

Kinship care can be beneficial for children removed from home after maltreatment

Clinical question	How effective is kinship care for the safety, permanency, and wellbeing of children removed from the home following maltreatment?
Bottom line	Children in kinship care may do better than children in traditional foster care, in terms of their behavioural development, mental health functioning, and placement stability. Children in traditional foster care placements may do better with regard to achieving some permanency outcomes (adoption and guardianship) and accessing services they may need (such as mental health services).
Caveat	The studies had pronounced methodological and design weaknesses, especially in regard to controlling for baseline differences in non-randomised studies. They also had moderate to high risks of performance, detection, report and attrition bias.
Context	Child abuse and neglect are common problems across the world, resulting in negative consequences for children, families and communities. Traditionally, children have been removed from the parental home and placed in residential care or with other families, including foster families. "Kinship care" or "families and friends care" places children who cannot live at home with other members of their family, or with friends of the family.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Winokur M et al. Kinship care for safety, permanency, and wellbeing of children removed from home for maltreatment. Cochrane Reviews 2009, Issue 1. Article No. CD006546. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006546.pub2. This review contains 62 quasi-experimental studies, involving 316,188 participants.
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[References]

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