Measuring Situations and Outcomes: Public Health Impact of the Law

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Introduction

- 3 x 5 cards
- The role of resources
- The role of politics
- The role of science and best practices
The Role of Science

- The importance of frameworks
- Situations through time
  - Person in place and time
  - The role of narrative
  - Well-being as a point process vs well-being as a trajectory
- Foster care is a system
  - Policy effects on whether children will be adopted
  - Linked Multi-level interventions
Bio-ecological Life Course: Placement as Situation
Two Examples

- Adoption from foster care
  - More common in the U.S. - it’s culturally related
  - Use of adoption varies considerably even in the U.S.
  - State policy varies considerably as well
  - The impact of policy
- At scale-implementation of evidence-based outcomes
  - The dose/response problem
  - How do we know? Observational versus experimental data
Adoption

- Two critical measures for understanding policy effects
  - How likely is it they will be adopted?
  - How long does it take?
  - If adoption confers developmental advantages to children then how long it takes and how often it happens are of fundamental importance
- State policy differs with respect to focus
  - State policies that target likelihood
    - Children in these circumstances
  - State policies that target timing
    - When can the state start its work
- Two are often confused
Reunification and Adoption

Changes in slope are tied to efficiency: adoptions/reunifications per unit of effort
Adoption Rates by State
Policy & System Effects

- The average rate
- Early timing - high probability
- Late timing - high probability
- Late timing - low probability

- In which context do children tend to do better?
- Given the context, what policies move the system in the right direction?
Infant Adoption Rates by Policy Configuration
Linked Multi-level Interventions: A Framework For Improving Placement Outcomes

- Well-being as a trajectory
  - Manage the risk and protective factors at the person, family, system level
    - Positive relationships with adults are protective
      - Improve the quality of the interaction between adults and children
        - Project KEEP with PMT
    - Misalignment of fiscal incentives and outcomes is a risk factor
      - Create positive return on investment
  - Quality of work is a risk factor
    - Buy time to improve quality