



ON YOUR OWN BUT NOT ALONE

# Annual Outcomes Report for State Fiscal Year 2013

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**Iowa Aftercare Services Network -- Annual Outcomes Report**  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Young people who age out of the foster care system face uncertain futures. Often lacking the stability and support of an intact family, these young people frequently struggle to meet the challenges of living on their own. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) provides services and support to help the youth and young adults who exit foster care at or near the age of 18 make a successful transition to adulthood. Since 2002, IASN has assisted more than 2,600 young people with this transition.

Youth and Shelter Services, Inc. (YSS) serves as the lead agency and fiscal agent for the Network, and has held the contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services to provide services for this population since it was initiated in 2002. YSS, in addition to providing direct services through four of its central Iowa locations, subcontracts with nine other youth-serving agencies to provide aftercare services to eligible youth throughout the state. In addition to YSS, the agencies in the Network and the location of their primary offices are:

- American Home Finding Association (Ottumwa)
- Children and Families of Iowa (Des Moines)
- Children's Square USA (Council Bluffs)
- Family Resources, Inc. (Davenport)
- Francis Lauer Youth Services, Inc. (Mason City)
- Foundation 2 (Cedar Rapids)
- Four Oaks (Cedar Rapids)
- Young House Family Services (Burlington)
- Youth Homes of Mid-America (Des Moines)

For further information on these agencies and the counties they serve for the Aftercare Network, see the Network's website at [www.iowaaftercare.org](http://www.iowaaftercare.org). YSS also subcontracts with the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa to provide statewide coordination, policy development, quality assurance, and evaluation services for the Network.

Funding for Iowa's aftercare services comes from federal and state sources. Since 2002, a portion of the state's federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Chafee funding) has been designated to serve 18 to 21 year olds who age out of foster care. Beginning in 2006, the Iowa Legislature authorized additional support for these youth and appropriated state funding to create the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program. The PAL program provides monthly financial support to qualifying youth who exit a state-paid foster care placement at age 18 or older as long as the young person is either enrolled in post-secondary education or training, is employed, or both. These two funding streams are combined in the DHS contract.

The DHS aftercare contract to YSS requires annual reporting on the services provided and outcomes of the youth and young adults who participate in Aftercare and PAL programs. This information is used both to assess the impact of the services being delivered to eligible youth and to fulfill state and federal reporting requirements. Data presented in this annual report are primarily drawn from an on-line data collection system that was designed specifically for the IASN and is maintained by the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa with the assistance of Steve Elfvin of Rocket Science, Ltd.

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### **Organization of the Report**

As in past years, this report is organized into three parts and includes the same data elements presented in previous reports to facilitate year-to-year comparison.

**Part I** provides three-year trend information from intake interviews with youth when they first access Aftercare services. This information is useful in understanding the characteristics of youth as they leave formal foster care and begin aftercare services. Also included this year is information disaggregated by gender when there is a substantial difference between males and females on a particular measure.

**Part II** of the report looks at demographic and other characteristics of all 725 participants who were served during SFY 2013. In addition, this part includes a brief summary of data on “services provided” that is collected by IASN as part of the state’s obligation to report this information for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). This part also summarizes the reasons youth exited the program during the year.

**Part III** of the report examines outcomes of 198 participants who exited services during the year and did not return for services prior to June 30, 2013 and for whom we have complete exit data. Data on outcomes in the areas of employment, resources, housing, education, relationships, parenting, high risk behaviors, health care coverage, and essential documents are presented as required by the DHS contract.

Aftercare and PAL are voluntary programs. Eligible young adults are allowed to initiate and discontinue services as they choose, and it is possible for youth to have multiple entries and exits from the program. Data is collected through individual interviews with the participants each time they enter or exit IASN services. To assess outcomes, data from the very first interview with the youth is compared with their last exit interview during the fiscal year for which this report is generated. Outcomes are only reported for youth who did not return to services prior to the end of the fiscal year. Efforts are made to ensure the accuracy of the data, but because the information is based largely on self-reports by youth and entered by multiple interviewers there may be some data entry errors that are not detected, resulting in some margin of error in the results presented in this report.

### **Key Data and Findings**

The total number of unduplicated participants served by the Iowa Aftercare Services Network decreased again this year, from 761 served in SFY 2012 to 725 served in SFY 2013. This is down from a peak of 788 youth served in SFY 2011. Of the 725 young people served this year, 238 entered the program for the first time, and 306 exited the program without returning prior to June 30, 2013. There were 414 young people participating in Aftercare or PAL at the end of the year.

On average, 420 young people participated in Aftercare each month during SFY 2013. Of these youth, an average of 284 were receiving PAL and 136 were participating in Aftercare without PAL.

**Intakes:** Young people enter Aftercare services with a variety of risk factors or potential barriers to a successful transition to adulthood. The following are characteristics of the 238 young people who accessed Aftercare for the first time in SFY 2013:

- Prior to exiting foster care, case management was provided by DHS for 77% of these youth, while Juvenile Court Services (JCS) was responsible for 23% of the youth;

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- A significant number of these young adults have attempted suicide or inflicted self-harm. Young women are more likely than men to report a previous a suicide attempt (27.6% of women versus 18.3% of men in SFY 2013) at intake, as well as more likely to have engaged in self-harming behaviors (31.3% of women compared to 16.4% of men);
- A majority of all youth accessing Aftercare in SFY 2013 have been prescribed medication for ongoing maintenance of physical or mental health;
- Among young women accessing Aftercare, 29% had already had an unintended pregnancy when they first accessed services;
- 24.4% of young people entered Aftercare without a high school credential, an improvement from a high of 33.8% of intakes without a high school credential in SFY 2011;
- 35.3% were unemployed and actively seeking work; and 56.3% reported zero income;
- Nearly half (49%) of males had been incarcerated or detained in the previous two years, while a quarter of females had been incarcerated or detained, at the time of intake.

**Outcomes:** Aftercare services are designed to help young adults move toward stability and self-sufficiency in five key areas: education, employment, housing, health, and relationships. A variety of measures are used to assess progress in these outcome areas. In this year's analysis of outcomes, we compare the original intake data collected when youth first accessed services with the last exit interview data for those youth who exited during state fiscal year 2013 and did not return before July 1, 2013. This provides an unduplicated group of 198 youth on which data is reported for the year, including 168 PAL participants and 30 who did not receive PAL (referred to as Basic participants).

**Employment:** Among the participants that exited services in SFY 2013, less than half (44%) were employed either full or part-time when they first accessed services. At exit, 56.1% of participants were employed (39.4% of participants at least 25 hours per week and another 16.7% less than 25 hours per week). The percentage of participants "unemployed" declined from 32.8% at intake to 19.7% at exit.

**Housing:** Compared to when they first access services, more youth are assuming some responsibility for the cost of housing on exit (from 60.6% at intake to 76.3% at exit).

**Education:** Nearly 95% of youth on exit have earned at least a high school diploma or GED, compared to 76% of the same youth at intake. And 35% have been able to complete some college before exiting services, including a small number who have completed AA degrees (2.5%), Bachelor's degrees (0.5%); or a vocational certificate or license (3.0%).

**Health Insurance Coverage:** Just under 90% of young people have Medicaid at both intake and exit, in large part due to the automatic extension of this coverage under Medicaid for Independent Young Adults (MIYA). The extension of Medicaid eligibility to age 26 for this population beginning in 2014 as a result of the Affordable Care Act will benefit these young people enormously.

**Children and Parenting:** Early childbearing and parenting are relatively common among youth who age-out of foster care. While only 6.6% of youth entered Aftercare as parents, by the time they exited, 28.3% are parenting. Of exiting participants who are parents, 86% have their children living with them.

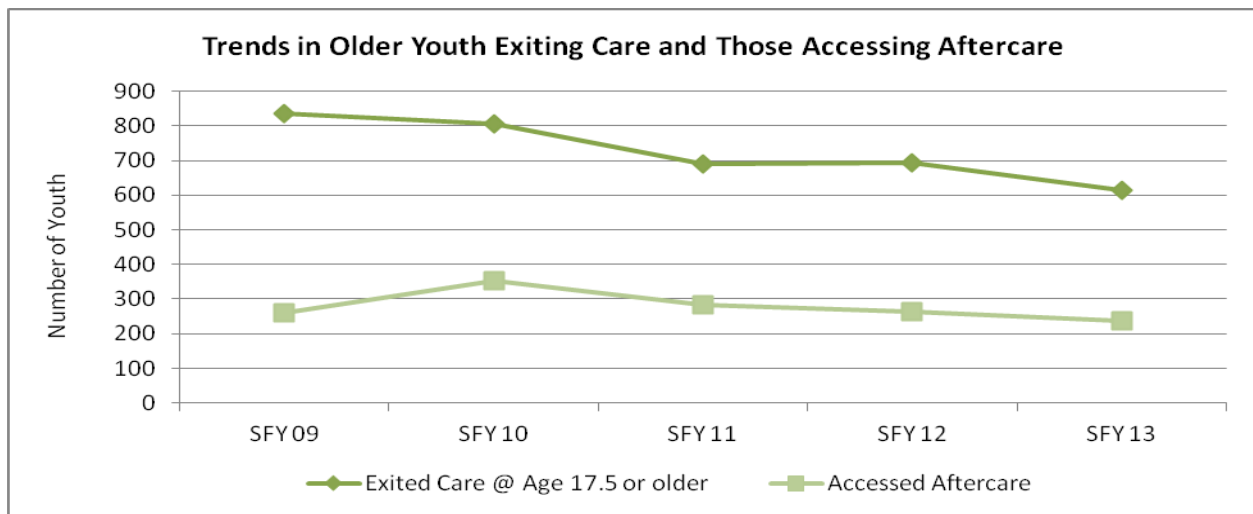
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**PART I: Characteristics of New Intakes**

A total of 725 young adults were served by the Aftercare Network in State Fiscal Year 2013, somewhat above the average of 710 youth served over the previous five years, but less than the 761 served in SFY 2012. Of the 725 youth served, 238 accessed services for the first time during the fiscal year. Approximately 75% of young people begin receiving Aftercare services within two months of exiting formal foster care, although they may access Aftercare any time before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Since SFY 2009, an average of 728 youth age 17.5 or older and whose last episode in foster care was for at least six months have exited Iowa's foster care system each year.<sup>1</sup> On average, 276 youth per year have accessed Aftercare services. Although young people do not necessarily access Aftercare the same year as they age out and not all youth who leave foster care at age 17.5 or older are eligible for Aftercare, the two totals provide a reasonable estimate of the proportion of eligible youth who take advantage of Aftercare services. Over the last five years about 38.5% of youth meeting basic eligibility criteria were served by Aftercare, at least briefly.



The remainder of this part highlights characteristics of young people at the time they accessed Aftercare services over the last three state fiscal years. This trend data is helpful in understanding the characteristics of youth as they emancipate from foster care in Iowa at age 18.

**Age at Intake:** The vast majority of young people are age 18 when they first access Aftercare. In SFY 2013 the average age of the 238 youth who accessed services was 18.5, including fifty-five youth (23.1%) who entered Aftercare the month they turned 18. Just over 80% (192 youth) entered Aftercare before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Eligible youth can access services any time before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, however, and in SFY 2013, thirty-eight young people entered at age 19, and eight young adults first accessed Aftercare at the age of 20, including one who had only three months of eligibility remaining.

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<sup>1</sup> In previous years, we have reported the number of youth who exit foster care with a discharge reason of “aged out” as a proxy for the number of youth who become eligible for Aftercare each year. The “age out” exit code is largely subjective, however, and substantially under-reports the number of youth eligible for Aftercare. In this year’s report, we have substituted data provided by DHS that takes into account age at exit, length of last episode in care, and last placement type (factors that are used in determining eligibility) to more accurately reflect the size of the eligible population.

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**Case Management while in Foster Care:** In Iowa, young people may be in foster care as a result of a delinquency proceeding, as well as those who enter foster care as a result of abuse or neglect. If placed in care because of delinquency, a young person’s case is most often managed by a Juvenile Court Officer rather than a DHS Social Worker. Regardless, youth are eligible for Aftercare if all other eligibility criteria are met. With the assistance of DHS, we have added the primary case manager (DHS or JCS) to the IASN database for each young person served over the last three years. Beginning in SFY 2013, this data will be collected routinely on eligibility forms as new young people access Aftercare services.

Over the last three state fiscal years, many more youth exiting care who are connected to a DHS Social Worker access Aftercare services than those whose case was managed by the JCS side of the system. The lower number of youth from the JCS caseload accessing Aftercare suggests that additional outreach to Juvenile Court Officers may be needed to ensure that those youth who are eligible are informed of and referred to Aftercare services.

<b>FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT</b>			
While in foster care, primary case management was provided by a:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=229)*
DHS Social Worker	79.9%	77.1%	77.3%
Juvenile Court Officer	20.1%	22.9%	22.7%

\*Case worker information was missing or unknown for a small number of participants in SFY 2013.

**Risk Factors:** Young people enter Aftercare services with a variety of self-reported behaviors or characteristics that place them at risk of poor outcomes as young adults. While these risks are not insurmountable, they do create challenges for these emerging adults.

Consistently, more than half of the young people participating in Aftercare have mental health issues and a quarter have some history of alcohol or substance abuse. Young men, in particular, come to Aftercare having been referred for or received an alcohol or substance abuse assessment or counseling in the previous year (33.7% of men compared to 18.7% of young women at intake in SFY 2013).

About one-third of young people typically report having been incarcerated or detained in the previous two years. Young men are more likely to have been involved in the juvenile justice system prior to accessing Aftercare. In SFY 2013, nearly half (49%) of males had been incarcerated or detained in the previous two years, while a quarter of females had been incarcerated or detained.

In addition, a significant number of these young adults have attempted suicide or inflicted self-harm. Young women, in this case, are more likely than men to report a previous suicide attempt (27.6% of women versus 18.3% of men in SFY 2013) at intake, as well as more likely to have engaged in self-harming behaviors (31.3% of women compared to 16.4% of men). A greater proportion of females than males also report that they have been in a relationship in which they were hurt (*e.g.*, hit, punched, or shoved) by their partner (21.6% of females versus 4.8% of males).

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<b>RISK FACTORS/CHALLENGES PRESENTED AT INTAKE</b>			
<b>Percent responding "yes" they:</b>	<b>SFY 2011 (N= 284)</b>	<b>SFY 2012 (N=265)</b>	<b>SFY 2013 (N=238)</b>
Have been referred for or received a mental health assessment, counseling or therapy in the last year	56.69%	61.51%	56.72%
Have been referred for or received an alcohol or substance abuse assessment or counseling in the last year	23.24%	23.4%	25.21%
Have ever attempted suicide	22.89%	24.91%	23.53%
Have ever inflicted self-harm in other ways	26.06%	32.08%	28.99%
Have ever had an unintended pregnancy (females only)	31.01%	24.16%	29.1%
Are a parent	11.27%	7.55%	10.92%
Have been incarcerated or detained in the past two years	34.15%	30.94%	35.71%
Have been hit, punched, shoved, or hurt by partner in the past two years	16.55%	11.61%	14.29%

**Education:** Iowa allows youth to continue in voluntary foster care through age 19 to complete high school, however, many youth do not take advantage of that option. In SFY 2013, 24.4% of young people entered Aftercare without a high school credential, down from a high of 33.8% of intakes in SFY 2011. Many of these youth continue pursuing a high school diploma or GED while in Aftercare. Among males entering Aftercare in SFY 2013, 52.9% had earned a high school diploma and 20.2% had received a GED. Females, who were somewhat more likely to have any kind of high school credential, more often had earned a high school diploma (67.2%), rather than a GED (9.7%).

<b>EDUCATION</b>			
<b>Highest education credential received:</b>	<b>SFY 2011 (N= 284)</b>	<b>SFY 2012 (N=265)</b>	<b>SFY 2013 (N=238)</b>
High School Diploma	55.63%	60.75%	60.92%
GED	9.86%	11.32%	14.29%
Vocational certificate or license	0.7%	0.38%	0.42%
None of the Above	33.8%	27.55%	24.37%

**Employment and Income:** Among youth accessing Aftercare in SFY 2013, approximately 40% were employed - 20% were working 25 or more hours per week and another 20% for less than 25 hours per week – at the time they started receiving services. More young men were unemployed, but actively seeking work (39.4%) than young women (32.1%). Finding and keeping a job is a primary goal for many youth accessing aftercare. More than half of youth report \$0 monthly income when they first begin services.

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<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>			
Current employment status:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Employed (average 35+ hours per week)	7.04%	5.28%	5.88%
Employed (average 25-34 hours per week)	10.92%	18.11%	14.29%
Employed (less than 25 hours per week)	19.01%	16.98%	19.75%
Unemployed, actively seeking employment	40.85%	30.19%	35.29%
Unemployed, long-term disability	1.76%	0.75%	0.42%
Not in work force	17.61%	25.66%	21.85%
Other	2.82%	3.02%	2.52%
<b>MONTHLY INCOME</b>			
Gross monthly income w/out PAL:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
\$0	59.51%	57.74%	56.30%
\$1 - \$799	33.79%	33.20%	39.92%
\$800 - \$1,399	5.28%	6.79%	3.36%
\$1,400 or more	1.40%	2.26%	0.42%

**Banking:** Consistently, less than half of the youth exiting foster care and accessing Aftercare report having a checking or debit account. Similarly, less than half report having a savings account, suggesting that these youth have limited experience with mainstream banking. Being “unbanked” has been identified as a common problem for low-income people and a barrier to self-sufficiency.

<b>BANKING</b>			
Percent responding “yes” they have a:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Checking or debit account	42.25%	44.53%	47.9%
Saving account	40.49%	43.77%	41.6%

**Essential Documents:** Over the last three years, about 80% of youth report having their birth certificate and 85% as having their Social Security Card when they access Aftercare. Less than half, however, have a driver’s license at intake into Aftercare.

<b>ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS</b>			
Percent responding “yes” they have the following documents:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Birth certificate	77.82%	81.13%	78.99%
Social Security Card	84.86%	85.28%	86.13%
Driver’s license	47.54%	49.06%	46.22%
State ID or passport	62.68%	64.15%	67.23%

**Health:** Automatic enrollment to continue Medicaid coverage for youth aging out of foster care in Iowa has been largely successful, as an average of 90% of young people accessing Aftercare over the last three



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years report that they have Medicaid. Maintaining that coverage, however, is hampered by the need to reapply annually. A majority of all youth accessing Aftercare in SFY 2013, including nearly 60% of the young women, have been prescribed medication for ongoing maintenance of physical or mental health. More than 45% report using tobacco and 10.5% report that they have used alcohol to intoxication.

<b>HEALTH</b>			
Percent responding "yes":	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Have a primary care physician	70.42%	63.02%	72.27%
Have Medicaid	90.14%	89.06%	91.6%
Had been prescribed medication for ongoing maintenance of physical or mental health within the last year	55.99%	58.11%	52.52%
Had used tobacco in the last 30 days	50.7%	42.64%	45.8%
Had used alcohol to intoxication in the last 30 days	13.38%	15.47%	10.5%

**Housing:** Overall young people accessing Aftercare feel safe in their current housing and only a small percentage (5.9% in SFY 2013) is "homeless" when entering services. However, housing is less than stable, as 39.1% indicated that they plan to move within a month and only 24% are officially on a lease when they accessed Aftercare in SFY 2013. Multiple moves by Aftercare participants are common, and securing a safe, stable place to live is often a priority for this population.

<b>HOUSING</b>			
Percent responding "yes" they:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Are paying for housing	49.65%	53.96%	57.13%
Have name on a lease agreement	25.35%	18.87%	23.95%
Own basic household items	50.35%	49.81%	50.0%
Are moving next month	34.15%	32.45%	39.08%
Are currently homeless	8.45%	7.92%	5.88%

**Permanency:** Even though Aftercare participants have aged out of foster care, they have maintained connections to family and other supportive adults. As shown in the table below, young people consistently report having at least one person (either in their family or a non-family member) who will always be available to them.

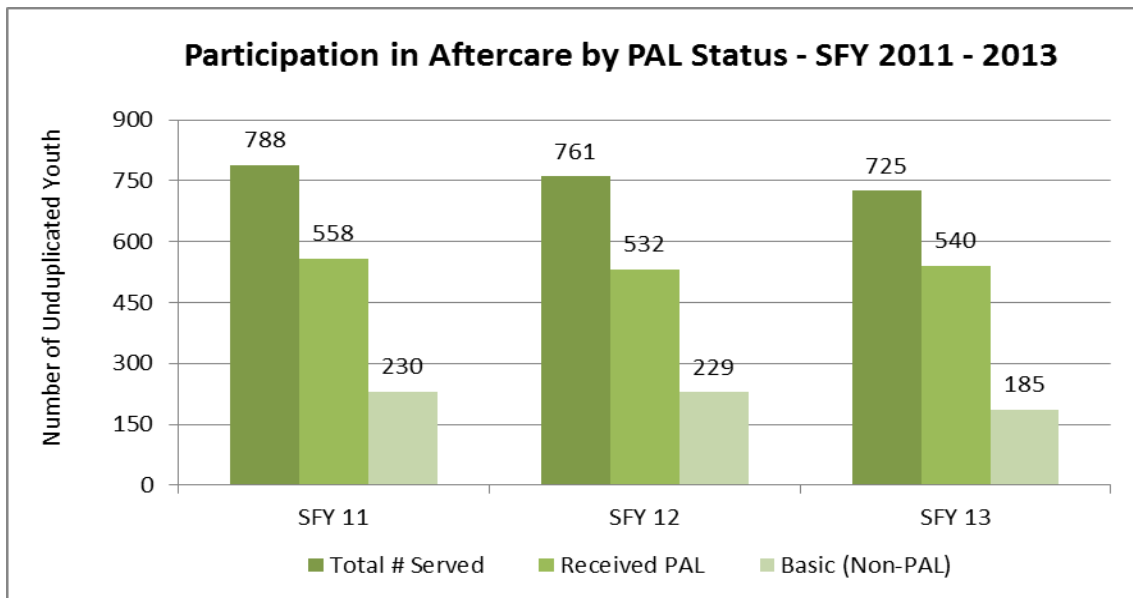
<b>PERMANENCY – SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS</b>			
Percent responding "yes" there is an:	SFY 2011 (N= 284)	SFY 2012 (N=265)	SFY 2013 (N=238)
Adult family member who I will always be able to turn to for support...	76.41%	84.91%	86.97%
Adult, non-family member, who I will always be able to turn to for support...	90.85%	95.85%	94.54%

**PART II – Characteristics of All Youth Served in SFY 2013**

**Unduplicated Number Served:** A total of 725 young people were served by IASN during SFY 2013. In the previous three fiscal years, an average of 773 youth were served. The decrease in the overall number served is primarily a result of fewer new intakes. Among the youth served, 238 accessed services for the first time during state fiscal year 2013 (compared to 265 new intakes last year) and 310 exited the program without returning prior to June 30, 2013. At the close of the fiscal year, 414 youth had open aftercare cases.

Aftercare and PAL are voluntary programs, and eligible young adults are able to initiate and discontinue services as they choose. In some cases, agencies will discontinue services for young people who fail to meet the requirements and self-responsibility expectations of the program. In either case, young people may re-enter services when they are ready. This leads to a fair amount of turnover in program participation as youth may enter and exit services multiple times before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. In SFY 2013, 166 youth returned for services after a break in their participation.

**PAL Participation:** While the overall number of participants declined in SFY 2013, the number receiving PAL increased slightly over the previous year. Of the 725 youth served in SFY 2013, 540 or 74.5% met requirements and received a PAL stipend for at least a portion of the time they participated; the remaining 185 youth did not receive PAL during the year. Prior to this year, 70.8% and 69.9% of the young people served received PAL in SFY 2011 and SFY 2012 respectively. ***In the tables throughout this report, columns designated “Basic” refer to youth who did not receive a PAL stipend while participating in Aftercare services during the report year.***

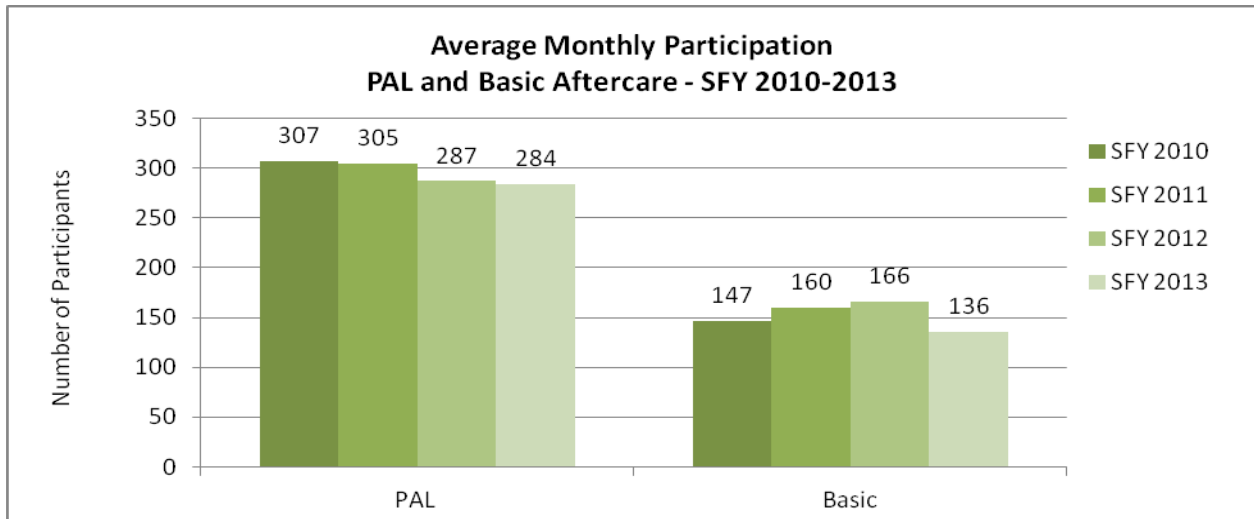


Eligibility criterion for just Aftercare (without PAL) allows some youth to qualify for general case management services and support but not the monthly financial assistance offered by the PAL program. Among the 185 youth served by IASN in SFY 2013 who did not receive PAL during the year, 84 were eligible **only** for Aftercare. Of those, 60 left state-paid foster before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or had not been in care for six of the twelve months prior to aging out; 17 aged out of a non-licensed relative care placement; and 7 were adopted or placed in guardianship after the age of 16.

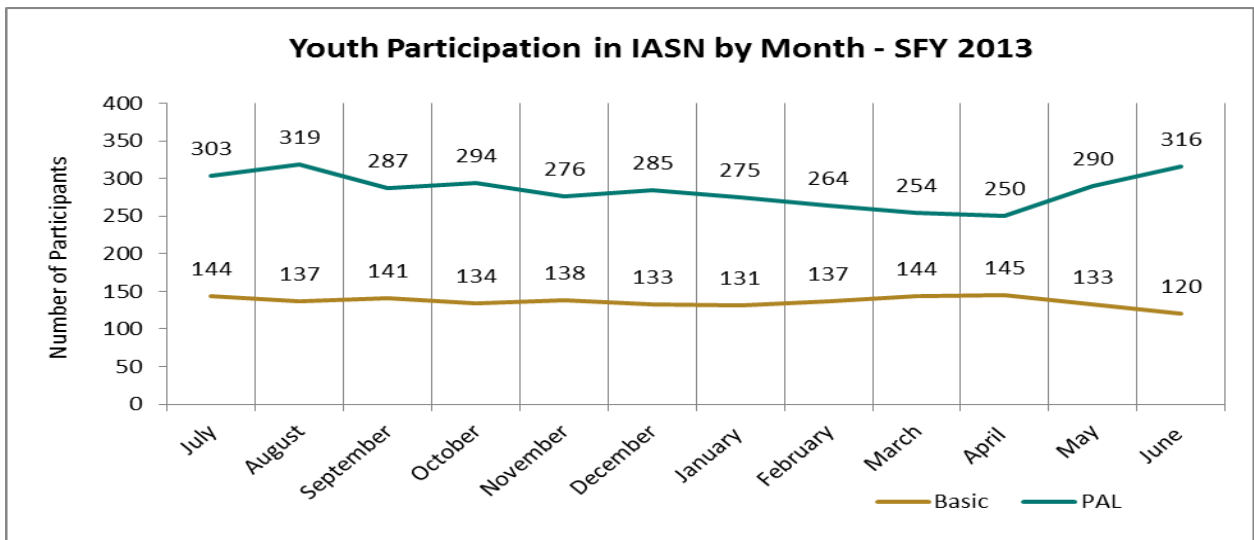
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The remaining 101 youth in Aftercare Basic met the age and foster care exit requirements for PAL, but did not qualify for the PAL program because they were either still eligible for voluntary foster care (*e.g.*, they had not yet completed high school) or they were not meeting the education and employment requirements of PAL. Many of these youth may qualify for PAL at some point in the future as their circumstances change. Of all young people served in SFY 2013, 88.4% met the foster care exit age and placement requirements for PAL, while 74.5% actually received PAL for at least one month.

**Average Monthly Participation:** On average, 420 young people participated in Aftercare each month during SFY 2013. Of those, an average of 284 received PAL and 136 were participating in Basic Aftercare (*i.e.*, did not receive a PAL stipend). The average monthly Basic Aftercare caseload declined for the first time in four years, while the average monthly PAL caseload remained about the same as last year.



The number of active participants changes monthly as youth access and exit services and shift between PAL and Basic Aftercare. In SFY 2013, monthly enrollment in PAL ranged from a low of 250 in April to a high of 319 in August. As shown below, participation in Basic Aftercare services remained relatively stable through most of the period, tapering off at the end of the fiscal year.



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**Demographics—Gender and Race:** Demographic data recorded from participants at the time of intake includes gender, age, race and ethnicity. The following tables show the gender and race/ethnicity of the 725 youth served by the Aftercare Network in SFY 2013 and disaggregated by whether youth received PAL. Overall, there is little change from previous years. More women than men utilize aftercare services. The vast majority of participating youth are White (82%), reflecting Iowa’s overall and foster care populations, but a sizeable percentage identify themselves as African American (17%), Multi-racial (9%), or American Indian (6%). Of all youth served in SFY 2013, 11.5% identified themselves as Hispanic and 3.2% recognized themselves as a member of an Indian Tribe.

GENDER	Total Served (N=725)		Received PAL (N=540)		Basic (N=185)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	299	41%	218	40%	81	44%
Female	426	59%	322	60%	104	56%
RACE* / ETHNICITY						
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	592	82%	437	81%	155	84%
African American	123	17%	96	18%	27	15%
American Indian	45	6%	30	6%	15	8%
Asian	5	1%	1	<1%	7	4%
Native Hawaiian	4	1%	3	1%	1	.5%
Multi-Racial	64	9%	46	9%	18	10%
Unknown/Declined	10	1%	8	1%	2	1%
Ethnicity—Hispanic	83	11%	66	12%	17	9%

\* Youth can identify with more than one race, therefore, percentages will not add up to 100%.

**Age:** Most youth first access Aftercare at age 18, but there are about an equal number of 18, 19 and 20 year olds participating in the program at any given time. In SFY 2013, the average age of new intakes was 18.5 years, with youth ranging in age from 18.0 to 20.8 at intake. Among new participants in SFY 2013, 81% first came to Aftercare at age 18, including 68% who accessed services within six months of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Additionally, 16% of new participants this year accessed services at age 19, and only 3% first accessed services at age 20.

Of 198 young people who completed an exit interview during the year, 138 (69%) were age 21, essentially aging out of Aftercare, and another 14 (7%) were 20½ to 21. The average age among youth exiting with an interview was 20.6 years. Of these exiting youth, only 5.5% were still 18 years old, and 18% were 19 to 20½, all of whom could potentially return for services before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Youth who exited services without completing an exit interview were somewhat younger, with an average age of 19.5, suggesting that many may return for one or more additional episodes of service. The ages of the 99 youth who exited without an interview were fairly equally distributed among 18, 19, and 20 years old.

**Serious Emotional Disorder:** Historically, 50 to 60 percent of youth accessing the Aftercare Network each year come to the program with a history of mental health assessment, diagnosis and treatment. In SFY 2013, 55.4% of the 725 youth served had been diagnosed with one or more Serious Emotional Disorders (SED) prior to leaving foster care. A breakdown of SED by PAL and Non-PAL (Basic) youth for SFY 2013 is shown in the table below. Those youth not qualifying for the PAL component are somewhat more likely to

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have an SED than those who do receive PAL. This information is not available for 7% of participating youth. The majority (55%) of youth for whom SED information is available have more than one diagnosis.

	Total Served (N=725)		Received PAL (N=540)		Basic (N=185)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
SED	402	55%	290	54%	112	61%
Non-SED	270	37%	217	40%	53	29%
Not Reported	53	7%	33	6%	20	11%

**Foster Care History:** Similar to previous years, the majority of young people receiving Aftercare services were in foster care for more than two years. Just over half of the youth reported spending most of their time in care with a non-relative foster family, while a quarter indicated that most of their time in foster care was in a group home or shelter. Less than 6% of youth report that most of their time in foster care was spent with a relative. Of all youth served in SFY 2013, 72% of their cases were being managed by DHS and 20% were being handled by Juvenile Court Services when they were last in foster care (data on case manager was missing for 8% of these cases).

Time in foster care and the last type of foster care placement reported by the youth is shown in the table below, disaggregated by PAL status. There was an increase of 3% in youth indicating that their last placement was a Supervised Apartment compared to last year, reflecting the somewhat greater utilization of that placement type for older youth in care.

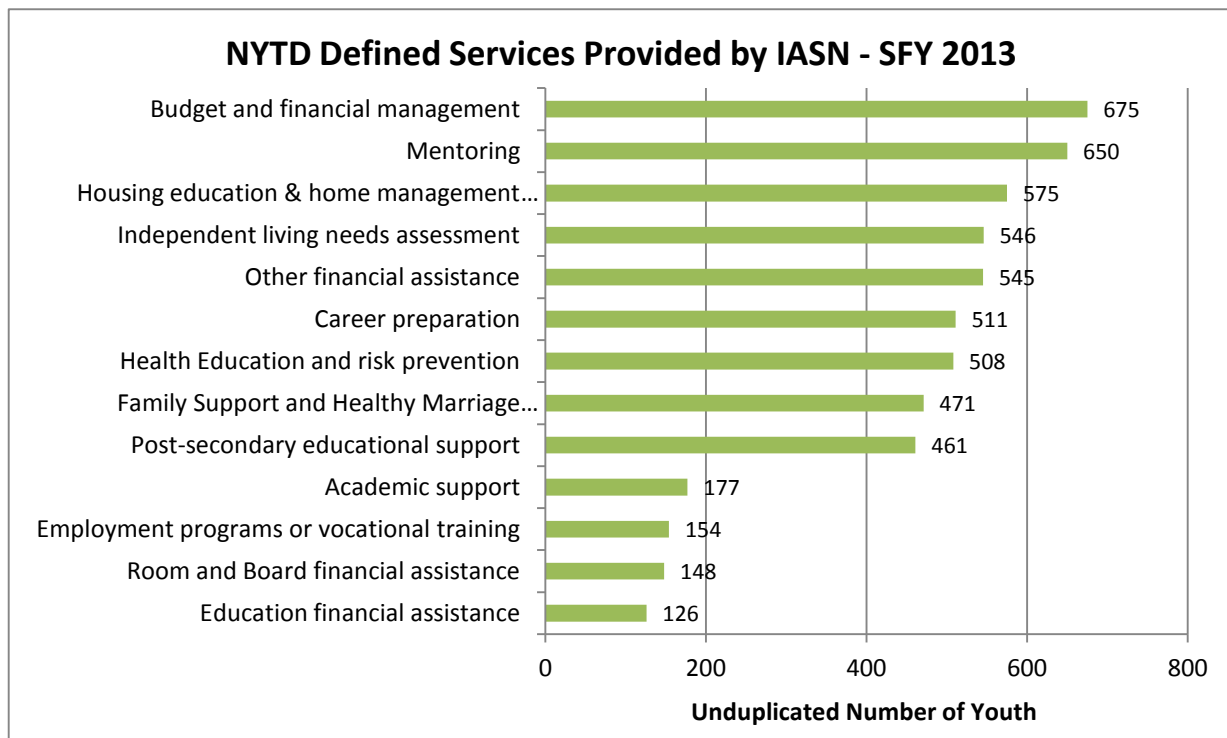
Time in Foster Care	Total Served (N=725)		Received PAL (N=540)		Basic (N=185)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 6 months	21	3%	9	2%	12	6%
6 months to a year	70	10%	43	8%	27	15%
1 to 2 years	128	18%	101	19%	27	15%
More than 2 years	502	69%	385	71%	117	63%
Not sure	4	1%	2	<1%	2	1%
<b>Last Placement</b>						
Relative	29	4%	16	3%	13	7%
Foster Home (non-relative)	349	48%	285	53%	64	35%
Group Home or Shelter	135	19%	77	14%	58	31%
Other Institution	54	7%	34	6%	20	11%
Supervised Apartment Living	138	19%	119	22%	19	10%
Other	19	3%	9	2%	10	5%
Not Sure / Missing	1	<1%	0	0%	1	<1%

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**Geographic Distribution:** The ten agencies that comprise the Iowa Aftercare Services Network ensure statewide access to services for youth. Over the years, youth in all 99 Iowa counties have been served by the Network. Young people from 85 counties participated in SFY 2013, with a majority of those in urban areas. Ten counties, each serving 20 or more youth during the year, accounted for 57.9% of the 725 youth served, with 106 youth (14.6%) being served in Polk County alone. Other counties serving large numbers of youth include: Woodbury (56), Black Hawk (49), Dubuque (38), Linn (35), Pottawattamie (29), and Webster (25). In 47 counties, three or fewer youth participated in Aftercare in SFY 2013, including 19 counties in which just one young person received services.

**Services Provided:** Each young person participating in Aftercare works individually with a Self-Sufficiency Advocate. These Advocates meet with participating youth face-to-face a minimum of twice a month (often much more frequently), assessing needs and helping youth set goals, identify action steps, and assist youth in achieving those goals. Advocates offer support, guidance, and provide a range of information and services to each youth depending on their unique needs and interests. Beginning in SFY 2011, the Network began recording the types of services provided to individual youth to satisfy reporting requirements for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). IASN uses definitions established by NYTD to document the services that are provided to individual youth, and transmits that data to DHS monthly. The graph below shows the total number of youth during the year who received each NYTD service at least once.



Of the 725 youth participating in Aftercare in SFY 2013, 93% received Budget and financial management services and 90% received Mentoring services. This reflects the emphasis of developing and following budgets in the program and the mentoring relationship Aftercare Advocates establish with participating youth. Advocates also work with most youth on housing, career and health issues. Any participant receiving a PAL stipend or Aftercare vendor payment is recorded as receiving “other financial

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assistance.” Services and support related to healthy relationships and post-secondary educational support are also provided to a majority of young people while they are in Aftercare.

**Reasons for Exit:** When young people leave Aftercare services, their reason for exiting is documented by the Self-Sufficiency Advocate who has been working with the youth. The table below shows the circumstances for all youth who exited Aftercare during the year and did not return prior to July 1, 2013 (N=306). Of these youth, 208 completed an exit interview. The remaining 98 exiting youth discontinued services without an interview. In these cases, the reason for exit is based on the Self-Sufficiency Advocates’ knowledge of the youth’s last circumstances.

As was the case last year, the most prevalent reason for exit in SFY 2013 was that the participant was turning 21 and was no longer eligible for services. This year nearly half (48.4%) of all exits were the result of the young person turning 21, compared to 38.3% of the exits last year. “Aging out” of Aftercare was especially true among PAL participants (although they may not have been receiving PAL at the end of their participation).

The most common reason for non-PAL participants to be discharged from the program was for failing to meet program requirements (primarily the expectation that they meet at least twice a month with their Advocate), which was true for 33.3% of exiting participants and very similar to last year. Reasons participants exited are shown in the table below, overall and disaggregated by PAL status.

Reason for exit	All Exits (N=306)		Received PAL (N=216)		Basic (N=90)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Turned 21 – end of eligibility	148	48.4%	131	60.6%	17	18.9%
Not meeting self-responsibility requirements	54	17.6%	24	11.1%	30	33.3%
Moved (including moving temporarily and potential transfers)	40	13.1%	26	12.0%	14	15.6%
Voluntarily chose to end services	20	6.5%	13	6.0%	7	7.8%
Incarcerated	3	1.0%	2	1.0%	1	1.1%
Institutionalized or hospitalized	3	1.0%	1	0.5%	2	2.2%
Achieved self-sufficiency	3	1.0%	3	1.4%	0	0.0%
Military	2	0.7%	1	0.5%	1	1.1%
Other	10	3.3%	5	2.3%	5	5.6%
Unknown/Missing	23	7.8%	10	4.6%	13	14.4%

Youth in this population tend to be very transient at this age and 13% of exits were the result of the participant moving out of the area where they were receiving services. Many of those youth may reengage with another agency, but had not done so by the close of the fiscal year. In addition,

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approximately 6.5% voluntarily ended their participation. A small number of youth exit as the result of being incarcerated, institutionalized or hospitalized, or because they join the military. While “achieved self-sufficiency” is among the options as a reason for exit, it is seldom selected by youth or Self-Sufficiency Advocates, reflecting the difficulty all young adults face in fully making it on their own by age 21 or younger.

***Youth with less than three months of service:*** While many youth have multiple entries and exits from services, a smaller number never seem to fully engage with the program. In SFY 2013, 22 (7.2%) of the 306 exits from the program were of youth who participated for less than three months and did not return before the end of the fiscal year. Some may re-enter services at a later date. These youth are excluded from the following outcomes analysis.



### **PART III – Outcomes of Youth Exiting Aftercare**

The overall purpose of Iowa’s Aftercare and PAL programs is to assist young people who age out of foster care make a successful transition to adulthood. The challenges facing this population are well-documented and outcomes for these youth are often less desirable than their peers who have not been in foster care. The services and supports offered by the Iowa Aftercare Services Network are designed to help these young adults move toward stability and self-sufficiency in five key areas: education, employment, housing, health, and relationships. A variety of measures are used to assess progress in these outcome areas.

In this analysis of outcomes, we compare the original intake data collected when youth first accessed services with the last exit interview data for those youth who exited during State Fiscal Year 2013 after at least three months of participation and who did not return before July 1, 2013. This provides an unduplicated group of youth on which data is reported for the year. It should be noted that some of the youth included in this analysis may have already returned for services after the close of the fiscal year or could yet return if they are not yet age 21. Exit data is available for 198 young people who completed an exit interview with Aftercare staff during SFY 2013 and who did not return before the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2013).

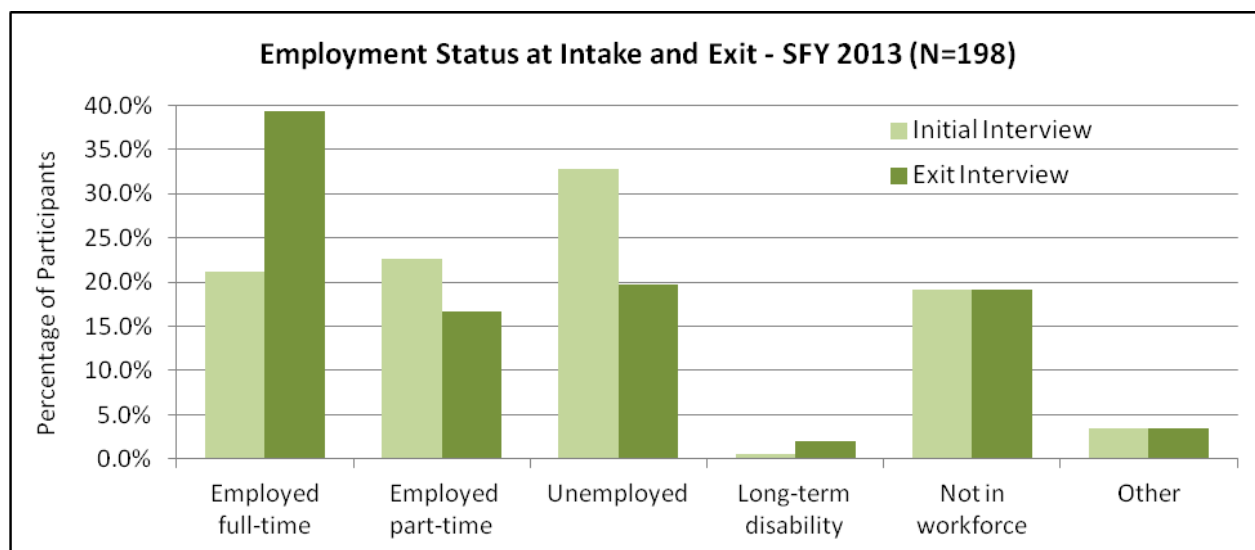
The average age of these 198 youth was 18.5 at intake and 20.6 at exit. Of the young people completing exit interviews, 69% were age 21 at exit and are no longer eligible for services. The average length of time between when this population first accessed services and their SFY 2013 exit is just over two years. Two-thirds of the youth exiting services and on which data is included in this Part were involved with Aftercare for a period of two years or more and half were involved for at least two and a half years, although this may include some interruptions of service prior to their last exit.

Specific questions from the Core Client Outcomes database are used to assess progress in nine outcome areas identified by the Department. For purposes of this analysis and report, we define those youth who met the qualifications and received a PAL stipend for at least one month as a PAL participant. Of the 198 total participants for whom data is reported, 168 (85%) are included in the PAL population, and 30 (15%) are in the Non-PAL (*i.e.*, Basic) grouping. Data is presented for all 198 youth combined, as well as for the 168 PAL participants and 30 Basic participants separately for each of the indicators.

**Employment:** Employment outcomes have shown gradual improvement over the last two fiscal years, suggesting that Aftercare participants are taking part in the overall economic recovery. Among the participants that exited services in SFY 2013, 44% were employed either full or part-time when they first accessed services. At exit, 56.1% of participants were employed (39.4% of participants at least 25 hours per week and another 16.7% less than 25 hours per week). The percentage of participants “unemployed” declined from 32.8% at intake to 19.7% at exit in SFY 2013. Those not in the workforce (which may include full-time students) did not change overall, but there was a significant decrease among Basic Aftercare participants “not in the workforce” (from 43.3% at intake to 23.3% at exit). While Basic participants still lag behind PAL participants in employment, these young people also showed substantial gains in full-time employment from intake to exit.

Specific percentages of employment status of exiting participants, and a breakdown by PAL and Basic participants, are shown in chart and table below. Labor force participation, in general, is higher at both intake and exit among PAL participants than Basic participants reflecting, in part, the requirements of the PAL program.

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Employment	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Employed full-time*	21.2%	39.4%	23.8%	41.1%	6.7%	30.0%
Employed part-time*	22.7%	16.7%	25.0%	16.7%	10.0%	13.3%
Unemployed	32.8%	19.7%	31.6%	19.6%	40.0%	20.0%
Long-term disability	0.5%	2.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0%	6.7%
Not in workforce	19.2%	19.2%	14.9%	18.5%	43.3%	23.3%
Other	3.5%	3.5%	4.2%	3.0%	0%	6.7%

\* In this table, full time employment represents the percent of participants responding that they were employed 25 or more hours per week. Employed part-time represents those employed less than 25 hours per week.

**Resources to Meet Living Expenses:** Self-sufficiency is the ultimate goal of Aftercare and PAL services, but few young people achieve full independence by the age of 21 and young people exiting Aftercare are no exception. While many participants make progress toward economic self-sufficiency, fewer than half of young adults exiting Aftercare report having enough money to cover their expenses when considering their earned income alone. When taking into consideration income and other assistance, this percentage increases to 68.7% of all exiting participants.

Resources	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Has enough money to cover needed expenses with earned income alone	14.7%	42.9%	11.9%	42.9%	30.0%	43.3%
Has enough money to cover needed expenses with income and other assistance	66.2%	68.7%	70.8%	69.1%	40.0%	66.7%

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**Financial Capability:** Aftercare Self-Sufficiency Advocates work with participants on a variety of financial capability skills, helping young adults open and maintain bank accounts, manage their money and develop good financial habits. In SFY 2013, more than 90% of exiting participants reported that they can manage their money responsibly, 75% had a checking account, and 66% had a savings account.

Financial Capability	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Can manage money responsibly	81.3%	90.9%	83.3%	92.9%	70.0%	80.0%
Has a checking account	50.5%	74.8%	51.8%	76.2%	43.3%	66.7%
Has a savings account	53.0%	66.2%	53.0%	67.9%	53.3%	56.7%

Because helping young adults become financially capable is a major focus of Aftercare services, the Networks April 2013 Satisfaction Survey included a series of questions to gather more in-depth information about the financial knowledge, skills, and habits of participating youth. The results, while consistent with the outcomes reported above, provide additional insights into the financial skills and habits of participants.

Approximately two-thirds of active Aftercare and PAL participants have checking and savings accounts. Half report that they owe money or have debt and a third have money saved for an emergency. Less than 20% of participants reported that they have either credit cards or car loans, while 31% have student loans.

Nearly 90% of participants indicated that they had set a savings goal at least once since leaving foster care. When it came to regular financial habits, such as depositing money into a savings account or using direct deposit, about 40% to 50% of participants indicated that they did this three or more times since leaving care.

Participants also reported challenges when it came to managing their finances. Sixty percent have had to borrow money to meet their expenses at least once since leaving care, and nearly 60% have paid a late fee for a bill or service. About half have also loaned someone else \$50 or more at least once. Paying fees for cashing a check or using payday lenders are less common.

Aftercare and PAL participants have significantly less experience in activities that would help them build credit. Less than 40% have ever applied for a loan, and less than 30% have ever used a credit card. Only 30% have ever gotten their credit report. The full report from the April 2013 survey is available on the Aftercare website ([www.iowaaftercare.org](http://www.iowaaftercare.org)).

**Safe and Stable Housing:** With limited income, finding affordable housing is often a major challenge for Aftercare participants. As is true for many young adults, youth who age out of foster care frequently rely on friends or family for a place to live or to share housing expenses. Compared to when they first access services, more youth are assuming some responsibility for the cost of housing on exit (from 60.6% at intake to 76.3% at exit). Very few participants take advantage of college housing.

On exit, 19.7% of youth reported having been homeless sometime in the previous two years. One participant reported living on the street or outdoors at the time they exited Aftercare services, but

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fewer are living in transitional facilities, shelters or other supported housing arrangements (from 7.1% at intake to 4.6% at exit). Approximately one-quarter of these young people at exit are living in someone else's apartment or house, not paying rent or living expenses, or are couch surfing, which may be considered precariously housed.

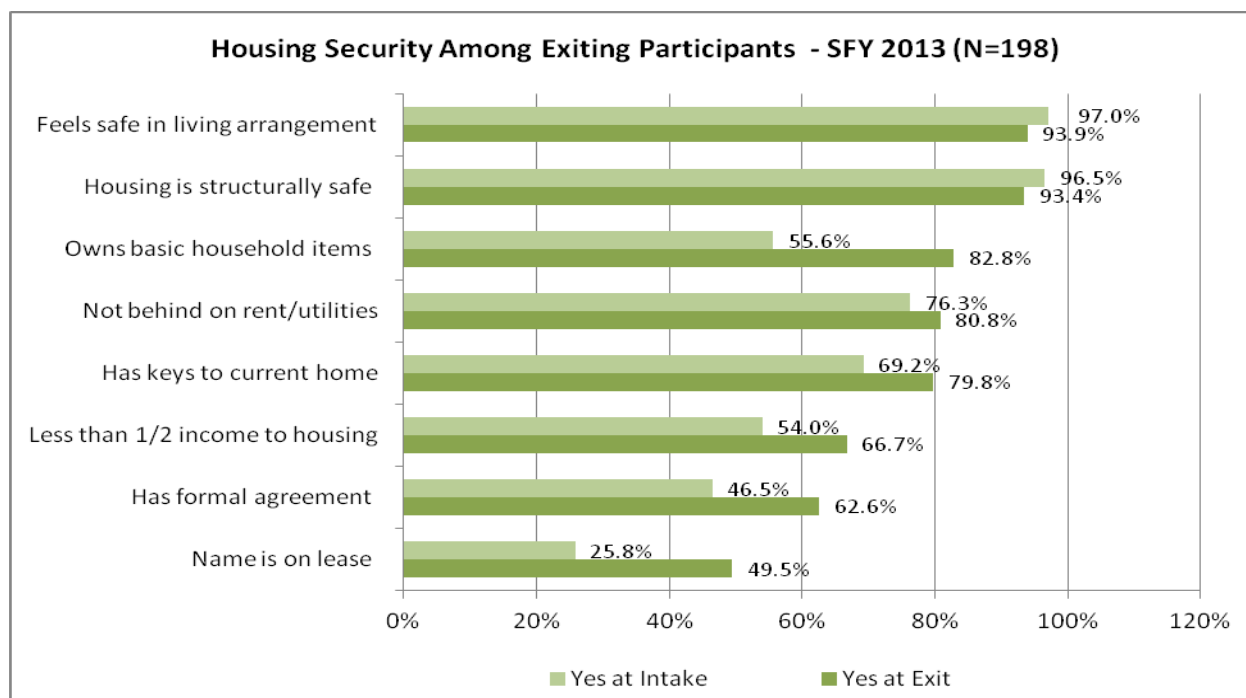
Housing	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
University housing (residence hall, sorority/fraternity)	5.1%	5.6%	4.8%	4.8%	6.7%	10.0%
Apartment or house (sole responsibility for rent)	13.3%	18.2%	14.3%	19.6%	6.7%	10.0%
Apartment or house (shared responsibility for rent)	11.6%	29.3%	12.5%	32.1%	6.7%	13.3%
Someone else's apt or house paying rent	32.3%	21.1%	35.7%	23.7%	13.3%	13.3%
Someone else's apt or house, not paying rent or living expenses, couch surfing	23.2%	22.7%	20.8%	22.0%	36.7%	26.7%
Transitional facility, shelter, or other supported housing arrangement	7.1%	4.6%	6.0%	3.6%	13.3%	10.0%
Street/outdoors	0%	0.5%	0%	0.6%	0%	0%
Other	7.6%	4.0%	6.0%	3.0%	16.7%	10.0%

**Housing Security:** Beginning in July 2009, a number of additional questions regarding safe and stable housing were added to the interview instrument. This is the first year that full intake information on these questions is available for all of the exiting participants.

Overall, young people are leaving safe housing arrangements when exiting foster care – 97% or young people report feeling safe in their current living arrangement when first accessing Aftercare and 94% report feeling safe when exiting Aftercare. Similar percentages of Aftercare participants report that their housing is structurally safe (96.5% at intake and 93.4% at exit).

All other housing security questions show improvement from intake to exit. For example, the number of participants who have their name on a lease nearly doubles, from 25.8% at intake to 49.5% at exit. Participants are accumulating basic household items needed to live independently while in Aftercare (from 55.6% at intake to 82.8% at exit). Although also showing improvement, paying for housing continues to be a challenge for many young people even at exit. For about one-third of exiting participants, more than half of their income goes toward rent and utilities. See the chart on the following page for additional results related to housing security.

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**Rent Subsidy Program:** For young people not receiving PAL, Aftercare provides access to a Rent Subsidy program administered by the Iowa Finance Authority with funding from DHS. In SFY 2013, about \$50,000 was made available to Aftercare participants under this program, down from about \$70,000 used the previous year for rent subsidies. On average, seventeen youth a month received an IFA rent subsidy. The amount of the subsidy is the difference between the lesser of the actual rent or fair market rent and thirty percent of the youth’s monthly gross income, not to exceed \$350. In SFY 2013, the rent subsidy averaged \$248.58 per month.

**Education:** As in previous years, young people demonstrate considerable progress in the area of education while participating in Aftercare. Nearly 95% of youth on exit have earned at least a high school diploma or GED, compared to 76% of the same youth at intake. And 35% have been able to complete some college before exiting services, including a small number who have completed AA degrees (2.5%), Bachelor’s degrees (0.5%); or a vocational certificate or license (3.0%).

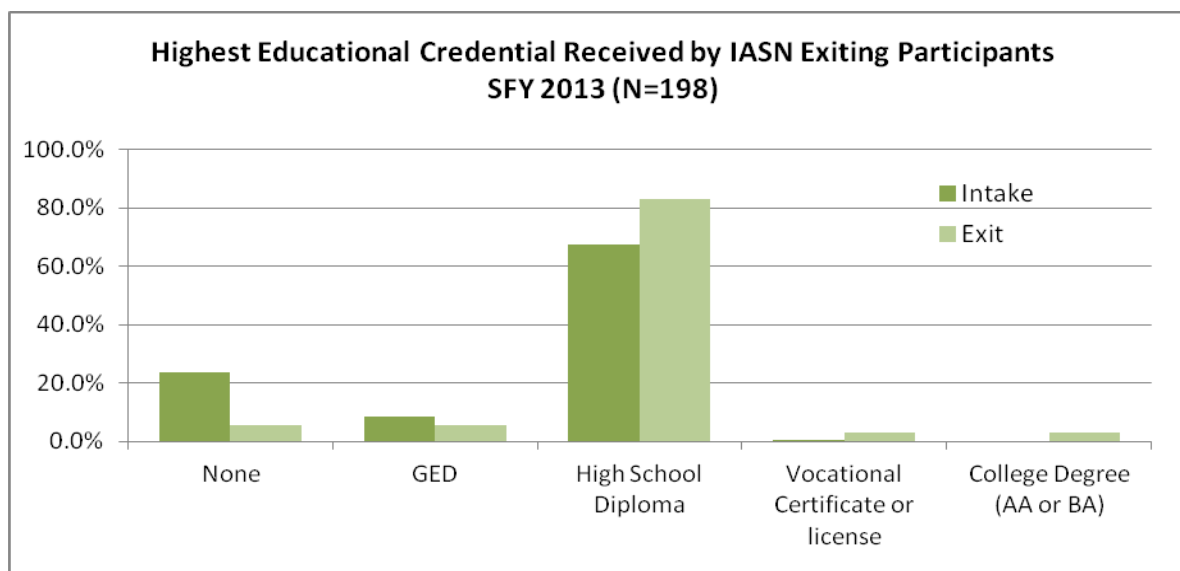
Education	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
<b>% Attending School *</b>	56.6%	35.4%	53.6%	35.7%	73.3%	33.3%
<b>Highest level of education completed</b>						
10 <sup>th</sup> grade or less	4.6%	1.5%	1.8%	0.6%	20.0%	6.7%
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	19.7%	5.6%	15.5%	1.8%	43.3%	26.7%
12 <sup>th</sup> grade	73.23%	57.6%	80.4%	58.3%	33.3%	53.3%
College freshman	2.0%	19.2%	2.4%	20.8%	--	10.0%
College sophomore	0.5%	9.6%	--	11.3%	3.3%	--
College junior	--	5.1%	--	5.4%	--	3.3%
College completion**	--	1.5%	--	1.8%	--	--

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Education	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
<b>Highest Credential Received</b>						
None	23.7%	5.6%	17.3%	1.8%	60.0%	26.7%
GED	8.6%	5.6%	9.5%	5.4%	3.3%	6.7%
High School Diploma	67.2%	82.8%	72.6%	86.3%	36.7%	63.3%
Vocational Certificate or license	0.5%	3.0%	0.6%	3.0%	--	3.3%
AA degree	--	2.5%	--	3.0%	--	--
Bachelors Degree	--	0.5%	--	0.6%	--	--

\* Percent attending school includes youth who responded that they were enrolled full-time (school only); employed and enrolled; or enrolled in career prep or internship.

\*\* College completion may include community or junior college.



**Positive Relationships:** Building social capital – social relationships and networks that support healthy development – is critical during adolescence and early adulthood. Most young people in Aftercare report that they do have supportive adults who they will *always* be able to turn to for support and guidance.

	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Has a positive relationship with supportive adult <b>family member</b>	83.8%	85.4%	83.3%	85.1%	86.7%	86.7%
Has a positive relationship with supportive <b>non-family adult</b>	97.0%	97.0%	96.4%	97.0%	100%	96.7%

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**Children and Parenting:** Early childbearing and parenting are relatively common among youth who age-out of foster care. While only 6.6% of youth entered Aftercare as parents, by the time they exited, 28.3% are parenting. Of exiting participants who are parents, 86% have their children living with them.

Parenting	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Are you a parent?	6.6%	28.3%	7.7%	31.0%	0%	13.3%
Are you currently pregnant, given birth or fathered a child in the last year?	8.1%	22.2%	8.3%	23.2%	6.7%	16.7%
Does your child live with you? (as a % of those who indicated they were a parent)	71.4% (N=14)	86.0% (N=57)	71.4% (N=14)	86.5% (N=52)	--	80.0% (N=5)

**High Risk Behaviors:** The prevalence of selected high risk behaviors among Aftercare participants are presented in the tables below. Given the sensitive nature of many of the risk behavior questions on which participants self-report, caution should be used in interpreting and drawing conclusions from this self-reported data.

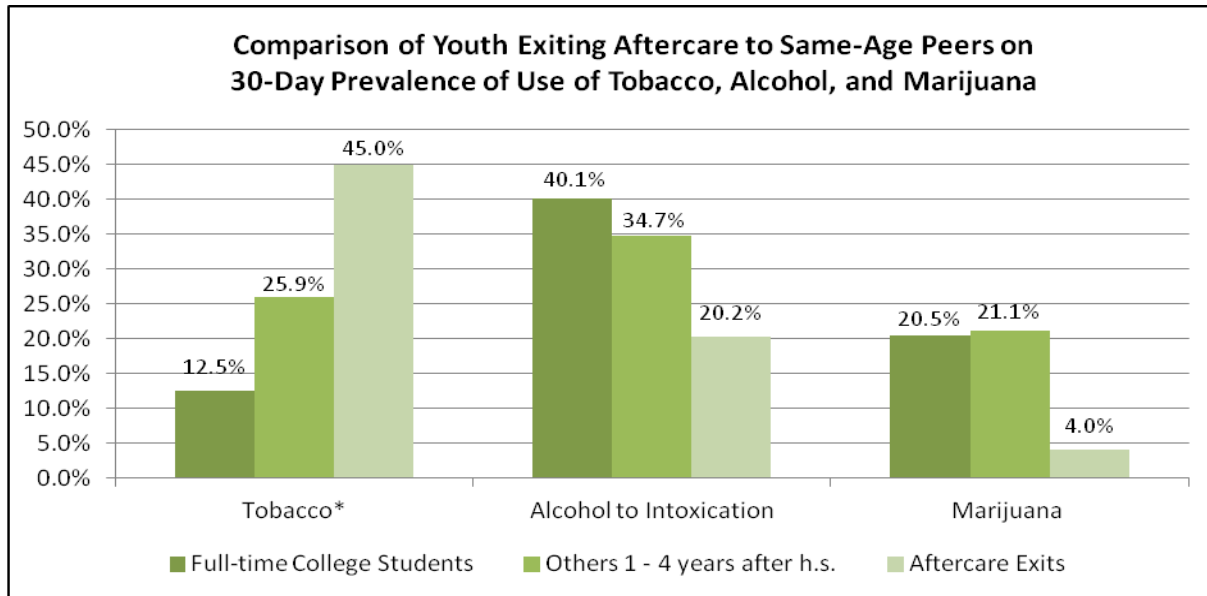
% responding "yes"	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
<b>Suicide*</b>						
Made Plans to commit suicide past 12 months	6.6%	4.7%	5.4%	4.2%	1.4%	7.1%
Attempted suicide past 12 months	4.1%	1.0%	4.2%	1.2%	3.4%	0.0%
<b>Incarcerated or Detained in Jail or detention facility last 2 years</b>	28.8%	28.8%	25.6%	27.4%	46.7%	36.7%
<b>Homeless in last 2 years</b>	15.2%	19.7%	16.1%	19.1%	10.0%	23.3%

\*Six youth declined to answer questions related to suicide at exit, one youth declined at intake. Percentages are of those who did respond.

Substance Use in last 30 days	All (N=198)		PAL (N=160)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Tobacco	43.4%	45.0%	43.5%	45.2%	43.3%	43.3%
Alcohol to Intoxication	13.6%	20.2%	11.3%	20.2%	26.7%	20.0%
Marijuana	6.6%	4.0%	4.8%	4.8%	16.7%	0.0%

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As has been reported in previous years, tobacco use, in particular, is high among the population of young people served by Aftercare and substantially higher than their same-age peers. Self-reported use of alcohol to intoxication and marijuana use among this population is lower among Aftercare participants than their same age peers. The following chart shows 30-day prevalence of use of tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana among young people exiting Aftercare compared to data from the 2012 Monitoring the Future study.<sup>2</sup>



\* Tobacco data on full-time college students and others 1 – 4 years after high school from the 2012 Monitoring the Future study reflects prevalence of cigarettes only, while Aftercare reflects any tobacco use.

**Health Insurance Coverage:** Most young people in Aftercare rely on Medicaid for their health insurance coverage. Iowa’s establishment of the Medicaid for Independent Young Adults (MIYA) coverage group in 2006 has allowed former foster youth up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to remain eligible for Medicaid as long as their income is less than 200% of the poverty level. A small number of youth exiting Aftercare have insurance other than Medicaid, including 4.0% who have employer provided insurance, 4.6% who report that they are paying for their own insurance, and 2.5% who report other insurance coverage. Data is not available on if youth have both Medicaid and other insurance.

Beginning in 2014 as a result of provisions in the Affordable Care Act, youth who age out of foster care will remain eligible for Medicaid until age 26. This provision extends to those young adults who aged out prior to 2014 and are not yet 26. This change is important for the many young people who currently lose their Medicaid coverage at age 21.

<sup>2</sup> Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2013). *Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975-2012. Volume II: College students and adults ages 19-50*. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, p. 351.



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Health Insurance	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
Enrolled in Medicaid	89.4%	88.4%	90.5%	88.1%	83.3%	90.0%
Insured (other than Medicaid)						
Employer provided	0.5%	4.0%	0.6%	4.8%	--	--
Private pay/self-provided	2.0%	4.6%	1.8%	4.8%	3.3%	3.3%
Other insurance	3.5%	2.5%	1.8%	1.8%	13.3%	6.7%
No medical insurance	7.6%	3.5%	7.7%	4.2%	6.7%	0.0%

**Essential Documents:** While participating in Aftercare, young people improve in both their knowledge of how to obtain important documents, as well as actually having essential documents in their possession. Among exiting youth, 88% have both their birth certificate and social security card, compared to 76% at the time of their intake.

% responding "yes"	All (N=198)		PAL (N=168)		Basic (N=30)	
	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit	Initial	Exit
<b>Knows how to obtain:</b>						
Birth certificate	77.8%	93.9%	79.8%	94.6%	66.7%	90.0%
Social Security card	78.3%	97.0%	81.6%	98.2%	60.0%	90.0%
Medical records	71.2%	96.5%	73.2%	97.6%	60.0%	90.0%
Education records	85.9%	96.0%	85.1%	96.4%	90.0%	93.3%
<b>Has in their possession:</b>						
Birth certificate	82.3%	90.9%	83.3%	91.7%	76.7%	86.7%
Social Security card	85.9%	94.4%	86.3%	95.2%	83.3%	90.0%
Driver's license	55.1%	70.7%	57.7%	73.8%	40.0%	53.3%
Both BC & SSC	75.8%	87.9%	76.8%	89.3%	70.0%	80.0%

**Summary**

Young people who leave foster care at or near their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday face significant challenges to a successful transition to adulthood. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network provides services and supports on a voluntary basis to more than 700 such young people each year. Of the 198 of those young people who completed an exit interview during state fiscal year 2013, 138 (69%) were age 21, essentially aging out of Aftercare, and another 14 (7%) were 20½ to 21. The average age among youth exiting with an interview was 20.6 years. Outcomes among this cohort of participants show improvement in a number of areas, including:

**Iowa Aftercare Services Network -- Annual Outcomes Report**  
**July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

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- Nearly 95% of youth on exit have earned at least a high school diploma or GED, compared to 76% of the same youth at intake.
- Less than half (44%) were employed either full or part-time when they first accessed services. At exit, 56.1% of participants were employed (39.4% of participants at least 25 hours per week and another 16.7% less than 25 hours per week). The percentage of participants “unemployed” declined from 32.8% at intake to 19.7% at exit in SFY 2013.
- Compared to when they first access services, more youth are assuming some responsibility for the cost of housing on exit (from 60.6% at intake to 76.3% at exit), including 49.5% who have a lease in their name.
- On exit, 88% have maintained their Medicaid coverage and only 3.5% are uninsured. The extension of Medicaid to former foster youth up to age 26, will be of considerable benefit to those young people who currently lose this Medicaid coverage at age 21.
- More than 90% of exiting participants reported that they can manage their money responsibly, 75% had a checking account, and 66% had a savings account.

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***For Further Information:***

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***About the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa:*** Founded in 2000, the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) works to expand and improve the delivery of services and supports for Iowa youth by partnering with public and private entities throughout the state. YPII is involved in a wide range of initiatives, but specializes in policies and programs affecting youth transitioning from adolescence to adulthood, particularly those who have been involved in child welfare (foster care) or juvenile justice systems. See [www.ypii.org](http://www.ypii.org) for more information.

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