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.

**Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort Response</th>
<th>170</th>
<th>17 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>19 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>124</td>
<td>21 year olds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38.2% of youth were female

17.9% in DCYF care at age 19

8.1% in DCYF care at age 21

70% White

21.8% Hispanic

17.6% African American

**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.

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.
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.

“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

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

Youth with a bank account:
- 28% of 17 year olds
- 46% of 19 year olds
- 56% of 21 year olds

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.

REPORT CONTACTS:
Mike Burk, Administrator, Youth Development & Educational Support Services
(401) 528-3576, mike.burk@dcyf.ri.gov
Colleen Caron, Data Analytics and Evaluation Administrator
401) 528-3720, colleen.caron@dcyf.ri.gov

Visit us at: www.dcyf.ri.gov

101 Friendship Street, Providence, RI 02903 - (401) 528-3502