

## *Contents*

Preface ix

### **PART I. EXAMINING CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD WELFARE CASELOADS AND CAREERS**

1	Understanding Pathways to Permanency	3
	Toward Dynamic Data	9
	Our Approach to the Study of Pathways and Placements	16
	The Future of Permanency Planning	18
2	Growth in Child Abuse Reports and Child Welfare Services Caseloads	23
	Reform of California Child Welfare Services	24
	Trends in California's Emergency Response Dispositions	25
	Trends in California's Family Maintenance Caseload	27
	Trends in California's Foster Care Caseload	27
	Comparison of Trends	31
	Modeling the Number of Child Abuse Reports	33
	Time Series Results	41
	Summary and Implications	43
	The Simulations	45
	Summary, Policy, and Practice Implications	49
	Appendix	52

3	From Child Abuse Report to Child Welfare Services	55
	Sample Selection and Characteristics	56
	The Referral Process	58
	Types and Sources of Referrals	59
	Referrals: Number and Length of Time between Referrals	65
	Disposition Reasons	68
	Summary and Policy Objectives	71
	Notes	74
 <b>PART II ANALYZING FOSTER CARE</b>		
4	Rethinking and Researching Length of Stay in Foster Care	79
	Previous Research on Duration of Foster Care	80
	Cross-Sectional Point-in-Time Studies	80
	Retrospective or Longitudinal Studies Using Non-Event-History Methods	83
	Event-History Analysis of Length of Stay in Foster Care	90
	Conclusion	100
	Notes	103
5	Reunification from Kinship and Nonkinship Foster Care	105
	A Proportional-Hazards Model	114
	Kinship Care: Just Another Placement Option, or Something Completely Different?	122
	Summary	128
	Notes	132
6	Factors Associated with Entrance to Group Care	135
	Sample and Method	138
	First Placement in Group Care	138
	Later Placement in Group Care	143
	Summary	147
	Notes	152

7	Time to Adoption	153
	Odds of Adoption	156
	Odds of Timely Adoption and Adoption	
	Legislation	163
	Discussion	173
 <b>PART III CHILD AND PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
8	Specialized Foster Care: A Home for Children with Special Needs	179
	Who is the Professional Foster Parent?	183
	Why Be a Specialized Foster Parent?	184
	Length of Stay in the Field	185
	Satisfaction with the Experience	186
	A Look at Specialized Foster Care Agencies	186
	Discussion	189
9	Kinship Care: Rights and Responsibilities, Services and Standards <i>with Barbara Needell</i>	195
	The Evolution of Kin Placement	195
	Study Format	200
	Demographic Characteristics of Caregivers	203
	The Path toward Placement	208
	Characteristics	209
	Discussion	214
	Summary	216
	Notes	219
10	Group Care for Children	221
	A Survey of Group Care Providers	223
	The Future of Group Care	228
	Discussion	230
	Summary	232

11	Similarities and Differences in the Characteristics of Children in Out-of-Home Care	235
	A Comparative Look at Children in Out-of-Home Care	237
	Discussion	248
	Notes	252

#### **PART IV IMPLICATIONS**

12	Trends and Recommendations for the Next Decade	255
	Child Abuse Reports Continue to Spiral Upward	255
	Child Abuse Assessments are the Most Common Child Welfare Service	257
	Child Welfare Services Become Increasingly Articulated and Accountable	257
	Child Welfare Services are Focusing on Infants and Young Children	258
	Kinship Foster Care Swells	259
	Foster Care is Getting Harder to Enter and Harder to Leave	261
	Special-Needs Adoption Gains and Loses Prominence	262
	Guardianship Will Expand	264
	Integration of Family Preservation, Assessment and Referral	265
	The Length of Foster Care Is Rising Again	266
	The Expansion of Shared Family Care	268
	The Information and Outcome Age are Dawning	268
	Rationalizing Out-of-Home Care	271
	Independent Living Skills Programs Will Evolve	272
	Specialized Foster Care Will Expand	272
	Conclusions	273

References	275
------------	-----

Author Index	288
--------------	-----

Subject Index	291
---------------	-----