

2015 National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey Findings: Outcomes of Youth in Rhode Island Ages 17, 19, and 21

Education, Employment & Financial Self-Sufficiency

NYTD was designed to measure outcomes of youth transitioning out of foster care. In 2011, RI foster care youth aged 17 years old were surveyed and followed up at ages 19 & 21. With three waves of data collection complete for the first cohort, we are now better able to understand the experiences of current and former foster youth as they age.

89%

At age 17, 89% of youth were currently enrolled in an educational setting.

51%

At age 19, 51% of youth were enrolled in post-secondary education.

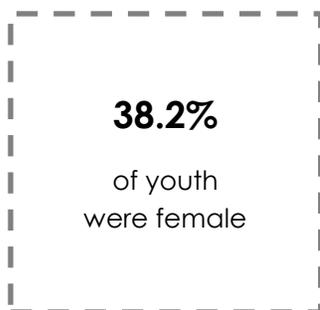
20%

At age 21, 20% of youth completed at least one year of college.

Demographics

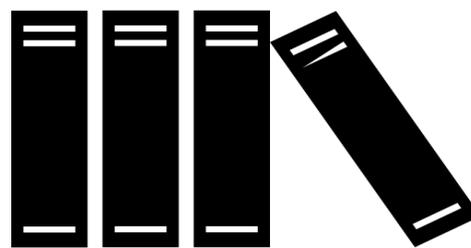
Cohort Response

170 17 year olds
145 19 year olds
124 21 year olds



70% White
21.8% Hispanic
17.6% African American

17.9% in DCYF care
at age 19
8.1% in DCYF care
at age 21



Barriers to Education

At 17, **12%** of youth indicated facing barriers to continuing their education.

Key barrier - Academic difficulties (29%)

At 19, **38%** of youth indicated facing barriers to continuing their education.

Key barrier - Child care responsibilities (22%)

By 21, **23%** of youth indicated facing barriers to continuing their education.

Key barrier—Paying for school (23%)

Educational Attainment

Attaining a high school diploma or GED can be considered a requirement for self-sufficiency. It establishes a solid foundation that prepares youth for future educational pursuits.



Financial Self-Sufficiency

The NYTD survey strives to understand youth's acquisition of the skills necessary to enter the labor market and their ability to access financial resources needed in order to meet their living expenses.



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**Youth with a
bank account:**

28% of 17 year olds
46% of 19 year olds
56% of 21 year olds

Youth employed at time of survey:

- 21% of 17 year olds
- 32% of 19 year olds
- 48% of 21 Year olds

**Of those employed, youth who
had been working 6 or more months:**

- 24% of 17 year olds
- 33% of 19 year olds
- 41% of 21 year olds



“We recognize the relationship between education and financial self-sufficiency. NYTD data helps the Department identify our areas of strength. But also, it allows us to identify the challenges that need our focus in order to improve outcomes for youth transitioning from care.”

*Dr. Trista Piccola
Director*

Department of Children, Youth and Families

The Rhode Island Data Analytic Center prepared 2015 NYTD Plus results for the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. NYTD Plus was chosen in order to collect richer data. Data collected through NYTD Plus is required to meet federal requirements regarding identifying services older youth receive and survey key outcomes for youth transitioning from care. The NYTD Plus survey was initially conducted in RI in 2011 with the first cohort of youth age 17 years old. Youth were then surveyed at age 19 and age 21.

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