

A photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, wearing dark, ribbed leggings and brown suede boots with laces. The person is standing on a metal grate with circular indentations. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a body of water and a distant shoreline.

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH AND
THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM:

DEMOGRAPHIC AND CASE CHARACTERISTICS

LOS ANGELES

FUNDED BY AND PREPARED FOR
THE CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

MARCH 2015

STEPHANIE CUCCARO-ALAMIN, PHD
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PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Adverse outcomes for youth emancipating from foster care in the United States have been well documented.¹ These include low educational attainment, high rates of unemployment and poverty, homelessness, mental illness, incarceration, and premature death. In response to this evidence, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation launched an ambitious program strategy in March 2012 to assist youth transitioning out of foster care in Los Angeles County and New York City. The strategy involves three primary initiatives:

1. Increasing transition-age youth self-sufficiency through improved college and career readiness, stronger caregivers, and special services for the most vulnerable youth;
2. Strengthening collaboration and alignment across the systems that influence foster youth outcomes;
3. Developing and disseminating knowledge for the field.²

In June 2014, the Foundation contracted with the Children's Data Network (CDN) at the University of Southern California to embark on a program of research around transition-age youth (TAY) in Los Angeles County to support these primary initiatives. The CDN is a data and research collaborative focused on the linkage and analysis of administrative records. In partnership with public agencies, philanthropic funders, community stakeholders, and the California Child Welfare Indicators Project at the University of California at Berkeley, the CDN seeks to generate knowledge and advance evidence-rich policies that will improve the health, safety, and well-being of children.³

This first report grew out of the Foundation's Transition Age Youth Convening held in May 2014. Many stakeholders and other grantees voiced the need for a comprehensive overview of data regarding transition-age youth who are involved in Los Angeles County's child protection system. This report was conceived to address that need and to assist the Foundation in its goal of developing and disseminating knowledge for the field.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was funded through a grant to the Children's Data Network from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. We are deeply appreciative of the Foundation's investment in data and knowledge generation under the leadership of Jeannine Balfour and Emily Skehan.

This report aggregates publicly available data from California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP). CCWIP is a longstanding collaboration of the University of California at Berkeley and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), supported by funding from both CDSS and the Stuart Foundation. At CDSS, we are incredibly fortunate to have Kevin Gaines, Akhtar Khan, Dave McDowell, Will Lightbourne, Sarah Rock, Greg Rose, Alicia Sandoval and our other state colleagues as partners. At the Child Welfare Indicators Project, we are indebted to Barbara Needell, Michael Armijo, Sean Lee, Bill Dawson, Markus Excel, Joseph Magruder, Bryn King, Carol Peng, and Christine Lou. These individuals work tirelessly to make California's child protective services data accessible to all.

At the University of Southern California, we wish to thank Eric Lindberg for his editorial assistance and Jonathan Hoonhout and Andi Lane Eastman at the Children's Data Network for assistance with report management and production. We also extend our thanks to Matt Roe and John Braun for their valuable design and production assistance. Finally, we would like to acknowledge First 5 LA for ongoing funding to support the Children's Data Network – a university, agency, and community data collaborative focused on making better and smarter use of data to inform children's programs and policies.

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Conrad N. Hilton
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Children's
DataNetwork



REPORT OVERVIEW

REPORT OVERVIEW

This report summarizes and describes data regarding transition-age youth (TAY) involved with Los Angeles County's child protective services (CPS) system. The goal of the report is to improve the Foundation, its grantees, and other stakeholder's understandings of this special population. The data are derived from publicly available reports published by the California Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project (CCWIP).⁴

CCWIP is a collaborative data and research project between the University of California at Berkeley and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). CCWIP provides policy makers, child welfare workers, researchers, and the public with direct access to customizable information on California's entire child welfare system.⁵ The scope of CCWIP's work was recently expanded to include a partnership with the Children's Data Network (CDN) at the University of Southern California.

Although the CCWIP website publishes a wide range of data concerning CPS populations in California and its 58 counties, these data are not organized to systematically assemble information specific to TAY.

Additionally, published data are not presented with an accompanying narrative to support the interpretation of trends or group differences.

The current report pulls together the many useful data tables from CCWIP for the TAY population, providing information on the composition of the population in Los Angeles County, rates of contact with the child protection system, and service experiences in this system from first report to exit.

Report text and figures highlight important data findings. More detailed data tables are included in a report compendium. Additionally, accompanying the report is a table matrix that includes CCWIP report URLs and detailed query information for all tables found in the compendium. Using this matrix, CN Hilton grantees and other stakeholders can access the CCWIP site and view updated data to monitor the status of the TAY population on an ongoing basis.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The report is designed to answer several broad questions regarding the trajectory of TAY in the CPS system. These include:

- What are the characteristics of TAY in Los Angeles County?
- How often do TAY in Los Angeles County come into contact with the CPS system?
- What are the characteristics of TAY who come into contact with the CPS system and enter foster care?
- What are the foster care trajectories of TAY from entry to exit?
- What are the characteristics of TAY currently in foster care and how have these characteristics changed over time?
- What are the experiences of TAY in foster care and the CPS system broadly defined?

To answer each of the above questions, this report examines demographic and case characteristics of TAY in comparison with all children in a given population across the age spectrum.

We also examine data patterns over time (2003-2013), taking advantage of an administrative CPS data collection system that has now been in use for more than a decade. For contextual purposes, data for the state of California are also presented where warranted.

Armed with this comprehensive and timely information regarding TAY, stakeholders can more effectively monitor and advocate for this population's specific needs at both the county and the state level. Such information is also critical to the development and implementation of services for these vulnerable youth. Finally, the report provides baseline data for measurement of the Foundation's Children and Youth in Foster Care Strategy efforts.

METHODOLOGY

Specified tables for the age groups of interest were downloaded from the CCWIP public use website.⁶

CCWIP receives updated Child Welfare Services / Case Management System (CWS/CMS) data extracts from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on a quarterly basis.

The Quarter 2, 2014 extract was utilized for the current report.

Because, CCWIP completely refreshes data on a quarterly basis, queries from subsequent extracts will yield slightly different totals and percentages for the same time periods covered in the report.

DEFINITIONS

The Foundation's transition-age youth program strategy focuses on youth age 16–24. CCWIP reports, however, are available for youth 0–20. Therefore, for this report, the transition-age youth (TAY) population is defined as youth age 16–20.

For each indicator, the age range available is determined by programmatic or statutory factors. For instance, by statute, reports of maltreatment only involve minors under the age of 18. Youth age 18 and older, however, can receive child protective services and remain in foster care.

Most report sections include complete data on youth age 16–20, broken out into TAY age subgroups of 16–17 and 18–20. In other sections, the TAY population is limited to youth age 16–17. In each case, the specific age range of the relevant denominator is noted. For comparison purposes, the report also provides data on the population of youth age 0–15.

TABLE CONSTRUCTION

Most reports on the CCWIP website have enhanced reporting capabilities so that users may examine data for specific counties and demographic subgroups. Numerous time period views are also available, allowing users to examine a specific time period or indicators across time periods.

Although the CCWIP reports are highly customizable, there are some limitations to the types of tables users can request. Specifically, only one row variable dimension can be selected at a time and all dimensions are not universally available across reports. Multiple report queries were therefore required to create the accompanying analyses tables.

Component tables were downloaded and then concatenated for presentation. The resulting Table Compendium is included as Appendix A. Generally, for each data indicator, four sets of standard tables are included in a Table Series. Tables in a series are designated by the standard notation X.#, where X = table series number, and # refers to a specific age range included. Specifically, X.1 refers to the total age range, X.2 refers to youth age 0–15, X.3 to TAY age 16–17, and X.4 to TAY age 18–20.

The number of tables in a series is determined by the age range available for the specific indicator presented.

The text and figures included in the body of the report represent only a small fraction of the information available in the accompanying table compendium.

Readers are encouraged to use the tables for more comprehensive information. Readers are also encouraged to further explore the CCWIP website for more in-depth analysis. A detailed matrix of report tables and their respective component reports on the CCWIP website is included as Appendix B.

The goal of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of data regarding the population of transition-age foster youth involved in the child protection system in Los Angeles County. Because the report relies on existing data, gaps in our knowledge remain.

The expectation is that providing this overview of the unique characteristics and challenges of TAY in Los Angeles County, will allow researchers, policy makers, and service providers to begin to address these gaps to better serve this population of vulnerable youth.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This report provides a comprehensive overview of data regarding the population of transition-age youth involved in the child protection system in Los Angeles County.

The report was designed to answer several broad questions regarding the trajectory of TAY in the child protective services system. To summarize, our findings in these areas of inquiry are:

What are the characteristics of TAY in Los Angeles County?

- As of 2013, a large proportion (1 in 4) of California TAY (age 16–20) resides in Los Angeles County.
- TAY account for one quarter of the population age 0–20 in Los Angeles County.
- Nearly two thirds of TAY in Los Angeles County are Latino. This proportion has increased during the last decade (2003–2013).
- The proportion of Black and White TAY has declined during the past decade (2003–2013).

How often do TAY in Los Angeles County come into contact with the CPS system?

- As of 2013, 50 per 1,000 TAY (age 16–17) in Los Angeles County were alleged victims of child abuse and neglect, and 8 per 1,000 had substantiated allegations.
- Child abuse and neglect allegation rates in Los Angeles County have increased for all age groups (age 0–17) during the past decade. Substantiation rates have remained relatively stable over time.
- TAY have systematically lower allegation and substantiation rates than youth age 0–15.
- Regardless of age, Black youth in Los Angeles County have higher allegation and substantiation rates than all other racial/ethnic groups.
- Female TAY have higher allegation and substantiation rates than their male counterparts.

What are the characteristics of TAY who come into contact with the CPS system and enter foster care?

- In 2013, TAY (age 16–17) accounted for 10% of all children with child abuse and neglect allegations and 7% of all children with substantiated allegations in Los Angeles County.
- TAY are less likely to have their abuse and neglect allegations substantiated than their younger counterparts.
- Although a majority of TAY with child abuse and neglect allegations are reported for neglect, TAY are more likely to have allegations and substantiations for sexual abuse than their younger counterparts (age 0–15).
- Compared to their proportions in the general population, among youth with child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations, Black and Latino youth are overrepresented, whereas White and Asian / P.I. youth are underrepresented.
- Among TAY with both allegations and substantiations the proportion of Latinos has increased during the past decade, whereas the proportion of both Black and White TAY alleged and substantiated victims has declined.
- Among TAY, females are more likely than males to have abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations. Nearly two thirds of substantiated TAY victims are female.
- The number of TAY with child welfare case openings has remained stable over time.
- More than two thirds of TAY with child-welfare-supervised and probation-supervised case openings are Latino.
- Compared to their same-age counterparts in the general population, Blacks are overrepresented among TAY with child-welfare-supervised and probation supervised case openings.
- Among TAY with child welfare case openings, females are also overrepresented. Among probation-supervised case openings, regardless of age, males are overrepresented.
- On July 1, 2013, nearly half of TAY age 16–17 receiving services were in permanent placement. Nearly 70% of TAY age 18–20 were receiving supportive transition services via AB12.

What are the foster care trajectories of TAY from entry to exit?

- In 2013, only 5 per 1,000 children age 0–17 entered foster care. TAY age 16–17 have lower rates of foster care entry than their younger counterparts.
- First entries to foster care among TAY in Los Angeles County have remained stable over time, whereas reentries to foster care among TAY age 18–20 have increased since the implementation of extended foster care (AB12).
- Compared to their same-age counterparts in the general population, Black TAY are overrepresented in both the first entry and reentry populations.
- Males are overrepresented among both TAY first entries and reentries to out-of-home care.
- Entries to foster care for other reasons, including exploitation and child disability or handicap, account for the majority of entries and reentries among TAY age 16–17.
- Compared to their younger counterparts (age 0–15), TAY age 16–17 who enter or reenter care are much more likely to be placed in congregate care (group/shelter) and less likely to be placed in family settings (kin, foster homes, foster family agency homes).
- TAY age 16–17 entering care for the first time have slightly less stable placements than their younger counterparts, whereas TAY reentering care have slightly more stable placements.
- TAY age 16–17 who reenter care have much longer median lengths of stay than first entrants.
- In 2013, TAY were more likely than their younger counterparts to exit to emancipation or in other ways, and less likely to exit to permanency (i.e., reunification, adoption, kin-gap, and guardianship).
- Black and Latino TAY are more likely than their counterparts of other race/ethnicities to exit by running away, refusing services, incarceration, or death. They are less likely to exit to permanency.
- Male TAY are less likely to exit to permanency before age 18 than their female counterparts.

What are the characteristics of TAY currently in foster care and how have these characteristics changed over time?

- Out-of-home care caseloads (age 0–20) have declined in Los Angeles County during the past decade.
- Since the recession, exits have declined and entries have stabilized for TAY age 16–17. Reentries, however have increased for TAY ages 18–20 with the implementation of AB12; and as a result, the TAY caseload in Los Angeles County has grown.
- On July 1, 2013, TAY (age 16–20) accounted for nearly one quarter of those in out-of-home placement in Los Angeles County.
- Black youth are overrepresented in the Los Angeles County out-of-home care TAY population, whereas White, Latino, and Asian / P.I. youth are underrepresented.
- TAY who remain in out-of-home care past age 18 are more likely to be female.
- TAY in out-of-home care are less likely than their younger counterparts to be in care for neglect and more likely to be in care for other reasons.
- TAY age 16-17 are less likely than their younger counterparts also in out-of-home placement to be placed in family-like settings (kin, foster homes, or foster family agency homes) and more likely to be placed in congregate care (group/shelter), with guardians, or to have runaway status.

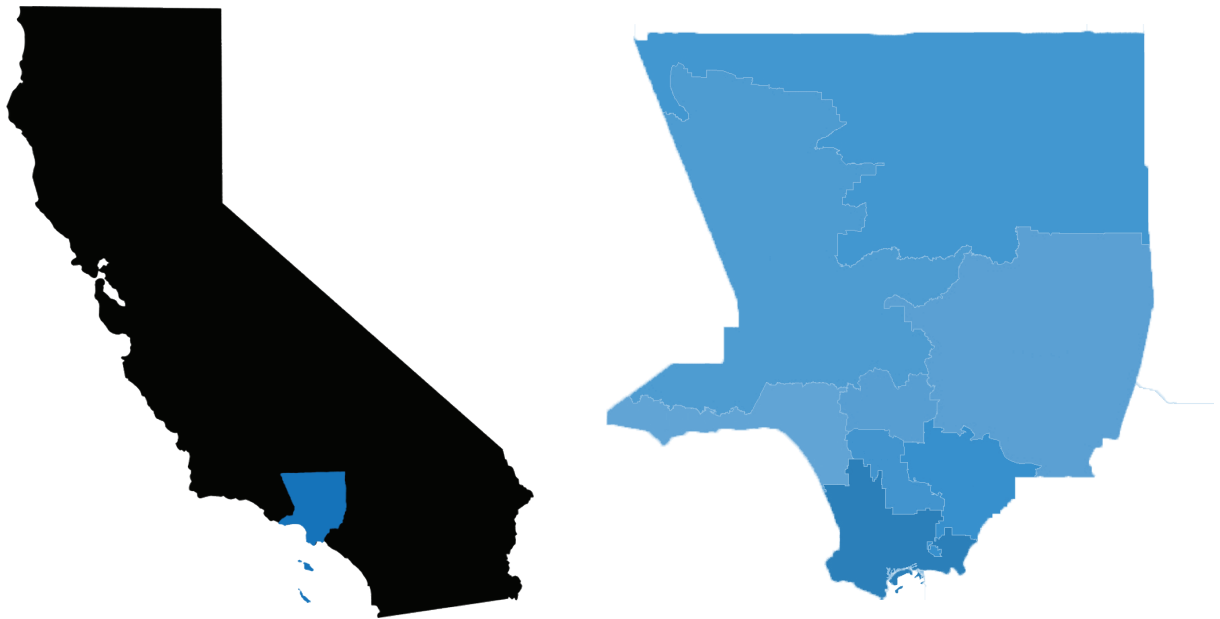
What are the experiences of TAY in foster care and the CPS system broadly defined?

- TAY (age 16–20) are more likely to have been in care for longer periods of time than their younger counterparts.
- Over time, TAY age 16–20 have slightly higher rates of on-time medical exams than their younger counterparts age 0–15.
- TAY age 18–20 have slightly lower rates of timely dental exams than their younger counterparts.
- TAY are more likely than their younger counterparts (age 0–15) in out-of-home placement to have had an IEP.
- Nearly 1 in 3 TAY in Los Angeles County are authorized for psychotropic medications. Among the out-of-home care population age 0–15, this rate is 1 in 10.
- In 2013, the majority of youth whose whereabouts were known when emancipating from child-welfare-supervised and probation-supervised care in Los Angeles County emancipated having a permanency connection, having received ILP services, and with housing arrangements.
- In 2013, few youth emancipated having achieved a high school diploma or equivalency or having obtained employment.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

MORE THAN ONE IN FOUR TAY IN CALIFORNIA (AGE
16–20) RESIDES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

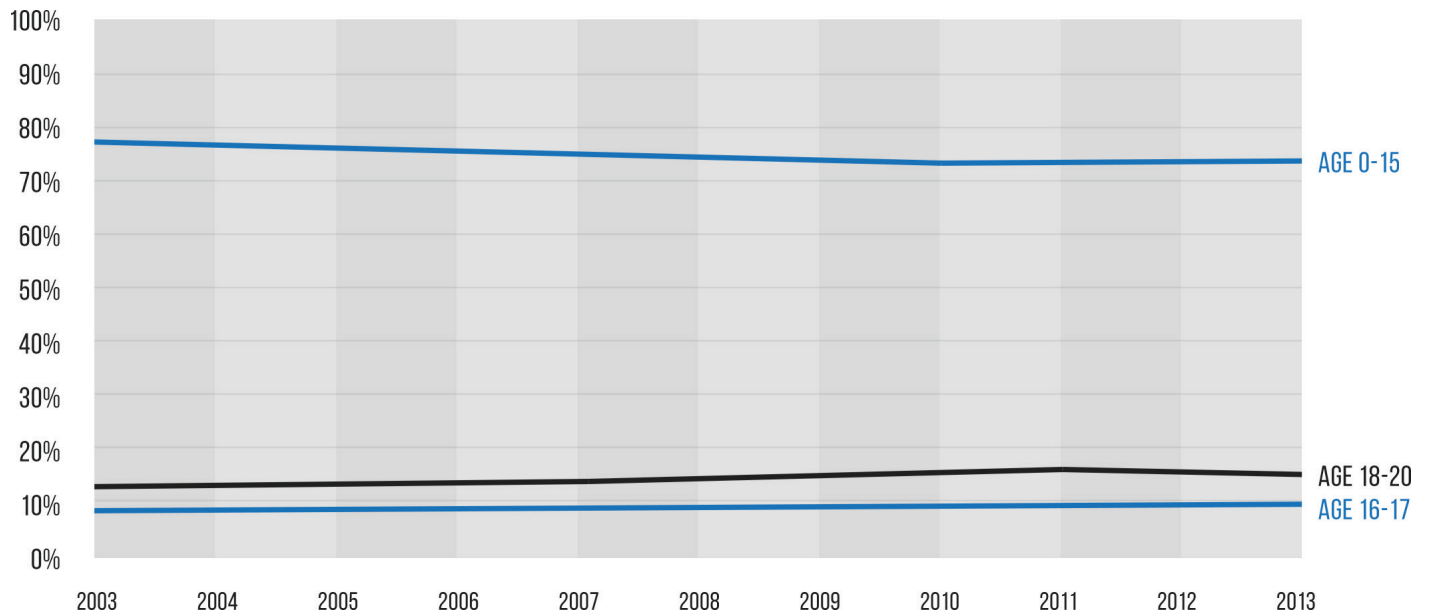


In 2013, Los Angeles County was home to nearly 2.8 million people age 0–20, accounting for one quarter of California’s total population age 0–20.⁷

Table Series 1, found in Appendix A, provides descriptive information regarding age, race/ethnicity, and gender for this population (age 0–20), the child population age 0–15, and the TAY subpopulations age 16–17 and 18–20.

THE TAY POPULATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HAS GROWN SLIGHTLY OVER THE PAST DECADE

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION (AGE 0-20) BY AGE GROUP



AGE

Los Angeles County accounts for approximately one quarter of California's total TAY population (age 16–20).⁸

Between 2003 and 2013, the total population age 0–20 in Los Angeles County declined 11%.⁹ Despite the decline, the TAY population age 16–20 grew by 1.4%.¹⁰ The 18–20 age cohort was responsible for this increase; its share of the total child population (age 0–20) grew more than 4%, whereas the proportion of TAY age 16–17 declined almost 3%.

Figure 1 details the proportion of the population age 0–20 over time accounted for by TAY age 16–17 and 18–20, respectively, and youth age 0–15.

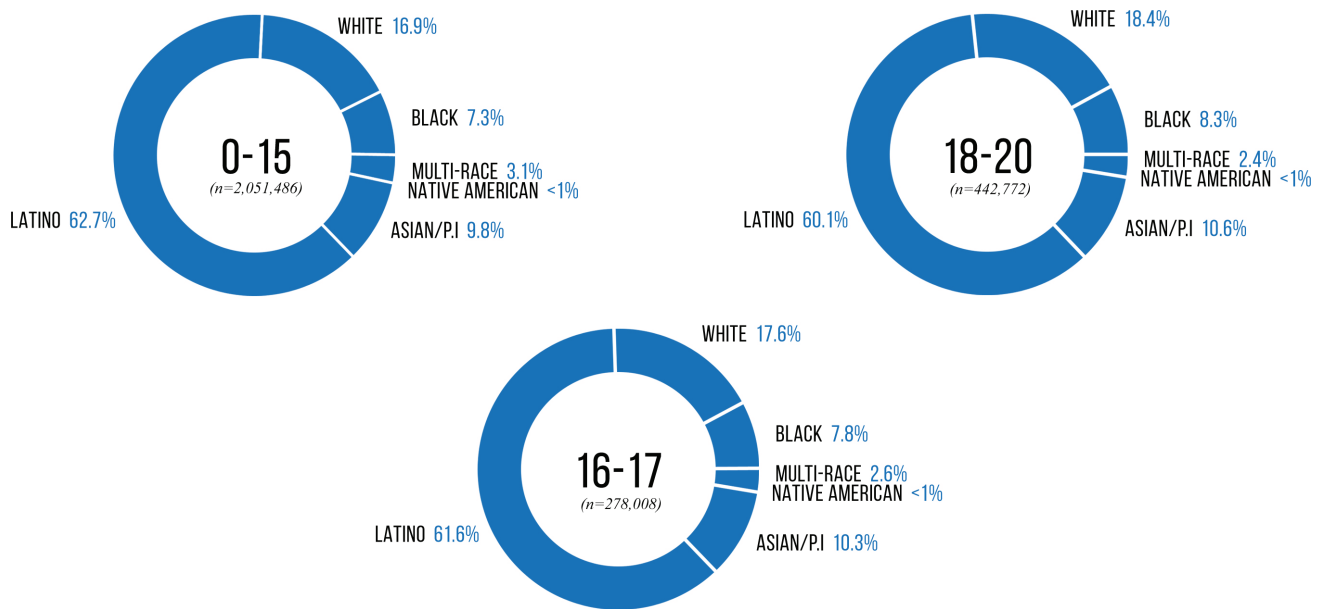
In 2013, TAY (age 16–20) accounted for 26% of the population age 0–20 in Los Angeles County, with TAY age 16–17 comprising 10% and TAY age 18–20 comprising 16%.

Although small, the observed increase in the proportion of TAY age 18–20 in the overall population has important implications for economic and welfare decision-making in Los Angeles County. All TAY, regardless of their child protective services history, face many important challenges as they transition to adulthood—including access to postsecondary education and employment.

The landscape of opportunities available for these youth has profound implications for how successfully they can make this important transition. This is of particular importance for vulnerable youth.

IN 2013, NEARLY TWO THIRDS OF THE TAY
POPULATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY WAS
LATINO

FIGURE 2: POPULATION (AGE 0-20) BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

As Figure 2 illustrates, the racial/ethnic distributions of the TAY subpopulations closely resemble the age 0–15 population in the county. In 2013, 62% of the TAY population age 16–17 was Latino, White youth accounted for almost 18%, Black youth 8%, Asian / Pacific Islander youth 10%, Native Americans made up less than 1%, and multiracial youth 3%. Roughly similar proportions are observed among TAY age 18–20.

FIGURE 3: POPULATION (AGE 0-20) BY RACE/ETHNICITY

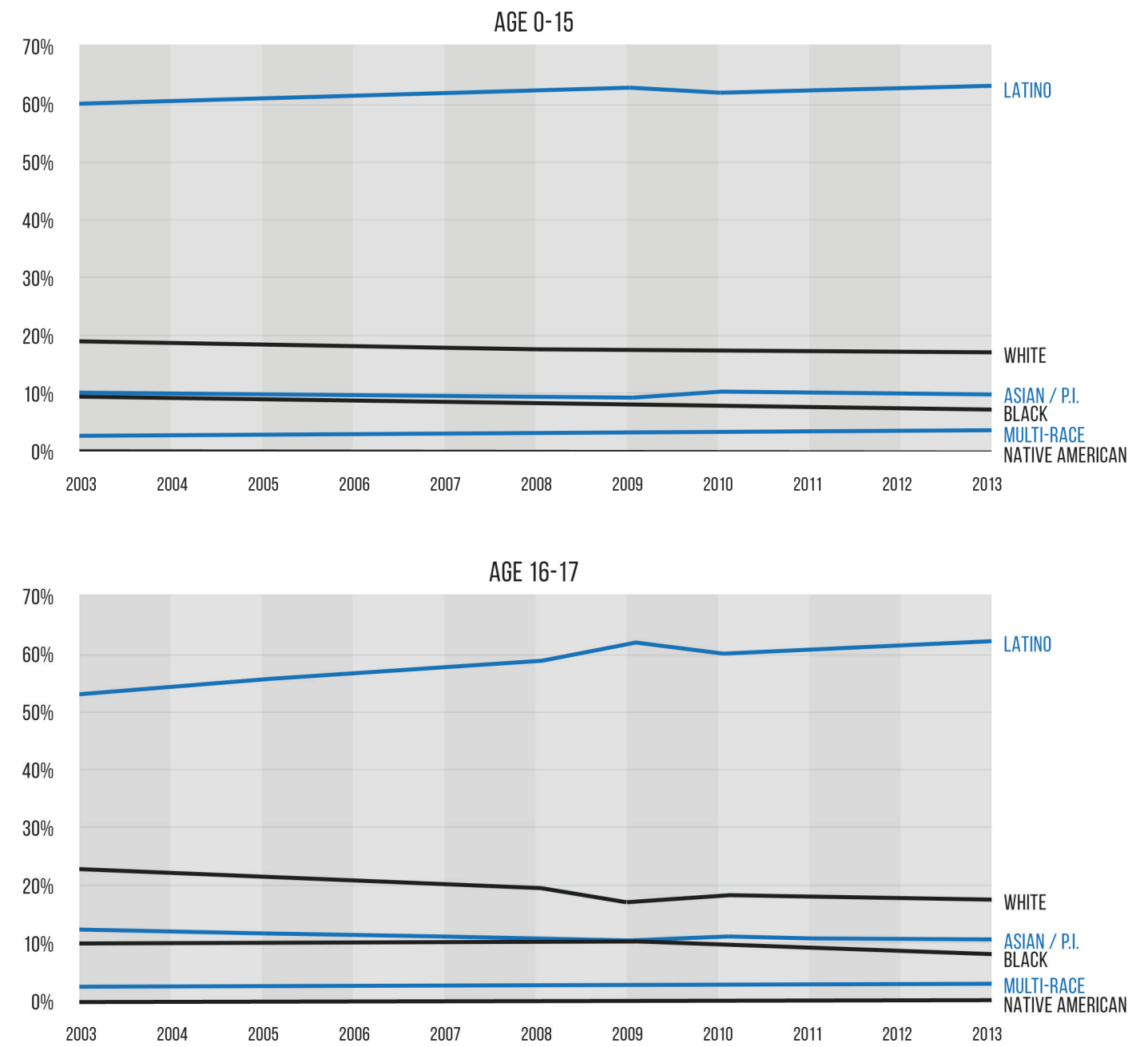
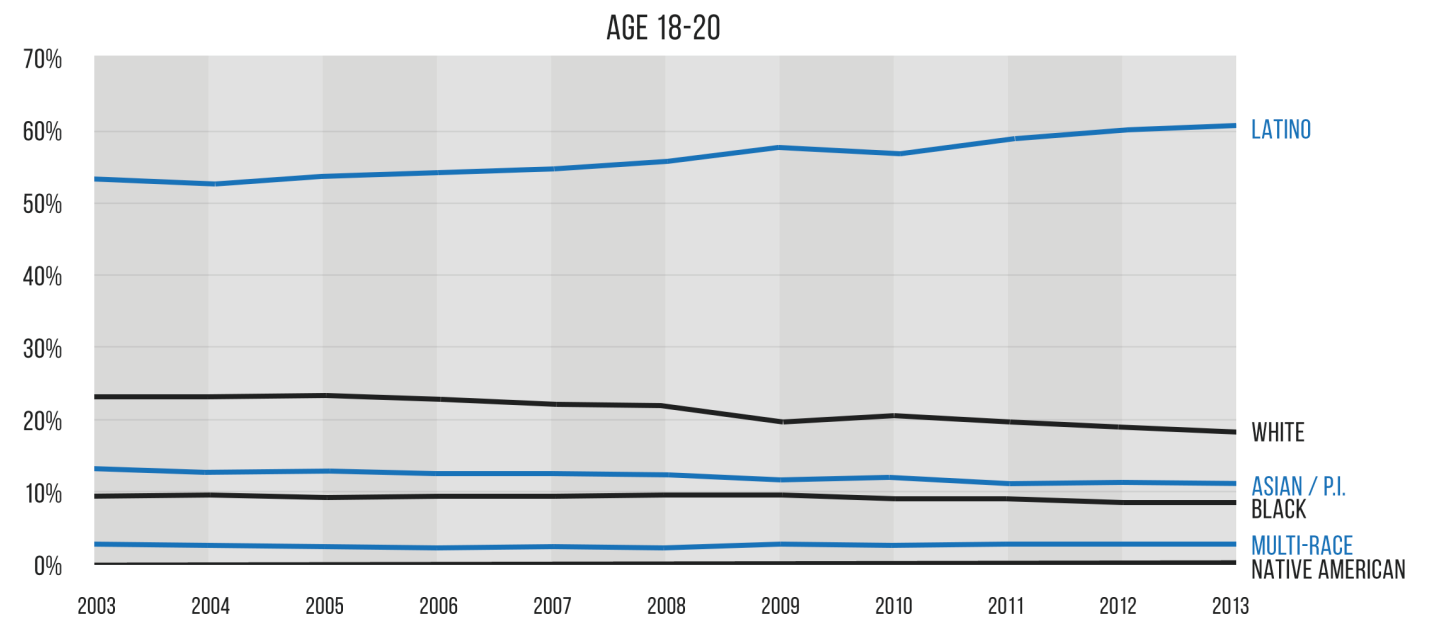


FIGURE 3: POPULATION (AGE 0-20) BY RACE/ETHNICITY



**THE PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS AGE 0–20 IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WHO ARE BLACK OR WHITE
HAS DECLINED DURING THE LAST DECADE**

Figure 3 details the racial/ethnic distribution over time (2003–2013) by age group.

During the past decade, the proportion of Latino TAY age 16–17 grew 15%, and the proportion age 18–20 grew 14%. By contrast, among youth age 0–15, the proportion of Latinos grew only 5%.¹¹

In 2003, 54% of TAY age 16–17 were Latino, compared to 62% in 2013. Similarly, the proportions grew from 53% to 60% during the decade for TAY age 18–20. This proportional increase was much greater than that observed in the age 0–15 population, which was already 60% in 2003 and grew to 63% by 2013.

Decreases were observed in the proportion of Black youth during the last decade. Specifically, the proportion of Black TAY age 16–17 declined 22% from 10% to 8% and the proportion of Black TAY age 18–20 declined 10% from 9% to 8%. A 21% decline in the proportion of Blacks was also observed among youth age 0–15.¹²

Decreases were also observed in the proportion of White youth during this time period. The proportions of Whites among TAY age 16–17 and those age 18–20 declined 22% and 20%, respectively. A smaller decline (12%) in the proportion of Whites was observed among youth age 0–15.¹³

The proportion of Asian / P.I.s also declined among TAY subgroups during the last decade, but grew slightly among the younger population age 0–15. Specifically, the proportion of Asian / P.I. individuals declined 12% among TAY age 16–17 and 17% among TAY age 18–20. By contrast, the proportion of Asian / P.I.s age 0–15 grew 4% between 2003 and 2013.¹⁴

The impact of the economic downturn in 2007 can clearly be seen in Figure 3. Specifically, most of the proportional increase observed among Latino TAY occurred between 2007 and 2010. During the recession, outmigration of both Whites and Blacks from California and Los Angeles County in particular increased.¹⁵ Recent research suggests this has created a larger equity gap in Los Angeles County, because those who could afford to leave, did so.¹⁶ Thus, the families that remain, many of them Latino, may be more susceptible to economic dislocation.

GENDER

Table Series 1 illustrates the gender distribution of the population age 0–20 in Los Angeles County. The gender composition of the TAY subpopulations is roughly equal (51% male and 49% female) and is similar to that observed within the population of youth age 0–15. This distribution has remained stable during the past decade.

FOOTNOTES

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1 Culhane, D.P.; Byrne, T.; & Metraux, S.; Moreno, M.; Toros, H.; & Stevens, M. Young. (2011). Adult Outcomes of Youth Exiting Dependent or Delinquent Care In Los Angeles County.
- 2 <http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/foster-youth>
- 3 <http://cdn.usc.edu/about-us/>

REPORT OVERVIEW

- 4 http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/
- 5 http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/about.html

METHODOLOGY

- 6 http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- 7 2013 CA population age 0–20 n = 10,917,054.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Population.aspx
- 8 2013 CA population age 16–17 n = 1,071,959; age 18–20 n = 1,766,505.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Population.aspx
- 9 Percent change in population age 0–20 from 2003–2013: $((2,772,265 - 3,119,477) / 3,119,477) * 100 = -11.1\%$.
- 10 Percent change in TAY population from 2003–2013 age 16–20: $((720,780 - 710,667) / 710,667) * 100 = 1.4\%$; age 16–17: $((278,008 - 286,151) / 286,151) * 100 = -2.9\%$; age 18–20: $((442,772 - 424,516) / 424,516) * 100 = 4.3\%$.
- 11 Latino percent change in proportion of age 0–20 population from 2003–2013: age 0–15 $((62.7 - 59.7) / 59.7) = 5\%$; age 16–17 $((61.6 - 53.5) / 53.5) = 15\%$; age 18–20 $((60.1 - 52.8) / 52.8) = 14\%$.

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- 12 Black percent change in proportion of age 0–20 population from 2003–2013: age 0–15 $((7.3-9.2)/9.2) = -21\%$; age 16–17 $((7.8-10.0)/10.0) = -22\%$; age 18–20 $((8.3-9.2)/9.2) = -10\%$.
- 13 White percent change in proportion of age 0–20 population from 2003–2013: age 0–15 $((16.9-19.2)/19.2) = -12\%$; age 16–17 $((17.6-22.6)/22.6) = -22\%$; age 18–20 $((18.4-23.1)/23.1) = -20\%$.
- 14 Asian / P.I. percent change in proportion of age 0–20 population from 2003–2013: age 0–15 $((9.8-9.4)/9.4) = 4\%$; age 16–17 $((10.3-11.7)/11.7) = -12\%$; age 18–20 $((10.6-12.8)/12.8) = -17\%$.
- 15 <http://www.economist.com/node/10697106>
- 16 Gray, T. & Scardamalia, R. (2012). The great California exodus: A closer look (Manhattan Institute for Policy Research Civic Report No. 71). Retrieved from http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_71.htm#.VAU1sPldX-s and U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). 2007-2011 county-to-county migration flows (Working Paper No. 2014-036). Retrieved from: http://www.census.gov/hhes/migration/files/acs/county-to-county/2007-2011/2007-2011_Flows_Working_Paper.pdf

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

Initial contact with the child protective service system typically begins with an allegation of child abuse or neglect. Children 18 and under can be reported to CPS agencies as alleged victims. All allegations are screened to determine whether an investigation is warranted.

Allegations are evaluated out if insufficient evidence exists. If evidence of potential abuse and neglect is obtained through the allegation, an in-person investigation is conducted to assess the evidence of maltreatment. Following an investigation, allegations can be dismissed as unfounded, determined to be inconclusive, or substantiated.

When allegations are substantiated, the CPS agency response is dependent on risk level. Specifically, voluntary services may be offered to the child and family at home, or the child may be removed from home and placed in foster care.

When families refuse voluntary in-home services, services fail to keep the child safe, or when a child is removed from home, the dependency case then falls under the jurisdiction of the family court system. If the court determines there are sufficient grounds for its involvement, the child then becomes a dependent of the court. Court-approved case plans for each child are then formulated.

Again depending on risk level, some court-dependent children may remain at home and receive family maintenance services, whereas others are removed from home and placed in foster care and begin family reunification services.

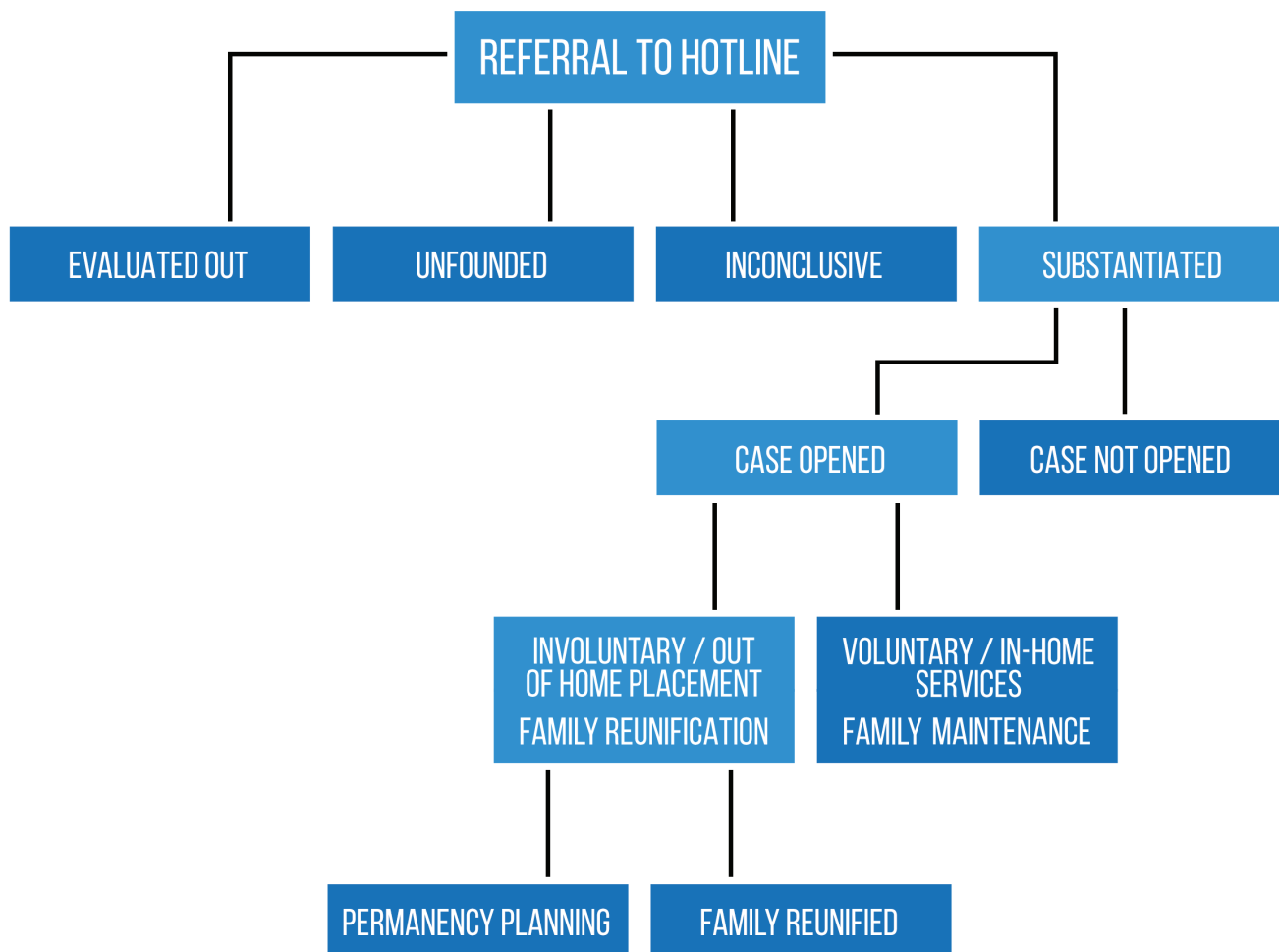
If in-home (family maintenance) services fail to ensure child safety, children are removed from home. If family reunification services fail and it is determined that children cannot be safely reunited with their families, efforts are made to find a safe and permanent alternative home for the child.¹⁷

Dependency cases are closed when courts determine that the child has been safely reunified or there is no longer need for services, or when the child exits to another form of permanency.

TAY can follow any of these child protective services trajectories. Understanding the CPS involvement of TAY and the characteristics of this involvement is critical for planning primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention measures and community service planning.

The graphic on the following page illustrates possible trajectories through the child protection system.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TRAJECTORY



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATION RATES

How often do TAY in Los Angeles County come into contact with the child protection system? Incidence rates provide a population-level measure of such CPS contact, indicating how many children per 1,000 in the population were alleged victims of abuse and neglect in a given year.

Rates are calculated by dividing the number of children with CPS contact by the total number of children in the population (risk group for an event). This number is then multiplied by 1,000 to produce the population rate.

Table Series 2 presents allegation rates and Table Series 3 presents substantiation rates for TAY and all youth in Los Angeles County. Because only youth younger than 18 can be reported for child abuse and neglect, rates are only available for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

ALTHOUGH ALLEGATION RATES HAVE INCREASED FOR TAY DURING THE LAST DECADE, SUBSTANTIATION RATES HAVE REMAINED STABLE

FIGURE 4: ALLEGATION AND SUBSTANTIATION RATES BY AGE GROUP

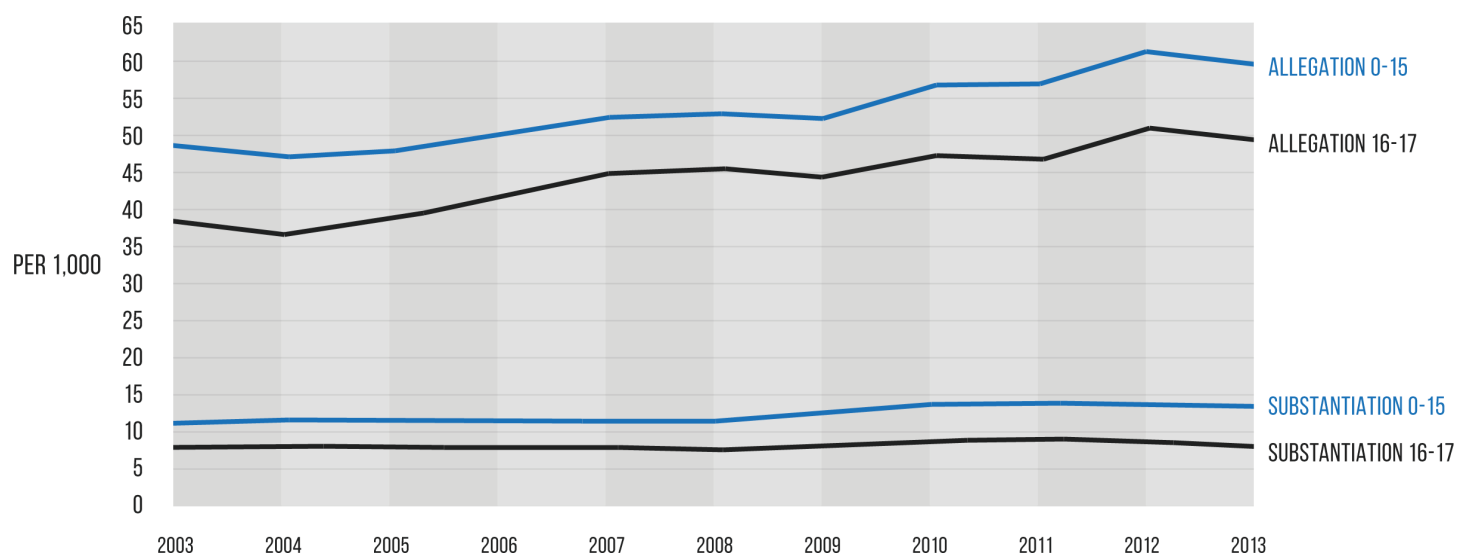


Figure 4 presents allegation and substantiation rates per 1,000 over time (2003–2013) for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

Allegation rates in Los Angeles County have increased during the past decade, whereas substantiation rates have remained relatively stable.

As Figure 4 indicates, during the past decade, maltreatment allegation rates have increased for both TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15. This increase, however, has not been steady. Allegation rates increased between 2004 and 2007, were generally stable between 2007 and 2009, and then increased again following the recession between 2009 and 2012. Since 2012, they have declined slightly.

By contrast, allegations rates in other California counties declined slightly for TAY and youth age 0–15 over the decade.¹⁸ These data suggest that families with children in Los Angeles County may have been particularly affected by the economic downturn.

Although allegation rates for both age groups follow similar patterns over time, rates among TAY (age 16–17) are systematically lower than for youth age 0–15. As of 2013, 48.9 per 1,000 TAY in Los Angeles County were alleged victims of abuse and neglect, compared to 59.3 per 1,000 for youth age 0–15.

Although allegations rates have increased during the last decade, there has only been a small increase in the rates of children substantiated as victims.

**TAY HAVE SYSTEMICALLY LOWER SUBSTANTIATION
RATES THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS**

Substantiation rates were stable across age groups between 2003 and 2007, after which time they increased slightly from 7.3 per 1,000 in 2008 to a high of 8.6 per 1,000 in 2011 among TAY, and from 11.0 per 1,000 to 13.6 per 1,000 for youth age 0–15 between 2008 and 2012. Between 2012 and 2013, rates for both age groups declined slightly. Substantiation rates for the rest of California counties declined for TAY and youth age 0–15 over the decade.¹⁹

As Figure 4 indicates, TAY (age 16–17) also have systematically lower substantiation rates than their younger counterparts (age 0–15).

The marked increase in allegation rates but relatively stable substantiation rates evidenced among TAY and all youth in Los Angeles County may reflect the impact of the economic downturn. In particular, actual or perceived risk for children may have increased following the recession.

Increased awareness of child maltreatment and mandated reporting protocols would result in higher allegation rates for all youth. Stable substantiation rates may reflect either little change in actual abuse rates, or conversely, real increases but limited agency resources to deal with those increases.

FIGURE 5: ALLEGATION AND SUBSTANTIATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

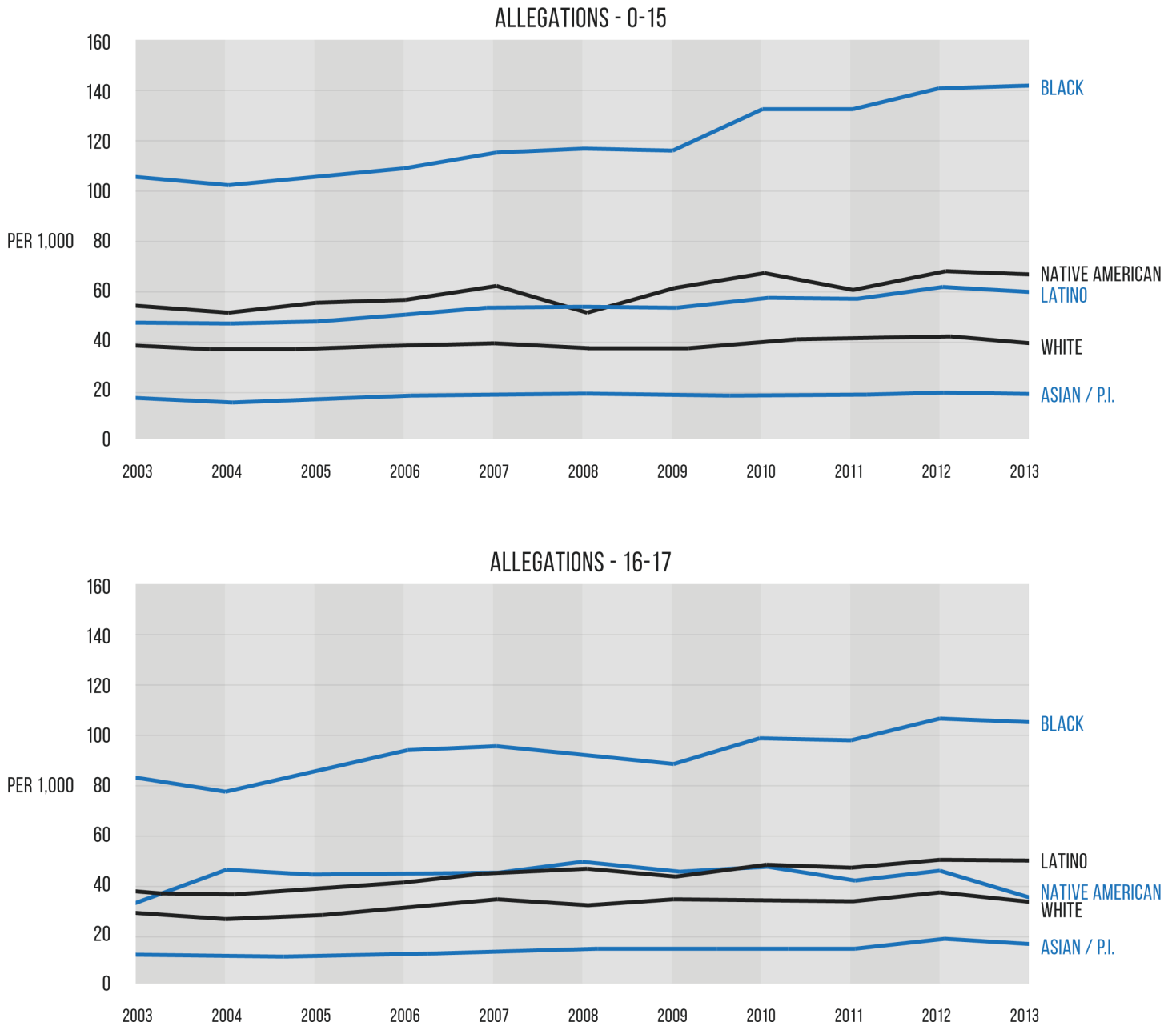
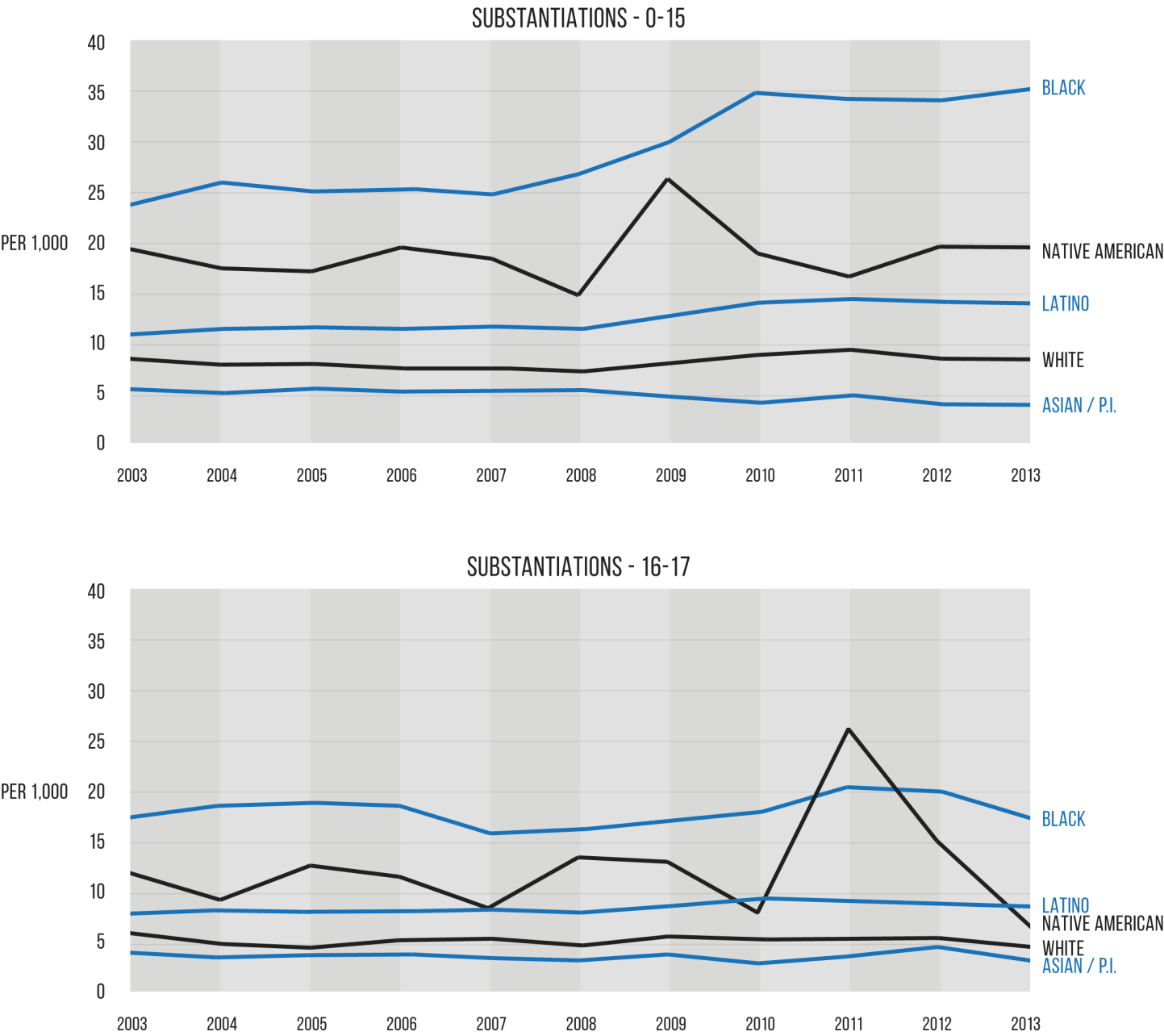


FIGURE 5: ALLEGATION AND SUBSTANTIATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY



RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 5 provides allegation and substantiation rates per 1,000 over time by race/ethnicity for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

Although maltreatment allegation rates have increased for almost all racial/ethnic groups during the past decade, as Figure 5 illustrates, they have done so disproportionately for both Black and Latino youth. In 2003, 82 per 1,000 Black TAY were alleged victims of maltreatment, compared to 105 per 1,000 in 2013.

Among Latino TAY, rates rose from 37 per 1,000 to 49 per 1,000 during the same time period. These trends were also observed among all Black and Latino youth age 0–15.

Allegation rates for Native American youth overall also increased during the decade, but the trend was not consistent among TAY. The Native American youth population is quite small, accounting for only 0.2% of the overall population age 0–20 in the county; therefore, rates for this group are more volatile than those for other racial/ethnic groups and should be interpreted with caution.

Substantiation rates have increased for both Black and Latino youth age 0–15 during the past decade, but have remained relatively stable among TAY.

Figure 5 reveals a slight increase in rates among several racial/ethnic categories following the recession, but by 2013 they had returned to prerecession levels.

Again, although rates for Native American youth age 0–15 also increased during the decade, the trend was not consistent for TAY.

Regardless of age, Black youth have consistently higher child abuse and neglect allegation and substantiation rates than all other racial/ethnic groups.

Although the racial disproportionality in CPS contact, particularly among Black youth, has been well documented, it is important to note that it persists among TAY in Los Angeles County.²⁰

**FEMALE TAY HAVE HIGHER CHILD ABUSE AND
NEGLECT ALLEGATION AND SUBSTANTIATION
RATES THAN THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS**

GENDER

Figure 6 provides allegation and substantiation rates per 1,000 over time by gender for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

Across Los Angeles County, regardless of age, females have consistently higher rates of both child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations. These gender differences, however, are much greater among TAY age 16–17 than among youth age 0–15.

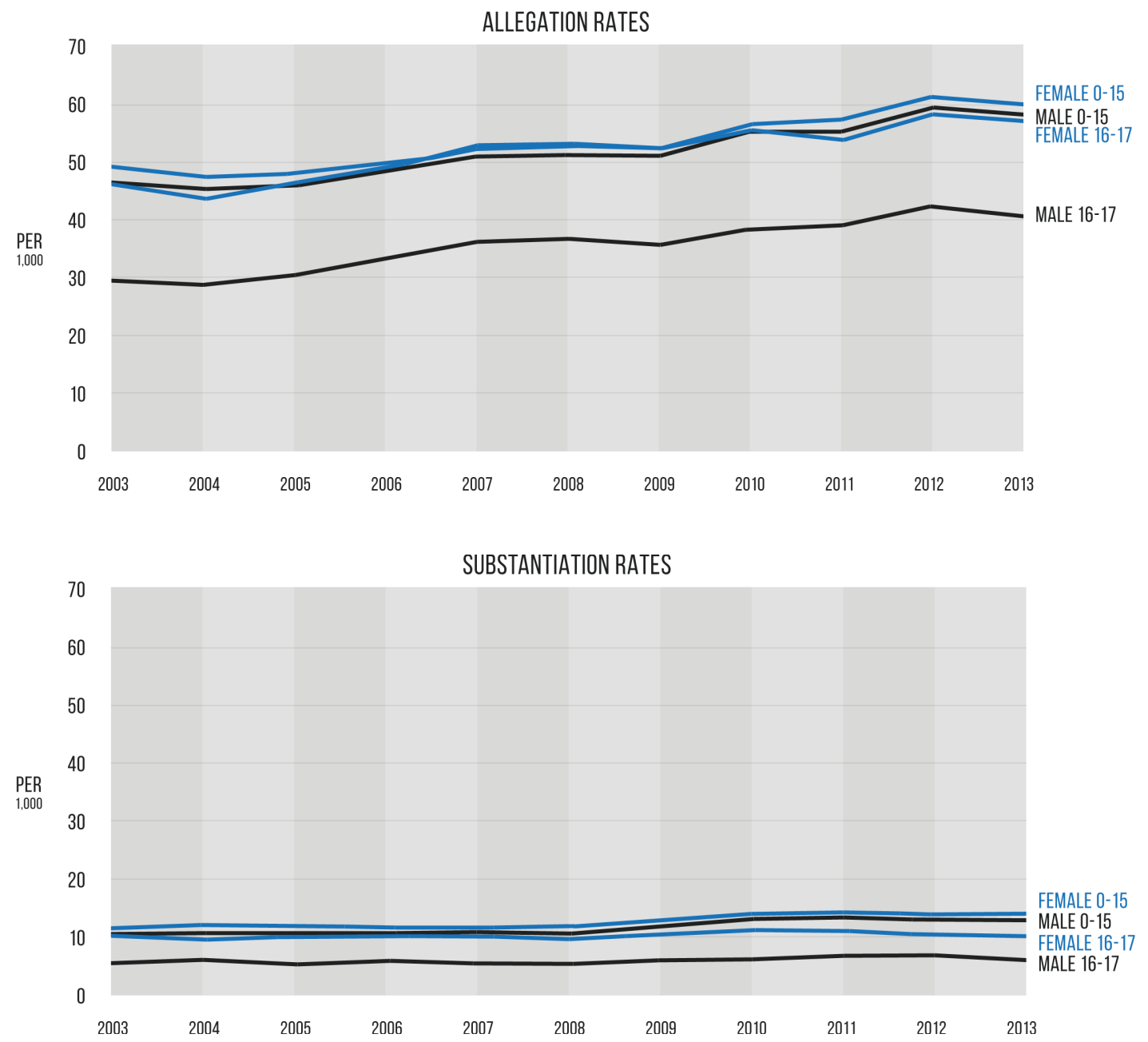
For instance, in 2013, allegation rates were 60 per 1,000 for female youth age 0–15 compared to 58.4 per 1,000 for males. Among TAY this difference was much larger: 57.3 per 1,000 for females compared to 40.7 per 1,000 for males.

Figure 6 also reveals that although substantiation rates are generally lower than allegation rates, these gender differences persist over time.

Allegation rates represent those received by child protective services. Generally, TAY females are more likely to enter care via the child welfare system, while males are more likely to enter via the probation system. These observed gender differences likely reflect this pattern.

National data routinely show slightly higher victimization rates for females than males, because females are more vulnerable to both sexual abuse and exploitation.²¹ These data, however, are not available by age group. Although older youth are less likely to be victimized overall, they are more likely to be victims of sexual abuse. The gender differences observed among TAY in Los Angeles County also likely reflect a higher likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation for female TAY.

FIGURE 6: ALLEGATION AND SUBSTANTIATION RATES BY GENDER



ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS AMONG TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

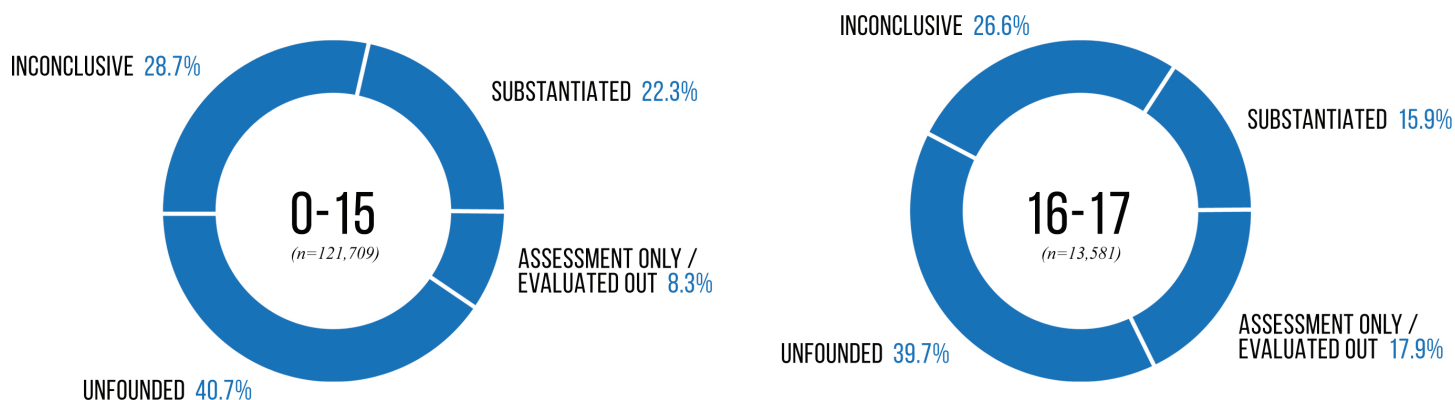
The following section provides a closer examination of the characteristics of TAY with allegations and substantiations.

Understanding the current distribution of demographic and case characteristics of TAY in the CPS population, how these attributes compare to all youth, and changes that have occurred over time will provide the Foundation and community-based grantee organizations that serve the TAY population with critical information to help respond to changing needs.

Table Series 4 presents data from 2003–2013 for children with one or more allegations by demographic and case characteristics, whereas Table Series 5 presents data from 2003–2013 for children with substantiations in the same manner.

In 2013, Los Angeles County accounted for 28% of children with allegations for abuse and neglect and 35% of all children with substantiated allegations statewide.²²

TAY (age 16 - 17) accounted for 10% of all children in Los Angeles County with an allegation of maltreatment and 7% of all children with a substantiated allegation in 2013.²³

FIGURE 7: CHILDREN WITH ALLEGATIONS BY DISPOSITION TYPE - 2013

DISPOSITION TYPE

Figure 7 details the disposition types for children with child abuse and neglect allegations in 2013 by age group. Regardless of age, less than 1 in 4 children with allegations of abuse and neglect are substantiated for maltreatment.

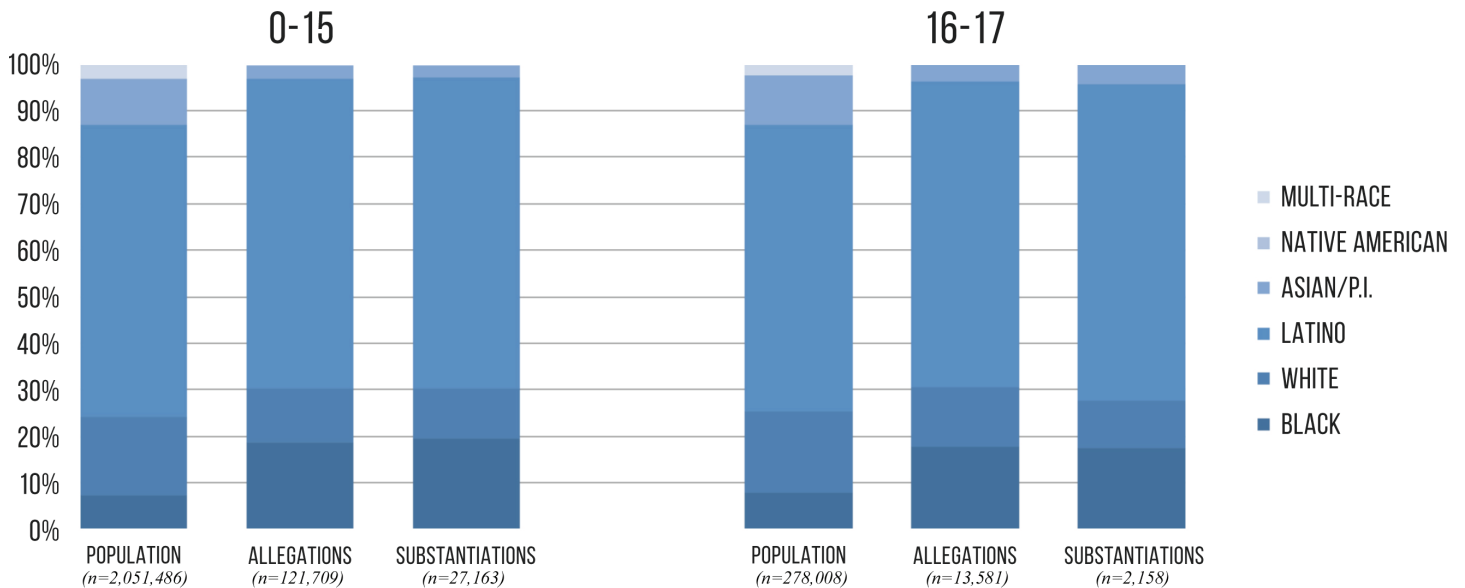
Among children with child abuse and neglect allegations, TAY are less likely to have allegations substantiated and more likely to have allegations evaluated out than their younger counterparts.

Examining children with allegations in 2013 by disposition type, in Figure 7 we see that 16% of TAY with allegations had these allegations substantiated compared to 22% for youth age 0–15, whereas 18% of TAY had allegations that were evaluated out compared to 8% for those age 0–15.

TAY were also slightly less likely to have allegations ruled inconclusive than were youth age 0–15.

BLACK AND LATINO YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED AMONG
YOUTH WITH ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS, WHEREAS
WHITE AND ASIAN / P.I. YOUTH ARE UNDERREPRESENTED

FIGURE 8: CHILDREN WITH ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 8 details the racial/ethnic distribution of children with child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations in 2013. It provides data for both youth age 0–15 and TAY age 16–17 with CPS contact. The race/ethnicity distribution for the age 0-15 and TAY age 16-17 general populations are also shown for comparison purposes.

In 2013, the racial/ethnic distribution of youth with allegations and substantiations did not differ significantly between TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

Large racial/ethnic differences, however, are found when comparing TAY and youth age 0–15 with CPS involvement and the general population of age-matched youth in Los Angeles County.

Black and Latino TAY were overrepresented among youth with allegations and substantiations, whereas White and Asian / P.I. youth were underrepresented. For instance, black youth account for only 8% of TAY age 16–17 in the general population, but 18% of TAY with allegations and substantiations.

Similarly, though less disparate, Latinos account for roughly 66% of those with allegations and 68% of those with substantiations, but represent only 62% of the total TAY population age 16–17 in the county.

THE PROPORTION OF BOTH ALLEGED AND SUBSTANTIATED TAY VICTIMS WHO ARE LATINO HAS INCREASED DURING THE PAST DECADE, WHEREAS THE PROPORTIONS WHO ARE BLACK OR WHITE HAVE DECLINED

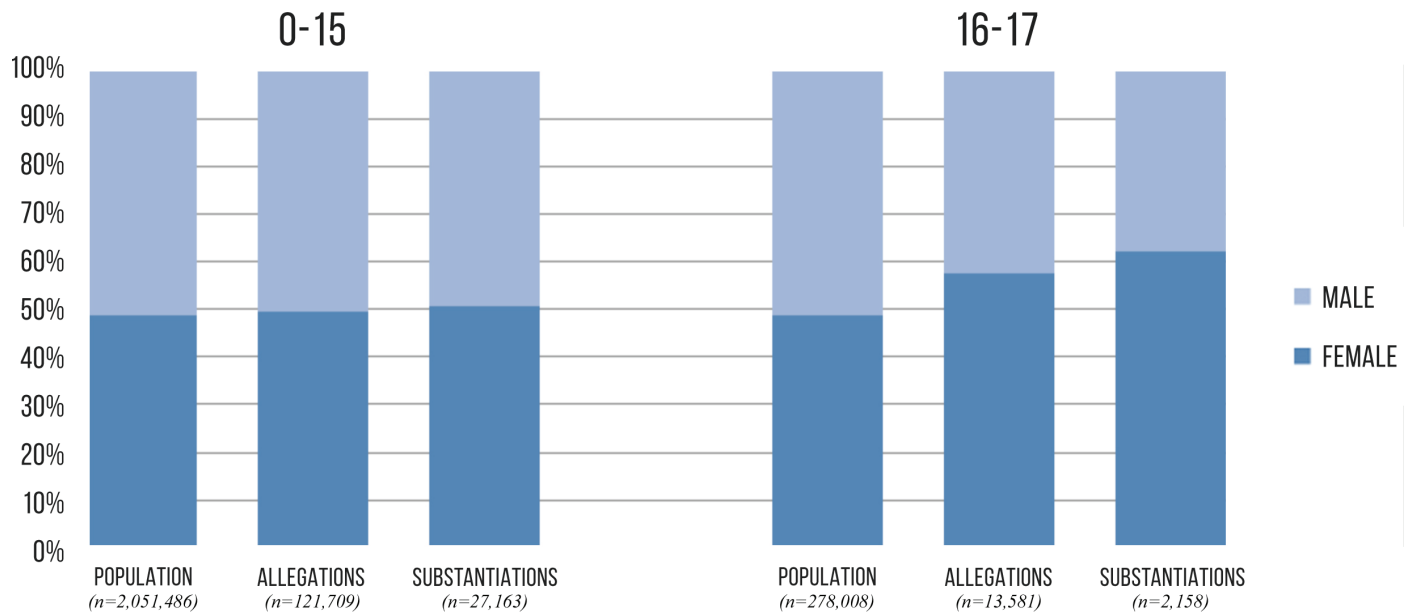
By contrast, White and Asian / P.I. TAY age 16–17 account for a smaller proportion of alleged child abuse and neglect victims than they represent in the general TAY population. For instance, Whites account for nearly 18% of all TAY age 16–17 in Los Angeles County, but only 13% of TAY with allegations and 10% with substantiations. Similarly, Asian / P.I.s account for 10% of TAY age 16–17 in the population but only 4% each of those with allegations and substantiations. As Figure 8 reveals, these patterns of disparity are also observed among youth age 0–15.

When these racial trends for youth in the rest of the state are examined, only Black over-representation and Asian / P.I. under-representation are observed.²⁴

The proportion of TAY age 16–17 with allegations who are Latino increased from 55% in 2003 to 66% in 2013. In contrast, the proportion of children with allegations who are Black declined from 23% in 2003 to 18% in 2013. The proportion of children with allegations who are White also declined slightly from 18% to 13%. Similar patterns are observed among substantiations.

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF TRANSITION AGE
YOUTH SUBSTANTIATED VICTIMS ARE FEMALE

FIGURE 9: CHILDREN WITH ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS BY GENDER - 2013



GENDER

Figure 9 details the gender distribution of children with child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations in 2013. It provides data for both youth age 0–15 and TAY age 16–17 with CPS contact. The race/ethnicity distributions for the general population for these age groups are also shown for comparison purposes.

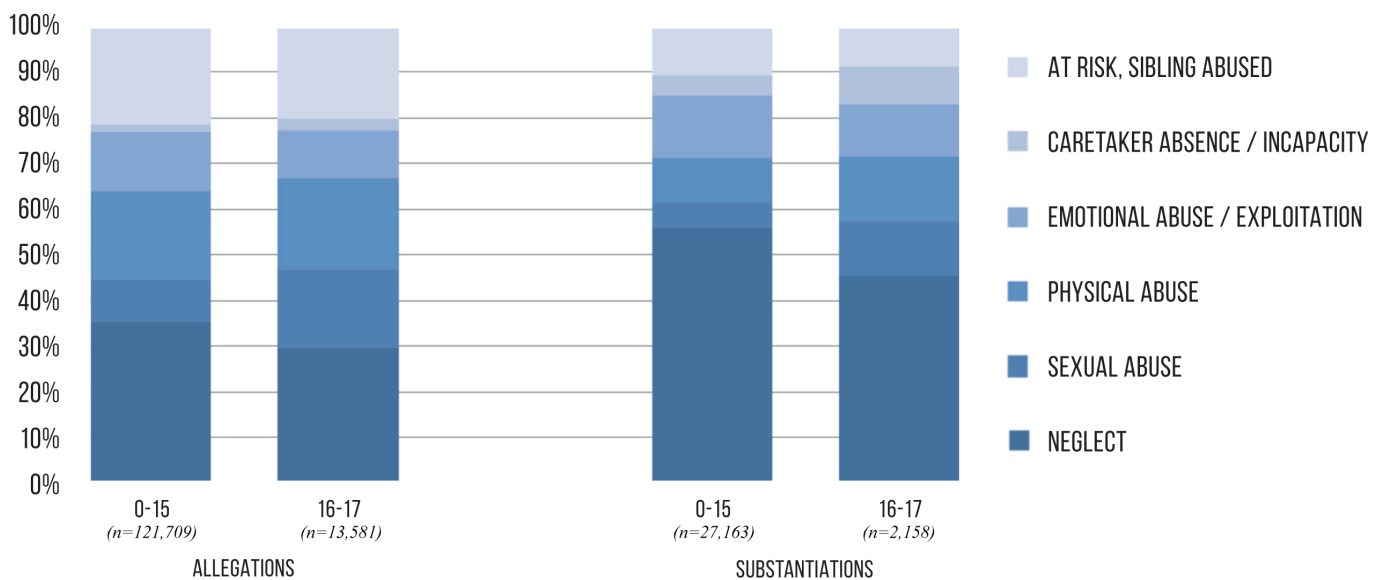
Females are overrepresented among TAY who are alleged and substantiated victims of abuse and neglect. Specifically, females account for approximately 49% of the TAY population age 16–17, yet they constitute 57% of TAY with allegations and 62% of those with substantiated allegations. As Table Series 4 and Series 5 illustrate, these gender differences have remained relatively stable over time. These differences are not observed among youth age 0–15.

It is important to note that gender differences persist, but are less striking, when sexual abuse allegations are removed.²⁵ Additionally, allegation and substantiation data only cover referrals to child welfare agencies and not probation. Male youth are more likely to be probation involved than their female counterparts.

In addition to raising questions about the vulnerability of female TAY in Los Angeles to victimization, the observed gender disparity presented in Figure 9 also has ramifications for service planning. Specifically, what are the special needs of female TAY who are substantiated victims of abuse and neglect, particularly sexual abuse? Are services currently available in the county to meet these special needs? This issue may require further investigation.

TAY ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS OR SUBSTANTIATIONS, AND MORE LIKELY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED OTHER FORMS OF MALTREATMENT THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS

FIGURE 10: CHILDREN WITH ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS BY ALLEGATION TYPE - 2013



ALLEGATION TYPE

Table Series 4 details the demographic and case characteristics over time for TAY and youth age 0–15 with allegations, whereas Table Series 5 presents substantiations. Both table series include detailed allegation type categories.

In Figure 10, which details these data for 2013, several abuse categories are collapsed for clarity. Specifically, general and severe neglect are combined into a single category of neglect, and emotional abuse and exploitation are grouped. Finally, the category “substantial risk” does not appear in the figure because it was phased out in 2009.²⁶

Regardless of age group, neglect accounts for the majority of maltreatment allegations and substantiations among children. TAY, however, are less likely to have neglect allegations or substantiations and are more likely to have experienced other forms of maltreatment than their younger counterparts.

**TAY ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE AN ALLEGATION
AND SUBSTANTIATION OF SEXUAL ABUSE THAN
THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS**

In 2013, neglect was the largest category of abuse for allegations among both TAY and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County. Thirty percent of TAY alleged victims were reported for neglect compared to 35% of youth age 0–15. In terms of substantiations, the proportions are even greater, with 56% of youth age 0–15 having a substantiated allegation of neglect compared to 45% of TAY.

TAY are more likely to have an allegation and substantiation of sexual abuse than are their younger counterparts. Sexual abuse accounted for 17% of allegations among TAY compared to 9% for younger children. Additionally, 12% of TAY are substantiated for sexual abuse compared to 5% of youth age 0–15.

Although they are equally likely as their younger counterparts to have an allegation of physical abuse (20% versus 19%, respectively), TAY are more likely to be substantiated for physical abuse (14% versus 10%, respectively).

Table Series 4 and Series 5 present data on trends in disposition types for children with child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations. It is not possible to examine proportional trends in children's allegation type prior to 2010, because the category of substantial risk was phased out in 2009.²⁷ The category accounted for between 6% and 18% of all allegations (0–17) between 2003 and 2008.

When trends for the period 2010–2013 are examined, increases in the proportion of TAY with general neglect and sexual abuse allegations are observed, whereas minor declines for physical abuse, at risk due to sibling abuse, and caretaker absence/incapacity are seen. For all youth (0–17) in Los Angeles County, only the general neglect category has shown a noticeable increase, whereas minor decreases have occurred in the proportion of children with allegations of at risk due to sibling abuse and physical abuse.

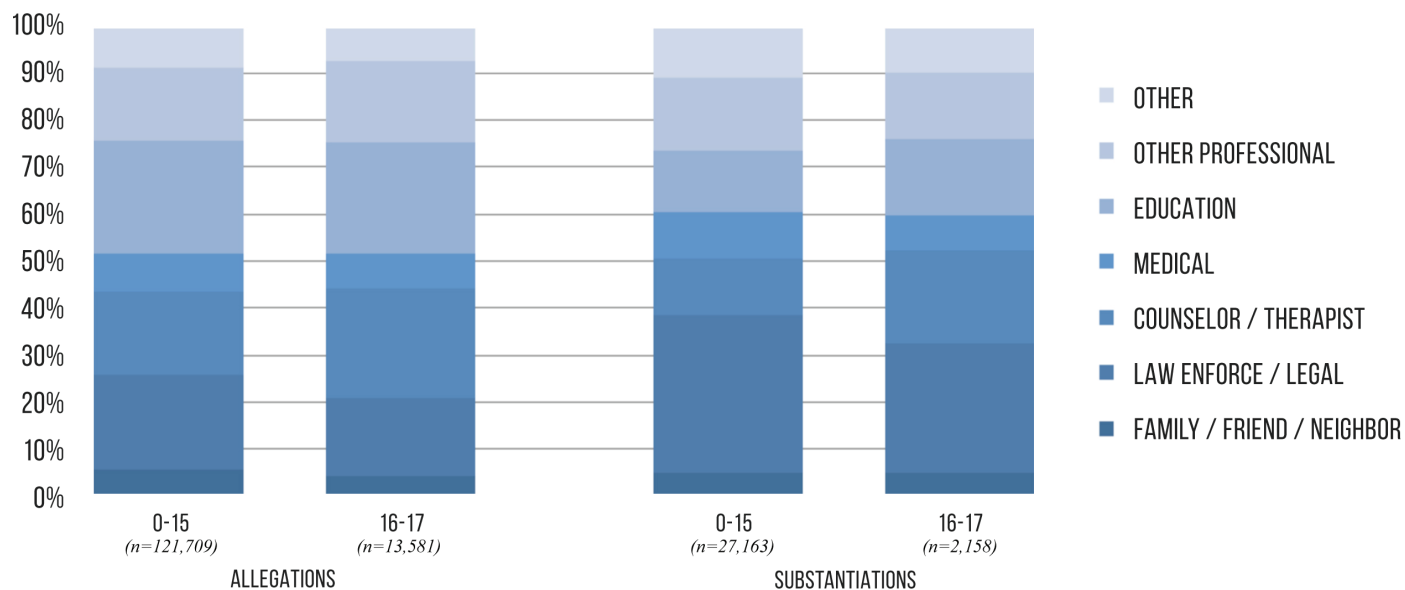
Examining trends over time, we see that the high proportions of substantiated neglect among TAY are a relatively new phenomenon. During the past decade for both TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15, the proportion of those with substantiated allegations for neglect has increased dramatically. Although the loss of substantial risk as a category accounts for some of this increase, when the trends are observed from 2010 onward, we still observe large increases in children referred for neglect. Since 2009, the increase in neglect observed among TAY has been offset by a large decrease in the proportion of emotional abuse and smaller decreases in most other categories with the exception of exploitation, which has remained stable.

REPORTER TYPE

Table Series 4 and 5 also include detailed information regarding allegation reporter types from 2003–2013. These data for 2013 are displayed in Figure 11.

REGARDLESS OF AGE, CHILDREN WHO HAVE ALLEGATIONS REPORTED BY
LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE THESE ALLEGATIONS
SUBSTANTIATED THAN THOSE FROM OTHER REPORTER TYPES

FIGURE 11: CHILDREN WITH ALLEGATIONS AND SUBSTANTIATIONS BY REPORTER TYPE - 2013



Four categories of reporters account for the majority of child abuse and neglect allegations and substantiations among both TAY and youth age 0–15. These include law enforcement/legal, counselors/therapist, educators, and other professionals. There are important differences between TAY and their younger counterparts.

TAY are more likely to have an allegation referred by a counselor/therapist or other professionals and less likely to be referred by law enforcement or a family/friend/neighbor than their younger counterparts (age 0–15).

In 2013, 24% of TAY were referred by a counselor/therapist compared to 18% of youth age 0–15 in the county. Conversely, 17% of TAY were referred by law enforcement/legal compared with 20% of their younger counterparts. TAY were also slightly less likely to be referred by a family/friend/neighbor.

The distribution of reporter type for children with substantiated allegations follows a generally similar pattern; however, there are again differences when compared to allegations alone. Specifically, children with reports by law enforcement/legal personnel comprise a larger proportion of those with substantiated allegations, whereas those made by counselors/therapists and educators make up a smaller proportion. This pattern held for both TAY and all youth.

When children with substantiations are examined, TAY remain more likely than their younger counterparts to have a substantiated allegation that is referred by a counselor/therapist and less likely to be referred by law enforcement, but the differences in being referred by other professionals and a family member, friend, or neighbor observed in terms of allegations largely disappear.

CASE OPENINGS AMONG TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

Child protective services cases may be opened following a child abuse and neglect allegation when there is sufficient evidence to investigate. Again a case opening indicates that there will be ongoing CPS involvement – some children are served in the home while others are removed from home and placed in foster care.

Although few cases are opened for youth after age 18, cases may be opened for children up to age 20. Typically, cases opened for youth after age 18 are voluntary reentries.

Two agency types account for the majority of case openings: the county child welfare department and the county probation department. When possible, it is important to distinguish between these two agency types because there are notable gender differences in the TAY populations served by each. The probation population tends to be largely made up of male adolescents.

Data on case openings for child-welfare-supervised children are available from 2003 forward on the CCWIP website and are presented in Table Series 6a. Data for probation-supervised children are available from 2012 forward and are presented in Table Series 6b.

Los Angeles County accounted for 44% of children with child-welfare-supervised case openings and 48% of children with probation-supervised cases openings statewide in 2013.²⁸

In 2013, 23,104 children age 0–20 had child-welfare-supervised cases opened and an additional 1,633 had probation-supervised cases opened in Los Angeles County.

As Figure 12 illustrates, the number of youth age 0-15 with case openings rose steadily since 2008 while number of TAY with case openings remained relatively stable during the last decade.

The high proportion of children with case openings suggests that Los Angeles County child protection agencies typically open cases to provide services to families at risk. The county's recent Blue Ribbon Commission Report on Child Protection noted this high number of cases is in part due to a lack of available prevention and early intervention services has contributed to the highest caseload since 2007. The report recommends that early intervention services be used when families can safely be diverted from the court process.²⁹

ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF YOUTH AGE 0–15 WITH CHILD WELFARE CASE OPENINGS HAS GROWN DURING THE LAST DECADE, THE NUMBER OF TAY WITH CASE OPENINGS HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE

FIGURE 12: CHILD WELFARE CASE OPENINGS BY AGE GROUP - 2013

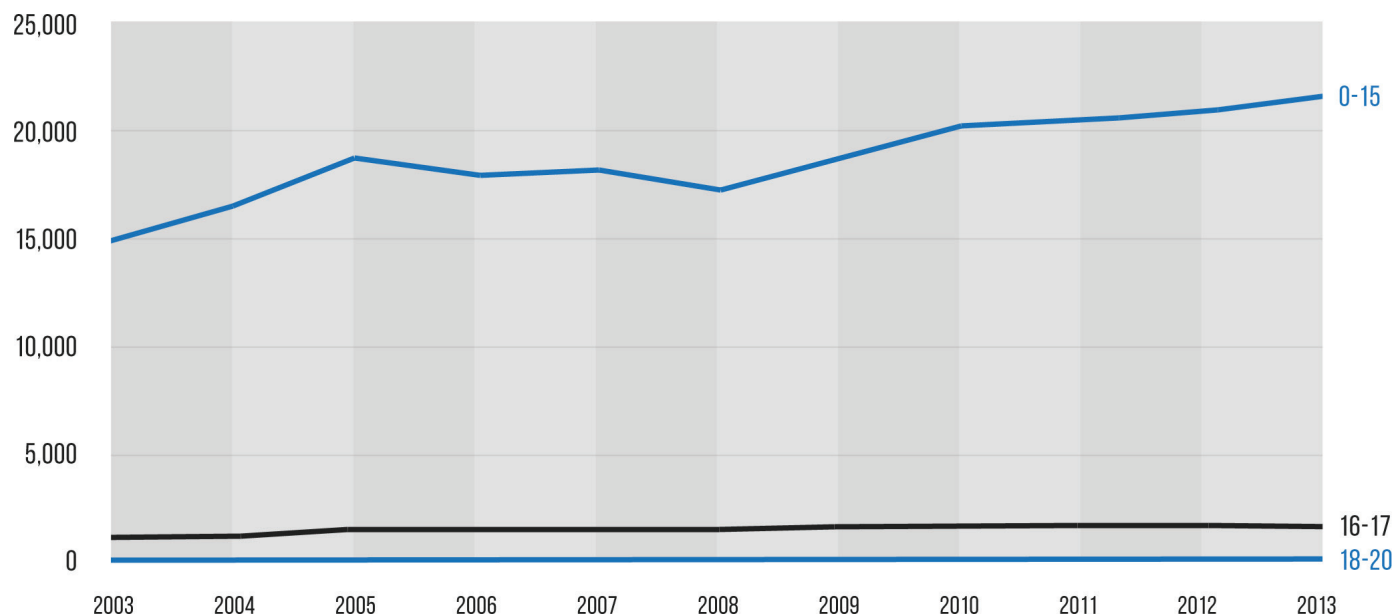


Table Series 6a also includes detailed demographic and case characteristics for youth with child welfare case openings from 2003–2013. These data are displayed in Figure 12. Similar trend data are not available for probation-supervised cases.

Although data for TAY age 18–20 are displayed, because so few cases are opened for this age group, the analysis focuses on TAY age 16–17. Approximately 7% of all children with child welfare case openings were TAY (age 16–20). Youth age 16–17 account for the majority of TAY with child-welfare-supervised case openings, whereas TAY age 18–20 comprised less than 1%.

Until the implementation of the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB12) in 2012, which provides extended foster care for youth 18–21 throughout California, case openings recorded for

18-to 20-year-olds were likely data errors.

Examining Table Series 6a, we see that since 2012, the number of children 18–20 with case openings, although small, has increased slightly (from five in 2003 to 15 in 2013).

Data for probation-supervised youth are presented in Table Series 6b. Although fewer cases are opened for probation-supervised youth, in 2013, TAY age 16–17 accounted for 64% of all children with probation case openings and TAY age 18–20 for 2%.

Because so few cases are opened for TAY age 18–20, only data for TAY age 16–17 and the comparison group of youth age 0–15 are presented in the figures for case openings. Data on the 18- to 20-year-old population can be found in the accompanying tables.

CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT (AB12)

Recognizing the need for continued support as foster youth transition to adulthood, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB12- Ch. 559, Stats. 2010)) created an extended foster care (EFC) program. The EFC Program allows foster youth to remain in foster care and continue to receive foster care payment benefits (AFDC-FC payments) and services beyond age 18. Youth must meet participation requirements, live in approved or licensed facilities, and meet other eligibility requirements. EFC can continue until youth reach age 21.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible youth must be:

1. 18 or older as of January 2012
2. Eligible for either federal or state AFDC-FC
3. Sign a mutual agreement with Child Welfare/ Probation for supervision and support (SOC 162)
4. Agree to continue in care as a Non Minor Dependent (NMD) of the Juvenile Court

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

To remain eligible youth must be:³⁰

1. Completing high school or an equivalency program (under AB 12, NMDs do not have to complete high school by age 19 to be eligible); or
2. Enrolled in post-secondary education or vocational school; or
3. Participating in a program or activity that promotes or removes barriers to employment
4. Employed at least 80 hours per month; or

5. Incapable of participating in any activity as described in 1- 4 due to a documented medical condition.

PLACEMENT/HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Youth must agree to live in a supervised placement that is licensed or approved. These include:

1. Traditional foster care placement options: including Kinship/Relative Care, FFA or Foster Family Homes, Group Homes,³¹ Guardianship Homes, Small Family / Regional Center Homes, and Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP).
2. The legislation also created two additional placement options:
 - a. THP-Plus Foster Care: This placement option was modeled after the THP-Plus program, but allows for cases to remain open. W&IC section 11403.2(a)(3).
 - b. Supervised Independent Living (SILP): This is an "independent" placement option. Housing arrangements may include apartments (with or without roommates), room & board arrangements, or college dorms.

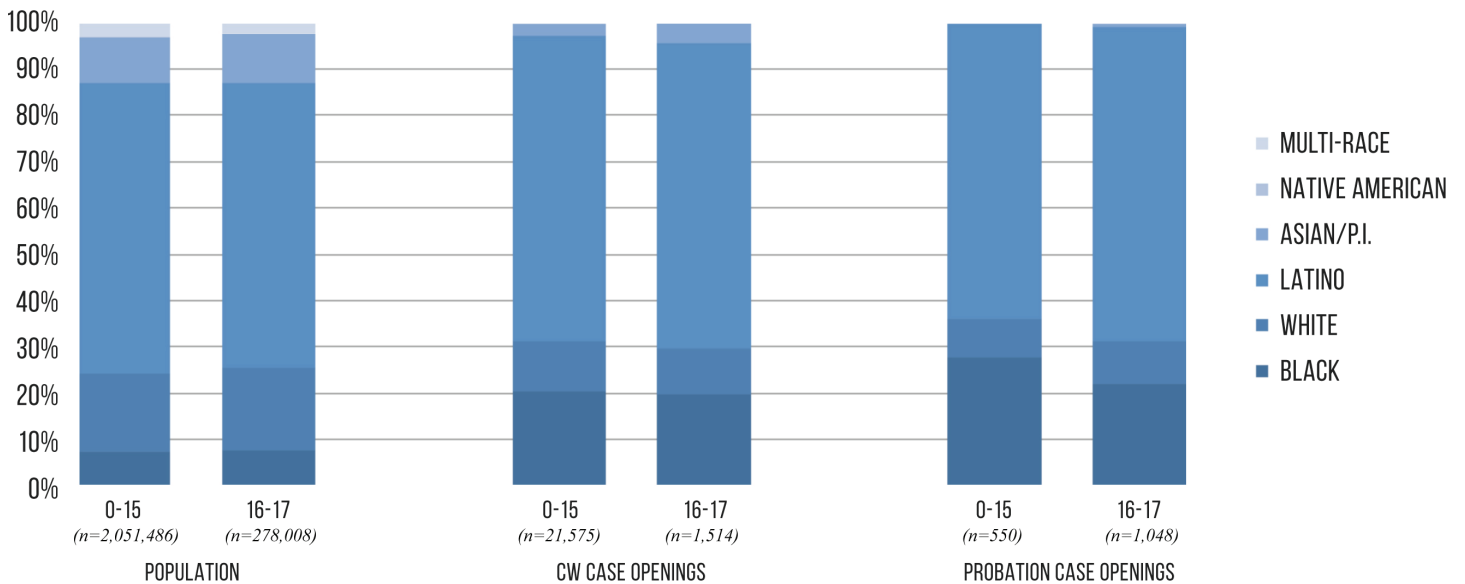
SOURCES:

Children's Law Center of CA. CA Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12/212) Fact Sheet.

California Department of Social Services. October 13, 2011. ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-69.

YOUTH WITH CHILD WELFARE CASE OPENINGS
ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE BLACK AND LATINO AND
LESS LIKELY TO BE WHITE OR ASIAN / P.I.

FIGURE 13: CHILDREN WITH CASE OPENINGS BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 13 details 2013 children with child welfare and probation case openings by race/ethnicity. It also provides population-level data for comparison purposes.

In 2013, approximately two-thirds of TAY with child-welfare-supervised and probation-supervised case openings in Los Angeles County were Latino.

Figure 13 shows that in 2013, the racial/ethnic distribution of children with child welfare case and probation openings differed little between TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

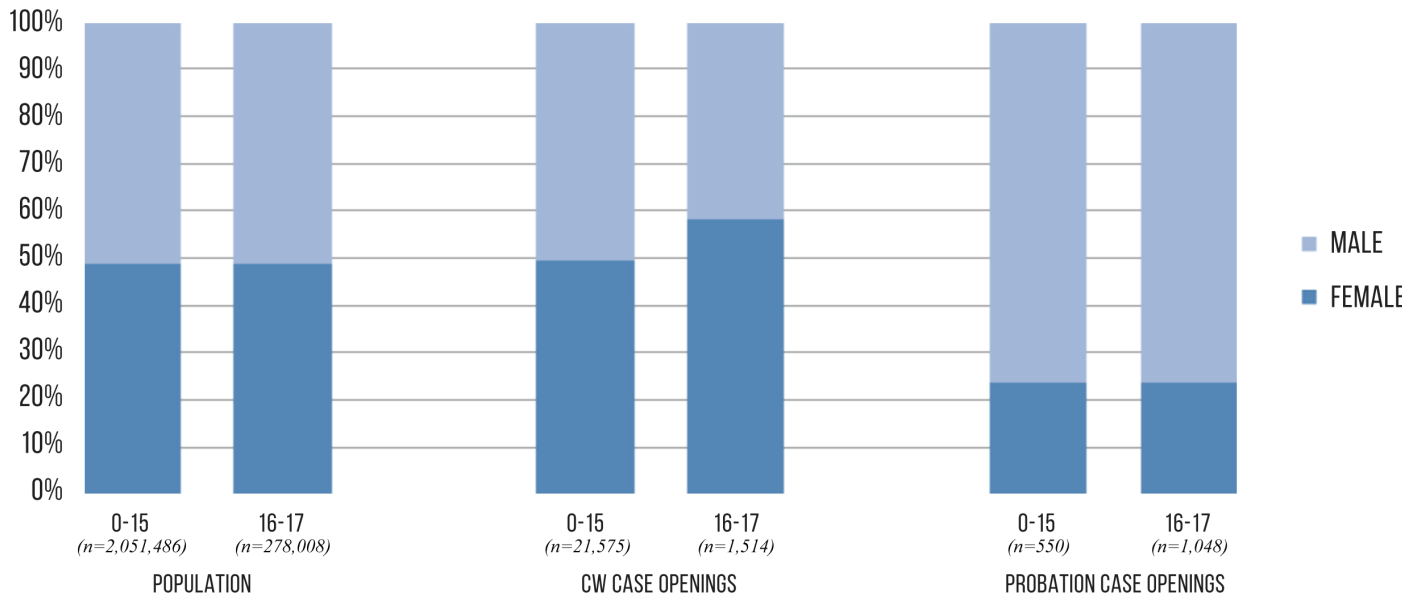
In both groups, approximately 66% of children

with child-welfare-supervised cases opened were Latino, 20% Black, 10% White, and less than 5% Asian / P.I..

When the racial/ethnic distributions of youth with case openings (TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15) are compared to the general Los Angeles County child population, we again observe an overrepresentation of Latinos and Blacks and an underrepresentation of Whites and Asian / P.I.s. For instance, in 2013, Black TAY accounted for 20% of child welfare case openings but only 8% of the TAY population. Likewise, Latino TAY accounted for 66% of TAY with case openings but only 62% of the general TAY population.

Although Whites account for 18% of the TAY population in Los Angeles County, they account for only 10% of those with child-welfare-supervised case openings. Similarly, Asian / P.I.s account for 10% of TAY but less than 5% of TAY with case openings.

As was observed with allegations, Table 6.3a indicates that during the past decade, the proportion of TAY age 16–17 with child-welfare-supervised case openings who are Latino rose from 51% to 66%, whereas the proportion who are Black declined from 25% to 20%, as did the proportion of Whites, from 15 to 10%. Trend data are not available for probation-supervised case openings.

FIGURE 14: CHILDREN WITH CASE OPENINGS BY GENDER - 2013

GENDER

Figure 14 details children with child welfare and probation case openings in 2013 by gender. It also provides population-level data for comparison purposes.

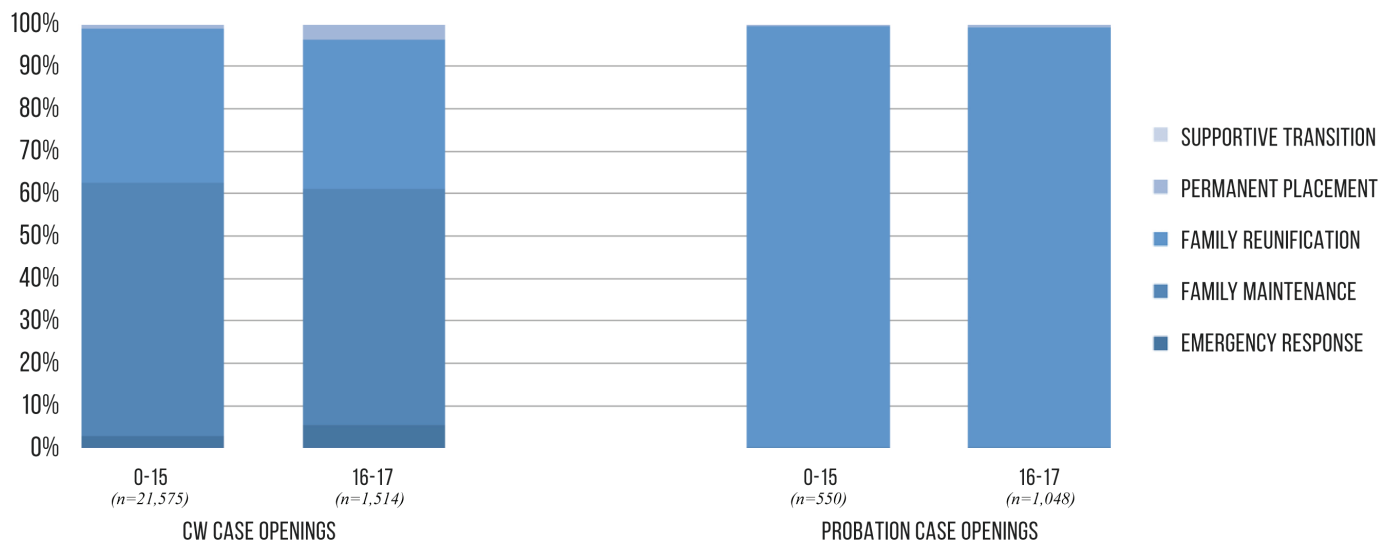
Compared to their younger counterparts with case openings, TAY with child-welfare-supervised case openings are more likely to be female and TAY with probation-supervised case openings are likely to be male.

In 2013, females accounted for 58% of TAY (age 16–17) with child welfare cases opened in the county.

This differs from the gender distribution among their younger counterparts with case openings (age 0–15) and TAY in the general child population. As Table Series 6 illustrates, this pattern has remained relatively constant during the past decade.

Regardless of age, probation-supervised cases are opened overwhelmingly for male youth.

In 2013, 76% of both TAY (age 16–17) and youth age 0–15 with probation-supervised case openings involved male youth.

FIGURE 15: CHILDREN WITH CASE OPENINGS BY FIRST SERVICE COMPONENT TYPE - 2013

SERVICE COMPONENT

Figure 15 examines the first service component type for youth with child welfare and probation case openings in 2013. Case service components refer to the types of services provided by the child protective services agency. Although families can receive concurrent services (e.g., Permanent Placement and Family Reunification), cases can have only one service component and case plan goal in effect at any one time.³²

The data in Figure 15 represent the highest priority for the first level of service for the case. The reported service component is the first service component assigned other than emergency response unless the only service component was emergency response.

It is important to note that in CWS/CMS, child welfare cases are opened for a variety of in-home and out-of-home services while probation cases are only opened to provide a specific type of out-of-home care. Other probation services to the TAY population – in-home and detention – don't result in a CWS/CMS case.

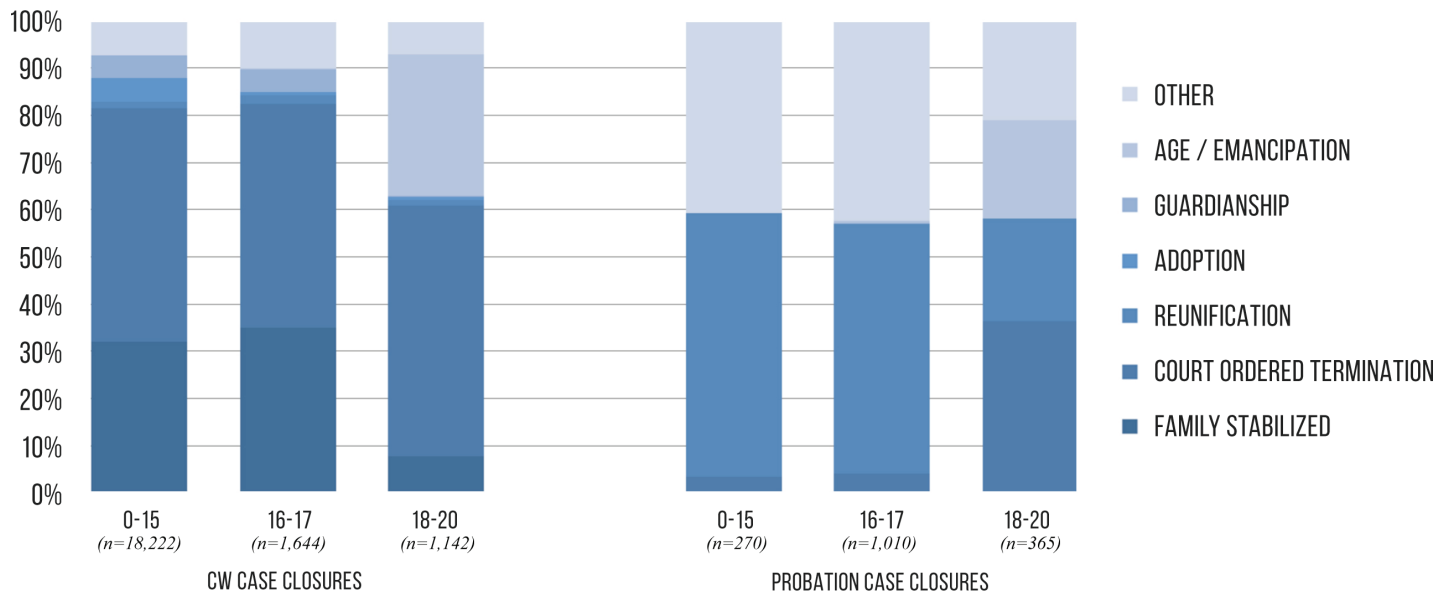
Family maintenance (56%) and family reunification services (35%) accounted for majority of service types among cases opened for child-welfare-supervised TAY (age 16–17), with a small proportion opened for emergency response (5%), permanent placement services (4%), and supportive transition (less than 1%).

In 2013, nearly 100% of cases opened for probation-supervised youth in Los Angeles County were for family reunification services. Again service components for probation-supervised cases reflect placement services only.

TAY with child-welfare-supervised case openings are less likely than their younger counterparts to have cases opened for family maintenance or family reunification services and more likely to have a case opened for emergency response, permanent placement, and supportive transition services.

These data likely reflect different types of CPS contact among TAY. As indicated previously, emergency response is only displayed for this indicator if it is the only service component assigned. Thus, the higher proportion of TAY with emergency response case openings likely represents disconnected youth who may be in crisis.

The higher proportions of TAY with case openings with a service component type of permanent placement and supportive transition likely represents those youth who are preparing for the transition to adulthood without the likelihood of returning home.

FIGURE 16: CHILDREN WITH CASE CLOSURES BY CLOSURE REASON - 2013

CASE CLOSURES AMONG TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

Table Series 7a and 7b provides data on children with child-welfare- and probation-supervised case closures. Data from 2003–2013 are available on child-welfare-supervised case closures, however only data for 2012 and 2013 are available for probation-supervised case closures.

In 2013, Los Angeles County accounted for 43% of California children age 0–20 with child-welfare-supervised case closures and 49% of those with probation-supervised case closures.³³

TAY age 16–17 accounted for 8% of children with child-welfare-supervised case closures in Los Angeles County and TAY age 18–20 for 5%.

Among youth age 0–20 with probation-supervised closures, TAY accounted for two thirds (16- to 17-year-olds comprised 64%, and 18- to 20-year-olds accounted for 22%).

Data regarding case closure reasons are presented in Table Series 7a and 7b. Figure 16 details this information for the most recent time period. If more than one service component is assigned when the case is closed, the last service component initiated is reported.³⁴

Figure 16 illustrates that case-closure reasons for child-welfare-supervised cases and probation-supervised cases are very different. Additionally, case closures differ between the TAY subgroups.

Compared to their younger counterparts with child-welfare-supervised case closures, TAY age 16–17 are slightly more likely to have cases closed for family stabilization and other reasons and are slightly less likely to have cases closed for court-ordered termination or adoption.

Specifically, 35% of TAY age 16–17 in Los Angeles County had cases closed because the family had stabilized and was no longer considered at risk, compared to 32% of youth age 0–15. Adoptions made up less than 1% of case closures for TAY compared to 5% for their younger counterparts.

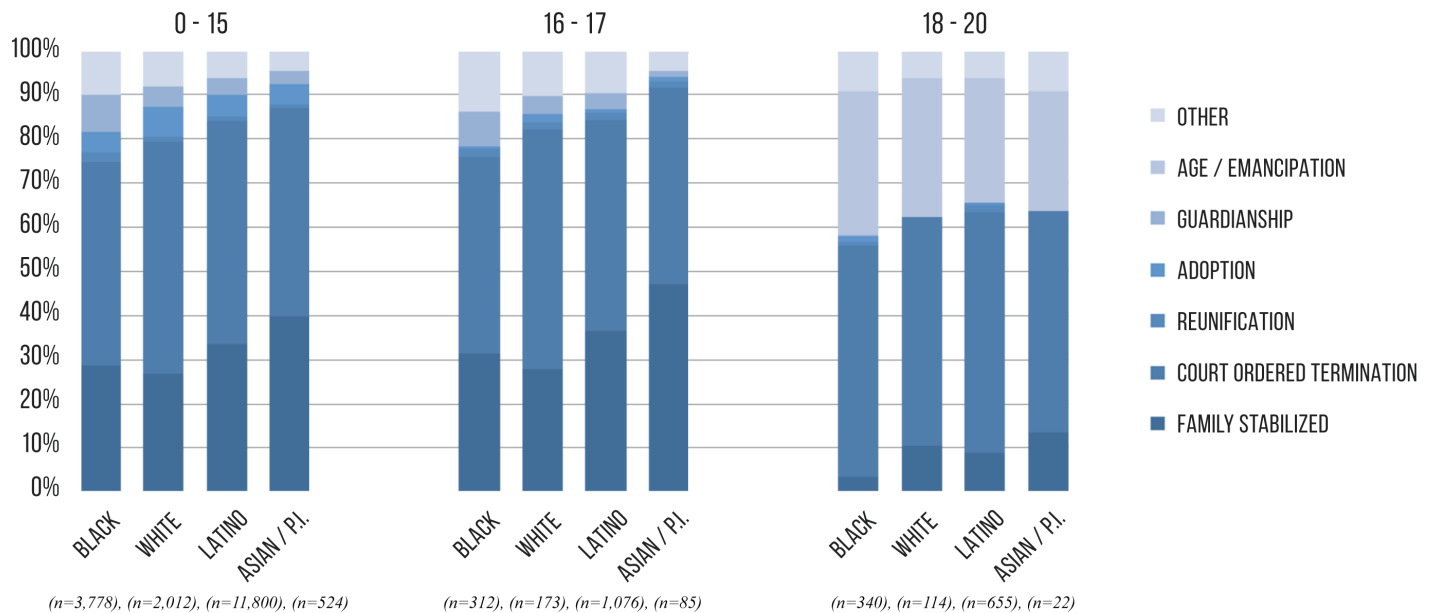
TAY age 18–20 are more likely than both youth age 0–15 and TAY age 16–17 to have a court-ordered termination or to emancipate and less likely to have their case closed because the family stabilized.

In 2013, reunifications and other exits accounted for nearly 95% of probation-supervised case closures among TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

Because TAY account for the majority of probation-supervised youth, there are very few differences in case-closure reasons for probation-supervised TAY and all probation-supervised youth. Probation supervised TAY age 18–20 have a large proportion of court-ordered termination and emancipation closures.

**LATINO AND ASIAN / P.I. YOUTH ARE MORE LIKELY
THAN BLACK AND WHITE YOUTH TO HAVE A CASE
CLOSURE FOR FAMILY STABILIZATION**

FIGURE 17: CHILDREN WITH CHILD WELFARE CASE OPENINGS BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

Table Series 8a and 8b details the demographic and case characteristics of child-welfare- and probation-supervised TAY subgroups and youth age 0–15 with case closures in 2013 by closure reason. Figure 17 depicts case closure reasons by race/ethnicity for child-welfare-supervised cases only. Due to small sample size, data for Native Americans are not included.

Regardless of age, Latino and Asian / P.I. youth in Los Angeles County are more likely than Black and White youth to have their child welfare case closed due to family stabilization.

This pattern was particularly apparent among TAY age 16–17. For instance, 37% of Latinos and 47% of Asian / P.I. TAY had cases closed for family stabilization, compared to 31% of Black and

28% of White TAY.

Table Series 8b presents data for probation-supervised youth. Few racial/ethnic differences were found among these youth by TAY age groups.

GENDER

As Table Series 8a and 8b indicates, there are few gender differences in case closures for either TAY or all youth in Los Angeles County.

TAY ACCOUNTED FOR 16% OF CHILDREN
RECEIVING CHILD WELFARE OR PROBATION
SERVICES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

CASE SERVICE COMPONENTS

The TAY population currently being served by the CPS system includes youth who begin receiving services after reaching transition age and youth who have aged into transition while receiving services.

Data on this latter group are limited, however because much of the information available and presented in this report is entry-cohort data, such as allegations, substantiations, case openings, foster care entries, or exit-cohort data such as exits and case closings.

Point-in-time data are more likely to capture the experiences of youth who have been in care for longer periods of time.

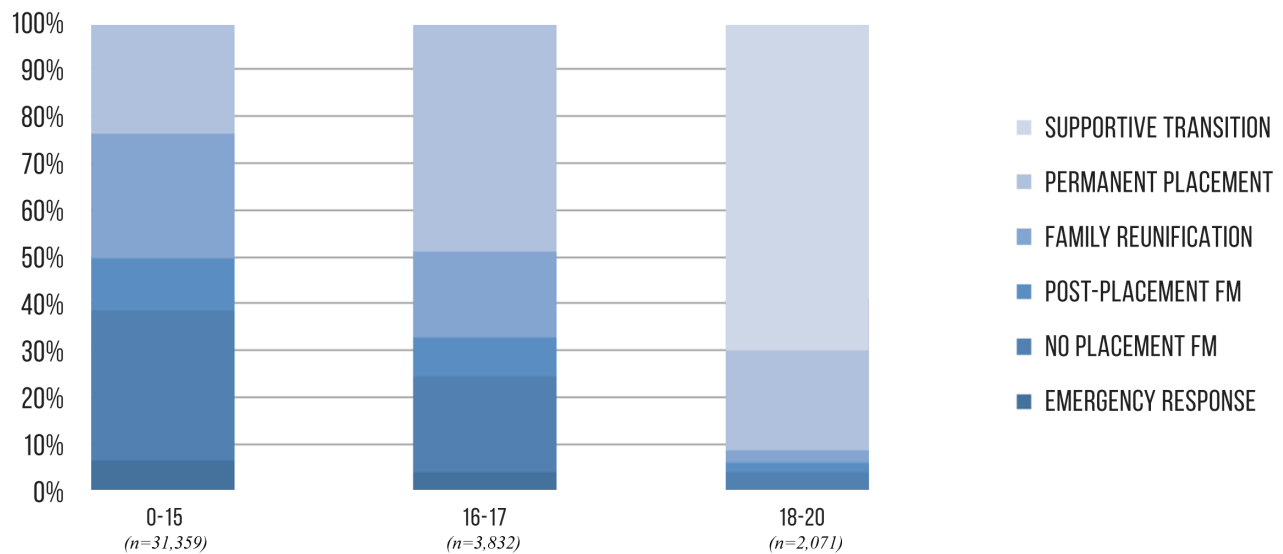
Although point-in-time data have limitations, examining them in combination with event-level data can provide a more comprehensive picture of the experiences of TAY in the CPS system.

Table Series 9 provides point-in-time data regarding the service component category for youth in care on July 1 of a specific year. Case service component data are not currently available for probation-supervised youth on the CCWIP website; therefore, data are presented only for child-welfare-supervised cases.

As of July 1, 2013, Los Angeles County accounted for 41% of all youth receiving services statewide.³⁵ TAY accounted for 16% of children receiving services in Los Angeles County.³⁶

IN 2013, TAY WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN PERMANENT PLACEMENT OR RECEIVING SUPPORTIVE TRANSITION SERVICES THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS

FIGURE 18: CASE SERVICE COMPONENTS - JULY 1, 2013



SERVICE COMPONENT

Figure 18 details the case service component type for youth age 0–20 in out-of-home placement on July 1, 2013.

In 2013, TAY were more likely to be in permanent placement or receiving supportive transition services than their younger counterparts (age 0–15), and less likely to be receiving family reunification or family maintenance services (post placement and no-placement family maintenance).

In 2013, 48% of TAY age 16–17 were receiving permanent placement services, compared to 24% of youth age 0–15. This suggests that a large proportion of the TAY population is made up of children in long-term placement.

Two-thirds of 18- to 20-year-olds with open cases in 2013 were receiving supportive transition services.

As illustrated in Table Series 9, during the past decade, the proportion of youth receiving specific services has changed. Since 2012, supportive transition has supplanted a large proportion of permanent placement services for TAY. This services option was implemented in 2010. Most recently with the passage of AB12, TAY receiving extended foster care services are classified under this service component. Additionally the proportion of TAY receiving family reunification and no-placement family maintenance has also increased.

FOOTNOTES

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

- 17 Reed, D. F. & Karpilow, K. (2002). Understanding the child welfare system in California: A primer for service providers and policymakers. Berkeley, CA: California Center for Research on Women and Families.
- 18 CA (non-LA) allegation rates per 1,000 age 0-17 from 2003–2013: 55.2 per 1,000 to 52.6 per 1,000.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx
- 19 CA (non-LA) Substantiation rates per 1,000 age 0-17 from 2003–2013: 12.3 per 1,000 to 8.0 per 1,000.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx
- 20 http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Disproportionality%20bibliography.final.pdf
- 21 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Child maltreatment 2012. Retrieved from:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf#page=20>
- 22 Allegations: CA n = 482,500, LA n = 135,290; substantiations: CA n = 83,951, LA n = 29,321. http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
- 23 LA TAY 16–17 allegations: n = 13,581; substantiations: n = 2,158
- 24 CA (non-LA), Black – pop 4.9%, alleg 13.3%, sub 13.0%; White – pop 31.3%, alleg 31.4%, sub 31.8%; Latino – pop 47.0%, alleg 49.9%, sub 50.4%; Asian / P.I. – pop 11.4%, alleg 4.2% , sub 3.5%.
- 25 2013 allegations (removing sexual abuse) for TAY age 16-17: females 53% versus males 47%. http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Allegations.aspx
- 26 California Department of Social Services. (2007). The use of substantial risk as an allegation (Letter No. 07-52). Retrieved from:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/acl07/pdf/07-52.pdf>
- 27 Substantial risk was an allegation type intended to be used after investigation to open a case to provide voluntary preventive services. Historically, however, it was used when other allegation types such as caretaker incapacity or at risk due to sibling abuse should have been used. California Department of Social Services. (2007). The use of substantial risk as an allegation (Letter No. 07-52). Retrieved from:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/acl07/pdf/07-52.pdf>

FOOTNOTES

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVOLVEMENT

- 28 California case openings: child welfare n = 52,404, probation n = 3,401; Los Angeles case openings: child welfare n = 23,104, probation n = 1,633.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CaseOpenings.aspx
- 29 Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. The Road to Safety for Our Children. Final Report of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. April 18, 2014.
<http://www.blueribboncommissionla.com/>
- 30 California Department of Social Services. October 13, 2011. ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-69, p. 5.
- 31 Group home placements are allowed in limited circumstances to enable NMDs to complete an academic year or during a transition to family-like setting. Group home placements may also be used for NMDs who meet participation criteria 5 (medical condition), and group home placement is a short-term transition to the appropriate system of care. California Department of Social Services. October 13, 2011. ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 11-69, p. 14.
- 32 <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/methodologies/default.aspx?report=CaseServiceComponents>
- 33 California case closures: child welfare n = 48,527, probation n = 3,348; Los Angeles case closures: child welfare n = 21,028, probation n = 1,645.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CaseClosures.aspx
- 34 <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/methodologies/default.aspx?report=CaseClosures>
- 35 2013 California n = 91,710; Los Angeles n = 37,262.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CaseServiceComponents.aspx
- 36 2013 Los Angeles TAY age 16–20 n = 5,903.

FOSTER CARE CASELOAD DYNAMICS

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH FOSTER CARE CASELOAD DYNAMICS

Entry to foster care is a rare occurrence. For instance, in 2013, foster care entries accounted for only 36% of substantiated allegations.³⁷ Youth removed from home and placed in foster care join those already in care to become part of the out-of-home care population or caseload.

The number of children in out-of-home care at any point in time is a function of both entries and reentries to foster care and exits from care.

Specifically, when entries and reentries exceed exits, caseloads increase, and when exits outpace entries and reentries, caseloads decline.

FIGURE 19: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD, ENTRIES AND EXITS BY AGE GROUPS

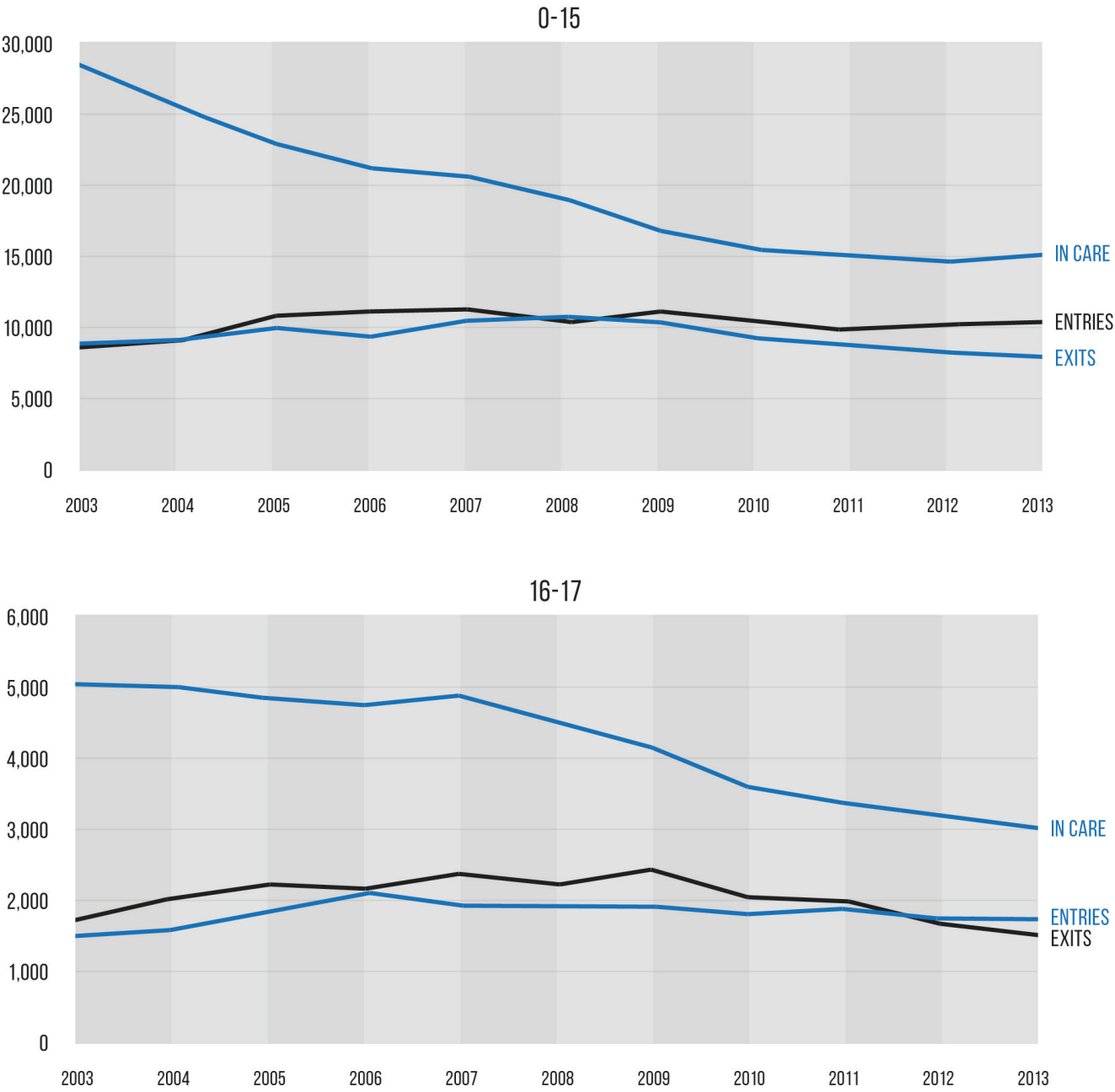


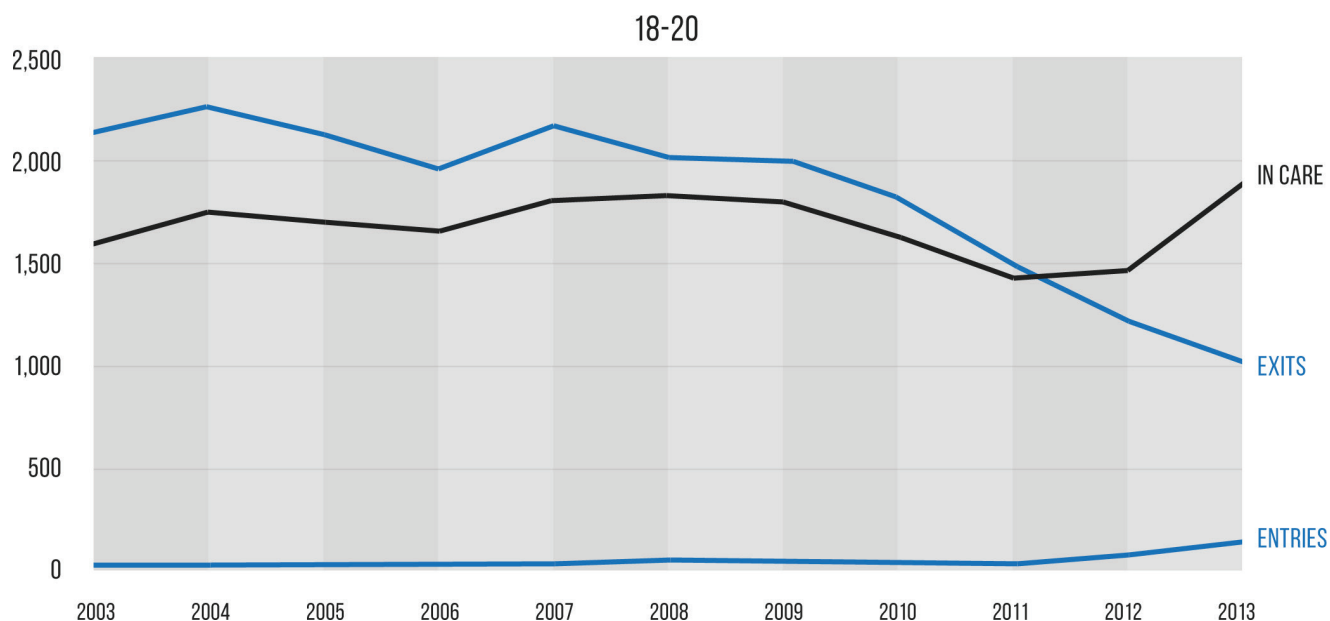
FIGURE 19: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD, ENTRIES AND EXITS BY AGE GROUPS

Figure 19 provides the foster care point-in-time caseload as of July 1, 2003-2013; and entries to care and exits from care from 2003-2013 for TAY age 16–17 and 18–20 and youth age 0–15.

As Figure 19 illustrates, among TAY age 16–17 and 18–20 between 2003 and 2009, entries were relatively stable. Because exits generally outpaced entries, overall, the number of TAY in care in Los Angeles County declined steadily. Since 2009, however, exits among both TAY age groups began declining which impacted caseloads. This is an effect of the implementation of AB12.

Among TAY age 16–17 after 2009, entries to care declined along with exits and caseloads. Since 2012, however, entries have outpaced exits, slowing caseload decline.

Among TAY age 18–20, although exits declined rapidly after 2009, because they still outpaced entries, caseloads continued to decline. After 2011, however, entries to care among TAY age 18–20 increased with the implementation of AB12, resulting in an increase in the caseload.

IN 2013, LOS ANGELES COUNTY ACCOUNTED FOR
MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF ALL FOSTER CARE
ENTRIES STATEWIDE

ENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE AMONG TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

Removal from home and placement in out-of-home care for children who have been abused and neglected occurs only when a child's safety cannot be assured through other measures. As Table Series 10 illustrates, from a population perspective, foster care entry is actually a rare event.

In 2013, 5 per 1,000 children age 0–17 entered foster care. TAY age 16–17 have lower rates of entry than their younger counterparts (age 0–15; 3 versus 5 per 1,000, respectively). During the past decade, these entry rates have increased slightly for youth in all age groups.

For any time period examined, all entries to foster care include both first entries to care and reentries. Table Series 11, 12, and 13 present data on all entries, first entries, and reentries to foster care by demographic and case characteristics over time.

With the passage of AB12, youth can reenter care after age 18 as non minor dependents; therefore, data regarding all foster care entries and reentries are presented for all age groups, including TAY age 18–20. Because youth cannot enter foster care for the first time after age 18, data on first entries are presented only for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15.

In 2013, Los Angeles county accounted for more than one third of all foster care entries statewide.³⁸ TAY age 16–20 constituted 15% of all foster care entries in 2013.³⁸ In this group, TAY age 16–17 made up the majority (93%) of entrants, whereas TAY age 18–20 account for a smaller portion (7%).

In 2013, child-welfare-supervised youth accounted for 88% of all entries, with probation-supervised children comprising the majority of remaining cases.

TAY YOUTH AGE 16 - 17 ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 11% OF YOUTH ENTERING CARE FOR THE FIRST TIME BUT THEY ACCOUNT FOR ONE QUARTER OF ALL REENTRIES

FIGURE 20: ENTRIES, FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY AGE GROUPS

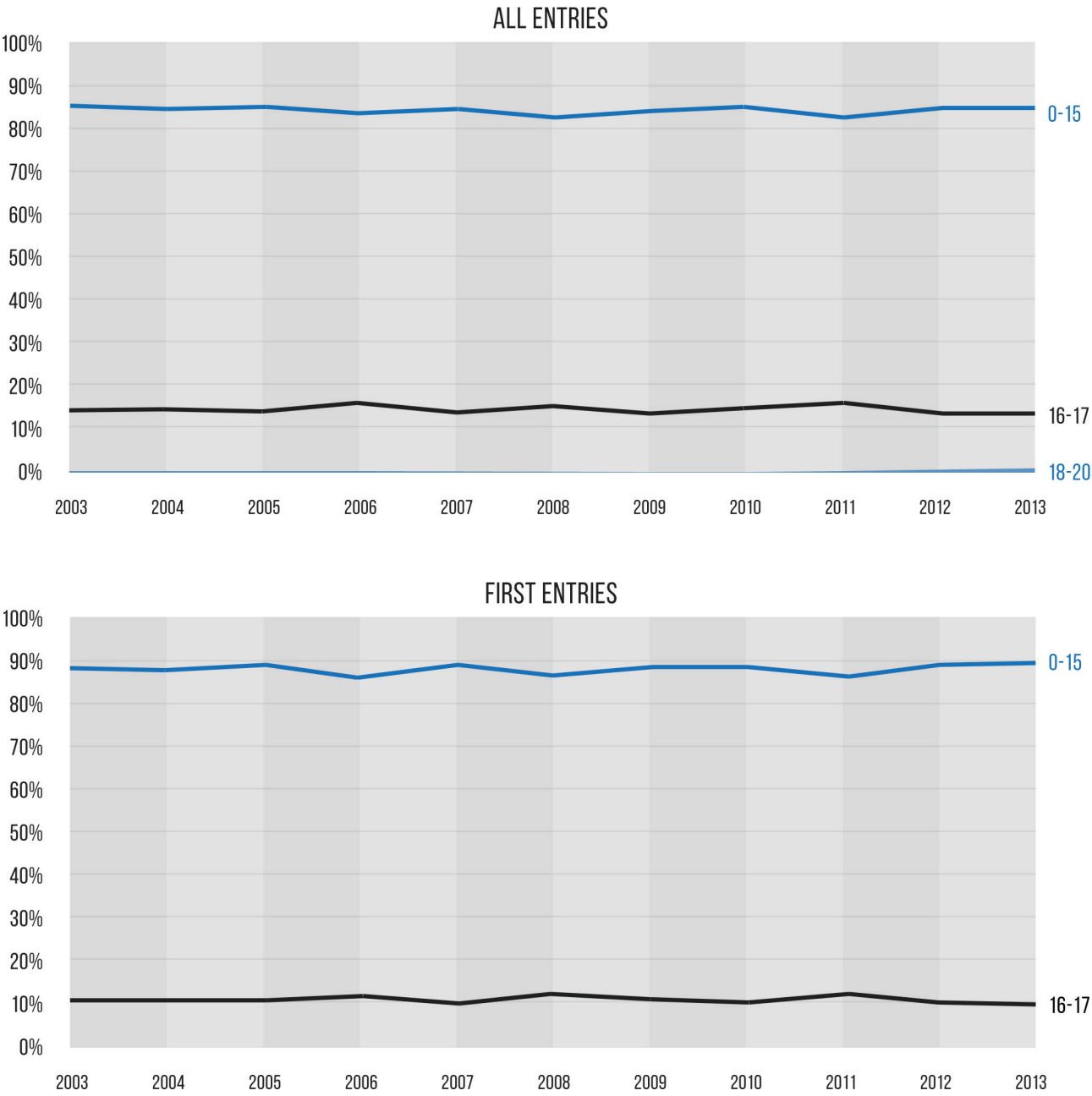


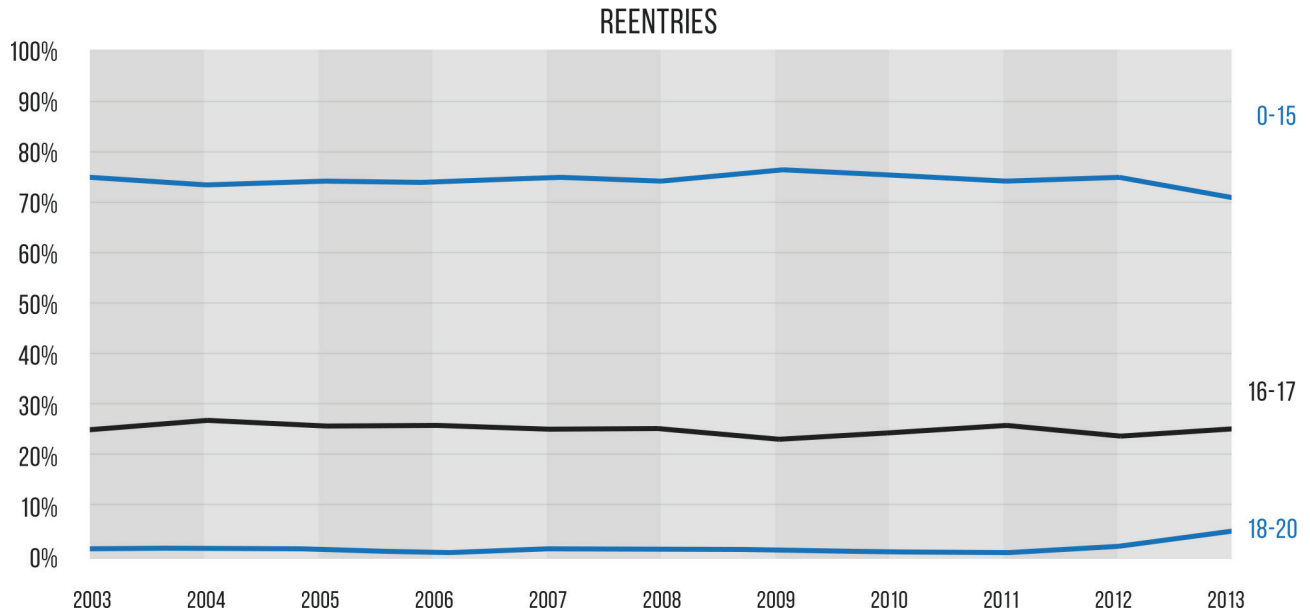
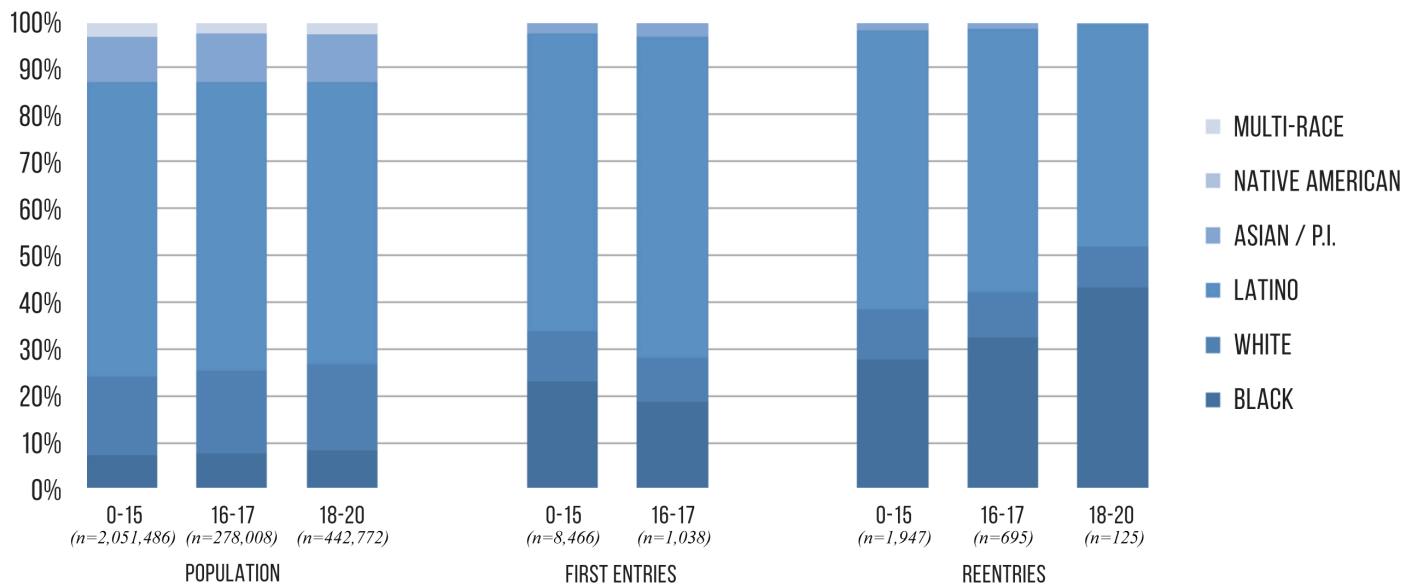
FIGURE 20: ENTRIES, FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY AGE GROUPS

Figure 20 details the age group distribution over time (2003–2013) for all entries, first entries, and reentries to foster care in Los Angeles County.

As Figure 20 illustrates, first entries among TAY have declined overall, but reentries have spiked since 2011. The spike in reentries reflects non minor dependents opting into long-term foster care following the implementation of AB12. The increase in Los Angeles County began prior to statewide implementation because the county used local funds to keep older youth in care while they transitioned to adulthood.

BLACK YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN BOTH THE FIRST ENTRY AND REENTRY POPULATIONS, WHEREAS LATINOS ARE OVER-REPRESENTED AMONG FIRST ENTRIES

FIGURE 21: FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 21 details children with first entries and reentries to foster care in 2013 by race/ethnicity for TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County. It also provides population-level data for comparison purposes.

Compared to their same-age counterparts in the general population, Black youth are overrepresented in both the first entry and reentry populations.

Blacks account for 8% of all TAY age 16–17 in Los Angeles County, but they make up 19% of first entries and 32% of reentries. Blacks account for a slightly smaller proportion of TAY age 16–17 with first entries than youth age 0–15 (19% versus 24%, respectively).

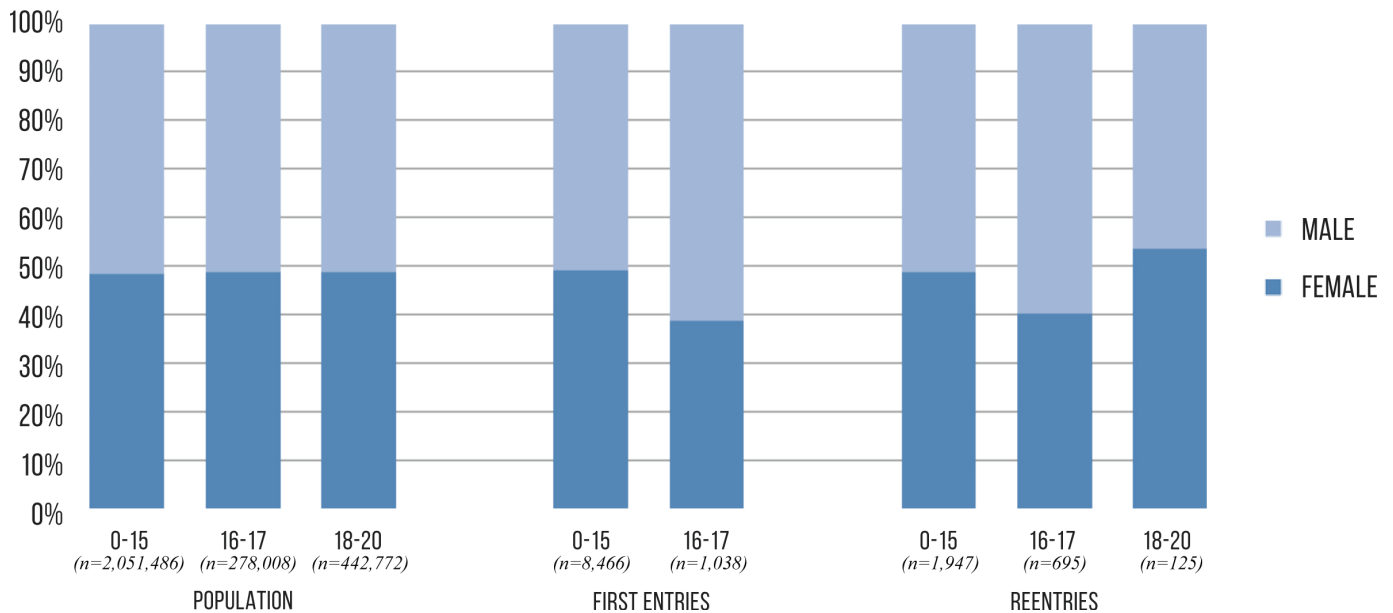
The overrepresentation of Blacks in the TAY reentry population in Los Angeles County suggests that they may have fewer permanency connections and may be particularly vulnerable to adverse outcomes while transitioning to adulthood.

Latino TAY in out-of-home placement by contrast are more likely to be first entrants to care and therefore may require different independent living and supportive transition services than other racial/ethnic groups.

It is important to note that a higher proportion of Latinos may be first entries because they are more likely to be recent arrivals in California. Data on migration/immigration status is not available on the CCWIP website.

**MALES ARE OVERREPRESENTED AMONG BOTH TAY
(AGE 16–17) FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO
OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

FIGURE 22: FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY GENDER - 2013



GENDER

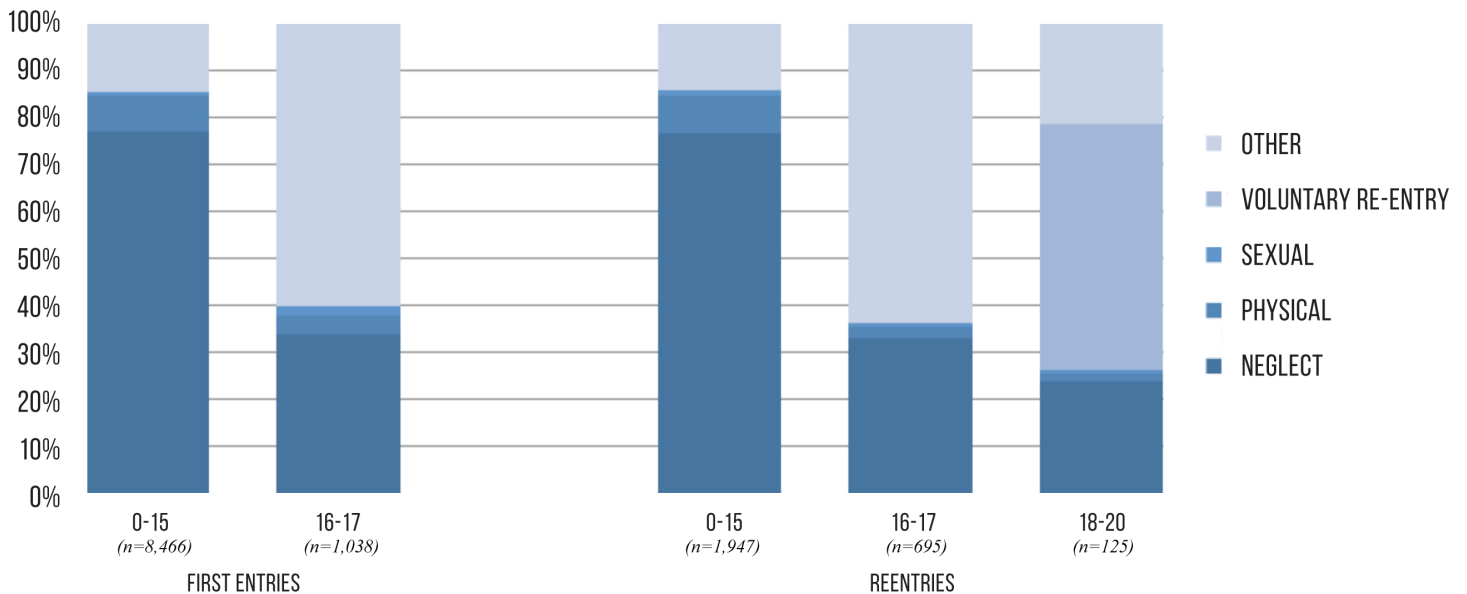
Figure 22 details children with first entries and reentries to foster care in 2013 by gender for TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County. It also provides population-level data for comparison purposes.

Table Series 11, 12, and 13 provide the gender distributions of entry types by age groups. Unlike the pattern observed for allegations and substantiations, in which females are overrepresented, TAY age 16–17 who enter care for the first time or who reenter foster care are more likely to be males than their younger counterparts. For instance, 61% of TAY age 16–17 who enter care for the first time and 60% who reenter care are male, compared to 51% of their younger counterparts in both categories.

Male TAY may be at higher risk of removal from home due to behavioral or other issues.

Among 18- to 20-year-old reentries, females are overrepresented. The larger proportion of females opting into extended foster care has implications for the landscape of supportive transition services offered by child welfare agencies.

Overall, the data suggest that while female TAY have more contact with the child protection system than their male counterparts, male TAY are more likely to be removed from home. This may reflect higher rates of behavioral problems exhibited by male TAY which may pose challenges to their ability to remain safely at home.

FIGURE 23: FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY REMOVAL REASON - 2013

REMOVAL REASON

Figure 23 examines children with first entries and reentries to foster care in 2013 by removal reason for TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

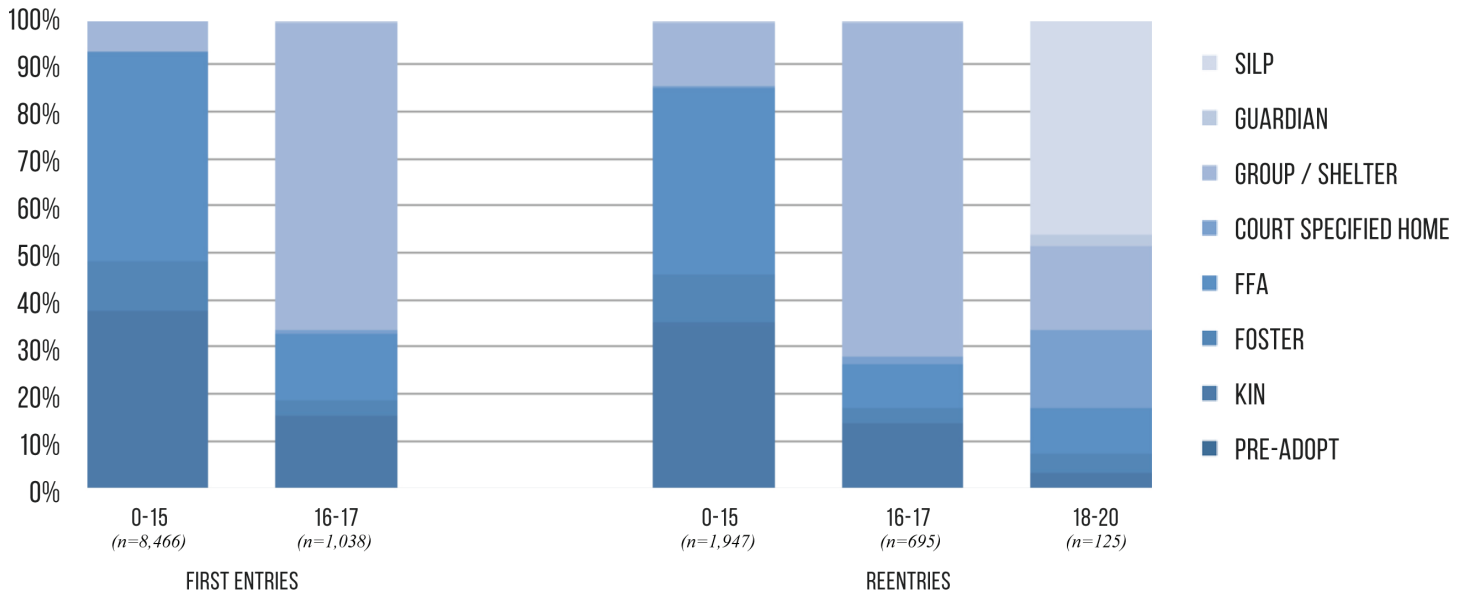
Although neglect accounts for more than one-third of all first entries and reentries among TAY, entries and reentries for neglect are less common for TAY than for their younger counterparts.

Entries for other reasons, including exploitation and child disability or handicap, account for the majority of entries and reentries among TAY age 16–17. For instance, in Los Angeles County, 60% of TAY age 16–17 entering care for the first time and 64% of TAY reentering did so for other reasons, compared to 15% and 14% of youth age 0–15, respectively.

With the implementation of AB12, voluntary reentries have increased among TAY reentries. As of 2013, they accounted for more than half of all reentries among TAY age 18–20. When we examine entries over time in Table 13.4, we see that the proportion of voluntary reentries among TAY age 18–20 increased from 28% in 2012 to 52% in 2013.

TAY (AGE 16–17) WHO ENTER CARE ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN CONGREGATE CARE AND LESS LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN FAMILY SETTINGS

FIGURE 24: FIRST ENTRIES AND REENTRIES TO FOSTER CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE - 2013



PLACEMENT TYPE

Figure 24 examines children with first entries and reentries to foster care in 2013 by placement type for TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

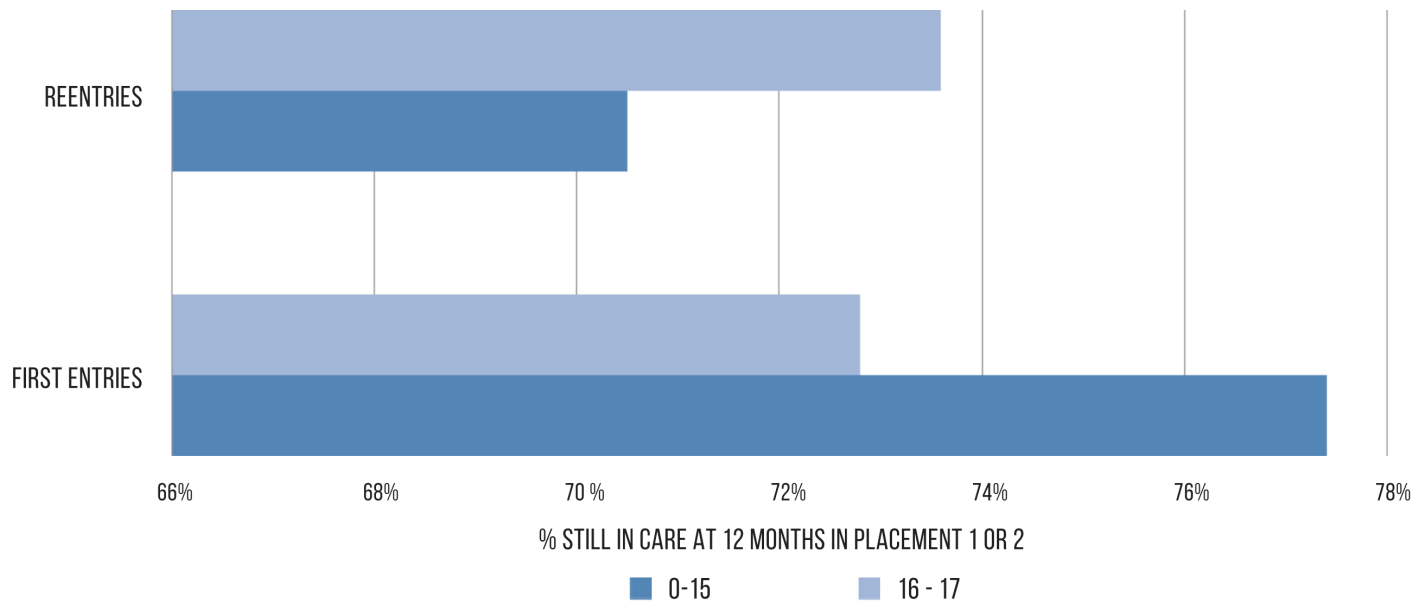
Compared to their younger counterparts (age 0–15), TAY age 16–17 who enter and reenter care are much more likely to be placed in congregate care (group/shelter) and less likely to be placed in family settings (kin, foster homes, foster family agency homes).

In Los Angeles, more than two-thirds of TAY age 16–17 who enter care for the first time or reenter care, are placed in group homes, compared to 6% of youth age 0–15 who enter care for the first time and 13% of those who reenter care.

The addition of the supervised independent living placement (SILP) type in 2012 with the implementation of AB12 has slightly altered the distribution of placement types. In 2013, 46% of TAY age 18–20 reentering care was placed in a SILP.

TAY AGE 16–17 ENTERING CARE FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE SLIGHTLY LESS STABLE PLACEMENTS THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS, WHEREAS TAY REENTERING CARE HAVE SLIGHTLY MORE STABLE PLACEMENTS

FIGURE 25: ENTRIES TO CARE (JAN-JUN): STILL IN CARE AT 12 MONTHS IN PLACEMENT 1 OR 2 - 2013



PLACEMENT STABILITY

For entries during specified 6-month time periods (January to June), Table Series 14 presents the percent of children still in care at 12 months in their first or second placement number over time. Figure 25 illustrates this measure for 2013.

Seventy-three percent of TAY first entrants still in care after 12 months are still in their first or second placement, compared to 77% of youth age 0-15. By contrast, among reentries, 74% of TAY are still in their first or second placement, compared to 71% of youth age 0-15. The greater instability among TAY first entries may be because TAY may present significant behavioral or mental health issues, which can pose challenges to placement stability.

As Table 14 indicates, the proportion of TAY entering care who were still in their first or second placement after 12 months declined during recession years (2009–2011). The proportion began to increase slightly in 2012.³⁹ These data should be interpreted with caution given limitations of this placement stability measure. Specifically, the measure does not give credit for step-downs in restrictiveness or other planned moves, nor does it examine placement disruptions for children who are discharged before the 12-month follow-up. A clearer picture of this issue will perhaps emerge with the upcoming federal placement stability measure that examines rates of moves per day.

MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY

Median length of stay was measured for entry cohorts. The median is the estimated time for half (50%) of the children who entered out-of-home care during the specified time period to exit.⁴⁰

Table 15.1 presents these data for January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011, by entry type and age. This report is available for predefined age groups. Separate median figures are not available for 0–15 year olds.

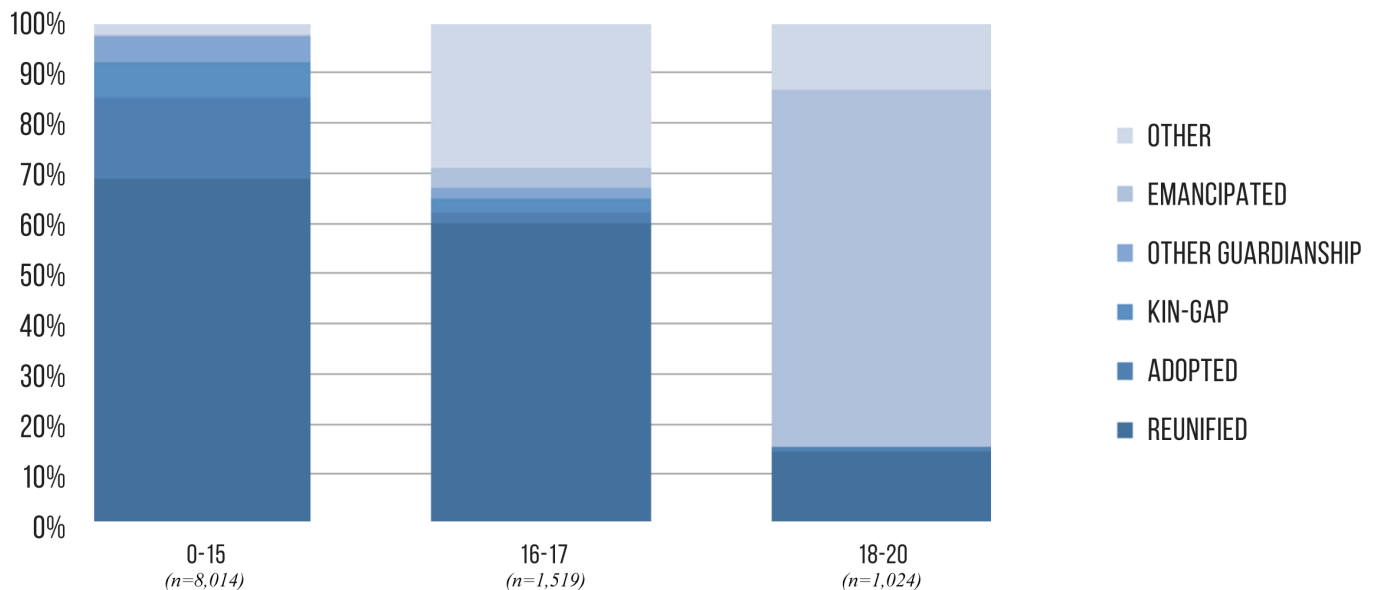
Examining the combined first entry cohort from 2007 to 2011, not surprisingly we find that in Los Angeles County, youth who entered care at age 16–17 have a shorter median length of stay than do all youth age 0–20 (299 vs. 399 days, respectively). By definition this comparison is limited by the amount of time older youth can remain in care at this age.

TAY age 16–17 who reenter care have much longer median lengths of stay than first entrants (432 vs. 299 days, respectively).

The longer foster care tenures of TAY who reenter care may reflect social and emotional challenges they face that can affect their ability to find permanency as well as to successfully navigate the transition to adulthood.

**TAY ARE MUCH LESS LIKELY TO EXIT TO PERMANENCY
THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS**

FIGURE 26: FOSTER CARE EXITS BY EXIT TYPE - 2013



EXITS FROM FOSTER CARE

Table Series 16 provides data on all exits from foster care between 2003 and 2013 in Los Angeles County.

In 2013, Los Angeles County accounted for one third of all exits from foster care statewide.⁴¹ During 2013, child welfare supervised TAY accounted for 54% of TAY exits and probation for 46% in Los Angeles County.

Figure 26 examines exit types for youth leaving care in 2013 for TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

In 2013, TAY were much less likely than all youth to exit to permanency including reunification, adoption, kin-gap and guardianship, and were more likely to exit to emancipation or in other ways.

Specifically, in 2013, 69% of youth age 0–15 exited to reunification and 16% exited to adoption compared to 60% and 2% of TAY age 16–17, respectively. Conversely, 29% of TAY age 16–17 exited for other reasons, compared to 2% of their younger counterparts. Other exits can include running away, refusing services, incarceration, and death. Emancipations accounted for 71% of exits among TAY age 18–20 in 2013.

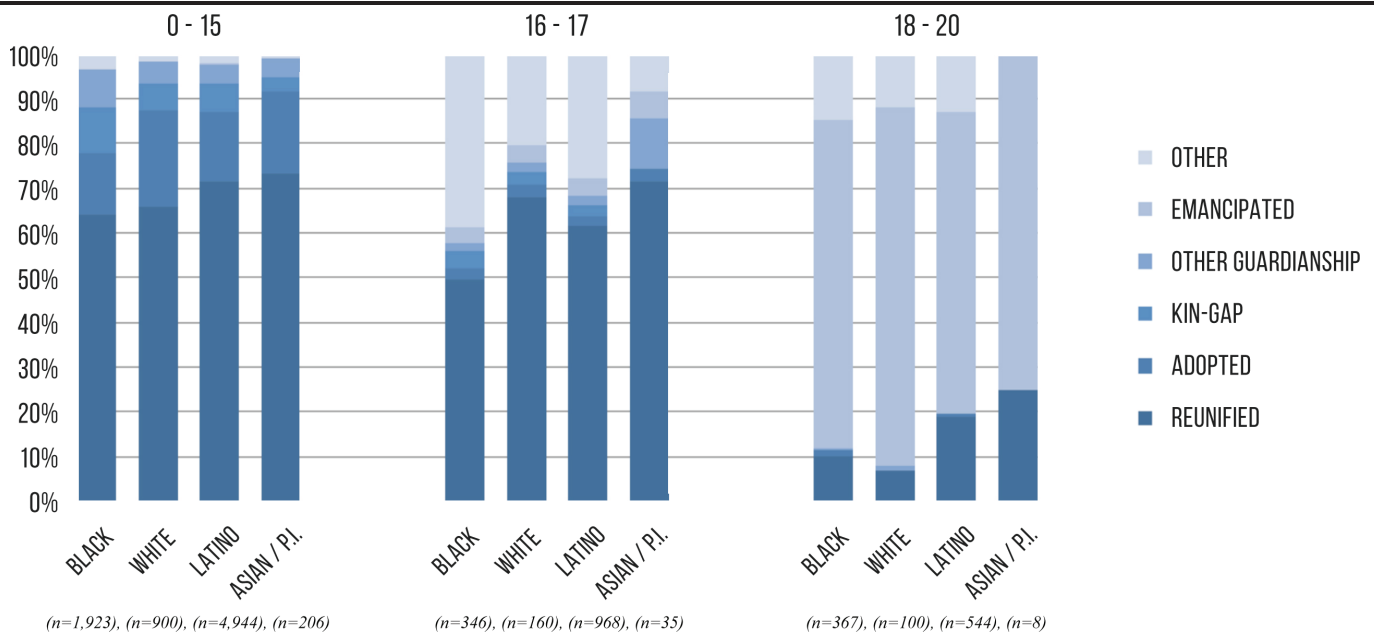
Although TAY are less likely than their younger counterparts to exit to permanency, many TAY in Los Angeles County do reunify. During the last decade, reunifications have increased among TAY.

Table Series 16 details these exit types over time. Exits to reunification among TAY age 16–17 rose 43%, from 42% to 60% between 2003 and 2013.⁴² Among 18- to 20-year-olds, reunifications rose 20% over this same period. In 2013, 15% of TAY age 18–20 exited to reunification.

Although permanency is an important achievement, it is critical to recognize that TAY who reunify may still face the same educational, employment, health, and mental health barriers as disconnected youth. Therefore, from a prevention perspective, services available to disconnected youth must also be extended to youth who reunify, because they are likely vulnerable to similarly problematic outcomes. Therefore, long-term outcomes for TAY who exit care must be tracked regardless of exit type.

BLACK AND LATINO TAY ARE LESS LIKELY TO EXIT TO PERMANENCY THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS OF OTHER RACES/ETHNICITIES

FIGURE 27: FOSTER CARE EXITS BY RACE/ETHNICITY - 2013



RACE/ETHNICITY

Table Series 17 presents 2013 exits by demographic and case characteristics. There are race/ethnicity differences in exit types among TAY and youth in general.

Figure 27 depicts the distribution of exit type by race/ethnicity. Due to small sample size, data for Native Americans are not included.

Black and Latino TAY are much less likely to exit to permanency than their counterparts of other races/ethnicities. They are also more likely to exit for other reasons including running away, refusing services, incarceration, or death. This pattern is most pronounced among TAY age 16–17.

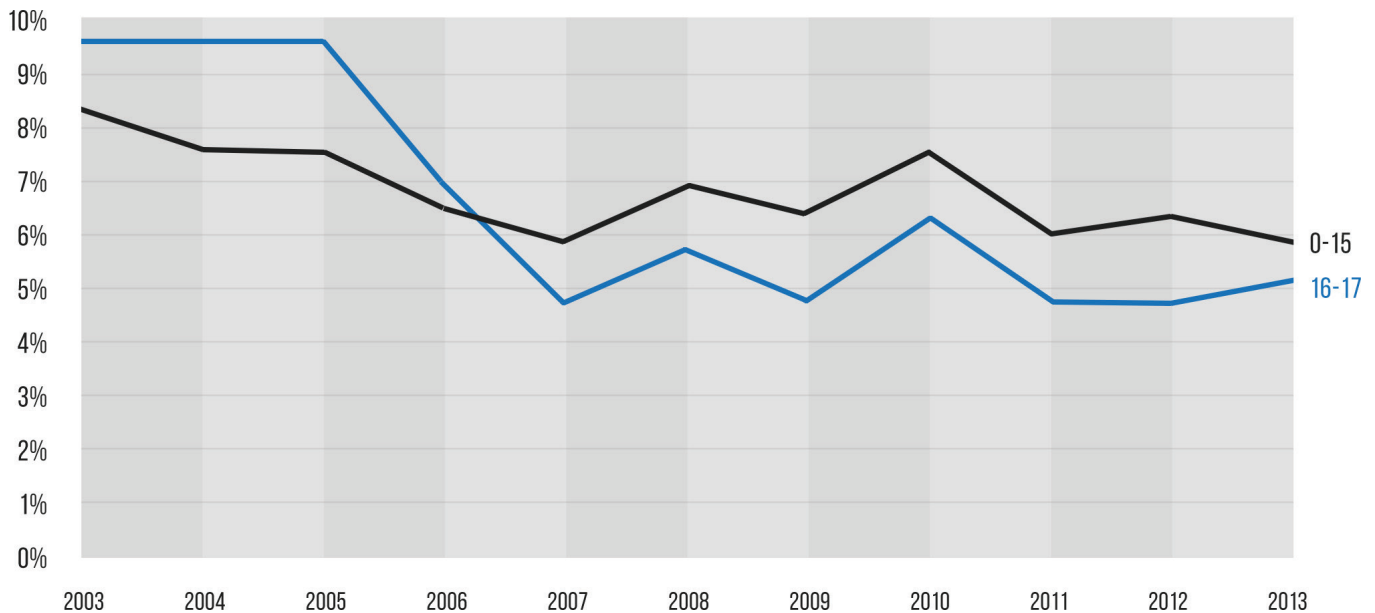
Less than half of Black TAY age 16–17 reunify, compared with 68% of White and 71% of Asian /

P.I. TAY. Latino TAY age 16–17 are also less likely to reunify than their counterparts of other races/ethnicities, with 62% doing so in 2013. This pattern does not persist among TAY age 18–20.

Black and Latino TAY are also more likely than all other races/ethnicities to exit by other means. Again, these may include running away, refusing services, incarceration, or death. In 2013, 39% of Black and 28% Latino TAY (age 16–17) exited care in this manner. Although the differences are smaller, this pattern also held among TAY age 18–20. Although emancipating TAY may have an array of community-based transition services available to them, these Black and Latino TAY exiting through other means may be particularly vulnerable and disconnected.

MALES TAY ARE LESS LIKELY TO EXIT TO PERMANENCY BEFORE AGE 18 THAN THEIR FEMALE COUNTERPARTS

FIGURE 28: RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF EXIT BY AGE GROUP



GENDER

Table Series 17 also details exit type by gender. Male TAY are less likely to exit to permanency before age 18 than their female counterparts.

Male TAY age 16–17 are less likely to reunify and more likely to exit by other means than their female counterparts. In 2013, 56% of male TAY reunified compared to 65% of females, whereas 35% exited by other means compared to 20% of females.

Among TAY age 18–20, males are less likely to emancipate and more likely to reunify or exit by other means than their female counterparts. In 2013, 60% of males emancipated and approximately 19% exited to both reunification and other exit types. By contrast, 83% of females emancipated, 9% reunified, and 7% exited to other means.

RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT AFTER EXIT

Once youth exit foster care, it is critical to determine whether they remain safe. For the period 2003–2013, Table Series 18 and Figure 29 detail the percentage of recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months following exit. Data are provided for TAY age 16–17 and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

Recurrence is a relatively rare event for both TAY and all youth. For the most recent time period, the rate of recurrence was roughly similar for TAY and all youth age 0–15 at 5% to 6%.

FOOTNOTES

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH FOSTER CARE CASELOAD DYNAMICS

- 37 http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/RefRates.aspx
- 38 2013 CA: all entries $n = 36,248$, first entries $n = 28,181$, reentries $n = 8,054$;
LA all entries $n = 12,274$, first entries $n = 9,504$, reentries $n = 2,767$.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Entries.aspx
- 39 Although Table 14 displays data for 2013, these proportions are subject to revision because successive extracts reveal placement changes not captured in the Quarter 2, 2014 data.
- 40 <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/methodologies/default.aspx?report=Stay>
- 41 Exits 2013: CA $n = 31,724$, LA $n = 10,557$.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/Exits.aspx
- 42 Percent change 2003–2013 exits to reunification: TAY 16–17 $((60-42)/42) = 42.9\%$; TAY 18–20 $((14.6-12.2)/12.2) = 19.7\%$.

FOSTER CARE

ON JULY 1, 2013, 1 IN 3 YOUTH AGE 0–20 IN
FOSTER CARE IN CALIFORNIA WERE FROM LOS
ANGELES COUNTY

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Youth in out-of-home care at a specific point in time represent the current work of the child protective services system. A comprehensive understanding of the demographic and case characteristics of TAY currently in foster care is especially important as agencies plan to assist these youth in making a successful transition to adulthood. Specifically, services may be developed to meet the particular needs of the TAY foster care population in Los Angeles County.

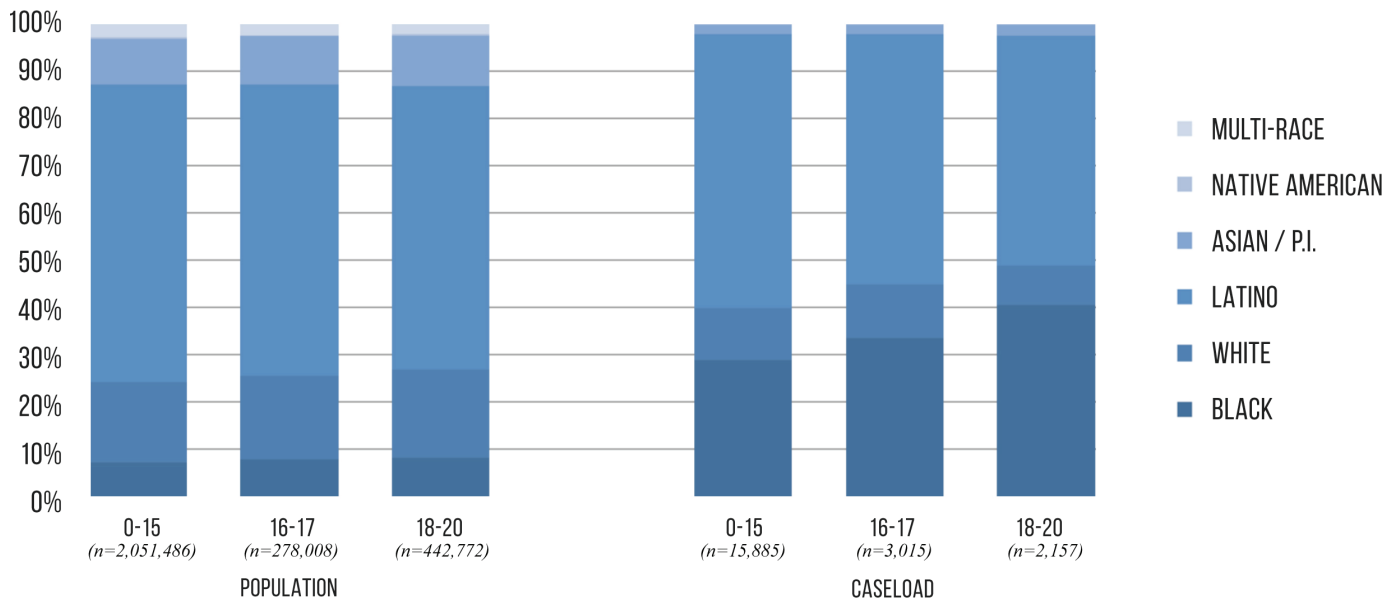
The most intuitively accessible measure of youth in care is the point-in-time caseload, which provides a snapshot of all youth in care during a particular time period. Although they offer the all-important agency perspective, point-in-time measures are more likely to capture youth who have been in care for longer periods of time and not youth who enter and exit quickly. With this limitation in mind, the report still provides important information on the characteristics and experiences of the foster care population. The point-in-time counts presented are mid-year counts from July 1 of the specific year.

As Table Series 19 reveals, between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2013, overall prevalence rates for out-of-home placement declined for TAY and all youth in Los Angeles County.⁴³ On July 1, 2013, 8.3 per 1,000 TAY age 16–17 were in out-of-home placement.

Table Series 20 details the point-in-time caseload of youth in foster care in Los Angeles County over time by demographic and case characteristics.

TAY account for 24% of those in foster care placement in Los Angeles County, with TAY age 16–17 accounting for 15% and TAY age 18–20 for 9%.⁴⁴

Over the past decade the foster care caseload (age 0–20) in Los Angeles County has declined approximately 28%. The TAY age 16–17 caseload has declined 40% while the TAY age 18–20 caseload has increased more than 100% with the majority of this growth occurring between 2012 and 2013 as a result of AB12.⁴⁵

FIGURE 29: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD BY RACE/ETHNICITY - JULY 1, 2013

RACE/ETHNICITY

Figure 29 examines race/ethnicity for youth in foster care as of July 1, 2013. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15, with population-level data for comparison purposes.

Black youth are overrepresented in the foster care population, whereas youth of other race/ethnicities are underrepresented.

Although Blacks comprised only 7%–8% of the Los Angeles County age 0–20 population in 2013, they comprised 28% of youth age 0–15, 33% of TAY age 16–17, and 40% of TAY age 18–20 in out-of-home placement on July 1, 2013.

The overrepresentation of Black youth is particularly prevalent in the TAY population. This illustrates the trends observed in earlier sections, in which Black youth are disproportionately represented at all decision points in the child welfare system except exits. Thus, they are more likely to enter foster care and stay in care.

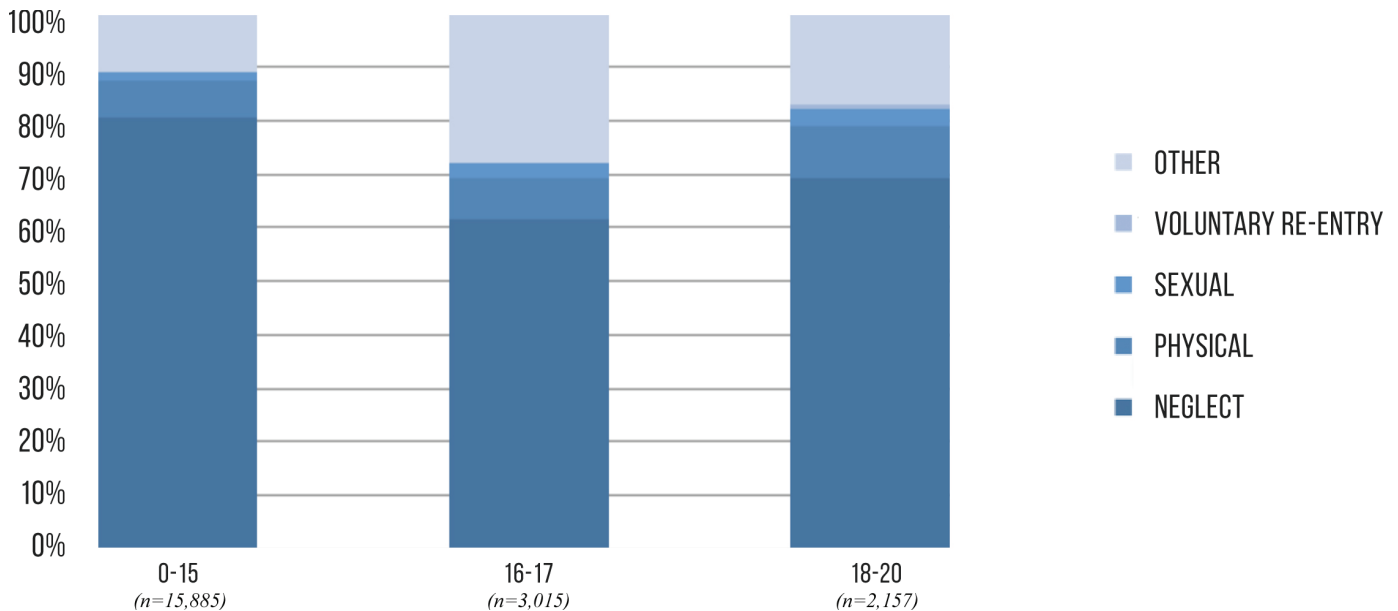
**BLACK YOUTH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE
FOSTER CARE POPULATION, PARTICULARLY
AMONG TAY**

GENDER

Despite the gender differences in rates and entries to care, the July 1, 2013, caseload data in Table Series 20 shows only small gender differences among youth in the out-of-home care population.

TAY who remain in foster care past age 18 are more likely to be female.

Among youth age 0–15, females are slightly less likely to be in care than males (48% vs. 52%, respectively); however, this shifts slightly with age. For instance, among TAY age 16–17, this difference starts to disappear (49% vs. 51%, respectively), and by age 18–20, females are more likely to be in care than males (53% vs. 47%, respectively). Again, these data reflect the higher proportion of females age 18–20 opting into extended foster care.

FIGURE 30: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD BY REMOVAL REASON - JULY 1, 2013

REMOVAL REASON

Figure 30 examines removal reason for youth in care on July 1, 2013. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

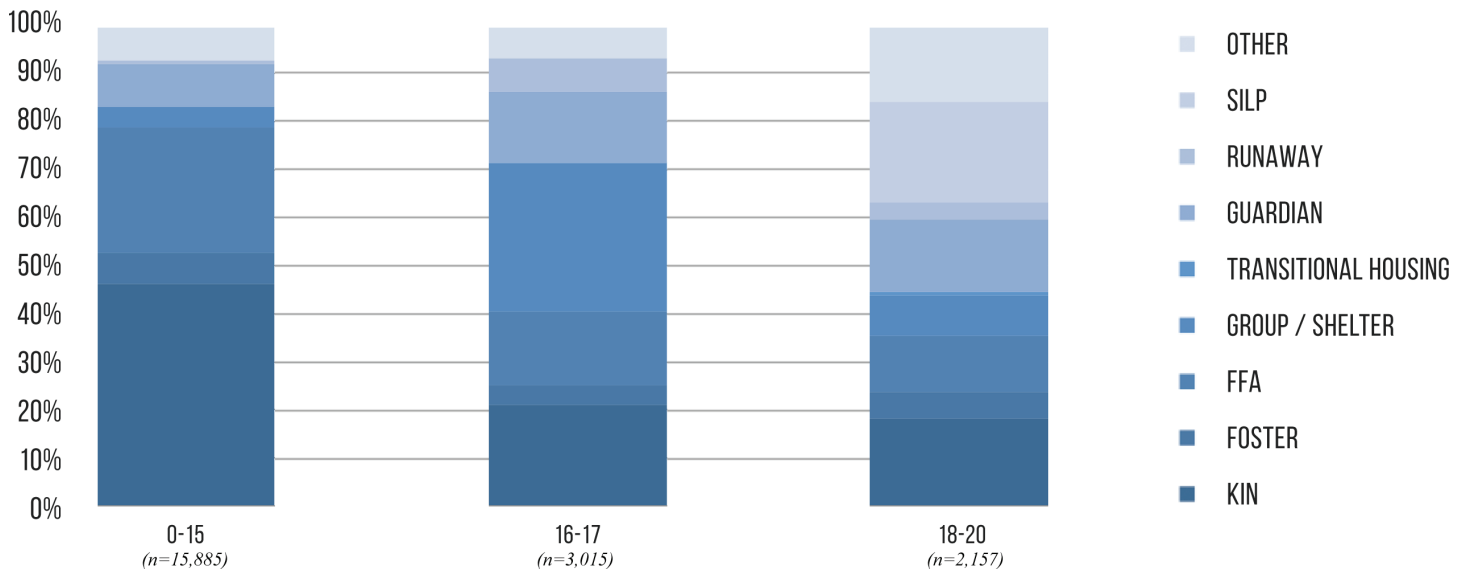
TAY in out-of-home care are less likely than their younger counterparts to be in care for neglect and more likely to be in care for other reasons.

In Los Angeles County, more than 80% of youth age 0–15 were in foster care for neglect, compared to 60% of TAY age 16–17 and 69% of TAY age 18–20. This trend is similar to that observed with entry data.

TAY in care are also more likely to have been removed for other reasons than their younger counterparts. Specifically, only 1 in 10 youth in care age 0–15 were removed for other reasons, compared to nearly 1 in 3 TAY age 16–17, and 1 in 6 TAY age 18–20.

TAY ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN FAMILY SETTINGS AND MORE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN GROUP CARE THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS

FIGURE 31: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD BY PLACEMENT TYPE - JULY 1, 2013



PLACEMENT TYPE

Figure 31 illustrates the placement-type distribution of youth in care as of July 1, 2013. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

TAY age 16–17 are less likely than their younger counterparts also in out-of-home placement to be in family-like settings (kin, foster home, or foster family agencies) and more likely to be placed in congregate care (group/shelter), with guardians, or to have runaway status.

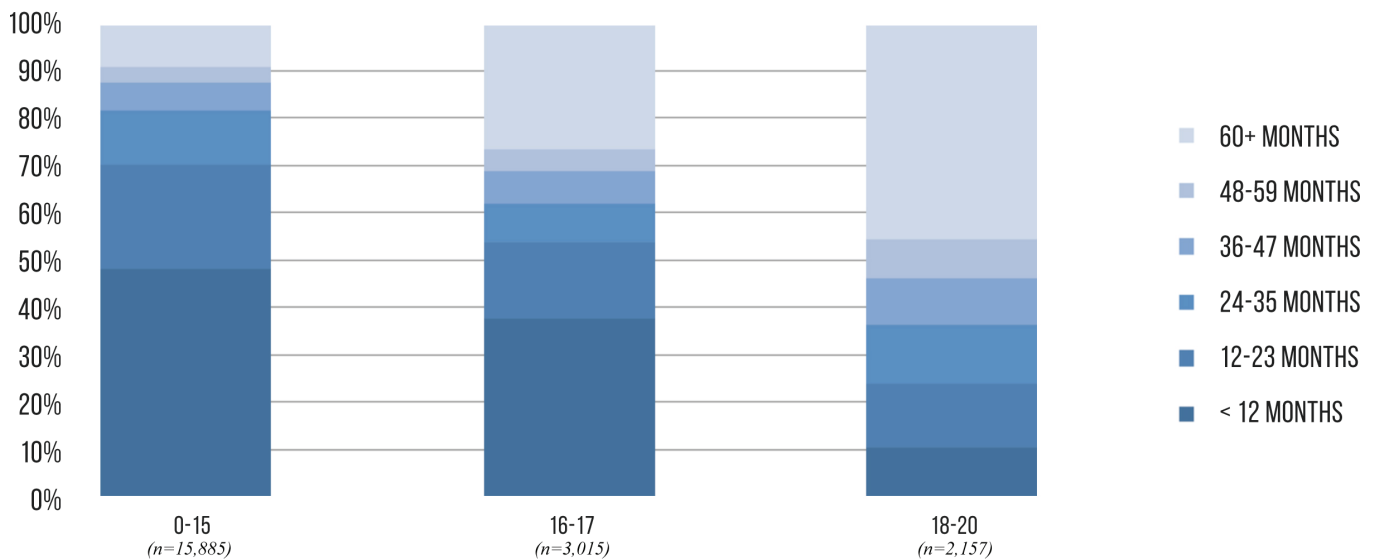
As of July 1, 2013, 31% of TAY age 16–17 were placed in congregate care (group home/shelter) compared to less than 5% of their younger counterparts. Additionally 7% of TAY age 16–17 had a runaway status.

Among TAY age 18–20, the composition of placement types differs from their younger TAY counterparts age 16–17. On July 1, 2013, 1 in 5 TAY age 18–20 was living in SILPs, a new placement option which became available with the implementation of AB12. TAY age 18–20 are less likely than TAY age 16–17 to be placed in congregate care or family settings (kin, foster homes, and family foster agencies), and more likely to be in other placement types.

These data have important implications for the Foundation's strategy to help create stronger TAY caregivers. In particular, the strategy must take into account the large proportion of TAY age 16–17 in congregate and other non-family settings.

TAY ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN IN CARE FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME THAN THEIR YOUNGER COUNTERPARTS

FIGURE 32: FOSTER CARE CASELOAD BY TIME IN CARE - JULY 1, 2013



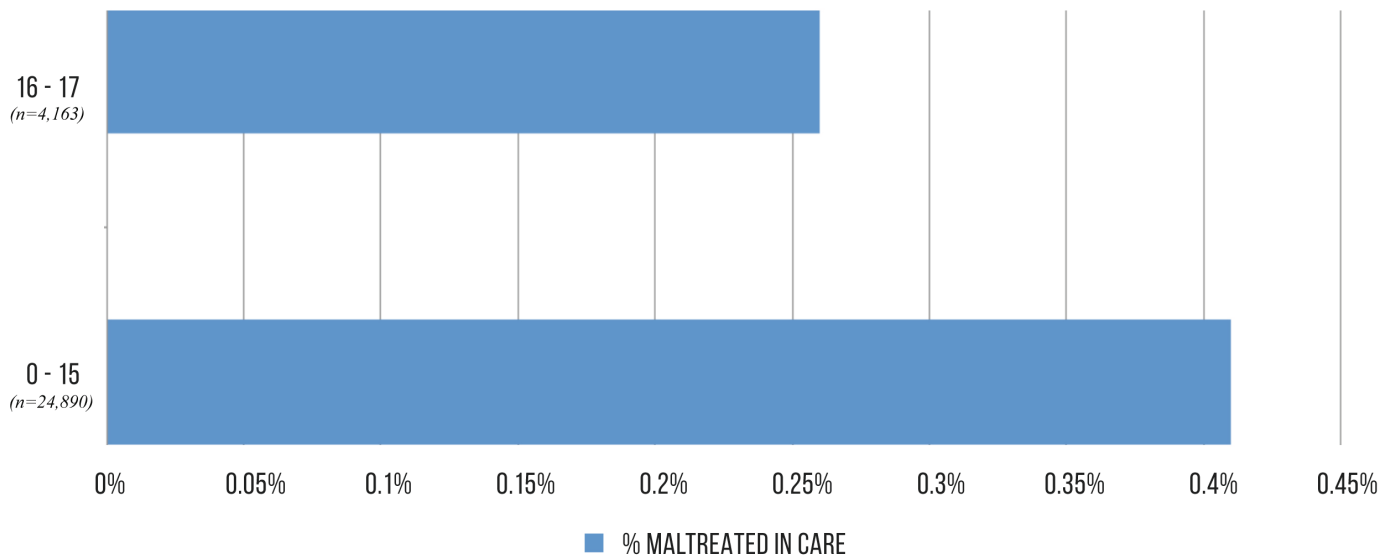
TIME IN CARE

Figure 32 illustrates the time-in-care distribution for youth in foster care as of July 1, 2013. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15 in Los Angeles County.

TAY are more likely to have been in foster care for longer periods of time than their younger counterparts. As of July 1, 2013, 46% of TAY age 16–17 and 76% of TAY age 18–20 had been in care for 24 or more months, compared to 29% of youth age 0–15. TAY were also more likely to have been in care for 60 or more months than were youth age 0–15. For instance, 26% of TAY age 16–17 and 45% of TAY age 18–20 had been in care for 60 or more months, compared to 9% of their younger counterparts.

Again, it is important to recognize that the point-in-time count does not represent all children served in foster care and is skewed toward individuals with longer stays. Although for those in care on a given day, older children were in care longer, the analysis should not be taken as measure of usual length of stay for these groups.

In a child welfare system focused on permanency, TAY with long tenures in care likely represent a population of hard to place children with complex emotional and other needs. For these most vulnerable youth, agency and community services for successful transition and long term support are even more pertinent.

FIGURE 33: MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE GROUP - 2013

ABUSE IN FOSTER CARE

It is critical to determine whether TAY remain safe while in foster care. Table Series 21 provides an indicator of abuse in foster care over time by age. Figure 33 provides examines the proportion of youth maltreated while in foster care in 2013.

Although Figure 33 illustrates that youth age 0–15 have a slightly higher rate of abuse in care than TAY, these differences are too small to be considered statistically significant. Maltreatment in out-of-home care is a very rare event. Overall, less than 1% of all youth in care in Los Angeles County during 2013 were abused while in care. This proportion has remained relatively constant over time.

SERVICES RECEIVED IN FOSTER CARE

Detailed data regarding the services youth receive while in care are not available on the CCWIP web site. There are, however, several statewide indicators regarding the receipt of services. Although limited, it is important to determine whether there are differences in receipt of these services between TAY and other youth in care. To answer this question, we examined reports regarding receipt of timely medical and dental examinations, individualized education program (IEP) provision, and authorizations for psychotropic medications. These reports examine children in care during a specific quarter to determine compliance.

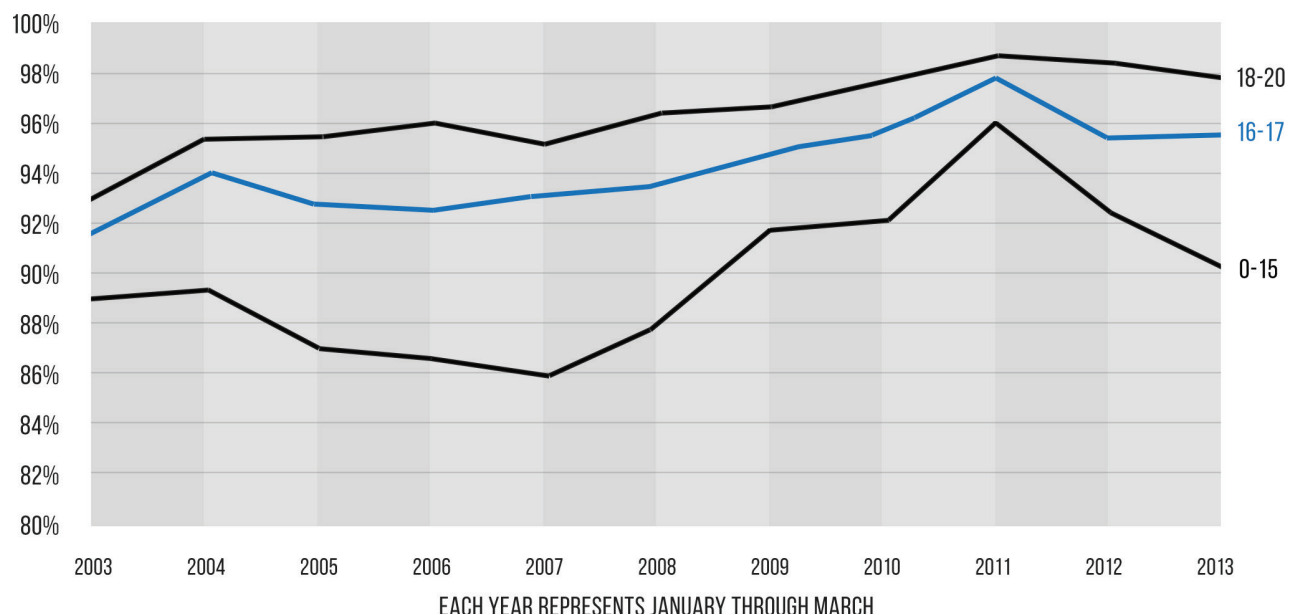
FIGURE 34: RECEIPT OF A TIMELY MEDICAL EXAM BY AGE GROUP

Figure 34 details the receipt of a timely medical exam over time for children in foster care during the first 3 months of the year. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15.

Figure 34 shows that in Los Angeles County, there are some age differences in the percent of TAY who receive timely medical exams. Over time, TAY age 16–17 and 18–20 have slightly higher rates of on-time medical exams than their younger counterparts age 0–15.

In 2013, 90% of youth age 0–15 received an on-time exam, compared to 95% of TAY age 16–17 and 98% of TAY age 18–20. TAY age 18–20 consistently have the highest rates of on-time medical exams.

Table Series 22 presents medical and dental services received in 2003–2013 by children in out-of-home placement during a 3-month period (January to March).

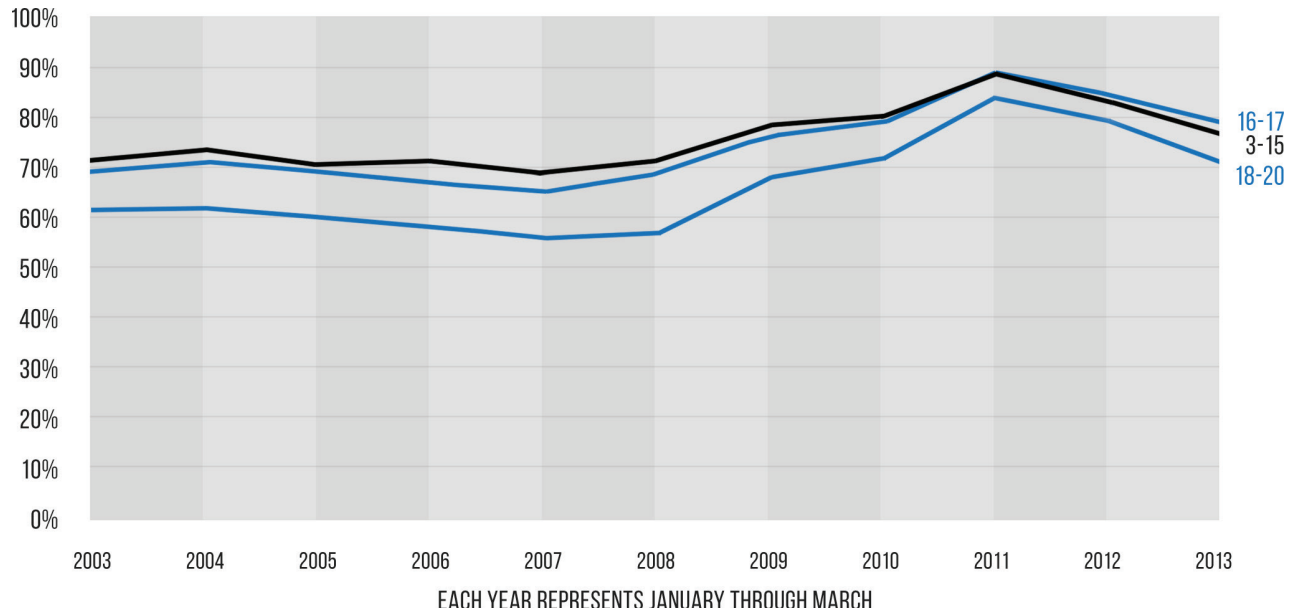
FIGURE 35: RECEIPT OF A TIMELY DENTAL EXAM BY AGE GROUP

Figure 35 details the receipt of a timely dental exam over time for children in foster care during the first 3 months of the year. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 3–15. This measure is only calculated for youth age 3 or older.

There are also some small age-group differences in the receipt of dental examinations. TAY age 18–20 have slightly lower rates of timely dental exams than their younger counterparts. In 2013, 76% of youth age 3–15 and 79% of TAY age 16–17 had a timely exam, compared to 71% of TAY age 18–20.

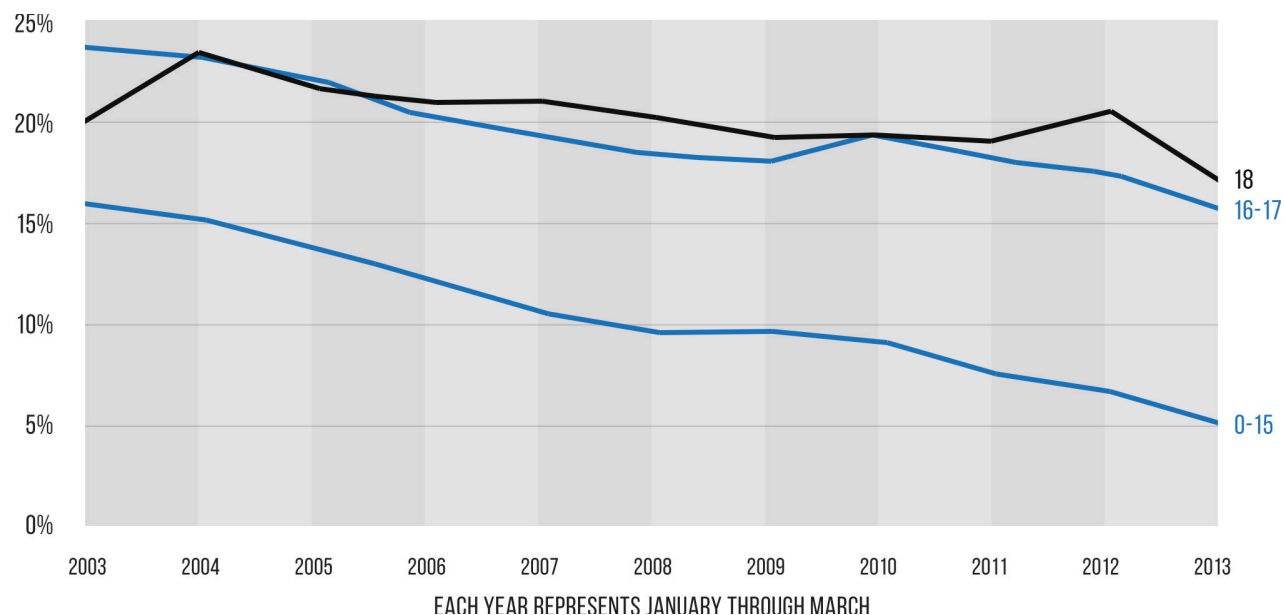
FIGURE 36: EVER HAD AN IEP BY AGE GROUP

Table Series 23 depicts educational and mental health services received by children in foster care during the 3-month period (January to March) for the years 2003–2013. Data are provided for both TAY age groups and youth age 0–15.

Figure 36 examines the proportion of youth in care during the first 3 months of the year who have ever had an IEP, which are provided for children with identified specialized education or educational service needs. TAY are more likely than their younger counterparts (age 0–15) in foster care to have had an IEP.

The proportion of youth in care who ever had an IEP has declined during the last decade for both TAY and youth age 0–15. Among youth in care in 2013, 16% of TAY age 16–17 and 17% of TAY age 18–20 have had an IEP at some point, compared to 5% of their younger counterparts.

These differences are difficult to interpret because TAY, by definition, have spent more years in school than their younger counterparts. Nevertheless, the data suggest that nearly 1 in 6 TAY may have learning difficulties and may be at greater risk of negative educational outcomes.

Educational support and job training services for TAY should take into account these special learning challenges. It is important to note that IEP data for Los Angeles County are somewhat erratic. Specifically, the data trends differ from that observed in the rest of the state, where the proportion of youth with IEPs has generally increased over the past decade (2003-2013).⁴⁶

Further investigation is required to determine why the frequency of IEPs has dropped in Los Angeles much more so than in the rest of the state.

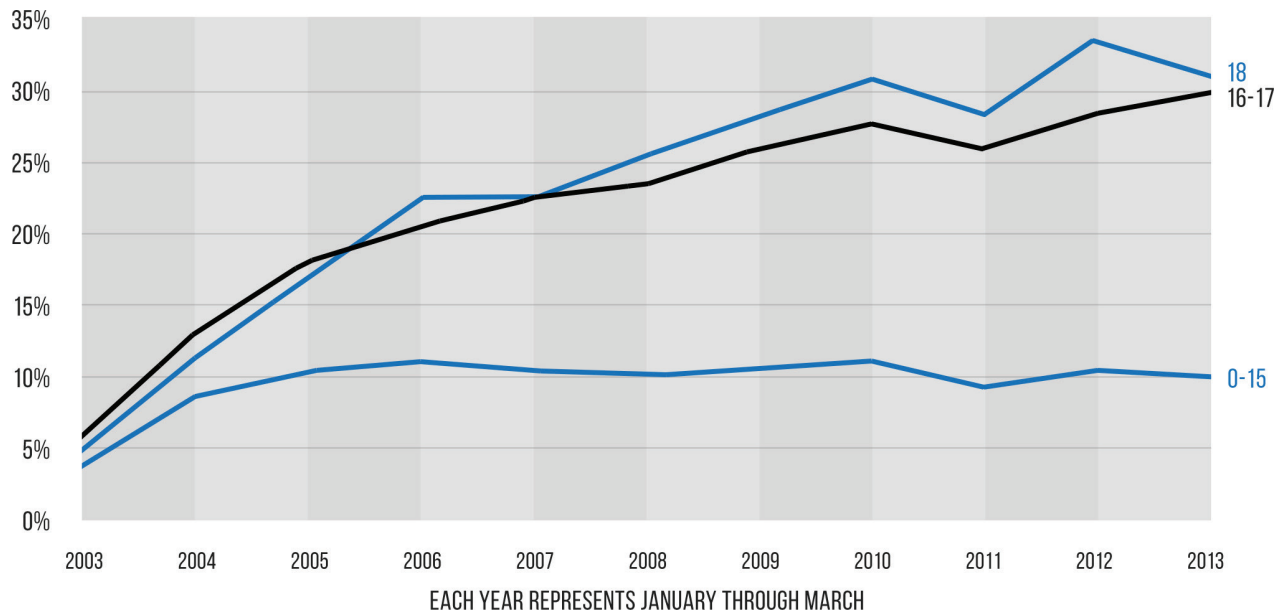
FIGURE 37: AUTHORIZED FOR PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS BY AGE GROUP

Figure 37 illustrates the percentage of youth in foster care in the first 3 months of the year between 2003 and 2013 with a court order or parental consent that authorizes the child to receive psychotropic medications.

During the past decade, the proportion of youth age 0–15 authorized for psychotropic medications remained relatively stable in Los Angeles County, but has risen sharply for TAY. Some of this increase may be attributable to greater statewide accountability and better data collection in CWS/CMS regarding this measure.

Nearly 1 in 3 TAY (30% age 16–17 and 31% age 18) in LA County are authorized for psychotropic medications. In the foster care population age 0–15, this proportion is less than 10%.

Recent investigations have highlighted the disproportionate use of psychotropic medications in the foster youth population.⁴⁷ In general, children who have been abused or neglected are at greater risk for mental health disorders. The rates of psychotropic drug authorizations for TAY may also reflect the fact that the risk of many mental health disorders increases with the onset of adolescence.

Further investigation is required to understand the disproportionate administration of psychotropic drugs among foster youth and among TAY foster youth in particular.

FOOTNOTES

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

- 43 Prevalence rate change between 2003 and 2013: age 0–17 = 11.3 per 1,000 to 7.7 per 1,000; age 0–15 = 10.9 per 1,000 to 7.6 per 1,000; age 16–17 = 13.6 per 1,000 to 8.3 per 1,000.
- 44 Out-of-home care on July 1, 2013: CA n = 63,482, LA n = 21,057.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/PIT.aspx
- 45 Percent change in out-of-home care population from 2003–2013: age 0–20 ((21,057-33,950)/33,950) = -38%; age 0–15 ((15,855-27,206)/27,206) = -42%; age 16–17 ((3,015-5,038)/5,038) = -40%; age 18–20 ((2,157-1,076)/1,076) = 100%.
- 46 CA (non-LA) % ever had an IEP 2003 – 4.5%, 2013 – 10.3%.
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/CDSS_6B.aspx
- 47 De Sa, K. (2014). Drugging our kids. San Jose Mercury News. Retrieved from [http:// webspecial.mercurynews.com/druggedkids/](http://webspecial.mercurynews.com/druggedkids/)

EMANCIPATION DYNAMICS

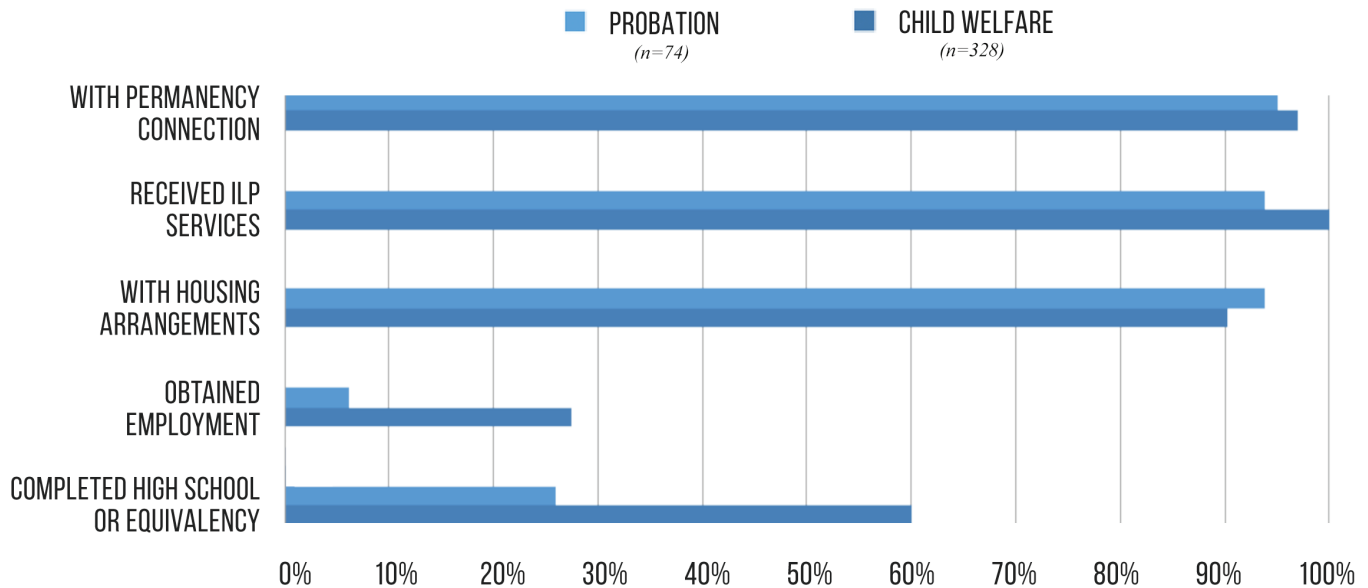
FIGURE 38: EMANCIPATION DYNAMICS - 2013

Table 24 presents data regarding youth emancipated from care in 2014. These data are compiled from the quarterly 8A reports complied by the CDSS. CDSS aggregates the SOC 405A-Independent Living Program Annual Statistical Report.⁴⁸ Data are only available for youth whose whereabouts are known during the quarter and represent their status during the month they exited care. These data must be interpreted with caution because they are incomplete.

The report examines several outcomes related to self-sufficiency, including whether the youth completed high school or equivalency, had obtained employment, had housing arrangements, had received independent living program (ILP) services, and had a permanency connection. Data are presented separately for child-welfare and probation-supervised youth. Figure 38 illustrates these outcomes for 2013.

In 2013, the majority of youth whose whereabouts were known when emancipating from child-welfare- and probation-supervised care in Los Angeles County emancipated having a permanency connection, having received ILP services, and with housing arrangements.

These data likely overestimate the proportion of positive outcomes among emancipating youth because they are available only for youth whose whereabouts were known when they emancipated. Youth whose whereabouts were unknown may not be as likely to have achieved positive outcomes.

In 2013, very few youth emancipated having achieved a high school diploma or equivalency or having obtained employment.

**TAY ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN IN CARE FOR
LONGER PERIODS OF TIME THAN THEIR YOUNGER
COUNTERPARTS**

In 2013, less than two thirds of youth who emancipated from child-welfare-supervised care had obtained a high school degree or equivalency, and only about 1 in 5 (20%) youth emancipating from probation-supervised care had done so. Youth emancipating from child-welfare-supervised care were more likely to achieve the outcomes than were their counterparts in probation-supervised care, but the proportions were still low.

Only 27% of youth who emancipated from child-welfare-supervised care had obtained employment, compared to 5% of youth emancipating from probation-supervised care.

As low as these proportions are, these data likely overestimate the occurrence of these positive outcomes among emancipating youth because they represent emancipating youth whose whereabouts were known. Again, youth who could not be located may be even less likely to have completed high school or be employed.

These data suggest that education and employment services for transition-age youth are important areas of need throughout Los Angeles County. Additionally, they illustrate the special need for services for probation-supervised youth. This information suggests that the Foundation's strategy regarding college and career readiness for TAY is well conceived, but that significant attention will likely need to be focused first on improving high school completion rates before these other goals can be attained.

FOOTNOTES

EMANCIPATION DYNAMICS

- 48 SOC 405E, Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report, submitted quarterly by counties to the CDSS. This report is located on the CDSS website at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG1940.htm>

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Although this report provides a comprehensive overview of the population of transition-age foster youth involved in the child protection system in Los Angeles County, gaps in our understanding of this population still remain.

More work is needed to understand the ongoing racial/ethnic disparity for Black youth in general and Black TAY in particular throughout the child protection system. A better understanding of the gender differences observed among TAY with regard to victimization, services, and foster care placement is also needed. Additionally, research must be directed toward understanding the service needs of youth in care and the challenges they face in successfully transitioning to adulthood.

In particular, the declining proportion of TAY with IEP's and the high rates of psychotropic medication authorizations among TAY must be explored. Finally, efforts need to be made to better track and analyze the housing, education, and employment outcomes of TAY at exit and beyond so we can continue to serve the needs of these vulnerable youth once they leave the child protection system.

The TAY population in care will likely continue to grow as more opt to become non-minor dependents in order to take advantage of the housing and tuition assistance offered by AB12.

This report suggests that proportion of TAY in care at age 16-17 however may remain stable or decline. Youth who remain in care at age 17 represent a special population of vulnerable youth for whom all efforts at permanency have likely failed.

They are likely to have more complex mental health and educational service needs. While AB12 may offer stable housing supports for these youth, it is not clear that these services will be sufficient for this group. More research is needed to determine what comprehensive long term supports are required to see this most vulnerable TAY population transition into adulthood.

The Foundation has a unique opportunity to help lead researchers, policy makers, and service providers to address these knowledge gaps to better serve this population of vulnerable youth.