

NYTD

National Youth in Transition Database

FACT SHEET FOR YOUTH ON THE NYTD SURVEY

What is the NYTD?

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) project was established by the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to meet the mandate included in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program of the Social Security Act. The Act requires states to develop a data collection method to track and report on the independent living services that states provide to youth in care and to report on the outcomes of youth in care and youth who have aged out of care.

Which youth are asked to participate?

DCFS is required to administer surveys to youth who are in specific populations, based on the youth's age and the reporting period. There are two different populations of youth who are eligible to complete a survey:

- A baseline population includes youth who turn 17 while in care or enter care within 45 days of their 17th birthday. The first baseline population was those youth who met this criteria between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011. DCFS is required to start a new baseline population every 3 years after that.
- A follow-up population includes a group of youth selected from the baseline population to complete the survey again when they turn 19 and 21 (even if they are no longer in care).

Why should you participate in the NYTD survey effort?

The only people who truly know what it's like to be in care are the youth who have been there. The NYTD survey offers youth an opportunity to provide input by providing basic information about their employment, education, health care situation and other services they receive.

Youth across the country are being asked to participate in the survey. You can leave a lasting legacy by providing lawmakers with information that will help youth in care achieve their goals for the future, tailor services so that they make sense for young people like you and provide support for the necessary services.

Why types of questions will they ask me?

The NYTD ask youth questions about things like:

- Your current level of education.
- Whether you are employed full time or part time.
- What kind of health insurance you have.
- What kind of financial support you receive, if any.
- If you have caring adults and other caregivers in your life.

What if I don't want to answer a question?

Your participation in the NYTD survey is completely voluntary. If you do agree to participate and decide that you do not want to answer certain questions, you can decline to answer any question you're asked.

Who will contact me about participating in the NYTD survey?

You will be contacted by your current caseworker. If you no longer have an open case, your last caseworker will contact you. If you leave care after age 18, and completed a survey at age 17, it is very important that you keep your last caseworker updated with current contact information so they can reach you at age 19 and 21. It is very important that you have the opportunity to complete the survey and provide your input!

How can I provide my answers for the NYTD survey?

You can participate in four ways: by phone with your caseworker, in person with your caseworker, online at <https://nytd.dcf.illinois.gov> (only your name and date of birth is required to enter the survey) or you can request that your caseworker mail the survey to you to complete and return.

How will the information I provide be used?

The information collected from the surveys will be used to help understand whether the independent living funds that the federal government spends are helping youth in care. The federal government, particularly the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), will be using the information to help make better programs and policies.