

Every Youth... Every Year

Florida's Department of Children and Families *Every Youth...Every Year* project is a commitment to ensure that each year, *every youth* in Florida's foster care system has the opportunity and support to have his/her voice heard. Effective January 2011, the paper version of the IL Critical Checklist was replaced with an online survey.

My Services, an online survey, is utilized by Florida's Department of Children & Families. The *My Services* survey was designed by Cby25[®] Initiative to provide a way for youth to let us know how they feel about the foster care services they are receiving from their point of view.

The *My Services* survey population is youth, ages 13-17, eligible for services under Florida Statute 409.1451. During our most recent survey period, which ran from September 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, over 1500 youth completed the survey. This report is a [Snapshot] of some of the questions/responses and contains information from the youth's point of view on what we are doing well and areas where we need to improve.

If you have any questions about this [Snapshot] report, or want to inquire about data available but not contained in this report, please email us at ILChecklist@Cby25i.org.

Identification

Standard: Youth in foster care should have a *legal* Identification card
Requirement: Chapter 39: 17 year old judicial review

I have a State of Florida Identification Card		
Age	Yes	No
13	18.18%	81.82%
14	21.19%	78.81%
15	26.84%	73.16%
16	45.27%	54.73%
17	69.98%	30.02%

Court Attendance

Do you attend you Foster Care Court Hearings?				
Age	Yes	Sometimes	NO, but I WANT to attend my Court Hearings	I DO NOT want to attend my Court Hearings
13	33.49%	26.79%	22.01%	17.71%
14	37.92%	32.34%	15.61%	14.13%
15	44.35%	30.23%	14.69%	10.73%
16	49.10%	28.15%	12.84%	9.91%
17	59.34%	26.95%	8.75%	4.96%

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Permanency

Florida requires that youth in foster care are included in their case planning and permanency reviews. *Information from any staffings, meetings or hearings should be provided to the youth in language they understand.*

I have a copy of my Signed Case Plan		
Age	Yes	No
15	43.79%	56.21%
16	46.77%	53.23%
17	49.06%	50.94%

Do you understand what your Permanency Goal means?		
Age	Yes	No
13	70.34%	29.67%
14	80.30%	19.70%
15	76.27%	23.73%
16	83.11%	16.89%
17	82.03%	17.97%

I want to be Adopted			
Age	Yes	No	Not Sure
13	40.67%	44.02%	15.31%
14	29.37%	47.21%	23.42%
15	34.46%	48.59%	16.95%
16	20.95%	65.32%	13.74%
17	9.93%	83.92%	6.15%

Connections to Adults outside of Foster Care

Is there an ADULT in your life that you go to for advice and support [DO NOT count your Caseworker, Foster Parents, or Staff at a group home]?		
Age	Yes	No
13	65.55%	34.45%
14	72.49%	27.51%
15	78.25%	21.75%
16	77.93%	22.07%
17	82.98%	17.02%

Permanent Connections: As our youth in foster care get older, there is a dramatic decrease in the number of youth who say they want to be adopted.

To achieve permanency, youth must be connected to caring adults outside of the foster care system. Connected to caring adults outside of those paid to care for them.

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Placement Stability

In the last 12 months, have you changed Foster Care Placements?		
Age	Yes	No
13	40.19%	59.81%
14	41.26%	58.74%
15	47.46%	52.54%
16	46.17%	53.83%
17	47.99%	52.01%

If the youth answered *YES* – they changed placements in the last 12 months

When I moved, I knew about the plan to move me and was able to talk it through with my friends and/or family		
Age	Yes	No
13	71.43%	28.57%
14	62.16%	37.84%
15	66.07%	33.93%
16	72.20%	27.81%
17	67.98%	32.02%

When I moved, I was able to take my things with me.		
Age	Yes	No
13	88.10%	11.91%
14	85.59%	14.41%
15	84.52%	15.48%
16	92.68%	7.32%
17	86.21%	13.79%

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Prescription Medication

Are you currently taking any prescription medications?		
Age	Yes	No
13	52.15%	47.85%
14	51.30%	48.70%
15	47.74%	52.26%
16	46.17%	53.83%
17	40.66%	59.34%

If the youth answered *YES* – they are taking prescription medications

Do you understand the possible side effects of your medication		
Age	Yes	No
13	60.55%	39.45%
14	75.36%	24.64%
15	79.29%	20.71%
16	84.39%	15.61%
17	88.37%	11.63%

Were you <u>involved</u> in deciding to take the medication		
Age	Yes	No
13	66.97%	33.03%
14	68.84%	31.16%
15	79.88%	20.12%
16	84.39%	15.61%
17	83.72%	16.28%

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Education

Do you have an <i>Education & Career Path Plan?</i> (This may be your epep.)		
Age	Yes	No
13	31.10%	68.90%
14	31.23%	68.77%
15	33.90%	66.10%
16	41.22%	58.78%
17	51.30%	48.70%

Do your <u>foster parents or group home staff</u> review your school grades and report cards with you?		
Age	Yes	No
13	88.04%	11.96%
14	86.99%	13.01%
15	84.18%	15.82%
16	79.28%	20.72%
17	71.15%	28.85%

Does your <u>caseworker</u> review your school grades and report cards with you?		
Age	Yes	No
13	70.81%	29.19%
14	72.12%	27.88%
15	70.06%	29.94%
16	72.52%	27.48%
17	69.03%	30.97%

Florida Statute requires that; for children in foster care who have reached 13 years of age, the department or community-based provider shall ensure that the child's case plan includes an educational and career path based upon both the abilities and interests of each child

During this school year – who attended the parent/teacher conferences with you? [select all that apply]										
Age	Biological Parents/Family	Family	Foster Parents	Group Home Staff	Caseworker	ILS Worker	GAL	Mentor	Other	No One Attended
13	2.39%	1.44%	42.58%	17.70%	17.23%	1.91%	5.74%	2.39%	8.13%	26.32%
14	2.79%	3.35%	32.34%	21.93%	19.33%	3.72%	6.69%	1.49%	9.29%	27.88%
15	2.54%	4.52%	33.05%	20.90%	20.90%	1.98%	7.63%	1.41%	4.52%	32.77%
16	4.73%	4.05%	21.62%	23.20%	24.55%	4.05%	5.41%	2.48%	7.66%	37.39%
17	1.18%	3.55%	19.62%	16.31%	25.06%	7.09%	8.75%	2.60%	6.62%	39.95%

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*Preparing our youth in foster care for
Employment*

I am learning job skills and independence by earning extra money by babysitting, mowing lawns, cleaning yards and other activities approved by my foster parent or group home staff		
Age	Yes	No
13	42.10%	57.90%
14	45.73%	54.28%
15	41.81%	58.19%
16	46.17%	53.83%
17	53.19%	46.81%

I am getting job experience by volunteering		
Age	Yes	No
13	20.10%	79.90%
14	28.63%	71.38%
15	36.44%	63.56%
16	43.02%	56.98%
17	47.52%	52.48%

I am currently employed		
Age	Yes	No
16	5.40%	94.60%
17	9.93%	90.07%

I have been told about youth employment programs in my area, by my caseworker or staff		
Age	Yes	No
17	50.36%	49.64%

What additional help do you need to get a job? [Select all that apply]									
	Better Reading and/or Math Skills	Job Coaching	Proper Clothing	Learning how to complete a resume	Interviewing Skills	Learning how to work out problems with coworkers/bosses	Learning how to complete a job application	Finding companies that are hiring	None
Age 17	7.90%	9.33%	8.03%	13.08%	11.66%	5.44%	6.87%	20.60%	17.10%

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Normalcy

If the youth answered NO – [they have not completed a Teen Activities/Normalcy Plan, we asked the youth if they *wanted* a plan

I have completed a Teen Activities/Normalcy Plan		
Age	Yes	No
13	57.42%	42.58%
14	60.97%	39.03%
15	62.15%	37.85%
16	71.40%	28.60%
17	78.49%	21.51%



I WANT to complete a Teen Activities/Normalcy Plan		
Age	Yes	No
13	55.06%	44.94%
14	61.90%	38.10%
15	58.95%	41.05%
16	60.16%	39.84%
17	53.85%	46.15%

I want to participate in extracurricular activities but I do not have <u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	
Age	Yes
13	27.75%
14	31.60%
15	28.81%
16	29.51%
17	28.13%

I want to participate in extracurricular activities but I do not have the <u>MONEY</u>	
Age	Yes
13	29.19%
14	33.83%
15	31.36%
16	34.01%
17	28.84%

I want to participate in extracurricular activities but I live in a home where I am <u>NOT Allowed</u>	
Age	Yes
13	17.23%
14	14.13%
15	14.41%
16	18.02%
17	14.89%

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Life Skills Training

I have a Life Skills Training Plan that I helped develop and it is specific to what I need to learn			
Age	Yes	No	I DO NOT want a life skills training plan
13	59.81%	36.36%	3.83%
14	59.11%	34.94%	5.95%
15	62.99%	30.23%	6.78%
16	73.20%	23.42%	3.38%
17	83.45%	13.24%	3.31%

What do you think of the Life Skills training classes that you attend? [select all that apply]							
Age	Interesting	We practice with hands-on activities and it is helpful	A waste of time	They make me attend classes that I do not need	Life Skills Training classes are mostly completing worksheets	We have Life Skills as a group and are not specific to me or my Life Skills Plan	Other
13	50.36%	12.23%	11.51%	6.48%	8.63%	7.19%	3.60%
14	46.41%	18.79%	8.29%	5.53%	7.74%	10.50%	2.76%
15	46.30%	15.56%	7.41%	5.56%	10.74%	5.56%	8.89%
16	52.66%	16.18%	6.04%	5.80%	8.45%	6.04%	4.83%
17	47.51%	17.26%	7.30%	4.80%	7.65%	6.58%	8.90%

How would you improve Life Skills Training?[select all that apply]			
Age	Life Skills Training on the Computer	Have Life Skills Activities I can complete in my Foster Home	Have the Life Skills Training Classes closer to where I live
13	49.76%	48.80%	20.10%
14	53.90%	43.49%	27.88%
15	46.61%	49.72%	26.84%
16	53.60%	47.07%	25.23%
17	44.44%	47.99%	26.71%

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Age 17: Transition from Foster Care

I have a <u>Learners Permit</u>	
Age	Yes
17	15.13%

I have a <u>Driver's License</u>	
17	2.36%

I have a collection of pictures, records of special events and important papers from my time in foster care		
Age	Yes	No
17	63.12%	36.88%

I have signed my Independent Living Transition Plan and it has been filed with the court				
Age	Yes	No	I do not know	I <u>do not</u> want to develop a Transition Plan
17	59.25%	10.19%	29.76%	0.80%

When you leave foster care, what Housing options are you looking at? [Select all that apply]						
Age	Apartment/House	Live with Friends	Stay in Foster Care Placement	Live with Family	Live on Campus	Other
17	69.50%	12.29%	9.22%	17.49%	8.04%	8.75%

Did you develop a budget for your housing and other expenses when you leave foster care?		
Age	Yes	No
17	56.50%	43.50%

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My Services

Youth Survey: 9/1/2011 – 10/31/2011	
Age	# of youth who completed the survey
13	209
14	269
15	354
16	444
17	423
Total	1699



For Information about this [Snapshot] report – contact:

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Youth Survey: Ages 13-17 [Preliminary/Fall]



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