



NYCTM
Administration for
Children's Services

YOUTH EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2019

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I. Acknowledgments

ACS is pleased to acknowledge the many individuals who contributed to the second annual Foster Care Youth Experience Survey.

We thank New York City Council Member Donovan Richards who introduced and sponsored Local law 146 of 2016 that led to the creation and administration of the annual survey.

We are grateful to the youth who completed the survey and shared their insights on their experiences in foster care. We are also thankful to the foster care provider agencies for their partnership and work and to ensure that the voices of young people were heard.

I want to thank my team at ACS, including Deputy Commissioner for Family Permanency Services, Julie Farber, and Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning, and Measurement, Andrew White, for driving improvements to the foster care system and for their leadership on this survey. Special thanks to the many other ACS staff that contributed to the survey development, dissemination, analysis, and writing of this report including Raymond Toomer, Ina Mendez, Myra Soto-Aponte, Karamoko Andrews, Kareem Forbes, Shahida Abdul-Salam, Nadine Chaney, Neil Freedman, Sabine Chery, Sophonie Taylor, Fayette Bennett, Virginia Johnson-Conway, Allon Yaroni, Fouad Yared, Eric Brettschneider, and Eric Ferrero. I also want to thank the ACS marketing and design team that designed this report, including John Taylor.

Finally, thank you to Mayor Bill de Blasio for his continued support of ACS' work to improve the experiences and opportunities for children and youth in foster care. We are utilizing the findings from this report and working with our partners to continue to strengthen the foster care system and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.



David A. Hansell,
Commissioner, NYC Administration for Children's Services

II. Executive Summary

The Administration for Children's Services (ACS), in partnership with our foster care provider agencies, conducted the second annual Foster Care Youth Experience Survey in accordance with Local law 146 of 2016. The legislation, which was introduced by City Council Member Donovan Richards, requires the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to provide to all youth in foster care, age 13 and older, an annual survey regarding their experiences in foster care. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the experiences of youth while in foster care, pertaining to their safety, permanency, and well-being.

The survey questions focused on youths' experiences pertaining to education, employment, health care, connections to family and friends and permanency planning while in foster care.

The survey had a response rate of 45 percent or 1,111 youth, almost half of all eligible youth in foster care responded to the survey. This is a strong response rate for a survey of this type, which typically have a response rate of 30-40 percent.¹ Youth in 24-hour foster care status for at least 90 days between the ages of 13-20 were eligible to complete the survey. Of those responding, 60 percent were female, 58 percent were between the ages of 17-20, 46 percent non-Hispanic, and 58 percent African American.

At the time they were surveyed, the majority of respondents resided in family foster care (78 percent), with 26 percent in kinship foster homes and 52 percent in non-kinship foster homes. Slightly more than half of respondents had spent fewer than three years in foster care, including 17 percent having spent less than a year in foster care. Forty-seven percent had spent three or more years in foster care. For more than two-thirds of respondents, their current placement was their first time in foster care.

EDUCATION:

The majority (88 percent) of the youth who completed the survey were in school or a GED/TASC program. Many respondents were in high school (62 percent). Of those not enrolled in high school, ten percent were in grades 6-8, nine percent were in college or vocational program and eight percent were in a TASC/GED program. Almost half of the youth reported having an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Tutoring, applying for school, such as college/graduate school, and support with applying for financial aid/student loans were the three educational services most frequently cited as needed by respondents. Seventy-nine percent of youth in middle school and 71 percent of youth in grades 9 and above who said they needed tutoring reported they had received it in the past year. More than 70 percent of youth in a GED/TASC program indicated the need for help with preparing for the high school equivalency test and 82 percent of the youth who needed this service reported that they had received it. Seventeen percent of youth in middle school and 39 percent of youth in grades 9 and above said they needed help with test

¹ Hart, N., Dykema, J., Schaeffer, N., & Stevenson, J., University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Survey Fundamentals: A Guide to Designing and Implementing Surveys. 2010.

preparation; of those who identified this need, 65 percent and 59 percent of students in middle school and grades 9 and above, respectively, said they received this service. ACS will continue to work closely with foster care providers and the New York City Department of Education to ensure youth are connected to education and academic supports, such as tutoring, test preparation and college enrichment programs, as highlighted in the *Education Initiatives* section of this Executive Summary.

EMPLOYMENT:

Almost one third (30 percent) of respondents reported having a job or paid internship.

Seventy percent of respondents reported interest in obtaining employment. Many unemployed youth reported that they were receiving help to find a job, with over 70 percent of respondents receiving help with obtaining their working papers (79 percent), finding places that are hiring (73 percent) and learning interviewing skills (72 percent). Youth also reported receiving help with immigration status (63 percent), learning how to create a resume (63 percent), getting help with proper work clothing (63%), and getting help with dependable transportation (62 percent), however the unmet need in these categories ranged from 37- 38 percent. ACS' Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives (OEWDI) provides resources and employment opportunities for youth in foster care. Through strong partnerships, such as with Columbia University, Department of Youth and Community Development and the Pinkerton Foundation, OEWDI will continue to coordinate with foster agencies and link youth interested in finding employment to these programs.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:

The vast majority of youth reported that they feel very supported or somewhat supported by their foster parents or residential facility staff.

When asked to whom they would turn when help was needed, the most frequently cited responses were foster parents (70%), residential staff (69 percent), and current or previous case/social worker (60 percent). Eighty-nine percent of youth in foster/kinship homes and 84 percent of youth residing in residential/group settings reported that they felt very supported or somewhat supported by their foster parents or residential staff. When asked if they have someone who makes them feel wanted, someone to listen to them, or someone to help them with problems (three different questions), 52-58 percent said most of the time and 34-40 percent said sometimes. Six to eight percent said never.

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS:

The majority of youth identified using social media and spending time with friends as their primary activities during their free time.

Youth were also asked if they were interested in participating in any of the activities that they had not identified among their current activities. The most frequently identified activities that youth reported they would like to participate in but currently are not were spending the night with friends (53 percent) and spending time with friends (51 percent).

Youth were also asked to identify any perceived barriers to participating in desired activities. Over half (56 percent) of all respondents reported that nothing stopped them from participating in activities outside of school or work. Over a quarter of all respondents reported they did not have enough money to participate in activities and 15 percent indicated that they did not have transportation.

Many respondents reported having a cell phone (83 percent) and access to the internet (79 percent), while fewer youth, 63 percent, reported having a computer or tablet.

HEALTHCARE AND BASIC FOOD/CLOTHING NEEDS:

Youth were asked about their access to and receipt of health care services and the extent to which they feel their basic needs were met. The vast majority of youth reported that their physical and sexual health/family planning needs were being met (94 percent and 90 percent, respectively). Eighty percent of youth also identified needing services for mental health (included in the survey as “emotions”) and 31 percent needed services for alcohol and drug use; of those who reported these health needs, 87 percent of youth had received each type of service. Youth were also asked if their basic needs for food and clothing were being met in the past three months. Ninety-two percent of youth responded that they had access to food, 90 percent had appropriate clothing (i.e., clean, fit, and no holes), and 93 percent had shoes that fit. Immediate outreach was conducted to the youth and foster care agencies in the cases in which youth responded that their health and/or basic needs were not being met. In these cases, ACS and/or the foster care agencies met with the youth and foster parents to discuss and address these issues.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND PERMANENCY PLANNING:

Youth were asked about whether their foster care agencies provided them with support related to education, employment, permanency planning, independent living, housing, connecting with attorneys and social activities. Youth reported receiving the greatest amount of support from foster care agencies to reach their education goals with a rate of 88 percent. Youth also indicated receiving support from their agency in permanency planning (83 percent), connecting with their Law Guardian (81 percent), independent living workshops (77 percent) and participating in social activities (77 percent). Sixty-eight percent of the youth reported that they either led (38 percent) or were involved (30 percent) in the making of their permanency plans.

ACS INITIATIVES SUPPORTING YOUTH

ACS is currently implementing a range of programs and initiatives to improve youth experiences, outcomes and well-being through the Foster Care Strategic Blueprint and the Interagency Foster Care Task Force (see Section V of this report for a detailed description of these initiatives).

ACS recently formed a Youth Council to bring youth and adult leaders together to work in partnership on key areas of policy and practice. The ACS Youth Council launched in March 2019 and includes youth currently and previously in foster care. The goals of the Council are to develop

youths' leadership skills of youth, increase youth voice in foster care policy, practice and advocacy and help youth build a positive social network.

ACS is implementing several strategies through our No Time to Wait initiative to improve reunification, adoption, and kinship guardianship outcomes for children and youth in foster care. ACS is also increasing placement with kin and enhancing foster parent recruitment and support. Through our Home Away from initiative, ACS and foster care providers are implementing targeted approaches to increase the foster parent pool and provide enhanced support for foster parents serving teens. There are multiple initiatives underway to improve education and employment outcomes for young people, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), CUNY, Columbia University, the philanthropic community and other partners. Finally, ACS is working in close partnership with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and other partners to deliver new programs to improve health and mental health outcomes for young people.

The second annual Youth Experience Survey provides valuable information regarding the experiences of youth between the ages of 13 - 20 in foster care. The results highlight the strengths in the work to support youth in foster care and the areas in which more must be done. As briefly highlighted above and described in detail in Section V of this report, multiple initiatives are underway through the [ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint](#) and the [Interagency Agency Task Force](#) that are specifically targeted towards improving the safety, permanency and well-being of older youth in foster care. As ACS and its partners continue to prioritize this work, we will look to the Youth Advisory Council and the results from this and future surveys to guide our efforts and ensure that the voices of youth in foster care advance the critical objective of improving outcomes for children, youth, and families.

III. Introduction

A. Background and Purpose of the Survey

The Administration for Children's Services (ACS) disseminated and analyzed the responses from the second annual Foster Care Experience Survey to comply with Local Law 146 of 2016. The law requires ACS to provide to all youth in foster care, ages 13 and older an annual survey regarding their experiences in foster care. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the experiences of youth while in foster care, especially as it pertains to their safety, permanency, and well-being. The law requires that the survey cover the following topics:

- Access to food and clothing;
- Religious practices;
- Social connectedness (i.e., relationships with foster families, biological families, and friends);
- Personal allowances (i.e., money received on a regular basis from the caregiver, or stipends for participating in agency program);
- Access to technology (i.e., internet and phone);
- Educational needs and progress; and
- Participation in extracurricular activities.

ACS collaborated with its contracted foster care agencies to disseminate the survey to all eligible youth residing in 24-hour foster care status, in all types of foster care placements (foster homes, group homes and residential treatment programs). All eligible youth received a letter with instructions on how to access the survey, and ACS worked closely with foster care agencies to implement a range of strategies to ensure that youth were aware of the survey and encouraged to complete it. Youth who completed the survey received a \$10 gift card. The survey launched on November 14, 2018 and remained open for eight weeks.

The overall response rate was 45 percent with 1,111 of 2,492 eligible youth completing the survey. This is a very good response rate for surveys of this type, which typically have a response rate of 30-40 percent.²

B. Organization of Report

This section of the report describes the background and purpose of the study, the study methodology, a profile of survey respondents and limitations of the study. Section IV presents survey findings on the following topics:

² Hart, N., Dykema, J., Schaeffer, N., & Stevenson, J., University of Wisconsin Survey Center. Survey Fundamentals: A Guide to Designing and Implementing Surveys. 2010.

- Help with education, including the education status of youth in foster care, their education plan and needs, and the education support they received;
- Help with employment, including the employment status of youth, the help they need to find jobs, and the help they received;
- Support from family and friends, including persons to whom youth can turn for help when needed, the extent to which they feel supported by foster parents or residential staff, and emotional support they receive from others;
- Social interactions and communication, including activities the youth engaged in during their free time, what they would like to do that they are not currently doing, what obstacles they face in engaging in activities outside of school and work, and whether they have access to communication technology;
- Access to health care and satisfaction of basic needs, including the health care the youth receive and whether they had adequate food, clothes, and shoes within the last three months; and
- Support from foster care agency and permanency planning, including whether the youth received support needed for independent living, whether they participated in their permanency planning, and whether various individuals supported them in these activities.
- Finally, a copy of the FY19 Youth Experience Survey instrument can be found in Appendix A.

C. Survey Methodology

Survey development and analysis

For this second annual survey conducted in FY19, ACS used the same survey tool as the fiscal year 2018 Youth Experience Survey with some minor modifications in order to obtain more comprehensive and robust information. This included adding new questions pertaining to youth no longer in school; updating response options based on responses to the previous year's survey; and refining some questions to better ascertain if youths' needs are being met. The second annual survey tool is included in appendix A. ACS programmed the online survey questions and conducted tests to ensure that skip patterns were accurate.

Survey dissemination

ACS launched the online survey on November 14, 2018. ACS sent survey packages to all eligible youth via mail and sent an electronic notification of the survey to those for whom an email address was available. The packages included a letter explaining the purpose of the survey, and instructions on how a youth could access the survey. ACS also sent the relevant information to each provider agency, including the youth names and their unique PINs to help support further engagement of youth to complete the survey. All communication materials included phone numbers and email addresses for ACS contacts if the youth had any questions. To encourage survey participation, youth received a \$10 gift card upon completion of the survey.

ACS and the provider agencies used a wide range of strategies to follow up with non-respondents. For example, ACS provided weekly updates to the agencies showing overall response rates, along with a list of youth who had not yet completed the survey. ACS staff worked with foster care agencies to identify and resolve any completion barriers and reiterate the importance of completing the survey. Additionally, ACS continued its survey help desk to respond to any questions from youth and foster care agencies and provided translation services for youth who requested to complete the survey in another language.

Survey population and response rates

The study population was comprised of all youth age 13 or older who had been in foster care for at least 90 days as of November 13, 2018. At the time of survey dissemination, there were 2,756 youth identified as eligible to participate in the study. During data collection, provider agencies reported 264 youth who were no longer eligible for the study due to being discharged from care, absent from care, incarcerated, or having serious developmental delays. After removing these youth from the sample 2,492 youth were eligible to complete the survey. Of course, this number changes slightly every day, as youth enter and exit foster care.

Table 1 shows the eligible population of youth in foster care, the number completing the survey, and the response rate. Of the 2,492 youth eligible for the study, 1,111 completed the survey, for a response rate of 45 percent.

Table 1: Study population, survey respondents and response rates

	Number of youth eligible for the study	Number of completed surveys	Response rate
All youth	2,492	1,111	44.6%
Gender			
Male	1,084	448	41.3%
Female	1,408	663	47.1%
Age			
13 to 15 years	845	320	37.9%
16 to 18 years	1,113	538	48.3%
19 to 20 years	534	253	47.4%

SOURCES: Foster Care Survey, 2019, and ACS Administrative Records

D. Survey Respondent Placement Types & Demographics

This section provides an overview of the demographic characteristics and placement types of the youth responding to the survey and the total population of foster care youth eligible to participate in the survey, based on ACS administrative data.³

Placement Type

Of the 1,111 youth responding to the survey, 75 percent were placed either in foster homes or kinship foster homes (Table 2). Slightly more than half (54 percent) reside in non-relative foster homes and 21 percent were placed in kinship family homes. The remaining 24 percent were placed in residential treatment centers or group homes.

Length of time in foster care. Based on information available in ACS administrative records, slightly more than half of the survey respondents had been in care for fewer than three years, including 16 percent in care for less than one year at the time of the survey distribution and 37 percent in care for one to under three years. Forty-seven percent were in care for three years or more.

³ A youth was eligible to participate in the survey if he/she was age 13 or older and spent at least 90 days in foster care.

Table 2. Indicators of placement in foster care: Survey respondents and population eligible to respond to the survey

Placement indicator	Foster care youth responding to survey		Foster care youth in population eligible to participate in survey	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
All youth	45%	1,111	100%	2,492
Current placement type				
Foster home	54%	600	52%	1,284
Kinship family home	21%	236	26%	647
Residential treatment center/Group home	24%	272	21%	535
Unknown	*	*	1%	26
Length of time in foster care				
Under 1 year	16%	176	17%	416
1 to under 3 years	37%	409	36%	909
3 to under 5 years	20%	223	21%	520
5 to under 8 years	14%	156	14%	346
8 or more years	13%	147	12%	301
Number of foster care spells				
One	69%	767	70%	1,755
Two	23%	252	22%	551
Three or more	8%	92	7%	186
Unknown	0%	0	0%	0

NOTE: Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCES: Foster Care Survey, 2019, and ACS Administrative Records

Number of foster care spells (placement episodes). Consistent with the population of youth age 13 or older in foster care overall, more than two-thirds (69 percent) of the survey respondents were experiencing foster care placement for the first time, or their first spell. An additional 23 percent of respondents were in their second spell of foster care, meaning they had previously been discharged from care and then reentered care. The remaining 8 percent had been placed into foster care three or more times.

Demographics

Information on the gender and age of respondents was analyzed from ACS administrative records. Of the 1,111 youth responding to the survey, the majority were female, accounting for 60 percent, while males accounted for the remaining 40 percent (Table 3).

ACS grouped the respondents into age categories: under 15 years, 15 to 16 years, 17 to 18 years, and 19 to 20 years. Close to two-thirds (59 percent) of the youth responding to the survey were in their mid-teens; 24 percent were in the 15 to 16 age group and 35 percent were in the 17 to 18 age group. Youth under the age of 15 accounted for 18 percent of the respondents and youth 19 to 20 years old made up the remaining 23 percent.

Table 3. Gender and age of survey respondents and population eligible to respond to the survey

Demographic indicator	Foster care youth responding to survey		Foster care youth in population eligible to participate in survey	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
All youth	100%	1,111	100%	2,492
Gender				
Male	40%	448	43%	1,084
Female	60%	663	57%	1,408
Age				
Under 15 years	18%	195	21%	528
15 to 16 years	24%	272	26%	653
17 to 18 years	35%	391	31%	777
19 to 20 years	23%	253	21%	534

SOURCES: Foster Care Survey, 2019, and ACS Administrative Records

The survey gathered information on the race and ethnicity of youth in foster care (Table 4).⁴ Ethnicity is reported separate from race. Youth who identified themselves as Hispanic accounted for a substantial share of the youth responding to the survey (41 percent). Almost half (46 percent) were not Hispanic while the remaining 13 percent either left the question unanswered or stated that they preferred not to answer.

Youth in foster care also reported their race background. Most of the youth self-identified as belonging to a racial minority group (67 percent). More than half of the survey respondents were Black/African-American (58 percent) while Asian and other minority groups accounted for nine percent of survey respondents. Whites accounted for ten percent, while 11 percent of respondents did not identify with any race group and 15 percent preferred not to answer.

It was not possible to compare the racial or ethnic background of survey respondents with the total eligible population of youth in foster care because the survey requested that the information be reported in a different format than that used in ACS' administrative records.

Table 4. Race/ethnicity of survey respondents

Demographic indicator	Youth in foster care responding to the survey	
	Percent	Number
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin		
Yes	41%	455
No	46%	511
Not ascertained	13%	145
Race/ethnicity		
White	10%	114
Black/African American	58%	645
Asian/Other	9%	101
Not ascertained	11%	122
Prefer not to answer	15%	172

NOTE: Sum of percentages are greater than 100% because youth could select more than one race but could not select more than one ethnicity.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

Data processing and analysis

Analysis of the survey was completed utilizing the same methodology as the first annual survey, allowing for a comparison of the findings. ACS implemented data cleaning procedures to ensure that the data followed logic checks and skip patterns. Once finalized, the data was analyzed and frequencies and graphical summaries were developed to address the research questions and sub-questions within the survey.

⁴ ACS' administrative records do not distinguish between race and ethnicity (Hispanic is reported as a race in New York State CONNECTIONS, the system of record, so data are not available, for example, about the number of youth in care who are Black/African-American and Hispanic).

ACS conducted a comparative analysis between the first and second annual survey results., This report highlights any areas where the finding from this year's survey was 10 percentage points above or below last year's finding.

For some of the questions, a comparative analysis of the survey findings could not be completed due to the question being revised and new or updated response options. The findings for which a comparative analysis between last year and this year could not be completed is noted in the applicable sections of this report.

E. Limitations of the Study

This study is based on a NYC population of youth age 13 and older who had been in foster care for at least 90 days as of November 13, 2018. The survey was not anonymous and ACS followed up with the youth, or foster care provider if necessary, if there were concerns about a youth's health, safety or overall well-being. As with all surveys, the findings are subject to nonresponse bias that stems from youth choosing not to complete the survey. Findings are also subject to response bias from those who may over report "socially desirable" answers and underreport or over report negative feedback, which may lead to a deviation of answers from their true value.

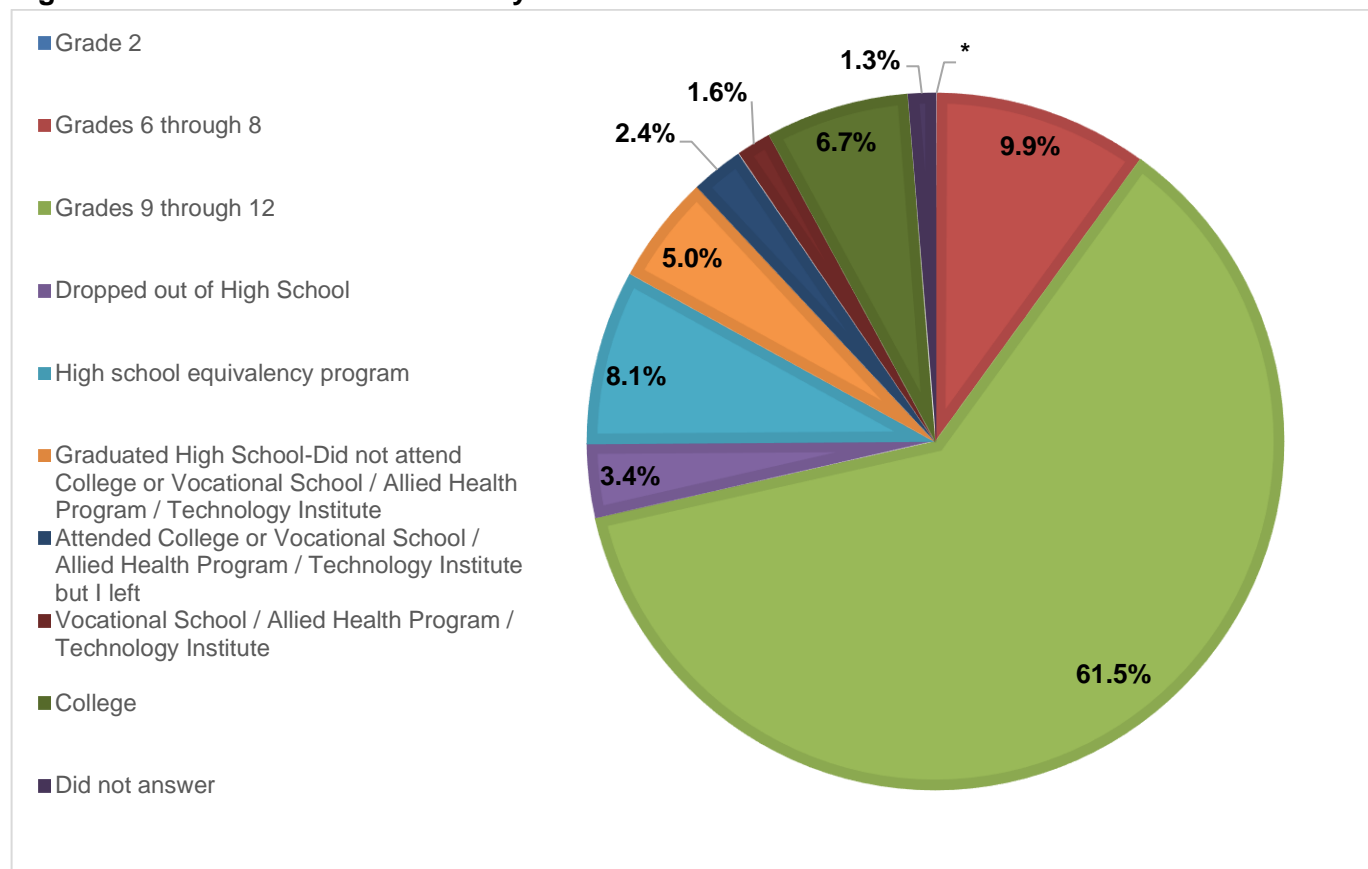
IV. Survey Findings

A. Help with Education

A.1 What is the educational background of youth in foster care?

Almost all of the survey respondents (88 percent) were enrolled in school or a TASC/GED program (Figure 1). Seventy-two percent of the youth were enrolled in middle and high school, eight percent were in a high school equivalency program, and nine percent were in college or vocational program. Five percent reported having graduated high school but did not attend college or a vocational program. Two percent of respondents attended college or a vocational program but left and three percent of youth reported they dropped out of high school.

Figure 1. Current education level of youth in foster care



NOTE: Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).
SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Close to half (47 percent) of the youth reported having an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) (Table 5). When examined by grade level, more youth in grades 6 through 8 had an IEP compared with those in grades 9 and above (52 percent versus 46 percent).

Table 5. Whether youth have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), by grade level

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know/Not sure (%)	Total Number
All youth	47%	39%	14%	1103
Youth in grades 9 and above	46%	40%	14%	980
Youth in grades 6 through 8	52%	31%	17%	109

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

A.2 What support do youth need to continue with their education?

The survey asked youth in grades 9 and above whether they plan to continue with their education and the type of support needed. The response options for this question were modified from last year, therefore a comparative analysis between the results from the first annual survey and the findings below could not be completed.

Ninety-eight percent of respondents planned to continue with their education (Table 6). Ninety percent of youth planned on working and 13 percent planned on enrolling in the military.

Table 6. Whether youth in grades 9 and above plan to continue with education

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know or not sure (%)	Total Number
Plan to continue education	98%	1%	1%	927
I plan on working.	99%	1%	n/a	839
I plan on enrolling in the military.	13%	87%	n/a	751

NOTE: To calculate this data, if youth selected YES to any of the four continuing education options (i.e., plan to finish high school, attend college/trade school, finish high school equivalency program, finish degree), then they were counted as planning to continue with their education. If a youth answered NO to any of the four questions, they were counted as not planning to continue with their education. If none of the responses were selected, they were counted as "don't know/ not sure"

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019

A.3 What education services did the youth need and receive?

The survey asked youth in grades 9 and above whether they needed and received each of six types of education services in the past year. Youth in grades 6 through 8 were asked whether they needed and received each of three types of education services in the past year.

Education services needed and received in the past year: Grades 9 and above

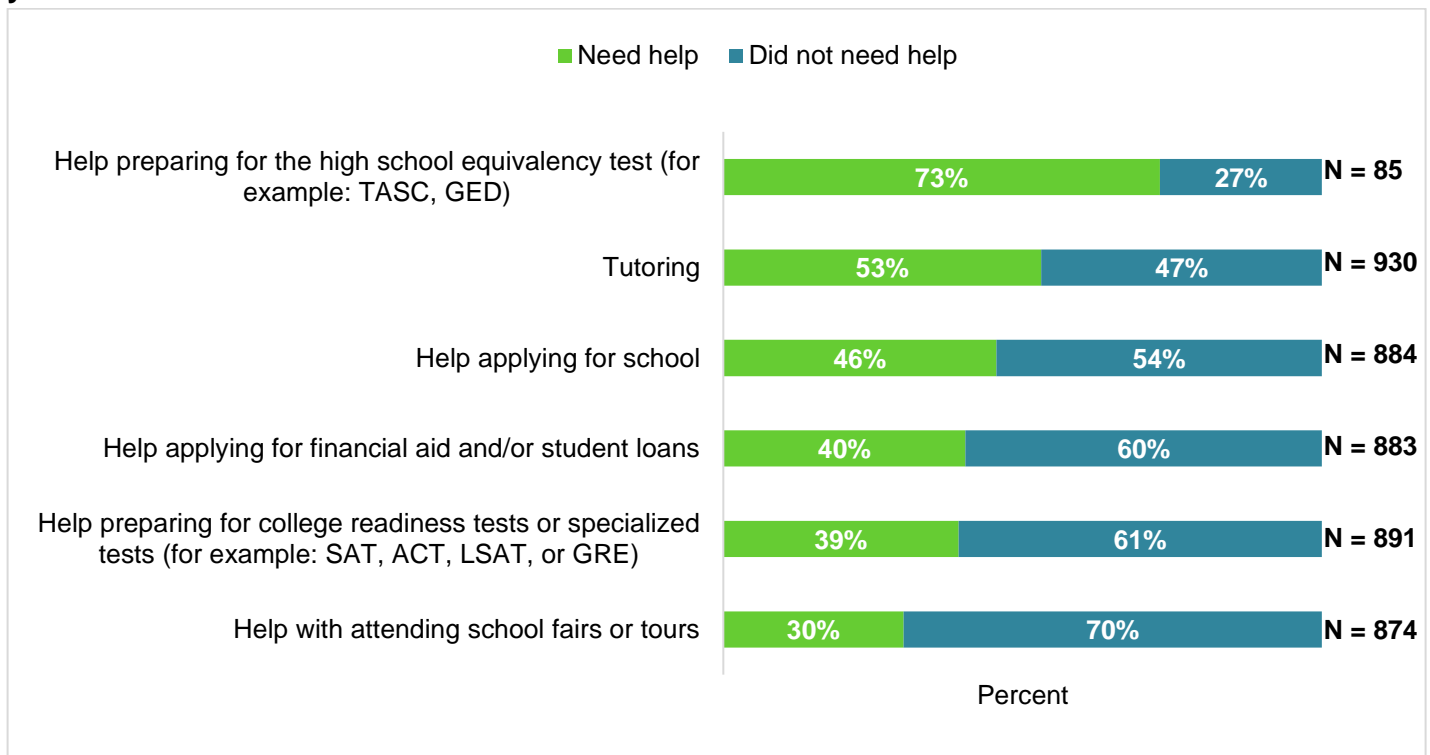
To further explore the need for specific types of education services during the year preceding the survey, youth in grades 9 and above were asked whether they needed and received each of the following services: tutoring, help preparing for the high school equivalency test, help preparing for college readiness or specialized tests, help applying for school, help applying for financial aid

and/or student loans, and help with attending school fairs or tours. The findings in this section are not comparable to the findings in the first annual survey due to changes in the response options and the expansion of respondents to include youth in college and vocational programs.

Need for services: Among the 930 youth who responded to the question about education services needed over the past year, the most frequently cited need was tutoring services; slightly over half of respondents (53 percent) indicated they needed this service (Figure 2). Forty-six percent indicated they needed help with applying for school. Forty percent of all respondents indicated they needed help with applying for financial aid and/or student loans and 39 percent needed help preparing for college readiness or specialized tests. Close to one third (30 percent) needed help with attending school fairs or tours.

Of the youth enrolled in a GED/TASC program, 73 percent needed help with preparing for the high school equivalency test.

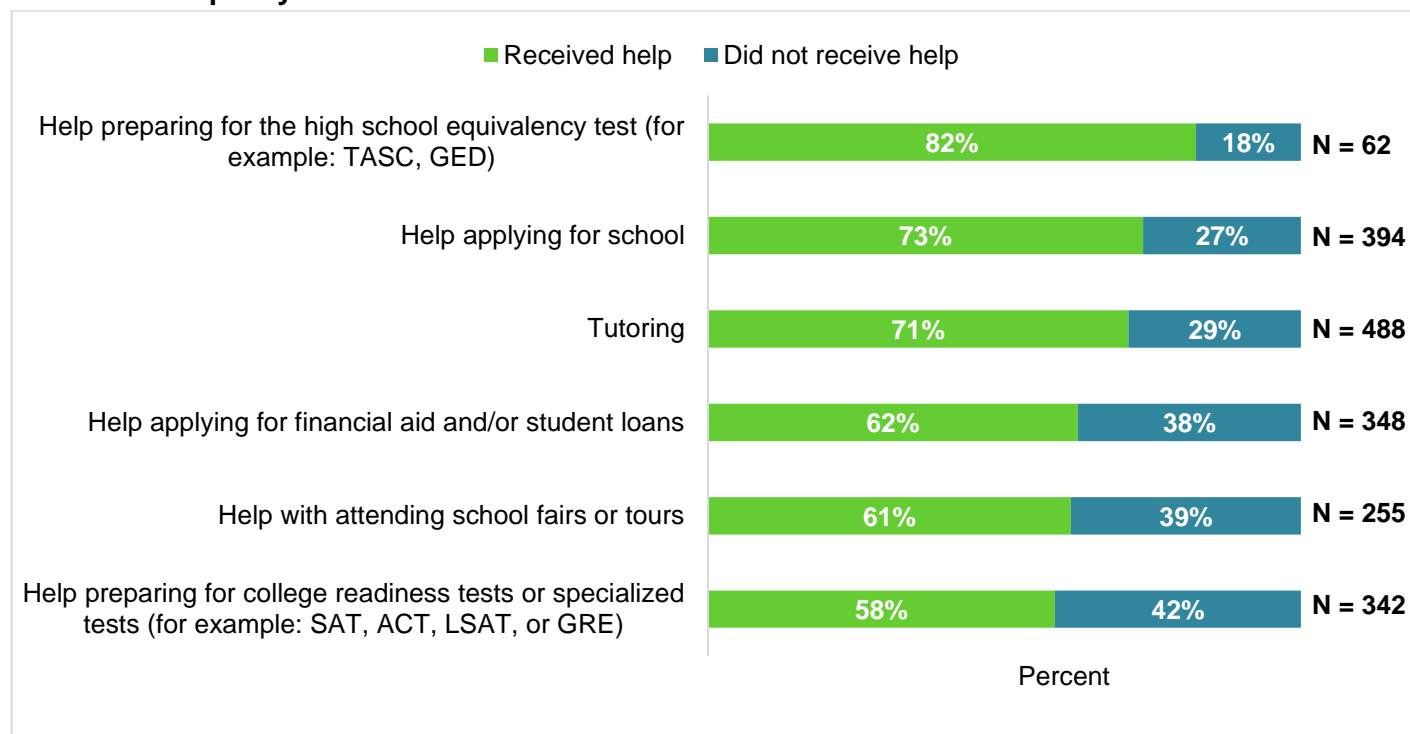
Figure 2. Youth in grades 9 and above reporting education services needed in the past year



SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Extent to which needs were met: The information presented in Figure 3 reflects the extent to which a youth's need for specific education services in the past year were met or unmet.

Figure 3. Youth in grades 9 and above reporting they received the education services needed in the past year



SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Specifically, the following results indicate the extent to which the needs of youth in grades 9 and above were met for each of the six services examined from the survey.

- **Preparing for high school equivalency test:** Of the 62 students in a GED/TASC program who needed help preparing for the high school equivalency test, the vast majority (82 percent) received it (i.e., the need was met), while 18 percent did not receive the service (i.e., the need was unmet).
- **Help applying for school:** Almost three quarter (73 percent) of the 394 youth who needed this education service reported that they received it, while 27 percent reported that they didn't receive it.
- **Tutoring:** Tutoring was one of the most needed education services and it was also among the most highly met need among youth in grades 9 and above. Of the 488 youth who reported the need for tutoring, 71 percent received the service, while 29 percent did not receive it.
- **Help applying for financial aid/student loans:** While 62 percent of the 348 youth who needed this educational service reported receiving it, 38 percent did not receive this service.
- **Help with attending school fairs or tours:** While 61 percent of the 255 youth who needed this educational service reported that they received it, 39 percent did not receive this service.

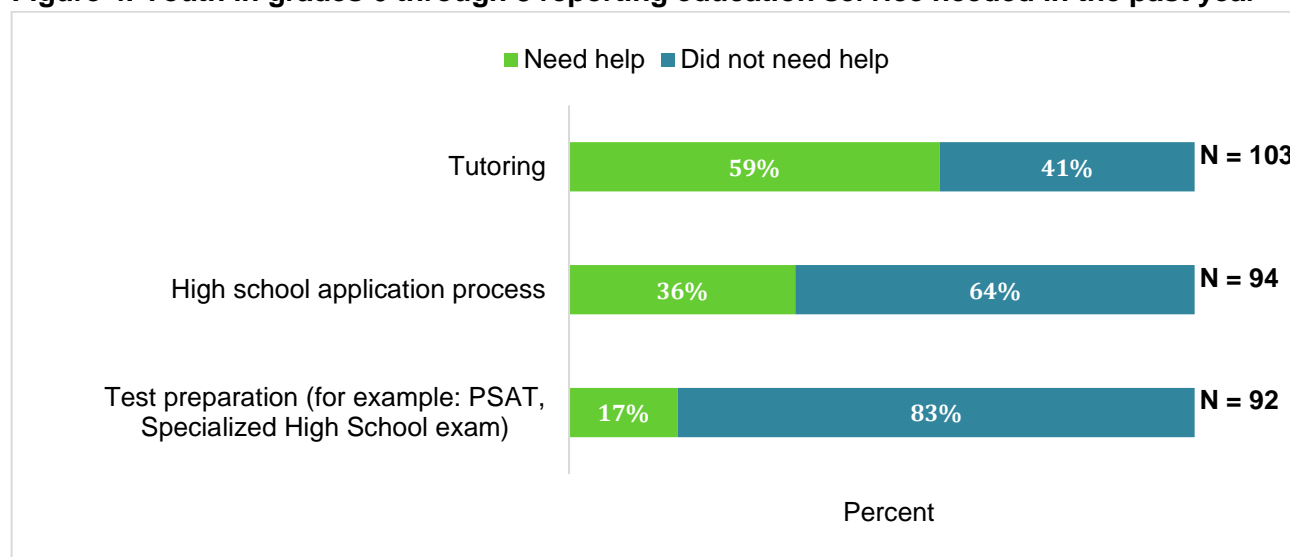
- **Preparing for college readiness/specialized tests:** Of the 342 youth who reported needing help with preparing for tests, over half (58 percent) received this service, while 42 percent did not receive it.

Educational services needed and received in the past year: Grades 6 through 8

Youth in grades 6 through 8 reported whether they needed and received each of three services over the past year: tutoring, high school application process, and test preparation (PSAT, specialized high school exam).

Need for services. Most frequently cited was the need for tutoring among youth in grades 6 through 8 (Figure 4). Among the 111 youth responding to the question, 59 percent indicated they needed this service. Fewer youth reported a need for help with the high school application process (36 percent) or test preparation (17 percent).

Figure 4. Youth in grades 6 through 8 reporting education service needed in the past year

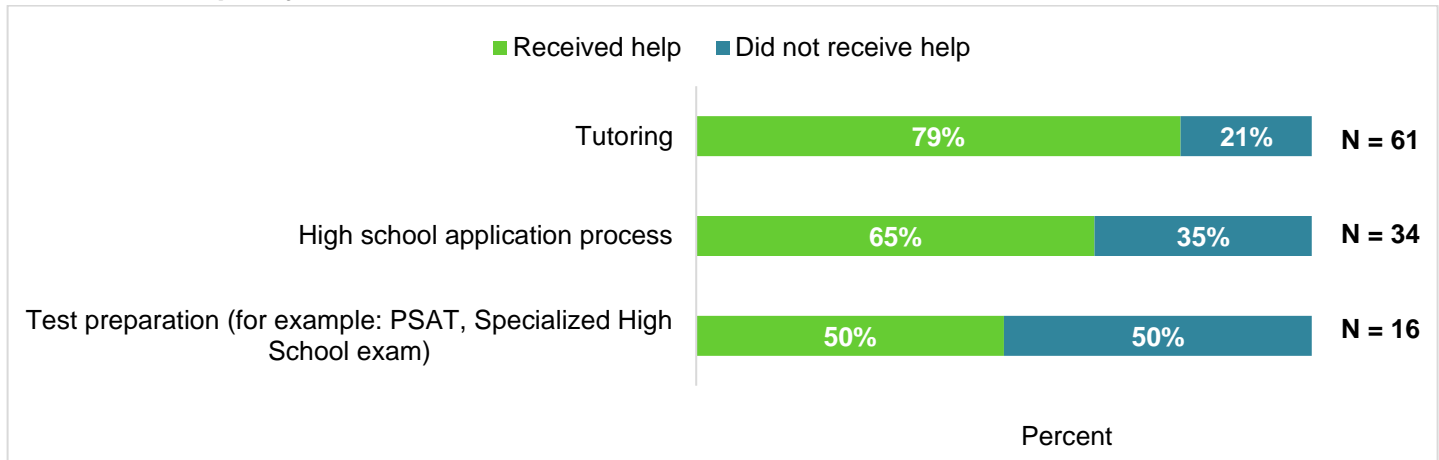


SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Extent to which needs were met. Figure 5 reflects the extent to which youth's needs for specific education services in the past year were met or unmet. Overall, there were relatively low levels of unmet need for education services as reported by youth in grades 6 through 8.

- **Tutoring:** 61 students noted that they needed this service; of these, 79 percent received this service and 21 percent did not.
- **High school application process:** Of the 34 youth who responded that they needed this service, 65 percent had received it while 35 percent had not.
- **Test preparation:** Of the 16 students who needed this education service, 50 percent reported they have received it and the other 50 percent reported they did not.

Figure 5. Youth in grades 6 through 8 reporting they received the education service needed in the past year



SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

A.4 How many youth in foster care are no longer in school?

The survey asked if a youth is currently still in school. The respondents that indicated they had dropped out of high school were asked three questions: the reason they were no longer in school, their highest grade completed, and if they were interested in returning to school.

Thirty-eight respondents indicated they had dropped out of high school. Of the 38 youth, 12 youth identified not feeling like they belonged in school and 12 cited lack of encouragement to continue with school as the reason for dropping out of high school (Table 7). Ten respondents reported that they had failed too many classes. Other reasons identified for no longer attending high school were that they needed to work (six youth), were unable to get to school, were expecting a child, had to provide care for a child or adult, were expelled from school, and did not get along with classmates.

Table 7: Reason youth no longer in school (N = 38)

I did not feel that I belonged there	12
I had no encouragement to continue with school	12
I failed too many classes	10
I needed to work	6
I was unable to get there	*
Expecting a child	*
I had to provide child care and/or care for an adult	*
I was kicked out / expelled for bad behavior	*
I did not get along with my classmates	*
I did not get along with my teachers	*

NOTE: Sum of responses are greater than 38 because youth could select more than one reason. Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

The majority of youth who dropped out of high school had completed some high school (Table 8). Forty-two percent, 16 youth, reported they had completed grade eleven; twenty-nine percent, 11 youth, completed grade ten; and 16 percent, 6 youth, completed grade nine. Youth also reported completing grades 8 and 12.

Table 8: Highest grade achieved for youth no longer in school (N= 38)

What is the highest grade you completed?	Count	Percent
Grade 8	*	*
Grade 9	6	16%
Grade 10	11	29%
Grade 11	16	42%
Grade 12	*	*

NOTE: Table 8 only includes youth who dropped out of high school. Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Over half (58 percent) or 22 of the youth who dropped out of high school were interested in returning to school (Table 9). ACS' Office of Education Support Policy and Planning (OESPP) will follow-up with foster care agencies and ensure these youth are provided the support, information and resources needed so they can return to school. The remaining 16 respondents were not interested in returning to school and either unsure or did not know about returning to school (21 percent and 21 percent, respectively).

Table 9: Interest in returning to school (N = 38)

Are you interested in returning to school?	Count	Percent
Yes	22	58%
No	8	21%
Don't know / Not sure	8	21%

NOTE: Table 9 only includes youth who dropped out of high school.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

B. Help with Employment

B.1 What is the employment status of youth in foster care?

Table 10 shows the distribution of youth in foster care who are actively employed or would like to be employed. Among the 899 youth who were employed or would like to be employed, slightly less than one third (30 percent) had a job or paid internship, while 70 percent indicated they didn't have a job but wanted to work.

Table 10. Employment status of youth in foster care, by age group

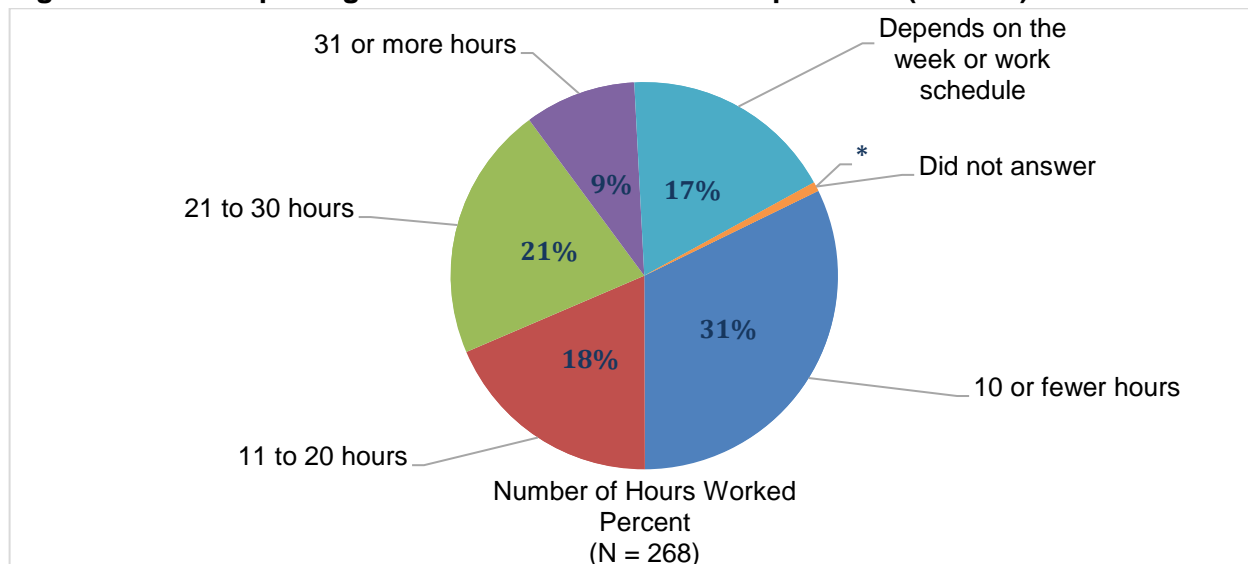
Employment status	Total number of youth (N=899)	Youth age 13 to 15 (N=175)	Youth age 16 to 17 (N=324)	Youth age 18 to 20 (N=400)
Yes, have job/paid internship	30%	11%	23%	44%
No, don't have job/paid internship but want to work	70%	89%	77%	56%

NOTE: Employment status was determined for youth who either have a job or do not have a job but want to work. It does not include youth who answered they are too young to have a job or do not need a job.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Youth aged 18 to 20 were more likely to be employed than their younger counterparts. Forty-four percent of youth age 18 to 20 had a job or paid internships compared with 23 percent for the 16 to 17 age group and eleven percent of the 13 to 15 group.

The survey asked youth who were employed to indicate the number of hours worked per week (Figure 6). Of the 268 youth who reported having a job or paid internship, about one third worked 10 hours or less per week, 18 percent worked 11 to 20 hours per week and 21 percent worked 21 to 30 hours. Only nine percent reported working more than 31 hours weekly. Seventeen percent stated the number of hours a week they work depends on the week or their work schedule. Seventeen percent stated the number of hours a week they work depends on the week or their work schedule. Only nine percent reported working more than 31 hours weekly. Seventeen percent stated the number of hours a week they work depends on the week or their work schedule.

Figure 6. Youth reporting the number of hours worked per week (N = 268)

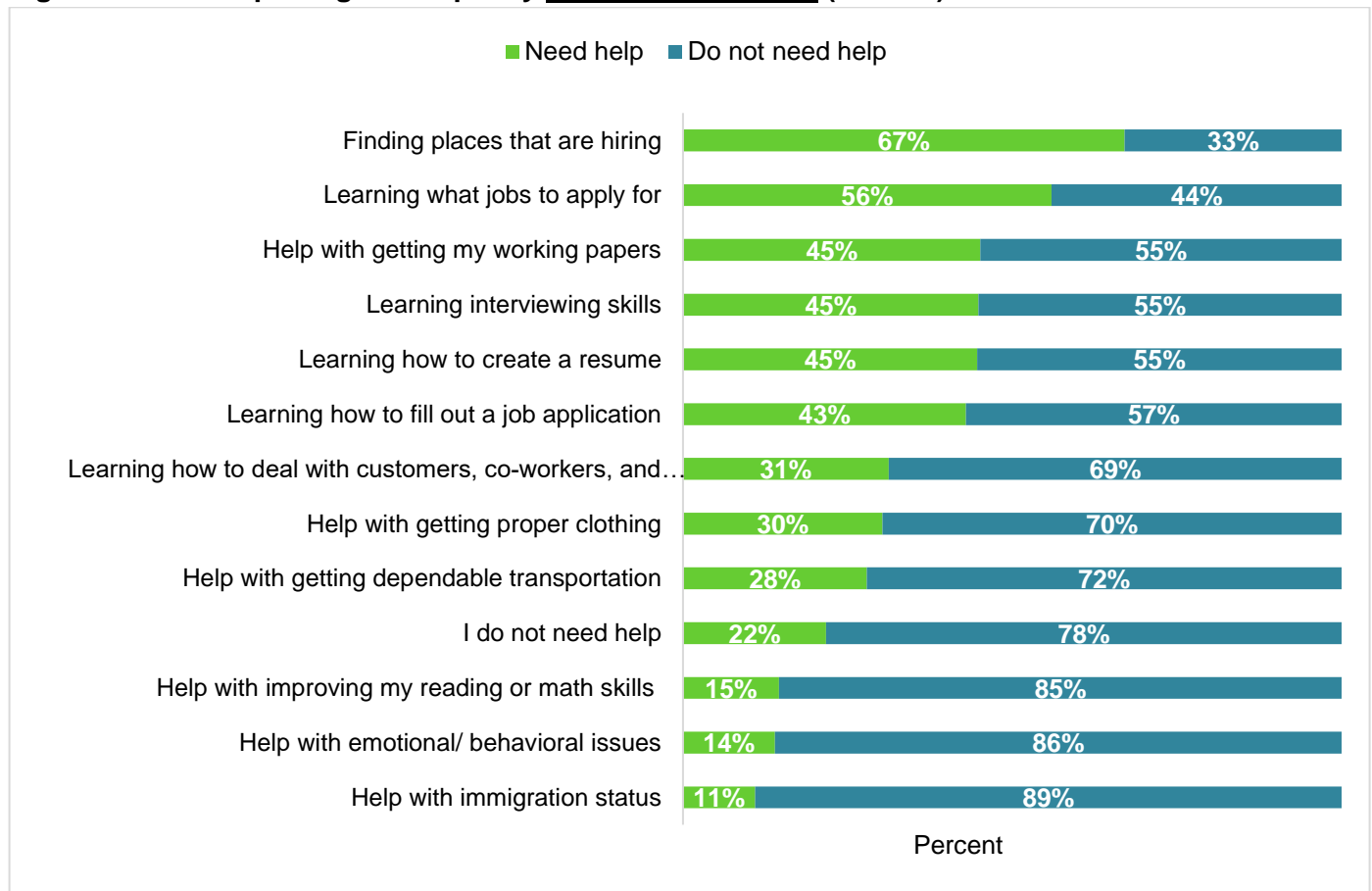
NOTE: Data in this figure are based on the number of youth who reported they had a job. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding. Findings in which the N is between 1 and 5 are not reported, these are represented by an asterisk (*).

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

B.2 What help did youth need and receive to find a job?

Help needed in finding a job. The survey data shows that unemployed youth who want to work most frequently needed help with finding places that are hiring (67 percent); and more than half of respondents needed help with learning what jobs to apply for (56 percent) (Figure 7). Other employment needs that were in high demand were help with getting working papers, learning how to create a resume, learning interviewing skills, and learning how to fill out a job application. Given modifications in the survey questions from last year to this year, the results cannot be compared to the previous survey's findings.

Figure 7. Youth reporting the help they needed to find a job (N = 631)



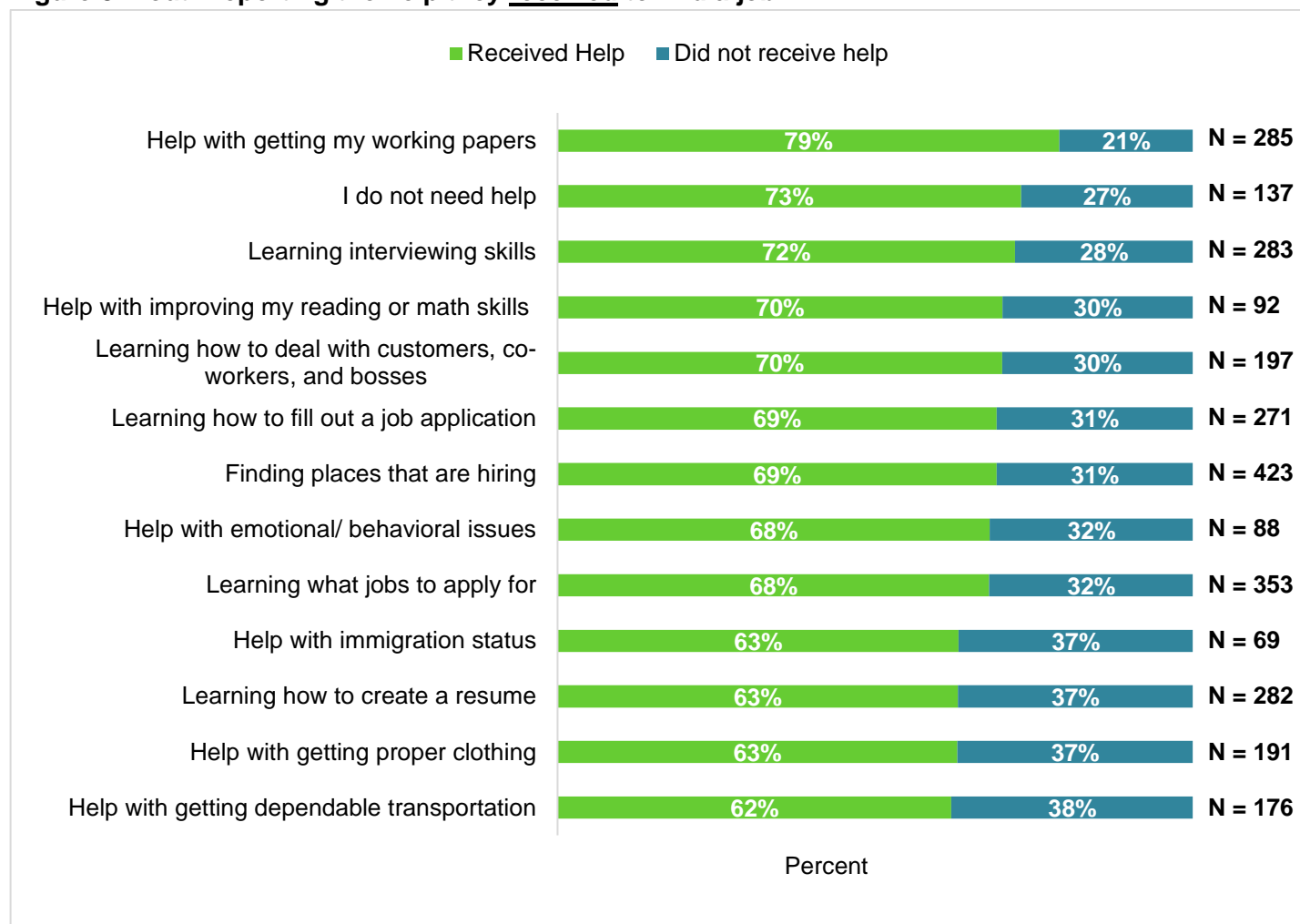
NOTE: Percentages are based on youth who reported that they did not have a job but would like to find one and if the youth noted they needed job help and/or if they received job help. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding. Youth reported they need help finding proper clothing for work, not help getting clothing in general.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019

Help received in finding a job. The survey data shows that many of the unemployed youth who want to work received services to find a job (Figure 8). Respondents were receiving help with obtaining their working papers (79 percent), finding places that are hiring (73 percent), creating a resume (72 percent), dealing with customers/co-workers/bosses (70 percent), and learning what jobs to apply for (70 percent). While many of the youth reported receiving help with finding a job, there were areas of unmet need. The areas with the highest levels of unmet need were help with

improving reading or math skills (30 percent), getting dependable transportation (38 percent), and obtaining proper clothing (37 percent).

Figure 8. Youth reporting the help they received to find a job



NOTE: Percentages are based on youth who reported they did not have a job but would like to find one and if job help was needed. Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

B.3 How much weekly allowance do youth receive?

The survey asked youth about the allowance they receive weekly. Table 11 shows the amount of allowance for all youth, youth reporting they had a job or paid internship, and those without a job or paid internship.

Table 11. Weekly allowance by employment status of youth in foster care

Allowance (\$)	All youth (N= 1,094)	Youth with a job or paid internship (N = 265)	Youth without a job or paid internship (N = 829)
\$0 or nothing	18%	19%	18%
\$1 to \$15	25%	21%	26%
\$16 to \$30	31%	24%	33%
More than \$30	25%	35%	21%

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019.

Of the 1,094 youth who provided information on the amount of weekly allowance they received, one-fourth (25 percent) received more than \$30 and almost one third received \$16 to \$30. Another one-fourth of respondents (25 percent) received \$1 to \$15 and 18 percent reported receiving no allowance.

Youth with a job or paid internship reported receiving a high allowance of more than \$30 as compared to youth without an additional income source (35 percent versus 21 percent, respectively). Youth in foster care who are over the age of 16 are encouraged to participate in workshops that focus on developing independent living skills, including preparing for employment. Youth receive a stipend for participation, which may have been received or perceived as an allowance by some youth.

C. Support from Family and Friends

C1. To whom do youth turn for help when they need it?

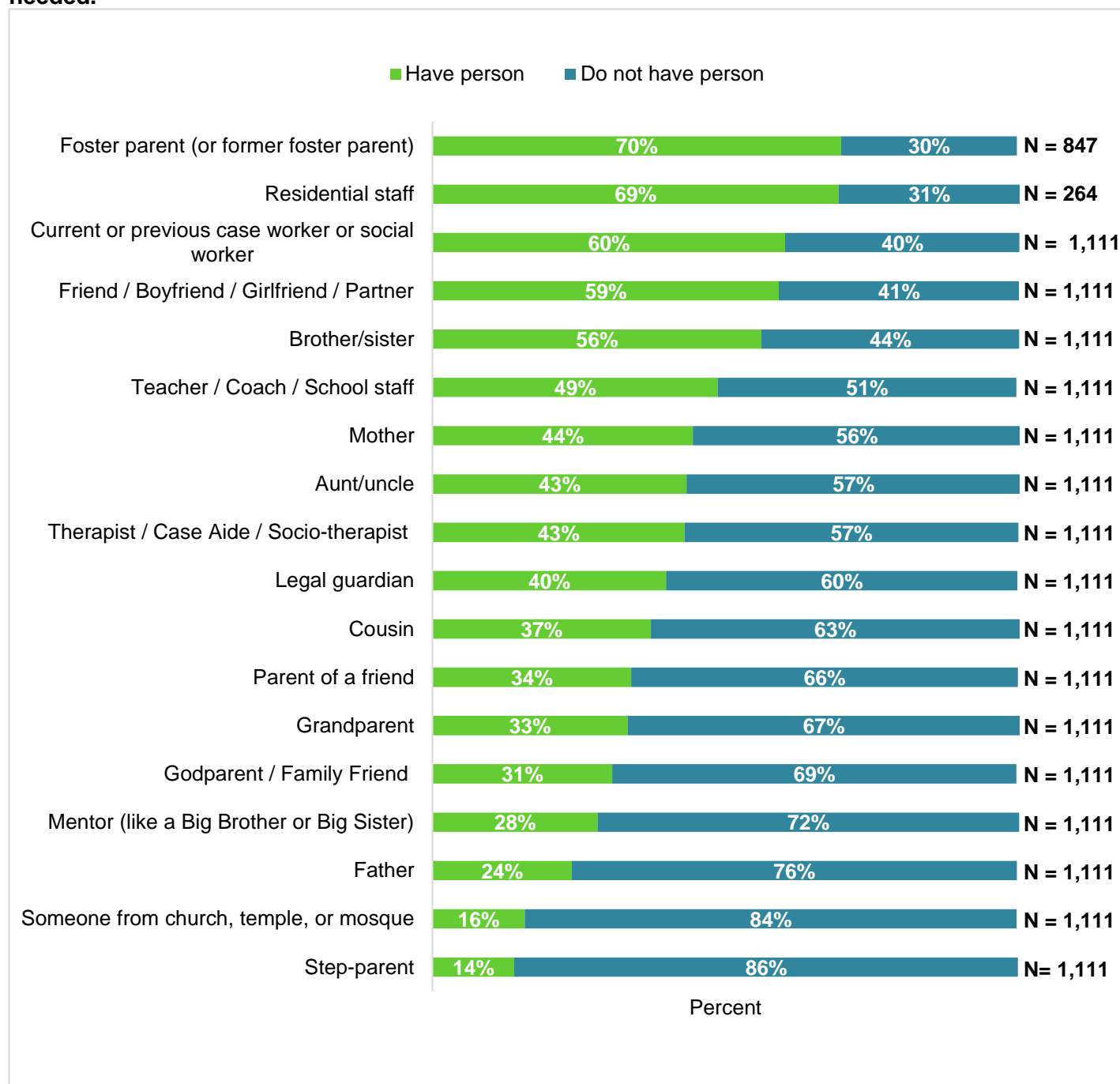
The survey asked youth to indicate which individuals in their lives to whom they could turn to when they needed help. The list included parents, relatives, foster parents, agency staff, social workers, friends or other individuals who may be part of the youth's life.

Foster parents and residential staff. Survey data were analyzed separately on whether the youth are in foster/kinship homes, or in residential treatment centers/group homes. The survey data show that 70 percent of the youth felt that they could turn to their foster parent for help if they need it (Figure 10). Similarly, sixty-nine percent of youth residing in residential/group home settings felt they could turn toward staff for help when they need it.

Other individuals to whom youth could turn for help. Youth in foster care also identified other family, friends, agency staff, and individuals in their lives to whom they could turn to for help when needed (Figure 9). Sixty percent identified their current or previous caseworkers, or social workers as individuals with supportive roles in their lives. Fifty-nine percent turn to friends/partner in their time of need and 56 percent turn to their siblings. Nearly half of the youth indicated a teacher (49 percent), therapist (43 percent), legal guardian (40 percent) and mother (44 percent) as sources of help. Although less commonly reported by respondents, other individuals with an important role

in the lives of youth include cousins (37 percent), parent of a friend (34 percent), grandparents (33 percent) and godparents or family friend (31 percent).

Figure 9. Youth reporting the persons in their lives they could turn to for help when needed.



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, FY19

C.2 To what extent are foster parents and residential facility staff supportive and in what ways?

Overall, youth in foster homes or kinship homes reported higher levels of support than those in residential treatment centers or group homes (Table 12). Most of the youth in foster or kinship homes felt very supported by their foster parents (63 percent) while fewer than half of the youth in residential treatment centers felt the same way about the facility staff (46 percent).

Table 12. Youth reporting the extent to which they feel supported by foster parents or residential facility staff

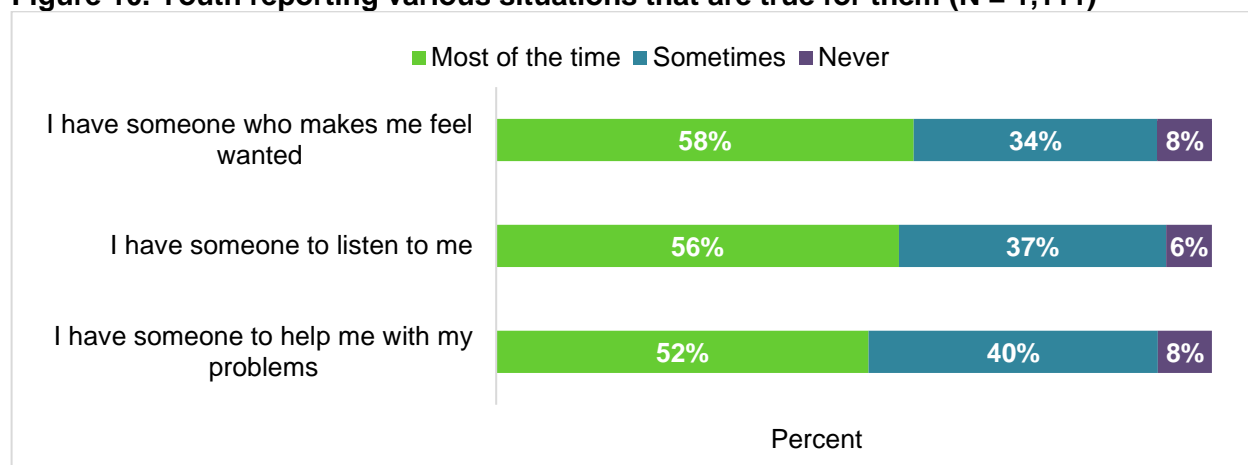
	Youth in foster or kinship family home (N = 841)	Youth in residential treatment center or group home (N = 251)
Yes, very supported	63%	46%
Yes, somewhat supported	26%	38%
No, not very supported	7%	10%
No, not supported at all	4%	6%

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

C.3 To what extent do youth receive emotional support?

Overall, a majority of the youth in foster care had someone to help them with problems, listen to them, and makes them feel wanted, most of the time (Figure 10). For example, in response to the question of the extent to which a stated situation was true for them, more than half (58 percent) of the foster care youth reported that they had someone who makes them feel wanted most of the time, while 34 percent had someone to provide this support some of the time. ACS will follow-up with the youth, and the foster care agency if necessary, who reported they do not feel supported at all, to see what additional support and resources they may need.

Figure 10. Youth reporting various situations that are true for them (N = 1,111)



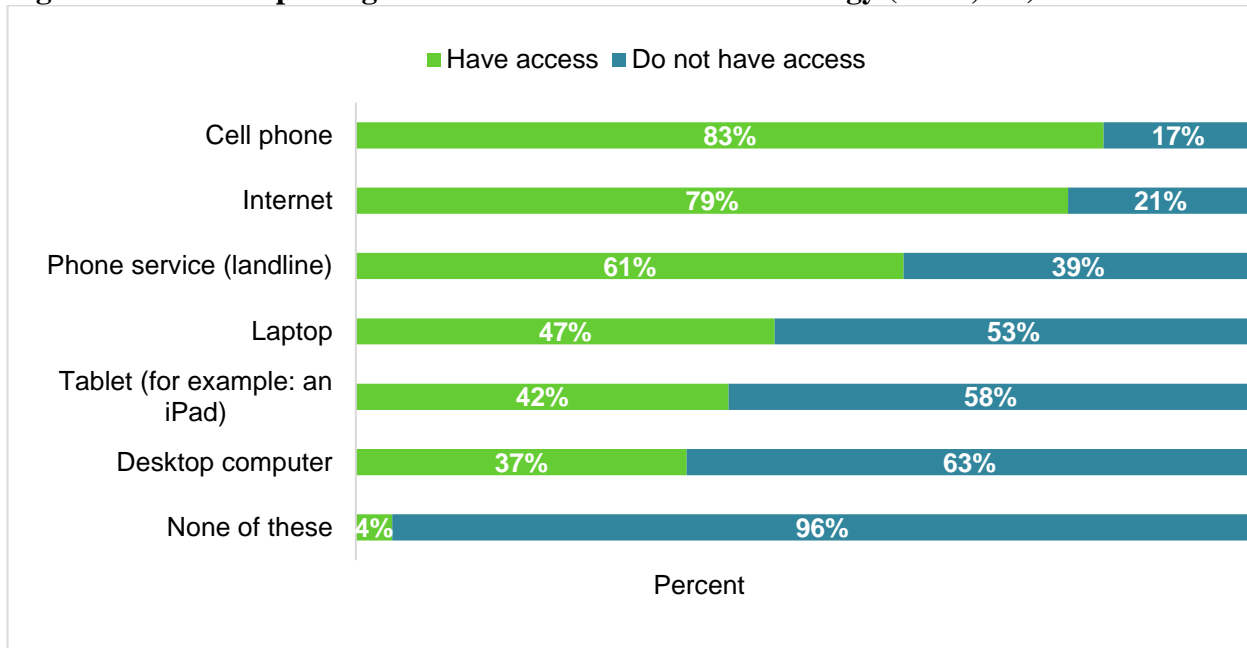
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

D. Social Interaction and Communication

D.1 Do youth have access to communication technologies?

Most foster care youth reported they have access to cell phones and the Internet (83 percent and 79 percent, respectively) (Figure 11). In addition, most of the youth reported they have access to landline phone services (61 percent). Fewer youth reported having access to desktops (37 percent), tablets (42 percent), and laptops (47 percent).

Figure 11. Youth reporting access to communication technology (N = 1,111)

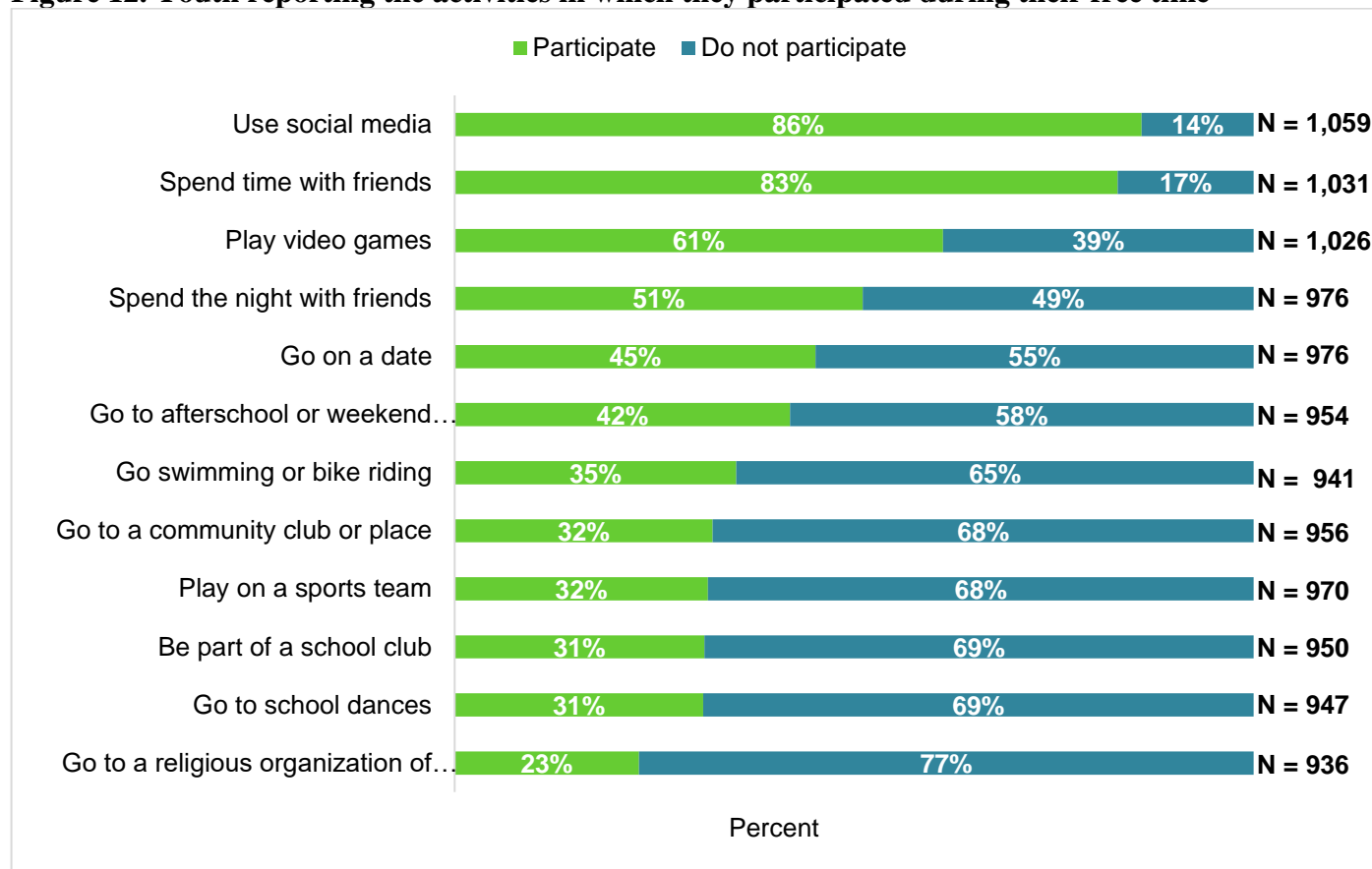


NOTE: The "None of these" data was not reported in first annual survey.
SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

D.2 Do youth engage in various social activities?

Using social media and spending time with friends were the two most popular activities identified by the respondents (Figure 12). Other activities youth reported participating in were playing video games (61 percent), spending the night with friends (51 percent) and going on dates (45 percent). Youth were less likely to report spending their free time with sports teams, or other extracurricular activities that were school or community-based activities. The percentage of youth participating in these activities ranged from 31 percent for school clubs and sports teams to 42 percent for after school or weekend school events.

Figure 12. Youth reporting the activities in which they participated during their free time



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

D.3 What activities would youth like to do that they are not currently doing?

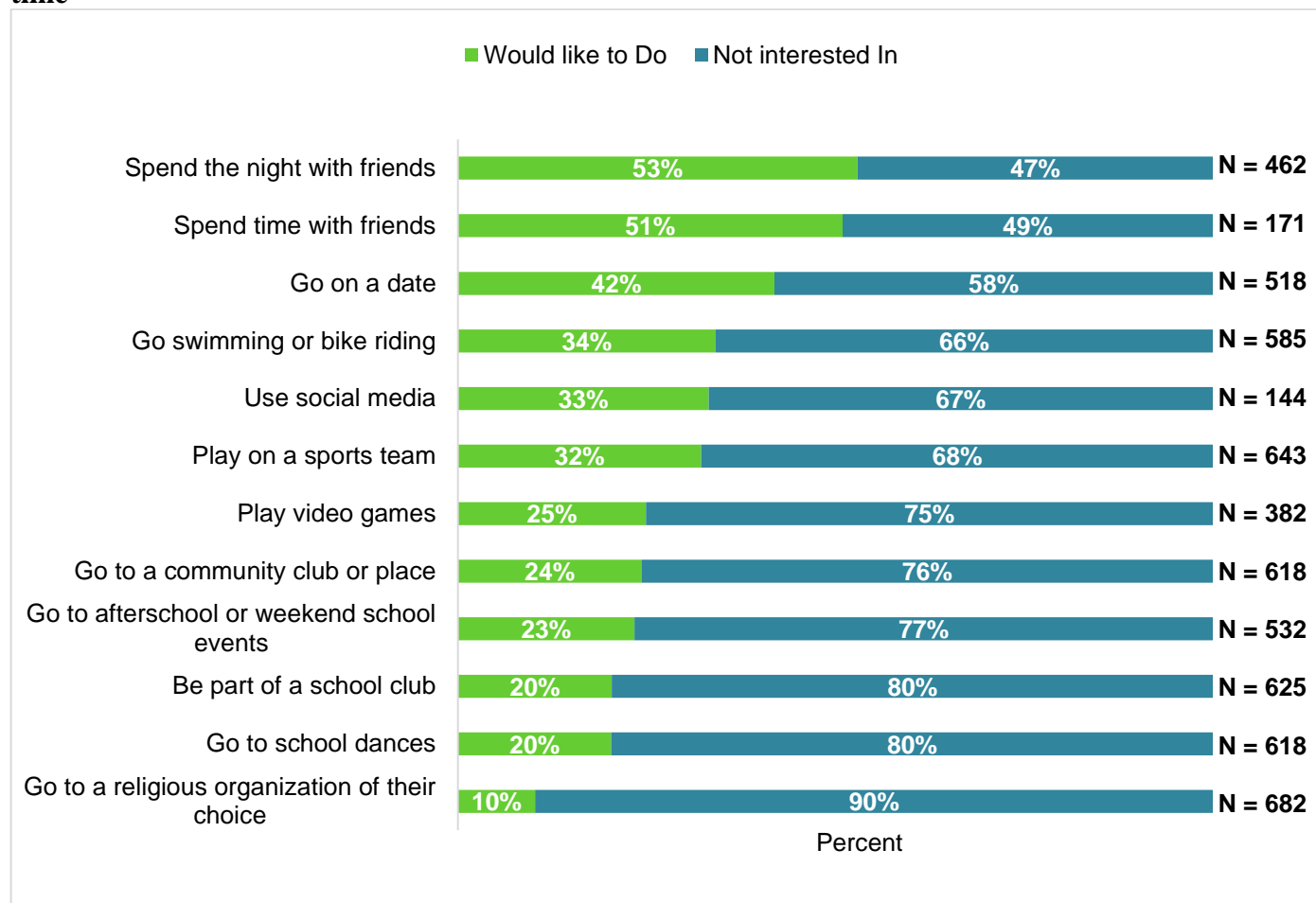
Youth who were not engaged in an activity listed in Figure 12 above were asked whether they would like to participate in that activity. Thus, the information presented for each activity in Figure 13 represents the level of unmet need for that social activity.

Spending time with friends and spending the night with friends were among the areas of greatest unmet need for the youth. From the 462 youth who did not report spending the night with friends, 53 percent responded that they would like to do sleepovers. Similarly, 51 percent of the 171 youth who did not spend time with friends indicated that they would like to engage in this activity during their free time.

Youth also reported unmet need in other areas of social activities; 42 percent of youth who did not go on dates but indicated they would like to be involved in these activities, while 32 to 34 percent of the youth did not play on sports teams, or who did not go swimming or bike riding, indicated they would like to participate in these activities. The levels of unmet need in other social

activities ranged from 10 percent for going to a religious organization of their choice to 24 percent for going to a community club or place, and 33 percent for using social media.

Figure 13: Youth reporting the activities they would like to participate in during their free time



NOTE: Youth were asked if they would like to participate in a specific activity if they stated they are not currently participating in that activity.

SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

D.4 What is holding youth back from doing things outside of school or work?

For 56 percent of the respondents, nothing stops them from doing anything outside of school or work (Table 13). Financial difficulties were the most commonly reported barrier for the 1,111 youth who responded to the question of what is holding them back from participating in activities outside of school or work; 29 percent of the youth reported they did not have enough money. Fifteen percent of the youth also reported that they had no transportation.

Table 13. Youth reporting what is holding them back from doing things outside of school or work

Difficulty	Percent	Total
Not enough money	29%	1,111
No transportation	15%	1,111
Have to look after child	5%	1,111
Not allowed by foster parent*	7%	847
Not allowed by rules in the program^	28%	264
Nothing stops me from doing things outside of school or work^^	56%	1111

*Data based on the 847 youth in foster or kinship homes who responded to the survey question

^Date based on the 264 youth in residential treatment centers or group homes who responded to the survey question.

^^Data was not reported in the first annual survey.

NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Foster Care Youth Experience Survey: 2019.

E. Access to Healthcare, Basic Needs and Religious Practices

E.1 What healthcare services do youth need and receive?

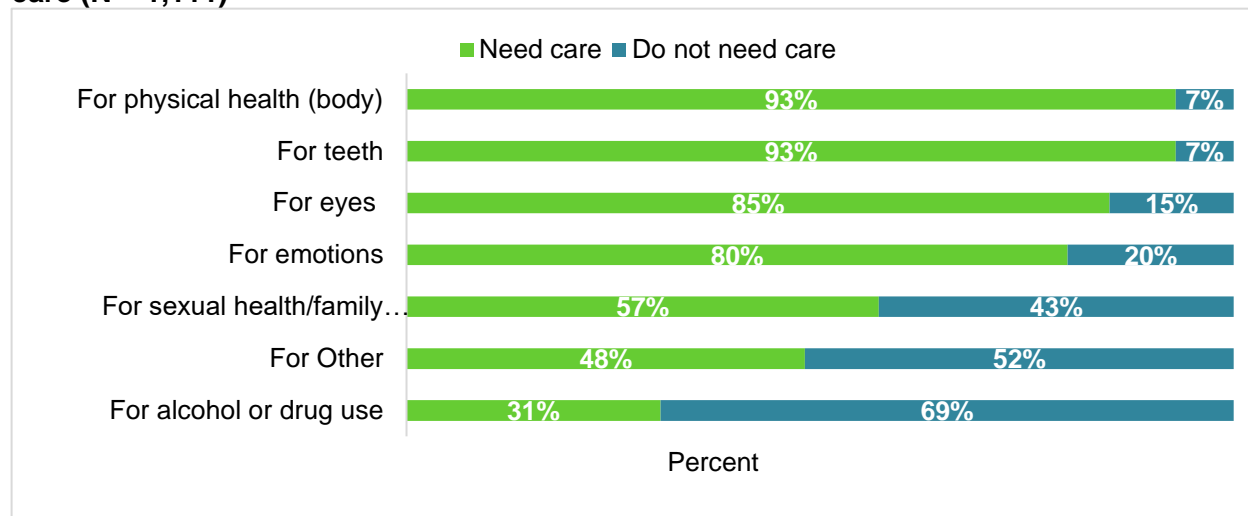
The survey asked youth whether they are getting the healthcare they need for physical, dental, emotional, vision, sexual health, and alcohol or drug use. For each of the healthcare services examined, responses from the youth were used to create two indicators: whether the youth needed the service and whether they received what they needed.

The information presented in Figures 14 and 15 reflect the extent to which health care services were needed and met in six health areas.

- **Physical health:** Almost all youth (93 percent) reported needing physical health care services. Of the 1,035 youth who reported needing physical health care, 94 percent received this care and 6 percent did not.
- **Mental health (included in the survey as “emotions”):** Eighty percent of respondents indicated they needed care for their mental health. Of the 886 youth who needed this care, the majority (87 percent) reported receiving it and 13 percent did not.
- **Eyes:** Eighty-five percent of youth reported that they needed care for their eyes. Of the 945 youth who needed this care, 89 percent received it, while 11 percent did not.
- **Dental care (included in the survey as “teeth”):** Almost all youth (93 percent) reported needing dental care. Of the 1,032 respondents who needed care for their teeth, 88 percent reported they had received it and 12 percent did not.
- **Alcohol or drug use:** Almost one-third (31 percent) of youth reported needing care for alcohol or drug use. Of the 340 youth who needed care for alcohol or drug use, 87 percent received it and 13 percent did not.

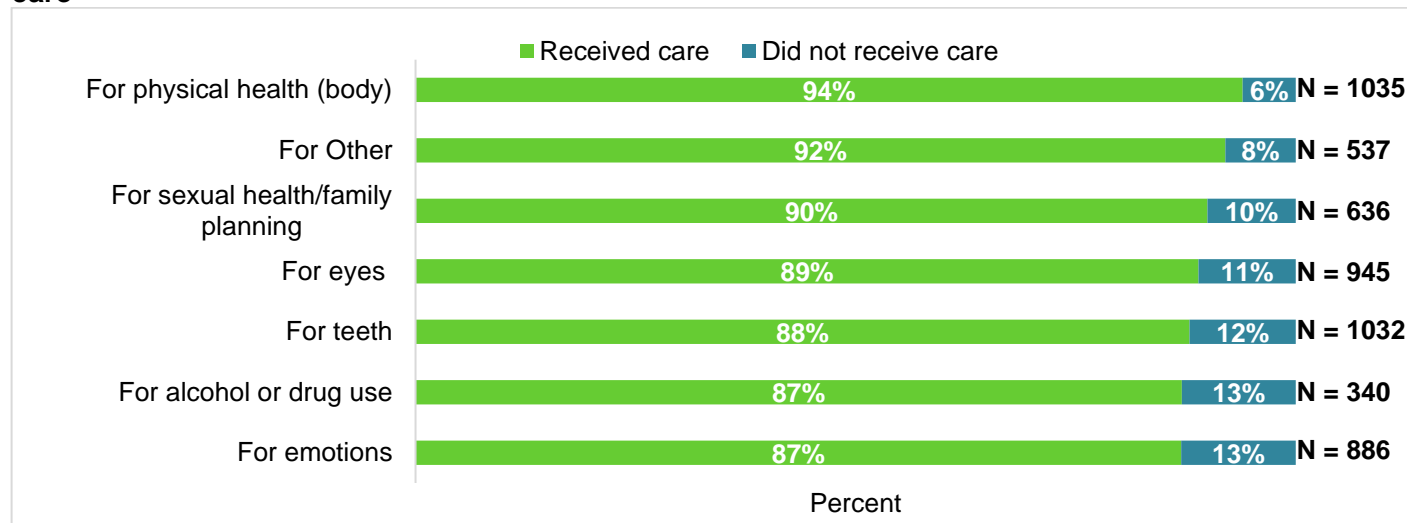
- **Sexual health/family planning:** More than half (57 percent) of the youth needed care for sexual health/family planning. Of the 636 respondents who needed this care, 90 percent reported they had received it and 10 percent had not.

Figure 14. Youth in foster care reporting whether they needed various types of health care (N = 1,111)



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

Figure 15. Youth in foster care reporting whether they received various types of health care



SOURCE: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

E.2 Can you practice your religion where you live right now?

To assess if youth have access to faith and practice, the survey asked if youth were able to practice their religion where they live. Forty-one percent responded that they do not have a religion; 51 percent reported practicing their religion where they live; and 9 percent reported they cannot practice their religion where they live. ACS will give guidance to foster care agencies to ensure youth are supported and allowed to practice their religion.

E.3 Are basic needs for food and clothes being met?

The survey included four questions regarding basic needs for food, clothing and shoes. Youth responses to these questions were monitored daily during data collection. For responses deemed concerning, ACS immediately contacted youth if the answer to any of the four questions was affirmative. Additional follow up was conducted with foster care agencies, the youth and foster parents as appropriate.

Ninety-two percent of youth reported they were provided with three meals per day and 90 percent reported they have appropriate clothing (which means the clothing is clean, fits and has no holes) (Figure 16). Of the 1,111 survey respondents, 93 percent reported they have shoes that fit. Due to changes in the wording for the questions in this section, the data were not compared to the first annual survey.

In depth follow-up was conducted in each case. ACS senior level staff spoke to youth directly and/or provider agency staff. In 52 percent of cases, youth indicated in the follow-up that they did have adequate food and clothing, and that they either misunderstood the questions or stated they had no concern. In 43 percent of the follow-up cases, youth indicated that they did have necessary food but wanted a particular type of food. With regards to clothing, the youth reported having clothing but wanted a particular style of clothing or needed more clothing for the current season. In these cases, ACS ensured that the foster care agencies met with the youth and foster parents to resolve these issues, which often led to youth obtaining new clothing. In 5 percent of cases, at the time of follow-up, the youth had either been moved from their prior placement or discharged from care.

Figure 16. Youth reporting basic needs in the past year (N = 1,111)



SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey: 2019

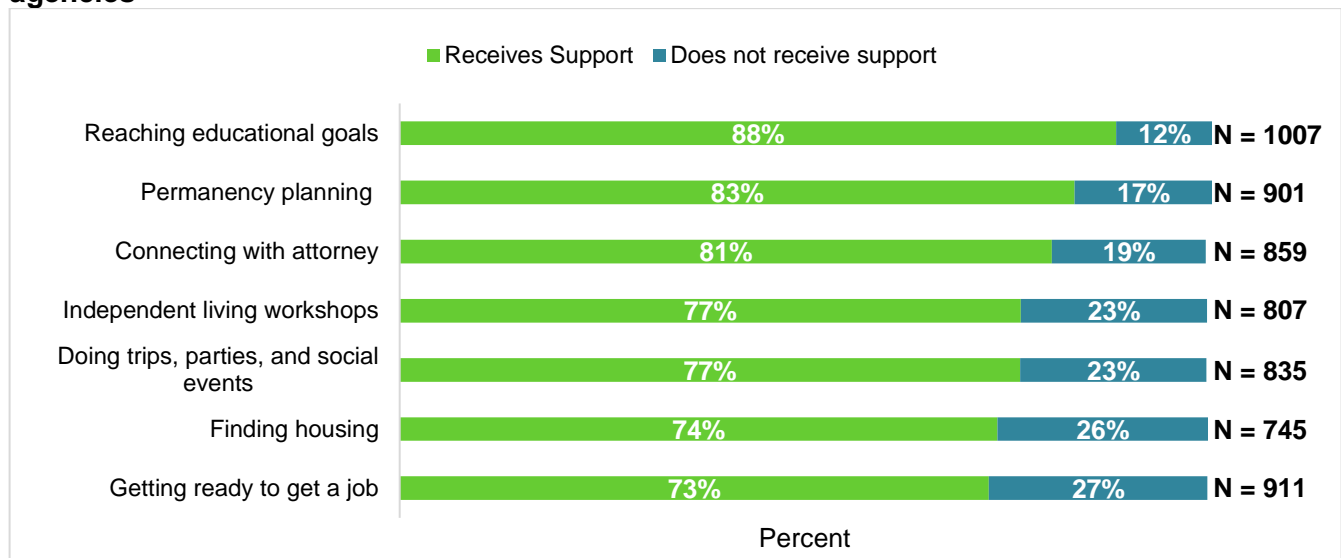
F. Support from Foster Care Agencies

F.1 What support services do youth need and receive from foster care agencies?

The survey asked youth whether their foster care agencies provide them with seven types of support related to education goals; getting ready for jobs; permanency planning; independent living workshops; trips, parties, and social events; housing; and connecting with attorneys.

Support services received. The survey data showed various levels of services received across the various types of support (Figure 17). The areas of greatest support from foster care agencies to youth was indicated in helping them reach education goals (88 percent). The majority also selected they are getting what they need from their agency in permanency planning (83 percent), connecting them with their Law Guardian (81 percent), Independent Living Workshops (77 percent) and doing trips, parties and social activities (77 percent). Fewer youth reported receiving support getting ready to get a job (73 percent) and finding housing (74 percent).

Figure 17. Youth reporting whether they needed various types of support from foster care agencies



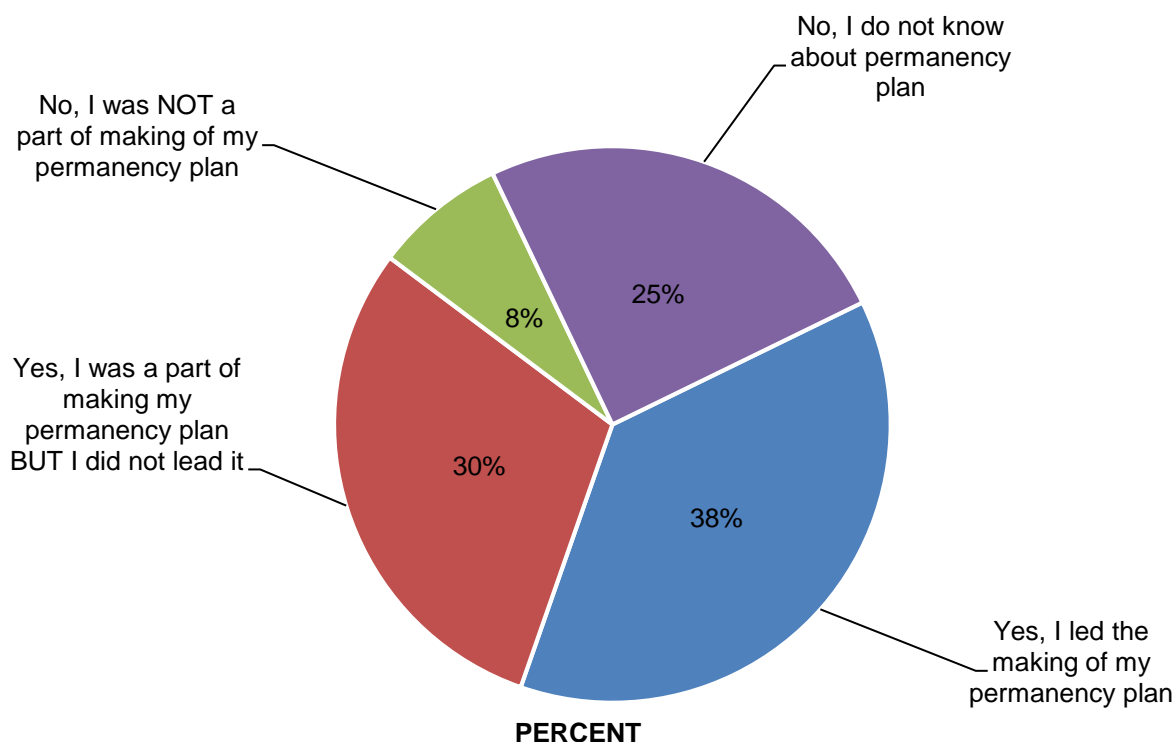
NOTE: Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey, 2019

F.2 To what extent are youth involved in permanency planning?

Figure 18 shows the distribution for various levels of youth involvement in their permanency planning. Two thirds of the youth in foster care either led the making of their permanency plan or were involved in this activity. Of the 1,094 youth responding to this survey item, 38 percent led the making of their permanency plan while another 30 percent were part of their permanency plan but did not lead it. However, one quarter (25 percent) of the foster care youth said they did not know about their permanency plan and eight percent knew about the plan but were not a part of making their permanency plan.

Figure 18. Youth reporting on their involvement in their permanency plan (N = 1,094)



NOTE: For each type of agency support, percentages are based on youth who reported that they needed the support in figure 18.

SOURCE: Foster Care Experience Survey: 2019.

F.3 Who supports the youth in their permanency planning?

Youth who were involved in the making of their permanency plans were asked to identify the individuals who supported them in this endeavor. Foster care youth most frequently identified their caseworkers at the foster care agencies as the individuals that supported them in their permanency planning (77 percent). In addition, two-thirds (66 percent) identified their foster parent as providing support in permanency planning.

In the second annual survey, 58 percent of the youth identified their residential care staff as providing support in permanency planning compared to 66 percent of the youth in the first annual survey.

Table 14. Youth reporting whether various individuals supported them in their permanency planning

Individual	Provided support	N
My lawyer	58%	839
Foster parent	66%	607
Residential staff	58%	232
Teacher	14%	839
Friend	23%	839
Birth parent	27%	839
Case worker at my foster care agency	77%	839
No one supports me in my permanency planning	5%	839

NOTE: Table 14 does not include youth who reported "I do not know about my permanency plan."

Source: Youth Experience Survey, 2019

V. ACS Initiatives Supporting Older Youth

ACS is currently implementing a range of programs and initiatives to improve youth experiences, outcomes and well-being through the Foster Care Strategic Blueprint and the Interagency Foster Care Task Force. The results of this survey are informing this work.

Youth Voice

To further engage youth and ensure their voices inform practice change, ACS recently formed a **Youth Council to bring youth and adult leaders together to work in partnership on youth-related areas of policy, practices and/or services.** The ACS Youth Council launched in March 2019 and the members include youth currently and previously in foster care. The goals of the Youth Council are to develop the leadership skills of youth, advocate for changes and improvements in policies and areas of mutual concern, establish a youth voice in the foster care community, and build a positive social network.

Improving Permanency Outcomes

ACS continues to work aggressively to improve permanency outcomes for youth in foster care. As outlined in the [Fiscal Year 2018 ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint Status Report](#), ACS is implementing several initiatives to improve reunification, adoption, and kinship guardianship outcomes for children and youth in foster care. One of the primary initiatives focused on older youth is the **Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) partnership with the Dave Thomas Foundation.** WWK is an evidence-based, child-focused recruitment model with the critical mission of finding permanency for older youth, sibling groups, and youth with special needs. This includes staff working with smaller caseloads, ensuring that they can provide the youth they serve with the attention, resources, and support they need to achieve legal permanency.

ACS continues to **leverage the amended NYS KinGAP legislation to achieve permanency for youth in foster care.** This includes exploring KinGAP as an option for families and youth who may meet the criteria for the program based on the expanded definition of “relative” – now included are adults who have a positive relationship with youth prior to their entry into care, such as a godparent or teacher; and, offering the kinship program subsidy as financial support to guardians up until the youth is age 21, regardless of their age when guardianship was granted.

High Quality Placements for Youth

Through the Home Away from Home (HAFH) initiative, **ACS continues its focus on increasing placement with kin and enhancing the way foster parents are recruited and supported.** ACS has partnered with national experts Public Catalyst and Action Research to provide intensive technical assistance to the foster care agencies focused on analyzing data, assessing business processes, and developing and implementing a range of new and innovative strategies for number of new foster homes that accepted placements increased by 32 percent from FY17 to FY18, and the proportion of children and youth placed with kin rose from 31 percent in FY17 to 38 percent in

the first quarter of FY19. Additionally, HAFH supports ACS and foster care providers develop foster homes for older youth from their current experienced foster parents. These lessons-learned highlight that seasoned foster parents who demonstrate flexibility, possess the ability to positively manage disagreements, or were trained as a therapeutic foster parent can expand the pool of caregivers for older youth and provide stable, caring homes for them. HAFH is supported by ACS, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, New York Community Trust, Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Ira W. DeCamp Foundation, Joseph Leroy & Ann C. Warner Fund, and Tiger Foundation.

Mental Health and Other Services for Youth

The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) has agreed to grant ACS access to PSYCKES, a web-based application that maintains information on diagnosis, medications, and medical and behavioral health outpatient and inpatient services for children on Medicaid, including children in foster care. With the information from PSYCKES, ACS can build future service capacity, assist in program and resource planning, and support agencies in the delivery of tailored health and mental health services. ACS is currently meeting with our partners in the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and OMH to address confidentiality considerations for data sharing.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) launched a **High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) pilot in January 2019 for NYC children with significant mental health needs**, including youth in foster care. HFW is an evidence-based model of care coordination that uses a highly structured, team-based, family/child centered management process for children and youth with serious social, emotional, or behavioral concerns who are involved in multiple child service systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, special education). HFW involves intensive, individualized planning for children and youth, with the goals of empowering youth and families to develop family driven plans, connecting youth and families to community-based services and improving mental health outcomes. Referrals of youth began in January 2019.

ACS and DOHMH have partnered to develop and implement strategies to **increase the utilization of the Nurse Family Partnership and Newborn Home Visiting programs by pregnant and parenting youth in foster care**. This includes conducting outreach and providing marketing materials to foster care agencies in order to increase awareness about the Nurse Family Partnership and Newborn Home Visiting programs, sharing data to track referrals and enrollments of parenting youth in foster care in these programs, and ongoing meetings to identify trends and opportunities for additional outreach.

Education Initiatives

In March 2018, ACS and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) signed an MOU in order to share data with the goal of increasing **access for children in foster care to DYCD afterschool and enrichment programs**. ACS and DYCD since launched a regular data match to identify 5th-8th grade DOE students in foster care who are and are not enrolled in DYCD programs. ACS and DYCD use the results of this analysis to identify opportunities to

connect additional youth in foster care to DYCD programs. This match is now being run every six months in order to continually identify additional youth in foster care who can be connected to DYCD programs.

ACS and the NYC Department of Education (DOE) are partnering to provide academic support. By Fall 2019, the DOE will ensure that all middle school youth in foster care participate in Middle School College Access for All, which will support their post-secondary planning trajectory through college visits, student workshops, caregiver events, and staff professional development.

In consultation with ACS, DOE will provide **specialized supports for youth in foster care.** DOE is hiring approximately 100 school-based Community Coordinators to connect highly mobile youth, including students in foster care, to a range of supportive services. By Fall 2019, DOE will link youth in foster care to Success Mentors, caring adults who identify the underlining causes of student absenteeism and address barriers to attendance to ensure that students reach their academic potential.

ACS and DOE are collaborating to **improve service coordination and regulatory oversight to support DOE students in foster care.** The DOE will release comprehensive guidance on the rights of students in foster care by Spring 2019. Additionally, the DOE Office of Safety and Youth Development will add resources on foster care to its online resource hub by Spring 2019 and incorporate foster care information into its Borough Offices and school-based Designated Liaison trainings by Fall 2019.

The First Star College of Staten Island (CSI) Academy, in partnership with ACS, is a long-term college-prep program for high school youth in foster care. It includes four immersive residential summer programs on a university campus and monthly weekend sessions during the school year. During the residential sessions, youth are supported by professional and staff and youth coaches who were foster care involved. Throughout all four years, Academy staff provide long-term case management to the youth and their families to assist youth in focusing on academics, life skills and engagement. During the summer, students live on the college campus and after the summer, students visit the CSI campus one Saturday a month during the academic year. The First Star Academy is a collaborative that includes ACS, the College of Staten Island and First Star, Inc. The program is supported by ACS, CUNY, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and New Yorkers for Children. The program currently serves 29 youth in foster care.

The Fostering College Success Initiative (FCSI), in partnership with CUNY and the New York Foundling, provides youth from the foster care system with a college residential experience, year-round housing in CUNY dorms, on-campus tutoring, and 24/7 on-site support staff who provide financial, academic and socio-emotional support to foster youth in college. A weekly stipend is provided to students to support living expenses, allowing students to have a normalized college experience and focus on academics. The CUNY FCSI, also called the CUNY Dorm Project, includes dormitory space at the Queens College, City College, John Jay College, and College of Staten Island. The program has been effective at helping students improve their grade point

averages and credit attainment while simultaneously helping first-generation college students transition from a successful college experience to a career. The program has grown from 50 students in 2017 to 122 students in 2019.

ACS continues to host our **Annual Spring College Tours** for high school students to expose them to college life and help them choose the most appropriate school. This year, students visited SUNY, CUNY and private college campuses and participated in college access workshops. The Spring College tour is a week-long experience for foster care youth where each day youth visit college campuses to learn about their admission process, available financial aid, academic studies and campus life. The program also provides information that helps students plan and apply for college.

Employment Initiatives

ACS continues to implement key strategies to improve employment outcomes for youth.

In 2016, ACS established the **Office of Employment and Workforce Development Initiatives** (OEWDI), which is dedicated to expanding programming and resources to improve employment outcomes for youth in care. Last year OEWDI coordinated services for more than 1,200 youth in foster care through paid internships, career readiness programming, mentoring, vocational training and employment. OEWDI develops services, initiatives and partnerships that build capacity within the foster care system to connect youth to college support and workforce development programs throughout NYC. OEWDI initiatives support youth development for educational and career planning, mentoring, work-based learning, employment and career advancement.

ACS is partnering with New Yorkers for Children (NYFC) and Youth Villages (YV) to pilot YVLifeSet, an evidence-based program for young adults ages 17-22 who have been involved in the foster care, juvenile justice and/or mental health systems as young adults. The YVLifeSet model, currently being implemented by two foster care providers, uses specialists to provide youth with intensive community-based support comprised of both clinical and skill-building interventions. The goals of YVLifeSet Success are to support youth to maintain stable and suitable housing, participate in educational/vocational programs, find and sustain employment, remain free from Court involvement, develop healthy relationships, build a strong and permanent support system, engage with youth's families and social supports, strengthen mental health stability, and develop fundamental life skills.

ACS has expanded its partnership with **The Workplace Center at Columbia University** to provide technical assistance to a total of 10 foster care provider agencies via the **Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers (YA WORC)** curriculum. YA WORC is an evidenced informed career readiness program that trains foster care agency staff to provide comprehensive, developmentally appropriate career readiness programming to youth in foster care ages 14 – 21. The agencies receive technical assistance and training to develop an on-site

career club that provides peer-to-peer experiential learning and instruction on how to develop educational and career plans, resumes and cover letters, and decisions based on labor market information. YA WORC builds the capacity of agency staff to use different age-appropriate strategies to prepare youth in foster care for meaningful careers. Through YA WORC, ACS has served more than 200 youth in foster care and launched career clubs at ten agencies.

The **Drivers Education Program** has grown to support more than 200 foster care youth in obtaining a driver's license, which provides a normative experience and expands their job options.

ACS continues to partner with the DYCD to administer the **Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) Plus**. The YAIP+ provides 20 hours of paid internships for two weeks. The program focuses on assisting youth to explore careers, improve work readiness and literacy while simultaneously providing supportive, trauma-informed case management services. The program serves youth in foster care ages 16 to 24 years old and DYCD providers, the Opportunity for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) and the Door deliver these services in partnership with ACS. To date the YAIP+ has served over 200 youth.

During the summer, ACS provides two paid summer internships programs, the **Vulnerable Youth (VY) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** and the **College Internship Program (CIP)**. Both programs provide paid internship experiences to youth ages 14 and older. The program offers a one-to-one supervisory approach with assignments based on youths' interests or college course work. The VY SYEP program is a six-week program that operates for 25 hours per week and the CIP is an eight-week program that operates for 35 hours per week. For the VY SYEP program, ACS partners with DYCD to ensure that hundreds of youth in care are receiving valuable summer job experiences. **Last year, ACS served more than 900 youth through the VY SYEP and CIP program and developed over 255 worksites.**

ACS continues to partner with the **Pinkerton Foundation** to support a **Mentored-Internship Program (MIP)** across eight foster care agencies. The MIP program provides technical assistance and training through the Workforce Professional Training Institute (WPTI) to agency staff. Through the community-based styled trainings, staff learn to develop on-site internships within the infrastructure of their agencies. With supervision and mentoring provided by agency leadership and staff, youth participate in paid internships that offer 10 hours of work per week over a six-month period during the academic year. The program targets youth in foster care between the ages of 16 - 21 years old. To date, the MIP has provided internship experiences for more than 155 youth. The program has been re-funded by Pinkerton for an additional year.

VI. Conclusion

As previously noted, ACS has multiple initiatives specifically geared towards improving the safety, permanency and well-being of foster care youth that align closely with the ACS Foster Care Strategic Blueprint. The Foster Care Strategic Blueprint consists of the following critical system priorities:

1. Improving Permanency Outcomes
2. Improving Foster Care Placements to Enhance the Well-Being of children
3. Improving Health and Mental Health Services for Children and Youth in Foster Care
4. Improving Outcomes for Youth
5. Building Systematic Capacity
6. Partnering with Youth

In addition to the Foster Care Strategic Blueprint, ACS recently released the [Interagency Foster Care Task Force One Year Progress Report](#). The report reflects significant progress made over the past year including, but not limited to expanding education, employment and other supportive services programs for youth.

The FY19 ACS Youth Experience Survey provides valuable information regarding the experiences of youth between the ages of 13 -21 in foster care. The findings from this survey will be used to inform ongoing ACS' service planning and programming for older youth in the areas of permanency, education, employment, emotional supports, child welfare staff training and other key identified areas.

ACS is reviewing the results with the Youth Council to identify and prioritize approaches for supporting older youth. ACS will also be reviewing the findings with Foster Care Task Force, the legal advocates and other key stakeholders in order to strategically align efforts that support the well-being of older youth.

VII. Appendix A.



Foster Care Experience Survey 2019

ACS is conducting a survey of youth in foster care so that we can learn more -- directly from you -- about your experiences in foster care. The information that you provide will help us improve foster care placements and the services and supports that you receive. Your input is critically important, and we thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this survey.

If you would like to complete the survey in Spanish, French Creole, Mandarin, or Cantonese, either call 212-341-3500 or email Fps.SurveyHelp@acs.nyc.gov.

ACS may follow up with you and/or your agency if your answers lead us to think that there are safety or health issues.

If you have any safety concerns or general questions, please call 212-341-3500.

After submitting your completed survey, please see your case planner for your gift card.

Youth PIN:

You can find your Youth PIN number on the cover letter to this survey. If you don't know your PIN number, please email Fps.SurveyHelp@acs.nyc.gov.

Where do you live? (Check one answer.) [SORTING/SCREENING QUESTION]

- ☐ Foster Home
- ☐ Kinship Family Home (with relative or family friend)
- ☐ Residential Treatment Center
- ☐ Group Home
- ☐ Children's Center
- ☐ Youth Reception Center

Your Education

What grade are you currently in? (Check one) [DROP DOWN MENU WITH GRADES 1-12; COLLEGE; VOCATIONAL SCHOOL/ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM/TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE; HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (FOR EXAMPLE: TASC, GED); GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL-DID NOT ATTEND COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL/ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM/TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE; DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL; ATTENDED COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL/ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAM/TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE BUT I LEFT **[DROPPED**

OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL will go to Question #3, Grades 1-8 will go to Question #10, all others will proceed to Question #6]

Why are you not in school? (Choose all that apply) [FOR THOSE WHO DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL]

- ☐ I failed too many classes
- ☐ I was kicked out / expelled for bad behavior
- ☐ I did not feel that I belonged there
- ☐ I did not get along with my classmates
- ☐ I did not get along with my teachers
- ☐ I had no encouragement to continue with school
- ☐ I needed to work
- ☐ I was unable to get there
- ☐ I am expecting a child
- ☐ I had to provide child care and/or care for an adult

What is the highest grade you completed? [Drop Down with Grade Numbers 6 – 12] [FOR THOSE WHO DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL]

Are you interested in returning to school? [FOR THOSE WHO DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL]

- ☐ Yes (SKIP to Q7)
- ☐ No (SKIP to Q7)
- ☐ Don't know / Not sure (SKIP to Q7)

Do you have plans to continue with your education? Check all that apply [ADD SKIP PATTERN BASED ON Q2, ASK QUESTION OF: GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE, HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (FOR EXAMPLE: TASC, GED), GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL-DID NOT ATTEND COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, ATTENDED COLLEGE BUT I LEFT]

	Yes	No
I plan on finishing high school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to attend college/trade school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan on finishing my high school equivalency program (for example: TASC, GED).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan on finishing my degree.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan on working	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I plan on enrolling in the military	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't know or I'm not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What additional support would you need to continue your education? (Check one answer in each row.) [ADD CONTINUES SKIP PATTERN FROM Q6, ASK THIS QUESTION ONLY OF GRADES 9-12, COLLEGE, HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (FOR EXAMPLE: TASC, GED), AND NOT IN SCHOOL]

	Yes	No
Emotional support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Academic support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the past year, did you NEED any of these services? (Check one in each row. If you do not need a service or if it does not apply to you, check 'No.')

[ADD SKIP PATTERN FROM Q2, ASK THIS QUESTION ONLY OF GRADES 9-12, HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (FOR EXAMPLE: TASC, GED), COLLEGE STUDENTS, AND NOT IN SCHOOL]

	Yes	No
Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help preparing for the high school equivalency test (for example: TASC, GED)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help preparing for college readiness or specialized tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, LSAT, or GRE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help applying for school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help applying for financial aid and/or student loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with attending school fairs or tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

[PROGRAM NEEDED SERVICES ONLY FROM Q8 →] **In the past year, did you RECEIVE these services?** (Check one in each row.) (SKIP to Q12)

	Yes	No
Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help preparing for the high school equivalency test (for example: TASC, GED)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help preparing for college readiness or specialized tests (e.g., SAT, ACT, LSAT, or GRE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help applying for school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help applying for financial aid and/or student loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help with attending school fairs or tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the past year, did you NEED any of these services? (Check one in each row. If you do not need a service or if it does not apply to you, check 'No.')

[ADD SKIP PATTERN TO Q2, ASK THIS QUESTION ONLY OF GRADES 1-8]

	Yes	No
Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High school application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test preparation (PSAT, Specialized High School exam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

[PROGRAM NEEDED SERVICES ONLY FROM Q10 →] **In the past year, did you RECEIVE these services?** (Check one in each row.)

	Yes	No
Tutoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High school application process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test preparation (PSAT, Specialized High School exam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did you ever have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or receive special education services? [EVERYBODY ASKED THIS]

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/not sure

Help with Finding a Job

Do you have a paid job or paid internship? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes, I have a job or a paid internship → **SKIP TO Q14**
- ☐ No, I am too young to have a job → **SKIP TO Q17**
- ☐ No, I do not have a job or paid internship but I want to work → **SKIP TO Q15**
- ☐ No, I do not need a job → **SKIP TO Q17**

How many hours a week do you work? (Check one answer.) [THIS QUESTION ONLY DISPLAYS FOR THOSE WHO ANSWER "YES, I HAVE A JOB OR PAID INTERNSHIP" IN Q13] (SKIP to Q17)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 6 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 to 25 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 10 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 30 hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 15 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 or more hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 20 hours | <input type="checkbox"/> It depends on the week or on my schedule. |

What help are you getting to find a job? (Check all that apply.) [THIS Q DISPLAYS ONLY TO THOSE WHO WANT TO WORK FROM Q13]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting my working papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding places that are hiring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting dependable transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to fill out a job application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting proper clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to deal with customers, co-workers, and bosses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to create a resume | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with improving my reading or math skills (e.g., tutoring) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with immigration status | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning interviewing skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning what jobs to apply for | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not need help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with emotional/behavioral issues | |

What help do you need to find a job? (Check all that apply.) [THIS Q DISPLAYS ONLY TO THOSE WHO WANT TO WORK FROM Q13]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting my working papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding places that are hiring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting dependable transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to fill out a job application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with getting proper clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to deal with customers, co-workers, and bosses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning how to create a resume | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with improving my reading or math skills (e.g., tutoring) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with immigration status | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning interviewing skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning what jobs to apply for | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not need help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with emotional/behavioral issues | |

Getting Support from the People around You

Are there people in your life that you can turn to for help when you need it? (Please check one in each row.) [FOSTER PARENT AND RESIDENTIAL STAFF RESPONSE OPTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED BASED ON RESPONSE TO Q1]

	Yes	No
Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Father	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step-parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grandparent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aunt/Uncle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brother/Sister	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cousin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Godparent /Family Friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster parent (or former foster parent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teacher /Coach/School staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current or previous case worker or social worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Therapist / Case Aide / Socio-therapist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentor (like a Big Brother/Big Sister)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Someone from church, temple, or mosque	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent of a friend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friend / Boyfriend / Girlfriend/ Partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In general, do you feel supported by your foster parents or residential facility staff? (Check one answer.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, very supported | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, somewhat supported |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, not very supported | <input type="checkbox"/> No, not supported at all |

Which of these are true for you? (Check one answer in each row.)

	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never
I have someone to help me with my problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have someone to listen to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have someone who makes me feel wanted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are you able to use the following where you live? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone service (landline) | <input type="checkbox"/> Laptop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Tablet (for example: an iPad) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop computer | |

What do you do in your free time? (Check one answer in each row.)

	Yes, I do this	No, I don't do this
Use social media (facebook, instagram, snapchat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play video games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be a part of a school club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go on a date	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to school dances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes, I do this	No, I don't do this
Play on a sports team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a community club or place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a religious organization of my choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spend the night with my friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to afterschool or weekend school events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spend time with my friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go swimming or bike riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Here is what you said you are not doing. What would you LIKE to do? (Check one in each row.)

[PROGRAM QUESTION TO SHOW ONLY THE ITEMS IN Q21 THAT ARE 'NO' OR BLANK]

	Yes, I would like to do this	No, I'm not interested in this
Use social media (facebook, instagram, snapchat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play video games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be a part of a school club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go on a date	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to school dances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play on a sports team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a community club or place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to a religious organization of my choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spend the night with my friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go to afterschool or weekend school events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spend time with my friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go swimming or biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is anything stopping you from doing things outside of school or work? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ I do not have transportation
- ☐ I do not have the money
- ☐ I have to look after a child
- ☐ I am not allowed by my foster parent [MAY BE SKIPPED BASED ON Q1]
- ☐ I am not allowed by the rules in the program where I live [MAY BE SKIPPED BASED ON Q1]
- ☐ Nothing stops me from doing things outside of school or work

Your Health and Experiences in Care

RIGHT NOW, are you getting the health care you need? (Check one answer in each row.)

[MANDATORY QUESTIONS]

	Yes, I am getting what I need	No, I am not getting what I need	I don't need this
For my physical health (body)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For my emotions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For my eyes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For my teeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For alcohol/drug use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For sexual health/ family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please specify the Other type of health care you need [ONLY FOR YOUTH WHO SELECT “No, I am not getting what I need” to Other Health Care IN Q24]

How much allowance do you get each week? (Check one answer.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0 or nothing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$21 - \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 - \$9 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$26 - \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 - \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$16 - \$20 | |

My foster agency supports me with: (Check one answer in each row.)

	Yes, I am getting what I need	No, I am not getting what I need	I don't need this
Reaching my educational goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doing trips, parties, and social events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting ready to get a job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permanency planning (plan for after leaving foster care)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent living workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finding housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connecting with my attorney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Were you a part of making your permanency plan (plan for after leaving foster care)? (Check one answer.)

- ☐ Yes, I led the making of my permanency plan
☐ Yes, I was a part of making my permanency plan BUT I did not lead it
☐ No, I was NOT a part of making of my permanency plan
☐ I do not know about my permanency plan → SKIP TO Q29

Who supports you in your permanency planning? (Check all that apply.) [RESIDENTIAL STAFF AND FOSTER PARENT OPTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED BASED ON RESPONSE TO Q1]

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My lawyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Birth parent |

-
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Case worker at my foster care agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> No one supports me in my permanency planning |

About You

How do you describe yourself? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, African American, or African | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to Answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't identify | |

What is your ethnicity? (Check one answer.)

- ☐ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Can you practice your religion where you live right now? (Check one answer.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not have a religion

In the past 3 months: [MANDATORY QUESTIONS; ACS WILL BE ABLE TO TRACK AND CONTACT YOUTH BASED ON PIN]

	Yes	No
Were you provided with 3 meals a day?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you have appropriate clothing (which means, clean, fit, no holes)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you have shoes that fit you ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

[ONLY FOR YOUTH WHO SELECT "NEVER" for all 3 questions in Q19, or SELECT at least one "No, I am not getting what I need" to any of the health care questions in Q24, or SELECT at least one "NO" for any of the food/clothing/shoes questions.]

Please provide your phone number

Please provide your email address

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, either call 212-341-3500 or email us at Fps.SurveyHelp@acs.nyc.gov. Thank you for completing this survey! Please see your case planner for your gift card.