



The State of Older Youth in Iowa's Foster Care System



WELCOME!

Agenda

NYTD Overview

FFY 2020 Survey Results

Talking Wall Results

Reflections and Q&A

Moving Forward

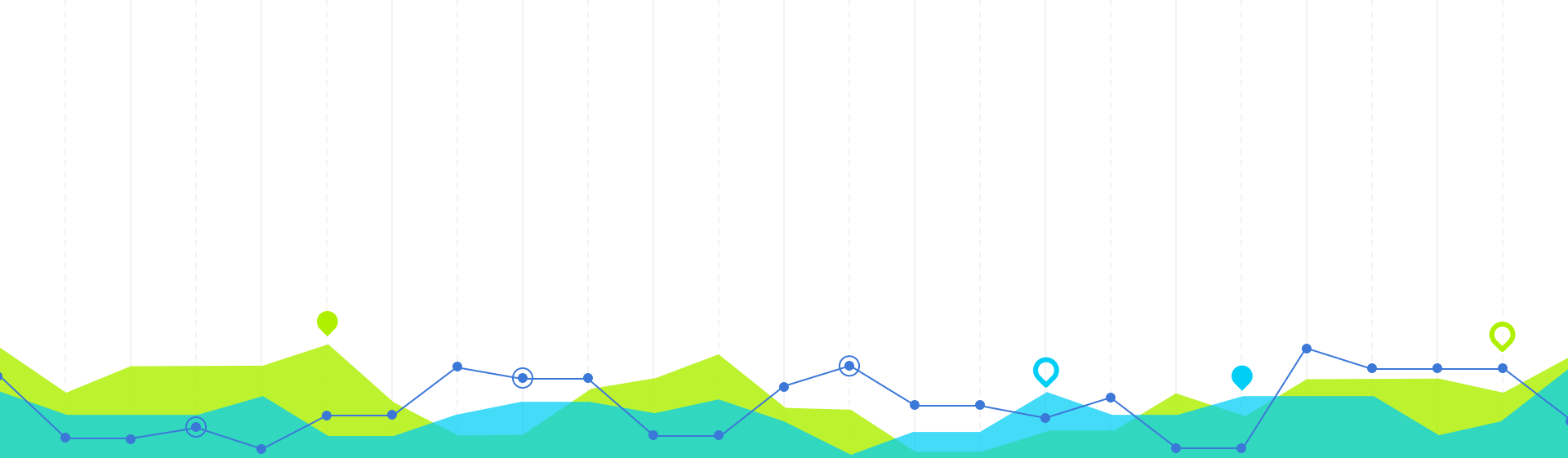


NYTD OVERVIEW

1

NYTD OVERVIEW

- NYTD= National Youth in Transition Database
- John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood established in 1999
 - Provided flexible funding for foster care transition programming for the first time
 - Required states to track independent living services provided and to track outcomes
 - Services information is provided by case managers
 - Outcomes information is collected by CJJP who survey youth
- First data collection in Iowa (and country) in FFY2011
- Data is used to improve program and practice



CHAMPIONS AND SUPPORTERS

2

It Takes a Village

- Social Workers, Juvenile Court Officers and Placement Staff
- Transition Planning Specialists
- Iowa College Aide, Education Training Voucher
- Iowa Aftercare, including Rent Subsidy
- Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP)



FFY 2020

Survey Results

A copy of the full report can be found on the
Iowa NYTD website: bit.ly/IowaNYTD



NYTD Outcomes Areas

Financial Self-Sufficiency



Educational Attainment



**Positive Connections
with Adults**



**Experience with
Homelessness**



High-Risk Behavior



**Access to Health
Insurance**



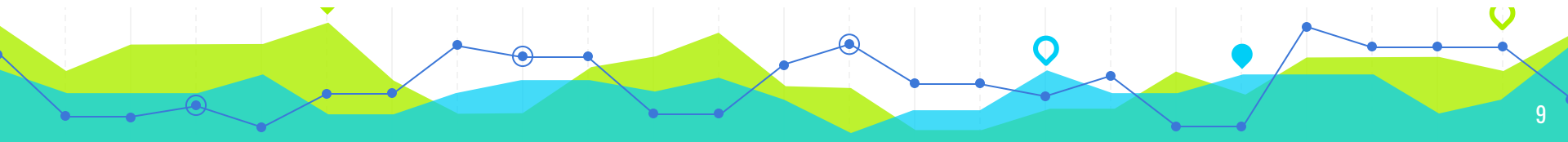
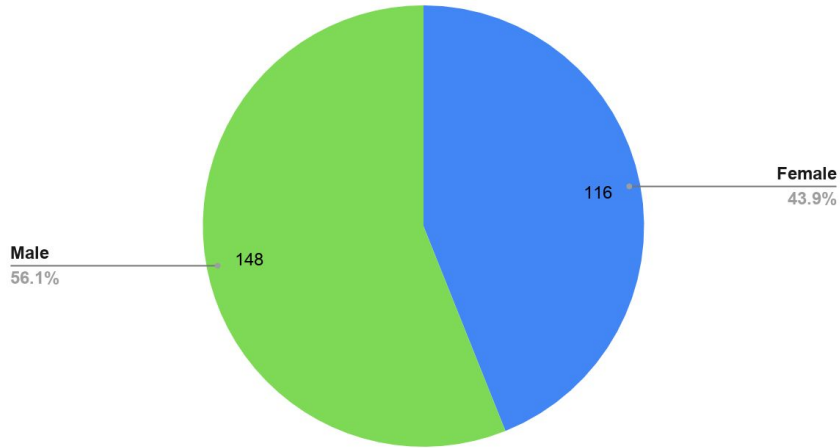


Figure 1. Participation Rate

	%	N	National %
Youth Participated	89.2%	264	69%
Ranaway/Missing	5.4%	16	4%
Unable to Locate/Invite	3.0%	9	9%
Youth or Parent Declined	2.0%	6	8%
Youth Incapacitated	0.3%	1	2%
Total	100.0%	296	

Figure 4. Sex of Participants by FFY

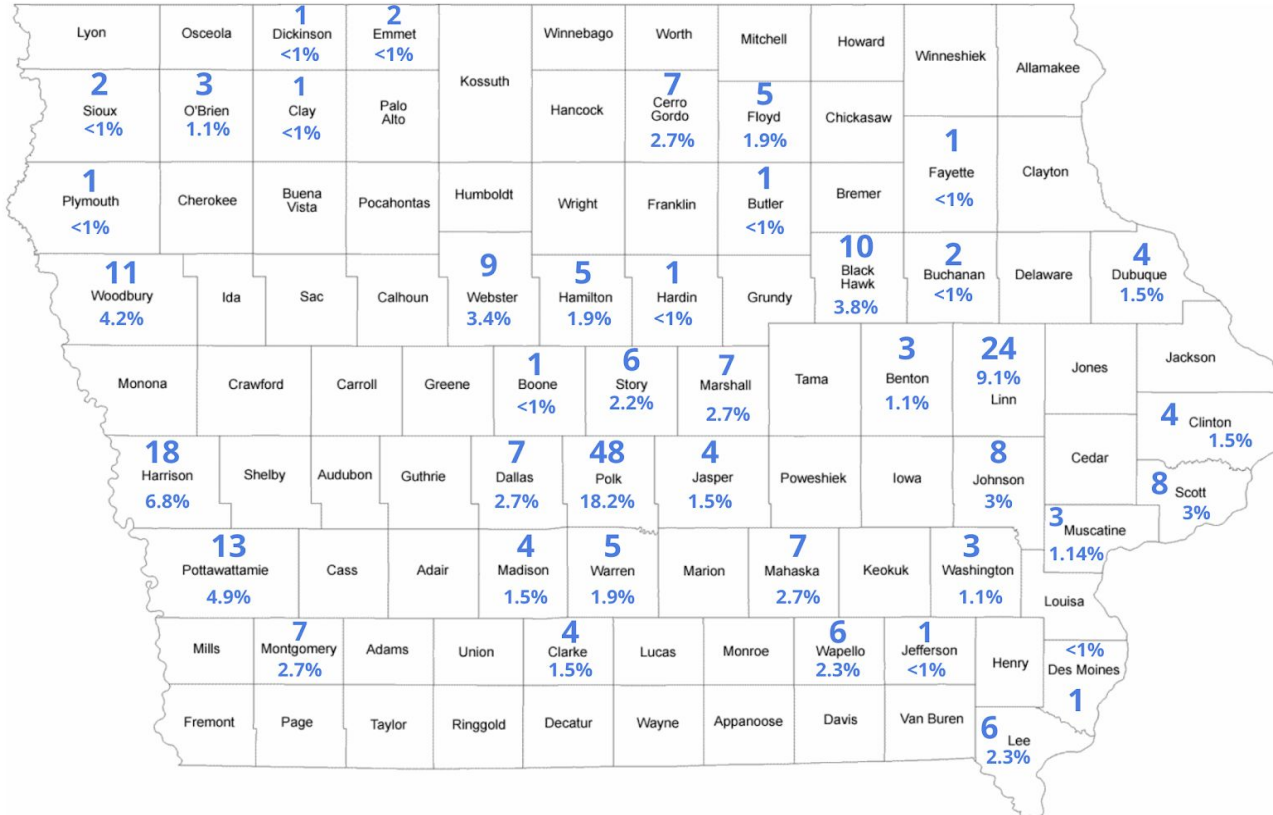


264 Participants

Figure 5. Youth Participation by FFY, Race and Sex

	FFY11		FFY14		FFY17		FFY20	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black/African American	59	12.4%	52	13.2%	63	18.0%	44	16.7%
Hispanic/Latino[^]	50	10.5%	42	10.7%	51	14.6%	48	18.2%
White	330	69.2%	261	66.2%	195	55.7%	150	56.8%
Two or more races[*]	13	2.7%	15	3.8%	21	6.0%	12	4.5%
Other^{**}	25	5.2%	24	6.1%	20	5.7%	10	3.8%

Figure 8. County of Residence of Youth Participating



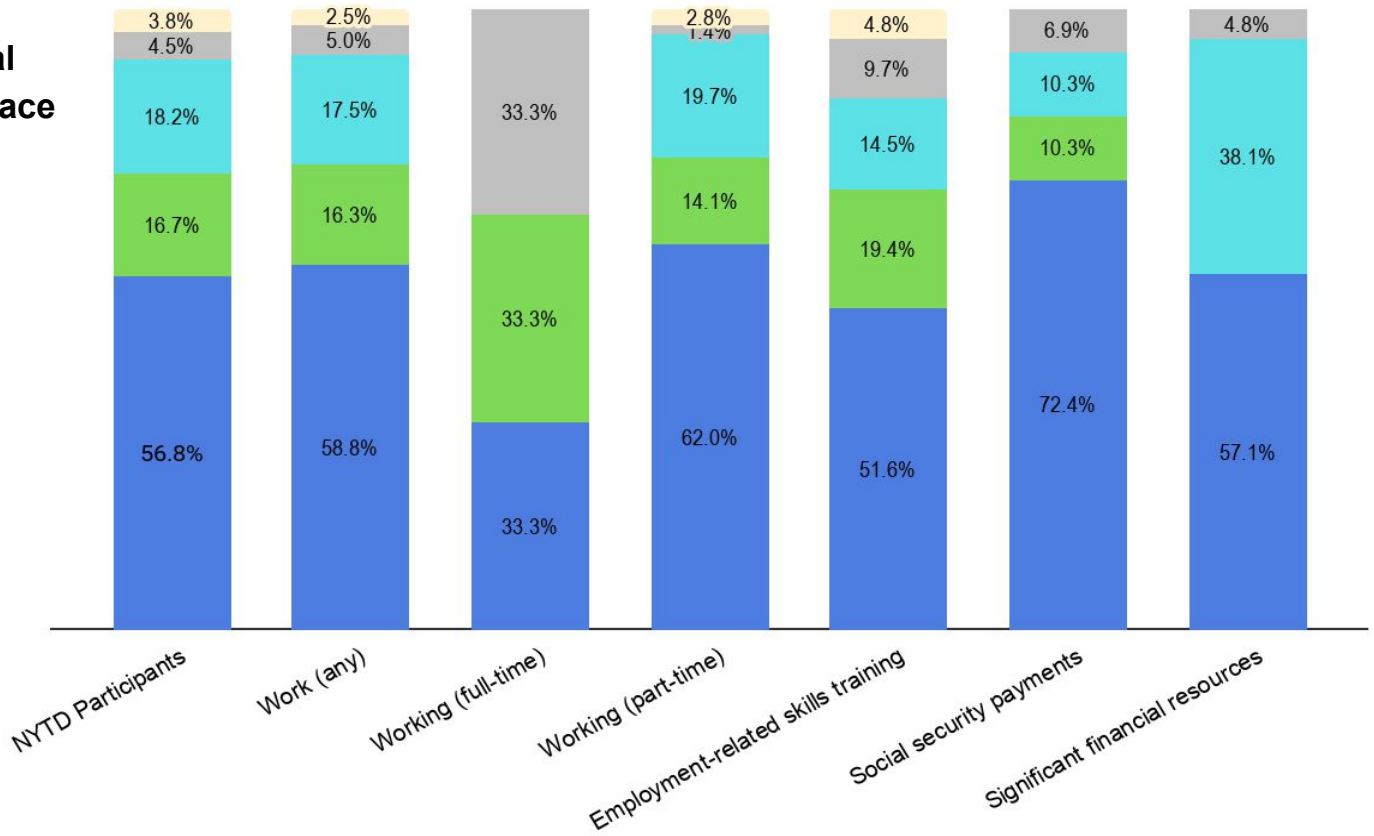


Financial Self-Sufficiency

Figure 10. Financial Self-Sufficiency by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Currently working, any	14.9% (N=71)	18.5% (N=73)	26.3% (N=92)	30.3% (N=80)	15%
Currently working, full-time	0.8% (N=4)	1.3% (N=5)	1.7% (N=6)	3.4% (N=9)	2%
Currently working, part-time	14.3% (N=68)	17.3% (N=68)	24.6% (N=86)	26.9% (N=71)	13%
Receiving employment-related skills training	23.7% (N=113)	37.6% (N=148)	24.0% (N=84)	23.5% (N=62)	21%
Currently receiving Social Security payments*	10.7% (N=51)	7.6% (N=30)	15.7% (N=55)	11.0% (N=29)	13%
Currently receiving educational financial aid	2.5% (N=12)	2.8% (N=11)	1.1% (N=4)	0% (N=0)	3%
Currently receiving significant financial resources not included above	10.1% (N=48)	10.4% (N=41)	4.9% (N=17)	8.0% (N=21)	8%

Figure 11. Financial Self-Sufficiency by Race



Other Two or more races Hispanic Black/African American White

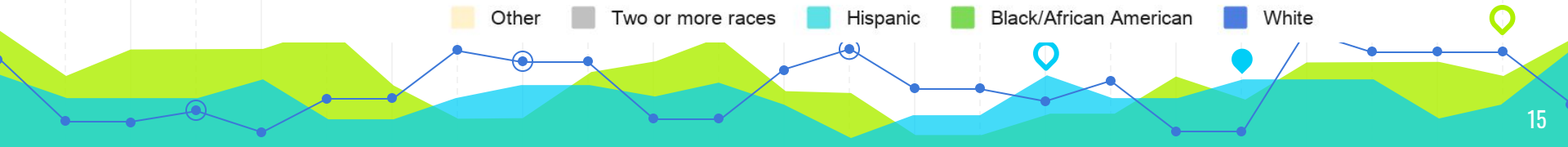
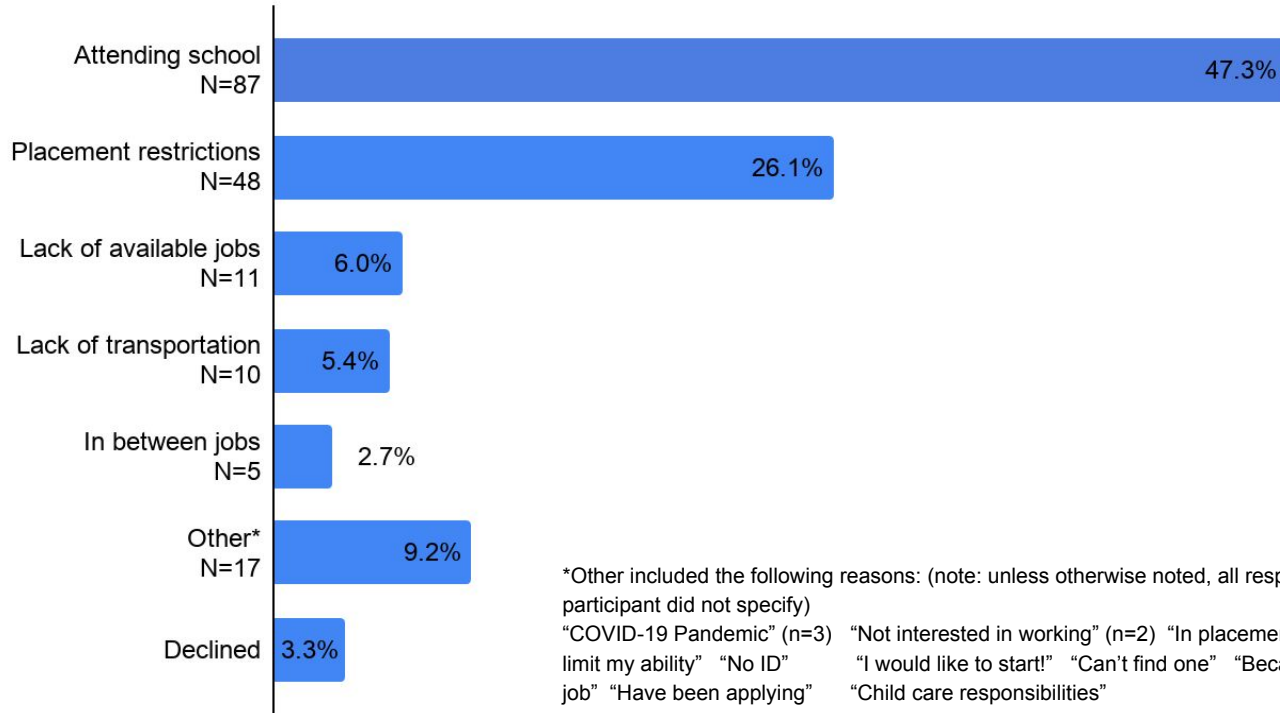


Figure 14. Reasons for No Work (N=184)



*Other included the following reasons: (note: unless otherwise noted, all responses are n=1; one participant did not specify)
"COVID-19 Pandemic" (n=3) "Not interested in working" (n=2) "In placement" (n=2) "My behaviors limit my ability" "No ID" "I would like to start!" "Can't find one" "Because I'm lazy" "Seasonal job" "Have been applying" "Child care responsibilities"
"Lots of responsibilities, don't have time for a job"



Educational Attainment

Figure 15. Education by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Currently enrolled in high school, GED classes, post-secondary classes or college	95.8% (N=457)	97.5% (N=384)	95.7% (N=335)	93.2% (N=246)	93%
Obtained high school diploma/GED	3.6% (N=17)	3.6% (N=14)	3.7% (N=13)	1.9% (N=5)	4%
Received vocational certificate/license, associate's or bachelor's degree, or higher	0.2% (N=1)	0% (N=0)	0.6% (N=2)	0% (N=0)	<1%

Figure 16. Currently Enrolled in Education by Race (N=246)

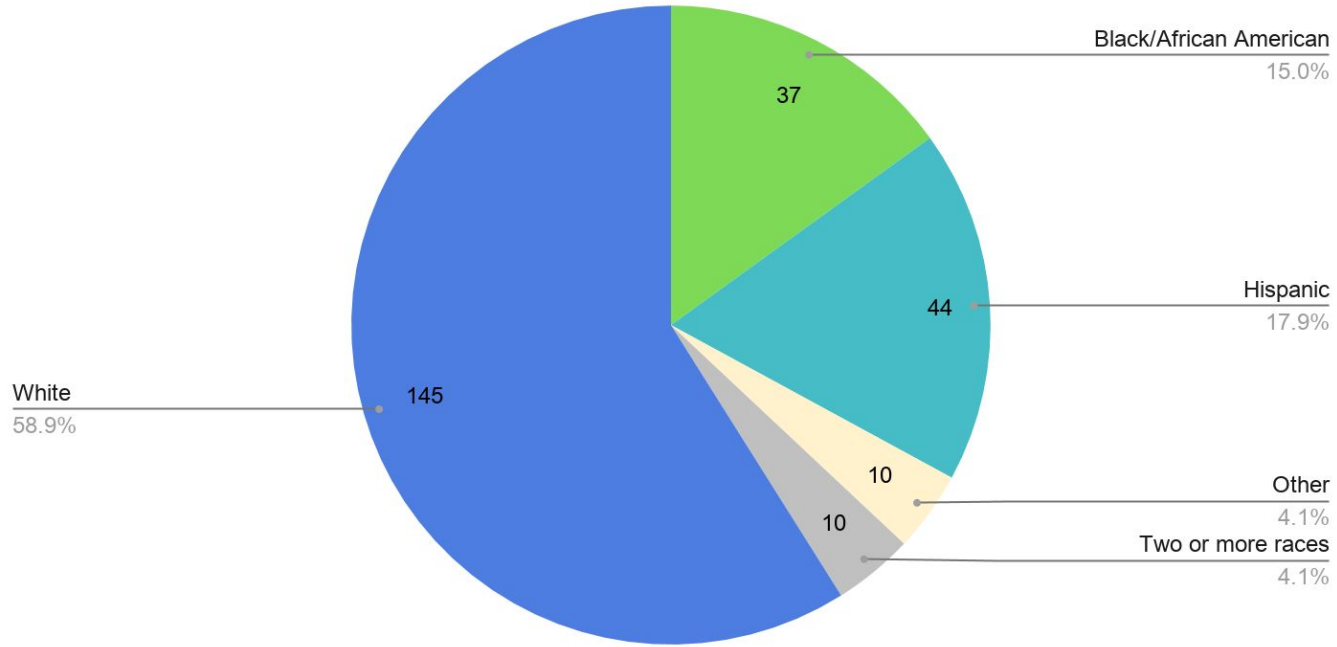


Figure 17. Type of School Enrolled In

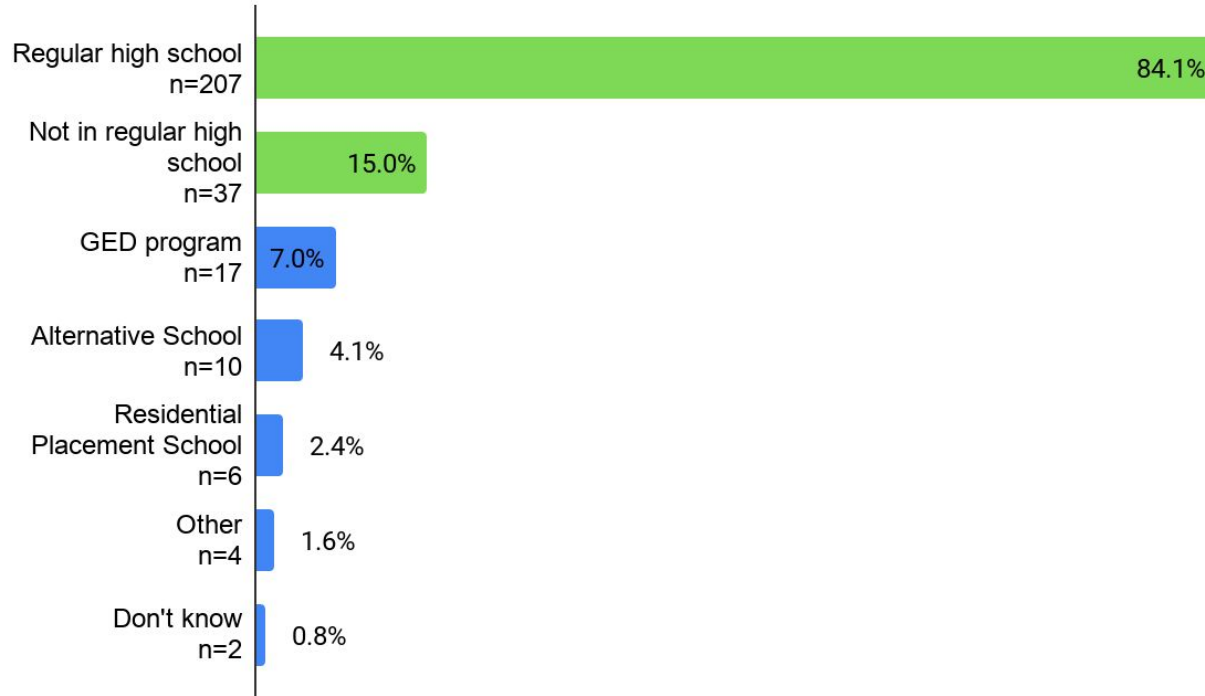


Figure 18. No School by Race (N=18)

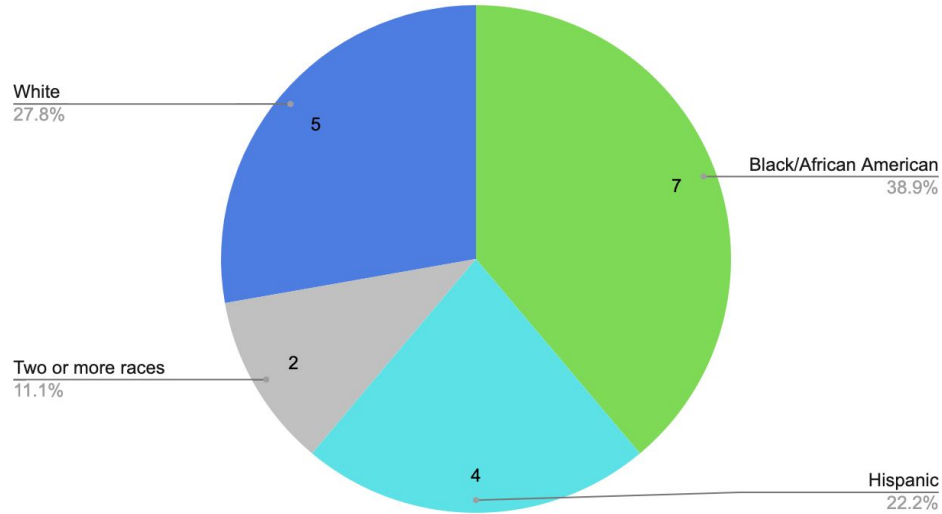
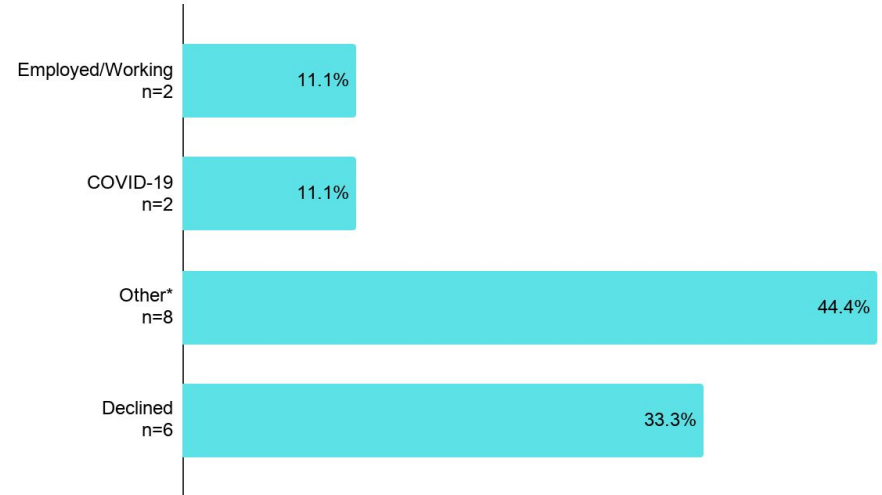


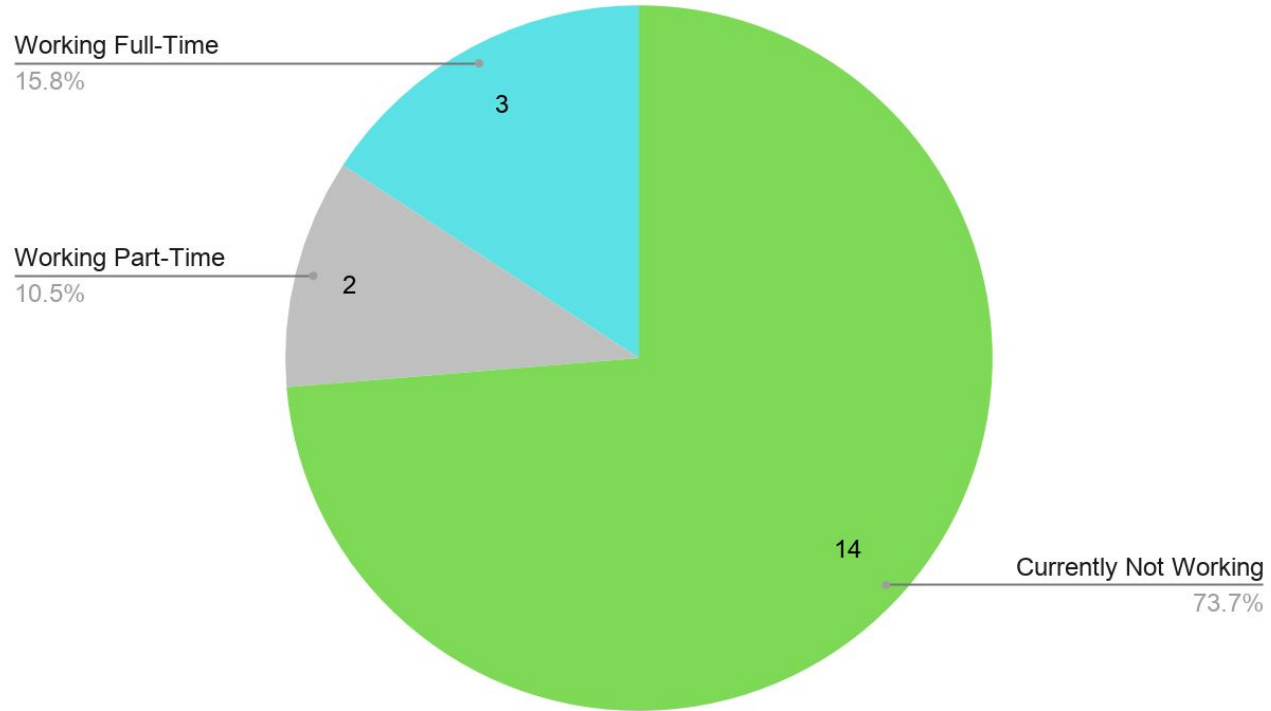
Figure 20. Reasons for No School



*Other includes the following reasons: (note: unless otherwise noted, all responses are n=1; one participant did not specify)

“Placement restrictions” “Did not complete in previous county” “Don’t know”
 “Graduated and waiting to enroll in DMACC classes” “Caseworker trying to get back into old school” “Moving, plan to enroll in Community College” “Struggling to enroll in HiSET”

Figure 21. Youth Not Enrolled In School by Employment Status (N=19)





Positive Connections to Adults

Figure 22. Positive Connections with Adults by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Currently has at least one adult to go to for support	97.3% (N=464)	98.5% (N=388)	98.0% (N=343)	95.5% (N=252)	94%
Knew their caring adult before foster care⁺	--*	--*	71.7% (N=251)	75.4% (N=190)	--*
A biological family member is their supportive adult⁺	--*	--*	68.6% (N=350)	57.2% (N=151)	--*
Has close relationship to 1 or more biological family members⁺	--*	--*	86.0% (N=301)	88.6% (N=234)	--*
Has close relationship to 3 or more biological family members⁺	--*	--*	34.6% (N=121)	37.9% (N=100)	--*

Figure 23. Positive Connections with Adults by Race

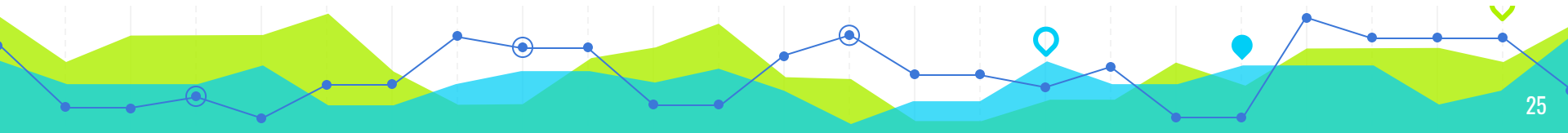
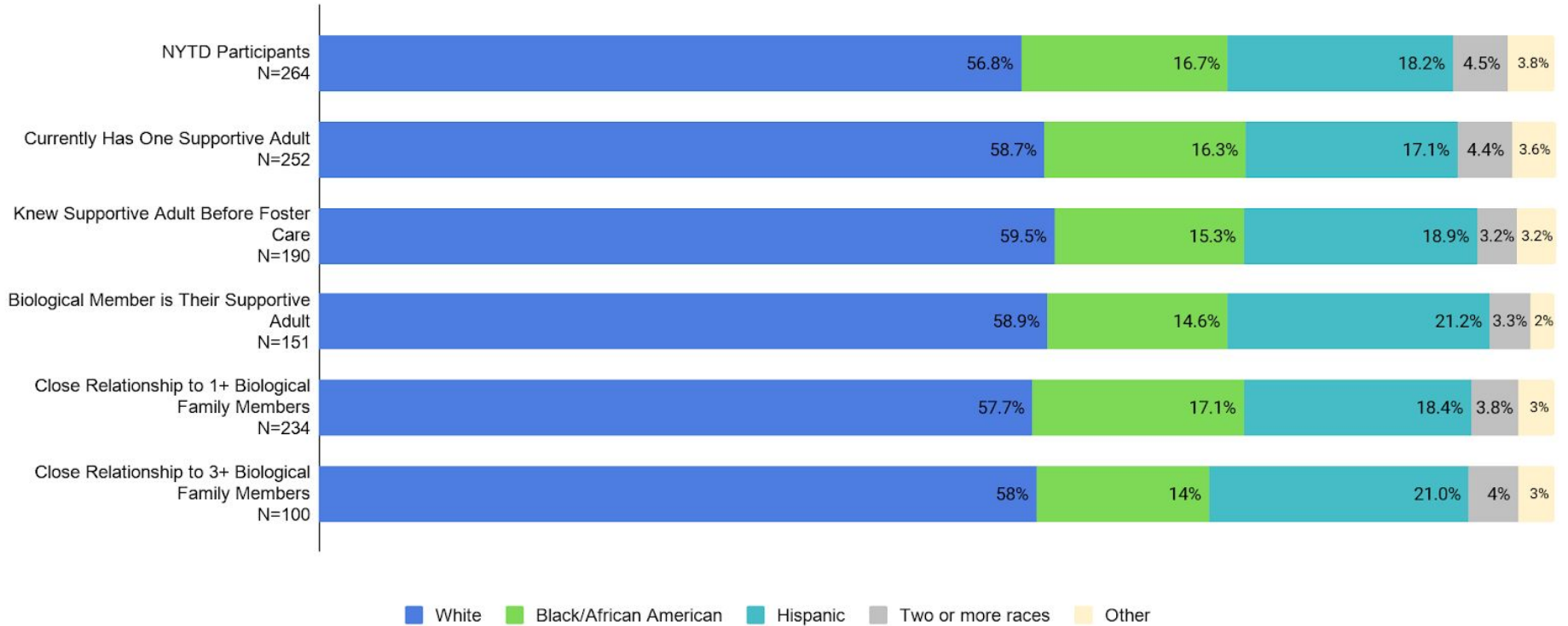
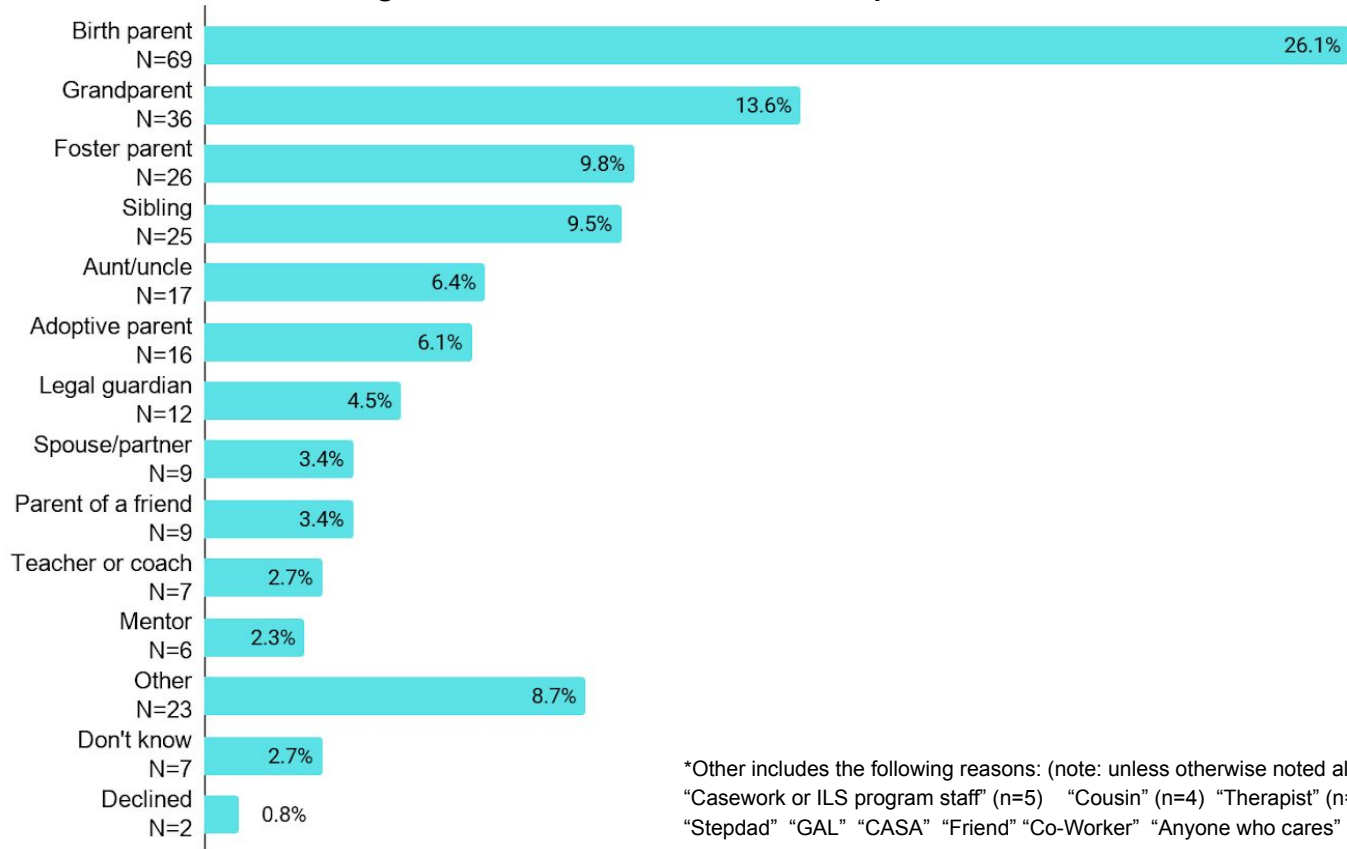
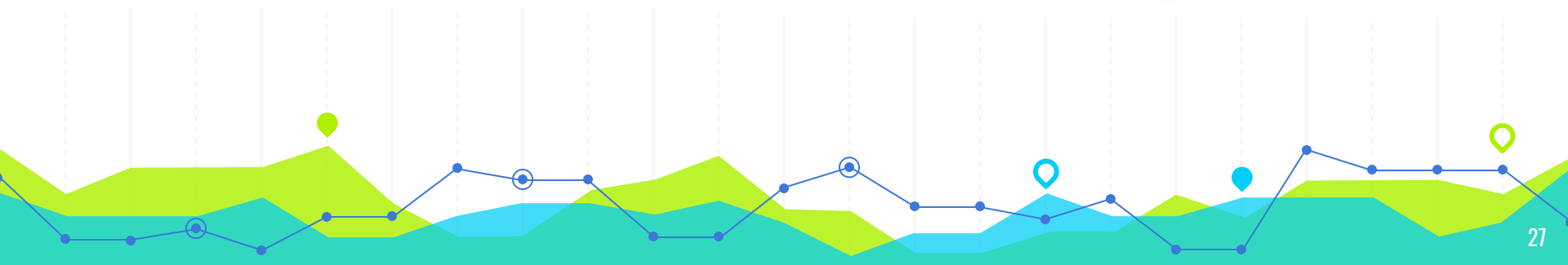
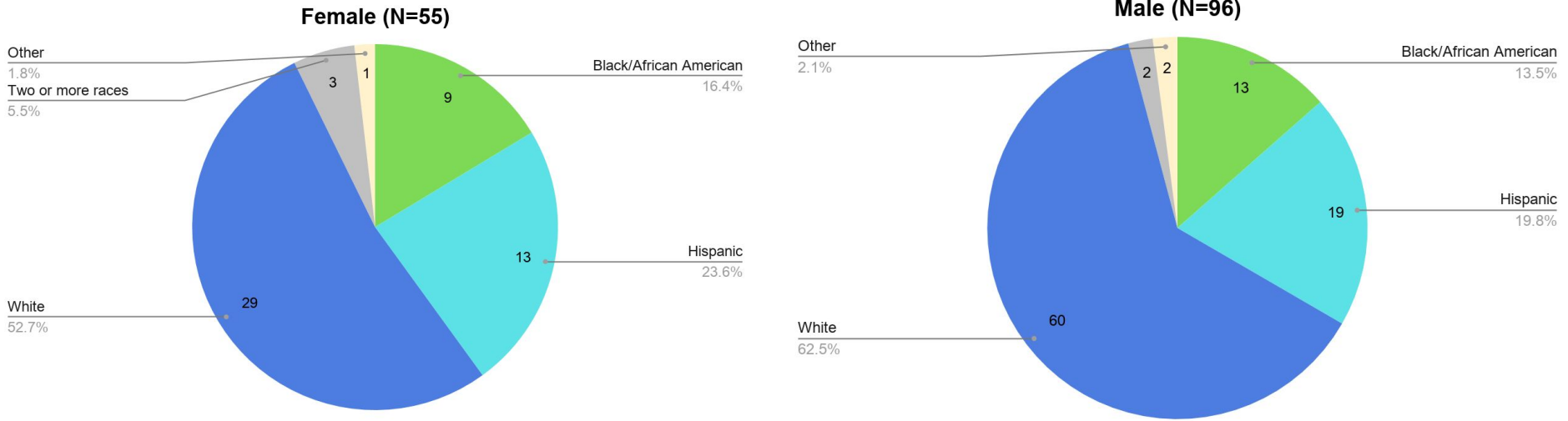


Figure 26. Connection to Adult Description



*Other includes the following reasons: (note: unless otherwise noted all responses are N=1) "Casework or ILS program staff" (n=5) "Cousin" (n=4) "Therapist" (n=2) "Suitable other" "Stepdad" "GAL" "CASA" "Friend" "Co-Worker" "Anyone who cares"

Figure 25. Youth Whose Supportive Adult is a Biological Family Member by Race and Sex (N=151)





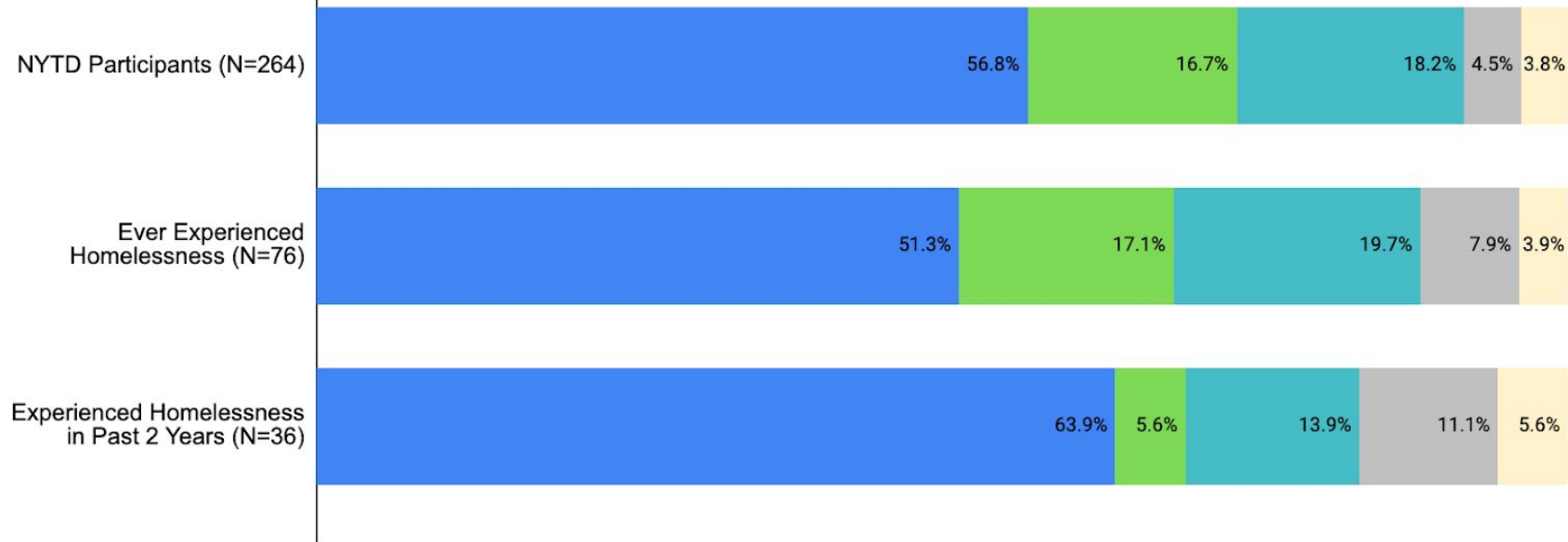
Experience with Homelessness

Figure 27. Experience with Homelessness by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Ever been homeless	21.2% (N=101)	19.5% (N=77)	23.1% (N=81)	28.8% (N=76)	17%
Homeless within past two years⁺	--*	--*	11.1% (N=39)	13.6% (N=36)	--*

*NYTD Plus Question for 17 year-olds, required for follow-up populations

Figure 28. Homelessness by Race



■ White
 ■ Black/African American
 ■ Hispanic
 ■ Two or more races
 ■ Other

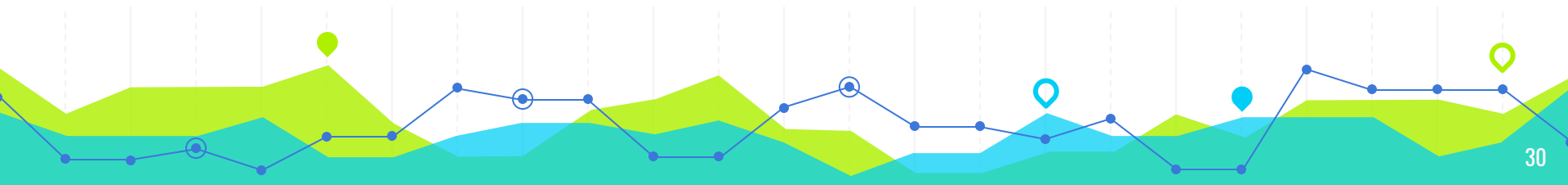
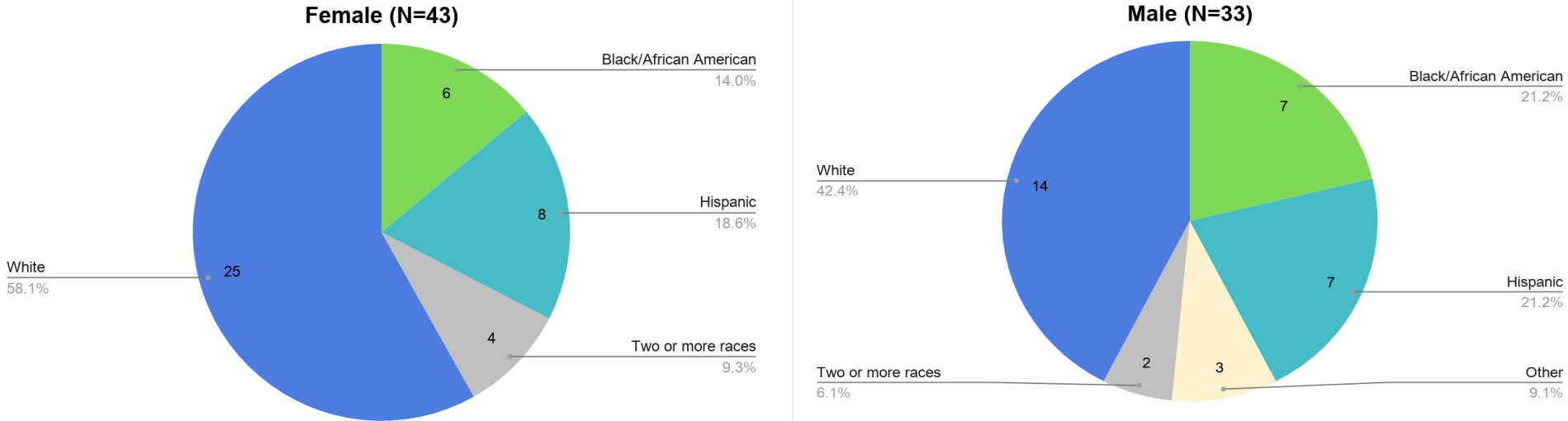
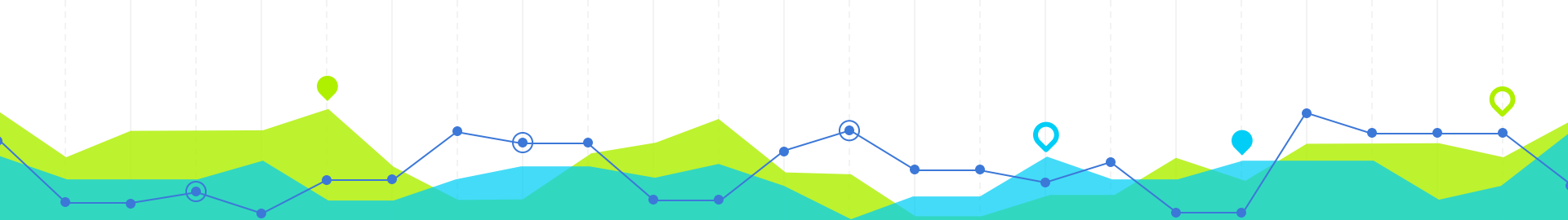


Figure 29. Ever Experienced Homelessness by Race and Sex



Of those who ever experienced homelessness (N=76):

- 47.4% (N=36) reported experiencing incarceration
- 42.1% (N=32) reported substance abuse assessment or counseling
- 96.1% (N=73) reported mental health counseling
- 86.8% (N=66) have connection to one or more biological family member



High-Risk Behaviors

Figure 30. High Risk Behaviors by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Ever received substance abuse assessment or counseling	35.6% (N=170)	38.1% (N=150)	37.1% (N=130)	28.0% (N=74)	27%
Ever received mental health counseling⁺	--*	--*	--**	88.3% (N=233)	--*
Ever been incarcerated**	47.4% (N=226)	50.5% (N=199)	53.7% (N=188)	44.3% (N=117)	33%
Had children	6.1% (N=29)	4.6% (N=18)	6.6% (N=23)	3.8% (N=10)	5%
Ever given birth	8.4% (N=17)	4.1% (N=9)	3.7% (N=13)	1.5% (N=4)	--
Ever fathered a child	4.4% (N=12)	4.1% (N=9)	2.9% (N=10)	2.3% (N=6)	--

Figure 31. High Risk Behaviors By Race

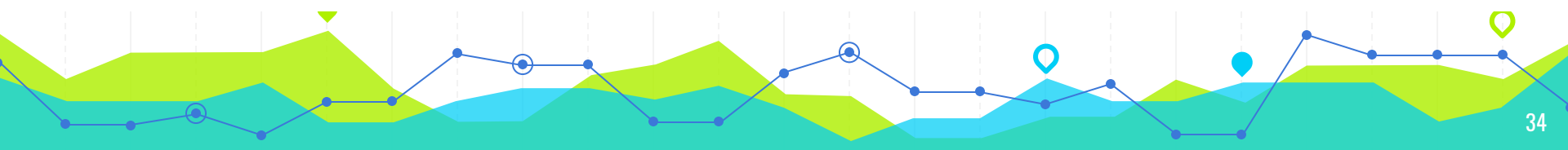
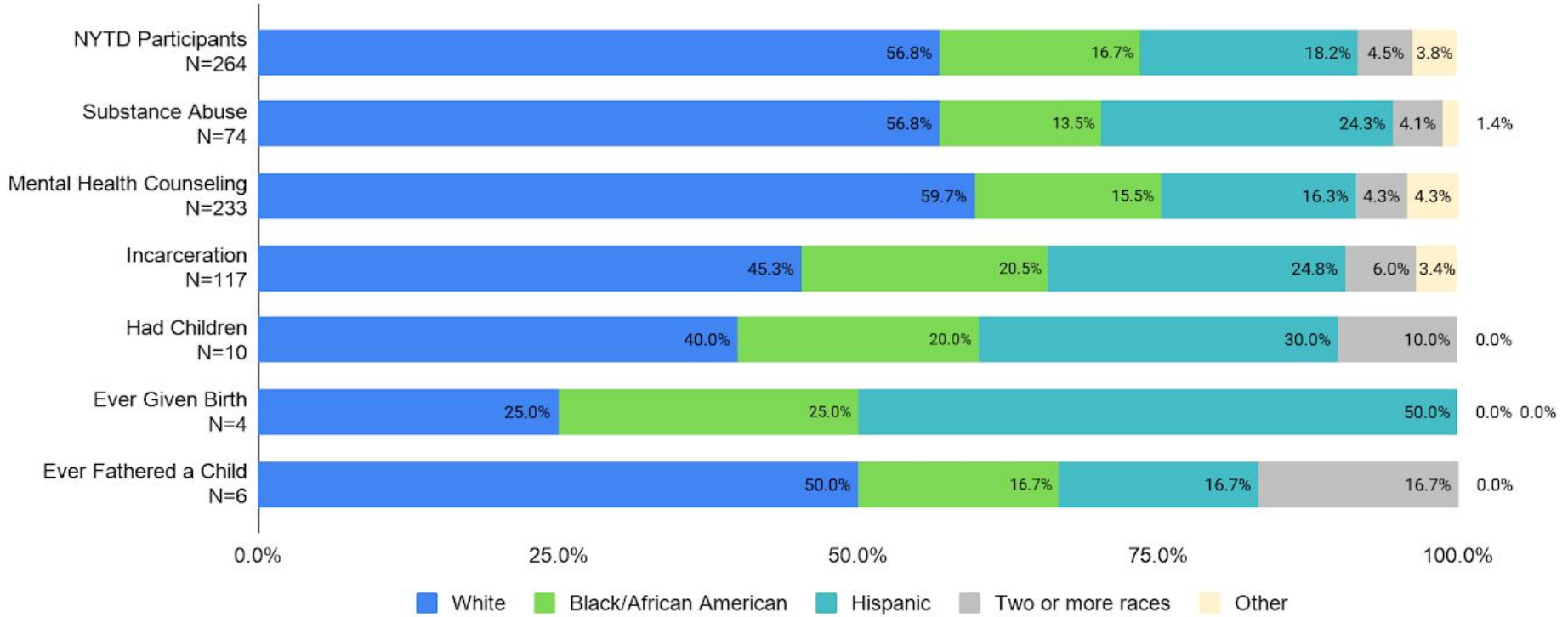
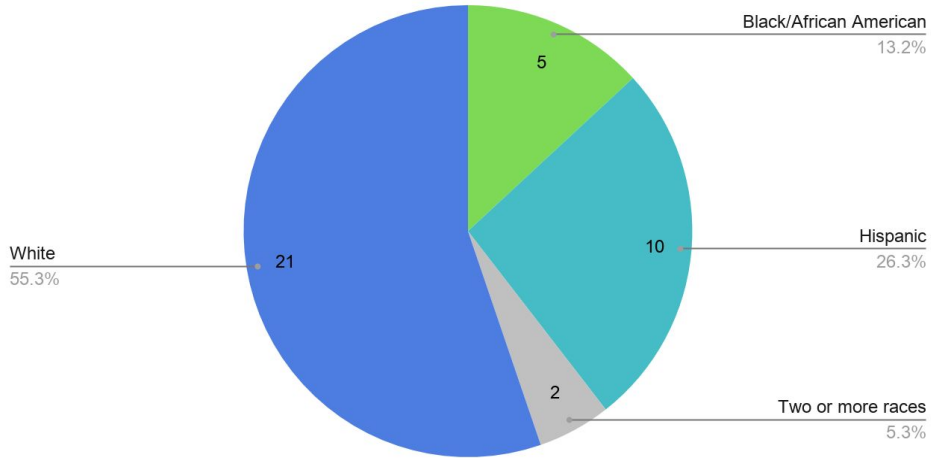


Figure 32. Substance Abuse Counseling by Race and Sex (N=74)

Substance Abuse Referral - Female (N=38)



Substance Abuse Referral - Male (N=36)

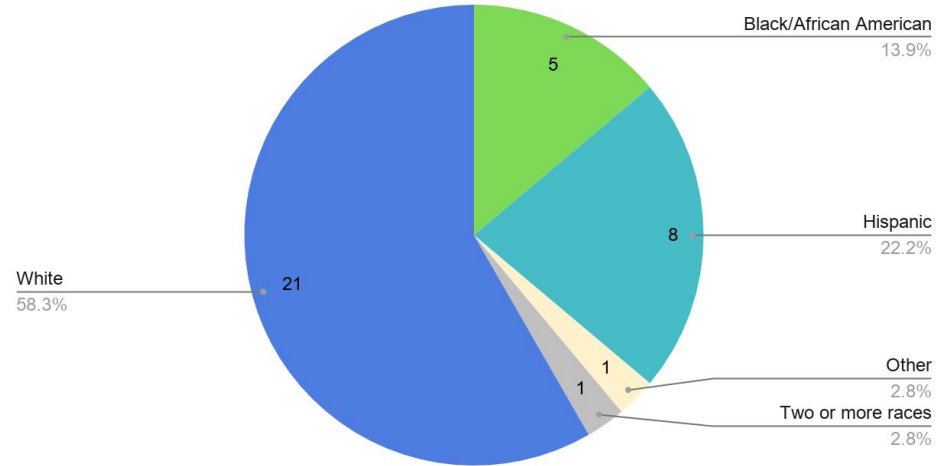
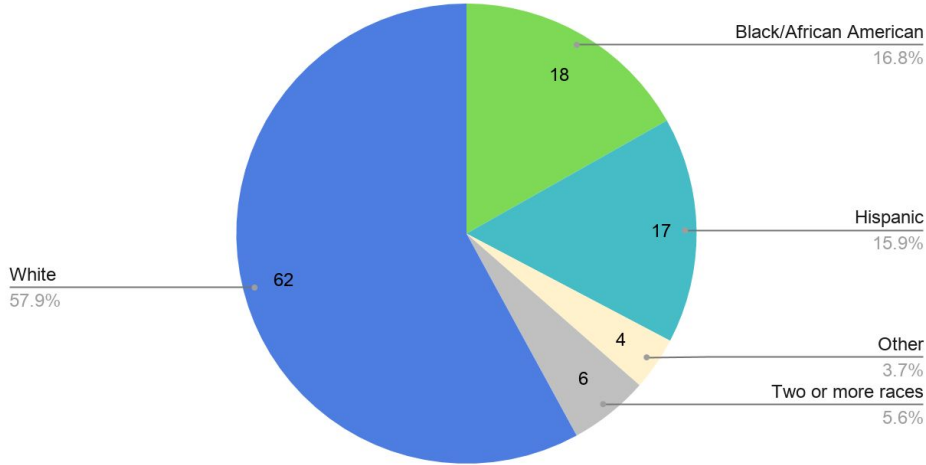


Figure 33. Mental Health Counseling by Race and Sex (N=233)

Mental Health Referral - Female (N=107)



Mental Health Referral - Male (N=126)

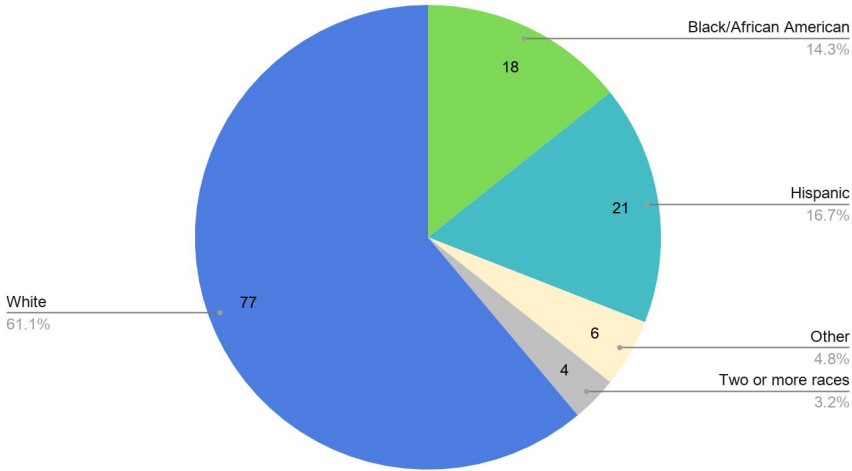
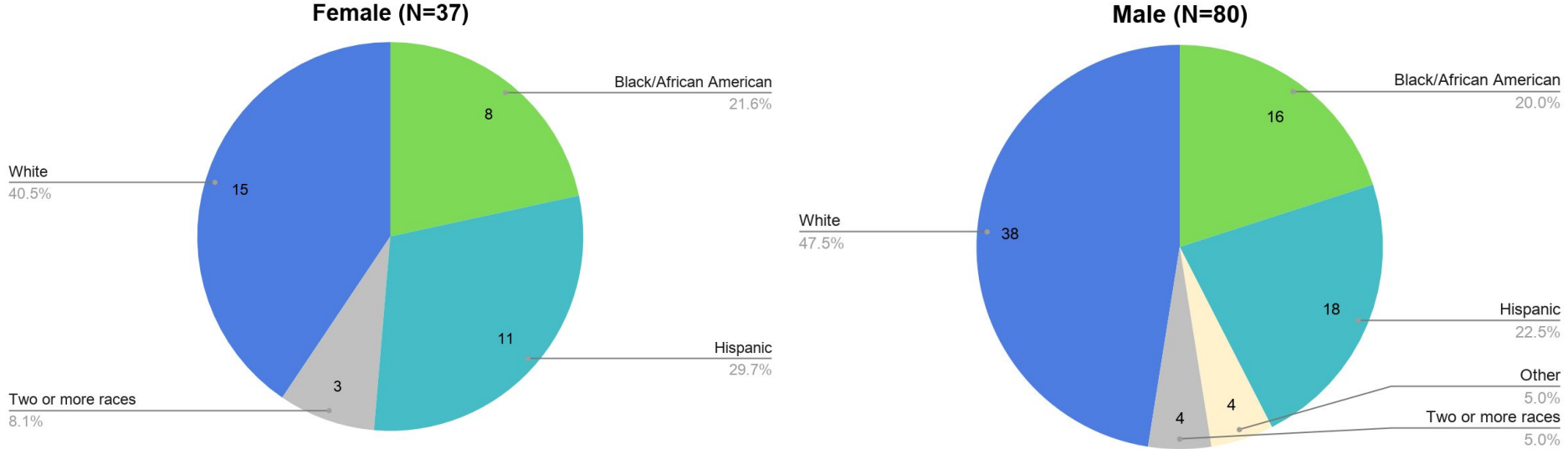


Figure 34. Incarceration/Confinement by Race, Sex (N= 117)



Of those with incarceration experience:

30.8% (N=36) reported ever experiencing homelessness.

45.3% (N=53) reported substance abuse assessment or counseling.

87.2% (N=102) reported mental health counseling.

6.0% (N=7) reported having a child.

90.1% (N=106) have connections to one or more biological family members.

9.4% (N=11) are not currently enrolled in an educational program.

68.4% (N=80) reported currently attending a regular high school.



Access to Health Insurance

Figure 35. Access to Health Insurance by FFY

	FFY11	FFY14	FFY17	FFY20	National
Currently on Medicaid	86.4% (N=412)	87.6% (N=345)	75.1% (N=263)	71.2% (N=188)	85%
Currently have other health insurance	16.1% (N=77)	13.2% (N=52)	23.4% (N=82)	14.8% (N=39)	15%
Other health insurance covers medical services	70.1% (N=54)	94.2% (N=49)	91.5% (N=75)	76.9%* (N=30)	--*
Other health insurance covers mental health services	36.4% (N=28)	69.2% (N=36)	76.8% (N=63)	61.5%* (N=24)	--*
Other health insurance covers prescription drugs	57.1% (N=44)	90.4% (N=47)	89% (N=73)	82.1%* (N=32)	--*

Figure 36. Currently on Medicaid

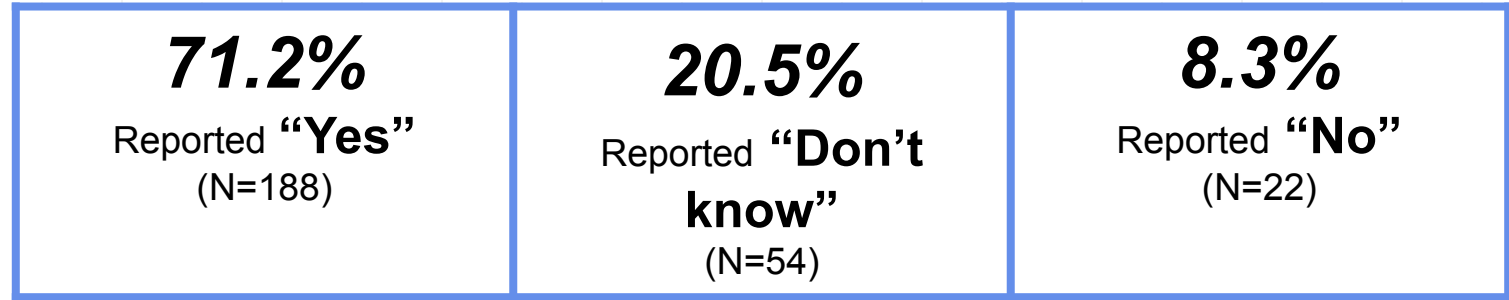
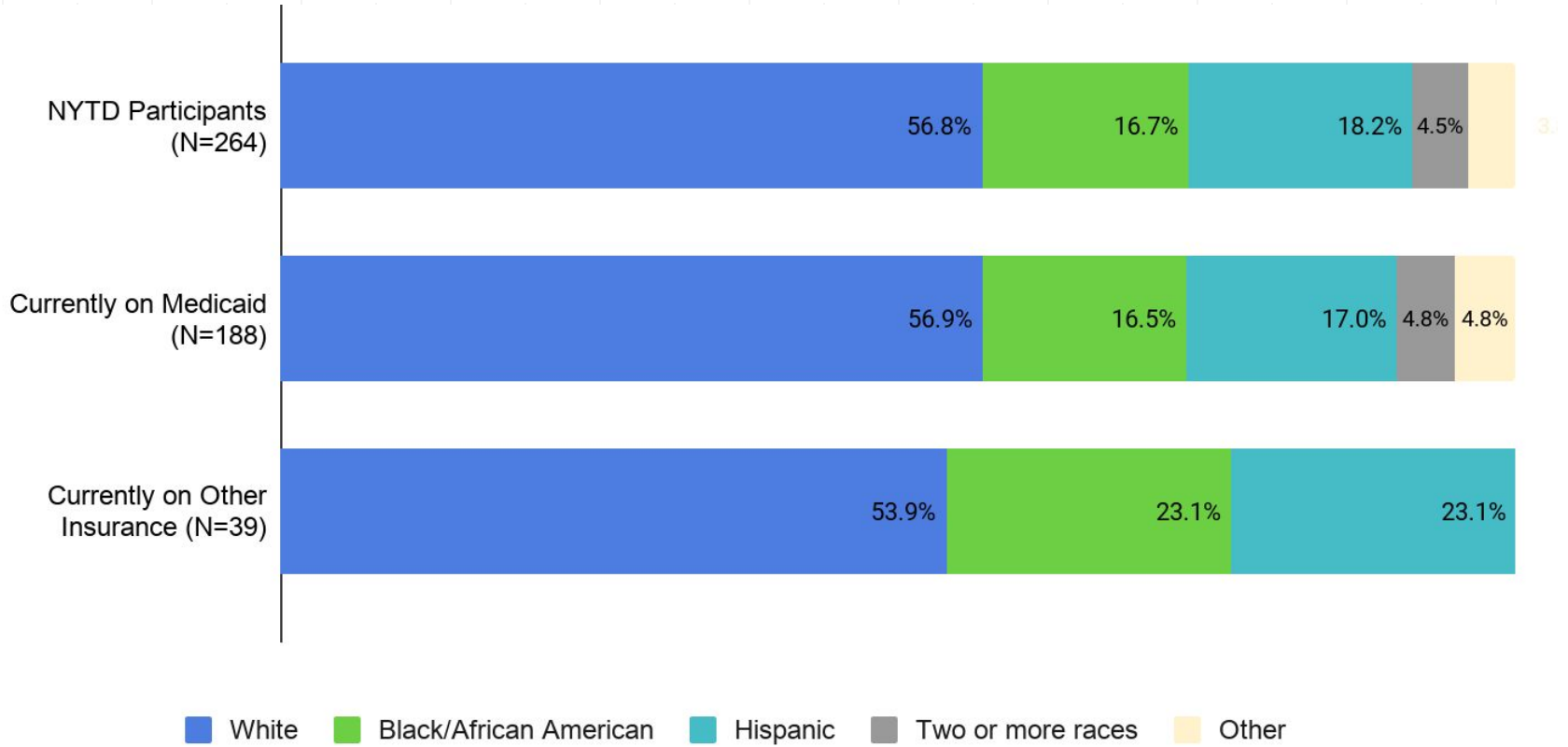


Figure 37. Access to Health Insurance by Race





Iowa National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)


bit.ly/iowaNYTD | nytd@iowa.gov

The following chart compares Iowa's NYTD FFY2020 responses for 17 Year-Olds to answers submitted at the National and State level for FFY2017, 17 Year-Olds. Missouri was chosen as a comparison state due to their proximity to Iowa, their use of a follow-up sample of youth, and their comparable cohort size.

NYTD YOUTH OUTCOMES	IOWA'S FFY 2020 COHORT [^]	IOWA'S FFY 2017 COHORT [*]	MISSOURI'S FFY 2014 COHORT ^{**}	NATIONAL FFY 2014 COHORT ^{***}
Financial Self-Sufficiency Percent reporting being employed full or part-time	30%	26%	15%	15%
Educational Attainment Percent reporting currently enrolled in high school, GED classes, post-secondary classes or college	93%	96%	93%	93%
Positive Connections with Adults	96%	98%	95%	94%
Experience with Homelessness Percent reporting homelessness within lifetime	29%	23%	17%	17%
High Risk Behavior Percent reporting ever been incarcerated	44%	54%	25%	33%
Access to Health Insurance Percent reporting Medicaid or other health insurance	77%+	84%	93%	91%

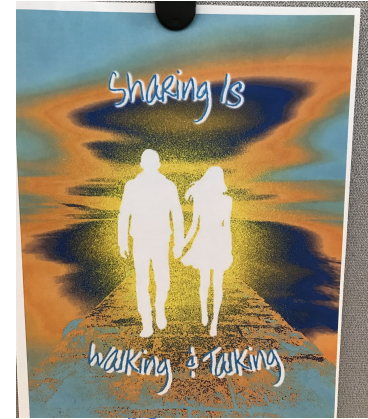
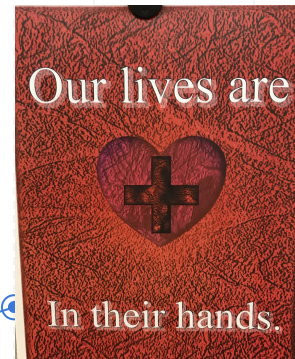
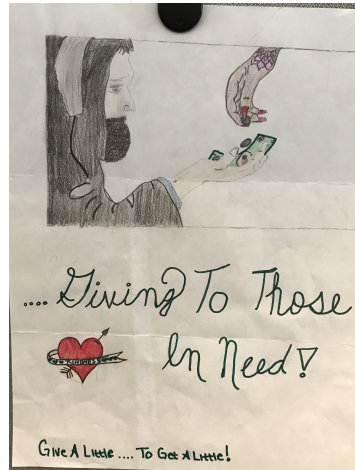
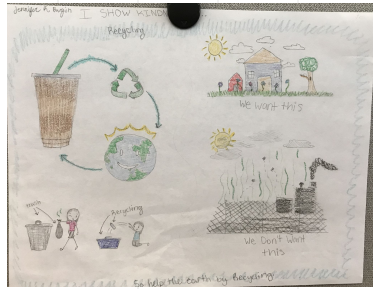
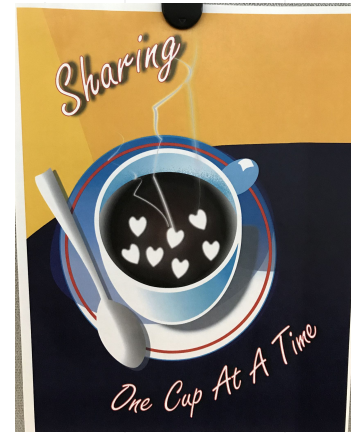
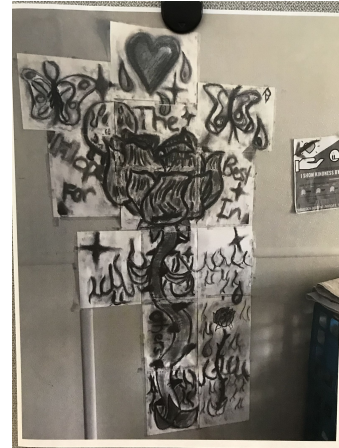
[^]FFY2020 Source: FFY2020 Iowa National Youth in Transition Database Annual Report: Survey Results for 17-Year-Olds
^{*}Percentage was calculated independently for comparison purposes only and cannot be derived from nor compared to the FFY 2019 Source*.
^{*}FFY2017 Source: FFY2017 Iowa National Youth in Transition Database Annual Report: Survey Results for 17-Year-Olds
^{**}State level Source: NYTD Services and Outcomes Reports (February 14, 2018); Cohort 2 State-by-State (2014-2018)
^{***}National Source: NYTD Data Brief #7 (November 2019); Comparing Outcomes Reported by Young People at Ages 17 and 19 in NYTD Cohort 2





Youth Engagement

Creative Expressions



Social Media and Iowa Youth Resources

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Iowa NYTD

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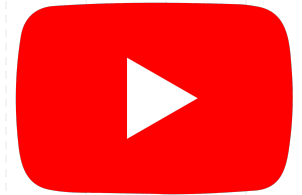
IOWA YOUTH RESOURCES

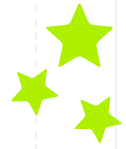
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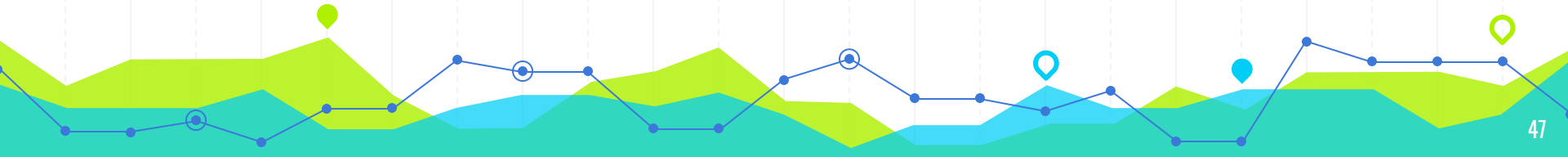
IOWA YOUTH STATEWIDE





Talking Wall Results

A copy of the Talking Wall report can be found
on the Iowa NYTD website: bit.ly/iowaNYTD

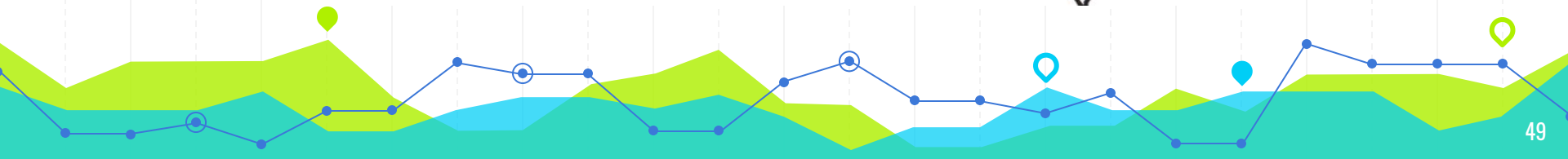


Talking Wall by the Numbers

41 Locations

491 Youth

1,466 Post-It
Notes



What is one thing you would like to see happen to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system?

"MORE COMMENTS FROM STAFF THAT SHOW THEY CARE ABOUT THE YOUTH"

"PLEASE HELP THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A MISTAKE AND WANT TO DO RIGHT. LIKE LET US TALK TO OUR FAMILY FOR SUPPORT/MOTIVATION"

"MORE ACCESS TO THE JUDGE. WE ARE TOLD WE CAN'T CONVERSE WITH OUR JUDGE, WE ARE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP FOR OURSELVES"

"MORE TIME ON VISITS"
"VISITS WITH ANY AGE SIBLINGS"
"LET KIDS SEE THEIR PARENTS MORE"

"LONGER PHONE CALLS"
"MORE PHONE CALLS"
"ABLE TO CALL WHEN NEEDED"

"DON'T CHARGE JUVENILES AS ADULTS UNTIL THEY'RE ADULTS"
"HAVE AN ATTORNEY THAT CALLS ME BACK. IN COURT, HE DOESN'T REPRESENT ME"

"BETTER FOOD (LIKE NON-FROZEN)"
"MORE FOOD"
"SECONDS ON FOOD"
"NEED SPICES IN OUR FOOD"

"FOSTER PARENTS SHOULD TREAT FOSTER CHILD LIKE THEIR OWN AND MAKE THEM FEEL AT HOME"

"MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES, PROVIDE THE MONEY SO STAFF CAN TAKE US"

"MORE COMMUNICATION. HALF THE TIME I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON"

"WORKERS VISIT MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH"
"JCOs NEED TO BE MORE SUPPORTIVE"

"I WAS AT THE TABLE FOR DECISIONS BUT I WASN'T HEARD"

What is one thing you would like to see happen to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system for youth of color and Indigenous youth?

"HOW WE TALK IS NOT AGGRESSIVE"

"PLACEMENT STAFF TO BE MORE AWARE OF WHAT THEY SAY WHEN IT COMES TO RACE"

"BE ABLE TO GET INTO FOSTER CARE (NOT GET LOCKED UP)"

"EVERYTHING WE DO ISN'T BAD"

"ALLOW THEM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES"

"HAVE SURPRISE CHECK-INS WITH THE FAMILY TO OBSERVE CLOSELY ON HOW THEY'RE BEING TREATED"

"PEOPLE THAT AREN'T OF COLOR TEND TO BE LESS PUNISHED BUT PEOPLE OF COLOR SEEM TO BE PUNISHED WORSE. MAYBE TRY TALKING TO US, WE TEND TO NOT COME FROM GOOD BACKGROUNDS"

"IF WE DON'T HAVE FAMILIES OF COLOR TO TAKE IN YOUTH, WE NEED TO HAVE PROPER TRAININGS"

"GET SOMETHING FOR NATIVE CULTURE. THE NATIVE SIDE IS HORRIBLE. GET CALLED WEIRD BECAUSE WE BELIEVE DIFFERENT THINGS AND GET KICKED OUT OF PLACES"

"THERE NEEDS TO BE A PROCESS FOR WHEN STAFF AND FOSTER FOSTER FAMILIES DISPLAY RACISM TOWARDS YOUNG PEOPLE, INTENTIONALLY OR NOT"

"COMMUNITY HELP INSTEAD OF SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT"

"TAKES MORE TIME TO GET SENT AWAY"

"I THINK WE SHOULDN'T BE FELONS WHEN WE ARE TEENAGERS BECAUSE HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET A GOOD JOB WHEN WE GET OLDER"

"KEEP CHILDREN AT HOME"

"KEEP THEM WITH THEIR SIBLINGS"

"NO ONE BOUGHT ME HAIR CARE PRODUCTS"

"REMEMBER BLACK KIDS NEED SPECIAL HELP WITH THEIR HAIR"

"LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY!"

"JCOS ANSWER THEIR PHONE MORE THAN THEY DO NOW"

What is one thing you would like to see happen to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system for LGBTQ+ youth?

"JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE GAY DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T HAVE ROOMMATES"

"DON'T GIVE LICENSES TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T ACCEPT KIDS FOR WHO THEY ARE"

"HONOR MY PRONOUNNS"

"DON'T OVER QUESTION SOMEONE IF THEY ARE GAY. ACCEPT THEM"

"SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THOSE WHO ARE CURIOUS"

"MORE JUDGES SHOULD BE ACCEPTING- ALLOW TRANS YOUTH TO GET HORMONE THERAPY"

"DO A CHECK BUT IF THEY AREN'T OUT TO PEOPLE, MAYBE PHRASE IT AS GENERAL QUESTIONS. ENSURE THERE'S SUPPORT FOR THEM"

"MORE CHANCES TO TALK OPENLY ABOUT BEING LGBTQ+ IN PLACEMENTS"

"FOSTER PARENT TRAINING SPECIFIC TO LGBTQ+"

"APPRECIATE THEY ASK IDENTITY AND SEXUALITY AT INTAKE"

"IN JUVENILE JUSTICE, DISCRIMINATION/SEPERATION FROM SAME SEX INDIVIDUALS AND DEROGATORY TERMS AND PHRASES NEEDS TO CHANGE"

"HAVE MORE ADVOCATES TO GO TO WHEN KICKED OUT FOR COMING OUT ORR BEING BULLIED"

What is one thing you would like to see happen to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system for youth returning home from a placement?

"HAVE MORE HOME VISITS/DAY PASSES BEFORE CHILDREN ACTUALLY GO HOME"

"A GOOD FINANCIAL SET-UP BEFORE LEAVING PLACEMENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN COMMUNITY"

"DROP MY CHARGES"

"NO PROBATION"

"5 YEARS AFTER YOUR CRIME, SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE IT SEALED"

"I FEEL LIKE THE SYSTEM SHOULD SET US UP WITH JOBS AND COACH US INTO WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BECOME A FUNCTIONING CITIZEN"

"LET ME GO BACK TO REGULAR SCHOOL BECAUSE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL IS FULL OF BAD INFLUENCES I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND"

"I WISH PLACEMENTS WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH TO SEE IF THINGS ARE CHANGING OR IF THINGS ARE GOING BACK TO WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE PLACEMENT"

"LET US TRY ON OUR OWN. WE ARE SO USED TO STAFF TELLING US OR HELPING US SO WHEN WE GET OUT WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO DO IT OURSELVES AND NOT DEPEND ON STAFF"

"MORE WORKER CHECK-INS"

"CONTINUOUS FOLLOW UP"

"GET STAFF'S NUMBER"

"KEEP TALKING TO KIDS AFTER THEY LEAVE"

"MONEY BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE COMMIT CRIMES FOR MONEY"

"MAKE A PRESENTATION WITH YOUR WORKER INCLUDING YOUR SUPPORTS AND LOVED ONES TALKING ABOUT YOUR GOALS AND HOW/WHAT YOU WILL DO AFTER TRANSITIONING"

"BETTER SUPPORT SYSTEMS THAT DON'T DISAPPEAR WHEN A YOUTH IS DOING WELL"

What is one thing you would like to see happen to improve the foster care and/or juvenile justice system for girls and young women?

"IF I SAY I HAVE ISSUES AND I'M IN CRISIS MODE- DON'T SEND THE BIGGEST MOST PREDATOR LOOKING MALE TO 'HANDLE' ME"

"TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A ROOMMATE WITH A FEMALE TO DO EACH OTHER'S HAIR LIKE BRAIDING"

"UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE GIRLS MORE. STOP MAKING US FEELING GUILTY FOR STICKING UP FOR OURSELVES"

"ACCUSATIONS NEED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED AS A GIRL WANTING ATTENTION, GIRLS AREN'T BELIEVED. MY WORKER ACTUALLY TOLD ME, "AT LEAST YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE TO SLEEP"

"HELP YOUTH TO HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE, INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY"

"NEED FOR SEX EDUCATION"
"TEACH MORE ABOUT CODEPENDENCY"
"FREE CLASSES ABOUT PROPER HYGIENE"

"MORE OUTREACH FOR LONGER TIME: MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY AND FINANCIALLY (JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T AGE OUT AND ARE BACK WITH YOUR FAMILY DOESN'T MEAN DON'T NEED THESE HELP- THERE'S A REASON WHY YOU'RE REMOVED IN THE FIRST PLACE"

"PROVIDE A LIST OF FEMALE-LED RESOURCES FOR YOUTH WHEN THEY AGE OUT (I.E. LIST OF FEMALE LANDLORDS)"

"FOR GIRLS WHO GET PREGNANT- MORE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AID"

"DIG DEEPER INTO BACKGROUNDS OF FOSTER FAMILIES TO SEE IF THERE ARE RED FLAGS"

"TO BE COMFORTABLE AND HAVE ACCESS TO THINGS LIKE BIRTH CONTROL IF THEY WANT IT"

"MORE OPTIONS TO SPEAK ABOUT TRAUMA"
"CHECK IN MORE"

The background features a landscape of rolling mountains under a sunset sky, transitioning from orange at the top to deep blue at the bottom. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text. The text is in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The words are arranged vertically: 'Reflections' at the top, '&' in the middle, and 'Q&A' at the bottom.

Reflections & Q&A

What Can You Do

1. Prioritize and Partner with Youth and Young Adults with Lived Experience

2. Advocate for Prevention Services To Be As Flexible As Possible

3. Amplify and Mobilize Around Ideas of Those Most Impacted

4. Use This Data to Talk about the Reality of Foster Care

THANKS!

Any questions?

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