

The Direct Costs of the Elder Abuse Forensic Center Model

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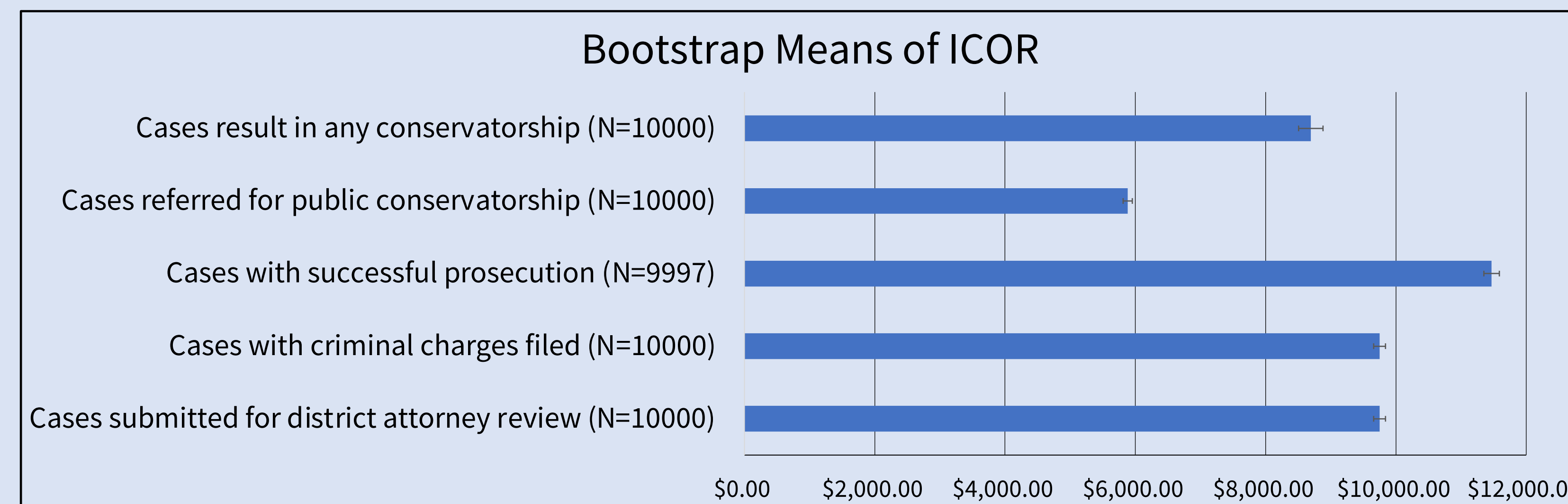
INTRODUCTION

- Elder abuse forensic centers (EAFCs) are multidisciplinary teams that convene multiple agencies to consult on the most complex elder abuse cases
- Prior research indicates that EAFCs increase referral for prosecution and conservatorship/guardianship
- This is the first study to report on the costs of the E AFC model

METHODS

- Propensity matched cases from the Los Angeles County E AFC (N=41) and Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services (APS; N=39). Cases are a subsample of a larger E AFC study and are from 2007-2009
- Case files were reviewed to produce activity times and public records were reviewed to generate cost per individual. These values were used to generate overall costs and converted into 2023 dollars
- Incremental cost-outcome ratios (ICOR) for outputs related to prosecution and conservatorship were calculated from a bootstrap resample

The cost of outputs from the Elder Abuse Forensic Center include \$5,883 for a case referred to the public guardian and \$9,749 for a case submitted to the district attorney for review



RESULTS

- Mean case activity time and costs were higher in E AFC cases (10.36 hours, \$1,462.24) compared to APS cases (3.72 hours, \$203.45)
- Cases submitted to the district attorney for review had a higher ICOR at \$9,749.27 compared to cases referred to the public guardian for conservatorship, with an ICOR of \$5,883.20.

DISCUSSION

- Achieving referral to the public guardian or submission for district attorney review in E AFC cases is associated with higher costs than matched APS cases
- The E AFC model achieves higher levels of referral to the public guardian and submission to the district attorney for review despite underutilization in Los Angeles County
- As E AFCS and other multidisciplinary teams gain prominence, costs studies like this become more necessary
- These findings can inform those seeking to replicate the E AFC model

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

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