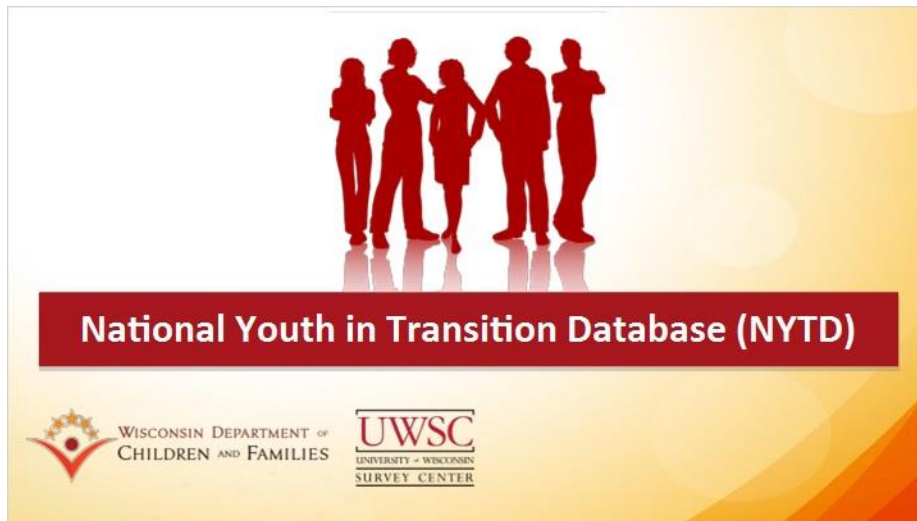


National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey



The purpose of this presentation is to assist county, tribal and regional agencies with conducting the National Youth in Transition Database survey, henceforth referred to as NYTD.

This webinar provides an overview of NYTD and its importance. It will get into some details about how the survey is administered, and what caseworkers and independent living coordinators can do to make the survey a successful tool.

What is NYTD?

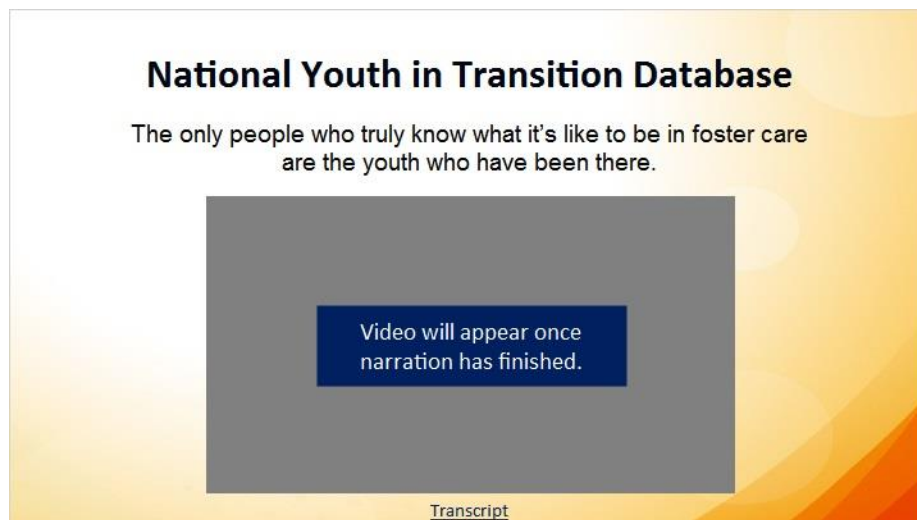
What is NYTD?

- Only national survey effort targeted at the experience of foster youth in out-of-home care
- Funded by John H. Chafee Foster Care to Independence Act (Chafee Act)
- Administered at specific points in a young person's life
- Tracks independent living (IL) services and outcomes
- Results entered into a client-specific data collection system

NYTD is a national survey created for the purpose of learning about the longer-term outcomes of youth who have experienced foster care. It presents an unprecedented opportunity to explore how young people transitioning from foster care are faring across the country, and to use that information to positively inform policy and practice.

NYTD is the only survey that targets this particular population of youth, and is funded through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act.

The federal government requires the survey to be administered at specific points in a young person's life, in order to track the independent living services and outcomes of youth experiencing foster care. The results of each survey must be entered into a client-specific data collection system.



National Youth in Transition Database

The only people who truly know what it's like to be in foster care are the youth who have been there.

Video will appear once narration has finished.

[Transcript](#)

The only people who truly know what it's like to be in foster care are the youth who have been there, so it's important that we hear from them. Let's take a few minutes to

watch a video created by the Administration for Children and Families to highlight the importance of NYTD. This video can be a resource when talking with youth you serve about NYTD as well, as it includes youth speaking about their experiences. Let's watch.

Take the NYTD Survey (Embedded Video)

Antron from Florida: I got out of high school, graduated with high honors, and basically got out of the child welfare system.

Crys from New Jersey: I packed my little VW Golf up and drove across the country.

Ollie from Nevada: I moved into independent living, and I had a roommate and I had to go to school, and hold down a job, and do laundry, and go grocery shopping.

BJ from Kentucky: I'm a sophomore in college. I just bought my first car, and I live in an apartment. I have a job.

Crys: NYTD is really important because we need to capture the outcomes for transition aged use. Traditionally they are a population that is looked over, or they sort of disappear, and they don't have a lot of oversight, and they don't get a lot of services.

Antron: I think the NYTD survey pretty much is beneficial on allowing the kids to see that somebody's actually out there that cares about them, care's what about what's going on in life from before they turn 18 until after they actually get out of the system

Charlie from Oregon: For most of the youth that I present the NYTD survey to, I let them know that it's important because they may have siblings or other people that they know that grew up in care that those services can be improved for. And as well as that, they are the ones that can really- are the only ones that can make that change because they lived and experienced those services. So if that change isn't coming from people that experienced them, then there isn't going to be change at all.

Raven from New York: I took it when I was seventeen for the first time and I really didn't know what it was. I was just handed a survey like ok you got to complete this survey within the next couple of days, and I was like ok I'll fill it out. And I was like, oh well this is actually some really interesting questions in terms of like my situation in foster care. So I felt as if I had a voice of my own in terms of letting people know what I have actually experienced and what services I was being provided as a youth in foster care.

Michael from Illinois: There's a saying "Garbage in, garbage out." So if you do not take the survey, we don't have that data in order to make the correct decisions in order to make the improvements that's needed. It's easy to get in front of someone and say I think the foster care system needs X or Y, but when you have data to show that 95 percent of the youth need financial education, then we can actually do something with that data and make an improvement.

Emmie from Wyoming: NYTD is finally starting to pick up the pace, and getting to where we can really use it and do something with it. I look forward to seeing what NYTD can do as it goes on, because it's already starting to do things for youth that are pretty incredible to me.

BJ: Help us get that critical data.

Emmie: Youth voices need to be heard.

Raven: Take the NYTD Survey.

Michael: Come on, take the survey.

Emmie: Express your voice.

BJ: Use your voice.

Antron: Take the NYTD survey.


Michael: Take it and take it accurately.

Emmie: So please take the NYTD survey.

Antron: Seriously, take the survey.

Who Takes the Survey

<p>17-Year Olds (Baseline Population)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All youth in foster care who reach their 17th birthday• Survey must be completed within 45 days of youth's 17th birthday	<p>19- and 21-Year Olds (Follow-Up Population)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All young people who participated in survey data collection as part of the baseline at 17-years old• Survey must be completed within the 6-month reporting period of their 19th/21st birthday<ul style="list-style-type: none">— October 1 – March 31— April 1 – September 31
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As referenced in the video, states are required to collect outcomes data on youth in two reporting populations, the baseline population and the follow-up population.

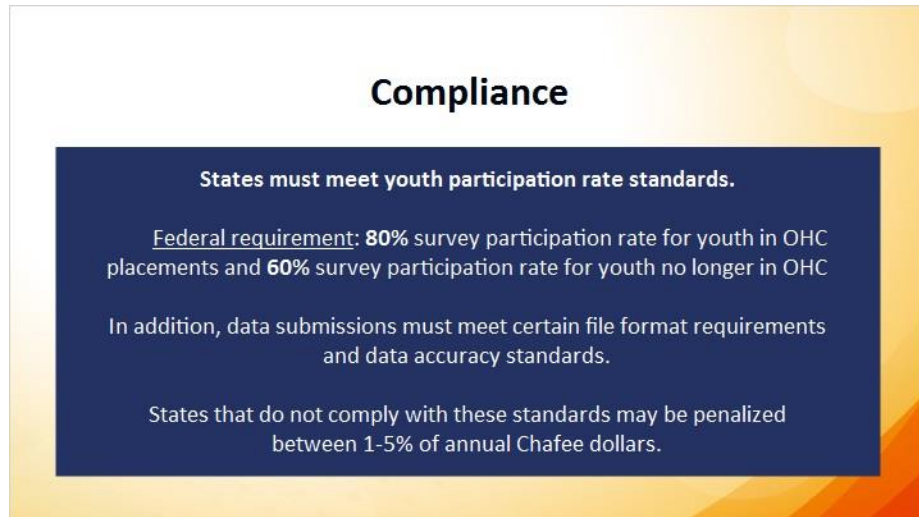
Outcomes data has been collected since October 1, 2010 and is ongoing.

The baseline population is all youth in foster care who reach their 17th birthday. The survey must be completed within 45 days of a youth's 17th birthday.

The follow-up population is all young people who participated in survey data collection as part of the baseline at 17-years old. Their surveys must be completed within the 6-month reporting period of their birthday. The two reporting periods are October 1st

through March 31st and April 1st through September 31st.

So, a youth who participated at 17 whose 19th or 21st birthday falls between the reporting period of October 1st through March 31st must complete the survey anytime between October and March. Likewise, a youth whose 19th or 21st birthday falls between April 1st through September 31st, must complete the survey between April and September.



Compliance

States must meet youth participation rate standards.

Federal requirement: **80%** survey participation rate for youth in OHC placements and **60%** survey participation rate for youth no longer in OHC

In addition, data submissions must meet certain file format requirements and data accuracy standards.

States that do not comply with these standards may be penalized between 1-5% of annual Chafee dollars.

In order to be sure the full range of experience is captured through the survey, the federal government requires states to maintain an 80% survey participation rate for youth in out of home care and a 60% compliance rate for youth not in out of home care.

In addition, data submissions must meet certain file format requirements and data accuracy standards. States that do not comply with these standards may be penalized between 1-5% of annual independent living service funds from the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

Administering the NYTD Survey

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SURVEY CENTER (UWSC)



The University of Wisconsin Survey Center, henceforth referred to as the Survey Center, has been administering the NYTD survey on behalf of DCF since December 2013.

The Survey Center is a unit of the University of Wisconsin - Madison with significant experience administering surveys to specialized populations.

The Survey Center contacts eligible 17-, 19-, and 21-year old foster youth or former foster youth. They also contact caseworkers and independent living coordinators when a survey is due for a youth in their county or region.

Retrieving Contact Information

UWSC has access to select reports that pull information from eWiSACWIS.

- Who is eligible and when the survey is due
- The youth's contact information
- The caseworker associated with the youth
- The county

UWSC typically pulls information for 17-year olds **1-2 weeks before the start of the month of their birthday.**

For 19- and 21-year olds, information is pulled **about two weeks before the beginning of the reporting period (mid-September, mid-March).**

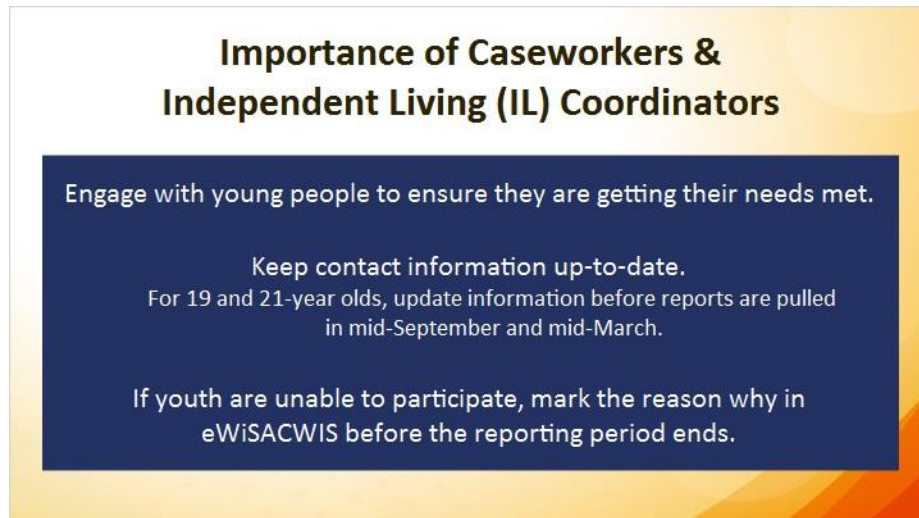
The Survey Center has access to select reports that pull information from eWiSACWIS.

Information provided includes who is eligible and when the survey is due, the youth's contact information, the worker associated with the youth, and the county.

The Survey Center typically pulls information for 17-year olds 1-2 weeks before the start

of the month of their birthday.

For 19-and 21-year olds, information is pulled about two weeks before the beginning of the reporting period in mid-September and mid-March.



Importance of Caseworkers & Independent Living (IL) Coordinators

Engage with young people to ensure they are getting their needs met.

Keep contact information up-to-date.
For 19 and 21-year olds, update information before reports are pulled in mid-September and mid-March.

If youth are unable to participate, mark the reason why in eWiSACWIS before the reporting period ends.

While the Survey Center 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 Survey Center will be more effective in finding youth if workers and coordinators continue to engage with young people, ensuring that they are getting their needs met, while continuing to keep their contact information up to date in eWiSACWIS.

The Survey Center needs the most recent contact information to successfully connect with youth. This includes an address, phone number, and e-mail address.

For 19 and 21-year olds, the Survey Center recommends making sure contact information is up-to-date a month before the reporting periods begin in early September and early March.

If a youth is transitioning from a county to regional agency, it is important that counties input the most up-to-date contact information for youth and their collateral contacts into eWiSACWIS so that the Survey Center and regional agencies have the most recent information.

If youth are unable to participate, caseworkers and IL coordinators must mark the reason why in eWiSACWIS before the respective reporting period ends. The Survey Center is unable to enter this information.

Youth Contact Protocol for 17-year olds

- **Initial Letter** sent to youth on the day of their 17th birthday (includes a \$5 bill)
- **1st Reminder letter** sent to youth 1 week after initial letter
- **2nd Reminder letter** sent to youth 2 weeks after initial letter
- **Phone calls** begin about 3 weeks after the initial letter

Thank you Letter! sent within 2 weeks of youth completing the survey,
includes \$20 bill

This is the contact protocol for 17-year olds. Youth are contacted first through a series of letters, then through phone calls. If youth complete the survey, they will receive \$20.

Caseworker & IL Coordinator Contact Protocol for 17-year olds

- **1st Email** sent the day of youth's 17th birthday
 - Includes unique survey link
- **2nd Email** sent 20 days later
 - Asks for updated contact information, if available
- **3rd Email** sent 1 week before due date
 - Includes request to mark reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS

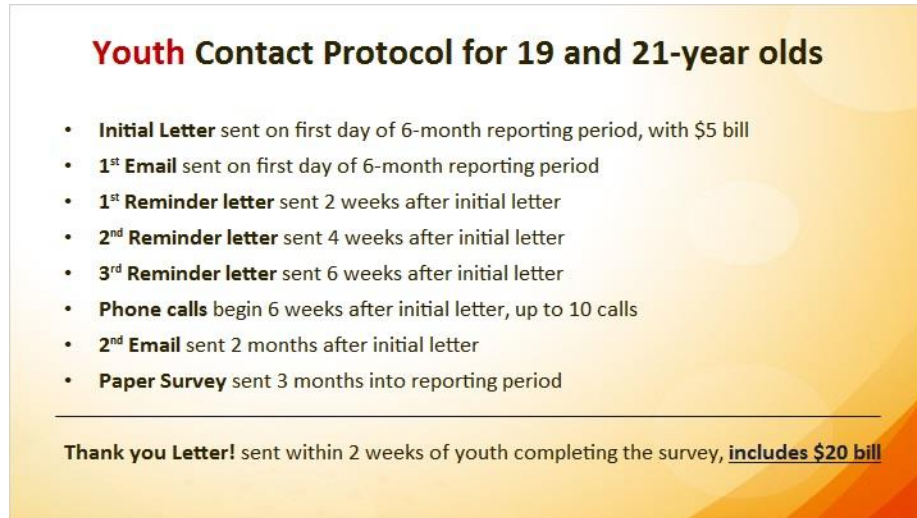
Emails are automated and sent unless we have a completed survey for the given youth

Caseworkers and IL Coordinators are also sent e-mails. The first e-mail is sent on the day of the youth's 17th birthday and informs the worker that a youth on their caseload has been invited to participate in the survey. The email includes URLs that can be used to access the survey. Each URL is unique to each youth.

If the survey has not been completed, a second e-mail will be sent asking for updated contact information, if any exists. If there is no new contact information, no response is needed.

If the survey is still not complete one week before the due date, a third e-mail will be sent requesting caseworkers to mark a reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS. The Survey Center is unable to enter this information.

E-mails are automated and sent unless the Survey Center has a completed survey for the given youth.



Youth Contact Protocol for 19 and 21-year olds

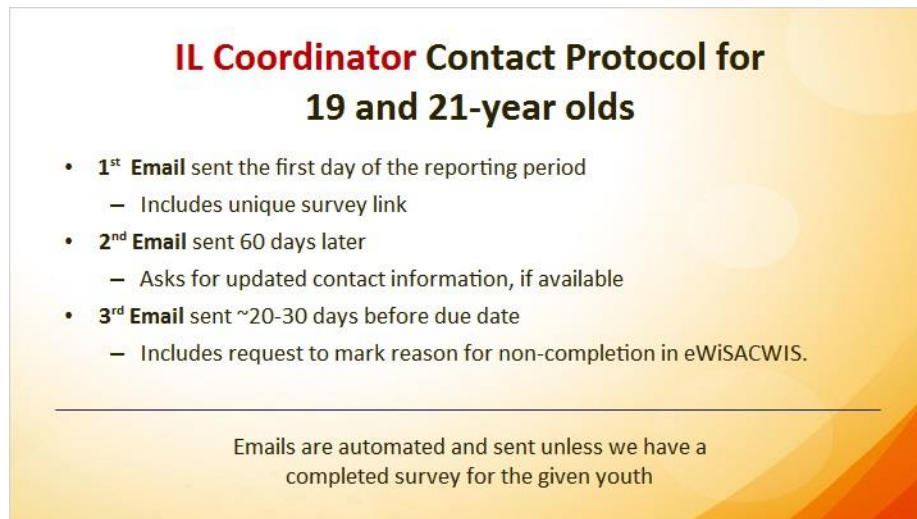
- **Initial Letter** sent on first day of 6-month reporting period, with \$5 bill
- **1st Email** sent on first day of 6-month reporting period
- **1st Reminder letter** sent 2 weeks after initial letter
- **2nd Reminder letter** sent 4 weeks after initial letter
- **3rd Reminder letter** sent 6 weeks after initial letter
- **Phone calls** begin 6 weeks after initial letter, up to 10 calls
- **2nd Email** sent 2 months after initial letter
- **Paper Survey** sent 3 months into reporting period

Thank you Letter! sent within 2 weeks of youth completing the survey, **includes \$20 bill**

The contact protocol for 19 and 21-year olds is similar, though it happens over a six-month reporting period rather than within the 45-day window for 17-year olds.

19 and 21-year olds must complete the survey regardless of the current status of the case or order, or whether or not they are receiving IL Services.

19 and 21-year olds also receive \$20 if they complete the survey.



IL Coordinator Contact Protocol for 19 and 21-year olds

- **1st Email** sent the first day of the reporting period
 - Includes unique survey link
- **2nd Email** sent 60 days later
 - Asks for updated contact information, if available
- **3rd Email** sent ~20-30 days before due date
 - Includes request to mark reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS.

Emails are automated and sent unless we have a completed survey for the given youth

For 19 and 21-year olds, regional independent living coordinators will receive an initial email from the Survey Center informing them of the youth that have been invited to participate. If a youth is still in out of home care, the Survey Center will contact the county or tribal independent living coordinator.

A second email is sent 60 days later, asking for updated contact information. If a worker does not have contact information, it is not necessary to respond to the email.

The final e-mail will be sent 20-30 days before the survey due date. If a youth has not taken the survey, coordinators are asked mark the reason why for non-completion in eWiSACWIS. The Survey Center is unable to enter this information.

The next few slides will cover scenarios where youth may be unable to take the survey.

The next few slides will cover scenarios where youth may be unable to take the survey.

Incarcerated Youth

- Inform UWSC with the name and address of correctional facility.
- UWSC will mail a paper survey (19- and 21- year olds only).
- If completed, UWSC will mail \$20 thank you to commissary account.
- If not completed, mark "Incarcerated" as the reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS.

The screenshot shows the eWiSACWIS web application interface. At the top, there is a search bar with fields for Name, DOB, Gender, Ethnicity, U. State, and Not Eligible. Below this, there are navigation tabs: Home, MY SURVEYS, Completed Surveys, Contact Us, My Survey, and My Profile. A message states: "For more information contact the University of Wisconsin Survey Center at 1.800.291.8024 and ask for extension 8801." The main content area displays a table of surveys:

Survey ID	Due Date	Completed Date	Outcomes
WY10 17 Survey	Due Date: 01/17/2010	Completed Date: 06/05/2010	Outcomes: View
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth did not complete the survey. Reason: <input type="text" value="Incarcerated"/> Worker: <input type="text" value="LAWRENCE"/> Updated: 05/05/2010			
WY10 18 Survey	Due Date: Between April 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010		Outcomes: View
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth did not complete the survey. Reason: <input type="text" value="Incarcerated"/> Worker: <input type="text" value="LAWRENCE"/> Updated: 05/05/2010			
WY10 20 Survey	Due Date: Between April 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010	Completed Date:	Outcomes: View
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth did not complete the survey. Reason: <input type="text" value="Youth Incarcerated - Survey Delivered"/> Worker: <input type="text" value="LAWRENCE"/> Updated: 05/05/2010			

At the bottom of the page, there are buttons for "Cancel" and "Update".

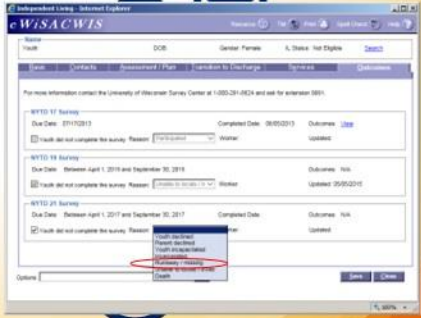
If a youth is incarcerated, they can still complete the survey as long as the Survey Center is provided with the name and address of the facility. The Survey Center will then mail a paper survey to the youth at the facility.

If completed, the Survey Center will mail a \$20 thank you to the youth's commissary account.

If the youth does not complete the survey, workers should indicate "Incarcerated" as the reason for non-completion on the youth's independent living page Outcomes tab in eWiSACWIS.

Youth is AWOL or Missing from Care

- UWSC will continue outreach efforts until the survey due date.
- If the youth returns, please direct them to the link provided and work with them to complete the survey by the due date.
- If youth does not return, mark "Runaway/Missing" as the reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS.



The screenshot shows the eWiSACWIS interface for a youth record. The 'Reason' dropdown menu is open, and 'Runaway/Missing' is selected. The record shows a survey due date of 09/30/2017 and a completion date of 08/02/2017. The 'Outcomes' tab is active, and the 'Reason' dropdown is set to 'Runaway/Missing'.

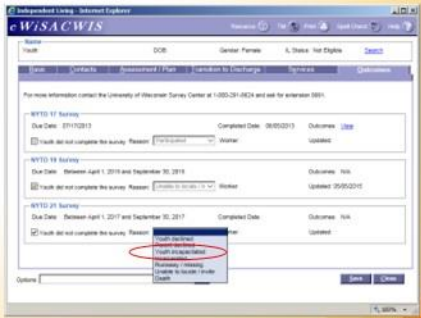
For youth who are AWOL or missing from care, the Survey Center will continue outreach efforts until the survey due date.

If the youth returns, please direct them to the link provided and work with them to complete the survey by the due date.

If the youth does not return, please mark "Runaway/Missing" as the reason for non-completion.

Youth is Incapacitated

- DCF is interested in outcomes information for all youth, including youth who are incapacitated or mentally or physically unable to complete the survey.
- Make accommodations.
- If youth cannot take the survey, mark "Incapacitated" as the reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS.



The screenshot shows the eWiSACWIS interface for a youth record. The 'Reason' dropdown menu is open, and 'Incapacitated' is selected. The record shows a survey due date of 09/30/2017 and a completion date of 08/02/2017. The 'Outcomes' tab is active, and the 'Reason' dropdown is set to 'Incapacitated'.

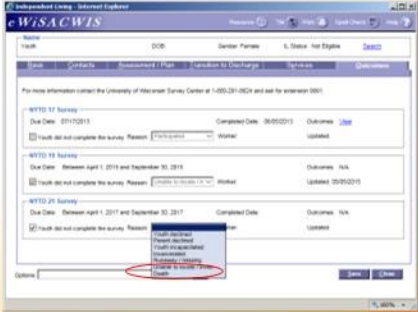
DCF is interested in outcomes information for all youth, including youth who are incapacitated or mentally or physically unable to complete the survey.

If a youth has developmental delays or otherwise may have difficulty completing the survey, a parent, caregiver, coordinator, case manager, etc. can help them do it online (or on paper) by explaining the questions and entering the youth's responses.

However, the youth MUST be able to choose their own answer. If the youth isn't capable of choosing their own answer, then the coordinator should enter "Incapacitated" in eWiSACWIS as the reason it wasn't completed.

Youth is Deceased

- Contact UWSC by phone or e-mail so they can discontinue outreach efforts.
- Indicate "Death" as the reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS.



The screenshot shows the eWiSACWIS interface with a list of surveys. The 'Reason' dropdown menu is open, and 'Youth is Deceased' is selected and highlighted with a red circle. The dropdown menu options are: Youth is Deceased, Parent Absent, Youth is Incapacitated, Incapacitated, and Youth is Unavailable.

On occasion, the youth may have passed away since the last survey was administered.

In that event, please contact the Survey Center by phone or email so that they can discontinue outreach efforts and indicate "death" as the reason for non-completion on the outcomes tab of the youth's independent living page in eWiSACWIS.

NYTD Success

- Coordinated effort
- Positively inform policy and practice
- Continue to engage youth



The success of the NYTD survey is a coordinated effort between the Department of Children and Families, the UW Survey Center, and county, tribal and regional agencies that serve youth.

As mentioned earlier, NYTD presents an exceptional opportunity to explore how young people transitioning from foster care are faring across the country, and to use that information to positively inform policy and practice.

County, tribal and regional agencies, in particular, play a key role in ensuring that youth continue to be engaged through their transition years, as they can speak best to how the child welfare system has served them and how it can better serve youth in the future.

Together we can all work together to ensure that all youth have the tools to thrive in adulthood.

Contact Us



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This ends the webinar on the National Youth in Transition Database. If you have any questions, please contact us. For specific questions related to outreach and conducting the survey, please contact Margarete Wichmann at the University of Wisconsin Survey Center. For programmatic questions, please contact Kinnic Egan at the Department of Children and Families.