DSHS Opportunity Youth Data Project Findings

Presentation to the Road Map Project
Opportunity Youth Advisory Group

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Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Deb Came

Thank you!
Our Agenda

• DSHS data and population

• Description of Opportunity Youth population
  – *How many Opportunity Youth are there?*
  – *Who are they? What are their characteristics?*

• Risk factors
  – *What sorts of risks are Opportunity Youth likely to have in their histories?*
  – *What systems might Opportunity Youth have interacted with?*

• Q&A

• Discussion
Framing Thoughts

• Informing policy and practice
  – What information about Opportunity Youth should be taken into account when designing programs and policies?

• Targeting for prevention
  – What information is useful to prevent youth from becoming Opportunity Youth?

• Systems connections
  – How can systems be better designed and/or aligned to serve Opportunity Youth?
# DSHS Data and Study Population

## Opportunity Youth Definition

- Received a DSHS service at any point between SFY 2000 and SFY 2012
  - Limited to 16-24 year olds living in Washington in SFY 2012
  - Identified as Opportunity Youth if neither working nor attending a public school (K-12 or post-secondary) in AY 2012

## Two possible methods to identify Opportunity Youth in Road Map Region

- **Zip code method**: Lived in a Road Map zip code any time between AY 2005 and AY 2012
- **School district method**: Attended K-12 school in a Road Map district (including only South Seattle schools) any time between AY 2005 and AY 2012

## School district method selected for this analysis

- Advantage is that education data is more complete with this method
- However, the size of the identified Opportunity Youth population residing in the Road Map region is smaller with this method relative to the zip code method
PART 1

A Demographic Profile of Opportunity Youth
Opportunity Youth in the Road Map Region

**Age 16-24 and Served by DSHS**

TOTAL = 68,070

- **Op-Youth**
  - 11%
  - n = 7,769

- **Non-Opportunity Youth**
  - 89%
  - n = 60,301

### Who is included in the Road Map Region Opportunity Youth population identified here?

- **Among youth served by DSHS between 2000 and 2012:**
  - We find nearly 8,000 who met the definition of “Opportunity Youth” in Academic Year 2012 who previously attended a K-12 school in the Road Map region.

- **Not represented:** Youth who only attended K-12 school outside of the Road Map region and those who last attended a K-12 school in the region prior to AY 2005.

### Opportunity Youth Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Youth</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>2,130</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>3,175</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>2,464</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-Opportunity Youth Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Youth</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>25,465</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>20,205</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>14,631</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division, INVEST 2012 Database.
White, black, and Hispanic young people are the largest race/ethnic groups in the Opportunity Youth population. Native American, Hispanic, and African American youth have the highest risk of being OY.

- **Am Indian/Alaska Native**
  - 4% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 331 of 7,769
  - 22% are Opportunity Youth
  - 331 of 1,528

- **African American**
  - 24% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 1,886 of 7,769
  - 14% are Opportunity Youth
  - 1,886 of 13,954

- **White, Non-Hispanic**
  - 40% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 3,081 of 7,769
  - 11% are Opportunity Youth
  - 3,081 of 27,459

- **Two or More Races**
  - 3% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 197 of 7,769
  - 9% are Opportunity Youth
  - 197 of 2,229

- **Hispanic**
  - 19% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 1,444 of 7,769
  - 14% are Opportunity Youth
  - 1,444 of 10,281

- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**
  - 2% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 152 of 7,769
  - 13% are Opportunity Youth
  - 152 of 1,204

- **Asian**
  - 8% of Opportunity Youth Age 16-24 in Road Map Region
  - 618 of 7,769
  - 6% are Opportunity Youth
  - 618 of 11,173
High School Graduation Status: Framing Differences Between Groups

- For the rest of the presentation, we will use the frames of age group and graduation status to understand the experiences of Opportunity Youth.

### Graduation Status

**ALL AGES (Age 16-24)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Dropout or Probable Dropout</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>31% (n = 2,376)</td>
<td>69% (n = 5,393)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>41% (n = 24,855)</td>
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**YOUNGER YOUTH (Age 16-21)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Dropout or Probable Dropout</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>25% (n = 1,328)</td>
<td>75% (n = 3,977)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>62% (n = 15,217)</td>
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**OLDER YOUTH (Age 22-24)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Dropout or Probable Dropout</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>43% (n = 1,048)</td>
<td>57% (n = 1,416)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Opportunity Youth</td>
<td>67% (n = 9,638)</td>
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SOURCE: DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division, INVEST 2012 Database.
PART 2

Key Segments and Strengths of the Opportunity Youth Population
Parents
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Ever had a child

Many Opportunity Youth are parents, especially women and those at the older ages

Younger Opportunity Youth

29% Average rate among OY

<table>
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<td>Male</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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Older Opportunity Youth

46% Average rate among OY

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<td>68%</td>
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Overall percentage, youth who are parents = 34%
Youth with Current or Past Incarceration
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Ever incarcerated and currently incarcerated (in Academic Year 2012)

A history of incarceration may be a barrier for male Opportunity Youth and in particular male dropouts

Younger Opportunity Youth
- 5% Average rate among OY
- Male: 2.8% (4) Dropout, 3.2% (65) Graduate
- Female: 0.3% Dropout, 0.4% (8) Graduate

Older Opportunity Youth
- 6% Average rate among OY
- Male: 4.0% (29) Dropout, 3.7% Graduate
- Female: 0.3% Dropout, 0.3% Graduate

Currently in JR or State Prison
- Male: 15.5% Dropout, 1% (5) Graduate
- Female: 0.3% Dropout, 0.3% (2) Graduate

Overall percentage, ever incarcerated = 5%
Disabled Youth
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2012

Disability may present a barrier to work and schooling for Opportunity Youth

Younger Opportunity Youth
13% Average rate among OY

Older Opportunity Youth
22% Average rate among OY

Overall percentage, with disability = 16%

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Currently Homeless Youth
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2012

Homelessness is a barrier for about 1 in 3 Opportunity Youth

Younger Opportunity Youth
- 28% Homelessness among Younger Opportunity Youth
- Average rate among Younger Opportunity Youth (OY)

Older Opportunity Youth
- 32% Homelessness among Older Opportunity Youth
- Average rate among Older Opportunity Youth (OY)

Dropouts and Graduates:
- Male:
  - Younger OY: 17% Dropout, 33% Graduation
  - Older OY: 31% Dropout, 18% Graduation
- Female:
  - Younger OY: 19% Dropout, 29% Graduation
  - Older OY: 46% Dropout, 33% Graduation

Overall percentage, currently homeless = 29%
Youth with Work Experience
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2005 to 2011

- Opportunity Youth have work experience, especially those at the older ages

Younger Opportunity Youth

- 33% Average rate among OY

Older Opportunity Youth

- 69% Average rate among OY

Overall percentage, youth with work experience = 44%
Youth with a Past Higher Education Connection
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2005 to 2011

Many Opportunity Youth have engaged at state CTCs and colleges in the past (including Basic Education)

**Younger Opportunity Youth**
- 25% Average rate among OY

**Older Opportunity Youth**
- 48% Average rate among OY

**Overall percentage, with connection to higher education = 33%**

- **Male**
  - Younger OY: 22% GRADUATES, 25% DROPOUTS
  - Older OY: 41% GRADUATES, 50% DROPOUTS

- **Female**
  - Younger OY: 26% GRADUATES, 26% DROPOUTS
  - Older OY: 49% GRADUATES, 50% DROPOUTS

n = 128 of 572
n = 513 of 2,033
n = 197 of 756
n = 505 of 1,944
n = 164 of 401
n = 360 of 721
n = 319 of 647
n = 345 of 695
Youth with a College Degree, Certificate, or Apprenticeship

Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2005 to 2011

Few Opportunity Youth have attained a college degree or certificate

Younger Opportunity Youth

1% Average rate among OY

Male Female

DROPOUTS GRADUATES DROPOUTS GRADUATES

$n = 9$ of 572
$n = 7$ of 2,033
$n = 19$ of 756
$n = 12$ of 1,944

Older Opportunity Youth

5% Average rate among OY

Male Female

DROPOUTS GRADUATES DROPOUTS GRADUATES

$n = 20$ of 401
$n = 7$ of 721
$n = 75$ of 647
$n = 11$ of 695

Overall percentage, with college degree or certificate = 2%
Youth Receiving Basic Food Assistance
Younger (Ages 16-21) and Older (Ages 22-24) Opportunity Youth • Academic Year 2012

A majority of Opportunity Youth are connected to Basic Food, pointing to opportunities to leverage BFET

Younger Opportunity Youth

- Average DSHS service rate for OY: 69%
- Male: 61%,
  - Graduates: 72%
  - Dropouts: 70%
- Female: 60%
  - Graduates: 72%
  - Dropouts: 70%

Older Opportunity Youth

- Average DSHS service rate for OY: 73%
- Male: 65%
  - Graduates: 77%
  - Dropouts: 77%
- Female: 60%
  - Graduates: 77%
  - Dropouts: 77%

Overall percentage, receiving Basic Food = 70%
In Summary: Gender Matters

Many Female Opportunity Youth May Have Childcare Responsibilities

- 1 out of 2 **younger** female dropouts have children
  - No
  - Yes

- 2 out of 3 **older** female dropouts have children
  - No
  - Yes

A Sizable Proportion of Male Opportunity Youth Have Served Time

- 1 out of 10 **younger** male dropouts have been incarcerated
  - Yes
  - No

- 1 out of 6 **older** male dropouts have been incarcerated
  - Yes
  - No
In Summary: Barriers and Strengths

Barriers

- **Disabilities**
  • A sizable share of Opportunity Youth who have graduated may be out of work or school because of disabilities—which is especially true of men

- **Homelessness**
  • About 1 out of 3 Opportunity Youth within both younger and older age groups are experiencing homelessness, with the highest rates among dropouts

Strengths

- **Employment and Higher Education**
  • Many Opportunity Youth have engaged in work or higher education in prior years, though few have completed degrees

- **Basic Food Participation**
  • High rates of Basic Food use can be leveraged to connect Opportunity Youth to education and training through BFET
PART 3
Risk factors in Opportunity Youth Histories
TANF and Basic Food
Youth Ages 16-24

➤ *Opportunity Youth received DSHS economic services at somewhat higher rates than their peers*

### TANF Services
In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

- **32%** Prevalence among OY
- **31%** Prevalence among NOY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OY (n=513 of 2,376)</th>
<th>NOY (n=1,976 of 5,393)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dropout</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Receipt of Basic Food
In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

- **72%** Prevalence among OY
- **64%** Prevalence among NOY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OY (n=9,600 of 13,964)</th>
<th>NOY (n=4,039 of 5,393)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dropout</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Transforming lives*

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Opportunity Youth are more likely than their peers to have received JR, foster care, or child welfare services.
Risky Situations and Behaviors
Youth Ages 16-24

*Opportunity Youth are more likely than their peers to have a history of homelessness, arrest or conviction*

### History of Homelessness

In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

- **Opportunity Youth**
  - Prevalence: 32%
  - Dropout Rate: 31%
  - Graduation Rate: 21%

- **Non-Opportunity Youth**
  - Dropout Rate: 10%

**n = 2,453 of 24,855**
**n = 4,284 of 13,964**
**n = 492 of 2,376**
**n = 1,986 of 5,393**

### Arrest or Conviction

In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

- **Opportunity Youth**
  - Prevalence: 41%
  - Dropout Rate: 44%

- **Non-Opportunity Youth**
  - Dropout Rate: 19%

**n = 4,643 of 24,855**
**n = 6,098 of 13,964**
**n = 627 of 2,376**
**n = 2,549 of 5,393**
Behavioral Health Risk
Youth Ages 16-24 Enrolled in Medical Assistance

Opportunity Youth are more likely than their peers to have substance use or mental health needs

Substance Use Disorder
In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Opportunity Youth</th>
<th>Opportunity Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n = 762 of 12,840</td>
<td>n = 2,171 of 9,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROPOUTS</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATES</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average DSHS service rate for OY

Mental Health Treatment Need
In the prior 5 years (2007-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Opportunity Youth</th>
<th>Opportunity Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n = 2,517 of 12,840</td>
<td>n = 3,414 of 9,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROPOUTS</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATES</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average DSHS service rate for OY

n = 207 of 1,843
n = 1,335 of 4,537
n = 2,517 of 12,840
n = 3,414 of 9,800
n = 651 of 1,843
n = 1,978 of 4,537
Unexcused Absences and Mobility
Youth Ages 16-24

- Opportunity Youth are very similar to their non-OY peers in terms of unexcused absences and mobility

### Unexcused Absences in 9th Grade
- First-time 9th graders
- Average days unexcused for OY: 14.1 days

### 1 or More Moves
- In final enrollment year
- 60% of OY with at least 1 move

### 3 or More Moves
- In final 3 enrollment years
- 30% of OY with at least 3 moves

#### Dropout and Graduation Rates

- **Non-Opportunity Youth**
  - Dropout Rate: 15.8%
  - Graduation Rate: 4.8%

- **Opportunity Youth**
  - Dropout Rate: 16.6%
  - Graduation Rate: 6.6%

- **Dropout Rates**
  - OY: 80%
  - Academic: 10%

- **Graduation Rates**
  - OY: 20%
  - Academic: 90%

#### Unexcused Absences in 9th Grade
- Average days unexcused for OY: 14.1 days

#### Mobility
- 1 or More Moves in final enrollment year: 60%
- 3 or More Moves in final 3 enrollment years: 30%
Summary of Risk Factors

Opportunity Youth Dropouts

- Nearly 1 in 2:
  - Had an arrest or conviction
  - Had a mental health need

- Nearly 1 in 3:
  - Had a substance use disorder
  - Had homelessness history
  - Had contact with child welfare
  - Received TANF

Opportunity Youth Graduates

- Have risk levels similar to non-Opportunity Youth dropouts in terms of:
  - BF receipt
  - Foster care placement
  - Child welfare involvement
  - Homelessness history
  - Mental health need

- Have experienced more challenges and face more barriers than non-Opportunity Youth graduates
REPORT CONTACT: Alice Huber, PhD, 360.902.0707
VISIT US AT: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/SESA/research-and-data-analysis