KY Foster Youth…By the Numbers

7,917

Source: CHFS Statewide Foster Care Facts, February 6, 2017
Where are these youth?

Cumberland = 748
Eastern Mtn = 392
Jefferson = 967
Northeastern = 639
N. Bluegrass = 1,156
Salt Riv Trail = 1,062
S. Bluegrass = 1,354
The Lakes = 619
Two Rivers = 980
KY Foster Youth...By the Numbers

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:
Less than 1 year = 1,569

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:
1 to < 3 years = 1,156

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:
3 to < 6 years = 1,890

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:
6 to < 12 years = 1,353

Age at First Entry into Foster Care:
12 to < 18 years = 1,941
Transition to Adulthood: Difficulties

Substantial evidence suggest that these youth, many of whom lack ongoing familial support, are more likely to experience:

- homelessness (Fowler, Toro, & Miles, 2009);
- have poorer outcomes in marital relations and community involvement (Buehler, Orme, Post, & Patterson, 2000);
- have a heightened risk for poor physical health (Takayama, Wolfe, & Coutler, 1998) and psychiatric disorders (McGuinness & Schneider, 2007);
- addiction (Morris, 2007);
- and, have difficulty in obtaining mental and physical health care, (Montgomery, Donkoh, & Underhill, 2006).
Promising Practices

- Fostering Success Employment Program
- Foster Care Plus Mobile Tech Development
- Embrace Initiative
- Fostering Good Will, FCAA, Voices of the Commonwealth, etc.
Areas of Need

- Workforce
- More flexible (i.e., responsive) IL programming
- Resources for 21+ alumni (housing, etc.)
- Reframe the “continuum” of care
- Research that incorporates the VOICE of youth
QUESTIONS?