

**Table S1.** Included Study Characteristics ( $N = 22$ ).

Author, year	Study purpose	Data source	Sample characteristics
Bozzi et al., 2022	To examine the association between community adversity and psychotropic use among children in foster care in one U.S. state	Integrated foster care and Medicaid administrative databases, Kids Count, U.S. census, and Area Health Resource File in 2014	<p><math>N = 4,334</math></p> <p><b>Age:</b>  5–9: 28%  10–14: 29%  15–18: 43%</p> <p><b>Gender:</b>  Male: 49%  Female: 51%</p> <p><b>Race:</b>  Black: 63%  White: 33%  Other: 4%</p>
Breland-Noble et al., 2004	To examine the use of psychotropic medications among youths in residential community-based placements	Statewide study among children who stayed in therapeutic foster care (June 1999 through May 2001) and group homes (January through June 2001)	<p><math>N = 304</math></p> <p>Therapeutic foster care: <math>n = 184</math>  Group home: <math>n = 120</math></p> <p><b>Age:</b>  <math>M = 14.1</math></p> <p><b>Gender:</b>  Group home:  Female: 74%  Male 26%  Therapeutic foster care  Female: 87%  Male: 13%</p> <p><b>Race:</b>  White: 58%  African American: 42%</p>
Breland-Noble et al., 2005	To examine patterns of multisector service use for youth in therapeutic foster care and group homes	Federally funded statewide study of therapeutic foster care (June 1999 through May 2001) and group home care (February 2001 through July 2001)	<p><math>N = 304</math></p> <p>Therapeutic foster care: <math>n = 184</math>  Group home: <math>n = 120</math></p> <p><b>Therapeutic foster care:</b>  <b>Age:</b>  <math>M = 14.1</math>  <b>Gender:</b>  Male: 74%  Female: 26%  <b>Race:</b>  White: 55%  African American: 40%  Other: 5%</p> <p><b>Group home:</b>  <b>Age:</b>  <math>M = 14.3</math>  <b>Gender:</b>  Male: 87%  <b>Race:</b>  White: 49%  African American: 47%</p>

			Other: 4%
Brenner et al., 2014	To describe the use of psychotropic medications, including polypharmacy and an indicator of questionable polypharmacy among youth in treatment foster care	Randomized trial that tested the effectiveness of an enhanced treatment foster care model conducted in usual care agencies between 2003 and 2008 in a southeastern state	<p><i>N</i> = 247</p> <p><b>Age:</b> <i>M</i> = 13.0</p> <p><b>Gender:</b> Female: 45% Male: 55%</p> <p><b>Race:</b> White: 32% African American: 58% Other: 10%</p>
DosReis et al., 2014	To investigate changes in the prevalence of psychotropic medication use for each year increase in age from 3 to 6 among children in foster care and to examine time-varying odds of longer duration of use by each year of age	Child welfare administrative records and state department of mental health claims data during 2009–2011	<p><i>N</i> = 1,491</p> <p><b>Age:</b> ≤ 3: 69% 4: 10% 5: 12% 6: 10%</p> <p><b>Gender:</b> Male: 52% Female: 48%</p> <p><b>Race:</b> White: 20% Black: 77% Other: 2%</p>
Fawley-King & Snowden, 2012	To (a) confirm a relationship between placement change during a foster care episode and use of emergency mental health care, specifically crisis services and psychiatric hospitalization; and (b) differentiate between placement change's impact on emergency mental health care and emergency mental health care's impact on placement change	Medi-Cal paid claims and foster care placement records between 1998 and 2001	<p><i>N</i> = 19,351</p> <p><b>Gender:</b> Female: 54% Male: 46%</p> <p><b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 34% Black: 23% Asian: 3% Hispanic: 38% Other: 2%</p> <p><b>Age at start of episode:</b> 6–11: 59% 12–18: 41%</p>
Glesener et al., 2018	To assess the effects of race, age, sex, and time spent in foster care on rates of psychotropic medication use for children in foster care in 2012	Electronic records through county social service and state Medicaid in 2012	<p><i>N</i> = 626</p> <p><b>Age:</b> 0–4: 39.8% 5–9: 23% 10–14: 19.5% 15–17: 17.7%</p> <p><b>Gender:</b> Female: 45% Male: 55%</p> <p><b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 53% American Indian: 36% African American: 11%</p>
James et al., 2004	To examine the relationship between placement change and outpatient mental health	Medicaid claims data and children's social services records in California	<p><i>N</i> = 570</p> <p><b>Age at entry to care:</b> <i>M</i> = 7.3</p>

	service use among children in foster care		<b>Gender:</b> Male: 45.6% Female: 54.4% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 45.3% Hispanic: 20.4% African American: 28.4% Other: 6.0%
Kim et al., 2021	To examine rates and predictors of MH service use over time among child welfare involved youth.	Child welfare and juvenile justice system data and Medicaid-funded behavioral health claims data from a large mid-Atlantic city of the United States	N = 8,225 <b>Age:</b> M = 15.08 <b>Gender:</b> Male: 48.25% Female: 51.75% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> Caucasian: 10.49% African American: 75.90% Latino: 11.91% Other: 1.69%
Leslie et al., 2000	To determine factors influencing outpatient mental health service use by children in foster care	Medicaid, San Diego County Mental Health Management Information System, and California Department of Social Services	N = 480 <b>Age:</b> 1–3: 31.3% 4–5: 19.2% 6–11: 38.3% 12–17: 11.3% <b>Gender:</b> Male: 44.8% Female: 55.2% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 44.2% African American: 27.7% Latino: 22.5% Asian or other: 5.6%
Leslie et al., 2004	To determine factors influencing the use of outpatient mental health services provided by mental health professionals for children in foster care	National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being	N = 462 <b>Age:</b> 2–3: 19.6% 4–5: 12.5% 6–10: 37.3% 11+: 30.5% <b>Gender:</b> Female: 49.1% Male: 50.9% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 36.7% African American: 39.4% Hispanic: 16.3% Other: 7.7%
McMillen & Raghavan, 2009	To assess and predict changes in mental health service use as older youth leave the foster care system	Youth interviewed at age 19 and enrolled in a longitudinal study of older youth from the foster care system	N = 325 <b>Age:</b> 19 <b>Gender:</b> Female: 61% Male: 39%

			<b>Race and ethnicity:</b> 59% person of color 41% White
McMillen et al., 2004	To examine (a) lifetime, 12-month, and current mental health service use among older youths in the foster care system and (b) variations in mental health care by race, gender, maltreatment history, living situation, and geographic region	Survey with 406 foster youth via telephone	N = 406 <b>Age:</b> M = 16.99 <b>Gender:</b> Female: 56% Male: 44% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 44% African American: 51% Mixed race: 4% American Indian: 1% Asian: < 1% Latino: < 1% Middle Eastern: < 1%
Park et al., 2019	To (a) examine the prevalence of psychotropic medication use over time; (b) evaluate youths' perceptions of the benefits of medication, and (c) assess associations between medication use and behavioral health problems	California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study, a panel study of a cohort of transition-age foster youth in California	N = 611 <b>Age:</b> 16.75–17.75 <b>Gender:</b> Female: 60% Male: 40% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 17.6% Black: 17.3% Hispanic: 47.4% Mixed race: 15.2% Other: 2.4%
Petrenko et al., 2011	To determine if recommendations from mental health and educational screening evaluations were related to service implementation for youth in out-of-home care	171 maltreated youth in out-of-home care and their caregivers who participated in the randomized controlled trial of the Fostering Healthy Futures program from 2002 to 2007	N = 171 <b>Age:</b> M = 10.38 <b>Gender:</b> Male: 49.7% Female: 50.3% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 44.4% African American: 28.1% Hispanic or Latino: 49.7% Native American: 8.8% Asian: 2.3% Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: 2.3%
Pullman et al., 2018	To explore the case flow and trajectories of children and youth as they enter the child welfare system, are screened, and receive services for mental health	Administrative records from all 8,636 children and youth aged 3 to 17 who entered out-of-home care for 30 days or more between July 2010 and July 2014 in Washington	N = 8,636 <b>Age:</b> M = 8.45 <b>Gender:</b> Female: 51.5% Male: 48.5% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> White: 53.8% African American: 8.0% Hispanic: 16.2% Asian or Pacific Islander: 2.2%

			Native American: 3.6% Multiracial: 15.9%
Shin et al., 2005	To explore the need for and actual use of mental health services by adolescents in the child welfare system	Face-to-face interviews with foster adolescents, Medicaid Paid Claims Longitudinal Database, and a Midwest state's child welfare administrative database	N = 113 <b>Age:</b> M = 17.5 <b>Gender:</b> Male: 46% Female: 54% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> African American: 70% White: 25% Asian, Native American, or unknown: 7%
Swanke et al., 2016	To compare mental health service receipt and time to receive mental health services between youth in kinship care versus youth in nonkinship foster homes	Administrative child welfare data and Medicaid data from fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2010 in Florida	N = 36,543 <b>Age:</b> M = 4.79 <b>Gender:</b> Male: 50% Female: 50% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> Non-Hispanic White: 48% African American: 38% Hispanic: 13% Other: 1%
Villagran a, 2010	Examine characteristics that predict referral to mental health services, and whether referral was a significant predictor of service utilization	Closed court cases between March and December 2004	N = 185 <b>Age:</b> 5–10: 55.1% 11–16: 44.9% <b>Gender:</b> Male: 46.5% Female: 53.5% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> African American: 33.5% White: 28.6% Latino: 37.8%
Villagran a et al., 2017	To explore racial and ethnic differences in mental health service utilization among youth while in foster care and at exit	Linked administrative child welfare agency data and public mental health system data	N = 1,715 <b>Age:</b> 17: 59% 18: 28.7% 19: 9.9% 20: 2.5% <b>Gender:</b> Male: 45.1% Female: 54.9% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> African American: 42.9% White: 16.2% Latino: 40.9%
Yampolskaya et al., 2017	To explore the parallel trajectories of mental health service use and mental health status among children in out-of-home care	Administrative state child welfare data and Medicaid claims in Florida during fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2010	N = 6,847 <b>Age:</b> M = 9.54 (SD = 4.54) <b>Gender:</b> Male: 51% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b>

			Caucasian: 42% African American: 40% Hispanic: 11% Other: 7%
Zima et al., 2000	To present attempts to access and patterns of service-use among school-aged children in foster care, including moderating factors	Primary data collected through telephone interviews	<i>N</i> = 472 <b>Age:</b> <i>M</i> = 8.1 <b>Gender:</b> Male: 58% Female: 42% <b>Race and ethnicity:</b> Caucasian: 17% African American: 42% Latino: 25% Biracial: 12% Other: 3%