

The Role Research Plays in Deepening Understanding of TAY Services and Supports

Children Now: Child Welfare Policy Roundtable

Mark E. Courtney, PhD & Andi Lane Eastman, PhD
Co-Directors , Transition-Age Youth Research and Evaluation Hub
California Child Welfare Indicators Project
School of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley



- Collaborate with the child welfare services community to identify topics for TAY-Hub research and evaluation activities
- Conduct research and evaluation activities, and sponsor activities of third-party partners
- Engage young people and key players providing services to TAY in interpreting the meaning and implications for policy and practice of TAY-Hub research and evaluation findings
- Engage the child welfare services community in dissemination of findings and the implications for policy and practice of project-sponsored research and evaluation





TAY-Hub
Transition-Age Youth
Research & Evaluation Hub



CCWIP
California Child Welfare
Indicators Project

Home

About Us

Tay Research ▾

TAY Data

Grant Recipients

News

Cal YOUTH



TAY-Hub

The Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub (TAY-Hub) seeks to improve policies and practices affecting TAY by monitoring outcomes and through applied research that is grounded in engagement with members of the child welfare services community, including those with lived experience of foster care.

ccwip.berkeley.edu/TAY

TAY Cumulative Employment Status by Age

Among Transition-Age Youth (TAY) who were in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) and turned 18 during a 12-month period, what percent had been employed by selected follow-up ages after they turned 18?

Report Options

Drill Down Reports

California Detail View

Single County View

(Currently Selected)

Using charts: Click on the legend to hide or display chart items. Hover over the chart to see time periods and values.

Masking is performed to protect the privacy of individuals served by CDSS: Values of 10 or less and calculations based on values of 10 or less are masked ('M' or '*'). In stratified views of the data,

Line Chart

Column Chart

Data Table

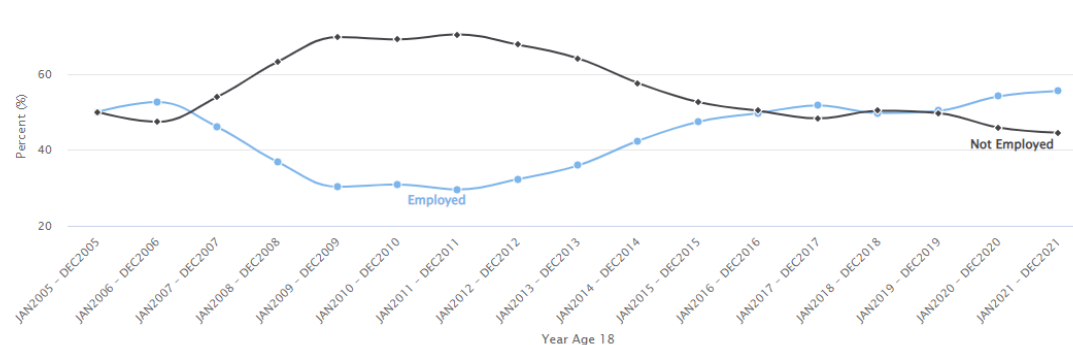
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)
University of California at Berkeley
Transition Age Youth (TAY) Reports

TAY in out-of-home care at some point Age 16-17 who turned 18 during the year: Any employment Age 18 to Age 19

Agency Type: Child Welfare

Selected Subset: Number of Days in Care: 8 days or more, 7 days or less

California



Employment Status by Follow-up Age 19:

● Employed ● Not Employed ■ Total

TAY Enrollment Status by Age

Among Transition Age Youth (TAY) who were in out-of-home care (at some point Age 16-17) and turned 18 during a 12-month period, how many were enrolled in postsecondary education by selected follow-up ages after they turned 18?

 Report Options

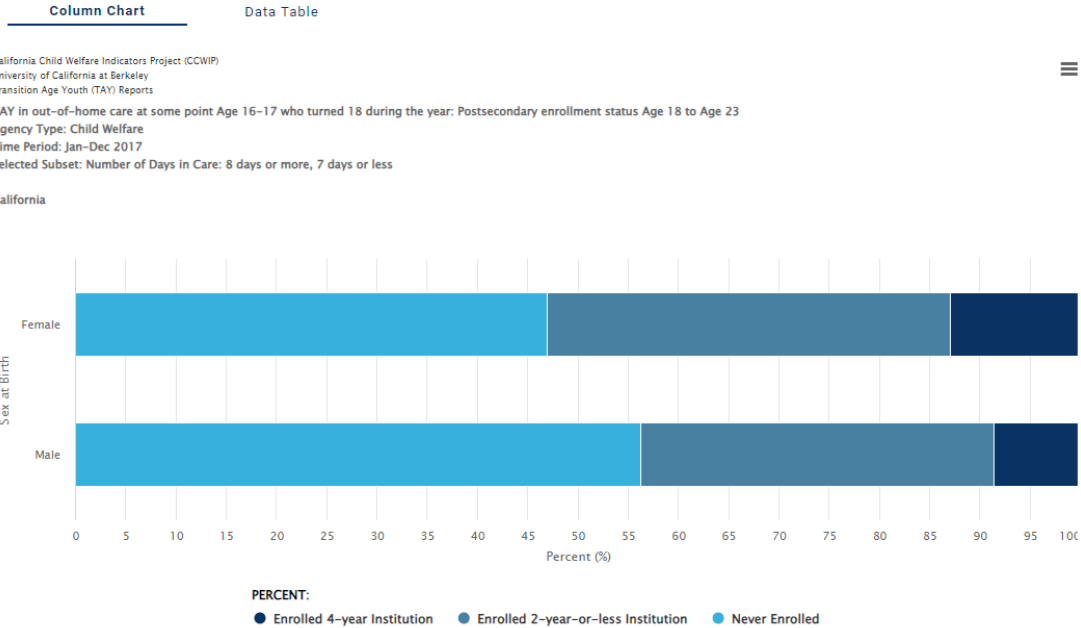
Drill Down Reports

[California Detail View](#)
(Currently Selected)

[Single County View](#)

Using charts: Click on the legend to hide or display chart items. Hover over the chart to see time periods and values.

Masking is performed to protect the privacy of individuals served by CDSS: Values of 10 or less and calculations based on values of 10 or less are masked ('M' or '*'). In stratified views of the data,



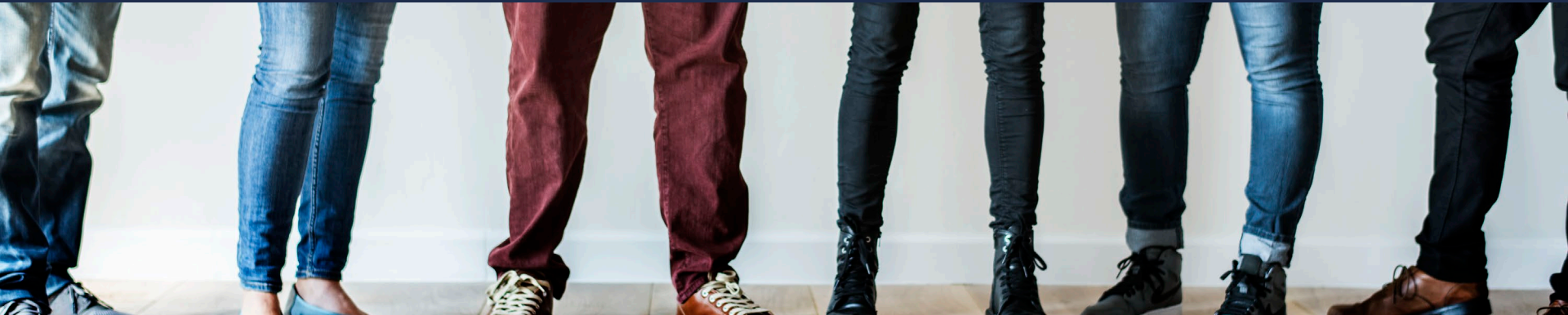
CaIYOUTH:
Evaluation of the
impact of the
California
Fostering
Connections to
Success Act



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?

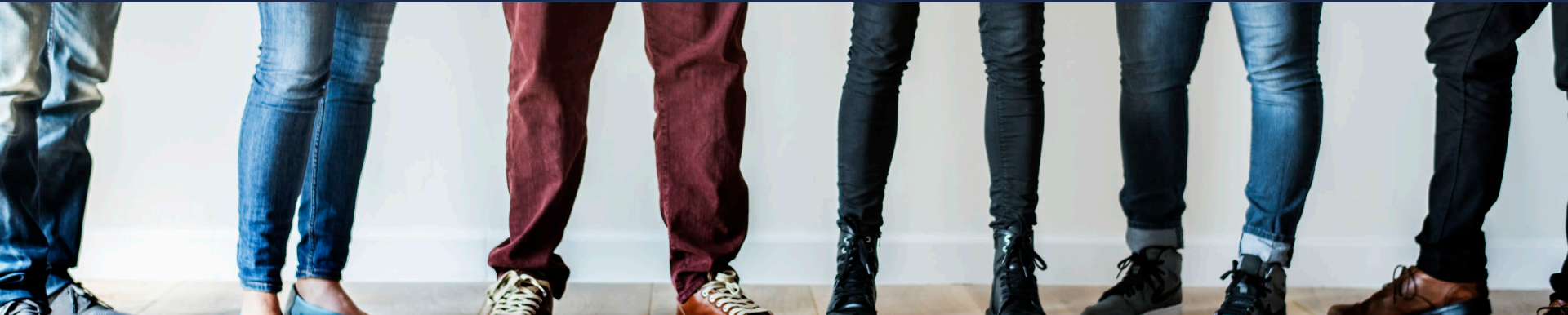
- About 2 dozen outcomes evaluated, spanning many domains (e.g., education and employment, economic hardships, homelessness, family formation, behavioral health, and criminal justice system involvement)



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





Counties Matter!

Youth satisfaction with independent living transition planning differed between counties. Higher unemployment rates and perceived service availability were associated with greater youth participation.

Factors such as the demographic characteristics of a county's population, (e.g., urbanicity and voters' political affiliation) and the availability of housing and supportive services are tied to youth outcomes during their transition to adulthood.



Counties Matter!

The report emphasizes the significance of considering local variation when planning/providing services and assessing results.

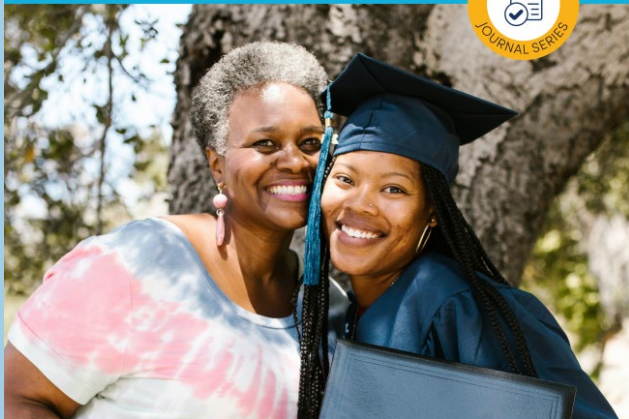
Managing child welfare at the county level in a diverse state like California offers a chance to adopt innovative approaches developed by counties.

Placements and Providers Matter Too!

Outcomes of youth vary depending on which provider they stayed with:

- Youth characteristics explained some, but not all, of the differences between providers in average outcomes experienced by youths they served
- Average provider-level outcomes were also strongly associated with the mix of counties they served
- CalYOUTH worked with CDSS to give aggregate-level data to service providers on outcomes experienced by the youth they served

THE ROLE OF ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS ON YOUTH OUTCOMES



OCTOBER 2023

NATHANAEI J. OKPYCH, PHD
SUNGGEUN (ETHAN) PARK, PHD
JENNA POWERS, PHD

JUSTIN S. HARTY, PHD
MARK E. COURTNEY, PHD
ASTHA AGARWAL, MA

Relationships Matter!

1 About half of study participants (48%) had an enduring relationship.

We found significant variability in the prevalence of enduring relationships between youth across racial groups.

2 Enduring relationships tended to be with biological family members, foster and adoptive parents, and individuals they described as family-like.

Compared to other supportive relations that were more short-lived, enduring relationships were more likely to provide youth with multiple types of support (especially emotional support and tangible support).

THE ROLE OF ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS ON YOUTH OUTCOMES



OCTOBER 2023

NATHANAEI J. OKPYCH, PHD
SUNGGEUN (ETHAN) PARK, PHD
JENNA POWERS, PHD

JUSTIN S. HARTY, PHD
MARK E. COURTNEY, PHD
ASTHA AGARWAL, MA

Relationships Matter!

3 Having an enduring relationship protected TAY from several hardships.

Youth with an enduring relationship experienced fewer economic hardships, were less likely to be food insecure, were less likely to be homeless, and spent less time being homeless.

4 Enduring relationships with specific types of people sometimes had specific effects on their outcomes.

For instance, enduring relationships with family and family-like individuals protected youth against economic hardships, food insecurity, and homelessness. Enduring relationships with peers increased the likelihood that youth entered and completed at least one year of college.

Grants

- Issued a request for letters of interest in late 2022 for “applied research that can support the development of improved policies and practices for young people living in or exiting foster care placements.”
- Prioritized the inclusion of researchers who have lived experience in foster care and those from communities of color
- Received 26 letters of interest and ultimately funded 11 projects
- Funded project teams will present the findings of their research at a convening held in June 2024

Seedless: A Study on the Higher Education Experiences of Youth Impacted by Foster Care with (Dis)abilities

Dominique Mikell Montgomery, ABD, AM, University of Nevada, Reno
Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Community Activist, Advocate, and Artist

Research goal: *Support the development of improved higher education policies and practices for young people with (dis)abilities living in or exiting foster care.*

Leveraging Quasi-Experimental Methods to Evaluate Foster Care Reform in California

Kate Musen, MPhil, Columbia University
Sandra Black, PhD, Columbia University

Research goal: *Examine how TAY policies have impacted the education and labor market outcomes of former foster youth.*

A Case Study of FUPY/FYI Housing Choice Vouchers in Los Angeles: The experiences of young adults, property managers, and case managers

Todd Franke, PhD, MSW, University of California, Los Angeles
Brenda Tully, PhD, LCSW, University of California, Los Angeles
Lucero Noyola, MSW, University of California, Los Angeles
Carmen Noyola, MUP, University of California, Los Angeles

Research goal: *Understand barriers and facilitators to Family Unification Program for Youth (FUPY) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) uptake and maintenance in Los Angeles.*

Next Steps

Establishing data sharing agreements between CCWIP and additional public institutions that can provide data on TAY outcomes:

- California Community College Chancellors Office;
- California Department of Public Health;
- California Department of Justice;
- California Department of Education.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study draws upon the findings from the California Youth Transition to Adulthood (CalYOUTH) study. The California Department of Social Services and the County Welfare Directors Association of California have been crucial partners and their collaboration has been essential to the success of the CalYOUTH study. The authors are incredibly grateful to the hundreds of young people who willingly participated in the interviews.

FUNDERS

The TAY-Hub is deeply grateful for the generosity and interest of our funders: the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Tipping Point Community, Walter S. Johnson Foundation, and California College Pathways Funders Alliance.

DISCLAIMER

The CalYOUTH study was performed with the permission of the California Department of Social Services; however, the opinions and conclusions are solely those of the authors and do not represent the policy or opinions of the collaborating agencies or any California Department.

Stay tuned!



TAY-Hub

Transition-Age Youth
Research & Evaluation Hub

The Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub (TAY-Hub) seeks to improve policies and practices affecting TAY by monitoring outcomes and through applied research that is grounded in engagement with members of the child welfare services community, including those with lived experience of foster care.

ccwip.berkeley.edu/TAY

Andrea.Eastman@berkeley.edu & MarkC1957@berkeley.edu