MULTI-SITE EVALUATION OF FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAMS (CHAFEE INDEPENDENT LIVING EVALUATION PROJECT), 2001-2010

NDACAN Dataset Number 161
USER'S GUIDE

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Cornell University

Ithaca, New York 14850

607-255-7799

ndacan@cornell.edu

www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov

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Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee Independent Living Evaluation Project), 2001-2010

Data Collected by

Mark E. Courtney, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

Matthew W. Stagner, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Washington, DC

Michael Pergamit, Ph.D.
Urban Institute Washington, DC

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National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

User's Guide Written by

Holly Larrabee

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect

in collaboration with

Sarah Hughes, Ph.D. NORC at the University of Chicago Chicago, IL

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PREFACE

The data for *Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee Independent Living Evaluation Project), 2001-2010* have been given to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) for public distribution by Mark E. Courtney, Matthew W. Stagner and Michael Pergamit. Funding for the project was provided by Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation and the Children's Bureau Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Washington , D.C. (Award Number(s): 233-02-0059).

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Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and the original collector(s) of the data when publishing 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, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from *Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee Independent Living Evaluation Project), 2001-2010* were originally collected by: Mark E. Courtney, Matthew W. Stagner and Michael Pergamit. Funding for the project was provided by Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation and the Children's Bureau Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Washington , D.C. (Award Number(s): 233-02-0059). The collector(s) of the original data, the funder(s), NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

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PUBLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with the terms of the *Data License* for this dataset, users of these data are required to notify the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect of any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data. A copy of any completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint should be emailed to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu . Such copies will be used to provide our funding agency with essential information about the use of NDACAN resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities among data users and contributors.

ABSTRACT

The Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families contracted with the Urban Institute and its partners—the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago and the National Opinion Research Center—to conduct an evaluation of selected programs funded through John Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP). This evaluation, using a rigorous, random assignment design, was called for in the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999. The goal of the evaluation is to determine the effects of Independent Living Programs funded under CFCIP in achieving key outcomes for participating youth including increased educational attainment, higher employment rates and stability, greater interpersonal and relationship skills, reduced non-marital pregnancy and births, and reduced delinquency and crime rates. An initial evaluability assessment was conducted to identify programs that could be rigorously evaluated and to develop an evaluation design that would meet the requirements of the authorizing legislation. Programs participating in the evaluation include an employment services program in Kern County, California; a one-on-one intensive, individualized life skills program in Massachusetts; and, a tutoring/mentoring program and a classroom-based life skills training program, both in Los Angeles County, California.

In order to determine the short and long-term effects of Independent Living Programs on key outcomes noted above, youth are assigned to intervention and control groups and surveyed at three points over the course of the evaluation. In-person interviews with youth obtain information on youth characteristics, program interventions and services, moderating factors, and intermediate and longer-term outcomes. In-person interviews are conducted with program administrators, community advocates, and directors of community provider agencies. Focus groups are conducted with youth, independent living program staff, and other agency staff responsible for referring youth to the programs. Child and family demographics, child welfare placement history, physical and mental health status, and delinquency history will be obtained through extracts of state administrative data. This study is being coordinated with other Children's Bureau-funded efforts designed to meet the evaluation requirements of CFCIP.

STUDY OVERVIEW

Study Identification

Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (Chafee Independent Living Evaluation Project), 2001-2010

Principal Investigator(s):

Mark E. Courtney, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

Matthew W. Stagner, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Washington, DC

Michael Pergamit, Ph.D.
Urban Institute Washington, DC

Funded By:
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation and the Children's Bureau Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Washington , D.C.

Award Number(s):
233-02-0059

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to evaluate independent living programs for youth in foster care.

Study Design

This evaluation uses an experimental design, whereby some youth are randomly assigned to be referred to the service being evaluated while others are referred to "services as usual," both of which vary by site. In order to determine the short and long-term effects of independent living programs on key outcomes noted above, youth in both the treatment and control groups were interviewed in person at three points over the course of the evaluation. Treatment and control youth were interviewed shortly after referral and random assignment and follow-up interviews took place approximately one year and two years later. Where required, the questionnaire was adapted to specific program sites.

Date(s) of Data Collection

The award period started on 9/28/2001 and concluded on 09/27/2010. Each site has a different start and end date within that span of time.

Geographic Area

Kern County, California; Massachusetts; and Los Angeles County, California

Unit of Observation

The unit of observation is the youth.

Sample

Site 1

Eligible youth for the Independent Living Life Skills Training (LST) Program in Los Angeles were those 16 years and older in out-of-home placements (including probation). Referrals to the program may come from caseworkers or the court may order services be made available to the youth. Youth who may be ineligible for the program included those with severe learning disabilities or disruptive behavior problems. Hearing-impaired youth were provided an interpreter for the program. For the purposes of the Multi-site Evaluation, eligible youth included all those in care who were able to participate in the program and who (1) reached their 17th birthday during the intake period or (2) entered care during the intake period and were 17 or older on the date of entry to care. The target sample size for this site was 450. The sample was accumulated between September 2003 and June 2004.

Site 2

Eligible youth for the Early Start to Emancipation Preparation Tutoring (ESTEP-Tutoring) program were referred to the program after an assessment of the youths' reading and math skills was conducted by an emancipation-preparation advisor (EPA) with the ESTEP program. The ESTEP program provided an initial in-home assessment and recruited youth for emancipation preparation workshops provided on 12 community college campuses. Youth aged 14 to 16 and in out-of-home care were eligible for the ESTEP program. The sampling frame for the evaluation was all youth referred for ESTEP-Tutoring during the study period. After assessments were conducted by EPAs, all youth deemed appropriate for tutoring—that is 1 to 3 years behind grade level on reading or math—were randomly assigned to either the treatment or control group. The target sample size for this site was 450. The sample was accumulated between September 2003 and June 2004.

Site 3

Eligible youth for the Kern county IL-ES sample consists of youth in foster care placements under the guardianship of the Kern County Department of Human Services who turned 16 years old between September 2003 and July 2006 or who entered care during that period and were already at least 16 years old. To be in scope for the study, the youth had to be in out-of-home care, eligible for Chafee services, and were placed in Bakersfield or a nearby community. The target sample size for this site was 250. The sample was accumulated between September 2003 and May 2006.

Site 4

Eligible youth for site 4 were youth aged 14 or above in therapeutic foster care in the custody of DSS with a service plan of Independent Living or likely to be IL. The target sample size was 250 youth. Sample was accumulated between September 2004 and February 2007.

Data Collection Procedures

Data collection for the survey was conducted via a computer-assisted personal interview conducted at a location of the respondent's choosing, usually at home. Portions of the survey were conducted via Audio Computer Assisted Personal Interview (ACASI), in which the respondent keyed responses him- or herself while listening to and reading along with questionnaire items appearing on the laptop screen. Sections conducted via ACASI were the following: Substance Abuse, Sexual Behavior, Deliquency and Externalizing Behavior, and Victimization.

Response Rates

The study response rates are as follows:

Baseline total number of completed cases

- Site 1: 469
- Site 2: 463
- Site 3: 263
- Site 4: 194

First follow up response rate (% of baseline)

- Site 1 Round 2: 429 – 91.47%
- Site 2 Round 2: 434 – 93.74%
- Site 3 Round 2: 238 – 90.49%
- Site 4 Round 2: 181 – 93.30%

Second follow up response rate (% of baseline)

- Site 1 Round 3: 413 – 88.06%
- Site 2 Round 3: 413 – 89.20%
- Site 3 Round 3: 237 – 90.11%
- Site 4 Round 3: 179 – 92.27%

Sources of Information

Survey forms administered via face-to-face computer-assisted interviews were used to collect information.

Measures

Achenbach Adult Self-Report (ASR/18-59)

Achenbach, T.M. (2003). *Manual for ASEBA adult forms & profiles*. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont, Research Center for Children, Youth, & Families. Available from: http://www.aseba.org

Achenbach Youth Self-Report (YSR)

Achenbach, T. M. (2001). *Youth Self-Report for Ages 11-18 (YSR)* [Instrument]. Burlington, VT: University of Vermont, Department of Psychiatry. Available from: http://www.aseba.org

Composite International Diagnostic Interview Short Form (CIDI-SF)

Only the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) portion of the measure was administered. The measure was modified to omit questions regarding experience in a war zone or region of terror.

Kessler, R., Andrews, G., Mroczek, D., Ustun, B., & Wittchen, H.U. (1998). The World Health Organization Composite International Diagnostic Interview Short-Form (CIDI-SF). *International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research, 7*(4), 171-185. doi: 10.1002/mpr.47

Lifetime Experiences Questionnaire

The Lifetime Experiences Questionnaire was administered as questions V0 to V16. Although the measure is unpublished, it was also used in the Midwest study and is contained in Appendix B of the Midwest study's final report, available at http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/CS_97.pdf

Rose, D.T., Abramson, L.Y., & Kaupie, C.A. (2000). *The Lifetime Experiences Questionnaire: A measure of history of emotional, physical, and sexual maltreatment*. Manuscript in Preparation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.

Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (MEAFF)

Courtney, M. E., & Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago (2007). *Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Outcomes at age 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children.

Courtney, M. E., Dworsky, A., Ruth, G., Keller, T., Havlicek, J., & Bost, N. (2005*). Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Outcomes at age 19*. Retrieved from: http://www.ncset.org/summit05/docs/NCSET2005_2a_Courtney.pdf

MEFYP Attitudes and Expectations [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the Outcomes of Independent Living Project]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Attitudes and Expectations* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the Outcomes of Independent Living Project]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Demographics [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Demographics* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Economic Wellbeing [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Precarious Families Study and the Current Population Study]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Economic Wellbeing* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Precarious Families Study and the Current Population Study]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Education [adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Education* [Instrument adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Employment [adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Current Population Survey, and the National Survey of Family Growth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Employment* [Instrument adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Current Population Survey, and the National Survey of Family Growth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Fertility [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Outcomes of Independent Living Project, and the National Survey of Family Growth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Fertility* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the Outcomes of Independent Living Project, and the National Survey of Family Growth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Living Arrangements [adapted from the household roster of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Household Roster, and the Outcomes of Independent Living Proj

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Living Arrangements* [Instrument adapted from the household roster of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), the NSCAW Household Roster, and the Outcomes of Independent Living Project]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Location [adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Location* [Instrument adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Mental Health [adapted from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Mental Health* [Instrument adapted from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Physical Health [adapted from the NLSY 1997, the National Health Interview Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Outcomes of Independent Living Project and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Physical Health* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997, the National Health Interview Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Outcomes of Independent Living Project and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Pro-Social and other Activities [adapted from the NSCAW Protective Factors, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Pro-Social and other Activities* [Instrument adapted from the NSCAW Protective Factors, the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health)]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Relationships [adapted from the Questions for Children in Out-of-Home Care from the University of California at Berkeley Foster Care Study and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Relationships* [Instrument adapted from the Questions for Children in Out-of-Home Care from the University of California at Berkeley Foster Care Study and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Services [adapted from the NSCAW Independent Living Module and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Services* [Instrument adapted from the NSCAW Independent Living Module and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. University of Chicago.

MEFYP Sexual Behavior [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 and the National Survey of Family Growth Cycle 6 (2002)]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Sexual Behavior* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 and the National Survey of Family Growth Cycle 6 (2002)]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Social Support [adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth and th e NSCAW Social Support]

Broadhead, W. E., Gehlbach, S. H., DeGruy, F. V., & Kaplan, B. H. (1988). The Duke-UNC Functional Social Support Questionnaire: Measurement of social support in family medicine patients. *Medical Care*, *26*(7), 709-723. Retrieved from: http://journals.lww.com/lww-medicalcare/Abstract/1988/07000/The_Duke_UNC_Functional_Social_Support.6.aspx

Sarason, I.M. Levine, H.M., Basham,R. B. & Sarason B.R. (1983). Assessing social support: The social support questionnaire. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *44*(1), 127-139. doi: 10.1037/0022-3514.44.1.127

Sarason, I.G., Sarason, B.R., Shearin, E.N., & Pierce, G.R. (1987). A brief measure of social support: Practical and theoretical implications. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *4*(4), 497-510. doi: 10.1177/0265407587044007

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Social Support* [Instrument adapted from the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth and the NSCAW Social Support]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

Sherbourne, C.D., & Stewart, A.L. The MOS social support survey. *Social Science & Medicine*, *32*(6), 705-714. doi: 10.1016/0277-9536(91)90150-B.

Rand Corporation (1991). *Medical Outcome Study (MOS) Social Support Survey instrument and scoring instructions*. Retrieved from: http://www.rand.org/health/surveys_tools/mos/mos_socialsupport.html

MEFYP Substance Abuse [adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 and Monitoring the Future]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Substance Abuse* [Instrument adapted from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 and Monitoring the Future]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

MEFYP Victimization [adapted from the NSCAW Victimization, and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]

Courtney, M.E., Stagner, M.W., & Pergamit, M. (2001). *MEFYP Victimization* [Instrument adapted from the NSCAW Victimization, and the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth]. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

Modified Self Report of Delinquency

Elliott, D., & Ageton, S. (1980). Reconciling race and class differences in self-reported and official estimates of delinquency. *American Sociological Review*, *45*, 95-110. Retrieved from: http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095245

Multi-site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs Comprehensive Youth Questionnaire

Youth Questionnaire. The youth questionnaire is the primary data collection tool used in the study. It provides the foundation for the impact study, but also offers critical information about youths' backgrounds and experiences. The evaluation team designed the youth questionnaire primarily by using questions from existing surveys. The sources were selected to provide questions that had been used frequently and would provide good possibilities to compare with other samples. Four surveys provided the bulk of the questions. The Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (the "Midwest study") and the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) provided questions about child welfare and provided comparison samples of foster youths. In particular, the Midwest Study provided a good comparison sample of foster youths aging out of care. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997 cohort (NLSY97), and the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) provided many of the other questions and allowed comparisons with nationally representative samples of adolescents aging into their twenties. Special attention to the questionnaire design and selection of items was made so that the core questionnaire could be used with youths referred to independent living services at each selected site and so that the same questionnaire could be used in each round, with minor variations across rounds.

Courtney, M. E., & Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago (2007). *Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Outcomes at age 21*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children.

Dowd, K., Kinsey, S., Wheeless, S., Thissen, R., Richardson, J., Suresh, R., & et al. (2008). *National survey of child and adolescent well-being (NSCAW) waves 1-Restricted release [dataset]*. Available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Web site http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu.

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (1997). *National Longitudinal Study of Youth, 1997*. Retrieved from: http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm

Harris, K.M., Halpern, C.T., Whitsel,E., Hussey, J., Tabor, J., Entzel, P. & Udry, J.R. (n.d.). The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health: Research Design [WWW document].

from Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Web site: http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/design

Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement (WJ-III)

Youths completed three tests (described below) from the Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement III (Mather, Wendling, and Woodcock 2001). The unit of measurement used in these analyses was the age percentile, which indicates youths' percentile rankings based on a normative sample. Letter-Word Identification consists of items asking youths to pronounce words and simpler items asking them to identify letters. Calculation is a measure of the youth's ability to perform calculations. The youth completes a workbook with calculation problems of varying degrees of difficulty. Passage Comprehension consists of passages that the respondent reads silently. Each passage has a blank and the youth must complete the sentence. Difficulty varies across items on this test, too, with the simplest items consisting of recognizing words and following verbal instructions.

Woodcock, R.W., McGrew, K.S., & Mather, N. (2004). *Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement*. Rolling Meadows, IL: Riverside Publishing Company. Retrieved from: http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/wjIIIAchievement/index.html

Related Publications and Final Reports

Users are strongly encouraged to review published works, based upon these data, before doing analyses. To view a complete list of publications for this dataset, please visit our online citations collection called "canDL" at: https://www.zotero.org/groups/421939/candl/tags/161-NORC-Foster-Care/library or go to the child abuse and neglect Digital Library (canDL) NDACAN webpage.

Analytic Considerations

Data was collected over four sites. The questionnaires differed somewhat by site, as detailed in the accompanying documentation. Some variable names and labels vary by site, requiring recoding prior to combining data across sites.

Youths were randomly assigned to treatment and control groups, with the expectation that (a) youths assigned to the treatment group would receive services consistent with the design of the program and (b) youths in the control group would not receive any services from the program being evaluated, although they might have received similar services from other sources. Consistent with the experimental evaluation design, the primary analytic strategy for assessing the impact of the program is an Intent-to-Treat (ITT) analysis of differences in observed outcomes between the treatment and control groups as they were originally assigned. Intent-to-Treat analyses assume that the treatment provider intends to serve all of the evaluation subjects that are assigned to the treatment group. This strategy assumes that the treatment and control groups do not differ systematically across any characteristics that might be associated with

outcomes of interest since the two groups were selected through a random process. Any outcomes that differ between the two groups in a statistically significant way are assumed to be a result of the intervention being evaluated. However, as in other experimental evaluations of social services, there were some violations of the assignment protocol. That is, some members of the control group received services (crossovers), while some members of the treatment group did not (no-shows). The crux of the problem presented by crossovers and no-shows (collectively referred to here as violations) is that both can serve to lessen the observed differences in program effects across the groups as originally assigned. For more information on this topic, please consult the final reports.

Youth Questionnaire. The evaluation team designed the youth questionnaire primarily by using questions from existing surveys. The sources were selected to provide questions that had been used frequently and would provide good possibilities to compare with other samples. Four surveys provided the bulk of the questions. The Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth (the "Midwest study") and the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) provided questions about child welfare and provided comparison samples of foster youths. In particular, the Midwest Study provided a good comparison sample of foster youths aging out of care. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997 cohort (NLSY97), and the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (AddHealth) provided many of the other questions and allowed comparisons with nationally representative samples of adolescents aging into their twenties. Special attention to the questionnaire design and selection of items was made so that the core questionnaire could be used with youths referred to independent living services at each selected site and so that the same questionnaire could be used in each round, with minor variations across rounds.

The majority of measures contained in the questionnaire are adapted from multiple sources. In preparing the user's guide, every effort was made to properly document the questionnaire sources. Uers may wish to consult the documentation for the source surveys to ensure that secondary work credits adapted measures. A list of source surveys is contained in the bibliography.

Detailed Source Information

The listing below contains the name and bibliographic citations for programs, measures, surveys, and studies that were used to inform, in whole or in part, this data collection effort.

Current Population Survey

U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *Current population survey*. Suitland, MD: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html

Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth

Courtney, M.E., Terao, S., & Bost, N. (2004). *Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Conditions of youth preparing to leave state care*. Chicago, IL: Chapin

Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. Available from: https://www.chapinhall.org/research/midwest-evaluation-of-the-adult-functioning-of-former-foster-youth/>/

Courtney, Mark E., & Cusick, G.R. (2010) *Crime during the transition to adulthood: How youth fare as they leave out-of-home care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, 2002-2007*. ICPSR27062-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2010-12-14. doi: https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR27062.v1

Monitoring the Future

Johnston, L.D., Bachman, J.G., O'Malley, P.M., and Schulenberg, J.E.(2008). *Monitoring the future: A continuing study of American youth (12th-grade survey), 2007*. ICPSR22480-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2008-10-29. doi:https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NAHDAP/studies/22480/version/1

National Health Interview Survey

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics. (2012). *National health interview survey*. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_questionnaires.htm

National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

Harris, K.M., Halpern, C.T., Whitsel, E., Hussey, J., Tabor, J., Entzel, P., & Udry, J.R. (2009). *The national longitudinal study of adolescent health: Research design* [WWW document]. Available from: http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/addhealth/design

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (1997). *National longitudinal study of youth, 1997*. Available from: http://www.bls.gov/nls/nlsy97.htm

National Survey of Child Abuse and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW)

Dowd, K., Kinsey, S., Wheeless, S., Thissen, R., Richardson, J., Suresh, R.,…Smith, K. (2008). *National survey of child and adolescent well-being (NSCAW) combined waves 1-5 data file user's manual restricted release version*. Available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Web site: https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov

National Survey of Family Growth

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2011). *Public use data file documentation, 2006-2010, National survey of family growth*. Retrieved from:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nsfg/NSFG_2006-2010_UserGuide_MainText.pdf#Description

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Vital Statistics. (2003). *NSFG cycle 6 main study female questionnaire*. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nsfg/C6female_capiliteMar03final.pdf

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Outcomes of Independent Living Project

DePanfilis, D., & Daining, C. (2003). *Assessment of outcomes of independent living final report*. Baltimore, MD: University of Maryland School of Social Work, Center for Families and Family Welfare Research and Training Group. Available from: https://archive.hshsl.umaryland.edu/handle/10713/39/discover?filtertype_0=author&filtertype_1=subject&filter_relational_operator_1=equals&filter_relational_operator_0=equals&filter_1=University+of+Maryland%2C+Baltimore.+School+of+Social+Work--Projects+and+Reports&filter_0=Daining%2C+Clara&filtertype=subject&filter_relational_operator=equals&filter=Foster+Home+Care

Precarious Families

Frame, L. (1999). *The Impact of Welfare on Precarious Families*. Berkeley, CA: University of California at Berkeley, School of Social Welfare, Child Welfare Research Center, Center for Social Services Research. Available from: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/research_units/cwrc/project_details.html#precarious

Stagner, M., Kortenkamp, K., & Reardon-Anderson, J. (2002). *Work, income and well-being among long-term welfare recipients: Findings from a survey of California's precarious families*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. Retrieved from: https://www.urban.org/research/publication/work-income-and-well-being-among-long-term-welfare-recipients

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2013) *Youth risk behavior survey*. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm

Confidentiality Protection

Dates have been changed to either the 1st of the month by the data contributor prior to archiving or the 15th of the month by NDACAN. A number of string variables have been removed from the dataset, and as a result, there will be instances where variables appear in the interview survey

documents but are not available in the data files. The variables were either not archived or were removed by NDACAN for confidentiality protection reasons. A listing of variables removed from the dataset has been included as a text file called "deleted variables."

Variable MH117 and YSR117 contains verbatim text responses regarding psychiatric medications the respondent has taken in the past twelve months. References to the specific month and year in which a medication was prescribed or a participant stopped taking the medication were modified to delete reference to the specific month. The variable is named MH117 or YSR117, depending upon the dataset.

Extent of Collection

This collection consists of the User's Guide, interview questionnaires, a listing of deleted variables, final interview dispositions (MS Excel and pdf), 12 codebooks and data files corresponding to each site and round of data collection. The data files are provided in SPSS, SAS, and Stata native formats, import statements for reading the text data file (.dat) into SPSS, Stata, and SAS, and tab-delimited format.

Extent of Processing

NDACAN produced the Section 508 compliant User's Guide, Codebooks, 508 Accessible version of the interview survey documents, 508 accessible version of the final dispositions pdf document, SPSS, Stata, SAS native files and import statements, text data files, and tab-delimited data files. In version 2 of the dataset value labels were added to variables based upon the availability of that information in the survey instruments. Some variables were removed or recoded for confidentiality protections.

DATA FILE INFORMATION

File Specifications

The dataset contains 12 data files which are organized by site and round of data collection.

No.	Filename
1	Round1_site1_v#
2	Round1_site2_v#
3	Round1_site3_v#
4	Round1_site4_v#
5	Round2_site1_v#
6	Round2_site2_v#
7	Round2_site3_v#

8	Round2_site4_v#
9	Round3_site1_v#
10	Round3_site2_v#
11	Round3_site3_v#
12	Round3_site4_v#

Data File Notes

Data files can be merged within site across rounds by "SU_ID".

There may be variables listed in the interview document that have been removed from the data files (see “deleted variables”).

Variables associated with looping questions may have substantial missing data for later iterations of the loop. Variables with missing were preserved in the data file to show that participants were not limited in the number of responses they could provide.

The missing value codes of -1 = RF (Refused) and -2=DK (Don’t know) apply globally across all variables in all 12 data files, even if not explicitly appearing in the codebook or the data file’s value labels.

Variables listed in the codebook with “no value or values unknown” in the “Values” column are variables where either, it is not appropriate for them to have value labels assigned or for which the values and the associated labels were not found or explicitly stated in the survey instruments. It may be possible to derive/assume labels for values in these variables by examining patterns of value and label use throughout the data and survey instrument files. For example, the values for Yes and No for variables appearing in the interview survey document, 0 = No and 1 = Yes. For variables that are derived based upon survey questions, 1= Yes and 2=No.

Acronyms and Abbreviations used in this document:

Acronym/abbreviation	**Definition/meaning**
ACASI	Audio Computer Assisted Personal Interview
CFCIP	John Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program
DSS	Department of Social Services
EPA	Emancipation-preparation advisor
ESTEP	Early Start to Emancipation Preparation Tutoring
IL	Independent Living
LST	Independent Living Life Skills Training
NDACAN	National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
SAS	Statistical software program named "SAS"

Acronym/abbreviation	Definition/meaning
SPSS	Statistical software program owned by IBM called "SPSS"
Stata	Statistical software program called "Stata"
U.S.	United States
D.C.	District of Columbia
YSR	Achenbach Youth Self Report
TRF	Achenbach Teacher Report Form
CBCL	Child Behavior Checklist
MEAFF	Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth
WJ-III	Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Achievement
CIDI-SF	Composite International Diagnostic Interview Short Form
ASR	Achenbach Adutl Self-Report
MEFYP	Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth Programs (the name of this study)
NSCAW	National Survey on Child and Adolescent Well-being

Technical support for this dataset is provided by NDACAN.

Please send your inquiries to NDACANsupport@cornell.edu

Visit the User Support page of the NDACAN website for help documents and videos ((https://www.ndacan.acf.hhs.gov/user-support/user-support.cfm).