

ABSTRACT

REUNIFICATION OUTCOMES IN METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSING FAMILIES

This study examined foster care reentry among methamphetamine abusing parents involved with Child Protective Services in Kings County, California. Content analysis of secondary child welfare data was used to determine if family characteristics and parental stress factors documented in the literature are associated with foster care reentry among methamphetamine abusing families. The sample population included 12 families, each of whom had methamphetamine abuse documented as a contributing factor in the children's removal from the parent and each family participated in family reunification services to have the children returned to the parent. Six of the families experienced the children's reentry into foster care while the other six families did not experience the children's reentry into foster care.

The data collected regarding family characteristics and parental stress factors in the sample population were compared to the findings of previous research that addressed family characteristics and parental stress factors as they relate to foster care reentry, child maltreatment after reunification, and substance abuse relapse. The findings in this study suggest that parents involved with Child Protective Services who also abuse methamphetamine experience numerous parental stress factors that may interfere with methamphetamine recovery and the ability to maintain an intact family unit.

Kelly Christine Mancuso
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