Faculti Summary

Ross Edwards discusses the implications of using digital administrative data records and predictive analytics in family welfare and child protection services. He explains that predictive analytics involves algorithmic analysis to identify which families may need intervention based on correlations between past behaviors and undesirable outcomes. This video video practice creates a "pre-pro space," where families are anticipated to face potential future problems even if they haven't occurred yet, resulting in a shift from reactive to proactive interventions.

The session highlights parents' views on predictive analytics, noting a lack of attention to their opinions and the ethical concerns this raises. Edward's research, conducted with colleagues, explores parents' assessments of data use in decision-making processes, revealing a mix of acceptance and concerns. While some parents see potential benefits in flagging individuals in distress, they also express strong apprehensions about the accuracy, fairness, and potential biases in the data used, particularly regarding racial disparities.

Parents expressed worry about the accuracy of records, the possibility of inaccurate predictions leading to unjust interventions, and concerns that families could be overlooked or wrongfully flagged. The presentation concludes with recommendations for clearer rights regarding personal data, mechanisms for reporting and correcting errors, and regular reviews of the predictive models' effectiveness. It emphasizes the need for public dialogue on the legitimacy of using administrative data to forecast family issues, advocating for a more ethical and transparent approach.