

Youth from Ethnocultural Communities in Youth Protection

Instability of out-of-home placement

Overrepresentation in the Youth Protection System

- Black and Latino youth are overrepresented in the youth protection system, and their out-of-home placement is often cross-racial and culturally incongruent
- Black youth are more likely to be placed out of the parental home and are at greater risk for placement instability

Forms of Termination of Placement

- 1 Initiated by the youth
- 2 Inadequacy of placement
- 3 Non-compliance with state standards



Placement with Siblings or Extended family

- Low risk of inadequate placement
- Low risk of escape
- Risk of contact with biological parents



How and Why is the Extended Family Placement Contradictory?

Advantages

- Development of more lasting connections with people and places
- Important factor in placement stability
- Less time in out-of-home placement centers

Drawbacks

- Increased risk of contact between youth and biological parents
- Low state support
- No obligation to meet state standards

Conclusion

- Black youth are the most overrepresented ethnic minority in the youth protection system in both Canada and the United States. They are at **increased risk of placement instability** compared to their peers
- Out-of-home placements with extended families or siblings contribute to **placement stability**, but increase the risk of contact between the youth and his or her biological parents. They help **maintain connections** to people and places, which helps **mitigate the sense of loss** associated with placement changes
- Girls and Latinos experience more self-initiated disruptions, while African Americans experience disruptions more often related to mismatches or low-quality out-of-home placements