

NYTD 102

What is the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)?

In 1999, Public Law 106-169 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), providing States flexible funding to carry out independent living programs that assist youth in care as well as those transitioning to adulthood. The law also requires the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living services provided to youth and to develop outcomes that measure States' performance in preparing youth for their transition from foster care to independent living. To meet this requirement, ACF published a proposed rule in the Federal Register in July 2006 and issued a final rule in February 2008. The regulation (45 CFR 1356.80 through 1356.86) establishes the National Youth in Transition Database, or NYTD.

What data must be collected and reported by States?

The NYTD regulation requires States to engage in two data collection and reporting activities. First, States will collect and report basic demographic data on each youth and the independent living (IL) services provided to them by the State in thirteen broad categories:

- independent living needs assessment
- academic support
- post-secondary educational support
- career preparation
- employment programs or vocational training
- housing education and home management training
- budget and financial management
- health education and risk prevention
- family support and healthy marriage education
- mentoring
- supervised independent living
- room and board financial assistance
- education financial assistance

Second, States will conduct a baseline survey of youth in foster care at age 17 and will conduct a follow-up survey with these youth at ages 19 and 21 to collect and report information about the following youth outcomes:

- financial self-sufficiency
- experience with homelessness
- educational attainment
- positive connections with adults
- high-risk behavior
- access to health insurance

States will collect and report outcomes information on a new cohort of youth every three years.

When must States begin collecting and reporting data?

States must begin collecting NYTD data on October 1, 2010 and must transmit their first semiannual data file no later than May 15, 2011. NYTD will follow the same reporting schedule as AFCARS.

What standards must States' data submissions meet?

To comply with NYTD standards, States' data submissions must meet certain file format requirements and data accuracy standards. States must also meet a youth participation rate standard for the NYTD outcomes survey. States that do not comply with these data standards, may be penalized between one and five percent of their annual Chafee Foster Care Independence Program allotment.

What is the latest news on the development of the Federal data collection system?

In September 2008, a contract was awarded to design, develop and implement the Federal data collection system that will receive and process States' NYTD data submissions. The contractor will also work collaboratively with the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology and the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development to provide technical assistance to States to support effective data collection and reporting.

Where can I obtain more information or request technical assistance?

For questions related to the NYTD regulation or to obtain a copy of materials from the NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting, please visit the Children's Bureau website at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/ or contact Miguel Vieyra, Program Specialist, miguel.vieyra@acf.hhs.gov.



For technical assistance requests related to NYTD data collection and reporting, please visit the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology at www.nrccwdt.org



For technical assistance requests related to engaging youth in NYTD implementation planning, please visit the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development at <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/>

