

# National Youth in Transition Database Report to Congress



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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## **National Youth in Transition Database Report to Congress Executive Summary**

This National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Report to Congress was prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to meet the requirements of Section 477(f)(2) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).<sup>1</sup> The legislation requires HHS to report information on youth who completed the NYTD survey at age 17 that includes analyses of foster care experiences, characteristics and outcomes reported by youth completing the NYTD survey, and the association between foster care experiences and outcomes reported by NYTD youth at ages 19 and 21. To date, two cohorts have been surveyed through age 21. This report provides information collected from the youth in Cohort 2, who were surveyed in federal fiscal years (FFY) 2014, 2016, and 2018.

**Foster Care Experiences.** Compared to youth who exited foster care prior to age 17, youth who completed the NYTD survey at age 17 had slightly more placement changes, were more likely to have been placed in a group home or institution, and were more likely to have entered care with a reason for entry that included a child behavior problem or caretaker inability to cope. Additionally, NYTD youth leaving foster care at age 17 or 18 were more likely to exit to emancipation, but almost one-quarter (23 percent) were reunified with family, adopted, or placed with a legal guardian. Results suggest that NYTD youth may have complex needs and may benefit from extra support as they transition to adulthood.

**Characteristics and Outcomes Reported by Youth Completing the NYTD Survey at Ages 19 and 21.** Regardless of foster care status at either age 19 or 21, the majority of young people had received at least a high school degree or GED and continued to report having at least one adult in their lives to whom they can go to for advice or emotional support. Results reveal that 19 and 21 year-olds who were in foster care fared better overall and reported fewer challenging outcomes than their counterparts who had exited care. This underscores the importance of providing supports to youth who may be particularly vulnerable to challenging outcomes and the potential protective factor foster care may be for youth who remain in or re-enter care after age 18.

**Foster Care Experiences and Select NYTD Outcomes.** Foster care experiences of youth at age 17 (the year in which NYTD baseline surveys were administered), including length of stay in foster care and the type of placement, are associated with employment-related and educational outcomes reported by youth surveyed at ages 19 and 21. At both ages 19 and 21, youth reporting employment-related skills had, at baseline, spent less time in foster care, had fewer foster care placements, and had been more likely to be placed in a family foster home than youth who did not report any employment-related skills. Similarly, youth who had achieved at least a high school degree or GED or who were attending school had fewer foster care placements and had

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<sup>1</sup> The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law (P.L.) 115- 123, enacted on February 9, 2018, included the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Division E, Title VII. The group within HHS that is responsible for this report is the Children’s Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

more likely been placed in a family foster home compared to youth who had not reported having a degree or being in school. Longer lengths of stay in foster care, however, were associated with educational achievement, with over half the youth who reported positive educational outcomes at ages 19 and 21 having been in care for two years or more by age 17. At both ages 19 and 21, youth whose foster care placement at age 17 was a group home or institution were less likely to report having employment-related skills or receiving an educational degree or being enrolled in school.

Similarly, the type and number of foster care placements at age 17 are associated with later experiences of homelessness or incarceration. Youth, who when surveyed at 19 and 21 reported not being homeless or incarcerated within the past two years, had fewer foster care placements and were more likely to have been placed in a family foster home, rather than a group home or institution. Interestingly, youth who had spent longer lengths of time in foster care at age 17 were less likely at 19 and 21 to report having been homeless or incarcerated, compared to their peers who did not report those experiences.

**Using NYTD Information to Track Performance.** Since data collection began in FFY 2011, states continue to make progress in improving the quality of data reported to the NYTD, but ACF has determined it is premature to identify reliable benchmarks based on current data. Results from this report suggest that, overall, young adults may have a more successful transition to adulthood by remaining connected to the child welfare system and to services available after the age of 18.

The NYTD survey is an opportunity for states to engage young people as partners in data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of survey results. It also is important to keep in mind that the survey can be a tool for ensuring that the services and supports offered to youth in transition from foster care are meeting their needs. As states continue to provide increasingly reliable data to the NYTD, the benefits of providing services to youth transitioning to adulthood will be more broadly understood. Until then, it is important to see the results in this Report as only one piece of information that may be used to help inform state transition planning services, practices, and policies.

# National Youth in Transition Database Report to Congress

## Introduction

This National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Report to Congress was prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to meet the requirements of section 477(f)(2) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).<sup>2</sup> The legislation requires HHS to report on outcomes reported by youth to NYTD that includes the following:

(A) A description of the reasons for entry into foster care and of the foster care experiences, such as length of stay, number of placement settings, case goal, and discharge reason of 17-year-olds who are surveyed by the NYTD and an analysis of the comparison of that description with the reasons for entry and foster care experiences of children of other ages who exit from foster care before attaining age 17.

(B) A description of the characteristics of the individuals who report poor outcomes at ages 19 and 21 to the NYTD.

(C) Benchmarks for determining what constitutes a poor outcome for youth who remain in or have exited from foster care and plans the executive branch will take to incorporate these benchmarks in efforts to evaluate child welfare agency performance in providing services to children transitioning from foster care.

(D) An analysis of the association between types of placement, number of overall placements, time spent in foster care, and other factors, and outcomes at ages 19 and 21.

(E) An analysis of the differences in outcomes for children in and formerly in foster care at age 19 and 21 among states.

## Background

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transitions to Adulthood (the Chafee Program),<sup>3</sup> established in Section 477 of the Social Security Act, provides states with flexible funding to carry out programs that assist youth in making a successful transition from foster care to adulthood. This law requires the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track independent living services that states provide to youth and to develop outcome measures to assess states' performance in operating independent living programs. In response to the requirement, ACF developed the NYTD which collects data on (1) all youth and young adults currently or formerly in foster care who received independent living

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<sup>2</sup>The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Public Law (P.L.) 115- 123, enacted on February 9, 2018, included the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Division E, Title VII. The group within HHS that is responsible for this report is the Children's Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

<sup>3</sup> Public Law 106-169 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). Public Law 115-123 renamed the program the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood.

services paid for or provided by the state agency that administers the Chafee Program, and (2) outcomes of young people in six areas collected through a short survey.<sup>4</sup> The NYTD survey collects information on a baseline cohort of 17-year-old youth in foster care and again collects information from them at ages 19 and 21. A new cohort of 17-year-olds is surveyed every three years. To date, two cohorts have been surveyed through age 21. This report provides information collected from the youth in Cohort 2, who were surveyed in federal fiscal years (FFY) 2014, 2016, and 2018.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 1. Survey Participation**

Age	Number eligible to take the survey	Number completing the survey
Age 17	23,780	16,480
Age 19	12,309	8,898
Age 21	12,273	7,799

In Cohort 2 (FFY 2014), 23,780 youth were eligible to take the NYTD survey, and 69 percent of youth completed the baseline survey within 45 days of turning age 17. In FFY 2016, 72 percent of eligible 19-year-olds took the survey; at age 21, 64 percent of eligible young people completed the survey in FFY 2018.<sup>6</sup> Because response rates at both baseline and follow up varied widely by state, and to account for this variation, as well as state sampling, the Children’s Bureau employed a weighting methodology to the NYTD survey responses to identify and correct potential non-response bias. All survey outcome results were weighted to represent the cohort of 17-year-olds identified at baseline as being eligible to take the NYTD survey in FFY 2014. All NYTD survey outcome percentages in this report are weighted estimates.

**Section 1: Foster Care Experiences**

Section 477(f)(2)(A) of the Act requires ACF to compare information on the foster care experiences of youth who completed the NYTD survey at age 17 with the experiences of youth in foster care who exited care prior to age 17. Data on foster care experiences were taken from the FFY 2014 and FFY 2015 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Appendix A of this report and to Appendix B in the NYTD regulations at 45 CFR 1356.80 for a complete listing of the NYTD survey questions and response options (data elements 34-58).

<sup>5</sup> To be eligible to take the NYTD survey, a youth must have turned age 17 during FFY 2014 and have been in foster care (45 CFR 1355.20) at any point within 45 days after turning age 17 (the baseline population). States were required to collect outcomes information while the youth was in foster care. The outcomes data presented include survey information provided by the baseline population of youth who were in foster care on the date they were surveyed during FFY 2014. At follow up, youth who completed the survey at age 17 are eligible to take the survey during the six-month reporting periods in which they turn ages 19 and 21.

<sup>6</sup> Fifteen states chose to sample youth for the follow-up survey at ages 19 and 21. Therefore, the number of youth eligible for the NYTD survey in FFY 2016 was reduced to 12,309. At age 19, 36 young people were reported to be deceased, bringing the eligible follow-up population at age 21 to 12,273.

Ninety-five percent of NYTD respondents at age 17 were found in the FFY 2014 AFCARS file, resulting in foster care information on 15,606 NYTD youth who were reported to be in foster care within 45 days of their 17<sup>th</sup> birthdays.<sup>7</sup> A group of youth who had exited care at ages 13 to 16 were chosen as a comparison group of older youth because they had a similar mean age of entry into care as NYTD youth. Similar exposure time to the foster care system allows for more equal comparisons between the two groups to better understand how, if at all, foster care experiences differ between those older youth who had exited care prior to age 17 and NYTD youth who were in care at age 17 in FFY 2014. All foster care information is related to the most recent foster care episode.

**Table 2. Foster Care Experiences<sup>8</sup> of Older Youth in Care in FFY 2014**

Foster Care Experiences	Ages 13-16 at Exit (n=37,780)	NYTD Survey Participants at Age 17 (n=15,606)
<b>Reasons Associated with Removal from Home</b>		
Neglect	44%	45%
Physical Abuse	13%	13%
Sexual Abuse	7%	8%
Drug Use—Parent	17%	13%
Alcohol Use—Parent	5%	5%
Child Behavior Problem	33%	36%
Caretaker Inability to Cope	16%	22%
Parent Incarceration	6%	4%
Inadequate Housing	6%	7%
Mean Age at Entry	13 years	14 years
Median Age at Entry	14 years	15 years
Length of Stay less than 12 months	57%	24%
Length of Stay at least 12 months but less than 24 months	23%	25%
Length of Stay at least 24 months but less than 48 months	13%	25%
Length of Stay 48 months or greater	6%	26%
Mean Number of Placement Settings	3	4

<sup>7</sup> Due to variations in reporting requirements for each dataset, not all NYTD youth may be found in AFCARS. Therefore, analyses of foster care experiences are limited to those 15,606 NYTD youth reported in the FFY 2014 AFCARS data set.

<sup>8</sup> For definitions of the data elements reported to AFCARS, please see AFCARS Technical Bulletin #1 at [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcars\\_tb1.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcars_tb1.pdf).

Foster Care Experiences	Ages 13-16 at Exit (n=37,780)	NYTD Survey Participants at Age 17 (n=15,606)
Mean Number of Removals	1	2
<b>Case Goal</b>		
Reunification	63%	40%
Adoption	11%	10%
Emancipation	1%	24%
Guardianship	6%	6%
Other*	19%	20%
<b>Placement Setting Type</b>		
Foster Family Home (relative and non-relative)	38%	51%
Group Home/Institution	27%	36%
Supervised Independent Living	<1%	2%
Trial Home Visit	23%	5%
Other**	12%	6%
In care on Sept 30, 2014	N/A	86%

\*Other includes Long-term Foster Care, Case Goal not yet Established, and missing.

\*\* Other includes Pre-adoptive Home, Runaway, and missing

As seen in Table 2, compared to youth who exited prior to age 17, NYTD youth had slightly more placement changes, were more likely to have been placed in a group home or institution, and were more likely to have entered care with a reason for removal that included child behavior problem or caretaker inability to cope. Results suggest that NYTD youth may have complex needs that contribute to longer lengths of stay and challenges that may hinder timely discharge from care to a permanent placement. The mean age at entry was similar for both groups (13 years of age for youth exiting versus age 14 for NYTD youth), but over half (51 percent) of NYTD youth had been in care for two years or more, while many youth who exited care prior to age 17 had shorter lengths of stay. More than half (57 percent) of exiting youth had been in care for less than one year. Although 24 percent of NYTD youth in care at age 17 had a current case goal of emancipation,<sup>9</sup> over half of them (56 percent) had a permanency case goal of reunification, adoption, or guardianship.

In addition to the previous analysis, ACF used AFCARS data from FFY 2015 to explore discharge reasons for NYTD youth who may have exited care between ages 17 and 18. Seventy-nine percent of NYTD respondents at age 17 were found in the FFY 2015 AFCARS file,

<sup>9</sup> States report a case goal of emancipation to AFCARS if a youth is in care until the age of 18 and has a permanent connection to an adult. See Technical Bulletin #1 at [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcars\\_tb1.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcars_tb1.pdf).

resulting in foster care information on 13,036 NYTD youth.<sup>10</sup> Of those youth who took the NYTD survey, discharge information was reported on 8,985 (66 percent) who exited care in FFY 2015. The remaining 4,621 youth (34 percent) either were still in care as of the last day of FFY 2015, or had discharge information missing. As illustrated in Table 3 below, the majority (74 percent) of youth who completed the NYTD survey and exited care during FFY 2015 were reported to AFCARS as having exited to emancipation, but almost one-quarter (23 percent) exited to a permanent home through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.

**Table 3. Discharge Reasons for Older Youth Exiting Care in FFY 2015**

Reason for Discharge	NYTD Survey Participants Exiting at Age 17 or 18 (n=8,985)
Emancipation	74%
Reunification (with parent, primary caretaker, or other relative)	17%
Adoption	3%
Guardianship	3%
Other*	3%

\*Other includes Transfer to Another Agency, Death of Child, Runaway, and Missing

## **Section 2. Characteristics and Outcomes Reported by Youth Completing the NYTD Survey at Ages 19 and 21**

As a part of the NYTD data collection effort, states are required to report a youth's foster care status at the time he or she takes the NYTD survey. Sections 477(f)(2)(B) and 477(f)(2)(E) of the Act require ACF to provide a description of the characteristics and outcomes of all youth who completed the NYTD survey at ages 19 and/or 21, including comparisons of outcomes reported by youth who were in care or not in care at the time of completing the survey. It is also important to note that, under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351), states have the option to extend eligibility for title IV-E foster care assistance to young people from age 18 up to age 21.<sup>11</sup> As of March 2019, 28 states have exercised this option. The following analyses highlight responses from all young people who completed the NYTD survey at ages 19 and/or 21.

Youth who completed the NYTD survey at ages 19 and 21 were racially diverse, with the majority identifying as White and just over one-third identifying as Black or African American.

<sup>10</sup> Due to variations in reporting requirements for each dataset, not all NYTD youth may be found in AFCARS. In FFY 2014, 15,606 youth (95 percent) who completed the NYTD survey were reported to AFCARS, and 2,116 (14 percent) exited in FFY 2014.

<sup>11</sup> The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P. L. 110-351) permits a title IV-E agency to extend title IV-E foster care assistance to youth between ages 18 and 21, provided that the youth are engaged in certain work or education activities or are documented as incapable of participating in such activities. See Section 475(8) of the Social Security Act.

One-fifth identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. At the time of taking the survey, 38 percent of the 19-year-olds and 18 percent of 21-year-olds were reported by states to be in foster care. States also report information to the NYTD on youth receiving independent living services, and over half (56 percent) of the 19-year-old survey respondents were reported by states to have received at least one independent living service during the year in which they completed the survey (FFY 2016). In FFY 2018, 41 percent of the 21-year-old respondents were reported to have received an independent living service during the year they took the survey.

**Table 4. Characteristics of NYTD Cohort 2 Youth at Ages 19 and 21**

Characteristics	Age 19 (n=8,898)	Age 21 (n=7,799)
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	52%	52%
Female	48%	48%
<b>Race*</b>		
Asian	2%	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3%	3%
Black or African American	36%	36%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	<1%
White	58%	61%
<b>Ethnicity*</b>		
Hispanic of any race	20%	21%
In foster care at the time of survey	38%	18%
Received at least one independent living service during FFY	56%	41%

\*Race categories may not total 100 percent since a youth may be of one or more races. Hispanic or Latino ethnicity is reported separately from race categories.

The NYTD results from this second cohort of youth provides a national picture of how these young people are faring in certain outcome areas as they age. Baseline results below are provided to better understand the apparent successes and challenges these 19- and 21-year-old respondents have experienced since they completed the survey at age 17.

**Table 5. Cohort 2 Youth Outcomes Reported at Ages 17, 19 and 21**

Outcomes	Age 17 In Care (n=16,480)	Age 19 In Care (n=3,550)	Age 19 Not In Care (n=5,348)	Age 21 In Care (n=1,399)	Age 21 Not In care (n=6,400)
Employed Full-time	2%	15%	17%	35%	33%
Employed Part-time	13%	29%	25%	32%	25%
Employment-related Skills	20%	32%	29%	37%	31%
Social Security	12%	11%	12%	8%	11%
Educational Aid	3%	30%	17%	31%	16%
Receiving Public Assistance (Food, Housing, or Financial)	N/A	N/A	30%	N/A	31%
Other Financial Support	8%	17%	12%	18%	9%
HS Degree or GED	5%	60%	53%	77%	68%
Attending school	93%	66%	43%	43%	23%
Referred for substance abuse treatment	27% (in lifetime)	11% (in past 2 years)	15% (in past 2 years)	6% (in past 2 years)	11% (in past 2 years)
Incarcerated	33% (in lifetime)	11% (in past 2 years)	25% (in past 2 years)	7% (in past 2 years)	23% (in past 2 years)
Given birth to or fathered a child	5% (in lifetime)	8% (in past 2 years)	11% (in past 2 years)	14% (in past 2 years)	24% (in past 2 years)
Homelessness	17% (in lifetime)	11% (in past 2 years)	26% (in past 2 years)	15% (in past 2 years)	30% (in past 2 years)
Connection to an adult	93%	92%	88%	93%	85%
Medicaid	85%	89%	69%	90%	64%
Other health insurance	15%	13%	17%	13%	18%

Table 5 reveals that, regardless of foster care status at either age 19 or 21, the majority of young people had received at least a high school degree or GED. Since age 17, large percentages of 19- and 21-year-old respondents (85 to 93 percent) continued to report having at least one adult in their lives to whom they can go to for advice or emotional support (other than their caseworker).

Table 5 also reveals that 19- and 21-year-olds who were in foster care fared better overall and reported fewer challenging outcomes than their counterparts who had exited care. In-care youth

were less likely to report that they had been incarcerated<sup>12</sup> for allegedly committing a crime, less likely to have given birth to or fathered a child, and half as likely to have been homeless at some point within the two years prior to completing the survey. Additionally, youth who were in care at the time of the survey were also more likely to be attending school. Results underscore the importance of providing supports to youth who may be particularly vulnerable to challenging outcomes and the potential protective factor foster care may be for youth who remain in or re-enter care after age 18.

*Gender Differences in Readiness Indicators and High-risk Outcomes at Ages 19 and 21*

The NYTD survey asks youth to report on indicators that may suggest how ready a young person is for a successful transition to adulthood. Key indicators include current employment-related outcomes, a positive connection to an adult, and educational attainment or current enrollment and attendance in a high school/GED or post-secondary educational program. Additionally, youth who are or have been in foster care face a number of challenges that may indicate potential barriers to achieving independence. Key challenges include high-risk outcomes such as experiences within the past two years of completing the survey with homelessness, incarceration, referral to substance abuse treatment, or having children.

**Table 6. Outcomes Reported at Age 19 by Gender**

Outcomes	Male (n=4,227)	Female (n=4,671)
HS Degree/GED or higher	55%	61%
Employed FT/PT or employment-related skills	56%	57%
Attending school	49%	55%
Connection to an adult	89%	90%
Homelessness	20%	20%
Substance abuse referral	16%	11%
Incarceration	27%	13%
Children	6%	14%

**Table 7. Outcomes Reported at Age 21 by Gender**

Outcomes	Male (n=3,478)	Female (n=4,321)
HS Degree/GED or higher	75%	79%
Employed FT/PT or employment-related skills	67%	68%
Attending school	23%	31%

<sup>12</sup> A youth is considered to have been incarcerated if the youth was confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a crime (misdemeanor or felony).

Outcomes	Male (n=3,478)	Female (n=4,321)
Connection to an adult	86%	88%
Homelessness	27%	28%
Substance abuse referral	12%	9%
Incarceration	28%	12%
Children	14%	30%

Tables 6 and 7 reveal some gender differences in outcomes reported by young people at ages 19 and 21. At both survey waves, females were less likely to have reported being incarcerated for allegedly committing a crime, or referred to substance abuse treatment, and more likely to report indicators of readiness for a successful transition to adulthood. Greater proportions of females than males were attending school or had achieved an educational certificate of high school degree or higher, were employed or had received employment skills training, and had positive connections to at least one adult. Although females appear to fare somewhat better than males, there was little difference in their experiences with homelessness. At age 19, 20 percent of both males and females reported having experienced homelessness at some point within the past two years. However, at age 21, females were slightly more likely than males to have experienced homelessness (28 percent versus 27 percent). At the ages of 19 and 21, males were twice as likely to have been incarcerated; females were much more likely to report having children than males reporting fatherhood.

*Race/Ethnicity Differences in Readiness Indicators and High-risk Outcomes at Ages 19 and 21*

**Table 8. Outcomes Reported at Age 19 by Race and Ethnicity**

Outcomes	American Indian/Alaska Native (n=329)	Black or African American (n=2,996)	White (n=5,276)	Other Race* (n=203)	Hispanic of any race (n=1,752)
HS Degree/GED or higher	48%	56%	54%	66%	57%
Employed FT/PT or employ skills	50%	55%	57%	57%	60%
Attending school	44%	55%	49%	62%	54%
Connect to Adult	89%	88%	90%	90%	89%
Homelessness	32%	20%	21%	19%	18%
Substance Abuse	19%	12%	14%	16%	15%
Incarceration	28%	21%	20%	12%	24%
Children	12%	11%	9%	8%	14%

\*Other Race category includes Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

**Table 9. Outcomes Reported at Age 21 by Race and Ethnicity**

Outcomes	American Indian/Alaska Native (n=309)	Black or African American (n=2,643)	White (n=4,777)	Other Race* (n=202)	Hispanic of any race (n=1,605)
HS Degree/GED or higher	63%	70%	70%	86%	69%
Employed FT/PT or employ skills	64%	70%	69%	74%	71%
Attending school	28%	31%	24%	44%	30%
Connect to Adult	87%	83%	88%	92%	88%
Homelessness	37%	29%	27%	20%	23%
Substance Abuse	16%	9%	11%	11%	10%
Incarceration	24%	23%	19%	14%	17%
Children	26%	23%	22%	13%	23%

\*Other Race category includes Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Tables 8 and 9 reveal few notable racial or ethnic differences in outcomes reported by young people at ages 19 and 21. Across all races, the majority of young people had achieved at least a high school degree/GED or were enrolled in school by age 19 or 21. At ages 19 and 21, large percentages of young adults across all races were employed full- or part-time and had connections to a caring adult. Native Indian and Alaska Native youth were more likely to report experiencing incarceration for allegedly committing a crime than any other race at both ages of 19 and 21. Compared to White youth, Black or African American youth were more likely to report having been incarcerated within two years of turning age 19 or 21, more likely to be enrolled in and attending school, but also less likely to have been referred to substance abuse treatment or counseling.

### **Section 3. Foster Care Experiences and Select NYTD Outcomes**

Section 477(f)(2)(D) of the Act requires ACF to provide an analysis of the association between select foster care experiences<sup>13</sup> and outcomes reported by youth at ages 19 and 21. Of the 8,898 youth who completed the survey at age 19, foster care information at age 17 was reported for 8,442 of them (95 percent). Foster care experiences reported to AFCARS in FFY 2014 were found for 97 percent of the 21-year-old NYTD survey participants (7,540 of 7,799 respondents). As youth begin their transition to adulthood, they should have experiences that foster growth and independence. Early indicators of independence include the acquisition of skills that prepare youth to enter the labor market and the establishment of a solid educational foundation that will prepare youth for future educational pursuits. It also is important to understand common

<sup>13</sup> Foster care experiences of youth at age 17 were taken from the FFY 2014 AFCARS file.

challenges, such as experiences with homelessness and incarceration, that may hinder a young person’s successful transition to adulthood.

**Table 10. Employment-related Outcomes<sup>14</sup> at Ages 19 and 21 and Foster Care Experiences at Age 17**

Foster Care Experiences at Age 17	Age 19 Employment-related Outcomes (Yes) (n=4,767)	Age 19 Employment-related Outcomes (No) (n=3,675)	Age 21 Employment-related Outcomes (Yes) (n=5,131)	Age 21 Employment-related Outcomes (No) (n=2,409)
Length of stay less than 12 months	22%	20%	21%	24%
Length of stay at least 12 months but less than 24 months	25%	23%	24%	23%
Length of stay at least 24 months but less than 48 months	26%	26%	28%	24%
Length of stay 48 months or greater	28%	31%	28%	29%
Mean length of stay in care	40 months	42 months	40 months	41 months
Mean Number of Placement Settings	6	6	5	6
Mean age at entry	13	13	13	13
Percent placed in group home or institution	32%	39%	32%	42%
Percent placed in a family foster home(relative or non-relative)	57%	51%	58%	46%

<sup>14</sup> Youth were considered having employment-related experiences if they reported current full- or part-time employment or had received employment training at ages 19 and 21.

**Table 11. Educational Outcomes<sup>15</sup> at Ages 19 and 21 and Foster Care Experiences at Age 17**

Foster Care Experiences at Age 17	Age 19 Educational Outcomes (Yes) (n=6,997)	Age 19 Educational Outcomes (No) (n=1,445)	Age 21 Educational Outcomes (Yes) (n=6,275)	Age 21 Educational Outcomes (No) (n=1,265)
Length of stay less than 12 months	20%	28%	20%	29%
Length of stay at least 12 months but less than 24 months	24%	25%	23%	25%
Length of stay at least 24 months but less than 48 months	26%	24%	27%	24%
Length of stay 48 months or greater	30%	23%	29%	23%
Mean length of stay in care	42 months	34 months	41 months	36 months
Mean number of placement settings	5	7	5	6
Mean age at entry	13	14	13	13
Percent placed in group home or institution	33%	47%	34%	44%
Percent placed in a family foster home(relative or non-relative)	58%	38%	57%	41%

Tables 10 and 11 reveal that length of stay in foster care and the type of placement at age 17 are associated with employment-related and educational outcomes reported by youth at ages 19 and 21. At both ages 19 and 21, youth reporting employment-related skills had spent less time in foster care, had fewer foster care placements, and had been more likely to be placed in a family foster home than youth who did not report any employment-related skills. Similarly, youth who had achieved at least a high school degree or GED or who were attending school had fewer foster care placements and had been placed in a family foster home, compared to youth who had not reported having a degree or being in school. Longer lengths of stay in foster care, however, were associated with educational achievement, with over half the youth who reported positive educational outcomes at ages 19 and 21 having been in care for two years or more by age 17. At both ages 19 and 21, youth whose foster care placement at age 17 was a group home or

<sup>15</sup> Educational outcomes include having received a high school degree/GED or higher or being enrolled in and attending a high school/GED or post-secondary educational program.

institution were less likely to report having employment-related skills or receiving an educational degree or being enrolled in school.

**Table 12. Homelessness and Foster Care Experiences at Age 17**

Foster Care Experiences at Age 17	Age 19 Homelessness (Yes) (n=1,691)	Age 19 Homelessness (No) (n=6,751)	Age 21 Homelessness (Yes) (n=2,142)	Age 21 Homelessness (No) (n=5,398)
Length of stay less than 12 months	24%	20%	22%	22%
Length of stay at least 12 months but less than 24 months	26%	24%	25%	23%
Length of stay at least 24 months but less than 48 months	23%	27%	26%	26%
Length of stay 48 months or greater	26%	30%	27%	29%
Mean length of stay in care	37 months	42 months	38 months	41 months
Mean number of placement settings	7	5	7	5
Mean age at entry	13	13	13	13
Percent placed in group home or institution	43%	34%	42%	33%
Percent placed in a family foster home(relative or non-relative)	43%	57%	46%	57%

**Table 13. Incarceration and Foster Care Experiences at Age 17**

Foster Care Experiences at Age 17	Age 19 Incarceration (Yes) (n=1,629)	Age 19 Incarceration (No) (n=6,813)	Age 21 Incarceration (Yes) (n=1,404)	Age 21 Incarceration (No) (n=6,136)
Length of stay less than 12 months	28%	19%	26%	21%
Length of stay at least 12 months but less than 24 months	25%	24%	25%	24%
Length of stay at least 24 months but less than 48 months	23%	27%	23%	27%
Length of stay 48 months or greater	24%	30%	26%	29%
Mean length of stay in care	35 months	42 months	37 months	41 months
Mean number of placement settings	7	5	7	5
Mean age at entry	13	13	14	13
Percent placed in group home or institution	54%	31%	49%	32%
Percent placed in a family foster home (relative or non-relative)	31%	60%	37%	58%

Similar to the educational and employment results, Tables 12 and 13 reveal that the type of foster care placement at age 17 and the number of placements are associated with whether or not a youth had reported being homeless or incarcerated for allegedly committing a crime within the past two years of turning age 19 or 21. Youth who had not reported being homeless or incarcerated were more likely to have had fewer foster care placements and to have been placed in a family foster home. Interestingly, youth who spent longer lengths of time in foster care were less likely to report having been homeless or incarcerated compared to their peers who did report those experiences. At both ages 19 and 21, youth who had a foster family home setting as a placement at age 17 were less likely to have reported experiencing homelessness or incarceration compared to youth whose placement setting was a group home or institution.

In addition to the tables above, additional analysis was done to better understand the cumulative successes or challenges of the same youth by the time they turn age 21. The following analysis examines the impact of foster care experiences and high-risk behaviors on a measure of early readiness for success in adulthood for 6,269 youth completing the NYTD survey at all three waves (at ages 17, 19, and 21) and whose foster care information was reported to AFCARS at age 17 in FY 2014. A composite measure including educational achievements and employment

experience by age 21 is a reasonable early indicator of a youth’s readiness for transitioning to adulthood.<sup>16</sup> The analyses below highlight the significant factors that may have an impact on that outcome.<sup>17</sup>

**Table 14. Factors Impacting Readiness for Transition to Adulthood by Age 21**

Factors	Readiness for Transition to Adulthood by Age 21 (Yes) (n=3,940)	Readiness for Transition to Adulthood by Age 21 (No) (n=2,521)
<b>Reasons Associated with Removal from Home</b>		
Neglect*	51%	46%
Physical Abuse	13%	13%
Sexual Abuse*	10%	8%
Drug Use—Parent*	12%	10%
Alcohol Use—Parent*	6%	4%
Child Behavior Problem*	28%	35%
Caretaker Inability to Cope	25%	25%
Parent Incarceration	4%	4%
Inadequate Housing	7%	7%
Mean length of stay in care at age 17	42 months	42 months
Median length of stay in care at age 17	29 months	27 months
Percent placed in group home or institution at age 17*	28%	39%
Percent placed in a family foster home (relative or non-relative) at age 17*	61%	44%
Homelessness ever at age 17	15%	16%
Homelessness at age 19*	14%	25%
Homelessness at age 21*	21%	34%
Incarceration at age 17*	21%	34%
Incarceration at age 19*	12%	27%

\*Significant difference at p-value <.05

<sup>16</sup> The readiness measure includes having received a high school degree/GED or higher by age 21, and either being enrolled in and attending school or currently employed full- or part-time at age 21.

<sup>17</sup> Z-test analyses were conducted to test for significant differences in experiences between youth who indicated early readiness for transition to adulthood and youth who did not.

Factors	Readiness for Transition to Adulthood by Age 21 (Yes)	Readiness for Transition to Adulthood by Age 21 (No) (n=2,521)
Incarceration at age 21*	11%	27%
Children ever by age 21 (at 17 Or 19 or 21) <sup>18</sup> *	21%	32%
In care at age 19*	46%	35%
In care at age 21*	25%	13%

\*Significant difference at p-value <.05

As seen in Table 14 above, type of foster care placement at age 17, select reasons for removal for the most recent foster care placement in FY 2014 (the year in which baseline respondents turned 17), reports of high-risk behaviors, and foster care status are significantly correlated with whether or not a youth at age 21 reported early indicators of readiness for making a successful transition to adulthood. Results indicate that, compared to their counterparts, greater proportions of young adults who did not report having early indicators of readiness have complex foster care experiences and challenges that may be hindering a successful transition to adulthood. A history of reporting high-risk behaviors such as homelessness or having given birth to or fathered a child may reduce the likelihood that a youth will be well positioned to make a successful transition to adulthood by age 21. These results suggest that foster care experiences, such as staying in care longer and being placed in a family foster home, may be protective factors that improve a youth’s chances for achieving a successful transition to adulthood.

#### **Section 4. Using NYTD Information to Track Performance**

Section 477(f)(2)(C) of the Act directs ACF to suggest benchmarks that can be used to evaluate child welfare agency performance in providing services to youth transitioning from foster care. Since data collection began in FFY 2011, states continue to make progress in improving the quality of data reported to NYTD, but ACF has determined it is premature to identify reliable benchmarks based on current data. It is not meaningful to establish national thresholds or benchmarks using results from only two complete cohorts of youth, especially given the wide variation in state survey response rates.

Rather, states and the Children’s Bureau in ACF are committed to improving data quality and working together to make NYTD information an integral component of states’ continuous quality improvement (CQI) systems. Every state is encouraged to use its own NYTD data to track performance, and in that process work to ensure data collection is accurate, complete, timely, and consistent in definition and usage across the entire state child welfare agency. The

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<sup>18</sup> The category “Children ever by 21” includes any youth who responded “yes” on the NYTD survey at either age 17, age 19, or age 21 as having given birth to or fathered a child.

analyses included in this report are exploratory and provide an early indication of how prepared young adults completing the NYTD surveys are for adulthood.

It is important to keep in mind that the NYTD survey can be a tool for ensuring that the services and supports offered to youth in transition from foster care are meeting their needs. Over half of the 19-year-olds (56 percent) and 41 percent of the 21-year-olds who completed the NYTD survey had received at least one independent living service during the fiscal year in which they completed the survey. Also, young adults who were in foster care at ages 19 and/or 21 were more likely to report outcomes associated with establishing a foundation for growing independence. These results suggest some young adults may have a more successful transition to adulthood by remaining connected to the child welfare system and to services available after the age of 18.

The NYTD survey, however, is about more than collecting discrete data points; it also is an opportunity for states to engage young people as partners in data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of survey results. It is through this commitment to hearing and using the voices of young people to create change that the NYTD survey results become more valuable. As states continue to provide increasingly reliable data to the NYTD, the benefits of providing services to youth transitioning to adulthood will be more broadly understood. Until then, it is important to see these results as only one piece of information that may be used to help inform state transition planning services, practices, and policies.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **NYTD Data Elements and Definitions**

#### **NYTD Element #1: State**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(1)

State means the state responsible for reporting on the youth. Indicate the first two digits of the State's Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code for the state submitting the report to ACF.

#### **NYTD Element #2: Report Date**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(2)

The report date corresponds with the end of the current reporting period. Indicate the last month and the year of the reporting period.

#### **NYTD Element #3: Record Number**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(3)

The record number is the encrypted, unique person identification number for the youth. The state agency must apply and retain the same encryption routine or method for the person identification number across all reporting periods. The record number must be encrypted in accordance with ACF standards. Indicate the record number for the youth.

#### **NYTD Element #4: Date of Birth**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(4)

The youth's date of birth. Indicate the year, month, and day of the youth's birth.

#### **NYTD Element #5: Sex**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(5)

The youth's sex. Indicate whether the youth is male or female as appropriate.

#### **NYTD Element #6: Race – American Indian or Alaskan Native**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(6)

In general, a youth's race is determined by the youth or the youth's parent(s). An American Indian or Alaska Native youth has origins in any of the original peoples of North or South America (including Central America), and maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**NYTD Element #7: Race – Asian**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(7)

In general, a youth's race is determined by the youth or the youth's parent(s). An Asian youth has origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. Indicate whether this racial category applies for the youth, with a "yes" or "no."

**NYTD Element #8: Race – Black or African American**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(8)

In general, a youth's race is determined by the youth or the youth's parent(s). A Black or African American youth has origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Indicate whether this Racial category applies for the youth, with a "yes" or "no."

**NYTD Element #9: Race – Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(9)

In general, a youth's race is determined by the youth or the youth's parent(s). A Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander youth has origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands. Indicate whether this racial category applies for the youth, with a "yes" or "no."

**NYTD Element #10: Race – White**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(10)

In general, a youth's race is determined by the youth or the youth's parent(s). A White youth has origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. Indicate whether this racial category applies for the youth, with a "yes" or "no."

**NYTD Element #11: Race – Unknown**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(11)

The race, or at least one race of the youth is unknown, or the youth and/or parent is not able to communicate the youth's race. Indicate whether this category applies for the youth, with a "yes" or "no."

**NYTD Element #12: Race – Declined**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(12)

The youth or parent has declined to identify a race. Indicate whether this category applies for the youth, with a “yes” or “no.”

**NYTD Element #13: Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(13)

In general, a youth’s ethnicity is determined by the youth or the youth’s parent(s). A youth is of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity if the youth is a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. Indicate which category applies, with “yes,” “no,” “unknown” or “declined,” as appropriate. “Unknown” means that the youth and/or parent is unable to communicate the youth’s ethnicity. “Declined” means that the youth or parent has declined to identify the youth’s Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

**NYTD Element #14: Foster Care Status – Services**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(14)

The youth receiving services is or was in foster care during the reporting period if the youth is or was in the placement and care responsibility of the State title IV–B/IV–E agency in accordance with the definition of foster care in 45 CFR 1355.20. Indicate whether the youth is or was in foster care at any point during the reporting period, with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #15: Local Agency**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(15)

The local agency is the county or equivalent jurisdictional unit that has primary responsibility for placement and care of a youth who is in foster care consistent with the definition in 45 CFR 1355.20, or that has primary responsibility for providing services to a youth who is not in foster care. Indicate the five-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code(s) that corresponds to the identity of the county or equivalent unit jurisdiction(s) that meets these criteria during the reporting period. If a youth who is not in foster care is provided services by a centralized unit only, rather than a county agency, indicate “centralized unit.” If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #16: Federally-Recognized Tribe**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(16)

The youth is enrolled in or eligible for membership in a federally recognized tribe. The term “federally recognized tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or

community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation, as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C 1601 et seq.) that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians pursuant to the Indian Self- Determination and Educational Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.). Indicate “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #17: Adjudicated Delinquent**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(17)

Adjudicated delinquent means that a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction has adjudicated the youth as a delinquent. Indicate “yes,” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #18: Educational Level**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(18)

Educational level means the highest educational level completed by the youth. For example, for a youth currently in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, “10th grade” is the highest educational level completed.

Postsecondary education or training refers to any post-secondary education or training, other than an education pursued at a college or university. College refers to completing at least a semester of study at a college or university. Indicate the highest educational level completed by the youth during the reporting period. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**Values**

*NYTD Response Options:*

- Less than 6th grade
- 6th grade
- 7th grade
- 8th grade
- 9th grade
- 10th grade
- 11th grade
- 12th grade
- Post secondary education or training
- College
- Blank

*NYTD XML Values:*

- “under 6”
- “6”
- “7”
- “8”
- “9”
- “10”
- “11”
- “12”
- “post secondary”
- “college”
- “”

**NYTD Element #19: Special Education**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(19)

The term “special education,” means specifically designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. Indicate whether the youth has received special education instruction during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #20: Independent Living Needs Assessment**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(20)

An independent living needs assessment is a systematic procedure to identify a youth’s basic skills, emotional and social capabilities, strengths, and needs to match the youth with appropriate independent living services. An independent living needs assessment may address knowledge of basic living skills, job readiness, money management abilities, decision-making skills, goal setting, task completion, and transitional living needs. Indicate whether the youth received an independent living needs assessment that was paid for or provided by the State agency during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #21: Academic Support**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(21)

Academic supports are services designed to help a youth complete high school or obtain a General Equivalency Degree (GED). Such services include the following: Academic counseling; preparation for a GED, including assistance in applying for or studying for a GED exam; tutoring; help with homework; study skills training; literacy training; and help accessing educational resources. Academic support does not include a youth’s general attendance in high school. Indicate whether the youth received academic supports during the reporting period that were paid for or provided by the state agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #22: Post-Secondary Educational Support**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(22)

Post-secondary educational support are services designed to help a youth enter or complete a post-secondary education and include the following: classes for test preparation, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT); counseling about college; information about financial aid and scholarships; help completing college or loan applications; or, tutoring while in college. Indicate whether the youth received post-secondary educational support during the reporting period that was paid for or provided by the state agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

### **NYTD Element #23: Career Preparation**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(23)

Career preparation services focus on developing a youth's ability to find, apply for, and retain appropriate employment. Career preparation includes the following types of instruction and support services: vocational and career assessment, including career exploration and planning, guidance in setting and assessing vocational and career interests and skills, and help in matching interests and abilities with vocational goals; job seeking and job placement support, including identifying potential employers, writing resumes, completing job applications, developing interview skills, job shadowing, receiving job referrals, using career resource libraries, understanding employee benefits coverage, and securing work permits; retention support, including job coaching; learning how to work with employers and other employees; understanding workplace values such as timeliness and appearance; and, understanding authority and customer relationships. Indicate whether the youth received career preparation services during the reporting period that was paid for or provided by the State agency with a "yes" or "no" as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

### **NYTD Element #24: Employment Programs or Vocational Training**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(24)

Employment programs and vocational training are designed to build a youth's skills for a specific trade, vocation, or career through classes or on-site training. Employment programs include a youth's participation in an apprenticeship, internship, or summer employment program and do not include summer or after-school jobs secured by the youth alone. Vocational training includes a youth's participation in vocational or trade programs and the receipt of training in occupational classes for such skills as cosmetology, auto mechanics, building trades, nursing, computer science, and other current or emerging employment sectors. Indicate whether the youth attended an employment program or received vocational training during the reporting period that was paid for or provided by the state agency, with a "yes" or "no" as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

### **NYTD Element #25: Budget and Financial Management**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(25)

Budget and financial management assistance includes the following types of training and practice: living within a budget; opening and using a checking and savings account; balancing a checkbook; developing consumer awareness and smart shopping skills; accessing information about credit, loans and taxes; and filling out tax forms. Indicate whether the youth received budget and financial management assistance during the reporting period that was paid for or

provided by the state agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #26: Housing Education and Home Management Training**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(26)

Housing education includes assistance or training in locating and maintaining housing, including filling out a rental application and acquiring a lease, handling security deposits and utilities, understanding practices for keeping a healthy and safe home, understanding tenant’s rights and responsibilities, and handling landlord complaints. Home management includes instruction in food preparation, laundry, housekeeping, living cooperatively, meal planning, grocery shopping and basic maintenance and repairs. Indicate whether the youth received housing education or home management training during the reporting period that was paid for or provided by the State agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #27: Health Education and Risk Prevention**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(27)

Health education and risk prevention includes providing information about hygiene, nutrition, fitness and exercise, and first aid; medical and dental care benefits, health care resources and insurance, prenatal care and maintaining personal medical records; sex education, abstinence education, and HIV prevention, including education and information about sexual development and sexuality, pregnancy prevention and family planning, and sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS; substance abuse prevention and intervention, including education and information about the effects and consequences of substance use (alcohol, drugs, tobacco) and substance avoidance and intervention. Health education and risk prevention does not include the youth’s actual receipt of direct medical care or substance abuse treatment. Indicate whether the youth received these services during the reporting period that were paid for or provided by the state agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #28: Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(28)

Family support and healthy marriage education. Such services include education and information about safe and stable families, healthy marriages, spousal communication, parenting, responsible fatherhood, childcare skills, teen parenting, and domestic and family violence prevention. Indicate whether the youth received these services that were paid for or provided by the state agency during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #29: Mentoring**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(29)

Mentoring means that the youth has been matched with a screened and trained adult for a one-on-one relationship that involves the two meeting on a regular basis. Mentoring can be short-term, but it may also support the development of a long-term relationship. While youth often are connected to adult role models through school, work, or family, this service category only includes a mentor relationship that has been facilitated, paid for or provided by the state agency or its staff. Indicate whether the youth received mentoring services that were paid for or provided by the state agency during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #30: Supervised Independent Living**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(30)

Supervised independent living means that the youth is living independently under a supervised arrangement that is paid for or provided by the state agency. A youth in supervised independent living is not supervised 24 hours a day by an adult and often is provided with increased responsibilities, such as paying bills, assuming leases, and working with a landlord, while under the supervision of an adult. Indicate whether the youth was living in a supervised independent living setting that was paid or provided by the state agency during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #31: Room and Board Financial Assistance**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(31)

Room and board financial assistance is a payment that is paid for or provided by the state agency for room and board, including rent deposits, utilities, and other household start-up expenses. Indicate whether the youth received financial assistance for room and board that was paid for or provided by during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #32: Education Financial Assistance**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(32)

Education financial assistance is a payment that is paid for or provided by the state agency for education or training, including allowances to purchase textbooks, uniforms, computers, and other educational supplies; tuition assistance; scholarships; payment for educational preparation and support services (i.e., tutoring), and payment for GED and other educational tests. This financial assistance also includes vouchers for tuition or vocational education or tuition waiver programs paid for or provided by the state agency. Indicate whether the youth received education financial assistance during the reporting period that was paid for or provided by the

state agency with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

### **NYTD Element #33: Other Financial Assistance**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(33)

Other financial assistance includes any other payments made or provided by the state agency to help the youth live independently. Indicate whether the youth received any other financial assistance that was paid for or provided by the state agency during the reporting period with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the served population, this element must be left blank.

### **NYTD Element #34: Outcomes Reporting Status**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(34)

The outcomes reporting status represents the youth’s participation, or lack thereof, in the outcomes data collection. If the State agency collects and reports information on data elements 37 through 58 for a youth in the baseline or follow-up sample or population, indicate that the youth participated. If a youth is in the baseline or follow-up sample or population, but the State agency is unable to collect the information, indicate the reason and leave data elements 37 through 58 blank. If a 19-year old youth in the follow-up population is not in the sample, indicate that the youth is not in the sample. If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population this element must be left blank. The valid response options for this element are described below.

- Youth participated: The youth participated in the outcome survey, either fully or partially.
- Youth declined: The state agency located the youth successfully and invited the youth’s participation, but the youth declined to participate in the data collection.
- Parent declined: The state agency invited the youth’s participation, but the youth’s parent/guardian declined to grant permission. This response may be used only when the youth has not reached the age of majority in the state and state law or policy requires a parent/guardian’s permission for the youth to participate in information collection activities.
- Incapacitated: The youth has a permanent or temporary mental or physical condition that prevents him or her from participating in the outcomes data collection.
- Incarcerated: The youth is unable to participate in the outcomes data collection because of his or her incarceration.
- Runaway/missing: A youth in foster care is known to have run away or be missing from his or her foster care placement.
- Unable to locate/invite: The state agency could not locate a youth who is not in foster care or otherwise invite such a youth’s participation.
- Death: The youth died prior to his participation in the outcomes data collection.
- Not in sample: The 19-year-old youth participated in the outcomes data collection as a part of the baseline population at age 17, but the youth is not in the State’s follow-up sample. This

response option applies only when the outcomes data collection is required on the follow-up population of 19-year-old youth.

- **Blank:** Allowed as a value only if the youth is not in the baseline population or if his/her birthday falls within 45 days of the end of the report period.

**NYTD Element #35: Date of Outcome Data Collection**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(35)

The date of outcome data collection is the latest date that the agency collected data from a youth for the elements described in paragraphs (g)(38) through (g)(58) of this section. Indicate the month, day and year of the outcomes data collection. If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #36: Foster Care Status – Outcomes**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(36)

The youth is in foster care if the youth is under the placement and care responsibility of the state title IV–B/IV–E agency in accordance with the definition of foster care in 45 CFR 1355.20. Indicate whether the youth is in foster care on the date of outcomes data collection with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #37: Current Full-Time Employment**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(37)

A youth is employed full-time if employed at least 35 hours per week, in one or multiple jobs, as of the date of the outcome data collection. Indicate whether the youth is employed fulltime, with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.”

**NYTD Element #38: Current Part-Time Employment**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(38)

A youth is employed part-time if employed between one and 34 hours per week, in one or multiple jobs, as of the date of the outcome data collection. Indicate whether the youth is employed part-time, with a “yes” or “no.” If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #39: Employment-Related Skills**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(39)

A youth has obtained employment-related skills if the youth completed an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid, in the past year. The experience

must help the youth acquire employment related skills, such as specific trade skills such as carpentry or auto mechanics, or office skills such as word processing or use of office equipment. Indicate whether the youth has obtained employment-related skills, with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #40: Social Security**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(40)

A youth is receiving Social Security if receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), either directly or as a dependent beneficiary as of the date of the outcome data collection. SSI payments are made to eligible low-income persons with disabilities. SSDI payments are made to persons with a certain amount of work history who become disabled. A youth may receive SSDI payments through a parent. Indicate whether the youth is receiving Social Security payments, with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #41: Educational Aid**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(41)

A youth is receiving educational aid if using a scholarship, voucher (including education or training vouchers pursuant to section 477(h)(2) of the Social Security Act), grant, stipend, student loan, or other type of educational financial aid to cover educational expenses as of the date of the outcome data collection. Scholarships, grants, and stipends are funds awarded for spending on expenses related to gaining an education. “Student loan” means a government-guaranteed, low-interest loan for students in post-secondary education. Indicate whether the youth is receiving educational aid with a “yes” or “no” as appropriate. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #42: Public Financial Assistance**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(42)

A youth is receiving public financial assistance if receiving ongoing cash welfare payments from the government to cover some of his or her basic needs, as of the date of the outcome data collection. Public financial assistance does not include government payments or subsidies for specific purposes, such as unemployment insurance, child care subsidies, education assistance, food stamps or housing assistance. Indicate whether the youth is receiving public financial assistance, with “yes” or “no” as appropriate, and “not applicable” for a youth still in foster care. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #43: Public Food Assistance**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(43)

A youth is receiving public food assistance if receiving food stamps in any form (i.e., government-sponsored checks, coupons or debit cards) to buy eligible food at authorized stores as of the date of the outcome data collection. This definition includes receiving public food assistance through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Indicate whether the youth is receiving some of public food assistance with “yes” or “no,” and “not applicable” for a youth still in foster care. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #44: Public Housing Assistance**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(44)

A youth is receiving public housing assistance if the youth is living in government-funded public housing, or receiving a government-funded housing voucher to pay for part of his/her housing costs as of the date of the outcome data collection. CFCIP room and board payments are not included in this definition. Indicate whether the youth is receiving housing assistance with “yes” or “no” and “not applicable” for a youth still in foster care. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #45: Other Financial Support**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(45)

A youth has other financial support if receiving any other periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not listed in the elements described in paragraphs (g)(41) through (g)(44) of this section as of the date of outcome data collection. Such support can include payments from a spouse or family member (biological, foster or adoptive), child support that the youth receives for him or herself, or funds from a legal settlement. This definition does not include occasional gifts, such as birthday or graduation checks or small donations of food or personal incidentals, child care subsidies, child support for a youth’s child, or other financial support which does not benefit the youth directly in supporting himself or herself. Indicate whether the youth is receiving any other financial support with a “yes” or “no.” If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #46: Highest Educational Certification Received**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(46)

A youth has received an education certificate if the youth has a high school diploma or general equivalency degree (GED), vocational certificate, vocational license, associate's degree (e.g., A.A.), bachelor's degree (e.g., B.A. or B.S.), or a higher degree as of the date of the outcome data collection. Indicate the highest degree that the youth has received. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank. The valid responses options for this data element are described below:

- High school diploma/GED
- A vocational certificate is a document stating that a person has received education or training that qualifies him for a particular job, e.g. auto mechanics or cosmetology.
- A vocational license is a document that indicates that the State or Local government recognizes an individual as a qualified professional in a particular trade or business.
- An associate's degree is generally a two-year degree from a community college.
- A bachelor's degree is a four-year degree from a college or university.
- A higher degree indicates a graduate degree, such as a Master's Degree or a Jurist Doctor (J.D.).
- "None of the above" means that the youth has not received any of the above educational certifications.

**NYTD Element #47: Current Enrollment and Attendance**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(47)

Indicate whether the youth is enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, or postsecondary vocational training or college, as of the date of the outcome data collection. A youth is still considered enrolled in and attending school if the youth would otherwise be enrolled in and attending a school that is currently out of session. Indicate whether the youth is currently enrolled and attending school with a "yes" or "no." If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #48: Connection to Adult**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(48)

A youth has a connection to an adult if, as of the date of the outcome data collection, the youth knows an adult who he or she can go to for advice or guidance when there is a decision to make or a problem solve, or for companionship when celebrating personal achievements. The adult must be easily accessible to the youth, either by telephone or in person. This can include, but is not limited to adult relatives, parents or foster parents. The definition excludes spouses, partners, boyfriends or girlfriends and current caseworkers. Indicate whether the youth has such a connection with an adult with a "yes" or "no." If the youth does not answer this question,

indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #49: Homelessness**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(49)

A youth is considered to have experienced homelessness if the youth had no regular or adequate place to live. This definition includes situations where the youth is living in a car or on the street, or staying in a homeless or other temporary shelter. For a 17-year-old youth in the baseline population, the data element relates to a youth’s lifetime experiences. For a 19- or 21-year-old youth in the follow-up population, the data element relates to the youth’s experience in the past two years. Indicate if the youth has been homeless with a “yes” or “no.” If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #50: Substance Abuse Referral**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(50)

A youth has received a substance abuse referral if the youth was referred for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling. For a 17-year-old youth in the baseline population, the data element relates to a youth’s lifetime experience. For a 19- or 21-year-old youth in the follow-up population, the data element relates to the youth’s experience in the past two years. This definition includes either a self-referral or referral by a social worker, school staff, physician, mental health worker, foster parent, or other adult. Alcohol or drug abuse assessment is a process designed to determine if someone has a problem with alcohol or drug use. Indicate whether the youth had a substance abuse referral with a “yes” or “no.” If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #51: Incarceration**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(51)

A youth is considered to have been incarcerated if the youth was confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a crime (misdemeanor or felony). For a 17-year-old youth in the baseline population, the data element relates to a youth’s lifetime experience. For a 19- or 21-year-old youth in the follow-up population, the data element relates to the youth’s experience in the past two years. Indicate whether the youth was incarcerated with a “yes” or “no.” If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #52: Children**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(52)

A youth is considered to have a child if the youth has given birth herself, or the youth has fathered any children who were born. For a 17- year-old youth in the baseline population, the data element relates to a youth's lifetime experience. For a 19- or 21-year-old youth in the follow-up population, the data element refers to children born to the youth in the past two years only. This refers to biological parenthood. Indicate whether the youth had a child with a "yes" or "no." If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #53: Marriage at Child's Birth**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(53)

A youth is married at the time of the child's birth if he or she was united in matrimony according to the laws of the State to the child's other parent. Indicate whether the youth was married to the child's other parent at the time of the birth of any child reported in the element described in paragraph (g)(52) of this section with a "yes" or "no." If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the answer to the element described in paragraph (g)(52) of this section is "no," indicate "not applicable." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #54: Medicaid**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(54)

A youth is receiving Medicaid if the youth is participating in a Medicaid-funded State program, which is a medical assistance program supported by the Federal and State government under title XIX of the Social Security Act as of the date of outcomes data collection. Indicate whether the youth receives Medicaid with "yes," "no," or "do not know" as appropriate. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #55: Other Health Insurance Coverage**

45 CFR 1356.83(g)(55)

A youth has other health insurance if the youth has a third party pay (other than Medicaid) for all or part of the costs of medical care, mental health care, and/or prescription drugs, as of the date of the outcome data collection. This definition includes group coverage offered by employers, schools or associations, an individual health plan, self-employed plans, or inclusion in a parent's insurance plan. This also could include access to free health care through a college, Indian Health Service or other source. Medical or drug discount cards or plans are not insurance. Indicate "yes", "no," or "do not know," as appropriate, or "not applicable" for youth participating solely in Medicaid. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate "declined." If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #56: Health Insurance Type: Medical**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(56)

If the youth has indicated that he or she has health insurance coverage in the element described in paragraph (g)(55) of this section, indicate whether the youth has insurance that pays for all or part of medical health care services. Indicate “yes”, “no”, or “do not know” as appropriate, or “not applicable” if the youth did not indicate any health insurance coverage. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #57: Health Insurance Type: Mental Health**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(57)

If the youth has indicated that he or she has medical health insurance coverage as described in paragraph (g)(56) of this section, indicate whether the youth has insurance that pays for all or part of the costs for mental health care services, such as counseling or therapy. Indicate “yes”, “no”, or “do not know” as appropriate, or “not applicable” if the youth did not indicate having medical health insurance coverage. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.

**NYTD Element #58: Health Insurance Type: Prescription Drugs**  
45 CFR 1356.83(g)(58)

If the youth has indicated that he or she has medical health insurance coverage as described in paragraph (g)(56) of this section, indicate whether the youth has insurance coverage that pays for part or all of the costs of some prescription drugs. Indicate “yes”, “no”, or “do not know” as appropriate, or “not applicable” if the youth did not indicate having medical health insurance coverage. If the youth does not answer this question, indicate “declined.” If the youth is not in the baseline or follow-up population, this element must be left blank.