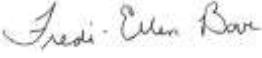


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Outcomes Survey

PURPOSE

This numbered memo provides the following information regarding the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Outcomes Survey:

- Background information on the survey;
- A link to the new NYTD page on the DCF website; and
- A link to a recorded webinar that provides a detailed overview of NYTD and how it is administered.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, Congress established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act requiring states to assist youth in transitioning from out-of-home care to self-sufficiency. The law also required the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living (IL) services provided to youth and to develop an outcomes data collection process that measures states' success in preparing youth for the transition to independence. To meet this requirement, ACF created the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

Outcomes information is obtained by directly surveying youth who are or were in out-of-home care (OHC) within 45 days following their 17th birthday. Each youth who completed at least one question on the NYTD Outcomes Survey at age 17 is a participant in the "NYTD Baseline Population". At ages 19 and 21 baseline participants become follow-up participants and are required to complete the NYTD Outcomes Survey at age 19, and again at age 21.

To efficiently manage youth participation, DCF has engaged the services of the University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC), a unit of the University of Wisconsin – Madison with significant experience administering surveys to specialized populations.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

On October 1, 2017, the federal reporting period for 21-year olds began. There are two federal reporting periods for 19 and 21-year olds:

- October 1 – March 31

- April 1 – September 30

The UWSC contacts eligible 19 and 21-year old foster youth or former foster youth. They also contact caseworkers and independent living (IL) coordinators when a survey is due for a youth in their county or region. **Youth in the cohort that began on October 1, 2017 have until March 31, 2018 to complete the survey.**

While the UWSC is the first and primary point of contact for youth taking the NYTD survey, caseworkers and IL coordinators have a significant role to play. The UWSC will be more effective in finding youth if workers and coordinators continue to engage young people, assisting them with their transition to adulthood, while continuing to keep their contact information up to date in eWiSACWIS.

Caseworkers and IL coordinators are encouraged to visit the new NYTD page (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/ys/nytd>) on the DCF website and to view a recorded webinar (https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/elearning/nytd-policy/story_html5.html) on the administration of the NYTD survey. Both resources contain more detailed information related to the NYTD survey, along with contact information for the primary NYTD contacts at DCF and the UWSC.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Services Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Youth Services
(608) 422-6988
dcfbys@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>