

ACS Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care, 2019

Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care¹ on December 31, 2019

Number of Youth in Care	1,396
Number with ID Status Available	1,138
Number with One Form of ID	61
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	1,029
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care	
All Youth in Care	
Number with a birth certificate	1,073
Number with a Social Security card	1,001
Number with a state-issued ID	807
Number with a passport	323
Number with IDNYC	369
Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	47
Number with a Social Security card	6
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*
Number with IDNYC	*

Youth Discharged to APPLA² in CY 2019

Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA	605
Number with ID Status Available	584
Number with One Form of ID	13
Number with Two or More Forms of ID	563
Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA	
All Youth Discharged to APPLA	
Number with a birth certificate	505
Number with a Social Security card	543
Number with a state-issued ID	505
Number with a passport	266
Number with IDNYC	95
Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID	
Number with a birth certificate	8
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 15, 2020.

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

²APPLA 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.

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In Calendar Year 2019 and ongoing, ACS has worked closely with our 26 provider agencies to provide direct training on Preparing Youth for Adulthood, which includes applying for essential vital documents such as a birth certificate, social security card, and state-issued identification card. ACS also continues to encourage the providers to work with youth to obtain the IDNYC and passports.

Data for 2019 indicates that the vast majority of youth discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained at least two forms of ID prior to leaving care. In calendar year 2019, ACS provided a series of trainings focused on permanency planning around youth transitioning out of foster care. Trainings addressed the need for procuring vital documents for youth in the early phase of transition planning with the youth.

ACS Division of Family Permanency Services continues to oversee 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. The unit collaborates with external stakeholders, including foster care providers and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health), and works directly with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain social security cards for foster care youth. The Unit provides technical assistance to our providers and communicates with other city agencies to ensure that children and families have their vital documents. We continue to have a memorandum of understanding with NYC Health, which has helped to expedite the receipt of birth certificates for 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 procurement of copies of birth and death certificates from other counties/states and foreign countries necessary to provide immigrant youth in care with immigration legal assistance.

Our APPLA Monitoring Unit (AMU) and Older Youth Conferencing Unit in the ACS Division of Family Permanency Services also work with provider agencies on a monthly basis to ensure that youth have secured these personal documents during both the completion of the Preparing Youth for Adulthood checklist and at the trial and final discharge Family Team Conferences. AMU also encourages provider agencies to utilize IDNYC to obtain government issued IDs for youth. The team meets with the providers quarterly to address concerns with completing the checklist and obtaining vital records. ACS also facilitates quarterly foster care directors meetings and will utilize this forum to reinforce provider's responsibilities in obtaining vital documents for youth as a component of their permanency planning with youth.