

Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2018

Number of Youth in Care	1,523
Number with ID Status Available	1,231
Number with One Form of ID	74
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	1,110
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	1,158
Number with a Social Security card	1,077
Number with a state-issued ID	874
Number with a passport	307
Number with IDNYC ²	249
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	56
Number with a Social Security card	5
Number with a state-issued ID	6
Number with a passport	3
Number with IDNYC	4

Youth Discharged to APPLA³ in CY 2018

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	635
Number with ID Status Available	611
Number with One Form of ID	17
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	587
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	599
Number with a Social Security card	586
Number with a state-issued ID	548
Number with a passport	245
Number with IDNYC	52
Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	14
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Data source: CCRS and Connection, January 16, 2018.

¹Youth in care includes youth 17 -20 years old in 24 hour foster care placement. Youth in Close to Home placements are not included.

²IDNYC data collection began in September 2018.

³APPLA discharges include youth ages 18-20 discharged to self and youth who reached 21 while in foster care. Young people discharged to APPLA include those receiving housing through ACS while on extensions to placement and in college. Youth discharged from Close to Home placements are not included.

Note: The number of youth who obtained identification with agency assistance is unavailable at this time.

*The number of youth in cells with less than six youth are not shown to protect anonymity.

Background

An essential part of ACS' work to prepare youth for adulthood (PYA) includes making sure youth in foster care obtain government issued identification cards and other vital records. In 2018, nearly all youth discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least two forms of ID. We continue to message the importance of obtaining vital documents with our Provider Agencies when meeting with staff at site visits and training events.

The ACS Division of Family Permanency Services has a centralized Vital Records Unit that works with foster care agencies to obtain vital identification, birth and death certificates and social security cards for children and youth in foster care. This unit collaborates with external stakeholders, including foster care providers, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain vital identification for foster care youth. The unit works directly with the SSA to acquire social security cards for children in foster care. The Unit provides technical assistance to our providers and communicates with other city agencies to ensure that children and families have their vital documents. In December 2015, ACS and DOHMH signed a Memorandum of Understanding that has helped us to expedite the receipt of birth certificates for children and youth in foster care.

These efforts have resulted in the implementation of a birth certificate request tracking system and the development of protocols that allow ACS to directly request copies of birth and death certificates. Our Vital Records Unit also assists with obtaining copies of birth and death certificates from other counties/states and foreign countries. Our APPLA Monitoring Unit and Older Youth Conferencing Unit in the ACS Division of Family Permanency Services also works with Provider agencies ensure that youth have secured ID's and vital records during both the completion of the Preparing Youth for Adulthood checklist and at the Family Team Conferences for Trial and Final discharges. This unit also encourages the agencies to obtain IDNYC for youth as another form of ID.