

How to Talk about NYTD with 19-year-old Young Adults

A guide for IL Coordinators and other partners

Refer to the following language as suggestions on how to discuss the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey opportunity with 19-year-olds eligible to complete it. You know your youth best, so feel free to adapt your approach and explanations according to their personality, needs, or current situation. For further guidance on NYTD, please visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/ys/nytd> or <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/reporting-systems/nytd>.

- So, how are you doing? Really, how are you doing?
- Do you remember taking a survey when you were 17? It was called the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey and would have asked questions about important areas like school, employment, your support system, etc.
- Well, we are asking all foster care alumni who took the survey at age 17 to take it again now so we can update your responses about school, employment, your support system, etc. In Wisconsin, we use the term foster care like we do the term out-of-home care. Both refer to placements in foster homes, group homes, residential care centers, some placements with relatives, etc.
- The survey does not focus on your family and it doesn't ask why you went into out-of-home care. The main categories it asks about are employment, school, housing, and finances.
- **All survey information is confidential and will be combined with the answers from other young people around the state and country and reviewed as a whole.** Your personal information will not be studied separately.
- The results from the survey you took at age 17 and this time around become part of a nationwide information gathering project centered on youth who were in out-of-home care. Your responses are looked at in combination with those from foster care alumni from across the country to get a better idea of how child welfare can improve services. Specific to Wisconsin, the state Department of Children and Families also uses the results to impact its policies and programming.
- Also, the Department of Children and Families wants to ensure that young people eligible for independent living services receive them. The surveys help tell the Department what it should do more of, less of, or differently to make services better.
- An office called the University of Wisconsin Survey Center is responsible for the survey. They will contact you directly about completing the survey, if they have not already done so. Do not be surprised if you get a phone call or email from them!
- If you would like, I can help you complete the survey. **However, the answers must be your own; I cannot do it for you.** We want to know about your experience. The UW Survey Center provides every person eligible to take the survey with their own online link to complete it. If you want help accessing that link or working through the survey, we can set up a time to work on it together.
- **The UW Survey Center will contact you again when you are 21 to ask you to fill out another survey like this one.** These surveys let us know how youth who were in out-of-home care do as young adults. The 21-year-old survey results are reviewed just like the 19-year-old survey results and are used to inform policies and programs in much the same way.
- **I would also like to use this opportunity to** update the contact information I have for you, so we know how to reach you regarding independent living services you might be eligible for and to make it easier to reach out again when you are 21 years old. In addition to your contact information, I would like to have contact information for other people close to you (e.g. significant other, family member, close friend) in case your contact information changes and contacting them is the best way to reach you.
- One last thing – **if you complete the survey on time, the UW Survey Center will mail you \$20.** This is real money – do not throw it away. If you take the survey again at 21, you will also receive \$20.