Data — Meaning — Impact:
The Science of Improving the Lives of
Children and other Young People.

Fred Wulczyn Center for State Child Welfare Data Chapin Hall Center for Children University of Chicago

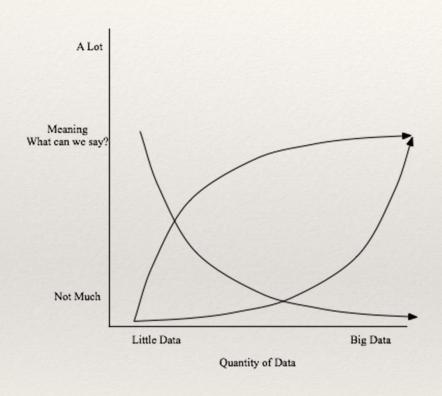
Reflections in Three Domains

- Big data and the problem of meaning
- Big science and the need for theory
- The problem of human capital

Science vs. Madison Ave.

- Big data
- Data mining
- Data warehouse
- Data marts
- Predictive analytics
- Advanced analytics
- Inter-operability

Data and Meaning



- How big is big?
- What value does big bring?
- Meaning and value
- Cost and Value

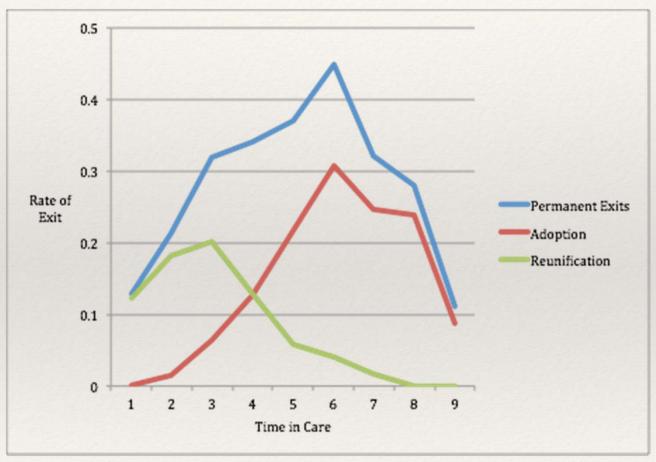
$$e = mc^2$$

- Better value from data big and small
- Science makes meaning of data

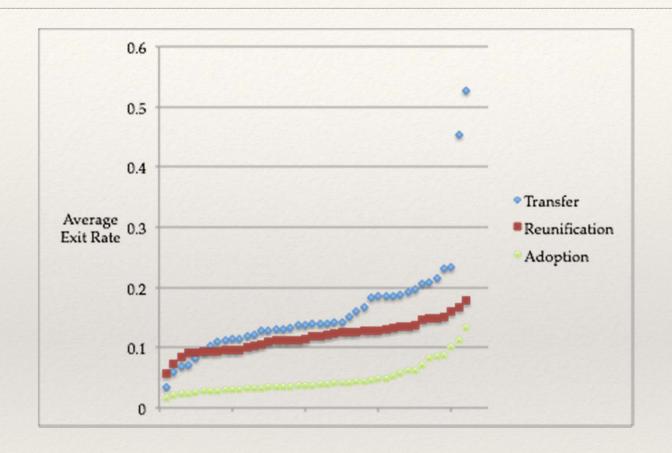
Science, Theory, and Impact

- Asymmetries in the development of theory
 - Person-centric vs. system-centric
- Person, place, and time as scientific narrative

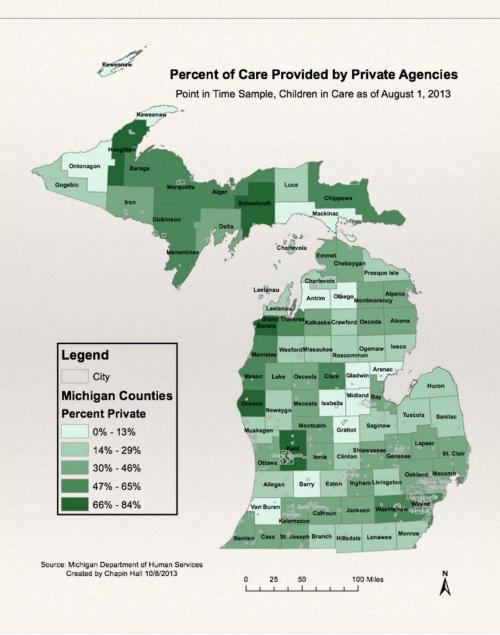
Person-centric view of leaving placement



System-centric view of leaving placement

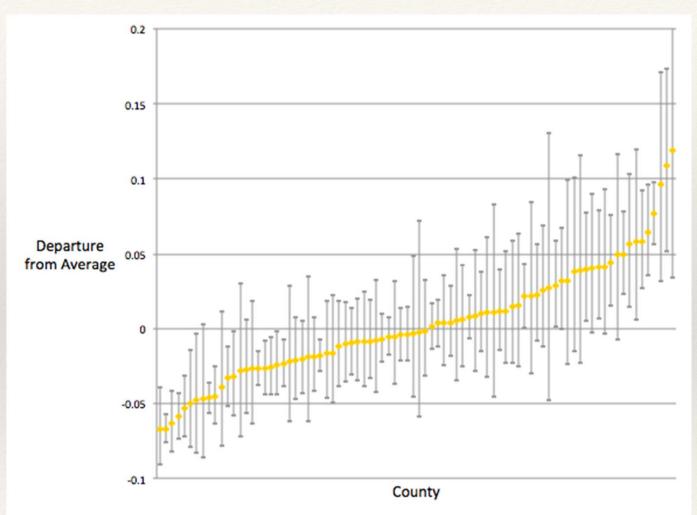


System-centric View of System Structure

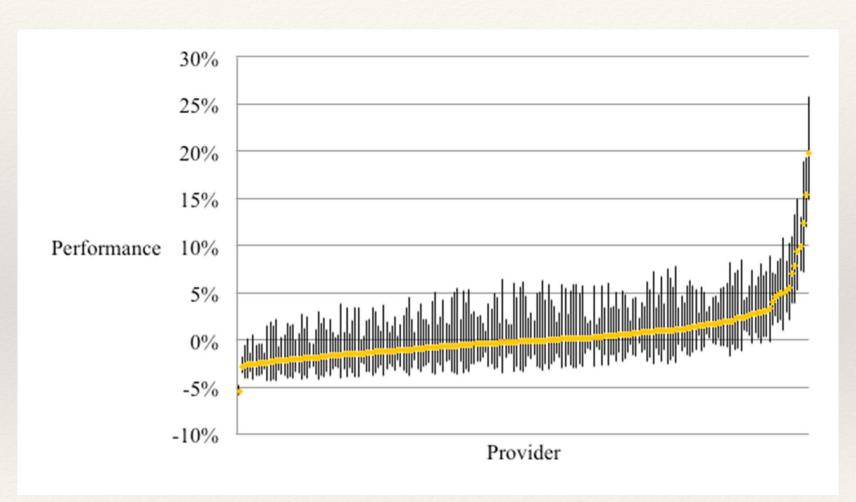


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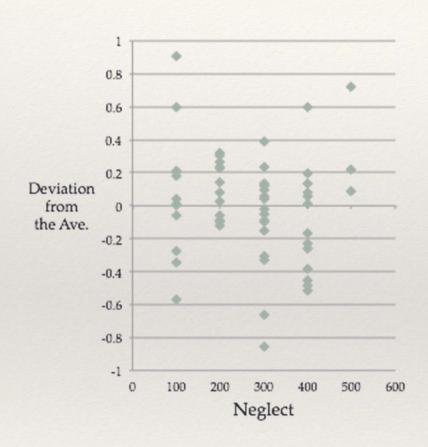
System Centric View of County Performance

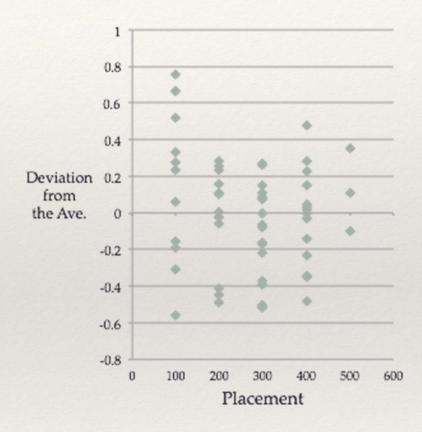


System-centric View of Provider Performance



System-centric View of Neglect and Placement





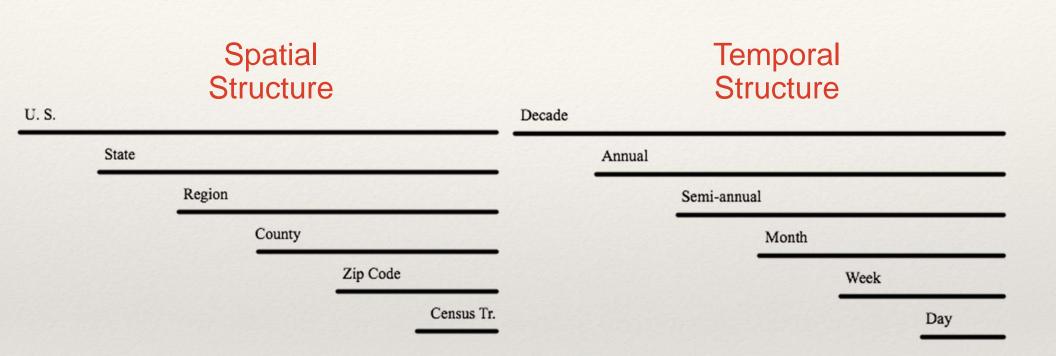
System-centric View of Service Allocation and Impact

Slots per 100 Victims

Community Area	Expected	Observed	Residual	Placement Impact
High Need 1	36.94	26.2	-11.000	-1
High Need 2	36.94	32.4	-5.000	0
High Need 3	36.94	34.8	-2.000	0
High Need 4	36.94	37.6	1.000	-1
High Need 5	36.94	41.2	4.000	0
Low Need 1	33.45	1.7	-32.000	0
Low Need 2	33.45	30.3	-3.000	0
Low Need 3	33.45	27.7	-6.000	0
Low Need 4	33.45	37.6	4.000	0
Low Need 5	33.45	38.8	5.000	-1
Low Need 6	33.45	57.1	24.000	1

Person, Place, and Time as Scientific Narrative

Spatial and Temporal Structure

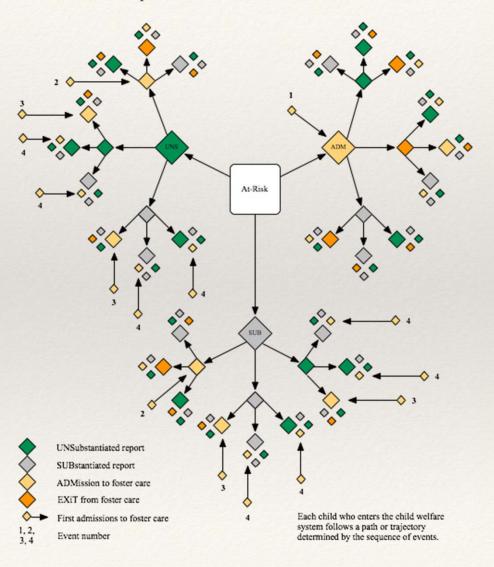


Biographical Narrative and Service History

1	Family, Person, and Clinical Narrative	Child Welfare Trajectories	
Mother/Father		Report	
Child 1		Investigation	
	Clinical Narrative	Disposition	
	Service History	In Home Service	
	Preschool/School	Placement	
	Health		
	Mental Health		

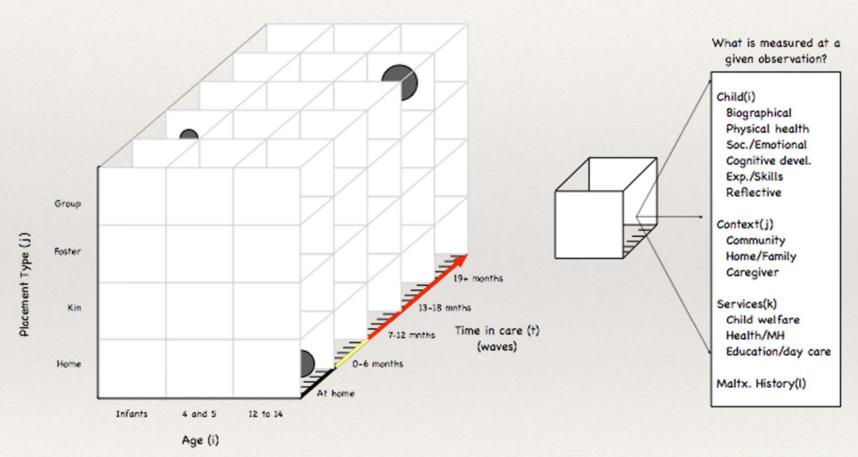
Trajectories and Narrative Structure

Child Welfare Events as Trajectories Complex Forms and Self Similar Structures



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Trajectories as Narrative



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Human Capital and Research Evidence Use

