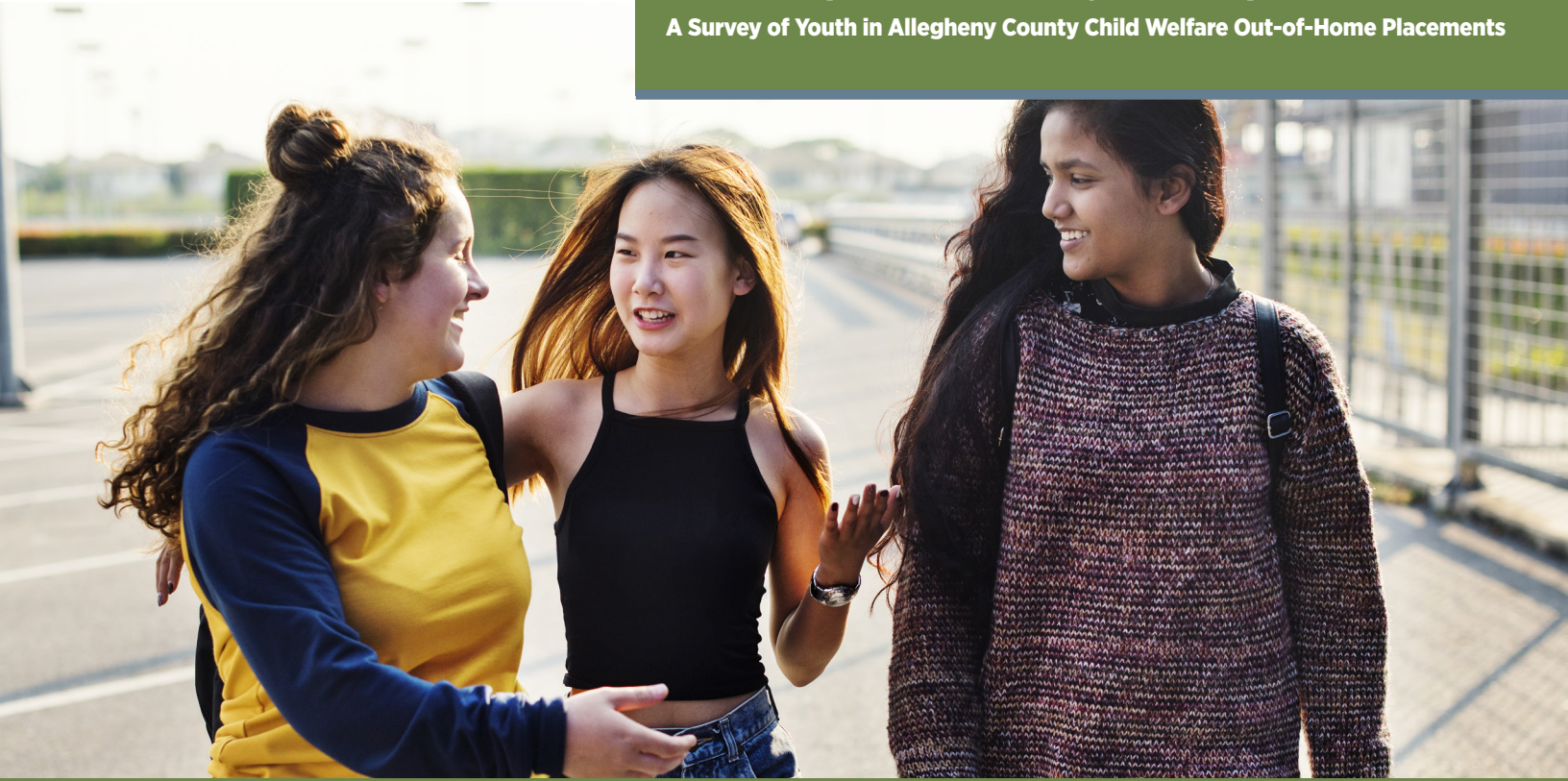


**Youth Perspectives on Ability to Participate in Activities:  
A Survey of Youth in Allegheny County Child Welfare Out-of-Home Placements**



*October 2018*



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Youth in child welfare out-of-home placements face challenges when it comes to participating in some of the activities their peers typically do. Activities considered “normal,” like sleeping at a friend’s house, having a job or getting a driver’s license can be difficult for youth in placement because of the hurdle of getting permission when foster parents, placement facility staff, caseworkers and the court are involved.<sup>1</sup> Despite these challenges, participating in activities is important for youth’s development; activities can help youth develop a sense of self and their place in the world, and can ultimately contribute to a healthy and happy adulthood.<sup>2</sup>

1 “What young people need to thrive: Leveraging the Strengthening Families Act to Promote Normalcy.” Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (2015).

2 “Foster Care: When Normal Ain’t Normal,” Youth Policy Institute of Iowa Issue Brief, Jan. 25, 2016.

This report describes the results of a survey that was conducted in 2017 and 2018 to collect feedback from youth in Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) child welfare out-of-home placements about their perspectives on being able to participate in developmentally appropriate activities. Survey responses were analyzed to explore overall ability to participate in activities as well as differences by placement type (family-based vs. group settings), gender and race. The analysis on the following pages focuses on results from the 2018 survey; comparisons to 2017 survey results were also analyzed to explore whether there was change between the two years.

Examples of youth activities that a foster parent and/or group home staff can provide consent for:

- Use of makeup and jewelry
- Haircuts/styling
- Community events
- Travel outside of the county or jurisdiction
- Attending a movie or going to a mall, or other social outing with friends
- Spending the night away from the caregiver’s home
- Obtaining employment
- Dating
- Access to a telephone
- Travel in cars with peers and/or peers’ parents
- Obtaining a driver’s permit and license

Survey results revealed the following key findings:

- Youth in out-of-home placement reported high participation rates for most of the activities included in the survey. Over 80 percent of youth said they could wear the clothes and hairstyles they wanted to, access the internet and express their sexual orientation.
- Activities that were more challenging for youth in out-of-home placement to participate in included having a job and sleeping over at a friend's house.
- When comparing 2017 and 2018 survey responses, youth's ability to participate in activities did not significantly change.
- Youth in group care (non-family settings) generally reported being less able to participate in activities than their peers in family-based placements. This aligns with research conducted in other jurisdictions about youth activities while in group care and supports DHS's continuing efforts to place youth in family-based settings whenever possible.
- Boys in out-of-home placement were more likely than girls to report ability to participate in activities. The only activities that more girls said they were able to participate in were wearing the clothes they wanted to wear (97%) and using the internet (90%).
- Participation in activities varied by youth's race for some survey questions. For example, black youth reported greater access to sleepovers and trips with friends and lower access to information about safe sex and ability to express their sexual orientation compared to their white and multiracial peers.

## BACKGROUND

Enacted in Pennsylvania in 2015, the Activities and Experiences for Children in Out-of-Home Placements Act recognizes the importance of normalizing the lives of children in out-of-home placements and empowers their caregivers to approve or disapprove a child's participation in activities without prior approval of the child welfare agency, caseworker or court.

The act advises caregivers to follow a "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard"<sup>3</sup> to help make decisions regarding youth in their care. The standard states that caregivers should make sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety and best interests of a young person while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the youth.<sup>4</sup>

While efforts are underway to increase caregiver awareness about the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard in Allegheny County, DHS wanted to hear from youth themselves about what kinds of opportunities are available to them while in placement.

3 Guidelines on the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard can be found at <http://ocwtp.net/PDFs/Normalcy%20and%20RPPS%20Guide.pdf>

4 Any concerns of the birth parents/family of origin must be taken into consideration but are not the determining factor in the child/youth's participation in an activity.

- 5 Congregate care is out-of-home care in a facility-based setting.
- 6 Foster care is out-of-home care in a family setting with a trained caregiver who is not related to the child.
- 7 Kinship care is out-of-home care in a family setting with a relative or family friend.
- 8 Independent living is out-of-home care for older youth who are transitioning from the foster care system.
- 9 The 2017 survey used a lottery incentive whereas there was no incentive for the 2018 survey. We are continuing to explore how to increase engagement with surveys, particularly among youth, and doing this through reviewing existing literature, testing different methods, and conducting focus groups or follow-up interviews.

## METHODOLOGY

Youth 14 to 21 years old currently in out-of-home placements (congregate care,<sup>5</sup> foster care,<sup>6</sup> kinship care<sup>7</sup> and independent living<sup>8</sup>) were eligible for the survey.

Surveys were conducted in winter 2017 and again in winter 2018. Several questions were edited between 2017 and 2018 either to reflect more detailed answer possibilities or to better accommodate an online survey. See **Appendix A** on page 12 for a full description of the survey development process, outreach efforts and survey design.

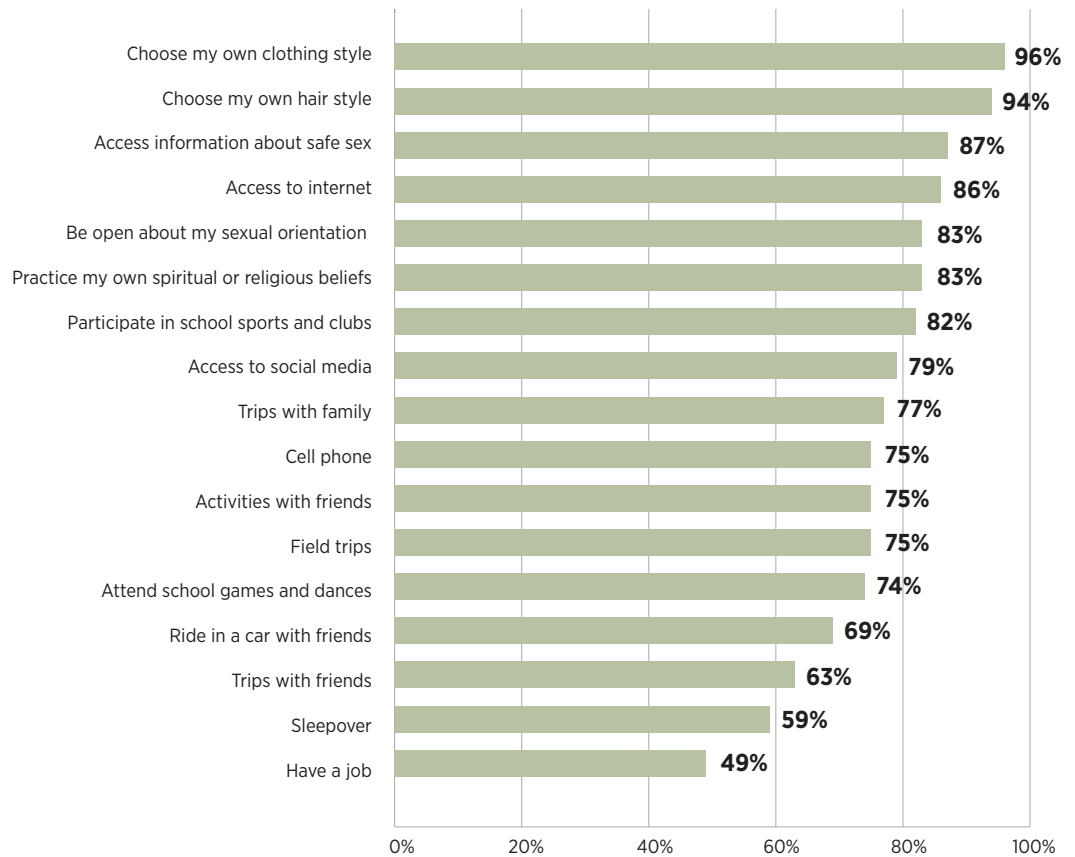
The response rate for the 2017 survey was 53 percent (n=206) and for the 2018 survey was 36 percent (n=145).<sup>9</sup> Youth in foster/kinship care were under-represented in the group of survey respondents while youth in congregate care and independent living were over-represented. See **Appendix A** for full summary statistics comparing population and survey respondents.

## FINDINGS

The majority of youth said they were able to participate in most of the opportunities listed in the survey (**Figure 1**).

A few areas were identified as needing further inquiry and/or supports, including having a job (51% said they were unable), going to a friend's house for a sleepover (41% said they were unable) and going on trips with friends (37% said they were unable).

**FIGURE 1: Percentage of Youth Who Responded That They Were Able to Participate in Activities, 2018 (n=145)**



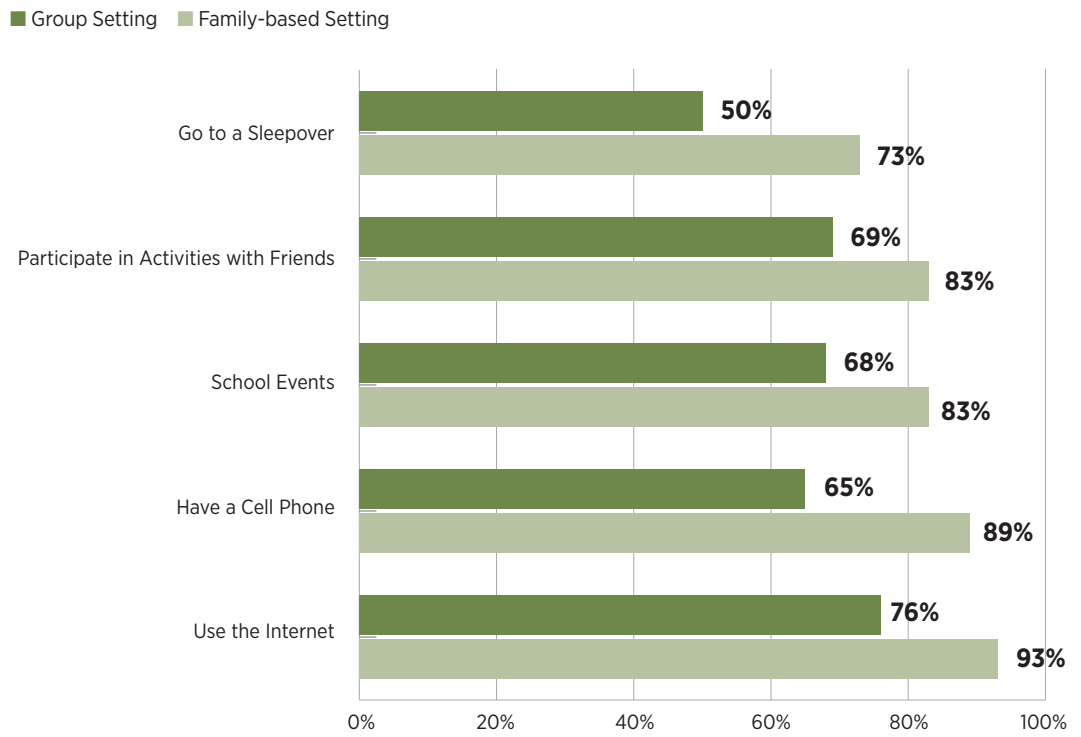
*\*Analysis filtered out respondents who said, "I was not interested."*

**Activity Participation by Placement Type**

Surveys conducted with child welfare-involved youth in other regions have indicated challenges participating in “normal” youth activities.<sup>10</sup> The extent of these challenges varied significantly by type of placement. The same proved true for youth in Allegheny County; youth in group settings (congregate care and independent living placements) generally responded that they had less opportunity to participate in activities when compared to youth in family-based settings (kinship and foster care). For example, youth in group settings were less likely to report being able to do things like go to a sleepover, use the internet or attend school events (Figure 2). As DHS works to decrease its reliance on group care, this finding supports the belief that family-based settings can lead to better outcomes for youth in care.

<sup>10</sup> “Foster Care: When Normal Ain’t Normal.” Grotenhuis, C. and Behrer, C. (2016).

**FIGURE 2: 2018 Youth Participation in Activities by Placement Type: Percentage Saying, "I Was Able to Participate"\* (n=142)**



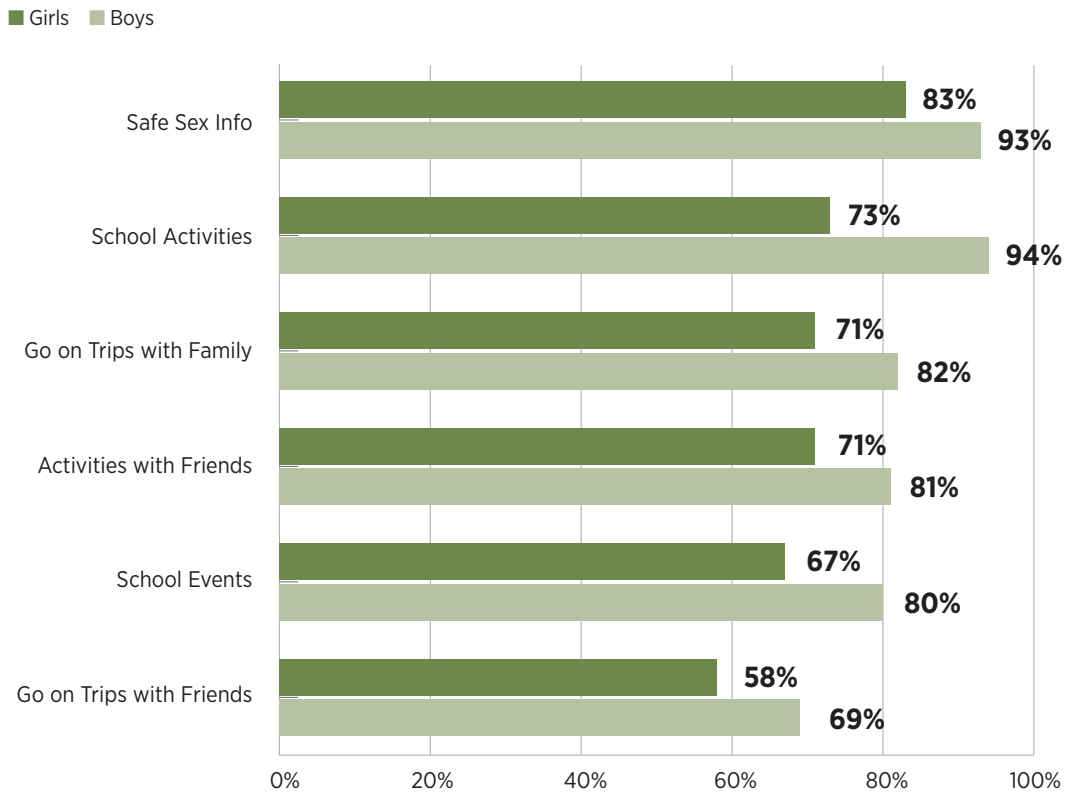
\*Analysis filtered out respondents who said, "I was not interested."

### Activity Participation by Gender

Boys more often said they were able to participate in activities when compared to girls<sup>11</sup> (Figure 3).

<sup>11</sup> Due to limited sample size, youth identifying as transgender were not included in this comparative analysis.

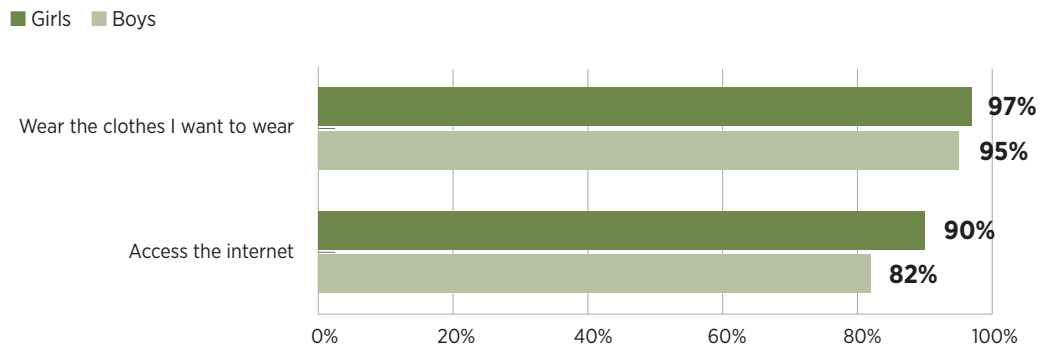
**FIGURE 3: 2018 Youth Participation by Gender, Activities that Were More Accessible to Boys: Percentage Saying, "I Was Able to Participate"\* (n=145)**



\*Analysis filtered out respondents who said, "I was not interested."

There were a couple of exceptions to boys' more frequent ability to participate; girls more often said they could access the internet (90% said they could vs. 82% of boys) and wear the clothes they wanted (97% said they could compared to 95% of boys).

**FIGURE 4: 2018 Youth Participation by Gender, Activities that Were More Accessible to Girls: Percentage Saying, “I Was Able to Participate”\* (n=145)**



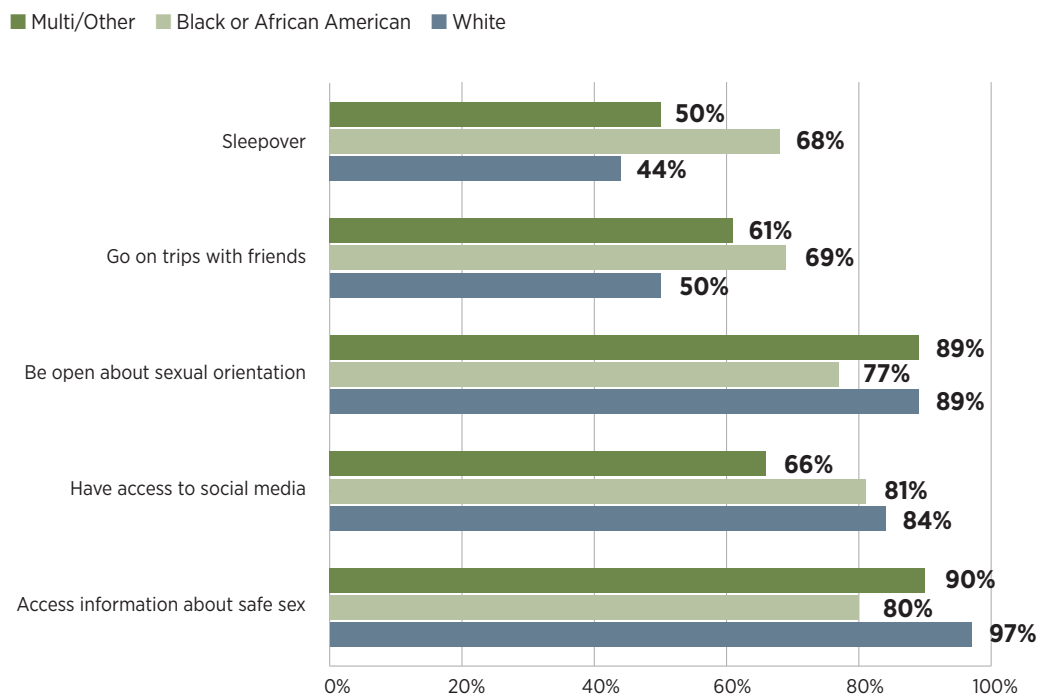
\*Analysis filtered out respondents who said, “I was not interested.”

**Activity Participation by Race**

Ability to participate varied by youth’s race for some survey questions. Youth who identified as Black or African American reported greater access to sleepovers or going on trips with friends and lower access to information about safe sex and ability to express their sexual orientation compared to their peers. White youth reported greater access to information about safe sex, and reduced access to trips with friends and sleepovers.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup>There were minor differences in placement type by race, which may have contributed to some of the differences reported in ability to participate. See Appendix A for a description of survey respondents by race and placement type.

**FIGURE 5: 2018 Youth Participation by Race: Categories with Greater than Five Percent Difference, Percentage Saying, “I Was Able to Participate”\* (n=145)**



\*Analysis filtered out respondents who said, “I was not interested.”



### Responses to Open-Ended Question

The 2017 survey included an open-ended question for youth to write in any other concerns or thoughts. The majority of survey respondents (91%) said “nothing” or left this field blank. A few comments highlighted concerns or complaints, as well as praises, which can supplement the quantitative data described earlier (Table 1).

TABLE 1: Responses to Open-Ended Question

COMPLAINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only go on trips on certain days when approved.</li> <li>• [Office of Child Welfare] has yet to even help me with my college tuition.</li> <li>• They won't let me have all my clothes.</li> <li>• We should be able to have more freedom... It's a key player for kids who are in group homes — no access to job searching or to email.</li> </ul>
PRAISES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am able to do anything I want in my foster home, just as long as I am safe because my foster parents care!</li> <li>• I enjoy everything we do at [facility name]!</li> <li>• I'm glad I was sent to [name's] house. I've learned so much from her and my new family.</li> </ul>
WISHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wished I had a phone so I could call my foster family for stuff and become closer to friends.</li> <li>• I would like to go out more.</li> </ul>

### 2017 vs. 2018 Responses

When comparing the 2018 survey results to those from 2017, there was not consistent improvement between the two years with regard to youth being able to participate in activities (Table 2). Areas that showed improvement (as defined by greater than a five percentage point difference between the two years) included riding in a car with friends, accessing the internet, and youth styling their hair and wearing the clothes they wanted to. Areas that saw a decline included having a job, going to sleepovers, attending school events and expressing one's gender identity.

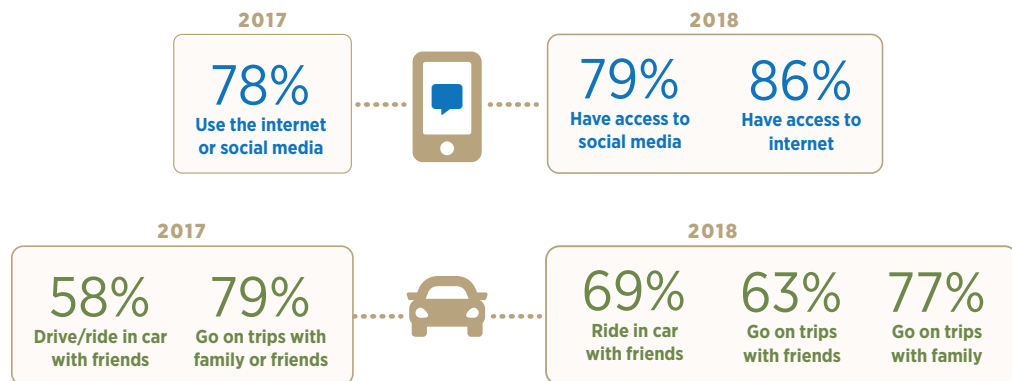
**TABLE 2: Percent of Survey Respondents Who Said That They Were Able to Participate in the Following Activities (2017 and 2018)\***

ACTIVITY	2017	2018	CHANGE
Ride in a car with friends	58%	69%	↑
Access the internet	78%	86%	↑
Style my hair how I want	88%	94%	↑
Wear the clothes I want	90%	96%	↑
Practice my religion or spirituality	88%	82%	=
Express my sexual orientation	85%	83%	=
Have a cell phone	76%	74%	=
Spend time out with friends	80%	75%	=
Access safe sex info	90%	87%	=
Participate in school activities	77%	82%	=
Go on field trips	76%	76%	=
Have a job**	81%	49%	↓
Go to a sleepover	67%	59%	↓
Attend school events	81%	73%	↓
Express my gender identity	94%	87%	↓

\* Note: Includes only those activities that appeared on both the 2017 and 2018 surveys. Due to variations in sample size and youth opting not to answer select questions, changes within 5 percent are observed as equal or no change.

\*\* This survey question was stated as “have a job or earn an allowance” in 2017 and as “have a job” in 2018.

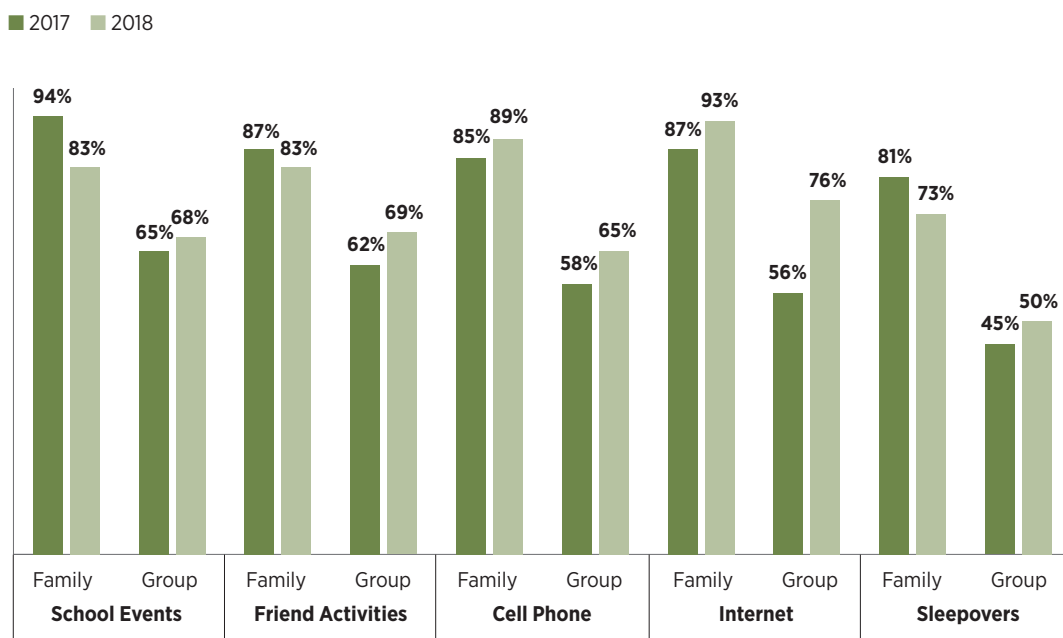
The 2018 survey teased apart a few items from the previous year’s survey to yield more specific results about what youth are or are not able to do. For instance, the 2018 survey, which asked two separate questions about youth’s ability to take trips with friends or family found that youth are more likely to have the ability to take trips with family than to go on trips with friends. The majority of youth in 2017 reported being able to use the internet or social media, which remained consistent in 2018 when the question was asked as two separate items, with slightly more respondents saying that they had access to the internet than to social media.



When looking at gender-specific differences between 2017 and 2018, there was noticeable improvement among boys having greater access to information about safe sex (88% in 2017 to 93% in 2018). On the other hand, there was a decrease among girls having access to such information (90% in 2017 to 83% in 2018).

When looking at responses by placement type for the 2017 and 2018 surveys, youth in family-based settings continued to report greater access to opportunities, but youth in group settings generally showed year-to-year improvement whereas youth in family settings had a mix of increases and decreases. Youth in family settings reported slight decreases in participation in school events, and activities and sleepovers with friends.

**FIGURE 6: Percentage of Youth Saying They Were Able to Participate by Year and Placement Type**



**NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The insights offered by the survey responses will be used to inform the following policies and practices:

1. Increase awareness to youth, foster parents and other system stakeholders about Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards to ensure that youth are offered these essential developmental activities. More research will help DHS understand what the barriers to youth participation in activities are, for example, financial barriers, difficulty in getting permission, and youth adapting to different standards if they move between family-based care and group care settings.

2. Ensure that Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards are being implemented in group care settings, which youth reported to be more restrictive when it came to participation in activities.
3. Work toward a standardized and periodic youth activity survey to monitor trends.
4. Further understand experiences with participating in activities by demographics (race, sexual orientation and gender identity) through surveys, focus groups and/or follow-up interviews.

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WRITING/ANALYSIS

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## APPENDIX A: FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF METHODOLOGY

### Survey design

DHS staff and the Older Youth Workgroup<sup>13</sup> collaborated to design the survey by reviewing existing materials on youth normalcy surveys and policy documents. A youth normalcy survey from Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) served as the foundation for the DHS survey, and YPII helped with designing the survey content and response options.<sup>14</sup> Based on insights from earlier youth focus group sessions about increasing survey participation, we aimed to design a survey instrument that was aesthetically pleasing, engaging, brief and simple to complete. The survey was initially designed, and continually refined, with youth feedback.

In the final version of the survey, youth were given a list of activities and asked to respond about their ability to participate. Response options included “I was able to do this,” “I did not want to do this,” and “I was not able to do this” (**Figure 6**).

<sup>13</sup>The Older Youth Workgroup was developed in 2014 with the guiding principle, “to provide older youth in the foster care system with opportunities, experiences, a sense of safety, well-being, and opportunities commensurate with their non-placed peers.”

<sup>14</sup>The following also served as resources when developing the survey: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Offices of Families and Children. (June 2015). Normalcy Survey Results [Presentation Slides]; Juvenile Law Center (June 2015). Promoting Normalcy for Children and Youth in Foster Care; Guardian ad Litem Program (Florida) (April 2014). A Voice Heard—Let Kids be Kids; The National Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council (April 2013). Improving Well-Being by Addressing Normalcy for Foster Youth.

Appendix A  
(continued)

FIGURE 6: Final Youth Activity Survey, 2018

**Fill in the best answer** for each activity if you were able to participate, were not able to participate, or were not interested in participating in your current placement. If something is not applicable to you, please leave it blank.

	I WAS ABLE TO DO THIS	I WAS NOT ABLE TO DO THIS	I DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS
Get a drivers' license			
Ride in a car with friends			
Sleep over at a friend's house			
Have a personal cell phone			
Have access to the internet			
Have access to social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat			
Go on school field trips			
Go on trips with my family			
Go on trips with my friends			
Spend time out with friends, such as movies, shopping, etc.			
Participate in school sports, clubs, or other activities			
Have a job			
Attend school events like sports games and dances			
Be open about my sexual orientation			
Have a say in how I want my hair styled			
Choose my own clothing or clothing style			
Practice my religious or spiritual beliefs			
Access information about safe sex			
Express my gender identity	Yes	No	I don't know
Anything we missed or you would like to add?			

**Appendix A  
(continued)**

Surveys were conducted in winter 2017 and again in winter 2018. Several questions were edited between 2017 and 2018 either to reflect more detailed answer possibilities or to better accommodate an online survey:

- The 2017 questions “Drive myself or ride in a car with friends” and “Get a learner’s permit or driver’s license” were reconfigured into “Ride in a car with friends” and “Get a driver’s license.”
- The 2017 question “Get a job or earn an allowance” was changed to “Get a job.”
- The 2017 questions “Have access to the internet or social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat” was divided into “Have access to the Internet” and “Have access to social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.” The 2017 question “Go on trips with family or friends” was divided in to “Go on trips with family” and “Go on trips with friends.”

Youth 14 to 21 years old currently in out-of-home placements were eligible for the survey.


The survey population was collected from DHS placement data.<sup>15</sup> A diverse set of recruitment methods were utilized to maximize response rate, including mailing (with advanced notification and personalization), connecting with youth at group events, and staff handing out surveys to youth in person. The data collection period for the 2017 survey was January through February 2017; for the 2018 survey, the period was February through March 2018.

<sup>15</sup>Data was pulled from DHS’s Key Information and Demographics System (KIDS), a child welfare case management application designed to track services and outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Appendix A  
(continued)

FIGURE 7: Survey Notification Letters Mailed to Youth in Kinship/Foster Care





**COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY**  
RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 10, 2017

Dear [Name],

**We want to hear from you!**

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services recognizes the importance for your voice and concerns to be heard. A few weeks ago, we sent you a letter describing about an upcoming survey. Enclosed is a **brief survey** to better understand youth experiences in out-of-home placement. Your feedback will help give insight into the lives of youth in care so that we can improve services.


**Survey permission**

- This survey is optional. You do not have to participate if you do not want to.
- All views are important in this survey, and honesty is even more important.
- The information you provide in this survey will be kept confidential.
- Any information that could be used to identify you will be removed prior to preparing any reports.

**Survey Instructions**

- Complete the survey on-line **or** return with self-addressed, stamped envelope.

You can also complete this survey online: [34p3b0909p](http://34p3b0909p)




If you have any questions or comments about the survey, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to contact Lynn Bottoms (412-350-6345, [Lynn.bottoms@allegheycounty.us](mailto:Lynn.bottoms@allegheycounty.us)) or Mike Mitchell (412-350-6352, [mike.mitchell@allegheycounty.us](mailto:mike.mitchell@allegheycounty.us)).

Sincerely,

**Youth Voice Research Team, Allegheny County DHS**

Lynn Bottoms  
Emily Isaacson  
Kyle Isaacson  
Ellen Isaacson  
Michael Mitchell  
Suek Thornton



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Appendix A  
(continued)

**Survey respondents**

The response rate for the 2017 survey was 53 percent (n=206) and for the 2018 survey was 36 percent (n=145). Youth in foster/kinship care were under-represented in the group of survey respondents whereas youth in congregate care and independent living were over-represented (Table 3).

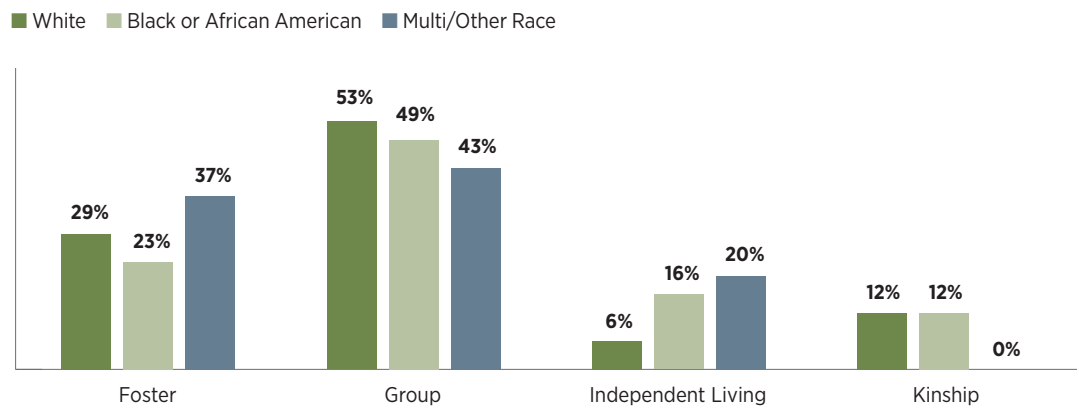
**TABLE 3: Allegheny County Youth in Out-of-Home Care Population Demographics vs. 2017 and 2018 Survey Respondents**

CHARACTERISTIC	2017 SURVEY				2018 SURVEY			
	POPULATION		SURVEY RESPONDENTS		POPULATION		SURVEY RESPONDENTS	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Age<sup>a</sup></b>								
14-18	342	88%	173	84%				
19+	48	12%	33	16%				
<b>Placement Type</b>								
Foster and Kinship Care	253	65%	80	39%	302	74%	56	39%
Congregate Care <sup>b</sup>	138	26%	78	38%	81	47%	69	47%
Independent Living	34	9%	46	23%	25	14%	20	14%
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	192	49%	87	42%			59	41%
Female	198	51%	115	56%			67	47%
Gender Diverse	0	0%	2	2%			17	12%
<b>Race</b>								
Biracial	24	6%	16	8%				
Black	239	61%	133	65%			79	53%
Other <sup>c</sup>	4	1%	13	6%			31	21%
White	95	24%	44	21%			34	23%
Unknown <sup>d</sup>	28	7%	—	—			4	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>53% response rate</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>36% response rate</b>		

a: Age was not collected in 2018 due to printing error  
 b: Includes group homes and residential facilities  
 c: Other/multiple races combined in 2018  
 d: Administrative data only

Appendix A  
(continued)

FIGURE 8: Race and Placement Type of 2018 Survey Respondents (n=145)



**APPENDIX B: FULL SURVEY RESULTS BY DEMOGRAPHICS AND PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS<sup>a</sup>**

**School Activities**

		2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
		ACTIVITIES		EVENTS		FIELD TRIPS	
<b>Aggregate (All)</b>		<b>77%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>2017 n=</b>	<b>2018 n=</b>						
<b>Age<sup>b</sup></b>							
14-18 (n=173)		76%		79%		74%	
19+ (n=33)		83%		89%		83%	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male (n=87)	n=60	83%	94%	92%	80%	76%	78%
Female (n=113)	n=69	71%	73%	73%	67%	74%	73%
Transgender (n=4)	n=17	100%	86%	75%	71%	100%	69%
<b>Race</b>							
Biracial (n=16)	n=31	69%	82%	71%	69%	75%	72%
Black (n=133)	n=79	76%	80%	80%	74%	77%	76%
Other (n=13)	n=4	80%		82%		67%	
White (n=44)	n=34	83%	83%	85%	75%	75%	72%
<b>Placement Type (recode)</b>							
Foster/Kin (n=80)	n=56	88%	93%	94%	83%	82%	83%
Independent Living (n=46)		84%		87%		82%	
Group (n=78)	n=89	64%	75%	65%	68%	65%	71%
<b>Placement Type</b>							
Foster (n=46)	n=43	88%	94%	95%	80%	81%	86%
Kinship (n=34)	n=13	88%	89%	93%	100%	84%	75%
Independent Living (n=46)	n=20	84%	86%	87%	71%	82%	80%
Group (n=78)	n=69	64%	86%	65%	67%	65%	68%
<b>Length in Current Placement</b>							
Less than 1 month	n=35	73%	83%	83%	71%	88%	58%
1-4 months	n=89	71%	82%	71%	70%	66%	79%
5+ months	n=20	82%	83%	86%	75%	78%	76%

*a: For all Appendix B results, percentages represent survey respondents saying "yes." "I didn't want to do this" responses were filtered out from this analysis. Age was not collected in 2018.*

Appendix B  
(continued)

In the community

		2017	2018	2017	2018	
		RIDE IN CAR <sup>b</sup>		TRIPS	TRIPS WITH FRIENDS	TRIPS WITH FAMILY
<b>Aggregate (All)</b>		<b>58%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>77%</b>
	<b>2017 n=</b>	<b>2018 n=</b>				
<b>Age</b>						
14-18 (n=173)		54%		78%		
19+ (n=33)		70%		84%		
<b>Gender</b>						
Male (n=87)		n=60	65%	75%	87%	69%
Female (n=113)		n=69	51%	61%	74%	58%
Transgender (n=4)		n=17	100%	75%	75%	63%
<b>Race</b>						
Biracial (n=16)		n=31	44%	71%	63%	61%
Black (n=133)		n=79	60%	67%	83%	69%
Other (n=13)		n=4	78%		75%	
White (n=44)		n=34	48%	69%	76%	50%
<b>Placement Type (recode)</b>						
Foster/Kin (n=80)		n=56	58%	76%	88%	69%
Independent Living (n=46)			70%		90%	
Group (n=78)		n=89	38%	64%	63%	59%
<b>Placement Type</b>						
Foster (n=46)		n=43	70%	77%	91%	76%
Kinship (n=34)		n=13	65%	70%	85%	50%
Independent Living (n=46)		n=20	69%	63%	90%	69%
Group (n=78)		n=69	37%	64%	63%	56%
<b>Length in Current Placement</b>						
Less than 1 month		n=35	58%	69%	69%	50%
1-4 months		n=89	51%	72%	75%	66%
5+ months		n=20	54%	66%	83%	57%

b: Analysis included ages 16+ only.

Appendix B  
(continued)

Social Life

		2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
		SLEEPOVER		FRIENDS ACTIVITIES		SAFE SEX INFO	
<b>Aggregate (All)</b>		<b>67%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>2017 n=</b>	<b>2018 n=</b>						
<b>Age</b>							
14-18 (n=173)		66%		78%		88%	
19+ (n=33)		74%		90%		93%	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male (n=87)	n=60	68%	62%	85%	81%	88%	93%
Female (n=113)	n=69	66%	59%	75%	71%	90%	83%
Transgender (n=4)	n=17	75%	46%	100%	71%	100%	81%
<b>Race</b>							
Biracial (n=16)	n=31	69%	50%	69%	75%	85%	90%
Black (n=133)	n=79	67%	68%	81%	76%	90%	80%
Other (n=13)	n=4	67%		77%		83%	
White (n=44)	n=34	68%	44%	82%	73%	92%	97%
<b>Placement Type (recode)</b>							
Foster/Kin (n=80)	n=56	81%	73%	87%	83%	94%	86%
Independent Living (n=46)		77%		95%		95%	
Group (n=78)	n=89	45%	50%	62%	69%	81%	81%
<b>Placement Type</b>							
Foster (n=46)	n=43	76%	71%	84%	85%	93%	93%
Kinship (n=34)	n=13	88%	80%	90%	75%	96%	92%
Independent Living (n=46)	n=20	77%	59%	95%	89%	95%	90%
Group (n=78)	n=69	45%	47%	62%	63%	81%	80%
<b>Length in Current Placement</b>							
Less than 1 month	n=35	48%	64%	70%	60%	92%	84%
1-4 months	n=89	65%	48%	75%	78%	90%	85%
5+ months	n=20	74%	61%	84%	76%	88%	89%

Self Presentation

		2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
		SEX ORIENTATION		HAIR		CLOTHES		RELIGION	
<b>Aggregate (All)</b>		<b>85%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>2017 n=</b>	<b>2018 n=</b>								
<b>Age</b>									
14-18 (n=173)		83%		88%		89%		88%	
19+ (n=33)		94%		90%		91%		90%	
<b>Gender</b>									
Male (n=87)	n=60	89%	85%	93%	98%	94%	95%	90%	80%
Female (n=113)	n=69	81%	83%	84%	94%	86%	97%	86%	81%
Transgender (n=4)	n=17	100%	73%	75%	81%	75%	94%	75%	93%
<b>Race</b>									
Biracial (n=16)	n=31	79%	89%	79%	97%	75%	97%	86%	90%
Black (n=133)	n=79	82%	77%	89%	92%	91%	95%	88%	75%
Other (n=13)	n=4	100%		92%		85%		82%	
White (n=44)	n=34	91%	89%	88%	97%	93%	97%	89%	96%
<b>Placement Type (recode)</b>									
Foster/Kin (n=80)	n=56	90%	89%	94%	96%	97%	98%	93%	86%
Independent Living (n=46)		98%		91%		93%		95%	
Group (n=78)	n=89	73%	80%	79%	83%	78%	94%	78%	80%
<b>Placement Type</b>									
Foster (n=46)	n=43	95%	87%	93%	98%	96%	98%	92%	88%
Kinship (n=34)	n=13	83%	100%	94%	92%	100%	100%	94%	75%
Independent Living (n=46)	n=20	98%	88%	91%	90%	93%	100%	95%	88%
Group (n=78)	n=69	73%	77%	79%	94%	78%	93%	78%	79%
<b>Length in Current Placement</b>									
Less than 1 month	n=35	88%	89%	92%	100%	96%	90%	73%	87%
1-4 months	n=89	82%	83%	79%	91%	83%	97%	86%	90%
5+ months	n=20	86%	83%	92%	94%	91%	97%	92%	80%

Appendix B  
(continued)

Technology Access

		2017	2018	2017	2018	2018	
		CELL PHONE		HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET		HAVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA <sup>c</sup>	
<b>Aggregate (All)</b>		<b>76%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>79%</b>	
<b>2017 n=</b>	<b>2018 n=</b>						
<b>Age</b>							
14-18 (n=173)		74%		76%			
19+ (n=33)		83%		88%			
<b>Gender</b>							
Male (n=87)		n=60	77%	75%	79%	82%	79%
Female (n=113)		n=69	75%	75%	76%	90%	77%
Transgender (n=4)		n=17	75%	69%	100%	70%	93%
<b>Race</b>							
Biracial (n=16)		n=31	75%	74%	69%	84%	66%
Black (n=133)		n=79	74%	74%	81%	88%	81%
Other (n=13)		n=4	85%		77%		
White (n=44)		n=34	81%	74%	82%	84%	84%
<b>Placement Type (recode)</b>							
Foster/Kin (n=80)		n=56	85%	89%	87%	93%	93%
Independent Living (n=46)			91%		96%		
Group (n=78)		n=89	58%	65%	56%	81%	71%
<b>Placement Type</b>							
Foster (n=46)		n=43	82%	88%	86%	93%	90%
Kinship (n=34)		n=13	88%	92%	88%	86%	100%
Independent Living (n=46)		n=20	91%	84%	96%	92%	80%
Group (n=78)		n=69	58%	59%	56%	81%	68%
<b>Length in Current Placement</b>							
Less than 1 month		n=35	72%	82%	75%	90%	90%
1-4 months		n=89	61%	66%	74%	82%	74%
5+ months		n=20	85%	75%	81%	86%	78%

c: The social media question was not asked on the 2017 survey.