



Understanding Relocation Cases

What do we know?

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Introductory remarks





Understanding relocation cases – some biographical characteristics



England (2012)

66% | international success rate

70% | domestic success rate

England (2025)

Unknown – best guess, 35-40%
success rate (international)

New Zealand (2005-13)

68% | international success rate

35-50% | domestic success rate

Canada (2005-10)

68% | overall success rate

Canada (BC)

(2013-22)

60% | international
success rate

53% | domestic
success rate



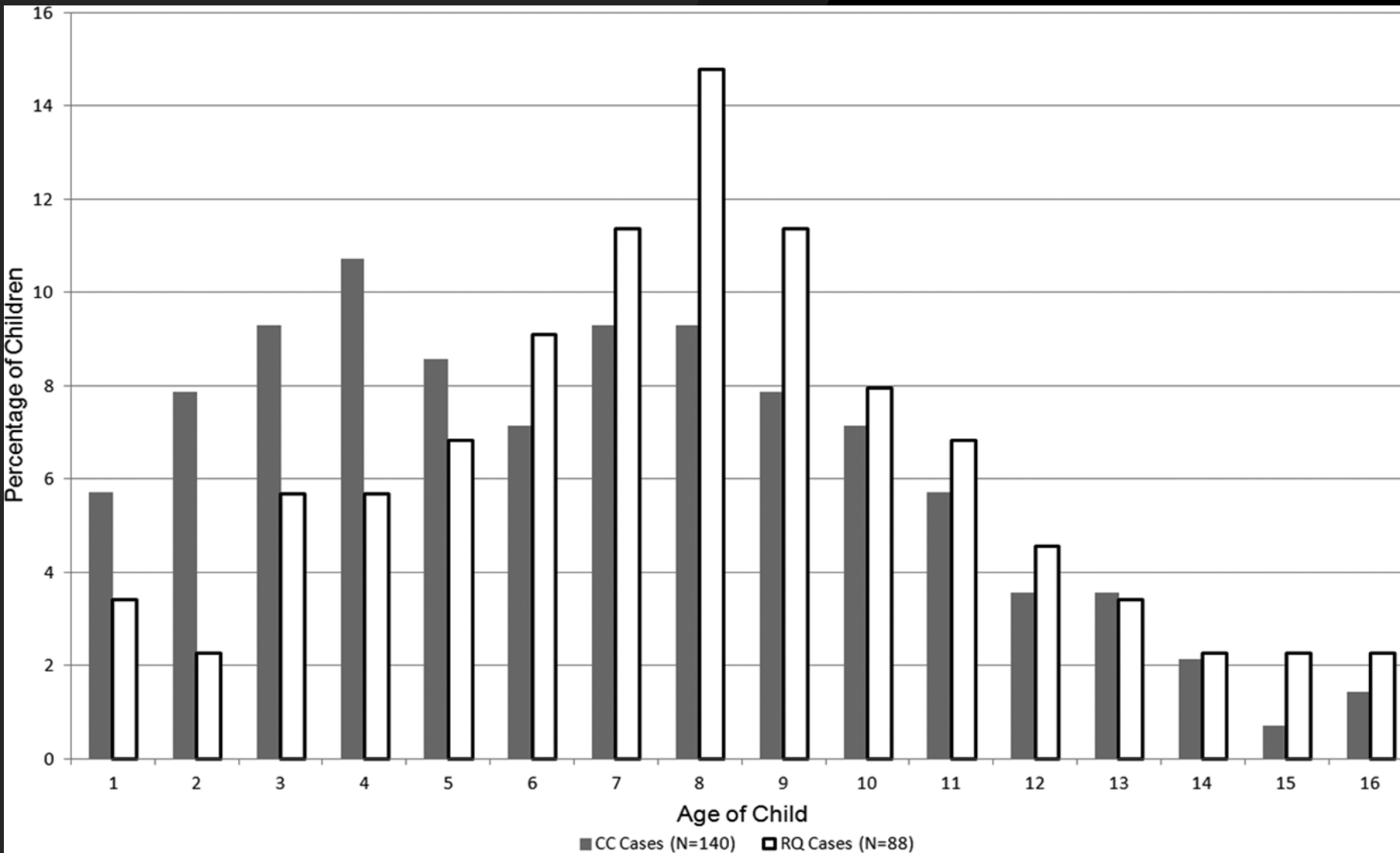
Relocation cases are highly gendered, most applications by mothers

93% | English 2012 study

92% | Canadian 2001-2010 study

86% | Canadian 2013-2021 study





Age of children in litigated cases (English 2012 study)

International vs domestic moves

England and Wales – majority of litigated cases still international?

New Zealand – about $\frac{1}{3}$ of cases are international

Canada (BC) – 17.2% international





“Some studies reveal beneficial effects of relocating while others report negative outcomes for children. The research in this field is highly diverse and negative outcomes associated with relocation may be explained by other factors that lead to frequent residential mobility. ... Whether relocation will have a positive or negative impact on a child depends on many variables, and will be determined by the combination of risk and protective factors present in each individual case.”

-- Taylor (2017)

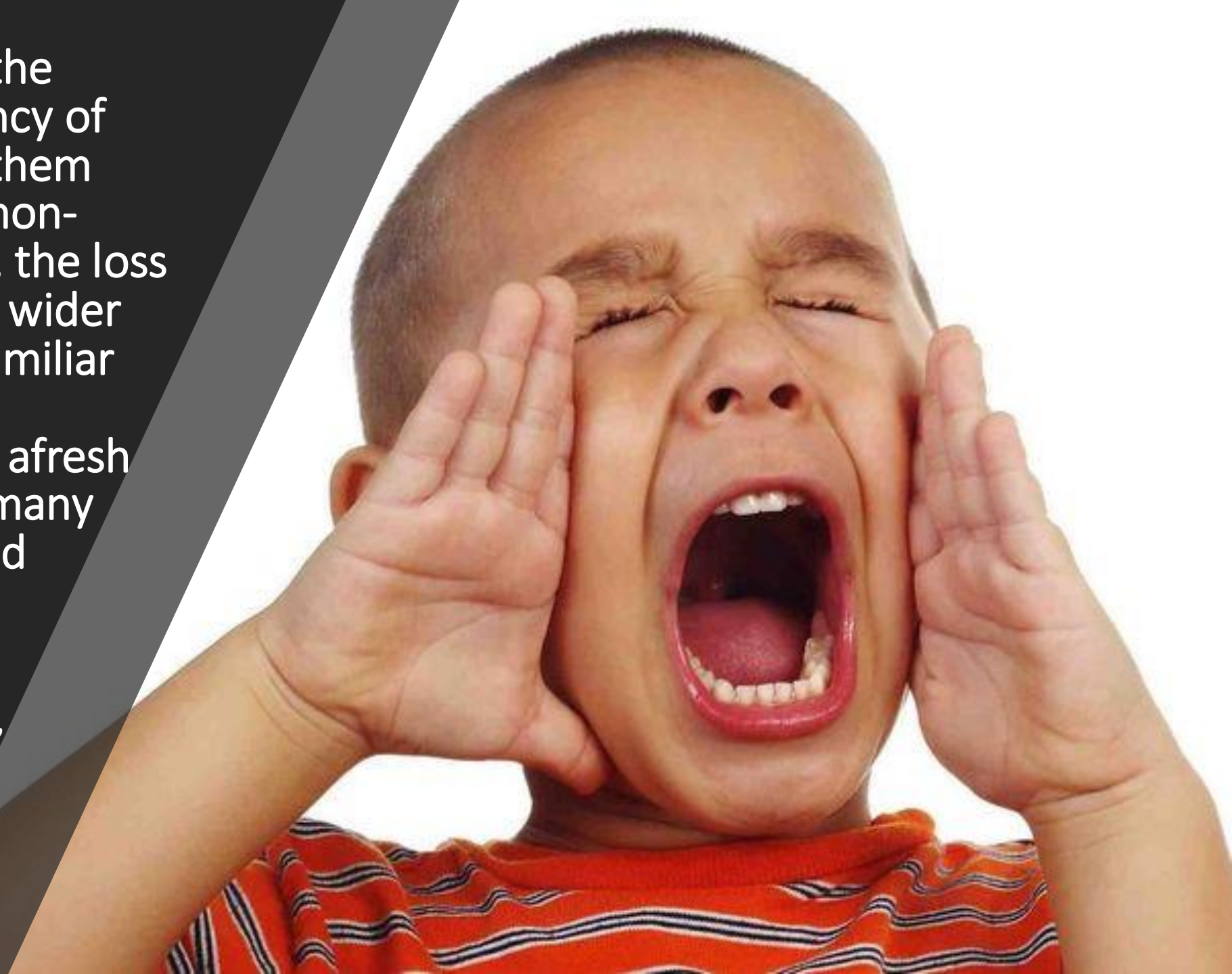
“those children who did move showed generally good locational adjustment, for example making friends and settling into new schools, there was a more complicated picture in terms of the on-going relationship with the non-moving parent with some, especially primary school aged children, missing their fathers a great deal”


-- Cashmore and Parkinson (2016)



“children grapple with the complexity and poignancy of what is being asked of them including leaving their non-resident parent behind, the loss of their school, friends, wider family members, and familiar surroundings, while simultaneously starting afresh in a new location with many aspects of their lives and coping with the travel between their parents’ homes on a regular, or more infrequent, basis”

-- Taylor (2017)





Fathers reported feeling
“like expendable accessories
in their children’s lives”
while mothers saw
relocation law as infringing
their own rights and tying
them to their former
partners in a way that they
saw as highly unfair

-- Taylor, Gollop and
Henaghan (2010)

5 years after an unsuccessful relocation application, mothers had varied views:

“some said that they had adjusted to the decision and taken a positive attitude; some were ambivalent, saying they had adjusted to but not accepted the decision; and a third group had not adjusted at all, continuing to feel trapped and resentful of the decision”

-- Parkinson and Cashmore (2013)



Conclusions



“There are many sides to the debate – the importance to children of happy carers, the importance to children of positive relationships with their parents, the importance of meaningful gender equality, the importance of parents’ and children’s rights, the importance of freedom of movement in a global society, and so on – and because ... every case is different, it is impossible to say that any one approach is inherently better than all the others”

-- George (2012)



Thank you for
your attention

