



TAY-Hub

Transition-Age Youth
Research & Evaluation Hub

Extended Foster Care and Outcomes for Adolescents and Young Adults

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Transition-Age Youth Research and Evaluation Hub

California Child Welfare Indicators Project

School of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley



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UC Berkeley, School of Social Welfare

The **TAY-Hub** is a research collaborative committed to using data, applied research, and evaluation to inform policies and practices supporting young adults with foster care experience.



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CCWIP

California Child Welfare
Indicators Project

Berkeley Social Welfare

Key terms

Adolescents and young adults with experience in foster care who are transitioning from care to independent adulthood.

**Transition-Age Youth
(TAY)**

A California program that allows eligible youth living in foster care or probation settings to remain in foster care until age 21.

**Extended Foster Care
(EFC)**

Young adults (ages 18–21) who remain in EFC, with a voluntary court agreement, and receive ongoing support.

**Nonminor Dependents
(NMD)**

Key terms

Housing selected by NMDs (apartment, room, dorm) with periodic check ins.

**Supervised
Independent Living
Placement (SILP)**

A supervised, supportive housing program with structured services for young adults (ages 18-21) offered through EFC.

**Transitional Housing
Program (THP-NMD)**

The ILP provides training, services, and benefits to assist current and former foster youth in achieving self-sufficiency prior to, and after leaving, the foster care system.

**Independent Living
Program (ILP)**

**CaIYOUTH:
Evaluation of the
impact of the
California
Fostering
Connections to
Success Act**



CalYOUTH and prior studies found impacts of EFC on outcomes to age 21

But does EFC have legs? Is more time in EFC associated with outcomes at age 23, about two years after EFC age limit?

- About 2 dozen outcomes evaluated, spanning many domains (e.g., education and employment, economic hardships, homelessness, family formation, behavioral health, and criminal justice system involvement)



Findings are encouraging.

CaYOUTH documented:

- increases in: completion of a high school credential, college enrollment, employment, savings, and social support
- decreases in: receipt of need-based public food assistance, food insecurity, homelessness, arrests
- no evidence of harm associated with time in extended foster care



Research Overview

TAY-Hub research collection including peer-reviewed studies, reports, summaries, and slide decks.

All TAY-Hub and CaYOUTH studies are included here. Studies are listed from newest to oldest. Please use the buttons to browse by topic and explore available research.



Reset



Foster care policy and homelessness among youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care

2025 Household / Living Arrangement

Authors: Justin S. Harty, Sunggeun (Ethan) Park, Mark E. Courtney Transition-age youth (TAY) who age out of foster care face disproportionately high rates of homelessness, with nearly one in five experiencing homelessness between ages 17 and 19. This study provides some of the strongest evidence to date that Extended Foster Care (EFC) can reduce this [...]

[Peer-Reviewed Publication](#)

[Summary of Peer-Reviewed Publication](#)



Trends in Social Support During the Transition to Adulthood for Youths who Spent Time in Congregate Care in California

2025 Experiences in Care

Romantic Relationships / Social Support

Authors: Keunhye Park, Nathanael J. Okpych, Mark E. Courtney Extensive research has linked having a strong social support network to positive outcomes during young adulthood, particularly for young people with foster care experience. Although there has been growing concern about the wellbeing of youth living in congregate care settings (such as group home care or [...])

[Book Chapter](#)



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Child Abuse & Neglect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/chiabuneg



Foster care policy and homelessness among youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Homelessness
Transition-age foster youth
Extended foster care
Transitional housing placement
Independent living placement

ABSTRACT

Background: Youth aging out of foster care experience troubling rates of homelessness.

Objective: This study examines whether policies directed towards youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care, Extended Foster Care (EFC) and Supervised Independent Living Placements (SILPs), reduce the risk of homelessness.

Participants and setting: Participants were 595 youths aging out of foster care in California.

Methods: Data from interviews conducted with the youths, and state child welfare administrative data on their involvement with the child welfare system, were used to examine predictors of homelessness between ages 17 and 19. Cox proportional hazard regression models, controlling for the characteristics of the youths, were used to identify associations between time in EFC, and in SILPs, and the hazard of homelessness.

Results: Approximately 18 % of the youth experienced homelessness during this period. Controlling for youth characteristics, youths who left care were at much higher risk of homelessness during the study period than were those who remained in care past their 19th birthday (Hazard ratio [HR] = 3; $p < 0.01$). Furthermore, youths living in transitional supportive housing (HR = 0.20; $p < 0.01$) and therapeutic foster care settings (HR = 0.19; $p < 0.05$) exhibited a lower hazard of homelessness than those who had left care.

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that EFC, and particularly the living arrangements offering extensive support in EFC, reduce the risk of homelessness for youth aging out of foster care.



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FOSTER CARE POLICY AND HOMELESSNESS AMONG YOUTH TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD FROM FOSTER CARE



SEPTEMBER 2025

MARK E. COURTNEY, PhD
SUNGGEUN (ETHAN) PARK, PhD
JUSTIN S. HARTY, PhD

Findings:

1. Homelessness is Common

Nearly one in five youth (18%) experienced homelessness between ages 17 and 19, a much higher rate than that of their peers in the general population.

2. Extended Foster Care Protects Against Homelessness

TAY who exited foster care before age 19 were three times more likely to experience homelessness than those who remained in care.

3. Supportive Housing Matters

Placement in treatment-oriented living arrangements, such as transitional supportive housing and Foster Family Agency homes was strongly protective against homelessness.



tayhub.berkeley.edu/tay-research/

Takeaway

- Overall, EFC is a powerful tool to reduce early homelessness for young people aging out of foster care.
- Findings support continued federal, state, and local investment in EFC and suggest states should strengthen outreach and engagement strategies that encourage eligible youth to stay past age 18.





Original article

Characteristics of Transition-Age Youth Engaging in Suicidal Behavior



Colleen C. Katz, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.^{a,*}, Nathanael Okpych, Ph.D., M.S.W.^b, Eden Wall, L.M.S.W., Ed.M.^a, Jama Shelton, Ph.D., M.S.W.^a, and Mark Courtney, Ph.D., M.S.W.^c

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Article history: Received October 9, 2023; Accepted June 3, 2024

Keywords: Foster care; Suicidal Behavior; Child maltreatment; Transition-age youth

ABSTRACT

Purpose: Suicide rates are markedly high among children with foster care involvement. Transition-age youth (TAY) who age-out of the foster care system are at particularly high risk.

Methods: Analyzing data from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (n=727), this paper explores the descriptive characteristics of TAY who engage in suicidal behavior with the goals of better identifying, understanding, and supporting those at risk. We report rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempt at four interview waves (ages 17, 19, 21, 23) and examine differences in rates by sociodemographic characteristics, past maltreatment, and behavioral health disorders.

Results: At age 17, 42% of California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study participants had thought of committing suicide and 24% had attempted suicide. Across ages, sexual minority youth reported significantly higher rates of suicidal ideation and behavior than their heterosexual peers. We also found that youth with (1) maltreatment experiences (both before and during foster care); (2) major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder; and (3) alcohol/substance abuse disorders were significantly more likely than their peers without these characteristics/diagnoses to engage in suicidal behavior at certain ages. Youth with comorbid psychiatric and substance use disorders were consistently at elevated risk.

Discussion: Routine screening for suicidal behavior among TAY is important for child welfare service providers to consider. Youth at risk may benefit from more consistent assessment, mental health care, and targeted mental health intervention. Future research is needed to shed light on mechanisms linking certain sociodemographic, experiential, and behavioral health characteristics with suicidal behavior in TAY.

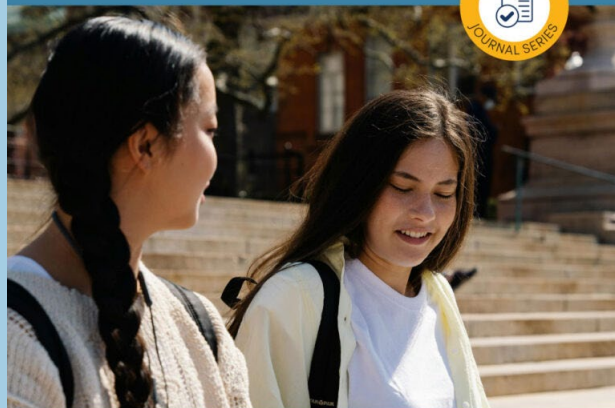
© 2024 Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTION

This article identifies sociodemographic, maltreatment, and behavioral health characteristics of transition-age youth that are associated with suicidal behavior with the goal of better identifying, understanding, and supporting those at heightened risk. While all youth in foster care need to be routinely screened (and, when necessary, thoroughly assessed) for suicidal ideation and attempts, those with multiple risk factors would especially benefit from trauma-informed response protocols that are tailored to their unique level of risk.



CHARACTERISTICS OF TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH ENGAGING IN SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR



OCTOBER 2024

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Findings:

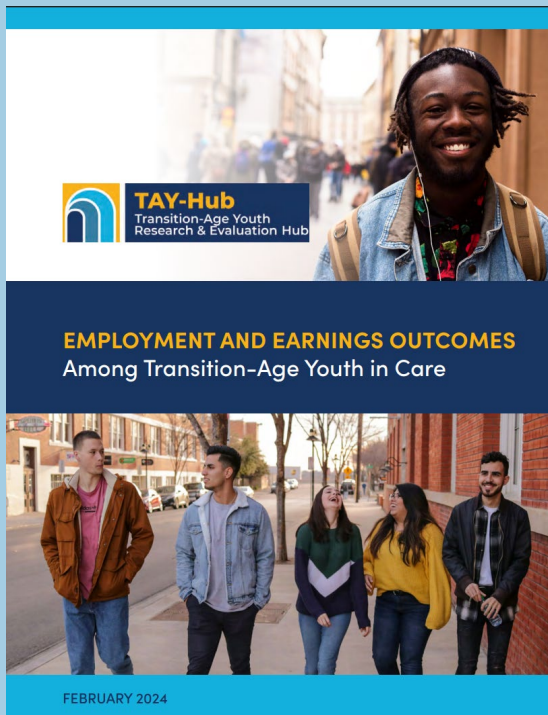
- 1.** At age 17, just over 40% of youth had ever considered suicide, and nearly one in four had attempted suicide.
- 2.** Females and sexual minorities were more likely to consider and attempt suicide.
- 3.** The risk of suicidal behavior was lowest for youth without any mental health or alcohol/substance use disorders.
- 4.** The experience of neglect while in care was an especially potent predictor of suicidal ideation.



Takeaway

The findings underscore the need for suicide prevention, assessment, and treatment for youth transitioning out of foster care.

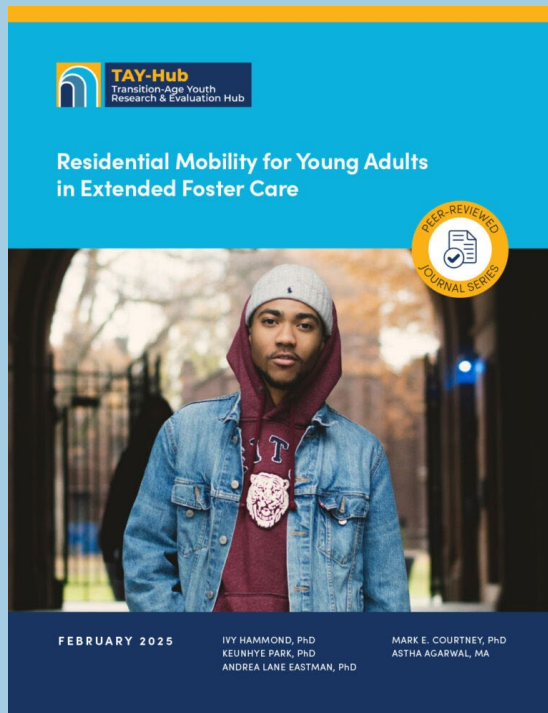




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EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES
Among Transition-Age Youth in Care

FEBRUARY 2024



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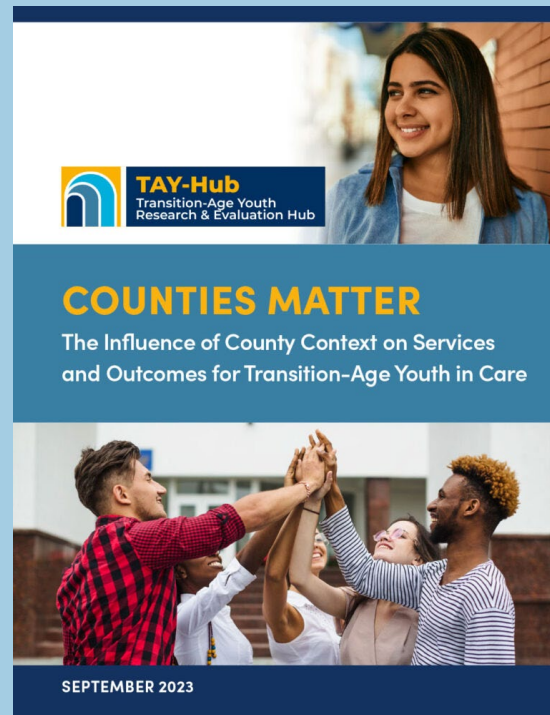
**Residential Mobility for Young Adults
in Extended Foster Care**

PRE-REVIEWED
JOURNAL SERIES

FEBRUARY 2025

IVY HAMMOND, PhD
KEUNHYE PARK, PhD
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COUNTIES MATTER
The Influence of County Context on Services
and Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth in Care

SEPTEMBER 2023

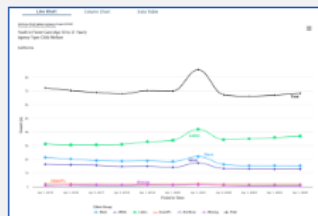
tayhub.berkeley.edu/tay-research/

Reentries



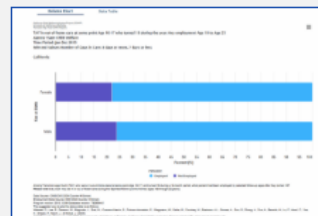
Reentries to Foster Care (Age 18 to 20 Years)

In Care



In Care—Point in Time Count (Age 18 to 21 Years)

TAY Cumulative Employment Status by Age



TAY in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) who turned 18 during a 12-month period, employment status by selected ages.

TAY Quarters Employed by Age



TAY in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) who turned 18 during a 12-month period, the number of quarters with earnings by selected ages.

TAY Annual Earnings by Age



TAY in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) who turned 18 during a 12-month period, average and median inflation adjusted annual earnings by selected ages.

TAY Enrollment Status by Age



TAY in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) who turned 18 during a 12-month period, postsecondary education enrollment status by selected ages.

Report Options

In Care—Point in Time Count

Remember County Selection

Time Period

Intervals

July

Begin Year

2015

Agency Type

- Child Welfare
 Probation

Counties

California

Report Output

- Count
 Percent

Row Dimension

Ethnic Group

Line Chart

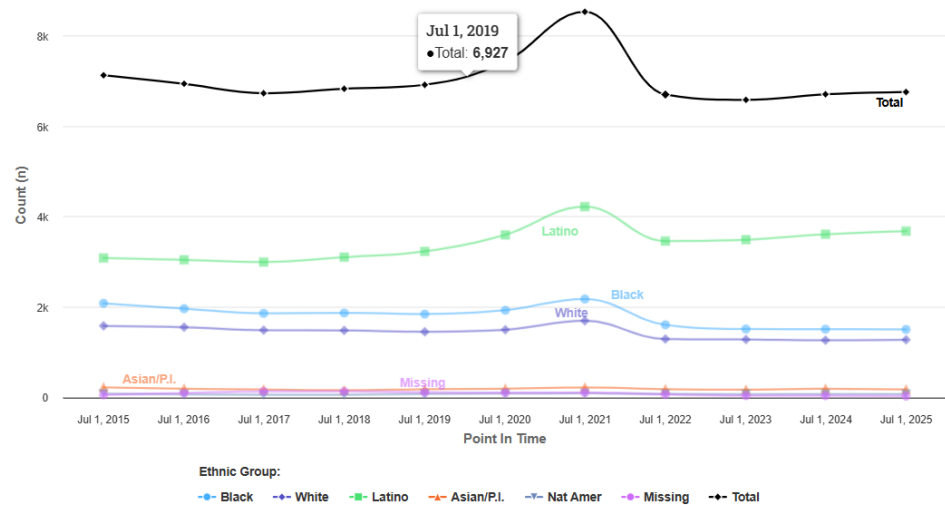
Column Chart

Data Table

California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)
University of California at Berkeley

Youth in Foster Care (Age 18 to 21 Years)
Agency Type: Child Welfare

California



Thank you!

[Partners]



[Funders]



Berkeley Social Welfare

