



A Caseworker's Guide to NYTD



What is NYTD?

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a survey that collects information on youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and foster care status. It also collects information about the outcomes of those youth who have aged out of foster care. In addition, each county records data on any youth who has received at least one Independent Living (IL) Service that was provided or paid for by the county agency.

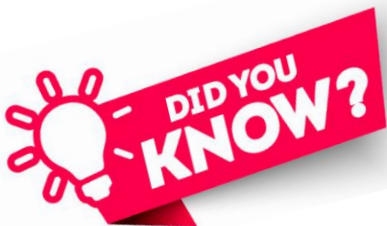
Who is Surveyed?

The Baseline Population consists of all youth in foster care any time between their 17th birthday and the 45 days following their birthday. Follow-up surveys consist of a sample of the Baseline Population when they turn 19 and again at 21 years old.

Why is this Important?

Data collected helps OCYF better understand the needs of youth and young adults and how to improve the services and outcomes for youth in foster care.

If the State does not meet federal standards, the State will be penalized between one and five percent of their annual Chafee Program allotment for each reporting period, depending on the standard that was not achieved.



OCYF encourages counties to provide youth with an incentive for completing NYTD surveys!

Only one question needs to be answered with an answer other than “declined” for the survey to be considered completed!



DO:

- Prep youth for the types of questions that will be asked.
- Let youth know that it is ok to not know all of the answers and that there are no right or wrong answers, but try to be as thorough as possible.
- Give youth a time frame for how long the survey takes – only about 15-20 minutes.
- Use the survey questions in a life skills group or individual session to teach/discuss with youth about different topics.
- Remember: these answers are important for NYTD, but they are also a key to a successful transition to self-sufficiency.
- Maintain contact and update information for youth in the event that they are selected to participate in a follow up survey!

DON'T:

- Read each question and tell the youth how they should answer. (You may read the questions to youth who need assistance, but it is never appropriate to tell them the answers.)

Additional Resources:

[Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board](#)

[National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\) | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)

NYTD Help Desk:

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