Employment and Felonious Arrests of Former Foster Care Youth

by

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Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

- This analysis is based on the experiences of 1,316 youth, age 16 or older, who were in foster care on December 31, 1998.
- It explores their employment and earnings.
- It also explores the rate at which they are charged with a felony.
Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

- The experiences of the foster care group are compared with those of 6,596 youth who were between 16 and 18 and whose families received Work First in December 1998.
- The youth in the Work First group were coded as children.
Characteristics of the 1,316 Youth in Foster Care

Gender

- Male
- Female
Characteristics of the 1,316 Youth in Foster Care

Racial Classification

- White
- African-American
- Native American
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Other
Characteristics of the 1,316 Youth in Foster Care

Final Termination

- Aged Out
- Reunified
- Planned Exit
- Unplanned Exit

[Bar chart showing the distribution of final terminations among Aged Out, Reunified, Planned Exit, and Unplanned Exit]
Percentage Child Welfare Youth Employed

Quarters Since Turning 16
Percentage Child Welfare Youth Employed by Gender

Quarters Since Turning 16

Males
Females
Percentage Child Welfare Youth Employed by Race

Quarters Since Turning 16

- **Other Races**
- **African-Americans**
Percentage Child Welfare Youth Employed by Early Exit

Quarters Since Discharge

- Exiting Before 19
- Exiting After 19
Percentage Child Welfare Youth Employed by Type of Exit

Quarters Since Discharge

- Aged Out
- Reunified
- Planned Exit
- Unplanned Exit
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare Youth

Quarters Since Turning 16
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare Youth by Gender

Quarters Since Turning 16

- Males
- Females
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare Youth by Race

Quarters Since Turning 16

- African-Americans
- All Other Races
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare Youth by Early Exit

Quarters Since Discharge

- Exited Before 19
- Exited After 19
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare Youth by Type of Exit

Quarters Since Discharge

- Aged Out
- Reunified
- Planned Exit
- Unplanned Exit
Characteristics of the 6,596 Youth From Work First Families

Gender

- Male
- Female
Characteristics of the 6,596 Youth From Work First Families

Racial Classification

- White
- African-American
- Native American
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Other

The graph shows the distribution of racial classifications among the 6,596 youth, with African-American youth significantly outnumbering others.
Percentage Work First Youth Employed

Quarters Since Turning 16
Percentage Work First Youth Employed by Gender

Quarters Since Turning 16

Males | Females
Percentage Work First Youth Employed by Race

Quarters Since Turning 16

- Other Races
- African-Americans
Median Quarterly Earnings for Work First Youth

Quarters Since Turning 16

- $0
- $500
- $1,000
- $1,500
- $2,000
- $2,500
- $3,000

Graph showing the trend of median quarterly earnings from the time a youth turns 16 to 29 quarters.
Median Quarterly Earnings for Work First Youth by Race

Quarters Since Turning 16

- African-Americans
- All Other Races
Percentage of Youth Employed

Quarters Since Turning 16

- Child Welfare
- Work First
Median Quarterly Earnings for Child Welfare and Work First Youth

Quarters Since Turning 16

- **Child Welfare**
- **Work First**
Employment Outcomes

- A lower percentage of former foster care youth were employed in any calendar quarter after turning 16 than youth whose families were on Work First.
- Around age 23, the percentage of former Work First youth with jobs is about the same as for adults in the first quarter after leaving Work First.
Employment Outcomes

- Before age 20, the median earnings for males and females is about the same.
- After age 20, males have higher earnings.
- A similar pattern is found for race.
- After age 20, African-American youth earn less than other youth.
Employment Outcomes

- A higher percentage of females than males have jobs
- A slightly higher percentage of former Work First African-American youth have jobs
- A slightly higher percentage of former foster care African-American youth have jobs through age 21
Employment Outcomes

- The youth from child welfare who had jobs had slightly higher earnings through age 21 than the Work First youth.
- After 21, the median earnings for the child welfare youth drop while the earnings for the Work First group continue to rise.
Felonies
Ever Charged With a Felony?
Type of Felony

Child Welfare

- Public Order: 0.00%
- Drug: 2.00%
- Property: 4.00%
- Personal: 6.00%
- Work First
- Public Order: 10.00%
- Drug: 12.00%
- Property: 14.00%
- Personal: 16.00%
- Youths: 18.00%
- Public Order: 20.00%
- Drug: 2.00%
- Property: 4.00%
- Personal: 6.00%

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Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Gender

- Male: 45.00%
- Female: 10.00%
Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Race

- African-American
- Other Races
Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Type of Exit
Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Type of Exit

- Exit Before Age 19
- Exit After Age 19
Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Gender and Felony Type

- Male
  - Public Order: 30.00%
  - Drug: 20.00%
  - Property: 15.00%
  - Personal: 15.00%

- Female
  - Public Order: 30.00%
  - Drug: 5.00%
  - Property: 10.00%
  - Personal: 10.00%
Percentage of Child Welfare Youth With a Felony Charge by Race and Felony Type

- **Other Race**
  - Public Order
  - Drug
  - Property
  - Personal

- **African-American**
  - Public Order
  - Drug
  - Property
  - Personal
Percentage of Work First Youth With a Felony Charge by Gender
Percentage of Work First Youth With a Felony Charge by Race

-非洲裔美国人
-其他种族

- 5.00%
- 10.00%
- 15.00%
- 20.00%
- 25.00%
- 0.00%
Percentage of Work First Youth With a Felony Charge by Gender and Felony Type

- Male
  - Public Order: 20.00%
  - Drug: 18.00%
  - Property: 16.00%
  - Personal: 14.00%

- Female
  - Public Order: 12.00%
  - Drug: 10.00%
  - Property: 8.00%
  - Personal: 6.00%
Percentage of Work First Youth With a Felony Charge by Race and Felony Type

- Other Race
- African-American

- Public Order
- Drug
- Property
- Personal
Months to First Arrest: All Foster Youth
Months to First Arrest: All Foster Youth by Gender

- Male
- Female

The graph shows the percentage of foster youth who have had their first arrest over months.
Months to First Arrest: All Foster Youth by Size of County
Months to First Arrest: All Foster Youth by Race

- Black
- All Other Races
Months to First Arrest: All Foster Youth by Race and Gender

- Black Males
- Black Females
- All Other Males
- All Other Females
Months to First Arrest: All Work
First Youth
Months to First Arrest: All Work First Youth by Gender

The diagram shows the distribution of months to first arrest for males and females. The x-axis represents the number of months, ranging from 0 to 120, and the y-axis represents the percentage of youth, ranging from 0% to 100%. The blue line represents males, and the red line represents females. The data indicates a higher percentage of males than females in the earlier months, with a notable gap at 40% around the 24-month mark. By 120 months, the distribution for both groups stabilizes with a slight increase for males.
Months to First Arrest: All Work First Youth by Size of County

- Small
- Medium
- Large
Months to First Arrest: All Work First Youth by Race

- **Black**
- **All Other Races**
Months to First Arrest: All Work First Youth by Race and Gender

- Black Males
- Black Females
- All Other Males
- All Other Females
Youth Charged with Felonies

- A higher percentage of the youth who were in foster care were charged with felonies than the youth whose families were on Work First.
- Within each group, males were more likely to be charged than females.
- Within each group, African-American youth were more likely to be charged than others.
Employment Trajectories and Arrest for Felonies
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Felonies

- The first presentation in this session focused on the employment outcomes of 284 former foster youth from North Carolina who aged out of care.
- These 284 youth are a subset of the 1,316 youth described earlier in this presentation.
- The following slides explore the connection between felonious arrest and employment trajectories for those youth.
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Felonies
Employment Trajectories and Arrests By Type of Felony

- Public Order
- Drug
- Property
- Personal
Employment Trajectories and Arrests By Type of Felony

- **Public Order**
- **Drug**
- **Property**
- **Personal**
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Public Order Felonies

- Never Connected
- Initially Connected Low
- Initially Connected High
- Consistently Connected
- Later Connected
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Drug Felonies

- Never Connected
- Initially Connected High
- Consistently Connected
- Initially Connected Low
- Later Connected
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Property Felonies

- Never Connected
- Initially Connected High
- Later Connected
- Consistently Connected

The bar chart shows the percentage distribution of employment trajectories grouped by arrest status for property felonies.
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Personal Felonies

[Bar chart showing employment trajectories and arrest rates for different categories: Never Connected, Initially Connected High, Initially Connected Low, Later Connected, Consistently Connected.]
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Felonies

- Consistently connected youth are less likely to be charged with a felony than youth in other trajectories.
- About 35% of the youth from the initially connected-low trajectory were charged with a felony.
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Felonies

- The profile of felony charges varied across trajectories
- About 30% of the youth from the initially connected-low trajectory were charged with a property felony
- Only 9% of the youth from the consistently connected trajectory were charged with a property felony
Employment Trajectories and Arrests for Felonies

- 15% of the youth from the initially connected-low trajectory were charged with a personal felony.
- Only 2% of the youth from the consistently connected trajectory were charged with a personal felony.
Ongoing Research

- We are currently examining the rate at which youth from each group subsequently use Work First, Food Stamps, and Medicaid.

- We also are exploring the experiences of the foster care youth before entry into child welfare.
Ongoing Research

- Future analysis will group youth based on birth cohorts
- That analysis will explore outcomes for youth who exited foster care before age 16
- It is may be that those youth have more different outcomes