

2018 PENNSYLVANIA PROFILE TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a pivotal developmental stage as young people learn the skills needed to be healthy and productive adults. This process can be complicated for youth with foster care experience. Here's what we know about the experiences of these youth in Pennsylvania.



171,162 or 25%

of United States' foster care population is ages I4+



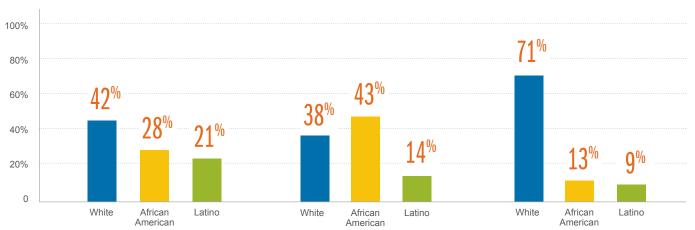
8,639 or 33%

of Pennsylvania's foster care population is ages I4+



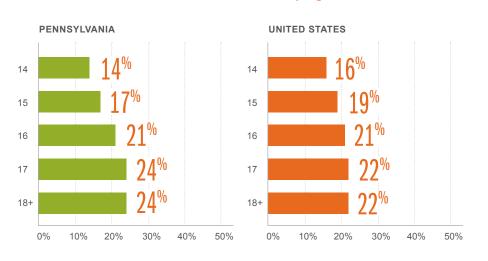
Pennsylvania Foster Care Population

Pennsylvania General Population

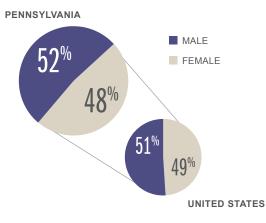


Above charts are based on the three largest racial and ethnic groups in this state for foster care. For additional data, please visit the KIDS COUNT Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org

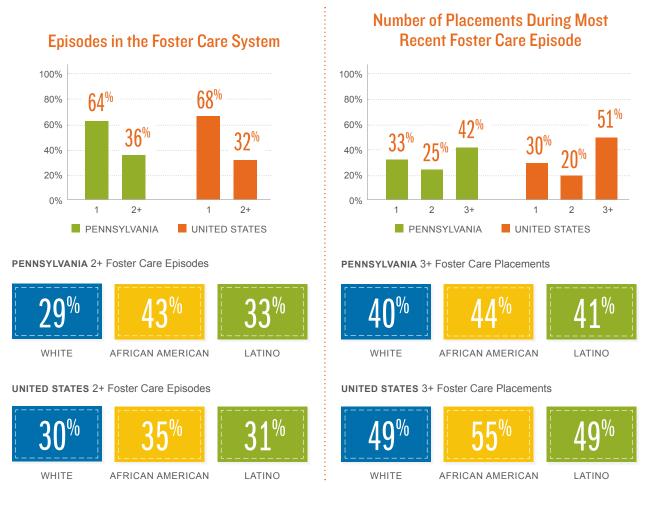
Youth in Foster Care by Age



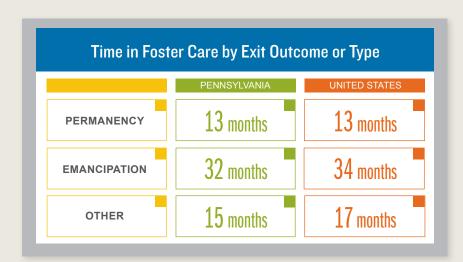
Youth in Foster Care by Sex*



In addition to the trauma of abuse or neglect that resulted in being removed from their homes and placed in the foster care system, experiences while in foster care — including frequent moves — can lead to worse outcomes for youth. Looking at these indicators helps us understand how youth with foster care experience in Pennsylvania are faring and provides insight into the changes needed to improve the lives of these young people.



The percentage of young people in each racial and ethnic group who have experienced multiple foster care episodes and placements.



Placement Type

■ PENNSYLVANIA ■ UNITED STATES



Family based (includes: pre-adoptive, relative and nonrelative)

47% 34%

Group (includes: group home, institution)

2% 9%

Trial home visit



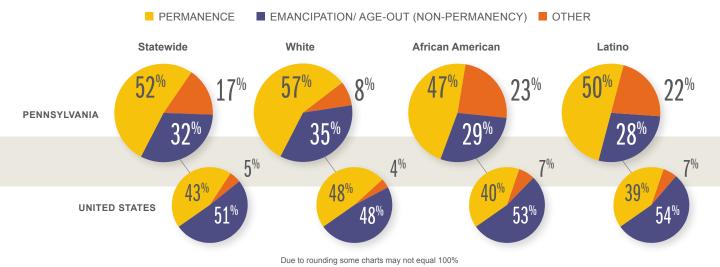
Supervised independent living



Runaway

Reasons for Leaving Foster Care

Lingering in foster care, experiencing unstable placement settings while in foster care and leaving foster care without a permanent, legal connection to family are important indicators of how youth in Pennsylvania are faring.



Percentage of Youth Who Emancipated by Race - Pennsylvania







Number of Young People in Care on Their 18th and 19th Birthdays

	18TH	19TH	
PENNSYLVANIA	1,216	324	



18TH		19TH	
UNITED STATES	24,797	6,489	

Percentage Still in Care on Their 19th Birthday

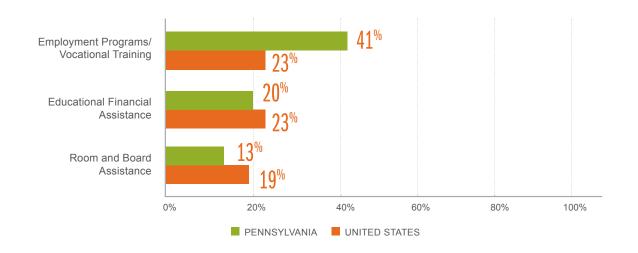
	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	LATINO
PENNSYLVANIA	28%	26 %	19%



	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	LATINO
UNITED STATES	17 %	29%	37 %

Services

Transition services, such as vocational training and housing assistance, are designed to help young people with foster care experience transition to adulthood. Participation in federally funded transition services provides a window into how well young people are being equipped for employment, education and housing.



Young Adult Outcomes by Age 21

Research shows that young adults who experienced foster care have worse outcomes than their peers in the general population across a variety of spectrums — from education to employment to housing to early parenthood. Examining data on these outcomes in Pennsylvania is important as we strive to improve the practices, programs and policies that help ensure these young people have the relationships, resources and opportunities they need for well-being and success.

