

National Youth in Transition Database 101

Attachment F



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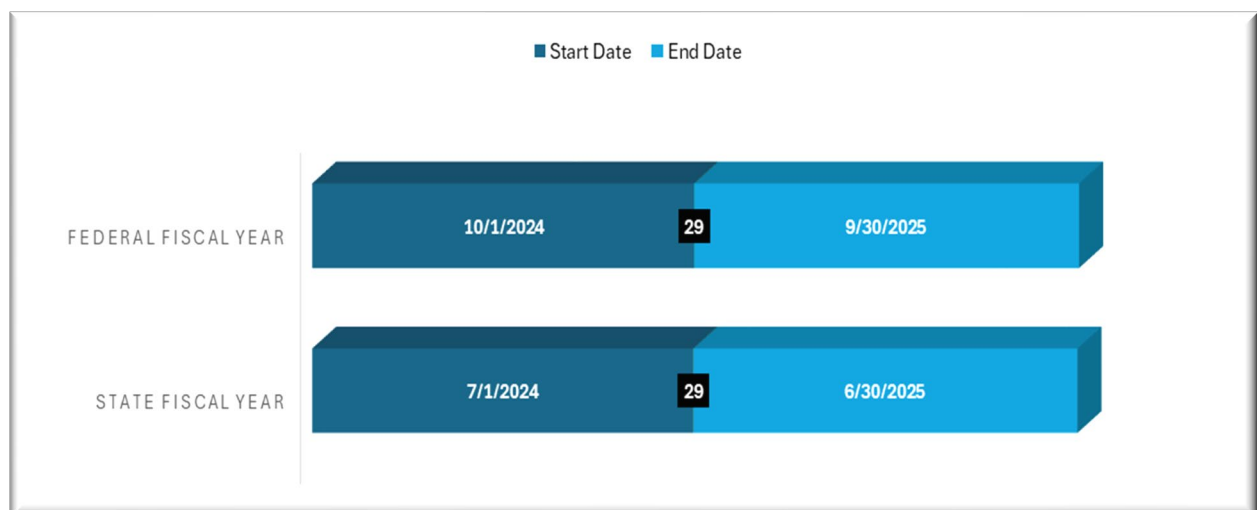
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I. NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federal data collection system for States to track the independent living services and outcome measures that are used to assess States' performance in their independent living programs/service delivery; what the Indiana Department of Child Services has reframed as Older Youth Services (OYS).

NYTD federal regulations require states to track independent living services and survey the outcomes of foster youth throughout the federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). The NYTD data collection process for all States began on October 1, 2010.

- The timeline below illustrates the difference between the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) and the State Fiscal Year (SFY).



A. NYTD DATA COLLECTIONS

The law mandates all states to engage in two data collection activities:

1. States are to collect information on each youth who receives independent living services paid for or provided by the State agency that administers the Chafee Program.
2. States are required to collect demographic and outcome information on specific youth in foster care, whom the State will follow over time to gather additional outcome data.

1. SERVICES

The independent living services and supports they provide to all youth in eleven broad categories:

- Independent living needs assessment
- Academic support
- Post-secondary educational support
- Career preparation
- Employment programs or vocational training
- Budget and financial management
- Housing, education, and home management training
- Health education and risk prevention
- Family support and healthy marriage education
- Mentoring
- Supervised independent living
- Financial assistance (education, room and board, and other aid)

2. YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS & OUTCOME MEASURES

- Youth characteristics are identified as a youth's education level and tribal membership. Basic demographic information includes the sex and race of each youth in the service population.
- Outcomes are collected, and information is reported on youth who are in foster care. ACF uses this information to measure the collective outcomes of youth and States' performance in six general outcome areas:
 1. Increase youth financial self-sufficiency
 2. Improve youth education (academic or vocational attainment)
 3. Increase youth connections with adults
 4. Reduce homelessness among youth
 5. Reduce high-risk behavior among youth
 6. Improve youth access to health insurance

The NYTD data collected provides a detailed outlook on DCS older youth services, service delivery, and outcomes for youth.

II. NYTD OUTCOME SURVEY

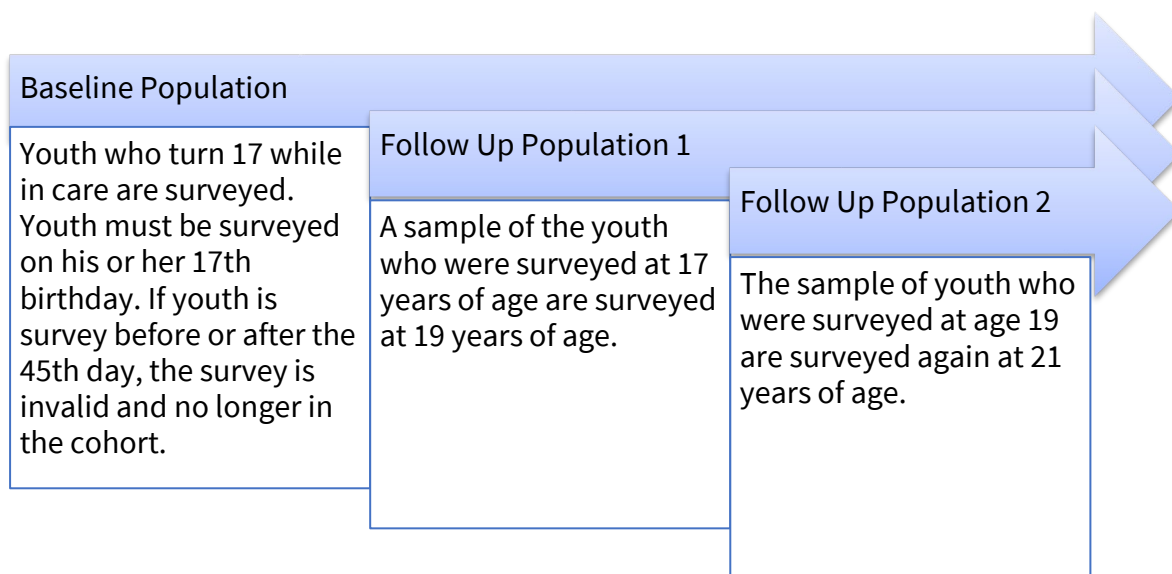
State child welfare agencies survey youth and young adults who are or were previously in foster care on the six outcome measures described above. States are required to collect outcome information by conducting surveys of youth in foster care on or around their 17th, 19th, and 21st birthdays. The NYTD survey outcome data is collected by cohort. Youth will remain in their cohort throughout the survey period and timeframe. The flowchart below illustrates the current NYTD cohort schedule.

NYTD Cohort Schedule

Reporting Population	FFY26	FFY27	FFY28	FFY29	FFY30	FFY31	FFY32	FFY33	FFY34	FFY35
Baseline population (Age 17)	Cohort 6			Cohort 7			Cohort 8			Cohort 9
Follow-up population (Age 19)			Cohort 6			Cohort 7			Cohort 8	
Follow-up population (Age 21)		Cohort 5			Cohort 6			Cohort 7		

Youth taking the survey at age 17 are referred to as the baseline population, and youth taking the survey at ages 19 and 21 are referred to as the follow-up population. The flow chart below illustrates the population and cohort schedule.

NYTD Population Flowchart



III. NYTD REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

State child welfare agencies must meet the NYTD standard requirements to comply with the federal law. The NYTD standards are:

- Meet file format requirements and contain error-free information for certain standard demographic information.
- Contain information that is 90 percent error-free from:
 - Missing information, internally inconsistent responses, and invalid information;

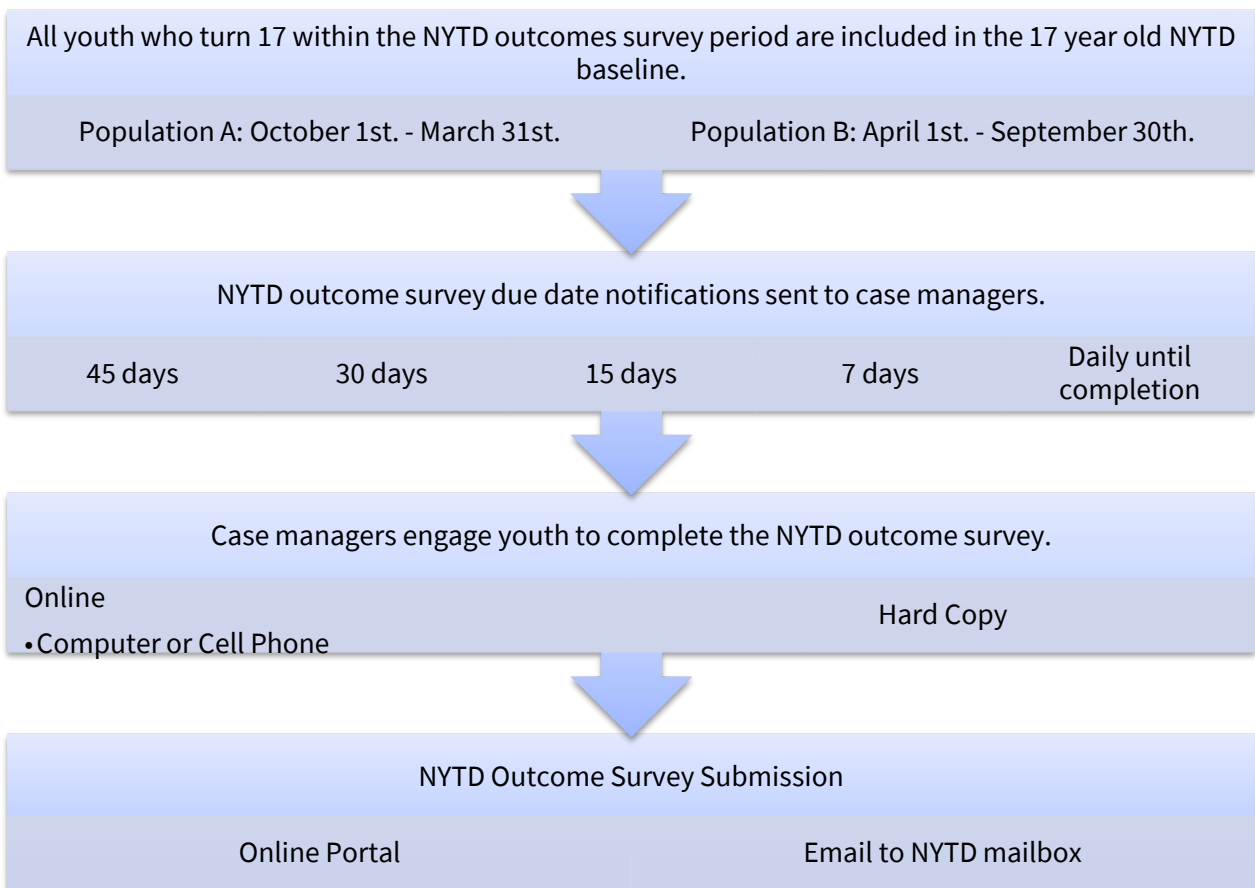
- Provide full or partial outcome survey information on all 19 and 21-year-olds in the follow-up population or sample, or indicate why the survey information was not obtainable (i.e., because the youth is incapacitated or deceased);
- Achieve an **80 percent** participation compliance rate in the outcome survey, the 19 and 21-year-old follow-up population is **IN FOSTER CARE.**
- Achieve a **60 percent** participation compliance rate in the outcome survey for the 19 and 21-year-old follow-up population who are **NO LONGER IN FOSTER CARE.**

State child welfare agencies that do not meet federal requirements or comply with federal standards will receive a **financial penalty** of 0.5% to 5%.

IV. ADMINISTERING THE NYTD SURVEY

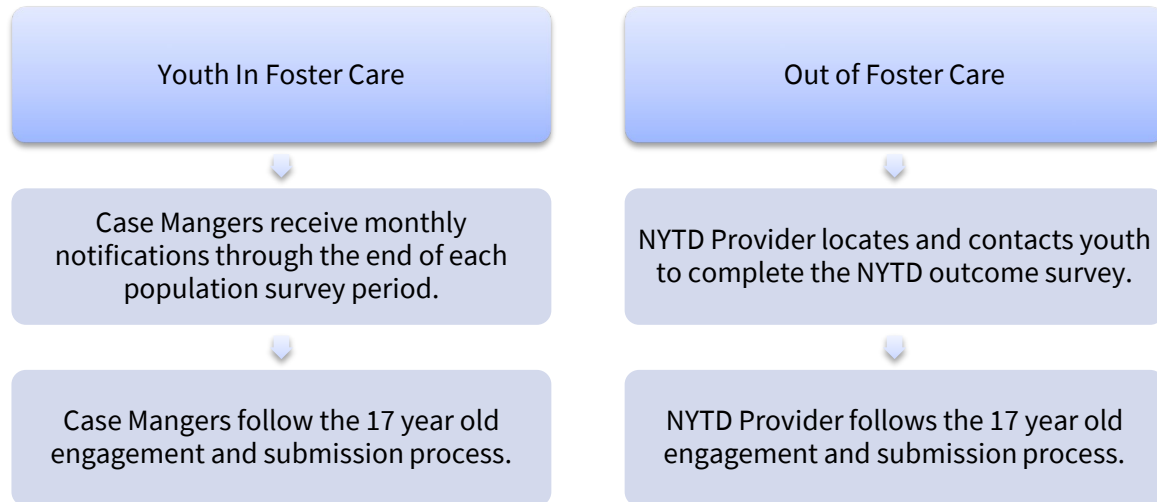
Child welfare agencies are responsible for conducting and administering the NYTD outcomes survey for eligible youth during each NYTD cohort survey period. The two flowcharts below illustrate the workflow for the 17-year-old baseline population and the 19- and 21-year-old follow-up population.

17-Year-Old NYTD Outcome Survey Workflow



19 & 21 Year Old NYTD Outcome Survey Workflow

Youth eligible to take the survey at ages 19 and 21 will remain in their cohort population. Youth are required to complete the survey by the end of their population A or B survey period. The engagement and submission of the NYTD outcome survey mirror the 17-year-old workflow process.



A. TAKING THE NYTD OUTCOME SURVEY

The NYTD outcome survey must be administered to youth during the survey period. The NYTD survey is designed to be youth-focused and to elevate the youth voice. Therefore, youth must complete the survey without interference or coaching. There are several ways youth can complete and submit the NYTD outcome survey.

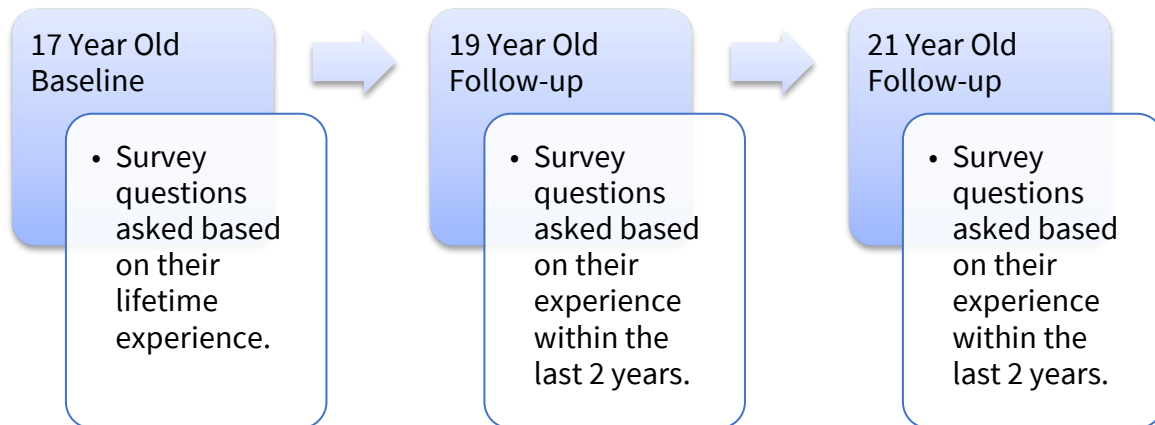
1. Youth may take the survey online or complete a paper copy.
2. Youth will be provided with information on how to take the survey, which includes their login and password.
3. The NYTD surveys must be completed by the survey completion date.
4. Completed paper surveys can be scanned and emailed to the NYTD mailbox.
 - a. When submitting the paper survey, the completion date must be documented on the survey, and the youth must initial the survey.
5. The DCS staff and/or the NYTD provider can assist the youth if needed.
 - a. Assisting the youth in accessing a computer or other electronic devices to complete the survey.
 - b. Providing the paper survey
 - c. Reading the questions to the youth.

- i. Suppose the survey is administered over the phone. In that case, the case manager or provider can record the youth's answers with the youth's permission.

V. NYTD OUTCOME SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The NYTD outcome survey methodology is a longitudinal study for each cohort. The questions on the NYTD survey are designed to collect information on each of the outcome measures and were developed by the federal NYTD team. The NYTD outcome survey begins with baseline questions for each outcome area at age 17. A random selection of youth is tracked twice over four years, at ages 19 and 21, and asked the NYTD questions during each survey cycle. The figures below will illustrate the NYTD outcome survey methodology.

NYTD Longitudinal Design



Sample NYTD Survey Questions

Financial Self-Sufficiency

- “Currently are you employed full-time?”

Educational Attainment

- “What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?”

High Risk Behavior

- “Have you ever referred yourself or has someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?” (baseline youth) OR “In the past two years, did you refer yourself, or had someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?” (follow-up youth)

Connection to Adults

- “Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker, to whom you can go for advice or emotional support?”

Access to Health Care

- “Currently are you on Medicaid?”

VI. NYTD YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & INCENTIVES

The NYTD outcome survey provides an opportunity for the voices of youth and young adults to be heard on how well DCS is performing in delivering services to older youth. Their participation in the survey provides the information DCS needs to effect change. It is essential to keep youth engaged by involving them in the NYTD education process through data collection tasks. This starts by intentionally informing youth about NYTD to build rapport and get "buy-in". Youth who understand the importance of participating in the NYTD youth outcome survey before they leave foster care are more likely to maintain contact with their former foster care agency. When engaging youth about the NYTD outcome survey:

- Be Personal
- Be Informed
- Ensure that youth have access to electronic technology
- Use Authentic Youth Engagement

A. ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Knowing how and when to engage youth about NYTD will increase the “buy-in” needed to ensure youth are committed to taking the survey in the future. Case managers and Service providers possess knowledge and expertise in authentic youth engagement, which will help support the NYTD process.

Early and Ongoing Engagement Techniques

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- ☐ Talk to youth while they are in care and receiving services.
- ☐ Inviting youth to participate in leadership opportunities.
- ☐ Sharing youth satisfaction survey data and asking for input.
- ☐ Collaborating with the NYTD provider.
- ☐ Support youth voice and youth -adult partnerships.

Supporting Youth

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- ☐ Building rapport with the youth.
- ☐ Referring youth to the youth connections program.
- ☐ Maintain contact with the youth.
- ☐ Assisting youth with taking the survey.
- ☐ Show empathy and be trauma informed.

B. COMMUNICATION TIPS

Communicating with youth about NYTD can be challenging; however, it is crucial to ensure that youth understand what the NYTD outcome survey is and how their participation will drive change within the system. You don't need to know the details of NYTD; however, you should educate yourself on what "NYTD" stands for, what it means, the outcome we're measuring, and how youth voice matters. Here are a few talking points:

- NYTD is a national survey being taken by many youth who are or have been in foster care, informing their states and the nation on how services can be improved.
- Taking the NYTD survey at age 17 provides DCS and service providers with a starting point from which to initiate services.
- By taking the NYTD survey at age 17, youth may be eligible to retake it at ages 19 and 21 to update DCS and service providers on their progress with the services offered.
- Taking the NYTD survey prevents DCS from losing older youth services funding. It will enable OYS providers to offer a range of services.
- The survey does not ask you about personal details of your life or the reasons behind certain decisions.
- Your information is confidential and will not be shared.
- Support youth in taking the survey and ensure their answers are not altered.
- Ask youth to provide or update their contact information (phone, email, social media name). Share how it is important to maintain their contact to locate them in the future.

VII. NYTD RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Each video offers information and a different perspective on the importance of taking the NYTD Survey and can be used as a resource to educate staff and youth.

- Spotlight on NYTD: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_jKCVShd8
- Taking the NYTD Survey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RmIsaGQ7dw>
- Give the NYTD Survey: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuvQMZh5BJY>

NYTD References

Children's Bureau. (2021, April 6). Retrieved from An Office of the Administration for Children & Families: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/fact-sheet/about-nytd>

(2016). *Engaging Youth in NYTD*. Oklahoma: Capacity Building Center for States.