Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Children and Youth in Foster Care Strategy Development
Landscape Research Findings

Prepared for:

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F O U N D A T I O N

February 2012

Phase I of the Strategic Development Process for Foster Youth Priority Area

| Phase I: Landscape *(Current Phase)*	Phase II: Development of Strategic Options	Phase III: Final Strategic Plan

Key Activities

- Research on the landscape of **needs, funding flows, and current efforts**

- Interviews with **30+ experts, funders, and practitioners**

- Additional **research identifying preliminary opportunities for intervention**

Contents

- **Scope and Burden of the Problem**

- **Key Factors Affecting Foster Youth Outcomes**

- **Geographic Considerations**

- **Appendix**

In 2010, over 400,000 Children in the U.S. Entered Foster Care

National Trends in Number of Foster Youth Entering, Staying and Exiting Foster Care
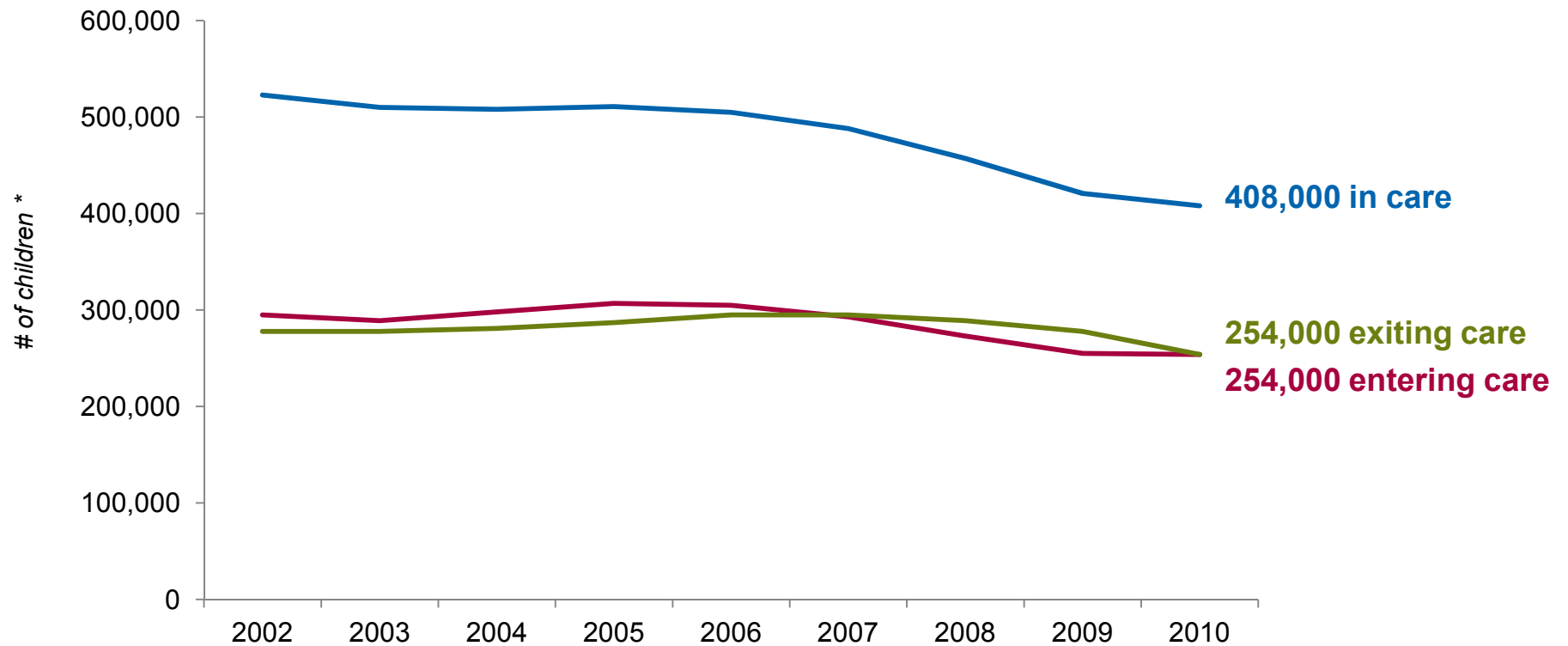
Note: * Includes children and youth from birth to age 20. Total number of children in care has dropped primarily as a result of fewer children entering the system compared to 2002. The number of children exiting the system has remained fairly constant
Source: U.S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families; Trends in Foster Care and Adoption, updated June 2012

Children and Youth Entering Foster Care Face a Troubled Future

Children entering foster care…

- Generally come from an **impoverished** family

- Were **abused or neglected** by their family

- Have a 50% chance of suffering **mental health** problems

Children in the foster care system …

- Have a 50% chance of moving among **five or more homes**
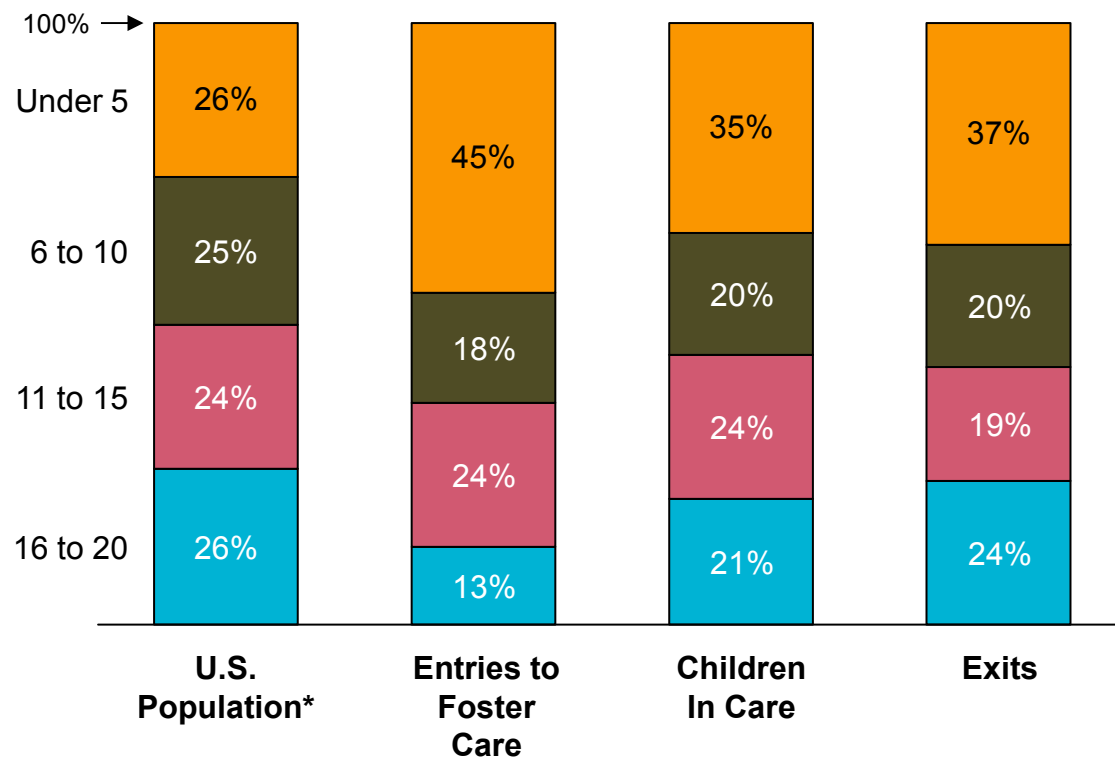
- Are half as likely to **graduate** from high school

Children exiting the foster care system have…

- As a **young** child, an 89% chance of finding a permanent home

- As a **child with disabilities**, a 76% chance of finding a permanent home

- As a youth entering care **after age 12**, a 69% chance of finding a permanent home

- As a woman, a 50% chance of being **pregnant by age 19**

Source: San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Source: Casey Family Programs; Multi-State Study on Psychotropic Medication Oversight in Foster Care, Tufts University; Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2009 data (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009); Child Welfare Outcomes: 2004-2007 Report to Congress; DHHS; Time for Reform: : National Working Group on Foster Care and Education; Grappling with the Gaps; Why Should the Child Welfare Field Focus on Minimizing Placement Change as part of Permanency Planning for Children;" Foster Care Alumni Studies, Casey Family Programs; FSG Interviews

While Young Children Are Most Vulnerable to Suffer Neglect and Abuse, Older Youth Are More Likely to Remain in the System

Children and Youth in Foster Care by Age, 2009

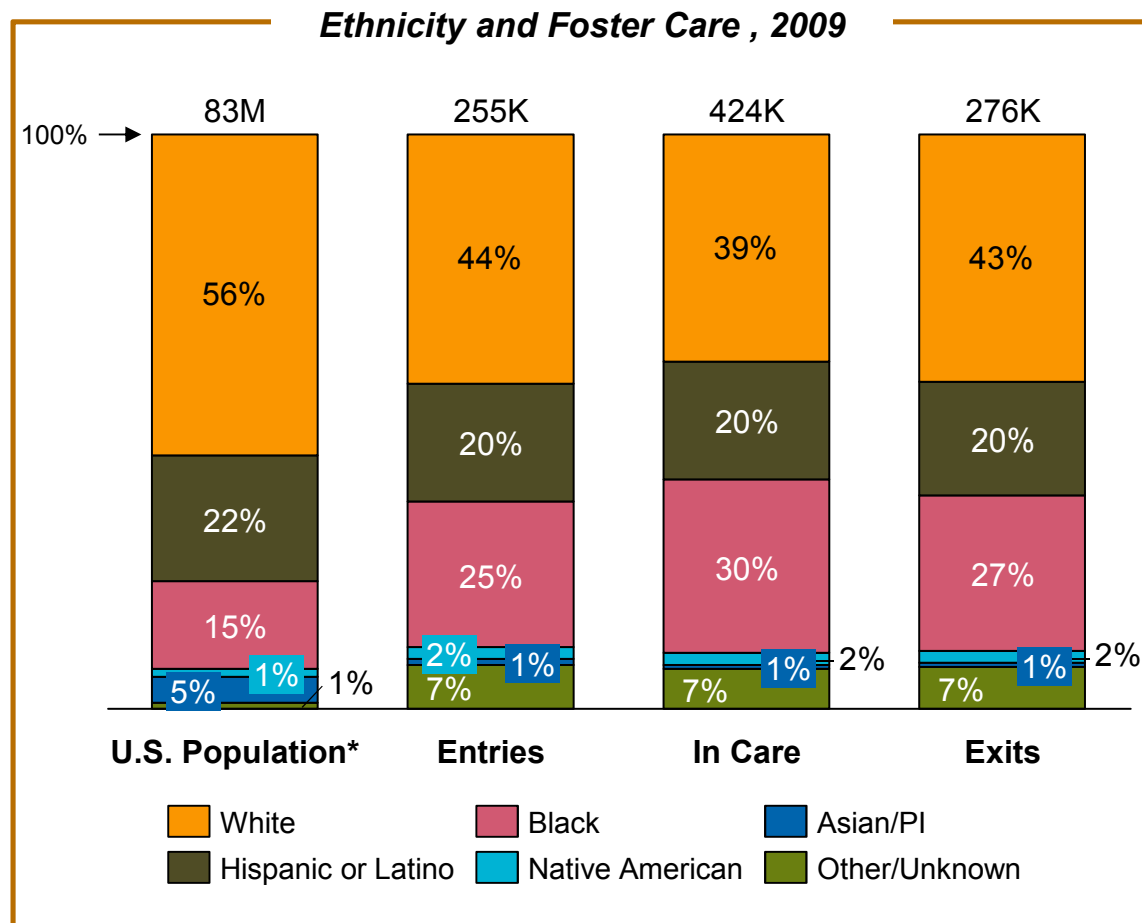|	U.S. Population*	Entries to Foster Care	Children In Care	Exits
Under 5	26%	45%	35%	37%
6 to 10	25%	18%	20%	20%
11 to 15	24%	24%	24%	19%
16 to 20	26%	13%	21%	24%

- Young children enter foster care at higher rates but research shows that they also have better chances of exiting the system

- Children aged 6 to 10 have **lower chances of entering the foster care system**

- Research and data show that, as children become older, their **chances of remaining in the system increase** and their odds of **exiting via a permanent placement dwindle**

Higher exit rates among older youth are partially explained by 18- to 20-year-olds aging out of the system

Note: * Data for the U.S. population uses the Census Bureau scale: Under 5, 5-9, 10-14, 15 -19, and therefore does not include youth age 20
Source: Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation; U.S. Census Bureau; FSG Analysis

A Disproportionate Representation of Ethnic Minorities in the Foster Care System Is an Issue in at Least 25 States

Ethnicity and Foster Care, 2009

	83M	255K	424K	276K
White	56%	44%	39%	43%
Hispanic or Latino	22%	20%	20%	20%
Black	15%	25%	30%	27%
Other/Unknown	5%	7%	7%	7%
Native American	1%	2%	1%	1%
Asian/PI	1%	1%	2%	2%
	U.S. Population*	Entries	In Care	Exits

Legend:
- White
- Black
- Asian/PI
- Hispanic or Latino
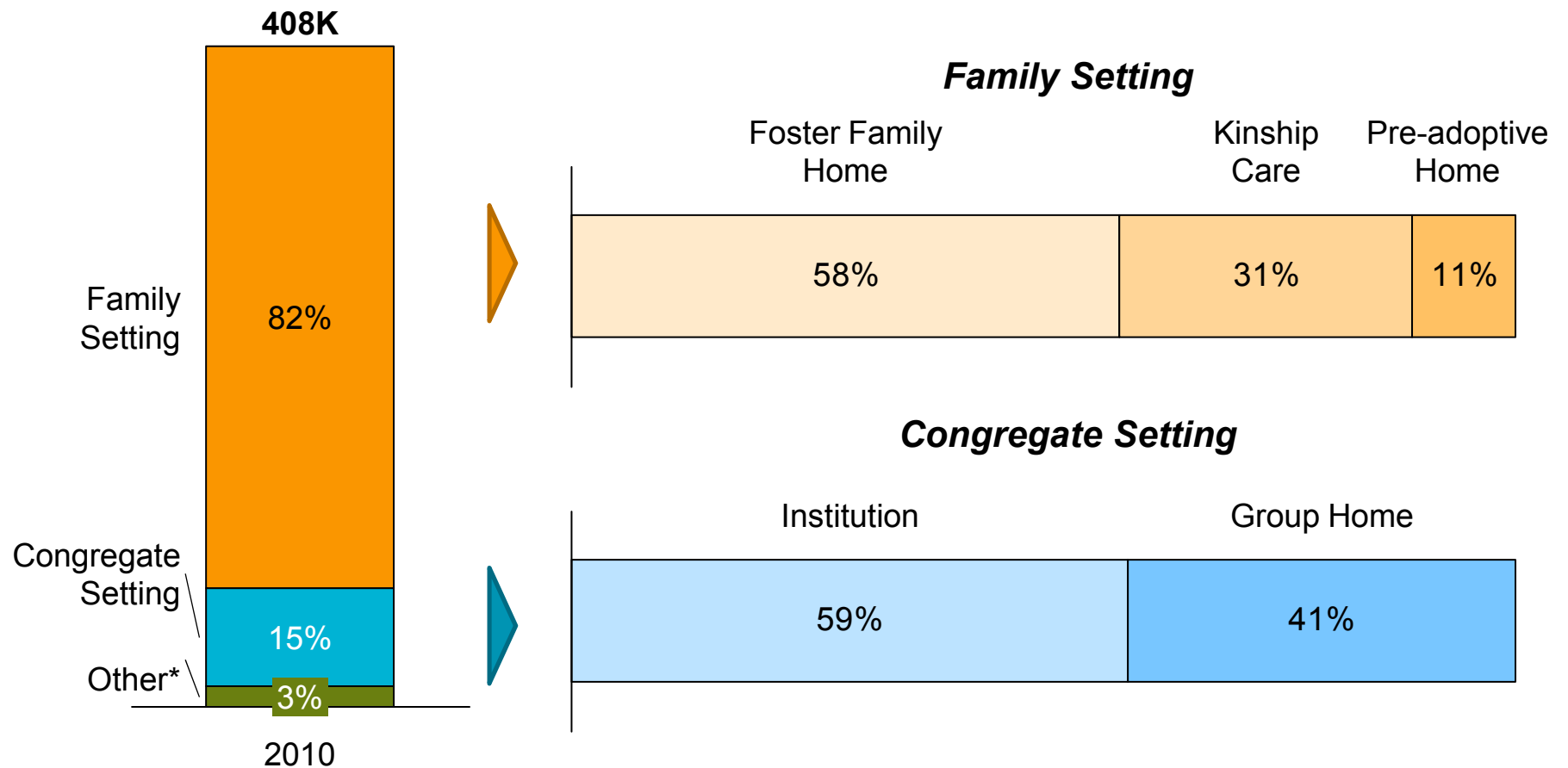- Native American
- Other/Unknown

- In 2007, **disproportionate representation** was found for **Black children** (25 states), **Alaska Native/American Indian children** (13 states), and **Hispanic children** (5 states)
- Research suggests **several contributing factors**:
  - Higher rates of **poverty** among minorities are correlated with difficulties accessing housing, mental health, and other services which keep families stable
  - **Bias or cultural misunderstandings** and distrust lead to higher removal rates
  - **Recruiting adoptive parents** can be challenging due to fewer same-race adoptive parents, which leads to longer stays in foster care

Note: * Data for *Entries* and *In Care* include children and youth from birth to age 20; population data includes children and youth from birth to 19

Source: Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation; U.S. Census Bureau; Child Welfare Outcomes: 2004-2007 Report to Congress; DHHS; FSG analysis

Over 80% of Youth in Foster Care Are Placed with Families

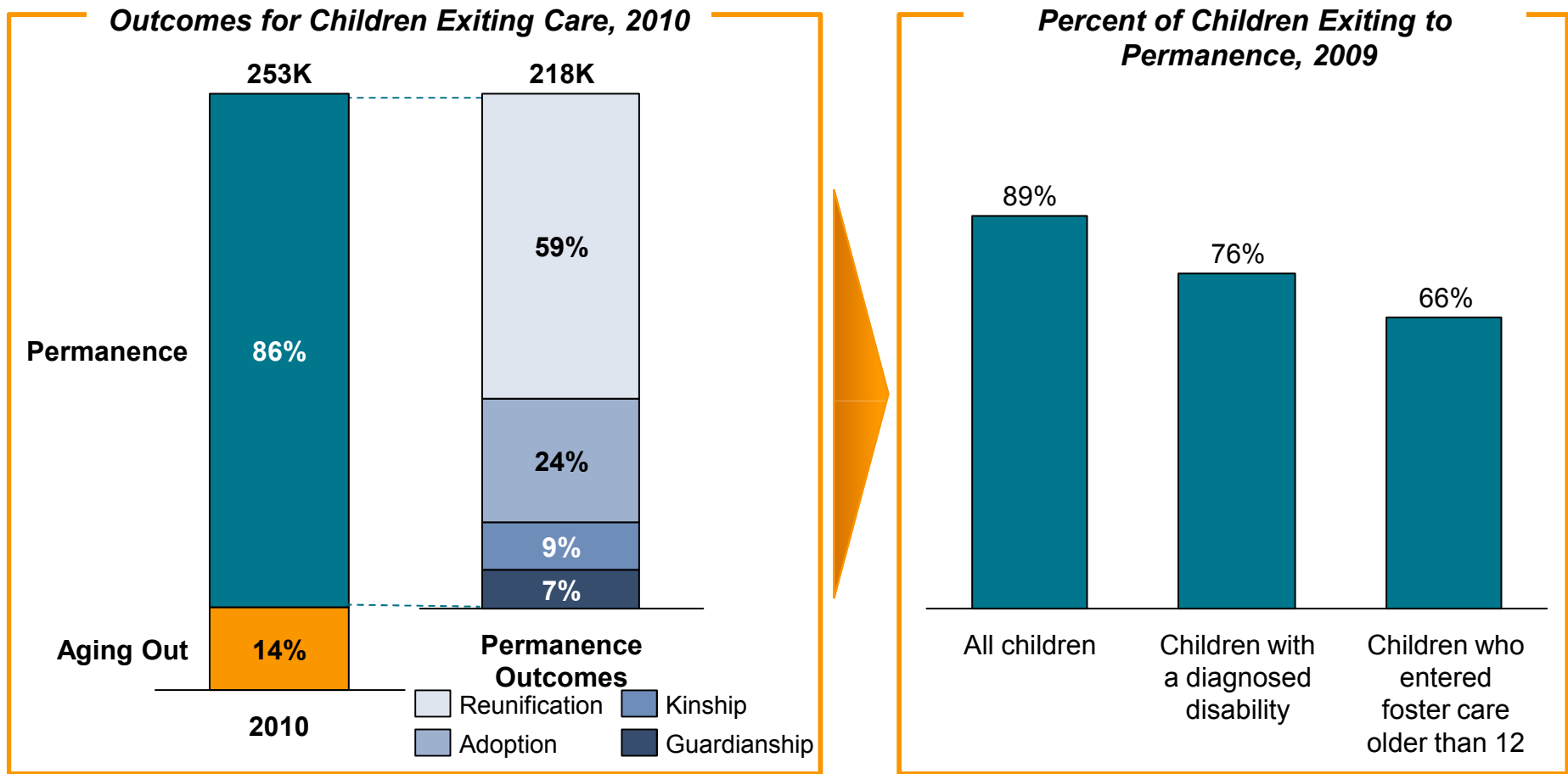*Children and Youth in Foster Care by Type of Placement, 2010*

408K

Family Setting

Foster Family Home	Kinship Care	Pre-adoptive Home
58%	31%	11%

Family Setting — 82%

Congregate Setting

Institution	Group Home
59%	41%

Congregate Setting — 15%

Other* — 3%

2010

Children in family settings generally have better outcomes than those in congregate settings

* Includes runaways and youth entering supervised independent living arrangements
Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2010 data (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010), Updated June 2012, available online at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report18.htm.

Most Children Exiting the Foster Care System Find a Permanent Home

Outcomes for Children Exiting Care, 2010

253K   218K

Permanence

86%   **59%**

24%

9%

7%

Aging Out   **14%**   **Permanence Outcomes**

2010

Reunification   Kinship
Adoption   Guardianship

Percent of Children Exiting to Permanence, 2009

89%

76%

66%

All children   Children with a diagnosed disability   Children who entered foster care older than 12

Understanding the barriers to achieving permanence for disabled and older youth is critical to increase the absolute number and the percentage of children finding a permanent home

Note: Excludes exits by runaway, transfer, and death

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2010 data (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010); Child Welfare Outcomes: 2004-2007 Report to Congress; DHHS; FSG analysis

Long-term Outcomes Are Dire for the 30,000 Foster Youth Who Age out of Care Annually

The odds are stacked against 18- to 21-year-olds transitioning out of foster care:

→ 25% **incarcerated** within two years

→ Vulnerable to becoming a **sex trafficking** victim

→ One-quarter are consistently employed; slightly over **half have no earnings** in the four years after care

→ 65% leave foster care **without a place to live**, and 27% of the homeless population spent time in foster care

As a group, transition-age youth (TAY) face worse outcomes than other young people in foster care
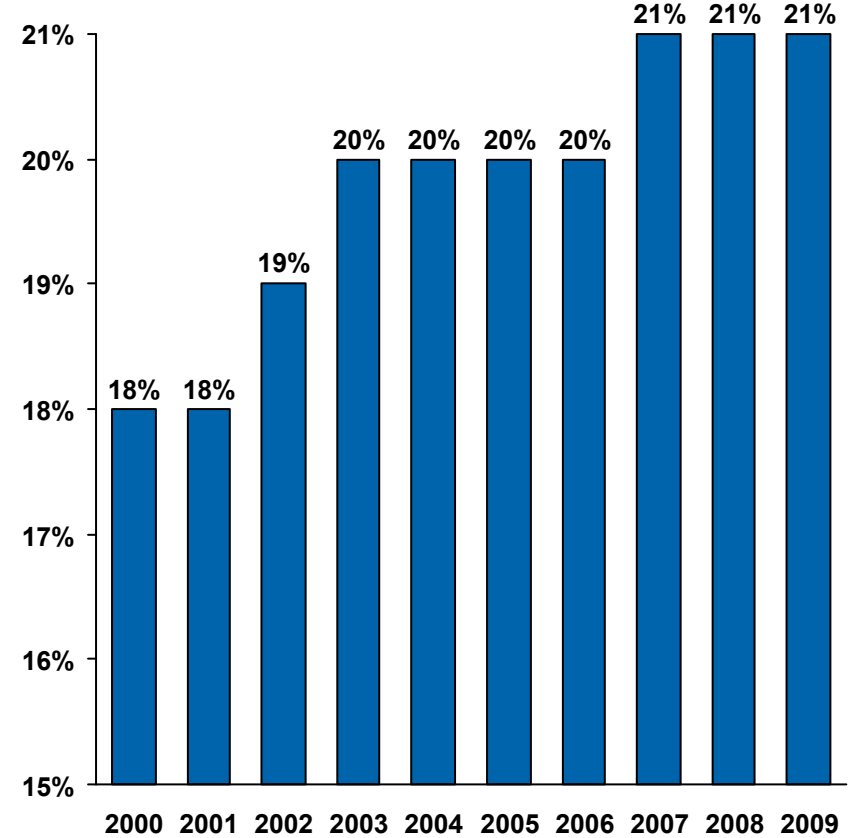
McCoy-Roth, et. al, (2010), "Numbers of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Continues to Rise; Increasing 64 Percent since 1999." Fostering Connections Resource Center. Child Welfare Information Gateway, (2012), "Foster Care Statistics 2009., Pew Charitable Trust and Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, (2007) "Time for Reform: Aging Out and On Their Own," Pecora, et. al, (2005), "Improving family foster care: Findings from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study." Casey Family Programs, Courtney, et. al (2005), "Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 19," Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, Smith et. al, (2009), "The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children." Shared Hope International, Independent Living Program Policy Unit, Child and Youth Permanency Branch, California Department of Social Services, (2002), "Report on the Survey of the Housing Needs of Emancipated Foster / Probation Youth."

The Number of Youth Aging Out of Care Increased by 70% from 1999 to 2009; Those at Risk of Aging Out Now Comprise 20% Foster Youth

Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
*1999-2009, in Thousands*
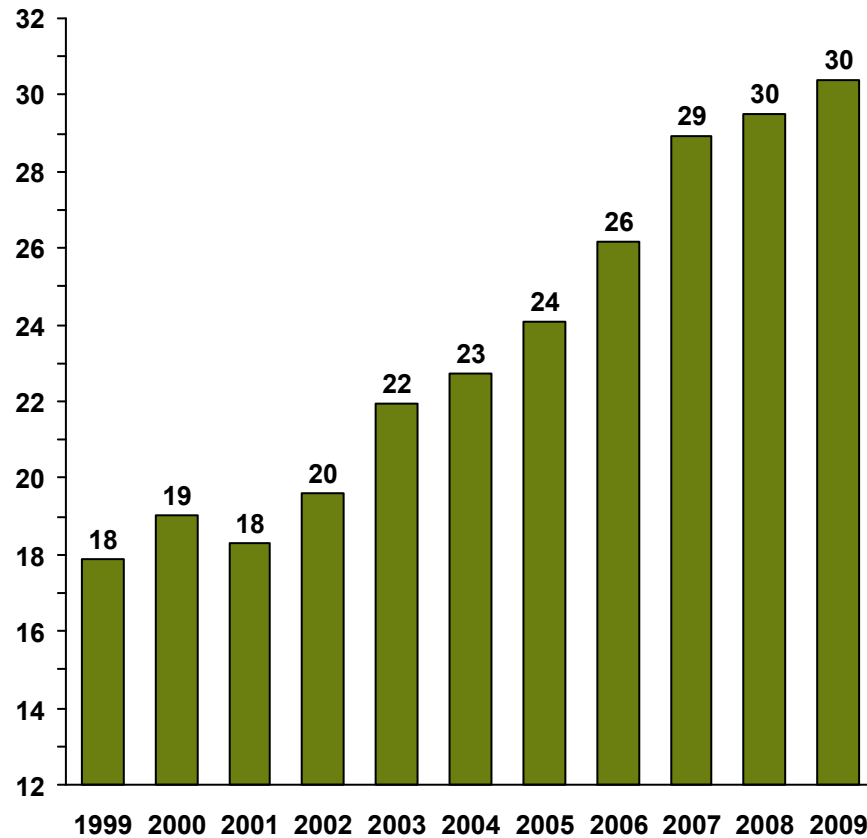
Percentage of Youth Age 16-20 in Care
1999-2009, as a % of overall foster care population

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2010 data (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010); McCoy-Roth, et. al, (2010), "Numbers of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Continues to Rise; Increasing 64 Percent since 1999." Fostering Connections Resource Center.

A Recent Study by the University of Pennsylvania Shows that TAY in LA County Use Government Services Heavily

Use of Services in Years 1-8 After Emancipation
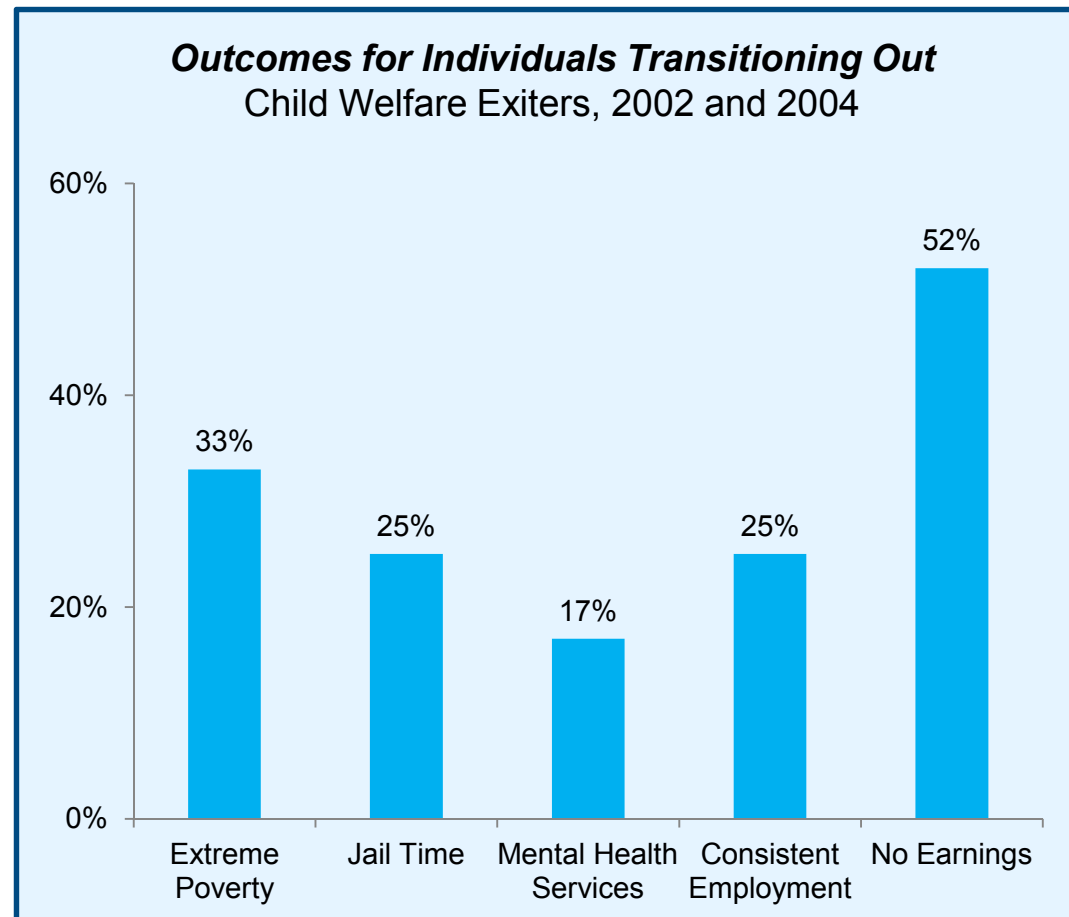Child Welfare Exiters, 2002 and 2004
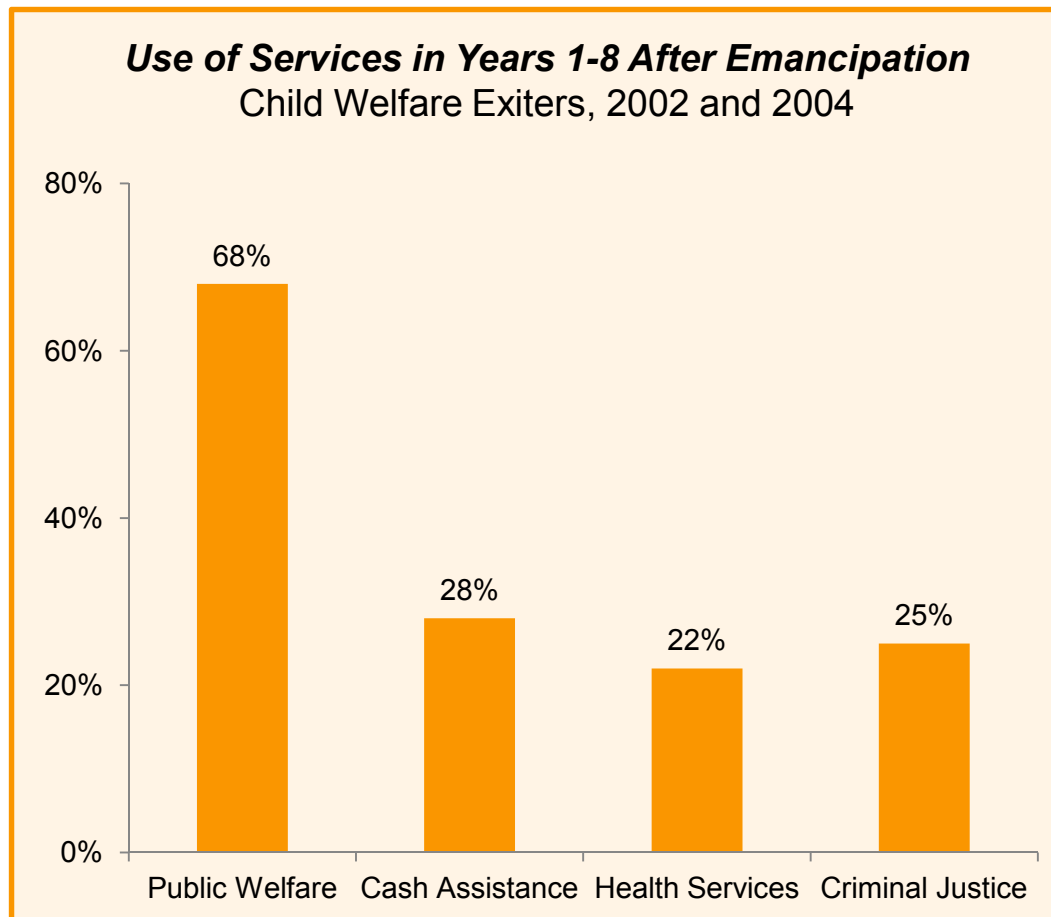
- More than **1 in 10** youth received **General Relief (GR)** cash assistance, **1 in 5** received **CalWORKS cash assistance**, and **1 in 3** received **food stamps**

- **More than half** were **covered by Medicaid** at some point

- Over the cumulative four years after leaving care, the **average per person cost** among those who experienced **at least one jail stay** was **$18,000**

- Around **60%** of exiters used **at least one public service**
  - The **25%** who made the **most use of public services** accounted for roughly **75%** of the **total cost** of services for the group

Source: Culhane, Byrne, Metraux, Moreno, Toros, *Young Adult Outcomes of Youth Exiting Dependent or Delinquent Care in Los Angeles County*, available online at http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/youthexiting. Study covered youth who exited from an out-of-home placement and / or juvenile probation supervision in 2002 and 2004 for four years after exit

TAY in the Study of LA County Youth also Experienced Severe Poverty, Mental Health Problems, and Jail Time

- **One-third** of TAY experienced a period of **extreme poverty** in the four years after leaving care

- **One quarter** spent time **in jail**

- Nearly **20%** received outpatient **mental health services**

- Around **one quarter** of TAY were **consistently employed**

- Slightly over **half of all exiters had no earnings** in the four years after leaving care
  - Average **cumulative** earnings were **$29,350**

- While **around 45% enrolled** in a California Community College, fewer than **2% received an associates degree**

Outcomes for Individuals Transitioning Out
Child Welfare Exiters, 2002 and 2004

| Category	Value
Extreme Poverty	33%
Jail Time	25%
Mental Health Services	17%
Consistent Employment	25%
No Earnings	52%

Source: Culhane, Byrne, Metraux, Moreno, Toros, *Young Adult Outcomes of Youth Exiting Dependent or Delinquent Care in Los Angeles County*, available online at http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/youthexiting. Study covered youth who exited from an out-of-home placement and / or juvenile probation supervision in 2002 and 2004 for four years after exit

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Research Points to a Set of Mutually Reinforcing Factors to Improve the Long Term Outcomes for Foster Youth
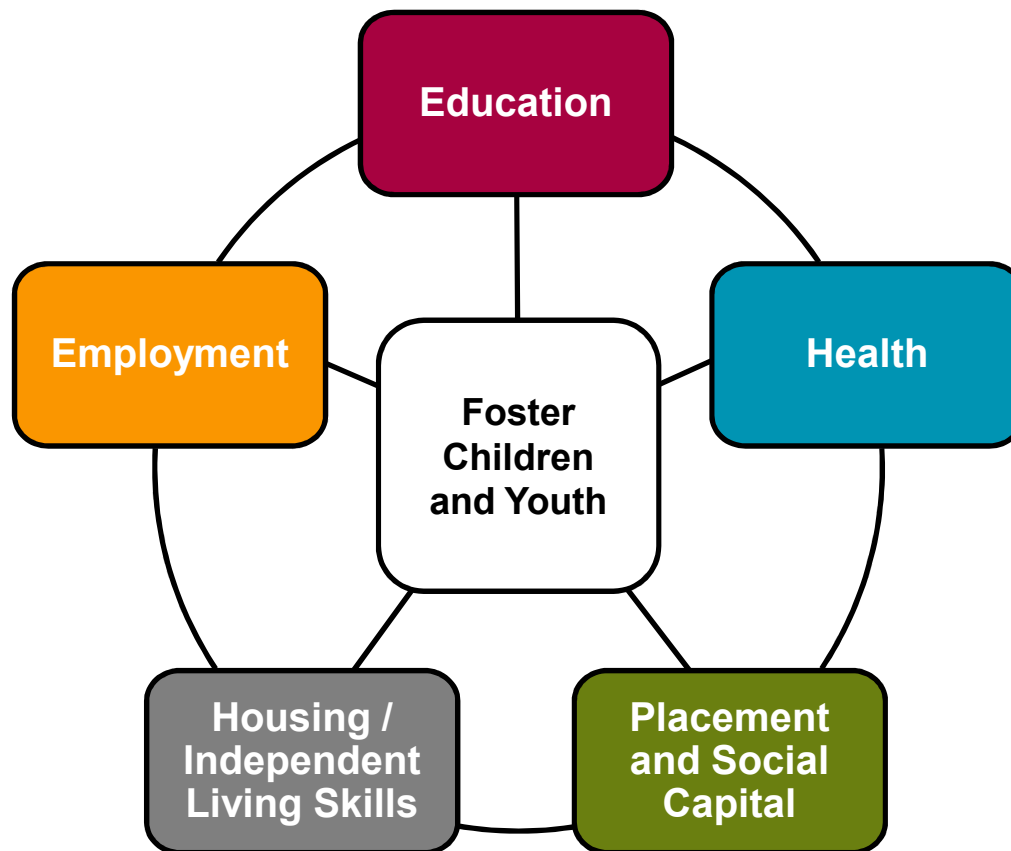
- **A stable placement and education environment are core needs** of children and youth in foster care, and should provide:
  - A safe and nurturing development environment
  - Meaningful connections to caring adults
  - Formative opportunities to become an engaged and contributing member of society

- However, to change the odds for foster children and youth, a more holistic approach that incorporates additional **indicators of well-being and self-sufficiency** (e.g., financial management skills, employment experience) is needed

Youth in Foster Care Achieve Lower Primary and Secondary Education Attainment Levels
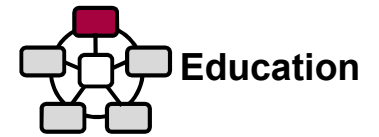
Education

Educational attainment enhances the well-being of foster youth, helps enable a successful transition to adulthood, and increases chances for personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency

Educational setbacks occur as early as kindergarten…

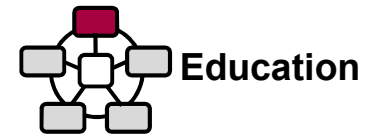**Children in foster care often are not school ready by kindergarten**

- Children in foster care are at high risk for maltreatment and stress that cause developmental delays and **set them behind** as early as kindergarten
- Children in foster care are also **less likely to be enrolled in preschool**

…and continue through high school

Children in foster care have low rates of high school completion / GED

- Foster youth are approximately **twice as likely** as the general population to leave school **without a diploma**
- **School mobility** significantly contributes to low high school graduation rates. A 3-state Midwest study of youth aging out of care found that over a third of young adults reported having had **five or more school changes**
- 36% of the alumni of foster care had **repeated a grade**

Source: National Working Group on Foster Care and Education; Grappling with the Gaps: WestEd; Chapin Hall: Helping Former Foster Youth Graduate from College

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Postsecondary Education Attainment Levels Are Also Lower than Average

Education

Low attainment rates despite high aspirations

High aspirations for post-secondary achievement…

- 80% of youth in out-of-home care in the Midwest Study at age 17/ 18 hoped and expected to eventually graduate from college

…but low enrollment…

- The Midwest Study found that 30% of 21-year-old alumni of foster care completed any college compared to 53% of 21-year-olds nationally

…and lower completion

- **Low completion**: Estimates of the percentage of foster youth who graduate from college vary, but most range from **1% to 11%** (compared with ~ 30% of 25- to 29-year-olds in the general population)

Factors leading to low attainment rate

- Lack of **high school educational attainment**
- **Cost** of college and lack of information on financial aid opportunities
- Lack of **independent living skills** (e.g., financial or time management)
- M**ental health** challenges
- Lack of support network / peer groups focused on post-secondary education

Source: National Working Group on Foster Care and Education; Chapin Hall: Helping Former Foster Youth Graduate from College

Children in Foster Care Are at Risk for Many Health Challenges, Particularly Mental Health
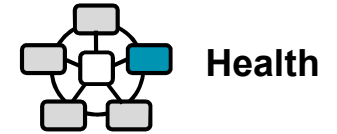
Health

Mental health challenges affect children and youth of all ages

- 50-60% of children in foster care have **moderate to severe mental health problems**:
  - Former foster youth are found to suffer from **post-traumatic stress disorder** (PTSD) at two times the level of U.S. war veterans
  - Studies have also consistently shown rates of 2-3 times the national average in ADHD, conduct disorder , and major depressive disorder

- **Only 28% of children received mental health** services during the year immediately following contact with the child welfare system

- Exacerbating this problem is the **lack of coordination** among the child welfare system, mental health providers, schools, and others, resulting in a lack of consistency and fragmented treatment

Failing to address mental health issues early on can lead to additional health challenges such as substance abuse and delinquency

Source: Cal Youth Connections; FSG Interviews; Casey Family Programs

Young Women in Foster Care Have Higher than Average Teen Pregnancy Rates

Health
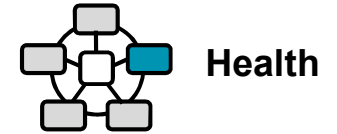
Teen pregnancy rates are disproportionally high

- Foster youth are at higher risk of teen pregnancy than average
    - A study of youth transitioning out of care found that **nearly half** of the women had been pregnant by age 19, compared with 20% of a nationally representative sample
    - Repeat pregnancy also is likely: of 19-year-olds in the Midwest Study who had been pregnant, 46% had been pregnant more than once

- Studies show that teen girls have access to **information** needed to prevent pregnancy but **see benefits to having children** such as having a family of their own and having someone to always be with them

Parents with a history of foster care are almost twice as likely as parents with no such history to see their own children placed in foster care

Source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; Chapin Hall: Preventing Pregnancy among Youth in Foster Care

Stability of Placement and Social Capital Contribute to the Long Term Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care
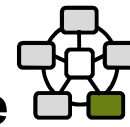
Placement / Social Capital

**Achieving permanence is a critical factor contributing to youth outcomes**

- **Achieving permanence** for youth in foster care is the ultimate goal of the child welfare system, but it proves more **difficult for older youth** in foster care
  - The **culture** of child welfare systems often leads to prioritizing placement for young children, leaving fewer resources for placing older youth
  - It is more difficult to find parents looking to adopt older youth
  - Many youth in foster care do not want to give up their **parental rights**, thus making it harder for them to achieve permanency in another setting

Stable and permanent relationships increase social capital and improve long-term positive outcomes

- Many youth in foster care, regardless of placement, **lack a meaningful connection to an adult** (e.g., family, foster parent, teacher, mentor)
- Youth exiting group care, those who were emancipated early, or who moved several times while in care are shown to have fewer adult connections and lower levels of social capital

Creating meaningful adult connections, regardless of placement / permanence, contributes to positive long-term outcomes for youth

Source: Chapin Hall: Employment of Former Foster Youth as Young Adults; FSG interviews; Annie E. Casey Foundation

Stable Housing and Acquisition of Independent Living Skills Influence Outcomes for Older Foster Youth
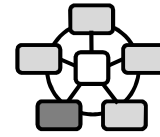
Housing and Independent Living Skills

Youth aging out of care lack access to stable housing

- A high number of transitioning foster youth experience periods in which they are either **homeless or in tenuous living arrangements**
  - In California, 65% of youth leaving foster care do so without a place to live; 27% of the homeless population spent time in foster care
  - In the Midwest Study, by age 23 or 24, almost 40% of former foster youth reported having been homeless or couch surfing for at least one night since exiting foster care
- Research shows that extending the time youth stay in foster care delays but does not decrease risk of being homeless

Former foster youth often lack the skills to live independently

- Studies have found that former foster youth are often not prepared for self-sufficiency
  - **Soft skills:** healthy relationships, conflict management and resolution
  - **Financial skills and planning**: Skills in budgeting, financial management, and saving for crises
  - **Employment readiness**: Ability to access training and employment services, career services, vocational training, or preparation for post secondary training

Stable housing and independent living skills are especially critical for TAY, who often age out of the system without support networks to fall back on

Source: Chapin Hall: Assessing the Impact of Extending Care beyond Age 18 on Homelessness; FSG interviews and analysis

Stable Employment Is a Key Factor Enabling Successful Transition out of Foster Care

Employment

Employment outcomes are lower for youth in and transitioning out of foster care

- Foster youth who age out of care are **less likely to be employed, and they earn lower wages** than other youth, even when compared to demographically similar low-income youth

  - Less than half of former foster youth are employed 2.5-4 years after leaving foster care, and only 38% have maintained employment for at least one year

  - Studies have shown that by age 24, former foster youth earnings are significantly lower (between $450/month and $700/month) than the national average ($1,500/month)

Education levels, social capital, and personal capital contribute to employment outcomes

- Education is one of the best predictors of success in the job market, but former foster youth are likely to have lower education attainment than other youth

- **Social Capital** (e.g., connections to a network) also help in finding a job, but as discussed above, foster youth often lack a social network on which to rely

- **Personal Capital**, the behavioral characteristics influencing youth motivation and capacity to work also influence employment outcomes. Personal capital is often limited by involvement in the juvenile justice system (men) or teen pregnancy (women)

With the need to be self-sufficient, low employment rates and wages compound challenges facing youth formerly in foster care

Source: Chapin Hall: Employment of Former Foster Youth as Young Adults

TAY Self-Sufficiency Depends on Many Systems and Stakeholders

Birth Families

Non-Biological Caregivers

Employment and Training Services

Child Welfare and Court Systems

Health System

Juvenile Justice System
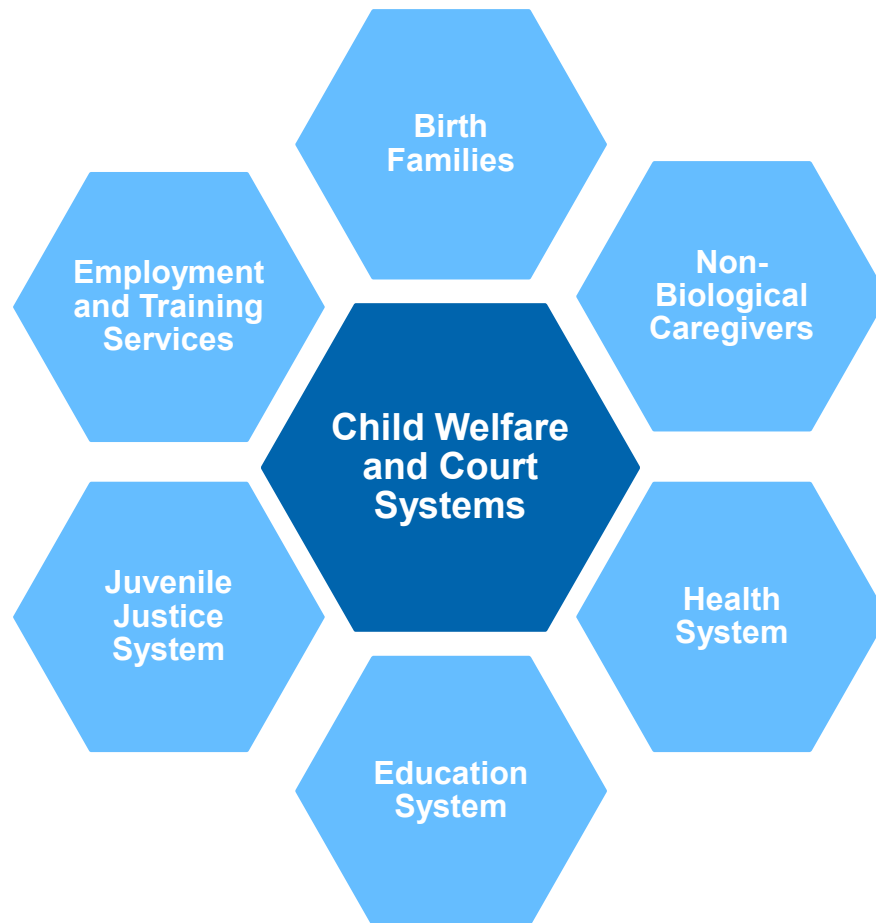
Education System

*"There needs to be much more collaboration across systems. The fact that the child welfare system is seen as the corporate parent of these **young people is somewhat of a problem because in reality there are a lot of other systems** (education, health, employment) **that touch transitioning youth and should be part of a concerted effort to support these adolescents**."*
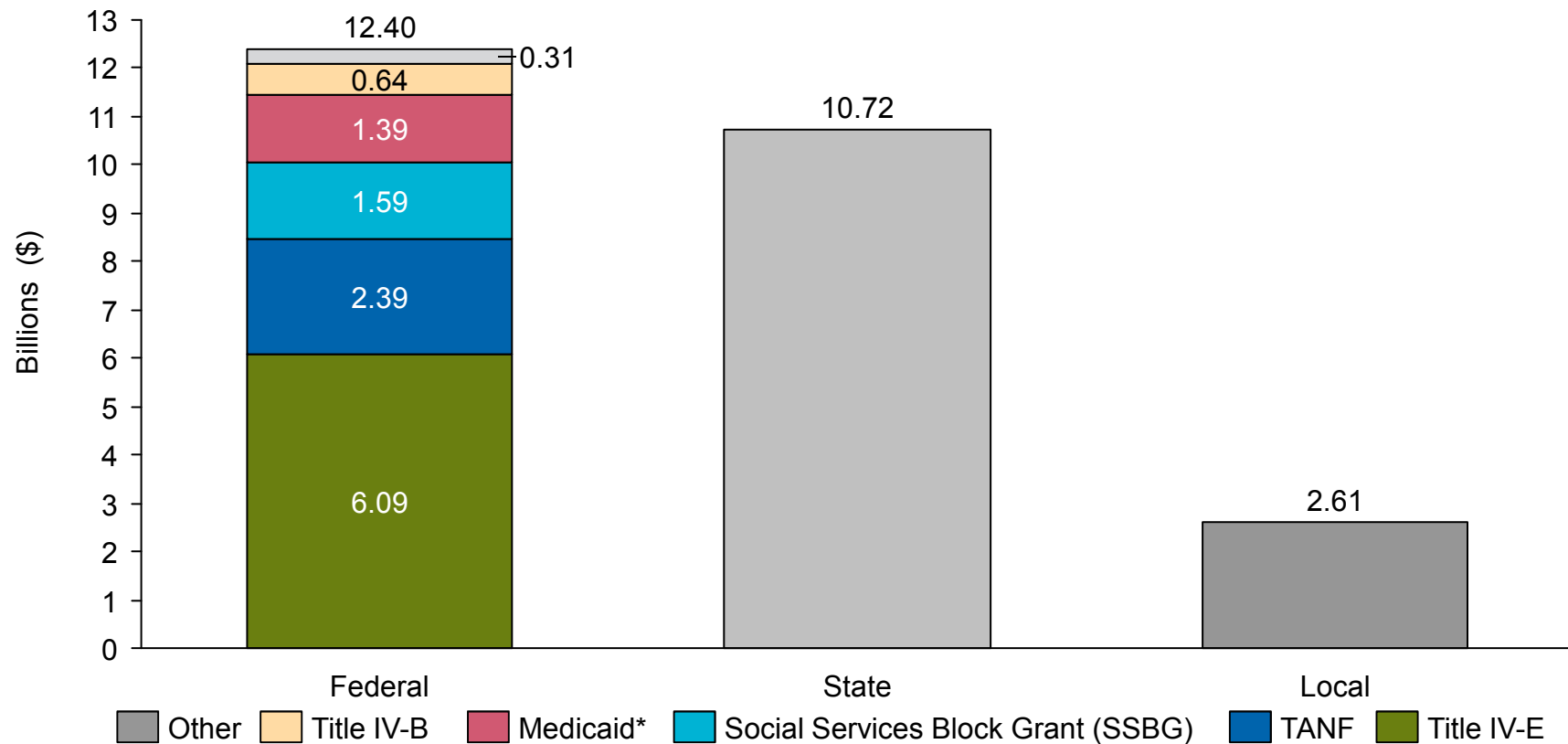
– Interviewee

Improving alignment and coordination among the numerous systems and stakeholders is critical to improving outcomes for TAY

Source: FSG interviews and research

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Public Expenditures Total $25.7B, with Federal Funds Accounting for Nearly 50% of Total Child Welfare Public Spending in the U.S.

Child Welfare Public Spending ($B), 2006

Billions ($)

| Federal | State | Local |

Legend: Other · Title IV-B · Medicaid* · Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) · TANF · Title IV-E

Federal values (bottom to top): 6.09 (Title IV-E), 2.39 (TANF), 1.59 (SSBG), 1.39 (Medicaid*), 0.64 (Title IV-B), 0.31 (Other); total 12.40
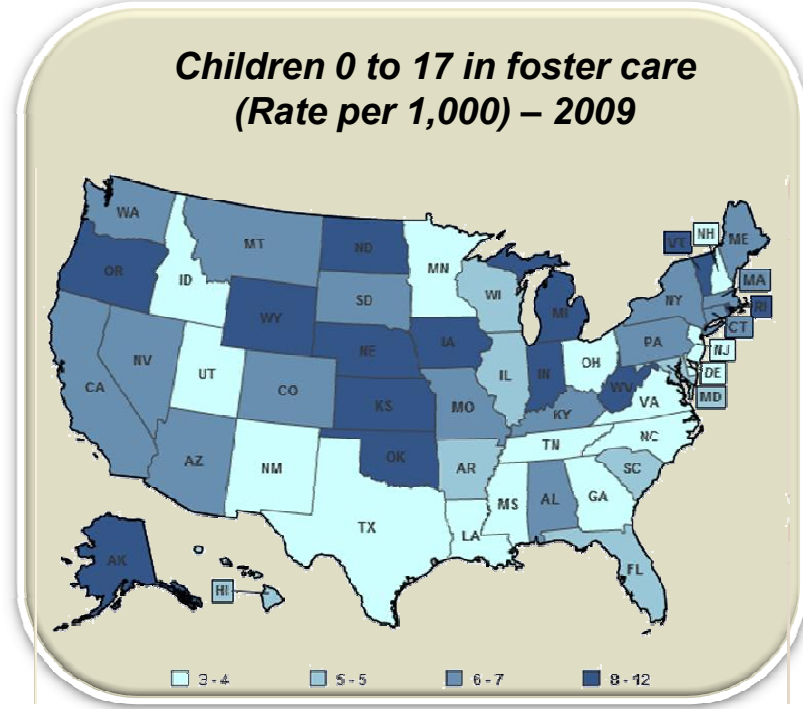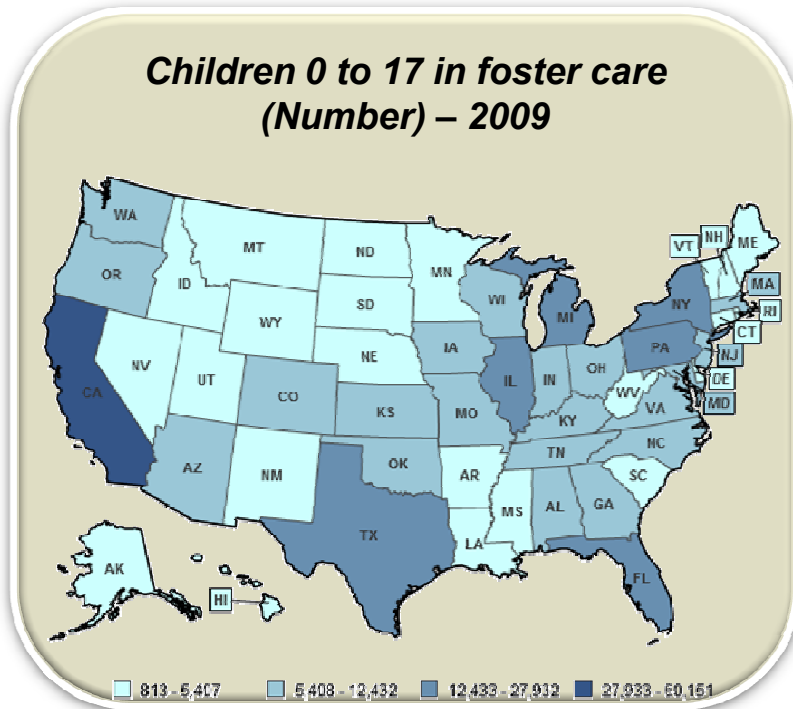
State: 10.72

Local: 2.61

While the bulk of funding comes from federal spending, state and local players have significant influence over how child welfare funds are used

*Excluding expenditures for routine health care services provided to children in foster care

Source: CLASP; *Child Welfare in the United States*

California and New York Have the Highest Number of Children in Foster Care in the Country

% Percent of the total 2009 foster care population

Children 0 to 17 in foster care (Number) – 2009

Legend: 813 - 5,407 | 5,408 - 12,432 | 12,433 - 27,932 | 27,933 - 60,151

Top 5 States: California (60K), New York (28K), Texas (27K), Florida (19K), Michigan (18K) — **36%**

Children 0 to 17 in foster care (Rate per 1,000) – 2009

Legend: 3 - 4 | 5 - 5 | 6 - 7 | 8 - 12

Top 5 States: District of Columbia (18), Alaska (12), Nebraska (12), West Virginia (11), Oregon (10) — **5%**

Over 20% of foster youth live in CA or NY

Note: * Based on 2008 California and LA data
Source: Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation; Aging Out: Improving Outcomes for Older Foster Care Youth UCLA student reports; FSG analysis

One in Five U.S. Foster Children Lives in California or New York
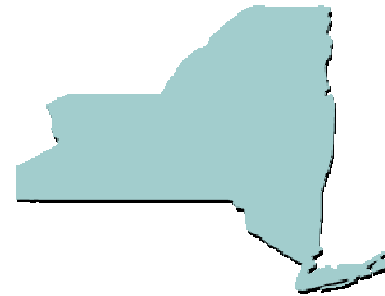
California

- 60K in care; 5K transitioning out

- Pioneer state legislation

- ~30% CA foster youth are in LA

- 47% decrease in past decade

- Potential for funder partnerships

New York

- 28K in care; 1.5K transitioning out

- Positive legislative environment and momentum for reform

- 65% NY foster youth are in NYC

- 46% decrease in past decade

- Potential for funder partnership

Because of the scope of the problem and the positive momentum behind reform in CA and NY, both states present opportunities for impact

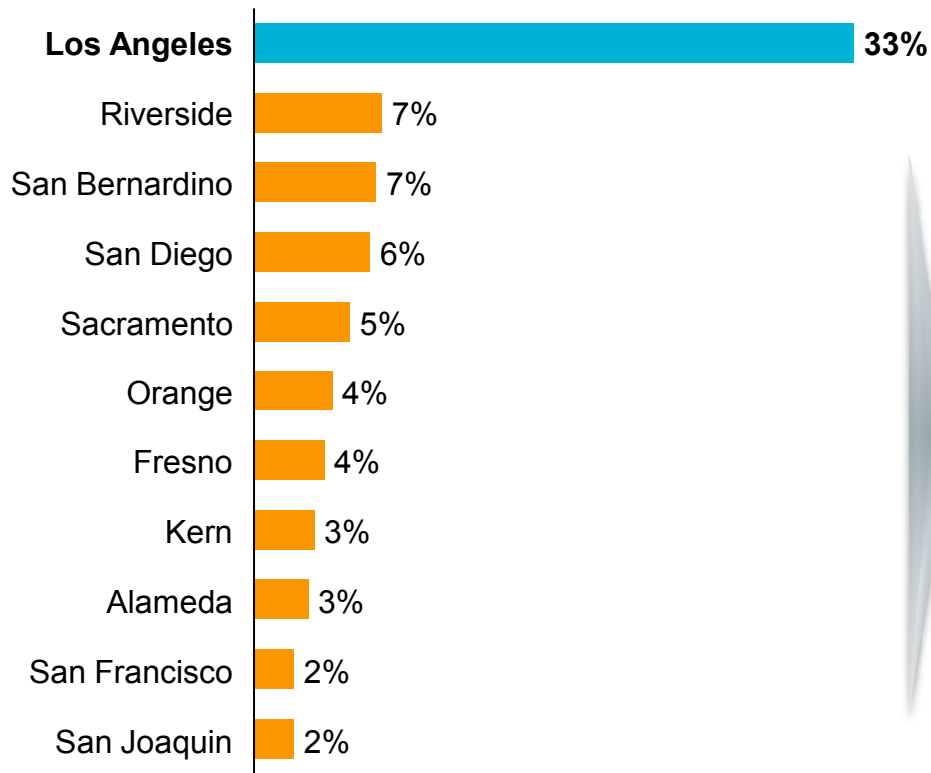## California Has the Most Foster Youth of Any State in the Country

2009 Data	US	California
	Number	Number
Children and youth in the foster care system	424K	60K
Entries to foster care system	255K	35K
Exits from foster care system	276K	39K
Outcomes: Permanency	236K	32K
Outcomes: Aging out	29K	5K

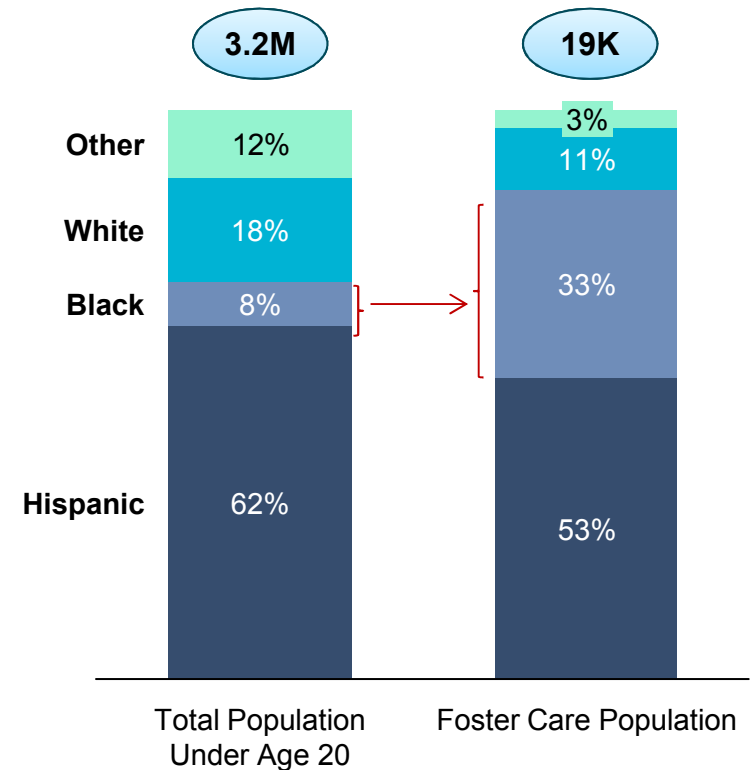*One in seven children in the foster youth system lives in California*

Note: *Based on 2008 California and LA data versus the above table, 2009 Data
Source: Kids Count Data Center, Child maltreatment 2009, DHHS; FSG Interviews

Within California, Foster Youth Are Concentrated in Los Angeles County

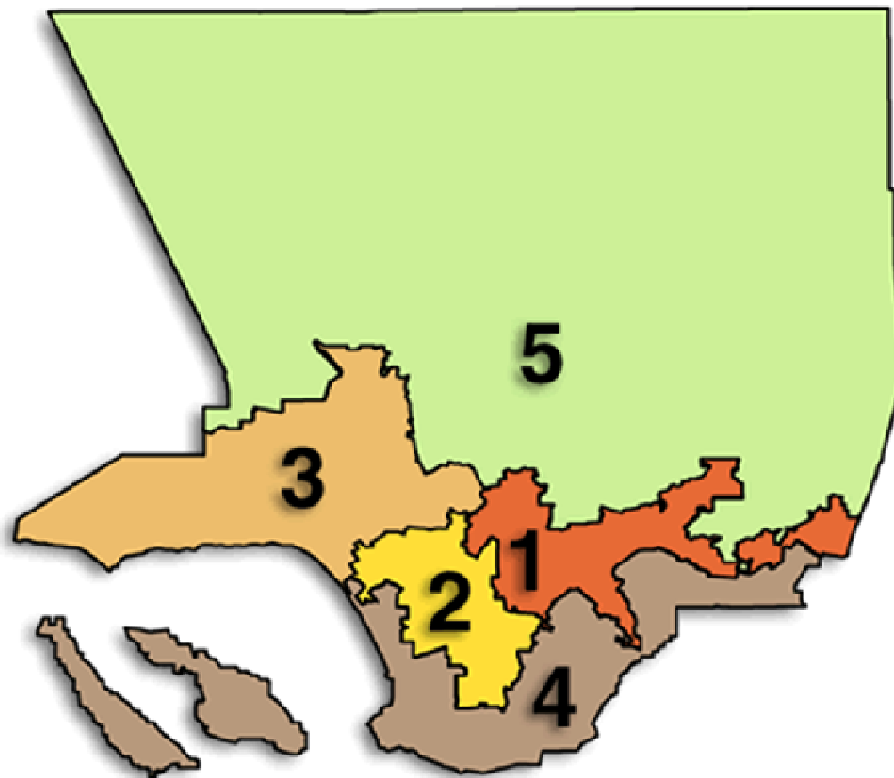**Top 10 California Counties by Foster Care Population, 2012**

County	%
Los Angeles	33%
Riverside	7%
San Bernardino	7%
San Diego	6%
Sacramento	5%
Orange	4%
Fresno	4%
Kern	3%
Alameda	3%
San Francisco	2%
San Joaquin	2%

Los Angeles County Total and Foster Care Population by Ethnicity

3.2M — Total Population Under Age 20:
- Other: 12%
- White: 18%
- Black: 8%
- Hispanic: 62%

19K — Foster Care Population:
- Other: 3%
- White: 11%
- Black: 33%
- Hispanic: 53%

With 33% of California's foster children, LA County presents an opportunity to impact the lives of a large number of children

Source: California CWS/CMS Report System

Half of LA County's TAY Reside in Districts One and Two

## *LA County Foster Youth Population by Supervisorial District (December 2012)*

**Includes out of county or invalid addresses

District 1 — 25%

District 2 — 26%

District 3 — 9%

District 4 — 6%

District 5 — 14%

Other* — 20%
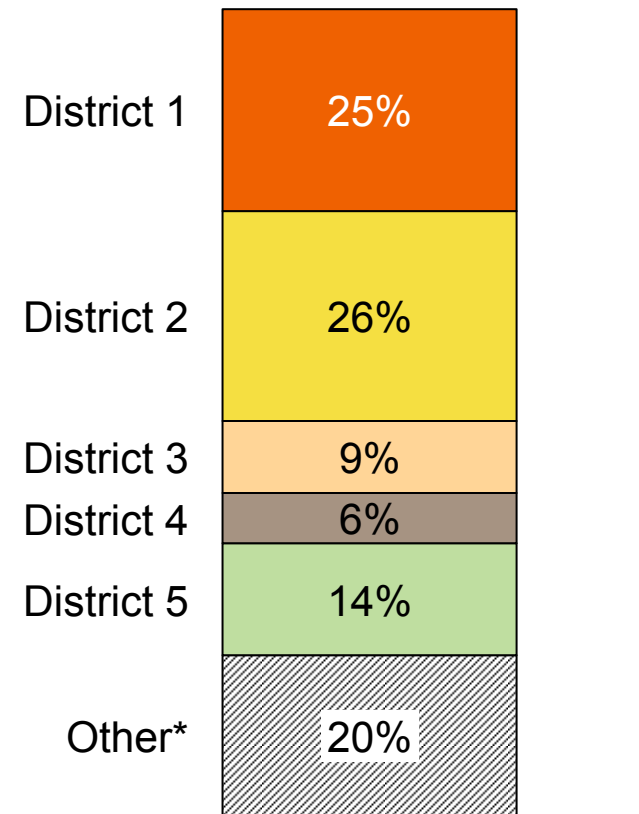
Transition Age Foster Youth Population

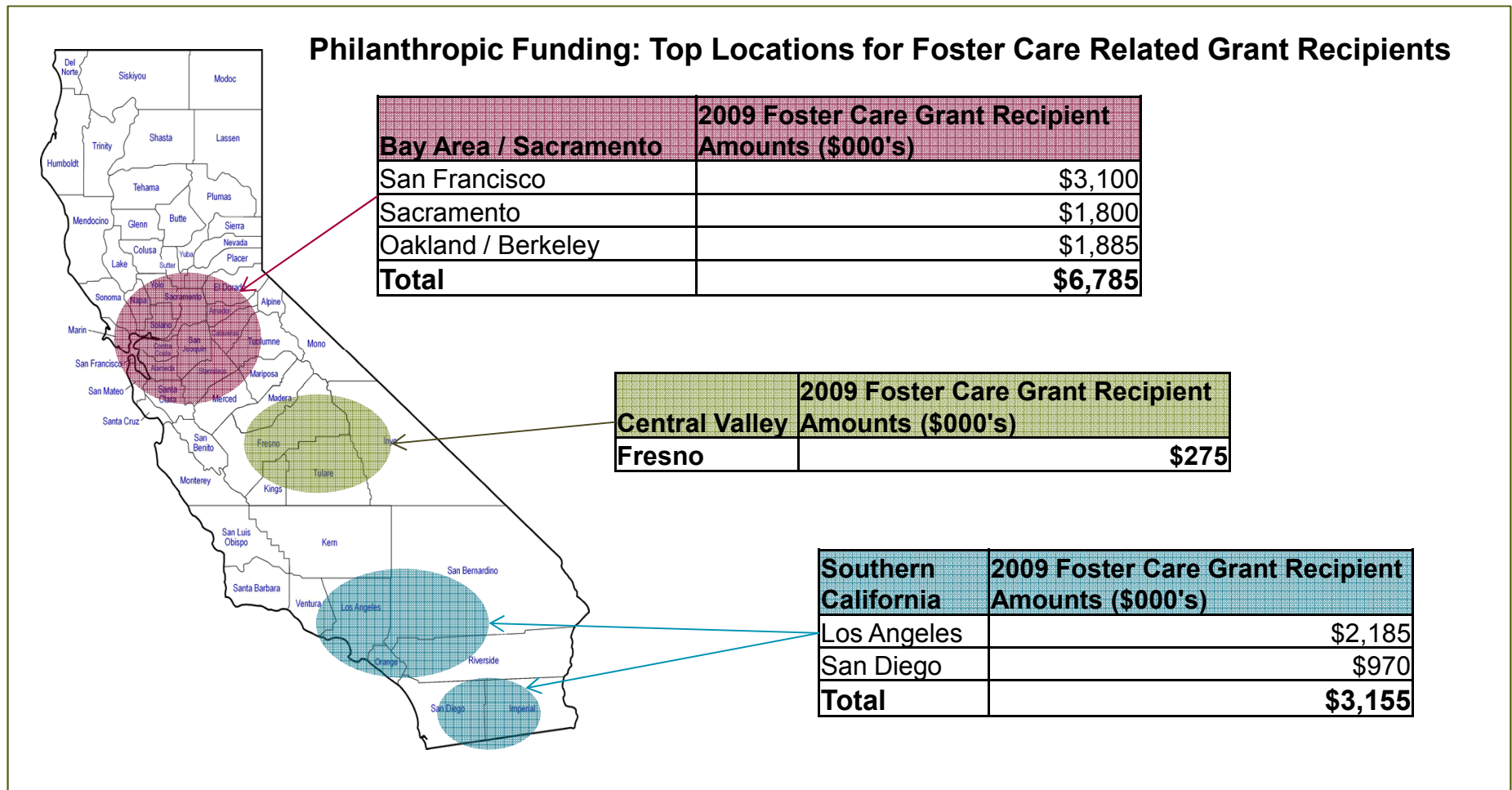Source: Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project, Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkley

While the Number of Youth Transitioning Out Is Declining in LA, a Large Number of TAY Remain, Nearly One-Third of Whom Are in LA County

Youth Transitioning Out of Care
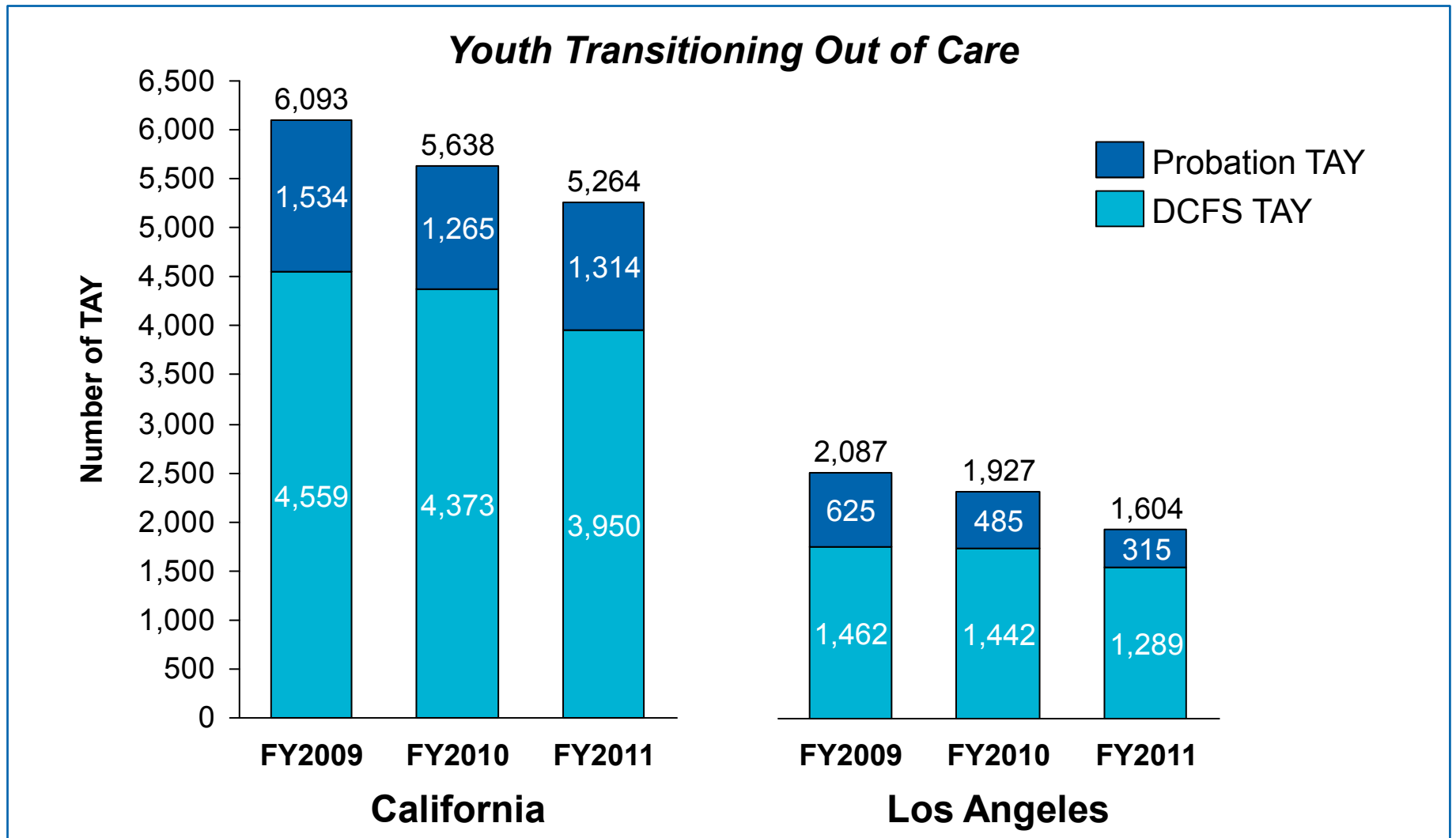
Note: DCFS youth are foster youth in the care of the child welfare system; Probation youth are foster youth who have gone entered the juvenile justice system, at which point they were no longer under the jurisdiction of DCFS and are rather placed under Probation care

Source: Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project, Center for Social Services Research, Berkley website

CA's Philanthropic Landscape Has Historically Leaned Toward Northern California

Philanthropic Funding: Top Locations for Foster Care Related Grant Recipients

Bay Area / Sacramento	2009 Foster Care Grant Recipient Amounts ($000's)
San Francisco	$3,100
Sacramento	$1,800
Oakland / Berkeley	$1,885
Total	**$6,785**

Central Valley	2009 Foster Care Grant Recipient Amounts ($000's)
Fresno	**$275**

Southern California	2009 Foster Care Grant Recipient Amounts ($000's)
Los Angeles	$2,185
San Diego	$970
Total	**$3,155**

Note: While the information above is based on grant recipient location in CA, rather than service provision, there is a clear slant towards Northern CA
Source: Foundation Center Database; FSG analysis

Around 7% of Foster Youth in the U.S. Live in New York State

2009 Data	US	New York
	Number	Number
Children and youth in the foster care system	424K	28K
Entries to foster care system	255K	13K
Exits from foster care system	276K	14K
Outcomes: Permanency[1]	236K	11K
Outcomes: Transitioning out	29K	1.5K

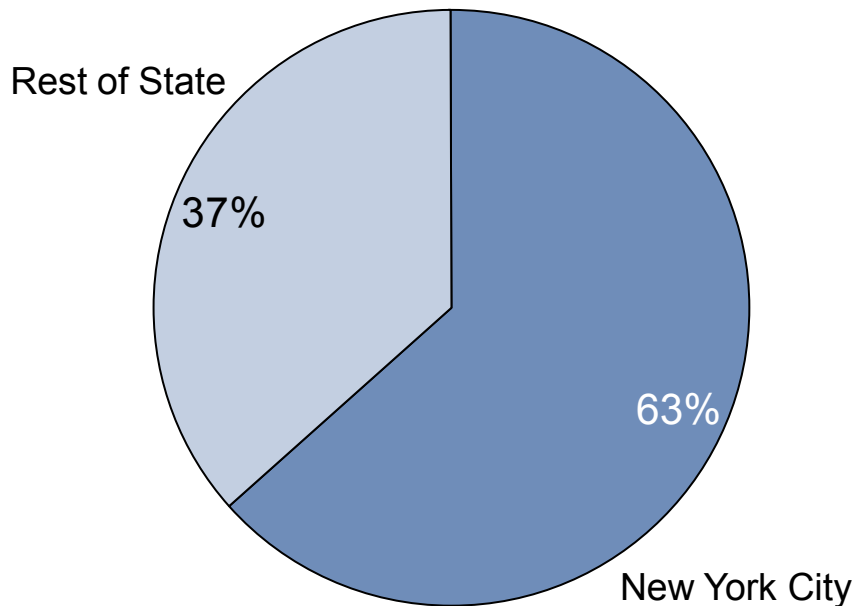*New York represents a large portion of the national foster youth population*

Note: Based on 2009 Data
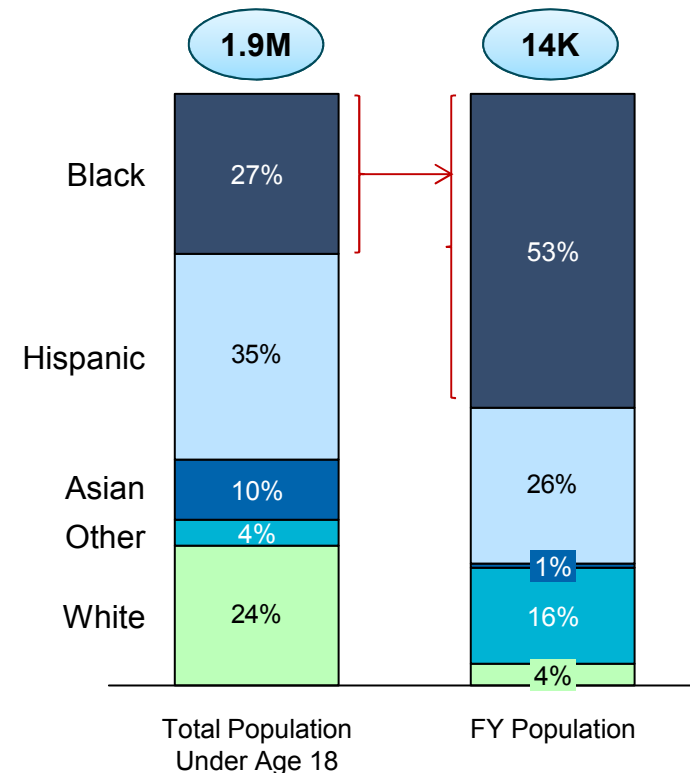Source: Kids Count Data Center
1 Includes reunification, kin care, adoption, and guardianship

In 2010, Nearly 2 in 3 Foster Youth in the State Were in NYC; Ethnic Minorities Were Disproportionately Represented

Children in Foster Care
### Out of 22,800 Youth, Dec 2010

NYC Total and Foster Care Population
by Ethnicity, 2010

Rest of State

37%

63%

New York City

1.9M 14K

Black 27%

53%

Hispanic 35%

Asian 10%

Other 4%

White 24%

26%

1%

16%

4%

Total Population
Under Age 18

FY Population

NYC presents an opportunity to address systemic disproportionality, impact the lives of a large number of youth, and set an example for other urban centers

The Overall Number of Foster Care Entries in NY has Fallen over the Last 10 Years, but Entries among those Age 16-20 Have Increased

Entries to Foster Care by Age
(2001 – 2009, '000s)

Entries to Foster Care, Age 16-20
(2001 – 2009)
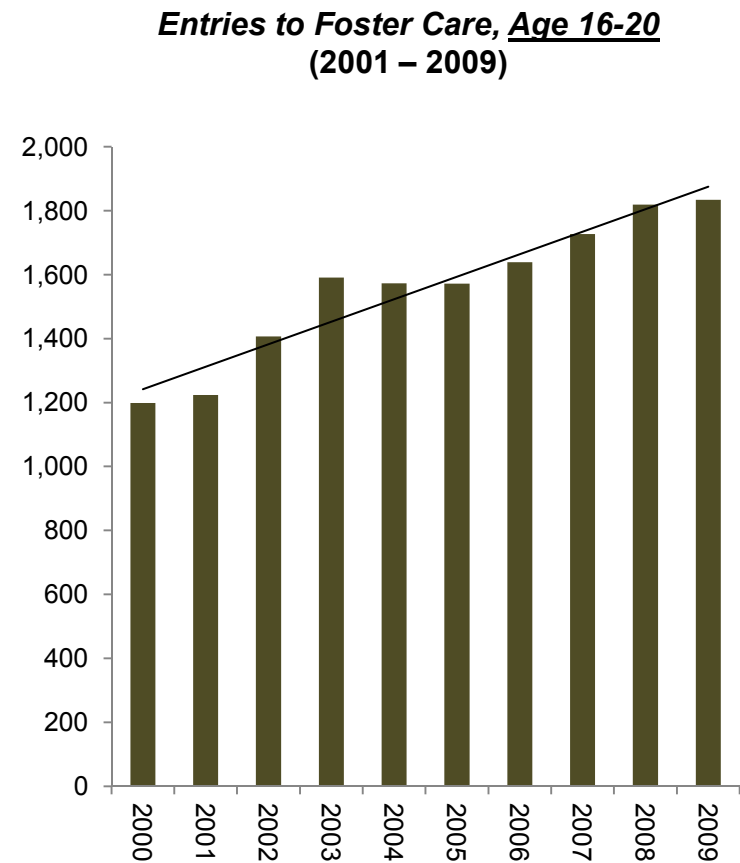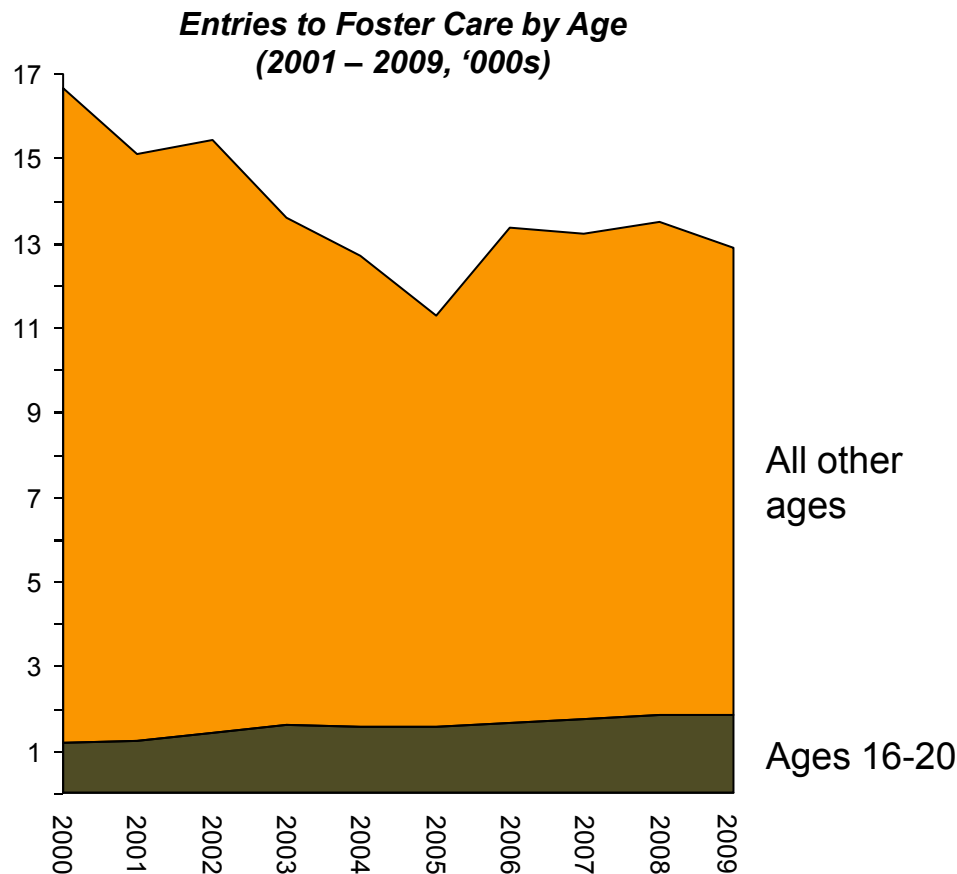
While overall entries have fallen by 20%, entries for youth age 16-20 today have grown by more than 50% since 2000

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center

Youth Transitioning Out of Care Are Concentrated in NYC
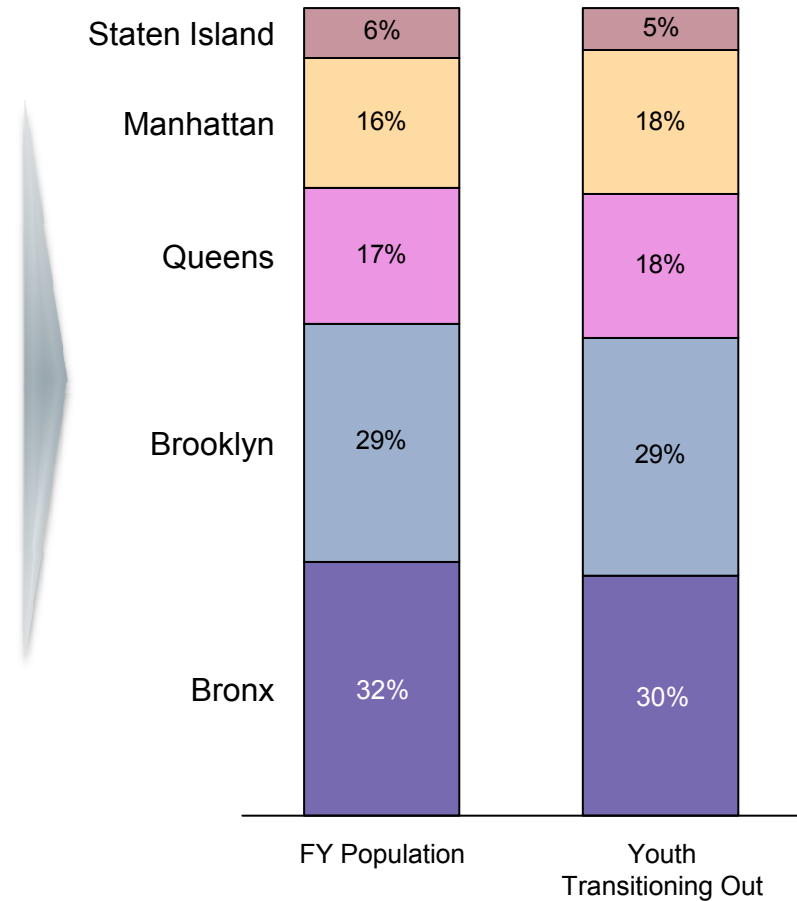
Youth Transitioning Out of Care
(2005-2010)
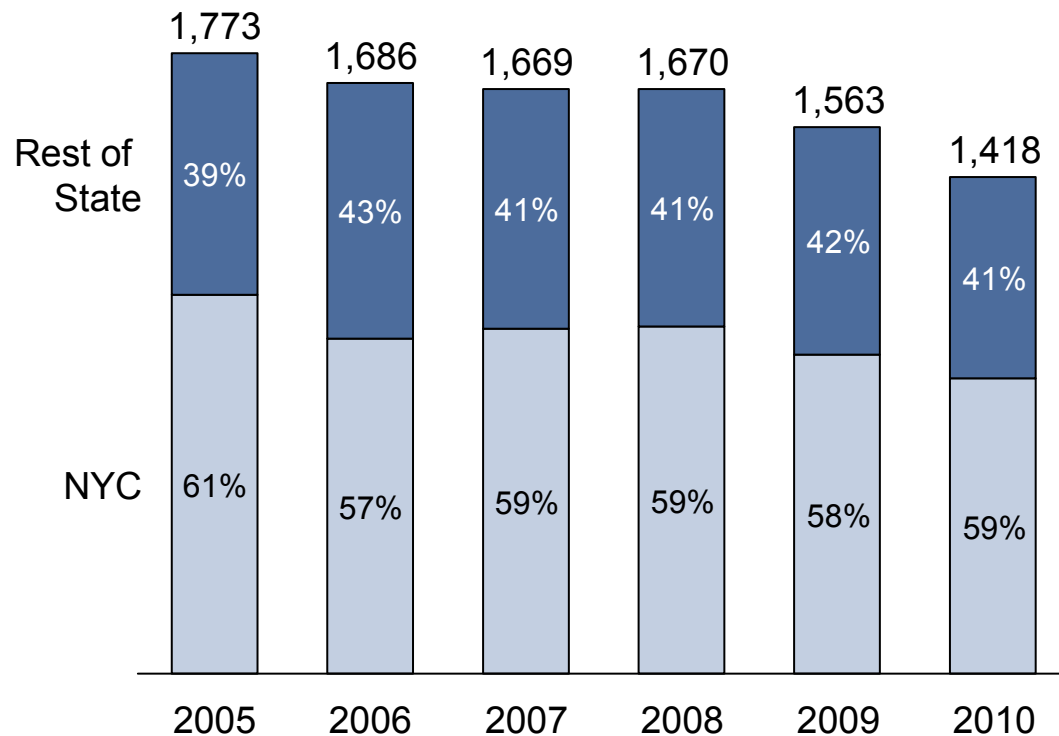
- Around **10%** of all youth exiting the foster youth system **transition out**

- The **number of youth transitioning out** of care across the state **has decreased by 20%** since 2005

- Around **60% of youth transitioning out** of the system **come from NYC**, compared with 65% of the total FY population

Given the increasing number of TAY entering the system over the last few years, much work will be needed to continue the overall progress shown since 2005

The Bronx and Brooklyn Comprise 60% of Both Total Foster Youth and Youth Who Transition Out of Care in NYC

	FY Population	Youth Transitioning Out
Staten Island	6%	5%
Manhattan	16%	18%
Queens	17%	18%
Brooklyn	29%	29%
Bronx	32%	30%

Each borough has roughly the same share of the overall FY population and of the youth aging out of care

Contents

- **Scope and Burden of the Problem**

- **Key Factors Affecting Foster Youth Outcomes**

- **Geographic Considerations**

- **Appendix**

Glossary

- **Aging out of foster care:** Reaching the age at which a youth can no longer remain a ward of the state in foster care, without having achieved a permanent placement (i.e., with adoptive parents or reunification with biological parents). The federal minimum age at which youth age out is 18, although some states—including New York and California—have extended the legal age until which a youth can remain in care to 21.

- **Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA):** A planned, long-term arrangement for a foster youth that does not include reunification with birth parents or placement in a foster home. Examples of APPLA include emancipation from foster care, shared living arrangements between a residential facility and a family friend or relative who cannot serve as a full-time foster parent, or a long-term foster care placement without termination of parental rights and planned parental visits.

- **Congregate setting:** A foster youth placement in a group setting, such as a group home, residential treatment facility, emergency shelter, or psychiatric facility. Placement in these types of facility are typically short term or for youth with special circumstances. Around 15% of all placements in 2010 were to congregate settings.

- **Emancipation:** The process through which a youth is freed from parental care or being a ward of the state. An emancipated youth is no longer in foster care.

- **Kinship (or Kin) Care:** Placement of a foster youth with a biological relative as opposed to a foster home with a non-biological relative or a congregate setting.

- **Permanency / Permanence:** An enduring relationship with an adult that offers the same legal rights as full family membership, provides for a former foster youth's wellbeing, and assures lifelong connections. Permanence is typically achieved through reunification with a youth's biological parents or adoption.

- **Supervised Independent Living (SIL):** Placement for foster youth that includes an independent living arrangement such as an apartment and supervision by a social worker through regular site visits. SIL also can include life skills training, financial support, education and employment support and services, and other types of support.

- **Transition-age Youth (TAY):** Youth who are transitioning from adolescence into young adulthood. Legal definitions vary by state, with the broadest interpretations stretching from ages 14 to 26.

Organizations Included in FSG Interviews[*]

National Landscape
Annie E Casey Foundation
Barry University
Bayview Child Health Clinic
California Youth Connections
Casey Family Programs
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Chapin Hall, University of Chicago
Eckerd Family Foundation
Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
K&L Gates
Lucille Packard Children's Hospital
Mainspring Consulting / Foster Care Work Group
National Foster Youth Action Network
SF Child Abuse Prevention Center
Stoneleigh Foundation
Stuart Foundation
Texas Appleseed
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Tiger Foundation
Tipping Point Foundation
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
Winstead Consulting
Youth Law Center
Youth Villages

New York Landscape
Andrus Family Fund
Annie E. Casey Foundation
BNY Mellon
Casey Family Programs
Center for an Urban Future
Columbia University / Workplace Center
City University of New York
City University of New York Prep
FEGS / The Academy
Gap Foundation
Good Shepherd Services
Local Initiatives Support Corporation NYC
New York Foundling
NYC Administration for Children's Services
NYC Administration for Children's Services
NYC DOE
OSI
Pinkerton Foundation
Robin Hood
The Door
The Fund for Public Schools
The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections

Los Angeles Landscape
Alliance for Children's Rights
California Child Welfare Co-investment Partnership
Casey Family Programs
Center for Social Service Research, UC Berkeley
Child Welfare Initiative
Children's Law Center
DCFS / Crossover Youth Initiative
DCFS/ Youth Development Services
First Place for Youth
Five Acres
LA County 1st District Office
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Stuart Foundation
United Friends of the Children
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

* Additional organizations were consulted by Hilton Foundation staff.

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