In 2017, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Department of Family and Protective Services exchanged data for the first time on the outcomes in higher education of youth formerly in foster care. The Postsecondary Workgroup of the Foster Care & Education Committee of the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families examined the higher education outcomes of a cohort of 3,855 youth formerly in foster care who turned 18.

The Sample:
All youth who had ever been in foster care in TX:

- Turned 18 in 08’-09’
- Total = 3,855

Study Cohort:
Turned 18 in 08’-09’
T = 3,855

All youth had been in foster care at some point during childhood. Of the youth, 38% aged out of foster care meaning they turned 18 while in foster care; and 62% of the youth had left foster care prior to turning 18 due to reunification, adoption, or living with relatives.

33% of youth have enrolled in higher education within 7 years of turning 18.

96.4% have not obtained a degree.

1.5% of youth have a bachelors degree
0.5% of youth have an associate degree
1.5% of youth have a certificate

Higher Education refers to any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public college, or agency of higher education as defined by Tex. Educ. Code Section 61.003.
The Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission) initiated a statewide effort to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in foster care in 2010. A Postsecondary Workgroup, overseen by the Children's Commission, focuses efforts on understanding higher education attainment of Texas youth in foster care.

In the Fall of 2016, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) identified 4,035 youth who had ever been in foster care and turned 18 years old between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009.

DFPS sent the data to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) who matched 3,855 youth to their higher education data. THECB produced descriptive analyses including t-tests and chi-square tests, as appropriate.

Note: A major data limitation of these analyses is the absence of an indicator of whether a youth was eligible to receive a tuition waiver. Additionally, analyses were not conducted to understand differences between youth who exited foster care through different permanency outcomes.

### How Youth Exited Foster Care:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exit Type</th>
<th>Enrolled (%)</th>
<th>Not Enrolled (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth who were adopted</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>61.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth who were reunified</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>75.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth who aged out</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>57.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth in kinship placement</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Services Received By Youth While in Care:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Enrolled (%)</th>
<th>Not Enrolled (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Skills Training</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>92.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Training Vouchers (ETV)</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The youth who were in care longer were more likely to enroll in higher education.

- Of youth who have **enrolled** in higher education youth had an average of:
  - 1,405.3 days in care
  - 5.32 placement changes
- Of youth who have **not enrolled** in higher education youth had an average of:
  - 1,095.1 days in care
  - 5.35 placement changes

### Enrollment & Tuition Waiver Use for Youth Formerly in Foster Care:

- **Traditional College Cohort:** Youth who graduated HS and enrolled in 2009
  - 33% used waiver
  - 67% did not use the waiver

- Youth who enrolled sometime after the Fall of 2009
  - 31% used waiver
  - 69% did not use the waiver

*Not all who enrolled would have been eligible for waiver

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