Independent Living Services for Foster Youth
Findings from the NYTD-Reported Services for Washington State 2015

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This report examines Independent Living (IL) services for youth aged 16 to 21 years in foster care, provided by the Children’s Administration (CA) of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). These services are designed to assist youth in making the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. According to the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169), youth may choose to receive one or more IL services such as educational support, employment preparation, financial assistance, and life skills training. The law requires the states to report on IL services to the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) twice a year.

The data for the study came from the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015 NYTD submission. The services were documented by their providers: IL services contractors, social workers, and CA’s tribal partners. The study population includes all youth who participated in at least one IL service paid for or provided by CA at any time between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 (n = 1,649). In this report we focus on the IL services received by the youth, in aggregate and detailed by age, sex, and race or ethnicity. Complete results are available in the Technical Tables.

Key Findings

1. On average, youth received 3.9 Independent Living (IL) services during the reporting period. The number of IL services significantly declined with age, from four among 16-year-olds to two among 21-year olds.

2. One half (52 percent) of the participants were in foster care during the reporting period. The proportion of youth in placement declined significantly with age. The youth in foster care received significantly more IL services than the youth not in foster care at every age.

3. Almost one-third of all eligible youth (29 percent) received IL services statewide. Participation rates were higher in large urban counties.

4. The majority of youth (72 percent) participated in life skills training, 58 percent participated in education services, and 56 percent participated in employment-oriented services. More than one-third of the youth received financial assistance for education, housing, and other needs.

5. Demographic differences among youth receiving IL services likely reflect different risk factors faced by the youth, their preferences, and changing needs as the youth grow older.

1 Four categories of youth in foster care are eligible for Extended Foster Care when they turn 18 years old: the youth who are: a) enrolled in a secondary education program or an equivalency program such as GED; b) enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or vocational program, or have applied to such programs; c) participating in a program designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment; or d) engaged in employment for 80 hours or more per month. See RCW 13.34.267, online at http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?Cite=13.34.267.
Where are youth receiving IL services?

Youth receiving IL services were concentrated in large urban counties.

The largest county in the state – King – was home to 23 percent of the youth who participated in IL services during the reporting period. Together, the five largest urban counties: King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane and Clark, accounted for nearly 60 percent of the participants. Agricultural counties in central, eastern, and south-eastern Washington served fewer youth than expected given their total populations of 16- to 21-year olds. (See Technical Tables, p. 10 for data detail).

YOUTH RECEIVING INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES IN 2015, COUNTY SHARE
TOTAL = 1,649

TECHNICAL NOTE. The number of foster care youth who were eligible for the Independent Living services in FFY 2015 was calculated as follows. A child who was in foster care 60 days or longer since turning 15 years old during FFY 2008 through FFY 2015 was flagged as eligible. We used a conservative cut-off of 60 days because it is the deadline for dependency filing. Specifically, the eligible youth included: individuals with foster care placement episodes who were between ages 15 and 21 as of September 30, 2015 with (i) the total length of service in legal care 60 days or more, and (ii) the last dependency which ended between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2015. We chose April 1, 2015, the mid-point of the FFY 2015, as the date for which to determine the county of residence. If the youth were no longer served by the state, the address represented the last known address.
Almost one in three eligible youth received Independent Living services.

Statewide, 29 percent of eligible youth participated in IL services in 2015.² The proportion varied by county from zero to just over 50 percent. Larger urban counties served a higher proportion of their eligible youth than rural and remote counties, although there were exceptions.

Four counties in the state served nearly one in two eligible youth. In King county, 377 out of 913 eligible youth, or 41 percent, participated in the IL services. Klickitat, Stevens and Walla Walla also exceeded 40 percent but their numbers were small, between 26 and 59 eligible youth per county.

Eight counties served one in three eligible youth, including Clark, Yakima, Whatcom, Kitsap and Skagit. Ten counties, including Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane and Benton, served one in four eligible youth. Eight counties, including Thurston, served one in five or one in six eligible youth.

The remaining 7 counties, all located in rural, remote parts of the state, served an even smaller proportion of the eligible youth. No services were provided to eligible youth in two low-populated counties.

PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE YOUTH WHO RECEIVED IL SERVICES BY COUNTY
TOTAL ELIGIBLE YOUTH = 5,604

²The youth are eligible for Independent Living services if they were age 15 or older in an establish dependency action through DSHS or a tribal child welfare agency for at least 30 days after their 15th birthday. Once initial eligibility is determined the youth will continue to be eligible until their 21st birthday. If a youth enters a permanent plan (return home, Title 13, etc.) after meeting the criteria of eligibility they can receive Independent Living services until they reach 21 years of age.
https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/adolescents/independent-living-program.
Participants in Independent Living Services

- 37 percent of the youth in the study received one or two Independent Living (IL) services while 27 percent received 3 or 4 services. 36 percent of the youth received 5 or more services (out of 13 possible service categories). Males and females received services at approximately the same rate. Minority youth as a whole received significantly\(^3\) more IL services than non-Hispanic White youth.
- Nearly half (46 percent) of participants received academic support services, while 26 percent received postsecondary educational support. Overall, 58 percent of youth participated in one or both programs; males and minority youth were significantly more likely to receive education services than females and non-Hispanic White youth.
- More than half (52 percent) of IL participants received career preparation services and 14 percent received vocational training or participated in other employment programs. Males and Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to participate in employment-oriented services.
- Nearly three quarters (72 percent) of IL participants received life skills training: a variety of services ranging from health education to financial management skills. Differences in receipt of services by gender and race or ethnicity were significant for some but not other life skills training programs.

SERVICES AT A GLANCE

**NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES RECEIVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2 Services</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 Services</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or More Services</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOSTER CARE TO INDEPENDENCE**

- Foster Care: 52%
- Independent Living Needs Assessment: 37%
- Mentoring: 24%

**EDUCATION SERVICES**

- Academic Support: 45%
- Post-Secondary Education Support: 27%

**PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT**

- Career Preparation: 52%
- Budget and Financial Management: 31%
- Employment Programs or Vocational Training: 14%

**LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**

- Housing Education and Home Management Training: 45%
- Family Support and Healthy Marriage Education: 44%
- Health Education and Risk Prevention: 22%

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- Other Financial Assistance: 30%
- Education Financial Assistance: 8%
- Room and Board Financial Assistance: 5%

\(^3\)“Significantly” here and elsewhere in the report indicates statistically significant differences at p\(\leq 0.05\) or better.
Demographics

Youth receiving IL services were likely to be over age 18, female, racial or ethnic minorities, and living in urban counties. Half served resided in the four largest counties.

**YOUTH WHO RECEIVED INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES**

**Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Race/Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>48%</th>
<th>12%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Minority</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally Recognized Tribe</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Unknown/Declined</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Since a person can be a member of more than one minority group, the percentages for individual racial categories will sum more than percentage shown for “Any Minority.” “White, Non-Hispanic” and “Any Minority” sum to 100 percent. Due to small numbers, the data for Asian youth and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander youth are analyzed together.

- **71 percent of the youth receiving IL services were 18 years old or older.** Youth 19 years of age or older represented 49 percent.
- **57 percent of the youth receiving IL services were females** while 43 percent were males.
- **52 percent of the youth receiving IL services were from a racial or ethnic minority group,** 48 percent were non-Hispanic White, and 1 percent did not identify their race. 54 percent of females and 49 percent of males were from a racial or ethnic minority group.
- **African-American and American Indian youth** were two largest racial minority groups among the recipients, 18 percent each, while Asian/Pacific Islander youth were the smallest, 4 percent. Older youth were significantly more likely to be African-American, while younger youth were significantly more likely to be American Indian or Hispanic.
- **Half of the youth receiving IL services – 51 percent – resided in one of the four largest urban counties in Washington State** (King, Pierce, Snohomish, or Spokane).

**WHERE THE YOUTH WERE SERVED**

- **Half the youth served resided in four counties**

4 The age of the youth was computed at the middle point of a 6-month reporting period during which they were served: December 31, 2014 or June 30, 2015. For the youth served during both periods, their age as of December 31, 2014 was used in the analysis. Estimated age may be slightly higher or lower than the youth’s actual age at the time of service.

5 May not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
Foster Care to Independence

Of the youth receiving IL services in 2015, 52 percent were in foster care; 37 percent had an independent living needs assessment; and 24 percent received mentoring services.

Independent Living services are provided both to the youth in foster care and to the youth who have emancipated from foster care. The Independent Living Needs Assessment\(^6\) is designed to identify basic skills, emotional and social capabilities, strengths, and needs of the youth. As a result of the assessment, the youth are matched with appropriate independent living services.

**FOSTER CARE**

- 52 percent of the youth receiving IL services were in foster care at some point during the reporting period. Younger participants were significantly more likely to be in foster care.
- Those in foster care were significantly more likely to be Males and Non-Hispanic White youth (for both groups: 55 percent versus 50 percent).
- American Indian youth were significantly less likely to be in foster care than all other youth (37 percent vs. 55 percent). Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to be in foster care than all others (61 percent vs. to 51 percent).

**INDEPENDENT LIVING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 37 percent of the youth had an Independent Living Needs Assessment completed during the reporting period. The proportion having an assessment significantly declined with age as more youth transitioned from foster care: from 56 percent for 16-year-olds to 10 percent for 21-year-olds.
- American Indian youth were significantly less likely to have an assessment than all other youth (29 percent vs. 39 percent). Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to have an assessment than all others (44 percent vs. 36 percent).

**MENTORING**

- 24 percent of the youth received mentoring services. The proportion receiving mentoring significantly declined with age.
- Minority youth were significantly more likely to have a mentor than non-Hispanic White youth (27 percent vs. 19 percent). African American youth were significantly more likely to have a mentor than all others (37 percent vs. 21 percent). Hispanic youth were significantly less likely to have a mentor than all others (18 percent vs. 25 percent).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to have a mentor (27 percent vs. 20 percent of those not in care).

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\(^6\) Here and throughout the report, definitions of services or programs rely on the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Guide to the Data Elements (issued February 28, 2011).
Education Services

More than half of youth received education services: 46 percent received academic support services and 26 percent received post-secondary educational support. Males and minority youth were more likely to receive these services.

Youth receiving academic support services work toward obtaining high school diplomas or General Equivalency Degrees (GED); they may receive academic counseling, tutoring, study skills training, etc. Post-secondary education support includes counseling about college, financial aid, scholarships, classes for test preparation, or tutoring while in college. Males and minority youth were significantly more likely to receive education services and, particularly, academic support than females and non-Hispanic White youth. A quarter (23 percent) of IL participants (n = 374) reported 12th grade as their highest completed educational level. Among those, 21 percent were 18 years old or less, 27 percent were 19 years old, and 52 percent were 20 years old or more.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- 46 percent of the youth received academic support services during the reporting period. The share varied from 51 percent of 18-year-olds to 40 percent of 21-year olds.
- Males were significantly more likely to receive academic support services than females (50 percent versus 43 percent).
- Minority youth were significantly more likely to receive academic support than non-Hispanic White youth (49 percent vs. 43 percent). American Indian youth were significantly more likely to receive academic support than all other youth (54 percent vs. 44 percent).

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT

- 26 percent of the youth received post-secondary education support services during the reporting period. The proportion significantly grew with age.
- American Indian youth were significantly less likely to receive these services than all other youth (20 percent vs. 27 percent). Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to receive these services than all other youth (32 percent vs. 25 percent).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to receive post-secondary education support services (31 percent vs. 20 percent of those not in foster care).
Preparing for Employment

56 percent of IL youth received employment-oriented services: 52 percent received career preparation services while 14 percent received employment programs or vocational training. More males, Hispanic youth and youth in foster care received these services.

Career preparation services are designed to help youth find, apply for, and retain appropriate employment. Youth may participate in vocational and career assessment, job seeking and job placement support, retention support, job coaching, understanding workplace values and customer relationships. Employment programs may include apprenticeship, internship, or a summer employment program. Youth in vocational training work toward getting skills and certification in trades such as auto mechanics, building trades, cosmetology and computer science. Males, Hispanic youth and youth in foster care were significantly more likely to participate in employment-oriented services. The participation rate significantly declined with age.

**CAREER PREPARATION**

- 52 percent of the youth received career preparation services during the reporting period. The share significantly declined with age: from 64 percent among 16-year-olds to 40 percent among 21-year-olds.
- Males were significantly more likely to receive these services than females (56 percent versus 49 percent).
- Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to participate than other youth (60 percent vs. 51 percent).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to receive career preparation services (58 percent vs. 46 percent of those not in care).

**EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

- 14 percent of the youth participated in employment programs or vocational training during the reporting period. The proportion slightly varied with age.
- Males were significantly more likely to participate than females (17 percent and 13 percent, respectively).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to participate (16 percent vs. 13 percent of those not in care).

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- 31 percent of the youth received training in budget and financial management during the reporting period. The share slightly declined with age.
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to receive the training (38 percent vs. 24 percent of those not in care).
Life Skills Training

72 percent of youth participated in programs offering training in one or more life skill areas. Youth in foster care participated more.

Successful transition to adulthood depends on many life skills. In housing education, youth learn about finding housing, tenant’s rights and responsibilities, food preparation, housekeeping, living cooperatively, basic maintenance and repairs. In health education, youth learn how to stay healthy, access health care resources, remain free from sexually transmitted diseases, about pregnancy prevention and family planning, and substance abuse prevention and intervention. In family support and healthy marriage training, youth learn about safe and stable families, spousal communication, responsible fatherhood, childcare skills, teen parenting, and domestic and family violence prevention.

HOUSING EDUCATION AND HOME MANAGEMENT

- 45 percent of the youth received housing education and home management training during the reporting period. The proportion increased with age until age 19, then declined.
- Females were significantly more likely to participate than males (48 percent versus 41 percent).
- Minority youth were significantly more likely to participate than non-Hispanic White youth (48 percent vs. 42 percent). American Indian youth were significantly less likely to participate than all other youth (39 percent vs. 46 percent). African American youth were significantly more likely to participate than all others (56 percent vs. 42 percent).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to participate (49 percent vs. 40 percent of those not in care).

HEALTH EDUCATION AND RISK PREVENTION

- 22 percent of the youth received health education and risk prevention training during the reporting period. The proportion varied a little, declining to 16 percent at 21 years.
- American Indian youth were significantly more likely to participate than all other youth (28 percent vs. 21 percent). African Americans were significantly less likely to participate than all others (18 percent vs. 23 percent).

FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEALTHY MARRIAGE

- 44 percent of the youth received family support and healthy marriage education services during the reporting period. The proportion significantly declined with age.
- Minority youth were significantly more likely to participate in the program than non-Hispanic White youth (47 percent vs. 42 percent).
- Youth in foster care were significantly more likely to receive the training (47 percent vs. 41 percent of the youth not in foster care).
Financial Assistance

35 percent of youth received some financial assistance.

Room and board financial assistance pays for rent deposits, utilities, and other household start-up expenses. Education financial assistance may be used to purchase educational supplies, for tuition assistance, for GED and other educational tests; it may include vouchers for tuition, for vocational education, or tuition waiver programs. Other financial assistance may cover some other needs, such as bus passes, groceries, car insurance and maintenance, clothing, phone bills, document or test fees. Overall, there was no significant differences between males and females, or between non-Hispanic White youth and racial or ethnic minority youth, with two exceptions noted below.

**ROOM AND BOARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- 5 percent of the youth received financial assistance for room and board from the state during the reporting period. The proportion significantly increased with age as the youth began to move out on their own.

**EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- 8 percent of the youth received financial assistance for education from the state during the reporting period. The share was the highest – 10 percent – among 18- and 19-year-olds.
- Males were significantly more likely to receive this financial assistance than females (10.5 percent compared to 6.9 percent).
- Non-Hispanic White youth were significantly more likely to receive this assistance than minority youth (10 percent compared to 7 percent).

**OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- 30 percent of the youth received financial assistance for other needs from the state during the reporting period. The share was the highest – 36 percent – among 19-year-olds; it dropped to 26 percent for the older youth.
Count of Services

On average, youth received 3.9 independent living services per person.

Overall, there were no significant differences between males and females in the total number of Independent Living (IL) services they participated in. However, the difference was significant for minority youth (4.0 services per person) and non-Hispanic White youth (3.7 services per person).

The number of services significantly declined with age, from four among 16-year-olds to two among 21-year olds. Among the younger youth, 36-41 percent received or more services; this compares to 22 percent among the 21-year olds.

The youth in foster care received significantly more services than the youth not in foster care: 44 percent of youth in foster care received 5 or more services compared to 28 percent of youth not in foster care.

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7 Here and elsewhere, the number of Independent Living (IL) services refers to unduplicated service types during the reporting period. For youth who were served during both reporting periods, each type was counted only once.
High Risk Behaviors

Criminal justice involvement among youth.

Transition to independence is likely to be more difficult for the youth who have had prior criminal justice involvement.

**ADJUDICATED YOUTH**

- **24 percent of the youth were ever adjudicated** for violating criminal law. The proportion increased from 17 percent among 16-year-olds to 27 percent among 18-year-olds. Proportions of youth with criminal justice involvement declined slightly for older youth.
- **Males** were adjudicated at a significantly higher rate than females (33 percent compared to 18 percent).
- No significant differences were found between minority youth and non-Hispanic White youth.

**Discussion**

This study examined independent living (IL) services provided to youth in foster care in Washington as they transition from traditional foster care to adulthood and independence. For many youth, the transition includes extended foster care at 19 years of age and beyond: one fifth of the youth 19 years or older were in foster care during the study period.

On average, the youth received 3.9 IL services per person during the study period. More than one third of the youth received 5 or more services and nearly two thirds received 3 or more services. The number of IL services significantly declined with age.

The youth who were still living in foster care were significantly more likely to engage in employment-oriented services and life skills training than the youth not in foster care. They were significantly more likely to receive mentoring and post-secondary education support services. 44 percent of the youth in foster care received 5 or more services compared to 28 percent of the youth not in foster care.

The youth in foster care received more independent living services than the youth not in foster care at every age.

**One third of all eligible youth** received IL services statewide. Participation rates were higher in large urban counties which also contained a larger share of IL participants.

**Age differences** were significant for nearly all IL services provided to the youth. This reflects changing needs of the youth as they grow older as well as a changing composition of the group due to attrition as some of the youth leave the services altogether.

**Gender differences** were noted for some IL services, but not others. Males were significantly more likely to be in foster care, engage in employment-oriented services, and receive academic support than females. Males were also significantly more likely to receive educational financial assistance than females. Females were significantly more likely to participate in housing education and home management training than males. The average number of services received was similar for both genders.
Racial or ethnic minority youth received significantly more services than non-Hispanic White youth. They were significantly more likely to receive academic support, have a mentor and get training in several life skills areas. Notably, minority youth were significantly less likely to receive financial assistance for education than non-Hispanic White youth.

African American youth were significantly more likely to have a mentor and receive housing education and home management training than all other youth. They were significantly less likely to receive health education and risk prevention training than everyone else.

American Indian youth were significantly less likely to be in foster care, complete the Independent Living Needs Assessment and receive post-secondary education support than all other youth. The youth were significantly more likely to have a mentor, receive academic support and participate in health education and risk prevention training than everyone else.

Hispanic youth were significantly more likely to be in foster care, participate in the Independent Living Needs Assessment and receive career preparation and post-secondary education support than all other youth. They were significantly less likely to have a mentor than everyone else.

Demographic differences among youth receiving independent living services likely reflect different risk factors faced by the youth, their preferences, and changing needs as the youth grow older.

Implications. The findings point to a need for IL services in non-urban, agricultural areas of Washington State. Variations in services received by age are mostly logical, however, some services that drop off for older youth may have been beneficial to them. For example, Family Support and Healthy Marriage education and career preparation services seem to be targeted toward younger youth but could have positive impact for all ages. Similarly, CA should review variations in services received by youth from different race/ethnicity groups and whether any programmatic changes need to be made (for example, to reach more Native American youth). Future work in this area could focus on long-term outcomes for youth who do and do not receive IL services.

Study limitations. The analyses presented here focused only on youth receiving IL services. This approach likely underestimates the number of transition aged youth in the state who could benefit from such services. Additionally, we examined IL services separately from the outcomes reported by NYTD survey participants at 19 or 21 years of age. A future study that includes the full population of transition aged youth in foster care, their risk factors, IL and other services, as well as outcome information, would be an ideal next step in this work.

REFERENCES
NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD) DATA

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106–169) required the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop and implement a data collection system to perform two functions: (1) track the independent living services States provide to youth; and (2) develop outcome measures that may be used to assess State performance in operating their independent living programs.

States were required to begin collecting NYTD data on October 1, 2010 (Federal Fiscal Year 2011); they report data to ACF semiannually. The six-month reporting periods are: October 1 to March 31 and April 1 to September 30. States must submit data files to ACF within 45 days of the end of the reporting period.

Served population includes all youth who participate in at least one independent living service paid for or provided by the State Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Services (CFCIP) agency or an agent of the State during a six month reporting period. States collect and report information on youth in the served population on an ongoing basis for as long as the youth participate in services.

The analysis pertains to Washington youth who participated in NYTD-reported IL services at any time between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 \( (n = 1,649) \). The youth’s age was determined as of the middle point of a reporting period during which they were served (December 31, 2014 or June 30, 2015). For the youth served during both periods, their age as of December 31, 2014 was used in the analysis.

RACE-ETHNICITY DATA

A youth’s race is determined by the youth or his/her parent(s); they can report more than one race for the youth. The NYTD records the following races:

- An African American youth has origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- An American Indian or Alaska Native youth has origins in any of the original peoples of North or South America (including Central America), and maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- An Asian youth has origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- A Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander youth has origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.
- White youth has origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- A youth is of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity if he/she is of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

The youth/parents may decline to identify or be not able to communicate the youth’s race. The race may also be unknown.

The report presents data for Non-Hispanic White (one race only), Any Minority, African-American, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and Race Unknown/Declined categories.

TECHNICAL TABLES

A full set of tables providing data for all NYTD-reported Independent Living services tabulated by age, gender and race/ethnicity is provided as a technical appendix to this report.