there were no significant differences in outcomes between white and Hispanic youth. However, AI/AN youth exhibited no advantages and significant disadvantages relative to youth from other racial/ethnic groups. Results suggest that child welfare services and state supports for youth exiting care can contribute to improved outcomes and racial/ethnic parity. However, additional effort is needed to reduce poor outcomes, particularly for American Indian/Alaska Native youth.

NYTD-RESEARCH EXAMPLE

Watt, T., & Kim, S. (2019). Race/ethnicity and foster youth outcomes: An examination of disproportionality using the national youth in transition database. *Children and Youth Services Review, 102*, 251–258.

PREVIEW OF LINKING

BENEFITS OF LINKING

- Administrative data is a form of "big data", which has revolutionized social science research. It has several advantages, and these are amplified when administrative data can be linked:

  - Allows researchers to ask unique questions

  - Adds details and context to individuals' data in each system

  - All-encompassing and specific population

BARRIERS TO LINKING

- The data structure is different between datasets.

  - NYTD and AFCARS are organized by child.

  - NCANDS data are organized by report incident.

- There are entry/recording errors in administrative data.

  - While you should be able to link based on the unique identifier, it is important to add checks to make sure you're linking the right child.

  - For example: you can have a more conservative match if the birth date and sex must be the same as well.

INTRO TO DATA MANAGEMENT

SKILLS NEEDED TO LINK

- Collapse: *Allows you to combine one variable by another.*

  - *You can change your data to include the number of child protective service reports by state and month.*

  - *You can change your data to include the number of reports by child.*

- Reshape: *Allows you to re-organize your data structure.*

  - *You can re-organize your data by child or report →This is required to link between NCANDS (report organized) and AFCARS and NYTD (child organized).*

OTHER STRATEGIES

- Group or summarize: *Allows you to understand general trends and data context.*

  - *Geographic unit (state), race (W/Non-W), gender (M/F).*

- Add population data: *Allows you to connect child welfare data to broader context.*

  - *Population by state, race, or gender.*

- Draw a random sample: *Allows you to run data more quickly and easily when developing code or specifying models.*

QUESTIONS?

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NEXT WEEK…

- Date:
- **July 29, 2020**

- Topic:
- **Linking Administrative Data**

- Presenter(s):
- **Michael Dineen**

More information about AFCARS:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/afcars

AFCARS

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) collects case-level information from state and tribal title IV-E agencies on all children in foster care and those who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement. Examples of data reported in AFCARS include demographic information on the foster child as well as the foster and adoptive parents, the number of removal episodes a child has experienced, the number of placements in the current removal episode, and the current placement setting. Title IV-E agencies are required to submit the AFCARS data twice a year based on two 6-month reporting periods.

About AFCARS - General information about AFCARS.

AFCARS Policy Guidance and Resources - Policy issuances related to AFCARS as well as other resources, such as the Technical Bulletins.

AFCARS Assessment Review - Current information on AFCARS Assessment Reviews, including final reports.

Guide to an AFCARS Assessment Review - Guidance for title IV-E agency child welfare program and technology staff regarding the AFCARS Assessment Review process.

AFCARS Notice of Proposed RulemakingVisit disclaimer page - A NPRM was published in the Federal Register on April 19, 2019 that proposes to streamline the information required to be reported in the December 2016 final rule. Find additional information on **What's New in Laws and Policies**. Listen

RESOURCES

More information about NYTD: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/nytd

NYTD

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) collects information on youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and foster care status. It also collects information about the outcomes of those youth who have aged out of foster care. States began collecting data in 2010, and the first data set was submitted in May 2011.
Our **Q&A** summarizes responses to questions posed by states regarding implementation of the National Youth in Transition Database.

About NYTD - General information about NYTD

Federal Guidance on NYTD - Policy issuances and other guidance related to NYTD, including questions and answers

NYTD Reviews - Current information on NYTD Reviews, including review schedules, review procedures and final reports

NYTD Data Briefs - Summarizes findings from State NYTD data submissions compiled by the Children's Bureau

NYTD Data Review Utility (NDRU) - Desktop application available to States for checking data file compliance and quality prior to transmitting files to the federal NYTD system

NYTD Services and Outcomes Reports - Information on key elements from State NYTD data submissions compiled by the Children's Bureau

Other NYTD Resources - Contains technical assistance documents related to NYTD

Introduction to the National Youth in Transition Database Video Series - Provides an overview of NYTD and the NYTD Review