

Data Trends

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This News Brief alerts you to the following article: Rice, J. K. (2001). The cost of working together: A framework for estimating the costs of comprehensive support systems for children. *Administration & Society*, 33(4), 455-479.

From the abstract: "Comprehensive systems that seek to coordinate a broad array of support services have increasingly been surfacing as an avenue for providing public services to children. Although proponents of such efforts have argued that more integrated approaches promise to be more efficient than fragmented systems of service delivery, little empirical evidence exists to support such claims. A major hurdle in making judgments about efficiency involves assessing the costs of the approach. This article develops, applies, and appraises a framework designed to guide local policy makers as they consider the types, amounts, and distribution of costs associated with comprehensive support systems for children" (p. 455).

Rice presents a cost template intended for use across implementation sites. This template "yields several important types of information to guide policy decisions...can help identify opportunities to improve the efficient operation of a particular model, [and]...encourages a cooperative effort between central researchers and local policy makers" (p. 475).

Articles from *Administration & Society* are available on-line to subscribing individuals or institutions at:
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