

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE
(NYTD)

OUTCOMES FILE
USER'S GUIDE

COHORT 1 (AGE 17 IN FY2011)
WAVES 1, 2, & 3

NDACAN DATASET #202

Revised October, 2016



**NATIONAL DATA ARCHIVE ON
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

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(NYTD)

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NDACAN DATASET #202

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Administration on Children, Youth and Families
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	1
Acknowledgement of Source	2
Publication Citation Requirement	2
Overview of NYTD	3
Purpose	3
Geographic Area.....	4
NYTD files.....	4
Confidentiality Protection.....	5
The Outcomes File.....	6
Cohorts	6
The Three Waves	6
Wave 1 Baseline Population and Cohort:.....	6
Wave 2: Two-Year Follow-up.	7
Wave 3: Four-Year Follow-up.....	7
Data Collection.....	8
Sampling.....	8
Survey Administration.....	9
Response Rates	10
Wave 1	10
Wave 2	11
Wave 3.....	13
Analytic Considerations	14
Linking to Other Files.....	15
Data File Information.....	15

ABSTRACT

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) was initiated in an effort to improve outcomes for youth in foster care who are likely to reach their 18th birthday without having found a permanent home. The program provides funding to states to develop and administer programs designed to help ease the transition from foster care to independence.

The law that created CFCIP also required states to develop 1) a system for tracking the services provided through CFCIP, and 2) a method for collecting outcome measures so that the effectiveness of the program can be assessed.

These two components together form the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). The files contain data from all 50 states, as well as from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The Services component contains cross-sectional information on the services provided by states under CFCIP and the youth who receive those services. Data are submitted by the states every 6 months on a continuing basis. The Services file is available separately and can be ordered from NDACAN (www.NDACAN.Cornell.edu).

The Outcomes component contains the results of surveys conducted with youth to examine certain well-being, financial, and educational outcomes as they get older. There are three waves of outcome data for a given cohort -- a baseline survey during the year of the youth's 17 birthday, and two follow-ups: one at age 19, one at age 21. After Cohort 1 (FY2011), new cohorts will be established every three years (FY2014, FY2017, FY2020...).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCE

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Children’s Bureau when they publish manuscripts that use data provided by the Archive. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below.

The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Data from the National Youth in Transition Database were originally collected by the states and provided to the Children’s Bureau. Funding was provided by the Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collector of the original data, the funder, the Archive, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

PUBLICATION CITATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the *Terms of Use Agreement* for these datasets, users of these data are required to provide citations for any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data with the Archive. To obtain the Terms of Use Agreement for the NYTD Outcomes File, go to:

<http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/datasets/request-dataset.cfm>

OVERVIEW OF NYTD

This section applies to both the Services and the Outcomes files

NOTE: The terms “variable” and “element” are used interchangeably in this document. They refer to the same entity.

PURPOSE

The optimal outcome for children in foster care is permanency – a permanent home, either by reunification with the parents or adoption to a loving family. Some children, especially those who enter foster care when they are older, never find a permanent home. Each year, about 10% of children who exit foster care are released due to having reached the state’s age limit for eligibility. These children are at particular risk for negative outcomes. Emancipated foster care youth encounter homelessness, incarceration, poor educational outcomes, unemployment, unplanned parenthood, poverty, and lack of health insurance at much higher rates than other children.

In 1999, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (42 USC § 677) was enacted. The goal of the Chafee Act is to support such youth by providing states with flexible funding for the design and administration of programs that will:

- (1) identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);*
- (2) help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment;*
- (3) help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions;*
- (4) provide personal and emotional support to children aging out of foster care, through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults;*

(5) provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood;

(6) make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care; and

(7) provide the services referred to in this subsection to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption.

The act also requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to collect two kinds of data:

- 1) Information about services and those who receive them, including “the number and characteristics of children receiving services”, and “the type and quantity of services being provided.”
- 2) Outcome data, including “measures of educational attainment, high school diploma, employment, avoidance of dependency, homelessness, nonmarital childbirth, incarceration, and high-risk behaviors.”

These two datasets together constitute the National Youth in Transition Database.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

NYTD data come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

NYTD FILES

There are two NYTD datasets, one of all youth who receive independent living services using funds provided through the Chaffee Act – called the *Services File*, and the other for the results of a periodic survey of youth who turn 17 in certain years, along with follow-up surveys at ages 19 and 21 – the *Outcomes File*.

Data from both populations are collected by the states and submitted to the Children’s Bureau. Although there is some overlap, the two sets of data differ in

the number and identity of the cases they cover, and the variables they contain. The number of youth who receive services is much larger than the number eligible to take the Outcomes Survey. Only about 5% of those who received services are in the baseline outcomes survey population. However, most of the youth in the 2011 cohort have received Chaffee services at some point.

Figure 1 (page 7) indicates the relative sizes of the Services and Outcomes files.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTION

Because the same youth may appear in NYTD and the AFCARS Foster Care file, and the files can be linked, the same confidentiality protections used in AFCARS are applied to the NYTD files. These are:

- The county FIPS code for the children from counties with fewer than 1,000 records in the annual database are recoded to indicate not provided for reasons of confidentiality.
- The child's day of birth (DOB) is recoded to the 15th of the month. This adjustment applies to NYTD element #4, *DOB*.

THE OUTCOMES FILE

COHORTS

Starting with the 2011 federal fiscal year, and every three years thereafter, all youth who reach their 17th birthday in the fiscal year and are in foster care within the 45-day period following their birthday (73 FR 10342) will be eligible for the outcomes survey. Youth who complete the survey will be followed-up two and four years later – at ages 19 and 21 -- with the same survey. Below is the schedule for outcomes data collection through the year 2020.

Fiscal Year of Data Collection	Cohort	Age 17 in:	Data Collected
2011	1	2011	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FC)
2012		-	
2013	1	2011	Age 19 Follow-up Survey
2014	2	2014	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FC)
2015	1	2011	Age 21 Follow-up Survey
2016	2	2014	Age 19 Follow-up Survey
2017	3	2017	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FC)
2018	2	2014	Age 21 Follow-up Survey
2019	3	2017	Age 19 Follow-up Survey
2020	4	2020	Baseline Outcomes Survey (Age 17 in FC)

THE THREE WAVES

WAVE 1 BASELINE POPULATION AND COHORT:

Baseline Population. All foster care youth who turn 17 in the baseline year are in the baseline population. All youth in the baseline population are required to be contacted and asked to complete the NYTD outcomes survey. Demographic data for all baseline youth will be recorded in the Wave 1 file, regardless of whether they respond to the survey.

Cohort. The Cohort is a subset of the Baseline Population. To be in the Cohort, a youth must meet the following conditions:

- Youth is in the Baseline Population
- Youth is in foster care on the day of the survey
- Youth participated in the survey

- d) Youth completed the survey within 45 days of their 17th birthday
- e) At least one answer to Elements 37-58 (the outcomes questions) is a valid answer other than "declined" or "not applicable" or all values are missing

The survey responses are recorded in the Wave 1 file along with demographic info for all youth in the baseline population.

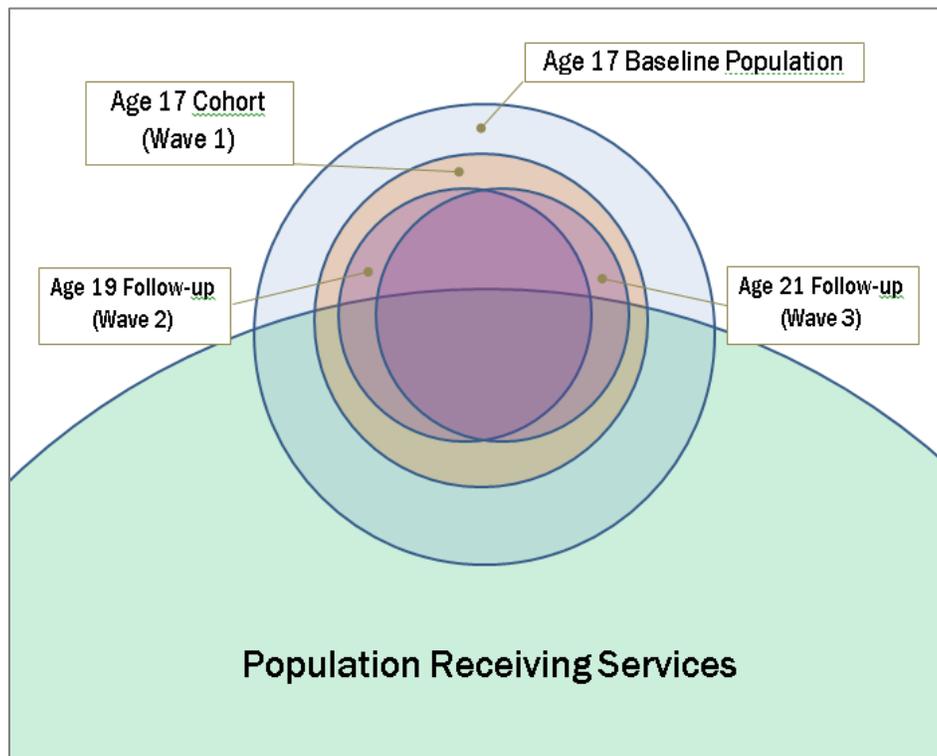
WAVE 2: TWO-YEAR FOLLOW-UP.

Youth in the cohort receive a follow-up survey during the 6-month reporting period that contains their 19th birthday. For the FY2011 cohort, this survey was conducted in FY2013, and the results are included in this version of the dataset.

WAVE 3: FOUR-YEAR FOLLOW-UP.

Youth in the cohort receive a second follow-up survey during the 6-month reporting period that contains their 21st birthday. The survey questions are the same for both follow-ups. The Age 19 follow-up survey for the 2011 cohort is was conducted in FY 2015, and the results are included in this version of the dataset.

Figure 1: Relationships Between Waves:



DATA COLLECTION

Results for the Outcomes surveys are reported to the Children’s Bureau at 6-month intervals. The “A” period covers the first 6 months of the fiscal year (October through March); the “B” period covers the second 6 months (April through September).

The Baseline Survey is administered during the 45-day period following the youth’s 17th birthday. If a child’s birthday occurs during the last 45 days of the “B” period, the state still has 45 days to collect the data. If the survey is administered after the end of the fiscal year, the data will be reported along with the “A” period data for the following year. This means that the full complement of baseline data will not be complete until after the May 15 deadline for submission of the “A” period file for the following fiscal year.

For the two follow-up surveys, responses are collected any time within the six-month semi-annual period that includes the youths’ 19th and 21st birthdays. States are encouraged to collect the data early in the period to avoid performing a survey in one period but reporting it in the next.

SAMPLING

For the Baseline population, no sampling is permitted. The Baseline population consists of *all* youth in foster care at any point during the 45-day period beginning on their 17th birthday.

The Cohort is a self-selected, non-probabilistic sample of youth in the baseline population. Because respondents are not selected randomly, there may be non-response bias in the survey. That is, there is no guarantee that the Cohort is representative of the Baseline population (i.e. 17-year-old kids in foster care).

Once the Cohort is determined, probabilistic sampling may be used, at the state’s discretion, to determine the two follow-up populations (at 19 and 21 years of age). Sampling is done once, and the same sample is used for both follow-up surveys. For the 2011 Cohort, twelve states opted to use sampling for their follow-up outcome surveys (Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington).

The NYTD regulations specify the following regarding the sampling frame, sampling method, and sample size (73 FR 10371 §1356.84):

(b) The State agency must select the follow-up sample using simple random sampling procedures based on random numbers generated by a computer program, unless ACF approves another sampling procedure. The sampling universe consists of youth in the baseline population consistent with 45 CFR 1356.81(b) who participated in the State agency's data collection at age 17.

(c) The sample size is based on the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the State agency's data collection at age 17.

(1) If the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the outcome data collection at age 17 is 5,000 or less, the State agency must calculate the sample size using the formula in appendix C of this part, with the Finite Population Correction (FPC). The State agency must increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition, but the sample size may not be larger than the number of youth who participated in data collection at age 17.

(2) If the number of youth in the baseline population who participated in the outcome data collection at age 17 is greater than 5,000, the State agency must calculate the sample size using the formula in appendix C of this part, without the FPC. The State agency must increase the resulting number by 30 percent to allow for attrition, but the sample size must not be larger than the number of youth who participated in data collection at age 17.

Appendix C can be found at

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/1356/appendix-C>.

No state had more than 5000 youth in their cohort, so the Finite Population Correction (FPC) applies to all states.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Under NYTD rules, states have the discretion to choose the methods used to administer the outcomes survey to youth (e.g., in person, via the Internet or over the phone) provided that the survey is administered to the person directly. No one can answer for the youth, nor can data from other sources be used to answer

questions. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary on the part of the youth.

RESPONSE RATES

WAVE 1

The overall response rate (the number of youth who completed the survey divided by the number in the baseline population) for the initial (FY2011) baseline survey was 54%. Response rates varied dramatically by state, perhaps reflecting variations in data collection procedures.

For Wave 1, the response rate is the number of youth in the Cohort divided by the number in the Baseline Population.

Response Rates for NYTD Wave 1 (Age 17 in Foster Care)

FIPS	State	Baseline Population	Wave 1 Responses	Wave 1 Rate
01	Alabama	262	102	39%
02	Alaska	66	49	74%
04	Arizona	673	83	12%
05	Arkansas	262	150	57%
06	California	5,116	1,819	36%
08	Colorado	552	467	85%
09	Connecticut	469	362	77%
10	Delaware	102	71	70%
11	District of Columbia	138	92	67%
12	Florida	1,170	530	45%
13	Georgia	529	375	71%
15	Hawaii	72	31	43%
16	Idaho	67	43	64%
17	Illinois	818	551	67%
18	Indiana	664	517	78%
19	Iowa	543	472	87%
20	Kansas	563	443	79%
21	Kentucky	670	516	77%
22	Louisiana	372	342	92%
23	Maine	74	55	74%
24	Maryland	267	266	100%
25	Massachusetts	924	632	68%
26	Michigan	635	233	37%
27	Minnesota	353	252	71%
28	Mississippi	310	95	31%
29	Missouri	698	373	53%
30	Montana	85	58	68%

Response Rates for NYTD Wave 1 (Age 17 in Foster Care)

FIPS	State	Baseline Population	Wave 1 Responses	Wave 1 Rate
31	Nebraska	395	167	42%
32	Nevada	176	107	61%
33	New Hampshire	65	51	78%
34	New Jersey	419	171	41%
35	New Mexico	65	46	71%
36	New York	1,878	282	15%
37	North Carolina	584	335	57%
38	North Dakota	95	87	92%
39	Ohio	1,075	361	34%
40	Oklahoma	287	249	87%
41	Oregon	477	116	24%
42	Pennsylvania	1,249	1,022	82%
44	Rhode Island	170	170	100%
45	South Carolina	359	287	80%
46	South Dakota	71	68	96%
47	Tennessee	1,004	196	20%
48	Texas	1,563	1,227	79%
49	Utah	323	256	79%
50	Vermont	48	48	100%
51	Virginia	552	352	64%
53	Washington	456	378	83%
54	West Virginia	398	252	63%
55	Wisconsin	714	272	38%
56	Wyoming	101	42	42%
72	Puerto Rico	126	75	60%
		29,104	15,596	54%

WAVE 2

Response rates for Wave 2 – the age 19 follow-up – averaged 27%. This national rate is affected by the fact that two states – New York and Puerto Rico – did not participate in the Wave 2 survey. For Wave 2, states that elected to survey just a sample of those who responded to the Wave 1 survey attempted to contact only those youth who were in the sample. States that elected to sample are marked with an asterisk in the table below.

For Wave 2, the response rate is the number of youth who were eligible for the age 19 follow-up and who responded to the survey divided by the number of youth in the Baseline Population.

Response Rates for Wave 2 (Age 19 Follow-up)

FIPS	State	Baseline Population	Wave 2 Responses	Wave 2 Rate
01	Alabama	262	83	32%
02	Alaska	66	46	70%
04	Arizona	673	31	5%
05	Arkansas	262	92	35%
06	California	5,116	1,239	24%
08	Colorado	552	256	46%
09	Connecticut	469	268	57%
10	Delaware	102	50	49%
11	District of Columbia	138	79	57%
12	Florida	1,170	327	28%
13	Georgia*	529	153	29%
15	Hawaii	72	26	36%
16	Idaho	67	27	40%
17	Illinois*	818	152	19%
18	Indiana*	664	169	25%
19	Iowa*	543	129	24%
20	Kansas	563	313	56%
21	Kentucky*	670	167	25%
22	Louisiana*	372	98	26%
23	Maine	74	28	38%
24	Maryland	267	200	75%
25	Massachusetts*	924	189	20%
26	Michigan	635	222	35%
27	Minnesota	353	195	55%
28	Mississippi	310	74	24%
29	Missouri	698	295	42%
30	Montana	85	44	52%
31	Nebraska	395	61	15%
32	Nevada	176	93	53%
33	New Hampshire	65	40	62%
34	New Jersey	419	110	26%
35	New Mexico	65	28	43%
36	New York	1,878	0	0%
37	North Carolina	584	221	38%
38	North Dakota	95	55	58%
39	Ohio*	1,075	142	13%
40	Oklahoma	287	163	57%
41	Oregon	477	86	18%
42	Pennsylvania*	1,249	128	10%
44	Rhode Island	170	138	81%
45	South Carolina	359	220	61%
46	South Dakota	71	61	86%
47	Tennessee*	1,004	91	9%
48	Texas*	1,563	265	17%

Response Rates for Wave 2 (Age 19 Follow-up)

FIPS	State	Baseline Population	Wave 2 Responses	Wave 2 Rate
49	Utah	323	178	55%
50	Vermont	48	32	67%
51	Virginia	552	207	38%
53	Washington*	456	187	41%
54	West Virginia	398	125	31%
55	Wisconsin	714	116	16%
56	Wyoming	101	11	11%
72	Puerto Rico	126	0	0%
		29,104	7,710	26%

WAVE 3

Response rates for Wave 3 – the age 21 follow-up – averaged 24%. Puerto Rico did not participate in the Wave 3 survey. The states that surveyed just a sample are the same states that sampled in Wave 2 . These states are marked with an asterisk in the table below.

For Wave 3, the response rate is the number of youth who were eligible for the age 21 follow-up and who responded to the survey divided by the number of youth in the Baseline Population.

Response Rates for Wave 3 (Age 21 Follow-up)

FIPS	State	Baseline Population	Wave 3 Responses	Wave 3 Rate
1	Alabama	262	66	25%
2	Alaska	66	38	58%
4	Arizona	673	23	3%
5	Arkansas	262	92	35%
6	California	5,116	1,280	25%
8	Colorado	552	110	20%
9	Connecticut	469	160	34%
10	Delaware	102	47	46%
11	District of Columbia	138	76	55%
12	Florida	1,170	310	26%
13	Georgia*	529	166	31%
15	Hawaii	72	25	35%
16	Idaho	67	17	25%
17	Illinois*	818	137	17%
18	Indiana*	664	39	6%
19	Iowa*	543	136	25%
20	Kansas	563	236	42%
21	Kentucky*	670	150	22%

22	Louisiana*	372	141	38%
23	Maine	74	16	22%
24	Maryland	267	194	73%
25	Massachusetts*	924	182	20%
26	Michigan	635	168	26%
27	Minnesota	353	191	54%
28	Mississippi	310	81	26%
29	Missouri	698	228	33%
30	Montana	85	39	46%
31	Nebraska	395	106	27%
32	Nevada	176	81	46%
33	New Hampshire	65	32	49%
34	New Jersey	419	98	23%
35	New Mexico	65	24	37%
36	New York	1,878	117	6%
37	North Carolina	584	165	28%
38	North Dakota	95	57	60%
39	Ohio*	1,075	137	13%
40	Oklahoma	287	163	57%
41	Oregon	477	74	16%
42	Pennsylvania*	1,249	101	8%
44	Rhode Island	170	124	73%
45	South Carolina	359	207	58%
46	South Dakota	71	49	69%
47	Tennessee*	1,004	93	9%
48	Texas*	1,563	248	16%
49	Utah	323	164	51%
50	Vermont	48	18	38%
51	Virginia	552	262	47%
53	Washington*	456	172	38%
54	West Virginia	398	155	39%
55	Wisconsin	714	57	8%
56	Wyoming	101	25	25%
72	Puerto Rico	126	-	0%
		29,104	7,077	24%

ANALYTIC CONSIDERATIONS

RecNumbr is the encrypted child identifier. This ID is only guaranteed to be unique within a state, so *RecNumbr* must always be used in combination with the state ID when counting or otherwise analyzing particular children.

To facilitate working with *St-RecNumbrs*, NDACAN added the derived variable *StFCID* to the dataset. *StFCID* is the concatenation of *St* and *RecNumbr*. For

example, when *St* = "NM" and *RecNumbr* = "123456789012", then *StFCID* would be "NM123456789012".

A *StFCID* is unique within a wave. A *StFCID-Wave* combination is unique in the entire longitudinal file. The current file has two waves. The final file will have three.

LINKING TO OTHER FILES.

The variable *RecNumbr* is an encrypted version of the child's unique identifier used by the state agency. The ID may go by different names in the various linkable files. These are:

- NYTD Outcomes File: *RecNumbr*
- NYTD Services File: *RecNumbr*
- AFCARS Foster Care File: *RecNumbr*
- AFCARS Adoption File: *RecNum*
- NCANDS Child File: *AFCARSID*

The AFCARS ID is encrypted, but is done so in the same way for all these datasets, so it serves as an indicator of the same child across datasets and across years. Be careful, though. These commonalities are generally reliable, but are not applicable to all states in all years. Contact NDACAN Support for further information regarding which states can be linked across which years.

DATA FILE INFORMATION

NDACAN Dataset #202 contains data for all three waves of outcome data for the FY2011 Cohort. The variable "Wave" distinguishes between the waves. Wave 1 (Wave=1) includes all youth in the baseline population, regardless of whether they responded to the survey. Wave 2 includes only youth who were in the FY2011 cohort and were eligible for the age 19 follow-up. Wave 3 includes only youth who were in the FY2011 Cohort and were eligible for the age 21 follow-up.

SEE NYTD GUIDE TO THE DATA ELEMENTS FOR VARIABLE INFORMATION

Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN.

Please send your inquiries to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu