

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)



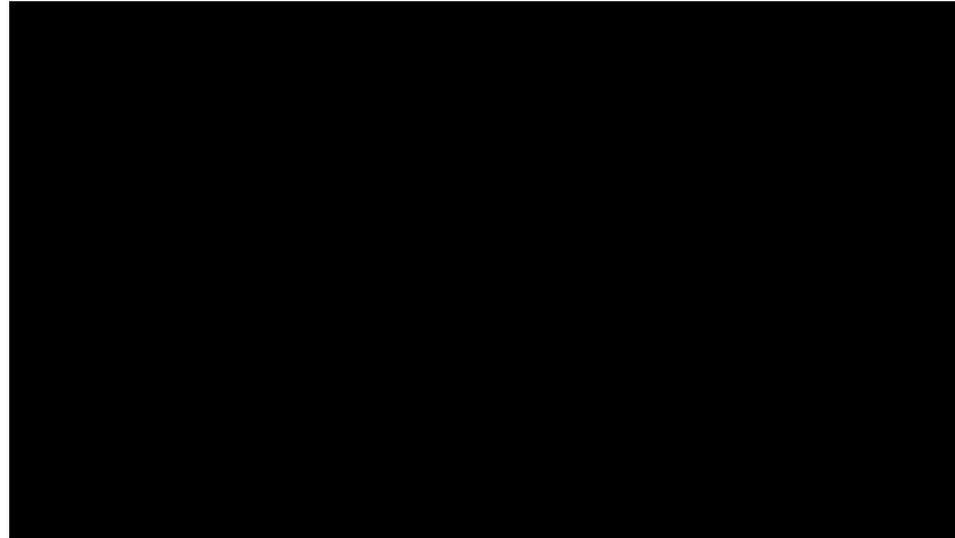
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

What is NYTD?

- Only **national survey effort** targeted at capturing the experience of youth in out-of-home care
- **Administered at specific points** in a young person's life
- Results entered into a client-specific data collection system but remain **anonymous and analyzed in aggregate**
- **Tracks independent living (IL)** services and outcomes
- **Funded by Chafee** Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee)
- Visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/ys/nytd> for more information, including a valuable FAQ document



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



Who Takes the Survey

17-Year-Olds (Baseline Population)

- All youth who are in foster care at any point **on their 17th birthday and any of the 45 days that follow.**
- Youth must complete the survey **while in care and within 45 days** of their 17th birthday.



19- and 21-Year-Olds* (Follow-Up Population)

- All young people **who completed the 17-year-old survey on time.**
- Youth must complete the survey **within the 6-month reporting period** of their 19th/21st birthday.
 - October 1 – March 31
 - April 1 – September 31

**Note: this means that many youth in the follow-up cohorts are 18 or 20 years old during part of the 6-month timeframe.*



How to Take the Survey

17-Year Olds (Baseline Population)

- **Online** with their unique link
- **Over the phone** with an interviewer at UW

19- and 21-Year Olds (Follow-Up Population)

- **Online** with their unique link
- **Over the phone** with an interviewer at UWSC
- **On paper** via the mail*

At no time should an adult supporter (e.g. family member, worker, IL Coordinator) complete the survey for a young person.

**Note: no paper option is available for the 17-year old survey because of the short window in which they need to complete the survey.*



Compliance

- States must meet **required youth participation rate** standards
 - **80%** survey participation rate for youth in OHC placements eligible to take the survey
 - **60%** survey participation rate for youth no longer in OHC eligible to take the survey
- States that do not comply with these standards **may have their annual Chafee allocation reduced** by 1-5%
- In addition, data submissions must meet certain file format requirements and data accuracy standards



**Administering the
NYTD Survey in
Partnership with the
*University of
Wisconsin Survey
Center (UWSC)***



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, UWSC pulls information **about two weeks before the beginning of the reporting period (mid-September, mid-March)**



Importance of Caseworkers & IL Coordinators

- **Engage with young people** to help them pursue their goals and ensure their needs are met
- **Encourage them to complete** the NYTD survey; assist them only if needed
- If a youth is **unable to participate, mark the reason why** in eWiSACWIS *before* the reporting period ends
- **Keep contact information up-to-date** in eWiSACWIS and email updated information to nytd@uwsc.wisc.edu
 - For 19 and 21-year-olds, update information:
 - No later than September 15 for October 1-March 31 cohort
 - No later than March 15 for April 1-September 30 cohort



Contact Protocol for 17-year-olds

Youth

- **Initial Letter** sent to youth on the day of their 17th birthday (*includes \$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** to the youth begin about 3 weeks after the initial letter

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



Contact Protocol for 17-year-olds

County workers

- **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 from UWSC are automated and sent unless UWSC has received a completed survey for the given youth.



Involving OHC Providers

Out-of-home care (OHC) providers are **important partners in the NYTD process** because they provide direct care and supervision to the youth. To include them most effectively, caseworkers should:

- **Forward the email** with the NYTD survey link to the OHC facility's manager or relevant staff
- Tell the OHC contact that UWSC may call the youth to do the survey on the phone – and **they should allow UWSC to speak to the youth**
- Remind the OHC contact that **at no time should a staff member complete the survey for a young person** and nor should staff contact information be included in the survey's contact information field.



End of Survey: Youth's Contact Info

- At the end of the survey, **we ask for the young person's mailing address, phone number, and email address.**
- These are used:
 - To send them the \$20
 - To reach them in two years for the next survey
 - To provide information back to DCF
- **Caseworkers, IL Coordinators, OHC providers/staff, or other adult supporters should not list their own contact information here.** That will interfere with providing direct compensation for and outreach to the youth.



End of Survey: “Alternate Contacts” for Youth

- 17- and 19-year-old NYTD surveys **ask youth to identify two family members or friends** who can help UWSC reach the youth in the future if UWSC has difficulty contacting them
- These points of contact should **usually not be the worker/IL Coordinator** unless that individual expects to keep in close contact with the youth until age 21
- It is **best for the youth to list close family members or friends** who have stable contact information



Contact Protocol for 19- and 21-year-olds

Youth

- **Initial Letter** sent on first day of 6-month reporting period (*includes \$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** to youth 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
- **3rd Email** sent about 5 months into reporting period

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



Contact Protocol for 19- and 21-year-olds

County workers or Independent Living Coordinators

- **1st Email** sent about a week into the 6-month reporting period
 - Includes unique survey link
- **2nd Email** sent about two months into 6-month reporting period
 - Asks for updated contact information, if available
- **3rd Email** sent about one month prior to the end of the 6-month reporting period
 - Includes request to mark reason for non-completion in eWiSACWIS

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



Contact Protocol for 19- and 21-year-olds

Alternate Contacts

- If the survey is not completed after **about two months into the six-month reporting period UWSC reaches out to the family members or friends** who the young person listed at the end of the 17- and 19-year-old surveys.
 - This may be done via letter, email, or phone.
- During these outreach attempts, **UWSC asks the alternate contacts** for any new contact information they have for the young person.



Youth Cannot Participate: AWOL or Missing from Care

- This primarily **pertains to the 17-year-old baseline population**; few youth in the follow-up cohorts are in care
- UWSC **continues outreach efforts to the missing youth** until the survey due date
- If the youth returns to their placement, **the worker/IL Coordinator should provide them their unique link and encourage them to complete** the survey by the due date; they assist only if needed
- If the youth does not complete the survey, worker/IL Coordinator **marks “unable to locate” as the reason for non-completion** on the youth’s outcomes tab



Youth Cannot Participate: Incarcerated

- **17-year-olds in detention at age 17 or the entirety of the 45 days after turning 17 are not eligible for the NYTD survey**
- **19- or 21-year-olds who are incarcerated remain eligible** to take the survey. If this is a young person's status, the following should occur:
 - Worker/IL Coordinator notifies UWSC of the youth's incarceration status and location
 - UWSC mails a paper survey
 - If completed, UWSC mails \$20 thank you to the youth's commissary account
 - If the youth does not complete the survey, worker/IL Coordinator marks "incarcerated" as the reason for non-completion on the youth's outcomes tab



Youth Cannot Participate: Incapacitated

- **DCF is interested in outcomes information for all youth**, including youth who are incapacitated or mentally or physically unable to complete the survey
- **Worker/IL Coordinator shall accommodate the youth's needs** (e.g. read the questions slowly and in full, explain terms, provide more time)
- Even with help, **a youth must be able to choose their own answers.**
 - If youth cannot complete the survey even with help, worker/IL Coordinator shall mark “incapacitated” as the reason for non-completion on the youth's outcomes tab & notify UWSC
- **Remember: At no time should an adult supporter complete the survey for a young person**



Youth Cannot Participate: Deceased

- If Worker/IL Coordinator is aware a youth is deceased, they shall...
 - Update the date of death in the youth's person record in eWiSACWIS
 - **Inform UWSC so they can discontinue outreach efforts to the youth and any alternate contacts**
 - Mark "death" as the reason for non-completion on the youth's outcomes tab



NYTD Success

- Coordinated effort
- Positively inform policy and practice
 - Continue to engage youth
- Keep youth at the center of the process



Contact Us



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DCF Independent Living Coordinator

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