



Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN) 2016 Outcomes Summary

ABOUT THE NETWORK

The IASN (a Network of nine private agencies led by YSS) provides services on a voluntary basis to eligible youth ages 18 – 21 throughout the state. Aftercare services are designed to help young adults move toward stability and self-sufficiency in five key areas: **education, employment, housing, health, and relationships.**

Since 2006, the Iowa Legislature has appropriated state funding for the **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)** program. In addition to the case management and services provided to all youth in Aftercare, PAL provides monthly financial support to qualifying youth who are continuing their education or training, are employed, or both. The average PAL stipend in SFY 2016 was \$518 a month.

Helping young people who exit foster care make the connections and develop the skills they need as emerging adults.

New Participants

In SFY 2016, 317 youth accessed Aftercare services for the first time, including 60 who aged out of the State Training School or a detention center (STS youth). Young people frequently enter Aftercare with a variety of challenges to overcome. Of particular concern this year are the following characteristics among new participants.

Substance abuse

Overall, one-third (45% of STS youth and 29% of foster care youth) report having been referred for an alcohol or substance abuse assessment or counseling in the last year.

Incarceration and homelessness

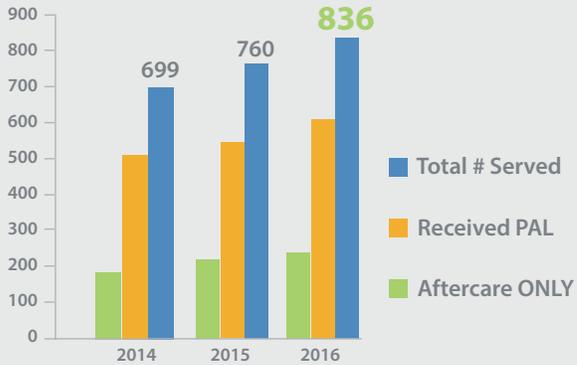
Not including the STS population, about 40% of new Aftercare participants have been incarcerated and 24% report having been homeless in the past two years.

Unplanned pregnancy

Among females, 23% report having had an unintended pregnancy and 19.7% report having been physically hurt by a partner, prior to accessing Aftercare.

Number served

A record 836 young people were served by IASN during SFY 2016, including 607 who received PAL and 229 who participated in Aftercare only. On average, 72% of the youth served receive PAL for at least a portion of the time they participate.

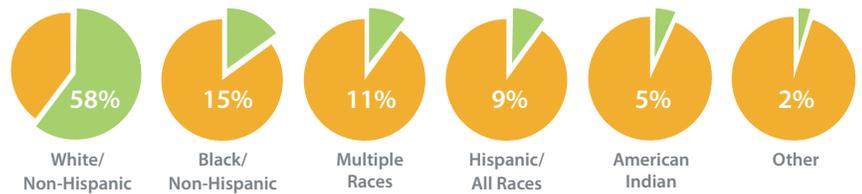


Demographics

Of the 836 youth served by the Aftercare Network in SFY 2016, 53% were male and 47% were female, marking the first year in which more young men participated than young women. This shift is due largely to the number of young men exiting the STS involved in Aftercare.

The Aftercare population is very diverse. The graphs below show an unduplicated profile of the race or ethnicity of participants. In SFY 2016, IASN launched efforts to increase understanding of the impact of race and ethnicity on young people and to ensure that Aftercare services are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of all participants.

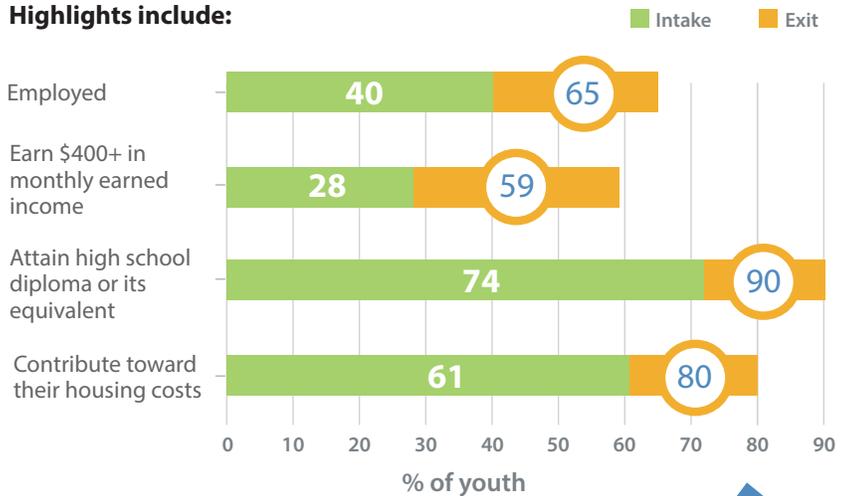
Race/Ethnicity of Aftercare Participants (N=836)



Outcomes

Many young people take advantage of IASN support until they are no longer eligible for services at age 21. In SFY 2016, outcomes among 181 exiting youth show significant improvement on key measures.

Highlights include:

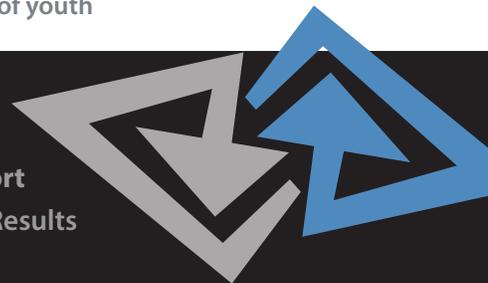


"In my experience with Aftercare I have felt safe and hopeful for my future. Which, I never really thought I would. Thanks to my Aftercare workers." - Participant October 2016

Read the full report

SFY 2016 Annual Outcomes Report

www.iowaaftercare.org/ProgramResults



This Outcomes Summary was prepared by the **Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII)**. YPII provides policy development, technical assistance, quality assurance, marketing and evaluation services for the IASN. Visit www.ypii.org or call 515.727.4220 for more information.

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