

2016-17 THP+FC & THP-PLUS ANNUAL REPORT

Exploring Short Program Stays, a High Rate of Involuntary Exit & More

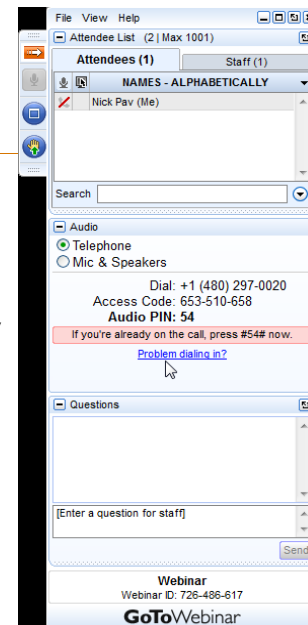
September 14, 2017

JOHN BURTON
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

Information to Participate

- Call-in information
 - Phone number: (415) 655-0060
 - Access code: 606-083-755
- To submit live questions, click on the "Questions" panel, type your question, and click "send"
- Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.jbaforyouth.org under "training archive" & www.thplus.org under "past trainings"



Today's Presenters

Amy Lemley | Executive Director
John Burton Advocates for Youth

Simone Tureck | Associate Policy Director
John Burton Advocates for Youth

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2016-17 THP+FC & THP-Plus Annual Report

Highlights the achievements and challenges of the programs in helping youth in the foster care and juvenile probation systems make a safe, supported transition to adulthood, and provides practice and policy recommendations for the future.

<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/research-reports/>



THP+FC & THP-Plus Annual Report 2016-2017

Providing Affordable Housing and Supportive Services to Youth Transitioning from California's Foster Care and Juvenile Probation Systems

A REPORT BY JOHN BURTON ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH



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California's Transitional Housing Programs for Non-minor Current & Former Foster & Probation Youth

These programs provide **affordable housing** and **supportive services** in semi-supervised independent living settings.

Transitional Housing Placement Plus "THP-Plus" Program

- Former foster youth age 18-24/25
- Can access for up to 24 or 36 months
- CWS Realignment funds, formerly state funded program
- Est. 2001, implemented 2005

THP-Plus Foster Care ("THP+FC")

- Current foster youth age 18-21 ("non-minor dependents")
- Title IV-E reimbursable foster care placement
- Modeled after THP-Plus program
- Est. 2012 with implementation of Extended Foster Care (AB12)

Report Methodology

Data from the THP+FC & THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems

- Entrance-to-Exit Progress Reports on youth who exited between April 1, 2016 & March 31, 2017
- Entrance Snapshot Reports on youth who entered between April 1, 2016 & March 31, 2017
- Raw data imported into Stata Statistical Software for in-depth analysis

Data from the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CWS/CMS data)

Individual interviews with providers and young adults profiled in report

FINDINGS

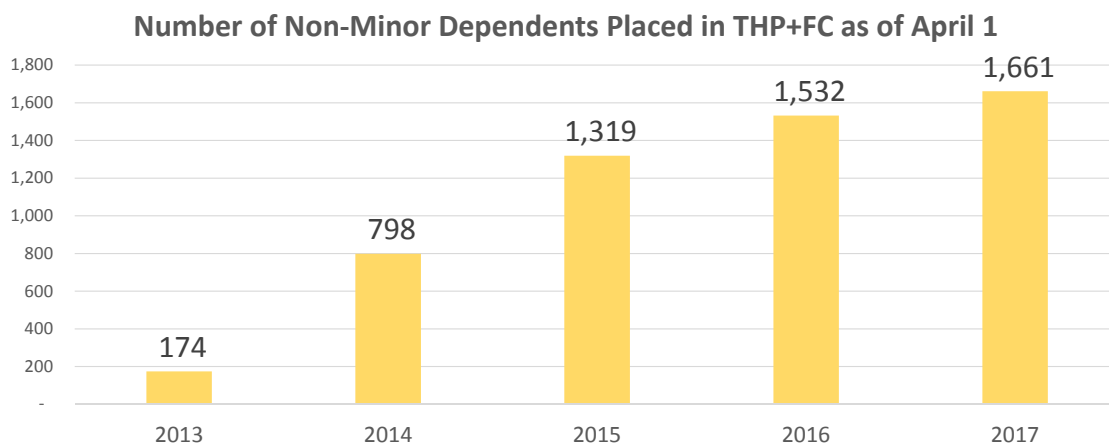
THP+FC Participant Demographics

THP+FC Participant Characteristics - As of April 1 st *					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	40%	39%	42%	42%	42%
Female	60%	61%	58%	58%	58%
Black	32%	38%	38%	36%	35%
White	29%	25%	24%	23%	25%
Latino	35%	33%	34%	36%	37%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Native American	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Supervised by Juvenile Probation	13%	14%	17%	18%	18%

- THP+FC participant demographics remain relatively consistent in 2017 compared prior year.
- Slight shifts in ethnic/racial demographics.
- Proportion of youth supervised by juvenile probation has increased from 13% in 2013 to 18% in 2017.

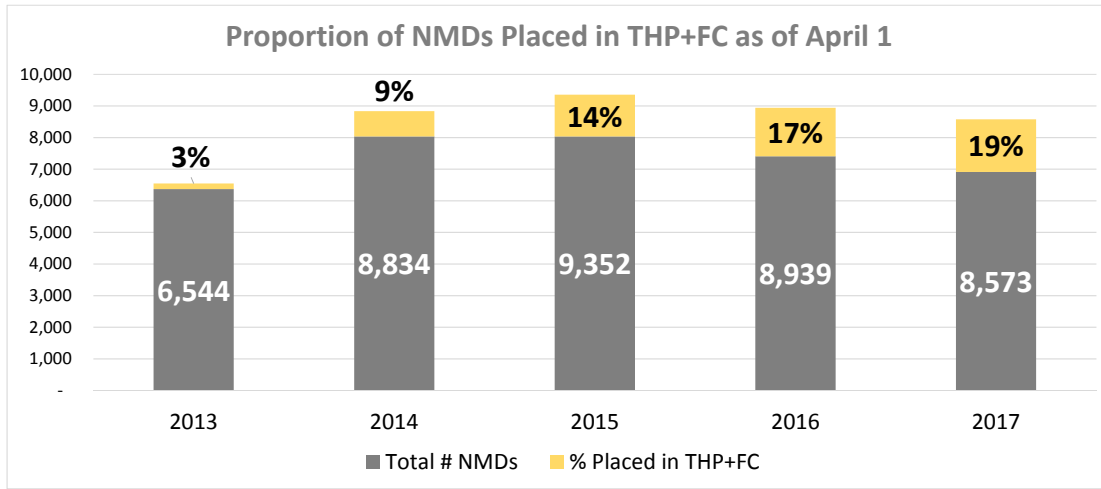
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The number of NMDs placed in THP+FC continues to increase.



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The proportion of NMDs placed in THP+FC continues to increase.



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THP-Plus Participant Characteristics at Entrance to the Program					
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Male	42%	44%	44%	40%	44%
Female	58%	56%	56%	60%	56%
Age 18 to 20	52%	35%	18%	15%	13%
Age 21 to 24	48%	65%	82%	85%	87%
LGBTQ	8%	9%	11%	9%	10%
Black	34%	32%	38%	32%	32%
White	27%	24%	28%	28%	22%
Native American	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Multi-racial or other	34%	41%	32%	36%	44%
Hispanic ethnicity	38%	42%	40%	42%	46%
ILP-eligible probation ward as a minor	15%	11%	11%	9%	6%

THP-Plus Participant Demographics

- Overall, the profile of youth participating in THP-Plus remained relatively consistent with recent years.
- The proportion of older youth in THP-Plus continues to increase.
- The proportion of youth supervised by the juvenile probation system has decreased by more than half over the last five years.

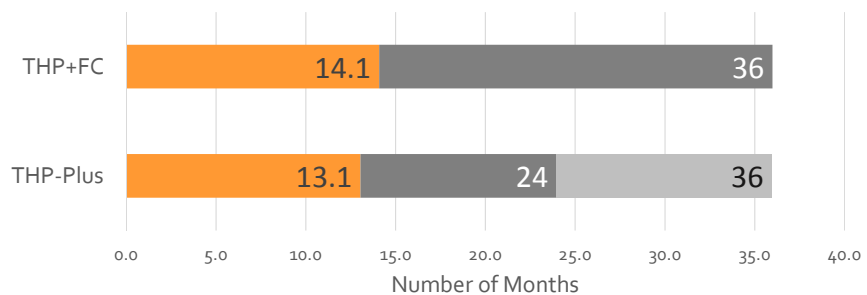
FINDINGS: Housing

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How long do youth participate in the THP+FC & THP-Plus programs?

Average Length of Stay vs. Full Program Duration

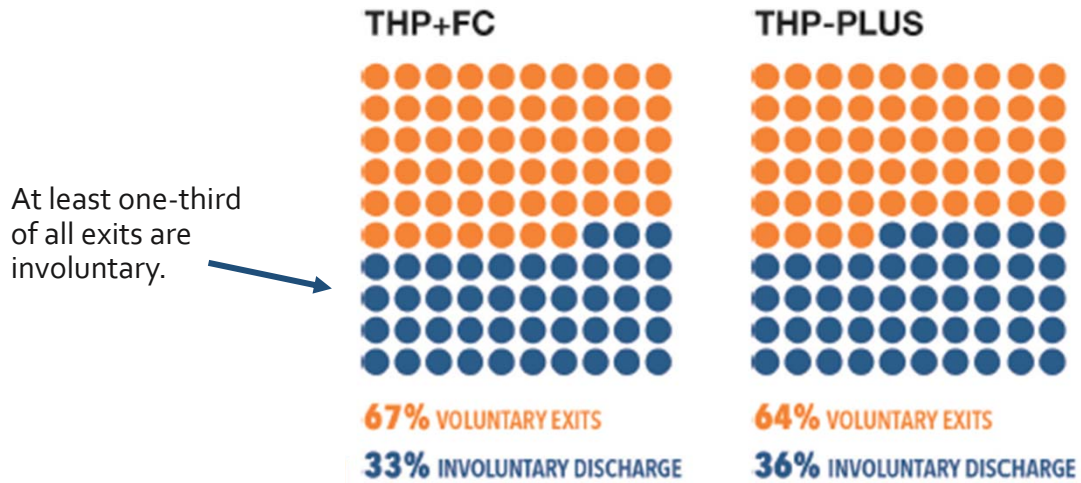
On average, youth in both programs do not utilize their full eligibility.



- Average length of stay
- Full program duration
- Full program duration in counties with THP-Plus extension

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How many youth are being involuntarily discharged from the THP+FC & THP-Plus programs?

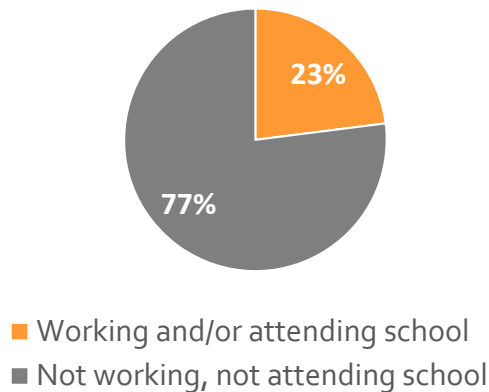


Are these youth being discharged from THP+FC or from extended foster care?

More than one in five involuntary exits from THP+FC were likely unrelated to extended foster care participation conditions:

23% of youth who were involuntarily discharged were working and/or in school at exit.

Youth Involuntarily Discharged from THP+FC Over 2016-17



Where do youth live once they exit THP+FC & THP-Plus?

Where Youth Exited to from THP+FC & THP-Plus Over 2016-17	THP+FC	THP-Plus
A THP-Plus program	14%	2%
A THP+FC program	6%	0%
Supervised Independent Living Placement	13%	1%
Foster care placement (other than THP+FC or SILP)	1%	1%
Other supportive transitional housing program	3%	4%
Renting own / shared housing (paying rent)	30%	42%
Living with relative / other person in stable housing (free rent)	20%	35%
Emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable housing (street, car, couch-surfing, etc.)	6%	9%
Incarcerated	3%	2%
College dorm	1%	0%
Other	3%	4%

- Upon exit from both programs, the most common exit is to a setting where youth pay rent.
- 14% of youth exiting THP+FC go on to participate in THP-Plus
- 6% of youth in THP+FC and 9% in THP-Plus exit to homelessness / unstable housing.

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FINDINGS: Education

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Are youth finishing high school?

Secondary Educational Status	THP+FC		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Youth has earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent or higher	70%	78%	78%	81%
Youth has not earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent	30%	22%	22%	19%

- Most youth in both programs enter with a high school diploma.
- The percentage of youth with a high school diploma or higher increases during program participation.

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Are youth attending college?

Post-Secondary Educational Status	THP+FC		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Attending 2-year community college	21%	18%	18%	19%
Received AA/AS	0%	0%	1%	2%
Attending 4-year college/university	2%	4%	4%	2%
Received BA/BS	0%	0%	0%	2%

- In THP+FC, the rate of college enrollment drops between entrance and exit.
- There is a modest increase in college achievement between entrance and exit in THP-Plus.

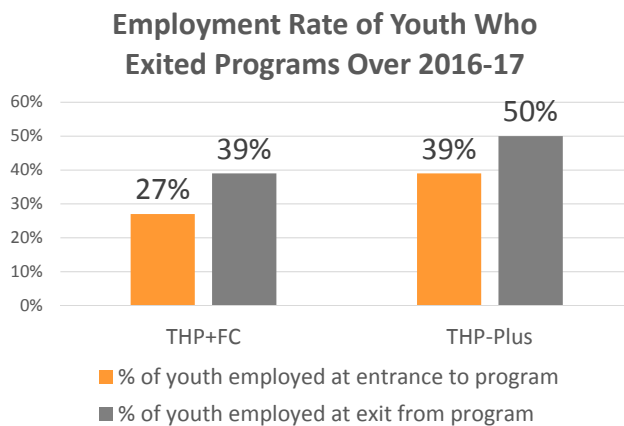
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FINDINGS:

Employment & Income

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Overall, how are youth in THP+FC & THP-Plus faring in employment?



- THP+FC and THP-Plus participants make gains in employment between entrance to and exit from the program.
- The percentage of employed youth who were working full-time also increased in both programs (THP+FC: 34 to 46%; THP-Plus 43 to 54%)

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Do youth make progress in their earnings and income?

	THP+FC		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Average hourly wage for employed youth	\$10.70	\$11.52	\$10.52	\$11.62
Average monthly income from all income sources (both employed & unemployed youth)	\$942	\$1,180	\$945	\$1,130

- The average hourly wage of employed THP+FC and THP-Plus participants increases between entrance to and exit from the program.
- THP+FC and THP-Plus participants experience an increase in monthly income between entrance to and exit from the program.

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Are parenting youth working?

At exit, parenting youth are more likely to be working when compared to their non-parenting peers.

	THP-Plus	
	Custodial Parents	Non-Parenting
Employed at exit from THP-Plus	58%	49%

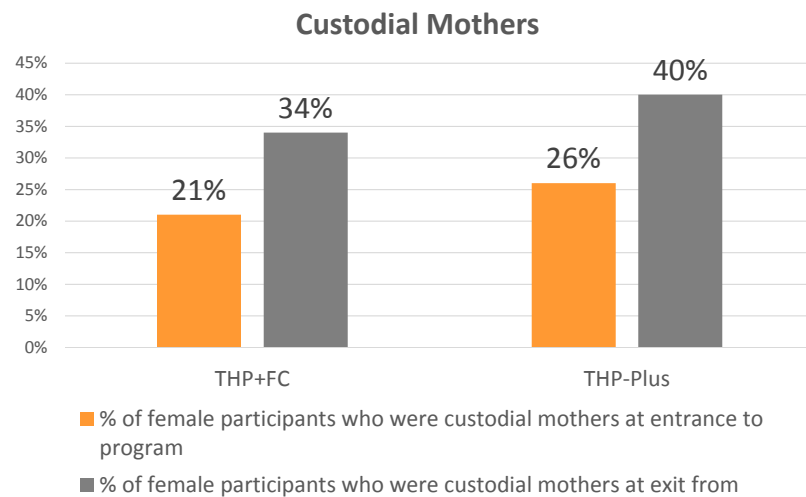
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FINDINGS: Children & Parenting

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How many parenting youth are participating in THP+FC & THP-Plus?

A significant number of youth are becoming parents while they are in THP+FC and THP-Plus.



Do all parents in THP+FC & THP-Plus have custody of their children?

Some youth enter THP-Plus and THP+FC programs with children living outside of their custody.

	THP+FC	THP-Plus
	Entrance	Entrance
Had previously given birth to / fathered child(ren), but not a <i>custodial</i> parent	11%	30%

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Are youth who enter as parents more likely to have subsequent children while in the programs?

Yes, when compared to their peers who entered without children.

	THP+FC		THP-Plus	
	Entered as custodial parent	Entered as non-parenting	Entered as custodial parent	Entered as non-parenting
% gave birth to / fathered new child during their time in program	35%	7%	29%	11%

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FINDINGS: Health & Well-Being

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Are youth connected to public benefits upon exit from THP+FC & THP-Plus?

CalFresh is the most commonly accessed public benefit among THP+FC and THP-Plus participants.

	THP+FC	THP-Plus
Receiving CalFresh benefits	16%	36%
Receiving WIC benefits	11%	9%
Receiving CalWORKS benefits	N/A	9%
Receiving subsidized child care	2%	2%

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Other findings related to health & well-being:

99% of youth in THP-Plus are enrolled in health insurance.

More than one in four youth (27%) in THP+FC and more than one in five youth (21%) in THP-Plus are accessing mental health services upon exit from the program. Additionally, a small number of youth were being treated for substance abuse (5% in THP+FC and 4% in THP-Plus).

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FINDINGS: Homelessness

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How many youth in THP+FC and THP-Plus have experienced homelessness?

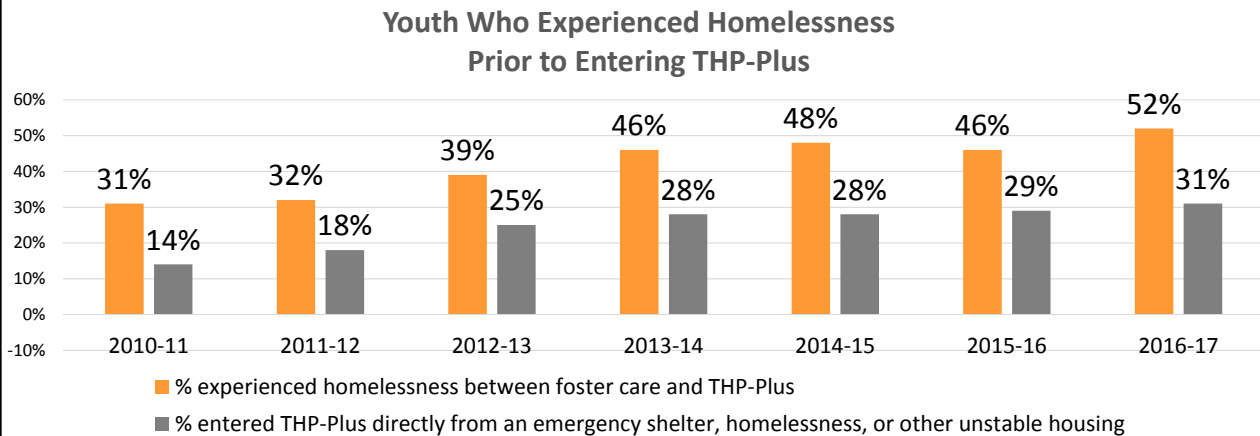
More than half (52%) of youth in THP-Plus have experienced homelessness prior to entering & nearly one third (31%) enter the program directly from homelessness or unstable housing.

One quarter (25%) of youth in THP+FC experienced homelessness prior to entering and 8% entered directly from homelessness or unstable housing.

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Looking historically at THP-Plus, has homelessness increased?

This is an increase from the year prior, and represents a significant increase since 2010-11.



Is previous experience with homelessness associated with other risk factors?

1. Youth who enter THP-Plus directly from homelessness or unstable housing may be more likely to experience homelessness upon exit from the program.

	% youth who <i>entered</i> directly from unstable housing or homelessness	% all youth in THP-Plus
Youth who <i>exited</i> the program to homelessness or unstable housing	14%	9%

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Is previous experience with homelessness associated with other risk factors?

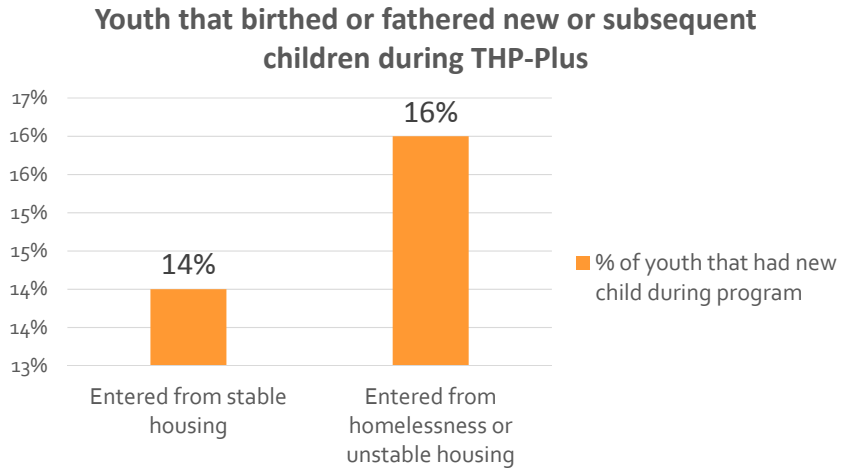
2. Youth who enter a THP+FC program as custodial parents may be more likely to have experienced homelessness prior to entering.

	Entered THP+FC as Custodial Parent	Entered THP+FC Non-Parenting
Experienced homelessness prior to entering	30%	24%

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Is previous experience with homelessness associated with other risk factors?

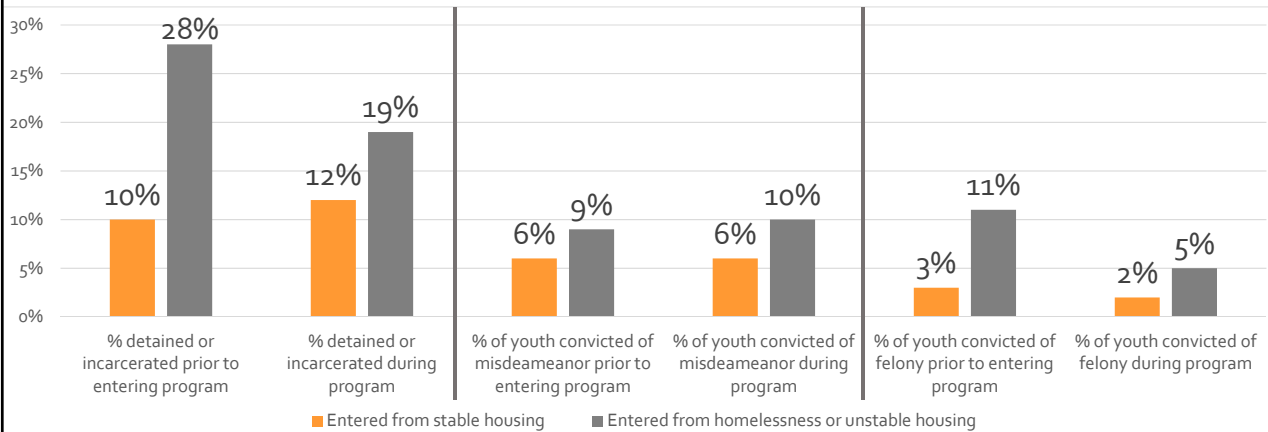
3. THP-Plus participants that entered the program directly from homelessness or unstable housing may be more likely to become new parents or have subsequent children during the program.



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Is previous experience with homelessness associated with other risk factors?

4. Youth who enter THP-Plus directly from homelessness are more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system, both before and during the program.

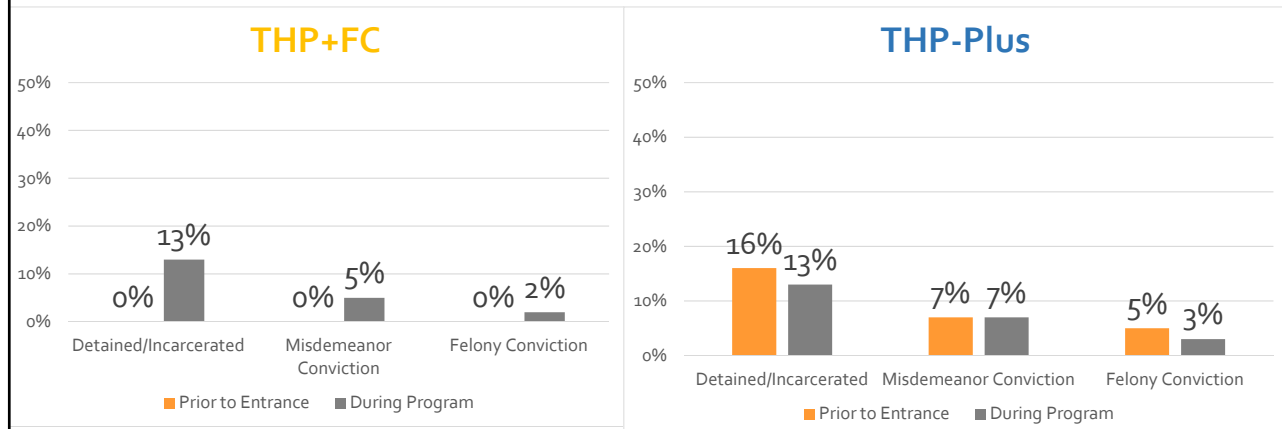


FINDINGS: Involvement with the Criminal Justice System

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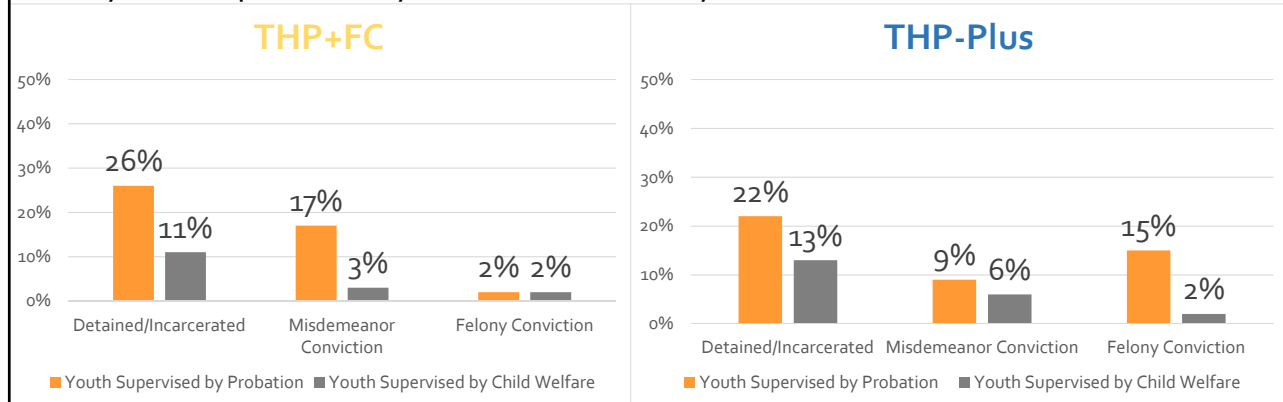
How many youth in THP+FC & THP-Plus are involved with the adult criminal justice system?

Approximately one in eight youth in THP+FC and THP-Plus are detained and/or incarcerated during their time in the program.



Does the experience differ for probation-supervised youth?

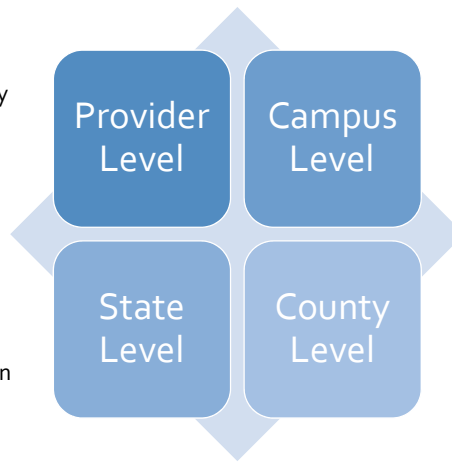
Youth supervised by the juvenile probation system are considerably more likely to be involved with the adult criminal justice system than youth supervised by the child welfare system.



Policy & Practice Implications

Youth in both programs are making limited progress in college.

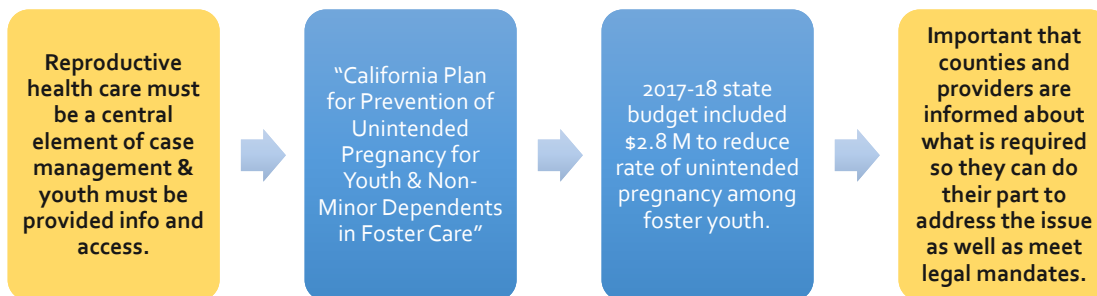
- Orient programs to emphasize post-secondary education
- Academic-focused case management
- Better data on FAFSA completion
- Clear requirements to assist in college application



- Access to campus support programs
- Access to priority registration and
- Clear understanding of how FYSCP's role in college access
- Regular review of data on college enrollment and retention

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Additional effort is required to prevent unintended pregnancy in the programs, particularly repeat pregnancies.



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Despite the high likelihood of eligibility, CalFresh is underutilized by youth in both THP+FC and THP-Plus.

Based on the average monthly income of youth in THP+FC & THP-Plus, the average youth in these programs meets the gross income eligibility requirements for CalFresh.

After applying common deductions, the average youth in these programs meets the net income eligibility requirements.

Recent policy guidance indicates youth participating in extended foster care and other programs are exempted from student restrictions on CalFresh eligibility.

CDSS is currently developing guidance for counties specifically regarding foster youth applying for CalFresh.

WIC is another public benefit that appears to be underutilized.

To receive WIC, an individual must earn less than 185% of the poverty level (\$30,044 in FY 2018) and be:

- A pregnant woman
- A woman breastfeeding a baby under 1 year of age
- A woman who had a baby or was pregnant in the past 6 months
- A baby up to his or her first birthday
- A child up to his or her fifth birthday



WIC can provide \$100 to \$150 towards the purchase of certain foods.

Youth are not participating in the full length of the programs.

Given the current housing crisis, it is more important than ever to support youth to remain engaged and access the full duration of these programs.

Providers & counties should be aware of their average length of stay, and consider how their program might encourage or deter accessing full program duration.

One approach includes implementation of a Housing First model which has been shown to increase the length of time an individual is safely housed by lowering barriers for participation.

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The high rate of involuntary exits is a cause for alarm.

These high rates raise important questions:

Are program requirements aligned with the needs of participating youth?

Are additional requirements being applied to youth, above and beyond the five participation conditions of extended foster care, and if so, are these consistent with state law?

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Youth who have experienced homelessness face unique risk factors.

Youth who have experienced homelessness require specialized attention—particularly those who enter the programs directly from homelessness or unstable housing:

- Ensuring a stable housing plan is in place upon exit from the program
- Additional efforts to prevent unintended pregnancy
- Support for parents
- Guidance about decision-making that lessens the likelihood of involvement with the criminal justice system; ensuring adequate representation

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Youth participating in extended foster care are experiencing homelessness.

Additional efforts are required to ensure current foster youth make smooth, supported transitions between foster care placements.



The law requires counties to ensure that a viable placement option is available for every non-minor dependent.

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Youth in THP+FC require additional support to access THP-Plus.

When youth exit the THP+FC program, just one in eight (14%) move into a THP-Plus program, despite their eligibility for the program.

While some counties are making full use of their THP-Plus Realignment Allocation and have waiting lists, several counties are not fully utilizing this allocation, so waiting lists should not exist in these counties.

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Juvenile probation-supervised youth are at risk for adult criminal justice involvement.

Awareness of this heightened risk is critical.



Supports must be in place targeting youth supervised by the juvenile probation system to help prevent engagement with the adult criminal justice system.

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Youth are transitioning out of THP+FC and THP-Plus programs with very low incomes.

Just 39% in THP+FC and 50% in THP-Plus are working at exit.

- Those working are still exiting both programs earning just a dollar over the state's 2017 minimum wage of \$10.50, and less than many local ordinance minimum wages.

On average, the annual income of youth at exit from THP+FC (\$14,160) & THP-Plus (\$13,560) just above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,060 / year.

- This is particularly concerning in California where the cost of living is 92.7 percent higher than the nation's average.

- Providers play an important role in guiding youth in low-paying jobs toward the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered at California's community colleges.

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URGENT: Support for SB12 Needed!

The California State Legislature has passed SB 12, but...
now we need the Governor's signature!

SB12 (Beall) would increase access to financial aid for foster youth

Please join us in getting this important law passed:

- Use the support letter template to submit a letter.
- Know youth who would like to submit letters? Have them use the youth support letter template.
- Webpage with support letter templates:
<http://www.jbaforyouth.org/1690-2/>
- Letters should be sent to simone@jbaforyouth.org by September 21st at 3:00 p.m.

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Question & Answer

Type your question into the questions box in your control panel on the right-hand side of your screen and hit "send."

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