



## **The experience of youth with disabilities in the child welfare system**

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**ABSTRACT:** The aim of this study was to compare the adoption of adolescent sex and substance use risk behaviors among youth with and without disabilities involved in child welfare systems. We used data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing II to perform a longitudinal data analysis, examining correlations between disability status and risk behavior at 18- and 36-month reports, as well as examining additional variations between these groups. Results showed that youth with disabilities were less likely to engage in risk behaviors than their peers. Possible explanations for this correlation, as well as additional variations observed between these groups, were discussed.