
CALIFORNIA YOUTH TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD STUDY CALYOUTH

The CALifornia YOUTH Transitions to Adulthood Study (CALYOUTH) is an evaluation of the impact of AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, on outcomes during the transition to adulthood for foster youth. The study will include collection and analysis of information from transition-age youth, child welfare workers, and caregivers who provide services to foster youth, as well as analysis of government program data. The study, directed by Dr. Mark Courtney from the University of Chicago, will be carried out over a 5-year period.

California is one of the first states to adopt the federal Fostering Connections legislation allowing foster youth to remain in care to age 21 and has the largest foster care population of any state. Policymakers, program administrators, and advocates from California and other states can benefit from learning how this new policy influences outcomes for youth making the transition to adulthood from foster care. The purpose of the study is to answer the following questions:

1. Does the extension of foster care past age 18 influence youths' outcomes during the transition to adulthood (e.g., education, employment, health, housing, parenting, and general well-being)?
2. What factors influence the types of support youth receive during the transition to adulthood in the context of AB 12?
3. How do living arrangements and other services that result from AB 12 influence the relationship between extending care and youth outcomes?

Approximately 800 17-year-old foster youth in California will be interviewed in 2013 and a smaller group of youth and their caregivers will be interviewed about the youths' living arrangements. In addition, a 10-15 minute on-line survey of child welfare workers will be conducted to obtain worker perceptions of key characteristics of the service delivery context (e.g., availability of transitional living services, coordination of services with other service systems, county court personnel and youth attitudes toward extended care). Findings from the study will be disseminated to policy, practice and research audiences.

The study is funded by the Conrad Hilton Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, The Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Fund, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. For additional information about **CALYOUTH**, please contact: Dr. Mark Courtney at markc@uchicago.edu.