

Summary of NYTD Cohort 5, Baseline Survey Results

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DCS continued their partnership with ASU’s Center for Child Well-Being administering the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey to the Cohort 5, 17-year-old youth in foster care in Arizona. This cohort included those who turned 17 years-old between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

The survey included 18 federally mandated questions along with questions developed by the DCS and ASU NYTD teams. A sample of the 17-year-olds will be surveyed again at age 19 (FFY 2024/2025) and then again at age 21 (FFY 2026/2027).

Of the 648 youth in the baseline population, 422 youth were surveyed, representing a response rate of 65.1%. For the 272 youth who did not participate in the survey, there were 19 youth reported as having exited care and 27 who were ineligible due to incarceration. These youth were designated as not being in foster care and removed from the survey population. In addition, 84 youth were found to be on runaway/missing status, 68 were unable to be reached within the 45-day survey window with one youth unable to be located, and 50 declined to participate in the survey.

The breakdown for all outcome designations based on foster care status is as follows:

Federal Outcome Designation	AZ Partnership Designation	*Foster Care Status	Total
Participated		Yes	422
Declined		Yes	50
Incapacitated		Yes	23
**Unable to Locate	Unable to be found	1	69
	Unable to be surveyed	68	
Runaway/Missing		Yes	84
Total			648
<i>Response Rate</i>			65.1%
Removed from survey population			
***Exited Care		No	19
Incarcerated		No	27

*Foster care status for NYTD is defined by the federal government. Youth in detention during the 45-day survey window who are unable to be surveyed, although they may have a dependency with DCS, are designated as “no” for foster care status and removed from the survey population.

** “Unable to be found” and “Unable to be surveyed” are reported as “Unable to locate”.

***“Exited care” is reported as “unable to locate” with a foster care status “no”.

Survey Results

The required NYTD questions are designated with an asterisk (*) at the end of the question.

Theme: Finances

- 1. Currently, are you employed full-time?** *Full time means working at least 35 hours per week at one or multiple jobs.**

Currently Employed Full-Time	Number	Percent
Yes	18	4.3
No	400	95.7
<i>Total</i>	418	

- 2. Currently, are you employed part-time?** *Part-time means working at least 1-34 hours per week at one or multiple jobs.**

Currently Employed Part-Time	Number	Percent
Yes	76	18.2
No	342	81.8
<i>Total</i>	418	

- 3. In the past year, did you complete an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?***

Completed apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training (past year)	Number	Percent
Yes	118	28.4
No	298	71.6
<i>Total</i>	416	

- 4. Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents' payments)?***

Currently receiving Social Security payments	Number	Percent
Yes	49	12.2
No	352	87.8
<i>Total</i>	401	

- 5. Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, or other type of educational financial aid to cover any educational expenses?***

Currently using educational financial aid to cover education expenses	Number	Percent
Yes	27	6.5
No	387	93.5
<i>Total</i>	414	

6. **Currently are you receiving any periodic and/ or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?** *Explain if needed: this means periodic and/or significant financial support from a spouse or family member (biological, foster or adoptive), child support that you receive or funds from a legal settlement. This 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 help that does not benefit you directly in supporting yourself.**

Currently receiving periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment	Number	Percent
Yes	56	13.9
No	347	86.1
<i>Total</i>	403	

7. **How much do you know about financial topics like banking, budgeting, credit scores, and tax returns?**

Knowledge about financial topics like banking, budgeting, credit cards and tax returns	Number	Percent
A lot	25	6.0
Some	279	67.1
Nothing	112	26.9
<i>Total</i>	416	

Theme: Education

8. **Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?***

Currently enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college.	Number	Percent
Yes	386	92.1
No	33	7.9
<i>Total</i>	419	

- a. [If answered yes to question 8] **In what type of school or educational program are you currently enrolled?**

Type of school or educational program	Number	Percent
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Traditional high school	253	66.2
Non- traditional/alternative high school	84	22.0
GED program	11	2.9
Vocational/trade school	5	1.3
Community, junior, or 2-year college	1	0.3
Four-year college or university	1	0.3
Graduate or professional school	1	0.3
Other: e.g. Online High School, Credit Recovery, IEC Apprenticeship etc.	26	6.8
<i>Total</i>	382	

9. What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?

Select only one answer? *Vocational certificate is a document stating you have received education or training that qualifies you for a particular job (example: auto mechanics or cosmetology). Vocational license means 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, and a Bachelor’s degree is a four-year degree from a college or university. Higher degree indicates a graduate degree, such as a Masters or Doctorate degree. None of the above means that the youth has not received any of the above educational certifications.**

Highest Level of Degree or Certification	Number	Percent
High school/GED	37	9.1
Vocational Certificate	2	0.5
Bachelor’s Degree	1	0.2
None of the above	367	90.2
<i>Total</i>	407	

10. What kind of education or technical training, if any, do you hope to achieve in the future? Select all that apply.

Kind of education or technical training hope to achieve in the future	Number	Percent
High school diploma/GED	331	81.9
Vocational certificate	87	21.5
Vocational license	81	20.0
Associate’s degree	124	30.7
Bachelor’s degree	182	45.0
Higher degree	130	32.1
No additional education or training hoped for	22	5.4

Note: Young people could choose more than one option; 404 young people participated in this question.

- a. [If identified a future educational goal.] **What barriers, if any, do you think might get in the way of you achieving your education or training goals?** Select all that apply.

Barriers to education/training goals	Number	Percent
Not having enough money to pay for school	163	43.2
Needing to work full-time or part time	141	37.4
Child care responsibilities	26	6.9
Not having adequate transportation	123	32.6
Academic problems (academic probation, expulsion)	49	13.0
Learning disability or some other disability	73	19.4
Not having enough high school credits	120	31.8
Not having information about how to apply for school	95	25.2
Not having information about how to apply for financial aid	112	29.7
Other (please specify) –	37	9.8
I have no barriers to my goals	67	17.8

Note: Young people could choose more than one option, 377 young people participated in this question.

- 11. Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?** *This includes adults who are easily accessible to you by phone or in person such as relatives, parents, or foster parents. This does not include spouses/partners or current caseworkers.**

Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support	Number	Percent
Yes	388	93.9
No	25	6.1
<i>Total</i>	413	

- 11.1 Which of the following best describe the adults with whom you have a trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship?** Select all that apply. *Adult refers to someone who is at least 5 years older than you.*

Description of Supportive Adults	Number	Percent
Birth parent	109	26.3
Adoptive parent or legal guardian	134	32.4
Foster parent or former foster parent	104	25.1
Sibling	165	39.9
Extended family member (grandparent, aunt, godparent, cousin, any person you consider family)	187	45.2

Current or former caseworker, social worker, or independent living program staff	111	26.8
Mentor (Big Brother/Big Sister, other volunteer or informal mentor)	93	22.5
Other (Please specify) –	63	15.2
None- I don't have any adults in my life with whom I have a trusting, supportive, and unconditional relationship.	18	4.3

Note: Young people could choose more than one option; 414 young people participated in this question.

11.1a [If answered yes to having one adult to whom they can go to for emotional support] **What can you count on these adults to do?** Select all that apply.

Type of Adult Support	Number	Percent
Help me feel cared for or less alone	342	88.6
Check in on me regularly – to see how I am doing	332	86.0
Provide a place to go for an occasional stay (such as holidays or in an emergency)	255	66.1
Provide storage space during transition times	209	54.1
Provide cash or financial assistance in times of emergency	239	61.9
Help with school (homework, re-enrolling in school, help in applying to colleges)	277	71.8
Assist with daily living skills, such as cooking, budgeting, child care, and housecleaning	274	71.0
Help me with other tasks important to my independence or future such as finding a job, applying for an apartment, making medical appointment	273	70.7
Provide transportation	269	69.7
Share in or connect me to my cultural or spiritual background	178	46.1
Other (Please specify) – <i>“help me through life, emotional support, and advice”, “stand by my work, and stand by your word”</i>	15	3.9

Note: Young people could choose more than one option; 386 youth responded to this question.

Theme: Life Circumstances

12. Have you ever been homeless? *"Homeless" means that you had no regular or adequate place to live. This includes living in a car, or on the street, or staying in a temporary shelter.**

Ever been homeless	Number	Percent
Yes	146	36.0
No	260	64.0
<i>Total</i>	406	

13. Have you ever referred yourself or has someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling? *Alcohol or drug abuse assessment is a process designed to determine if someone has a problem with alcohol or drug use.**

Referred/self-referred for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling in the past 2 years	Number	Percent
Yes	92	22.7
No	313	77.3
<i>Total</i>	405	

14. Have you ever been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?*

Ever experienced incarceration	Number	Percent
Yes	91	22.7
No	310	77.3
<i>Total</i>	401	

15. Have you ever experienced having your parent or caretaker go to jail or prison?

Experienced parent/caretaker going to jail or prison	Number	Percent
Yes	240	59.3
No	165	40.7
<i>Total</i>	405	

16. Have you ever given birth to or fathered any children that were born?

*This means giving birth to or fathering at least one child that was born. If males do not know, answer ‘No’.**

Birthed/fathered children that were born in the past two years	Number	Percent
Yes	19	4.5
No	384	95.3
<i>Total</i>	403	

16a. If you responded yes to the previous question, were you married to the child’s other parent at the time each child was born? *This means that when every child was born the youth was married to the other parent of the child.**

Married to the child's parent at the time each child was born	Number	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	19	100.0
<i>Total</i>	19	

Theme: Health and Healthcare

17. Currently are you on Medicaid? In Arizona, you may know Medicaid as AHCCCS, or also as CHP (formerly known as CMDP) or YATI. Medicaid is a health insurance program funded by the government.*

Currently on Medicaid	Number	Percent
Yes	241	58.5
No	66	16.0
Don't know	105	25.5
<i>Total</i>	412	

18. Currently do you have health insurance other than Medicaid, AHCCCS, CHP Mercy Care, or YATI. Other health insurance includes health insurance that you pay for, health insurance provided by your employer or school, or health insurance provided by your parent.*

Currently have health insurance other than Medicaid	Number	Percent
Yes	101	24.6
No	166	40.4
Don't know	144	35.0
<i>Total</i>	411	

a. [If has health care insurance other than Medicaid] Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?*

Includes coverage for medical services	Number	Percent
Yes	77	76.2
No	--	--
Don't know	24	23.8
<i>Total</i>	101	

b. [If has health care insurance other than Medicaid and health insurance includes coverage for medical services] Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?*

Includes coverage for mental health services	Number	Percent
Yes	62	80.5
No	--	--
Don't know	15	19.5
<i>Total</i>	77	

- c. [If has health care insurance other than Medicaid and health insurance includes coverage for medical services] **Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?***

Includes coverage prescription drugs	Number	Percent
Yes	66	85.7
No	3	3.9
Don't know	8	10.4
<i>Total</i>	77	

19. In the past six months have you received supportive mental health services?

Supportive mental health services include seeing a counselor or therapist, group therapy, or taking medication for mood or feelings.

Received mental health services (past 6 months)	Number	Percent
Yes	281	68.5
No	108	26.3
Don't know	21	5.1
<i>Total</i>	410	

20. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all safe and 10 being completely safe, how safe do you typically feel in the place where you currently live?

How safe do you typically feel in the place where you currently live? (Scale of 10 where 1 = not at all safe, 10 = completely safe)	Number	Percent
5 or above	396	96.1
4 or below	16	3.9
<i>Total</i>	412	

- a. **If youth responded with 4 or below they were prompted with the following questions:**

1. *What would have to be different at your current placement for the safety rating to be above 5?*

Following are themes that emerged from this question:

- *Different behavior/attitude from staff in group homes*
- *Less fighting*
- *More freedom*

2. *What things make it below a 5 instead of a 5 or above?*

Following are themes that emerged from this question:

- *Lack of a sense of caring on the part of staff*
- *Fighting*
- *Lack of Wi-Fi*
- *Broken walls*

3. *If you could change one thing about the placement that would increase your feeling of safety there what would it be?*

Following are themes that emerged from this question:

- *Less fighting*
- *More competent and caring staff*

21. Do you have the information you need in order to make decisions about your reproductive health, including decisions about birth control, getting tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and planning a family?

Have information needed for reproductive health	Number	Percent
Yes	308	78.4
No	85	21.6
<i>Total</i>	393	

Theme: Foster Care Experience

22. How would you best describe your involvement in developing your Transition to Adulthood Plan?

Involvement in developing Transition to Adulthood Plan	Number	Percent
Very involved	138	34.0
Somewhat involved	156	38.4
Not at all involved	36	8.9
I don't know what a Transition to Adulthood Plan is	76	18.7
<i>Total</i>	406	

23. How much do you feel has been done since you have been in foster care to help you maintain or strengthen your relationship with the people in your life who you consider important to you?

Perceived assistance in maintaining or strengthening relationship with people considered important in their life	Number	Percent
A whole lot	183	47.8
Some but not enough	143	37.3
Nothing at all	57	14.9
<i>Total</i>	383	

Demographics

24. How do you describe your racial identity? Select all that apply.

Self-described racial identity	Number	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	54	14.8
Asian	7	1.9
Black or African American	96	26.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10	2.7
White	200	54.9
I don't know one or more of my races	53	14.6

Note: Young people could select more than one option; 364 youth responded to this question and 51 youth chose more than one racial identity.

25. How do you describe your ethnicity?

Self-described ethnicity	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	198	50.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	163	41.7
I don't know my ethnicity	30	7.7
<i>Total</i>	391	

26. How do you describe your gender identity? Select all that apply.

Cisgender means that the gender you were assigned at birth matches the gender with which you identify. Transgender means that the gender you were assigned at birth does not match the gender with which you identify.

Self-described gender identity	Number	Percent
Cisgender female/woman/girl	200	49.8
Cisgender male/man/guy	157	39.1
Transgender female/woman/girl	4	1.0

Transgender male/man/guy	7	1.7
Gender queer	2	0.5
Gender fluid	5	1.2
Non-binary	8	1.9
Other: “Bi-gender”	15	3.7
Chose more than 1 gender identity	4	1.0

Note: Young people could select more than one option, 402 youth responded to this question.

27. How do you identify your sexuality or sexual orientation? Select all that apply.

Self-identified sexual orientation	Number	Percent
Straight/heterosexual	269	69.2
Bisexual	56	14.4
Gay/lesbian	17	4.4
Pansexual	19	4.9
Queer	1	0.3
Questioning	8	2.1
Prefer to self-describe – “Asexual”, “no labels”, “Demi sexual”	11	2.8
Selected more than 1 sexual orientation category	8	2.1

Note: Young people could select more than one option; 389 youth responded to this question

28. Do you have a mental health condition? *Mental health condition refers to a wide range of conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, substance use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and eating disorders.*

Self-reported mental health condition	Number	Percent
Yes	209	51.2
No	155	38.0
I don’t know	44	10.8
<i>Total</i>	408	

29. Do you have a disability, special health care need, diagnosis, or condition? *This refers to physical, intellectual, psychiatric, and developmental disabilities or conditions such as dyslexia, autism, mobility problems, blindness, deafness, diabetes, and epilepsy.*

Self-reported disability, special health care need, diagnosis, condition	Number	Percent
Yes	80	19.6

No	298	72.9
I don't know	31	7.6
<i>Total</i>	409	

30. Please name up to three things you consider are going really well in your life right now.

Themes that emerged were as follows:

- *Family relationships*
- *School*
- *Physical and mental health*
- *Friends*

31. What are the three things you are most looking forward to in the future?

Themes that emerged were as follows:

- *College/Career*
- *Getting own place*
- *Getting a job*
- *Having own family*