

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE
(NYTD)

OUTCOMES FILE
USER'S GUIDE

NYTD OUTCOMES SURVEY
FY2014 COHORT
COMPLETE – WAVES 1-3
NDACAN DATASET #228

Revised November 18th, 2019



**NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE ON
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
ndacan@cornell.edu
www.ndacan.cornell.edu

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE
(NYTD)

NYTD OUTCOMES SURVEY
FY2014 COHORT
NDACAN DATASET #228

DATA PROVIDED BY

CHILDREN'S BUREAU
ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)
330 C STREET, S.W.
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NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NY 14853

USER'S GUIDE AND CODEBOOK WRITTEN BY

NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
IN COLLABORATION WITH
TAMMY WHITE, PH.D. AND CATHERINE HEATH
ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES, HHS

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ABSTRACT

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program)¹ was initiated in an effort to improve outcomes for youth in foster care who have or are likely to reach their 18th birthday without having found a permanent home. The program provides funding to states, territories, and tribes (hereafter simply referred to as “states”) to develop and administer programs designed to help ease the transition from foster care to independence.

The law requires states to develop: 1) a system for tracking the services provided through the Chafee Program, and 2) a method for collecting outcome measures so that the effectiveness of the program can be assessed.

These two components together form the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). The files contain data from all 50 states, as well as from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

This User Guide is for the Outcomes component of NYTD. The Outcomes File contains the results of surveys conducted with youth to examine certain well-being, financial, and educational outcomes as they get older.

The Services component of NYTD contains cross-sectional information on the services provided by states under the Chafee Program and the youth who receive those services. Data are submitted by the states every 6 months on a continuing basis. The Services File is available from NDACAN as a separate dataset. See our website (<https://www.ndacan.cornell.edu>) for more information on the Services File.

¹ Public Law 106-169 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). Public Law 115-123 renamed the program the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, and the program is now referenced as “the Chafee Program” instead of “CFCIP.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCE

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Children's Bureau when they publish manuscripts that use data provided by the Archive. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below:

The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) were originally collected by the states and provided to the Children's Bureau. Funding for the project was provided by the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collector of the original data, the funder, the Archive, Cornell University, and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the *Terms of Use Agreement* for these datasets, users of these data are required to provide citations for any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data with the Archive.

OVERVIEW OF NYTD

PURPOSE

The optimal outcome for children in foster care is permanency – a permanent home, either by reunification with the parents, guardianship, or adoption. Some children, especially those who enter foster care when they are older, never find a permanent home. Each year, about 10% of children who exit foster care are discharged due to having reached the state’s age limit for eligibility. While some young adults will enter adulthood successfully despite their history of foster care and lack of permanency, some of these youth are at particular risk for negative outcomes, including homelessness, incarceration, poor educational outcomes, lack of health insurance, unemployment, unplanned parenthood, and poverty at much higher rates than other youth.

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169) created the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). In 2018, CFCIP was amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act (P.L. 115-123), and the program was renamed the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (the Chafee Program). The Chafee Program is authorized under Title IV-E, Section 477 of the Social Security Act (SSA), and is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

The goal of the Chafee Program is to provide states with flexible funding to provide independent living services to current and former foster care youth transitioning to adulthood. Possible services that may use Chafee funding are specified under the law, including but not limited to: education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and assured connections to caring adults. The program is intended to serve youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18, youth who have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption after the age of 16, and young adults ages 18 to 21 who have "aged out" of the foster care system.

The law requires HHS to collect two kinds of data from the states:

- (1) Information about services and those who receive them, including “the number and characteristics of children receiving services” and “the type and quantity of services being provided.”
- (2) Outcome data, including “measures of educational attainment, high school diploma, employment, avoidance of dependency, homelessness, non-marital childbirth, incarceration, and high-risk behaviors.”

These two datasets together constitute the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

NYTD data come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

NYTD FILES

There are two NYTD datasets: one dataset contains records for all youth who receive independent living services paid for or provided by the agency that administers the Chafee Program, and the other dataset has the results of a periodic survey of youth who turn 17 in certain years, along with follow-up surveys at ages 19 and 21.

Data from both populations are collected by the states and submitted to the Children's Bureau. Although there is some overlap, the two sets of data differ in the number and identity of the cases they cover, and the variables they contain. The number of youth who receive services (Services Population) is much larger than the number eligible to take the NYTD Outcomes Survey (Outcomes Population). Only 5% of those who received services are in the Outcomes Population.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS

Because the same youth, under the same encrypted identifier, may appear in NYTD and the AFCARS Foster Care File, and the files can be linked, the same confidentiality protections used in AFCARS are applied to the NYTD Files. These are:

- The county FIPS code for the youth from counties with fewer than 1,000 records in the AFCARS Foster Care File are recoded to 8 to indicate *not provided for reasons of confidentiality*. This adjustment applies to NYTD element #15, *LCLFIPSSV*, which appears only in the Services File.
- The youth's date of birth (DOB) is recoded to the 15th of the month. This adjustment applies to NYTD element #4, *DOB*.

THE OUTCOMES FILE

COHORTS

Starting with the 2011 federal fiscal year, and every three years thereafter, all youth who reach their 17th birthday in the fiscal year and are in foster care within the 45-day period following their birthday (45 CFR 1356.61(b)) are eligible for the NYTD Outcomes Survey. Youth who complete the survey are followed up 2 and 4 years later – at ages 19 and 21 – with the same survey. Below is the schedule for outcomes data collection through the year 2023:

Fiscal Year	Cohort	Wave	Data Collected
2011	2011	1	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FY2011)
2012	-		
2013	2011	2	Age 19 Follow-Up Survey
2014	2014	1	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FY2014)
2015	2011	3	Age 21 Follow-Up Survey
2016	2014	2	Age 19 Follow-Up Survey
2017	2017	1	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FY2017)
2018	2014	3	Age 21 Follow-Up Survey
2019	2017	2	Age 19 Follow-Up Survey
2020	2020	1	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FY2020)
2021	2017	3	Age 21 Follow-Up Survey
2022	2020	2	Age 19 Follow-Up Survey
2023	2023	1	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FY2023)

THE THREE WAVES

WAVE 1: BASELINE POPULATION AND COHORT

Baseline Population. All foster care youth who turn 17 in foster care or who enter foster care within 45 days of their 17th birthday in a baseline year are in the baseline population. All youth in the baseline population are required to be contacted and asked to complete the NYTD Outcomes Survey. Demographic data for all baseline youth is recorded in the Wave 1 File, regardless of whether they respond to the survey. This allows comparison of demographics of responders to non-responders.

Cohort. The cohort is a subset of the baseline population. To be in the cohort, a youth must meet the following conditions:

- a) Youth is in the baseline population;
- b) Youth is in foster care on the day of the survey;
- c) Youth participated in the survey (at least one non-missing, non-refusal response to Elements 37-58);

d) Youth completed the survey within 45 days of her/his 17th birthday; and

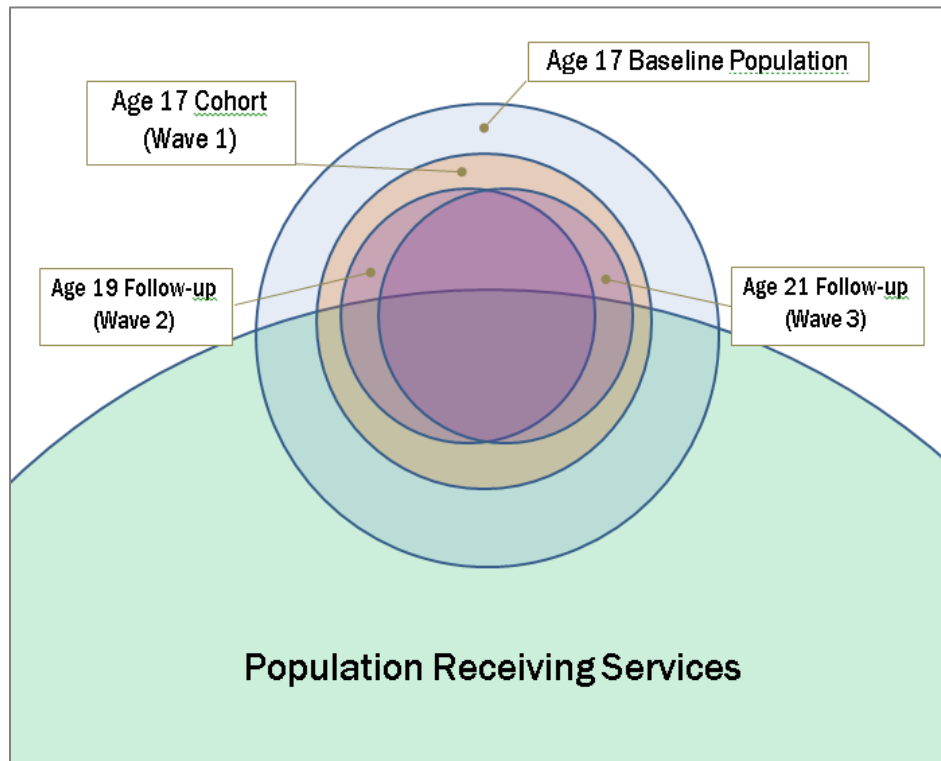
WAVE 2: TWO-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

Most youth in the cohort, with the exception of those who are not in the sample (for states that sample), are eligible to take a follow-up survey during the 6-month reporting period that contains their 19th birthday. For the FY2014 Cohort, this survey was conducted in FY2016, and the results are included in this version of the dataset.

WAVE 3: FOUR-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

Youth in the cohort are eligible to take a second follow-up survey during the 6-month reporting period that contains their 21st birthday. For the FY2014 Cohort, this survey was conducted in FY2018, and the results are included in this version of the dataset. The survey questions are the same for both follow-ups. Youth who were eligible for the Wave 2 Survey at age 19 are eligible for the Wave 3 Survey, even if they did not respond to the Wave 2 Survey.

FIGURE 1: RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN WAVES:



DATA COLLECTION

For the baseline survey, results are reported to the Children’s Bureau at 6-month intervals. The “A” period covers the first 6 months of the fiscal year (October through March), and the “B” period covers the second 6 months (April through September). The baseline survey is administered during the 45-day period following the youth’s 17th birthday. If a youth’s birthday occurs during the last 45 days of the “B” period, the state still has 45 days to collect the data. If the survey is administered after the end of the fiscal year, the data is reported along with the “A” period data for the following year. This means that the full complement of baseline data will not be complete until after the May 15th deadline (45 days after the end of the “A” period – March 31) for submission of the “A” period file for the following fiscal year.

SAMPLING

For the baseline population, no random sampling is done. The eligible baseline population consists of *all* youth in foster care at any point during the 45-day period beginning on their 17th birthday.

The cohort is a self-selected, non-probabilistic sample of youth in the baseline population. Because youth are not selected randomly, there is no guarantee that the cohort is representative of the baseline population (i.e., 17-year-old youth in foster care).

Once the cohort is selected, probabilistic sampling *may* be used to determine the two follow-up populations (at 19 and 21 years of age). Sampling is done once, and the same sample is used for both follow-up surveys.

Sample States. For the 2-year and 4-year follow-up surveys, states have the option of surveying a random sample of the Wave 1 Cohort. Sampling is done just once for both follow-ups. States that take this option have a value of 1 for the variable *SampleState*. Youth who are in the sample are denoted as such in the variable *InSample*. Only youth in the sample – and all those from non-sample states – are eligible for the ages 19 and 21 follow-up surveys.

There were 15 states that opted to use sampling for the FY2014 Cohort, Waves 2 and 3: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington.

The NYTD regulations specify the following regarding the sampling frame, sampling method, and sample size (45 CFR 1356.61(b)):

(b) The State agency must select the follow-up sample using simple random sampling procedures based on random numbers generated by a computer program, unless ACF approves another sampling procedure. The sampling universe consists of youth in the baseline population consistent with 45 CFR 1356.81(b) who participated in the State agency's data collection at age 17.

(c) The sample size is based on the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the State agency's data collection at age 17.

(1) If the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the outcome data collection at age 17 is 5,000 or less, the State agency must calculate the sample size using the formula in appendix C of this part, with the Finite Population Correction (FPC). The State agency must increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition, but the sample size may not be larger than the number of youth who participated in data collection at age 17.

(2) If the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the outcome data collection at age 17 is greater than 5,000, the State agency must calculate the sample size using the formula in appendix C of this part, without the FPC. The State agency must increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition, but the sample size must not be larger than the number of youth who participated in data collection at age 17.

Appendix C, referenced above, can be found as on-line document [Appendix C to Part 1356 - Calculating Sample Size for NYTD Follow-Up Populations](https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/appendix-C_to_part_1356) on the Cornell Law School website (https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/appendix-C_to_part_1356).

No state had more than 5000 youth in their cohort, so the Finite Population Correction (FPC) – described above and in Appendix C – applies to all states that use a sample.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Under NYTD rules, states have the discretion to choose the methods used to administer the Outcomes Survey to youth (e.g., in person, online, or over the phone) provided that the survey is administered to the person directly. No one can answer for the youth, nor can data from other sources be used to answer questions. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary on the part of the youth.

RESPONSE RATES

A response rate shows what proportion of the total pool of youth who were eligible for the survey actually participated in the survey. The purpose of the survey is to describe the characteristics of youth in the pool. The pool is always the denominator of the proportion. The following tables describe the pool in two ways: In Method 1, the pool is all youth who turned 17 in the baseline year, and who met all other criteria for eligibility. This is the Baseline Population. In Method 2, the pool is the youth who responded to the Baseline Survey (Wave 1). Method 2 only works for the follow-up surveys (Waves 2 & 3).

Response Rates for Wave 1. For Wave 1, there is only one way of computing the response rate.

Wave 1:

- *Denominator* is the number of youth in the baseline population (*Baseline = 1 AND Wave = 1*).
- *Numerator* is the number of youth who responded to the survey, and who met all other Cohort 2014 inclusion criteria (*FY14Cohort = 1 AND Wave = 1*).

Response Rates for Waves 2 and 3. For Waves 2 and 3, there are two ways of computing the response rate. The difference is in the denominator.

In Method 1, the denominator goes back to the original population of youth who turned 17 in FY2014 – this is the population for which that the survey is hoping to measure the outcomes. That is, this is the population that the survey respondents are intended to represent.

In Method 2, the denominator is the cohort – the youth who responded to the survey at Wave 1, and were eligible for subsequent surveys. . For states that sample, only youth in the sample are eligible. For states that did not sample, all youth in the cohort are eligible. This response rate tells you the proportion of youth who responded among those who were eligible.

Wave 2, Method 1:

- *Denominator* is the number of youth in the baseline population (*Baseline = 1 AND Wave = 1*).
- *Numerator* is the number of youth at Wave 2 who were in the FY2014 Cohort, were eligible for the Wave 2 survey, and who participated in the survey (*FY14Cohort = 1 AND Wave = 2 AND Elig19 = 1 AND OutcmRpt=1*).

Wave 2, Method 2:

- *Denominator* is the number of youth who were in the FY2014 Cohort and were eligible for the Wave 2 survey (*FY14Cohort = 1 AND Wave = 2 AND Elig19=1*).
- *Numerator* is the number of youth at Wave 2 who were in the FY2014 Cohort, were eligible for the Wave 2 survey, and who participated in the survey (*FY14Cohort = 1 AND Wave = 2 AND Elig19 = 1 and OutcmRpt=1*).

Wave 3, Method 1:

- *Denominator* is the number of youth in the baseline population (*Baseline = 1 AND Wave = 1*).
- *Numerator* is the number of youth at Wave 3 who were in the FY2014 Cohort, were eligible for the Wave 3 survey, and who participated in the survey . (*FY14Cohort = 1 AND Wave = 3 AND Elig21 = 1 and OutcmRpt=1*).

Wave 3, Method 2:

- *Denominator* is the number of youth who were in the FY2014 Cohort and were eligible for the Wave 3 survey
(*FY14Cohort* = 1 AND *Wave* = 3 AND *Elig21*=1).
- *Numerator* is the number of youth at Wave 3 who were in the FY2014 Cohort, were eligible for the Wave 3 survey, and who responded to the survey .
(*FY14Cohort* = 1 AND *Wave* = 3 AND *Elig21* = 1 and *OutcmRpt*=1).

TABLE 1: 2014 COHORT, WAVE 1, RESPONSE RATES BY STATE

FIPS	State	Baseline	FY14Cohort	Response Rate
1	Alabama	358	220	61%
2	Alaska	65	49	75%
4	Arizona	616	87	14%
5	Arkansas	210	141	67%
6	California	4,129	2,460	60%
8	Colorado	365	261	72%
9	Connecticut	331	275	83%
10	Delaware	84	67	80%
11	District of Columbia	85	56	66%
12	Florida	798	497	62%
13	Georgia	626	487	78%
15	Hawaii	59	43	73%
16	Idaho	63	47	75%
17	Illinois	781	492	63%
18	Indiana	523	440	84%
19	Iowa	438	394	90%
20	Kansas	470	384	82%
21	Kentucky	618	510	83%
22	Louisiana	300	276	92%
23	Maine	67	51	76%
24	Maryland	431	392	91%
25	Massachusetts	816	666	82%
26	Michigan	698	568	81%
27	Minnesota	314	174	55%
28	Mississippi	163	88	54%
29	Missouri	677	417	62%
30	Montana	76	52	68%
31	Nebraska	236	202	86%
32	Nevada	167	132	79%
33	New Hampshire	90	54	60%
34	New Jersey	328	226	69%
35	New Mexico	57	44	77%
36	New York	929	496	53%
37	North Carolina	536	165	31%
38	North Dakota	114	60	53%
39	Ohio	1,009	441	44%
40	Oklahoma	287	249	87%
41	Oregon	379	240	63%

FIPS	State	Baseline	FY14Cohort	Response Rate
42	Pennsylvania	752	752	100%
44	Rhode Island	178	140	79%
45	South Carolina	237	194	82%
46	South Dakota	57	52	91%
47	Tennessee	589	500	85%
48	Texas	1,384	1,117	81%
49	Utah	281	226	80%
50	Vermont	55	41	75%
51	Virginia	413	238	58%
53	Washington	413	348	84%
54	West Virginia	367	316	86%
55	Wisconsin	427	344	81%
56	Wyoming	77	67	87%
72	Puerto Rico	257	242	94%
Average Across Cases		23,780	16,480	69%
Average Across States				73%

TABLE 2: 2014 COHORT, WAVE 2, RESPONSE RATES BY STATE

FIPS	State	Baseline	Elig19	Elig19 Responses	Response Rate Method 1	Resp Rate Method 2
1	Alabama	358	220	189	53%	86%
2	Alaska	65	49	44	68%	90%
4	Arizona	616	87	38	6%	44%
5	Arkansas	210	141	71	34%	50%
6	California	4,129	2,460	1,994	48%	81%
8	Colorado	365	174	98	27%	56%
9	Connecticut	331	275	204	62%	74%
10	Delaware	84	67	45	54%	67%
11	District of Columbia	85	56	36	42%	64%
12	Florida	798	497	308	39%	62%
13	Georgia	626	227	180	29%	79%
15	Hawaii	59	43	36	61%	84%
16	Idaho	63	47	33	52%	70%
17	Illinois	781	226	171	22%	76%
18	Indiana	523	219	122	23%	56%
19	Iowa	438	210	131	30%	62%
20	Kansas	470	384	237	50%	62%
21	Kentucky	618	228	152	25%	67%
22	Louisiana	300	179	115	38%	64%
23	Maine	67	51	26	39%	51%
24	Maryland	431	209	156	36%	75%
25	Massachusetts	816	243	192	24%	79%
26	Michigan	698	568	458	66%	81%
27	Minnesota	314	174	138	44%	79%
28	Mississippi	163	88	75	46%	85%
29	Missouri	677	215	140	21%	65%
30	Montana	76	52	38	50%	73%
31	Nebraska	236	202	167	71%	83%
32	Nevada	167	132	111	66%	84%
33	New Hampshire	90	54	41	46%	76%
34	New Jersey	328	226	153	47%	68%
35	New Mexico	57	44	26	46%	59%
36	New York	929	496	268	29%	54%
37	North Carolina	536	165	119	22%	72%
38	North Dakota	114	60	38	33%	63%
39	Ohio	1,009	219	159	16%	73%
40	Oklahoma	287	249	174	61%	70%

FIPS	State	Baseline	Elig19	Elig19 Responses	Response Rate Method 1	Resp Rate Method 2
41	Oregon	379	240	173	46%	72%
42	Pennsylvania	752	260	153	20%	59%
44	Rhode Island	178	140	114	64%	81%
45	South Carolina	237	194	137	58%	71%
46	South Dakota	57	52	41	72%	79%
47	Tennessee	589	230	154	26%	67%
48	Texas	1,384	285	248	18%	87%
49	Utah	281	226	167	59%	74%
50	Vermont	55	41	27	49%	66%
51	Virginia	413	238	178	43%	75%
53	Washington	413	198	165	40%	83%
54	West Virginia	367	316	208	57%	66%
55	Wisconsin	427	344	207	48%	60%
56	Wyoming	77	67	43	56%	64%
72	Puerto Rico	257	242	208	81%	86%
Average Across Cases		23,780	12,309	8,906	37%	72%
Average Across States					43%	71%

TABLE 3: 2014 COHORT, WAVE 3, RESPONSE RATES BY STATE

FIPS	State	Baseline	Elig21	Elig21 Responses	Response Rate Method 1	Resp Rate Method 2
1	Alabama	358	220	151	42%	69%
2	Alaska	65	49	39	60%	80%
4	Arizona	616	86	35	6%	41%
5	Arkansas	210	139	68	32%	49%
6	California	4,129	2,456	1,649	40%	67%
8	Colorado	365	173	94	26%	54%
9	Connecticut	331	275	161	49%	59%
10	Delaware	84	66	37	44%	56%
11	District of Columbia	85	56	45	53%	80%
12	Florida	798	497	319	40%	64%
13	Georgia	626	226	155	25%	69%
15	Hawaii	59	43	30	51%	70%
16	Idaho	63	47	33	52%	70%
17	Illinois	781	225	104	13%	46%
18	Indiana	523	218	59	11%	27%
19	Iowa	438	210	128	29%	61%
20	Kansas	470	384	213	45%	55%
21	Kentucky	618	228	124	20%	54%
22	Louisiana	300	179	139	46%	78%
23	Maine	67	51	16	24%	31%
24	Maryland	431	207	153	35%	74%
25	Massachusetts	816	243	188	23%	77%
26	Michigan	698	565	398	57%	70%
27	Minnesota	314	174	132	42%	76%
28	Mississippi	163	88	65	40%	74%
29	Missouri	677	215	139	21%	65%
30	Montana	76	52	38	50%	73%
31	Nebraska	236	201	145	61%	72%
32	Nevada	167	132	86	51%	65%
33	New Hampshire	90	54	37	41%	69%
34	New Jersey	328	226	134	41%	59%
35	New Mexico	57	42	25	44%	60%
36	New York	929	495	342	37%	69%
37	North Carolina	536	165	120	22%	73%
38	North Dakota	114	59	36	32%	61%
39	Ohio	1,009	218	145	14%	67%
40	Oklahoma	287	249	183	64%	73%
41	Oregon	379	240	179	47%	75%

FIPS	State	Baseline	Elig21	Elig21 Responses	Response Rate Method 1	Resp Rate Method 2
42	Pennsylvania	752	259	104	14%	40%
44	Rhode Island	178	139	98	55%	71%
45	South Carolina	237	192	125	53%	65%
46	South Dakota	57	52	41	72%	79%
47	Tennessee	589	228	141	24%	62%
48	Texas	1,384	285	248	18%	87%
49	Utah	281	226	142	51%	63%
50	Vermont	55	40	24	44%	60%
51	Virginia	413	238	142	34%	60%
53	Washington	413	197	159	38%	81%
54	West Virginia	367	315	195	53%	62%
55	Wisconsin	427	344	189	44%	55%
56	Wyoming	77	66	43	56%	65%
72	Puerto Rico	257	239	18	7%	8%
Average Across Cases		23,780	12,273	7,813	33%	64%
Average Across States					38%	63%

DATA FILE INFORMATION

NDACAN Dataset #228 contains complete data – all 3 Waves – from the NYTD Outcomes Survey for the FY2014 Cohort. The variable “Wave” distinguishes between the Waves. Wave 1 (Wave=1) includes all youth in the baseline population, regardless of whether they responded to the survey. Waves 2 and 3 include only youth who were in the FY2014 Cohort and were eligible for the follow-up.

ANALYTIC CONSIDERATIONS

RecNumbr is the encrypted youth identifier. This ID is only guaranteed to be unique within a state, so *RecNumbr* must always be used in combination with the state ID when counting or otherwise analyzing particular youth.

To facilitate working with *St-RecNumbrs*, NDACAN added the derived variable ***StFCID*** to the dataset. *StFCID* is the concatenation of *St* and *RecNumbr*. For example, when *St* = “CA” and *RecNumbr* = “123456789012”, then *StFCID* would be “CA123456789012”.

A *StFCID* is unique within a Wave. A *StFCID-Wave* combination is unique in the entire file. The current file has Wave 1, Wave 2, and Wave 3 data.

Another advantage of using *StFCID* is that it is present in each of the four linkable files listed below, with the same name.

LINKING TO OTHER FILES

The variable *RecNumbr* is an encrypted version of the youth’s unique identifier used by the state agency. The ID may go by different names in the various linkable files. These are:

- NYTD Outcomes File: *RecNumbr*
- AFCARS Foster Care File: *RecNumbr*
- AFCARS Adoption File: *RecNum* (for some states)
- NCANDS Child File: *AFCARSID*

The AFCARS youth identifier is encrypted for all these datasets, but is encrypted consistently across datasets, so it serves as an indicator of the same youth across datasets and across years. Be careful, however. These commonalities are generally reliable, but are not applicable to all states in all years. Contact NDACAN Support for further information regarding which states can be linked across specific years.

SEE THE NYTD CODE BOOK FOR VARIABLE INFORMATION.

Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN. Send inquiries to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu.