

## **OUTCOMES OF YOUTH WHO EMANCIPATE FROM FOSTER CARE WITHOUT BEING ADOPTED**

- **FACT:** Every year, over 4000 youth emancipate or “age out” of the foster care system in California without a permanent family. (Source: Report from CDSS Independent Living Policy Unit, Child and Youth Permanency Branch, 2002)
- **FACT:** 65% of emancipated youth leave foster care with no place to live. (Source: Report from CDSS Independent Living Policy Unit, Child and Youth Permanency Branch, 2002)
- **FACT:** 40% of people living in homeless shelters were former foster youth. (Source: Youth Services Child Welfare League of America)
- **FACT:** 51% of former foster care youth are unemployed upon leaving foster care. (Source: California Youth Connection, 2005 Policy Conference Report)
- **FACT:** About two-thirds of emancipating females had at least one birth within 5 years of leaving care, 20% giving birth while still in foster care or within the first year. (Source: Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkeley, Youth Emancipating from Foster Care in California: May 2002, Funding Provided by CDSS, Study uses a sample of 12,306 youth.)
- **FACT:** 59% of emancipated youth receive Medi-Cal services due to AFDC/TANF, SSI/Disability or Medical Indigence in the first year of emancipation and that rate remains constant for the next 5 years. Emancipating females are 4 times as likely to receive welfare as other young females in the California population. (Source: Ibid, CSSR, UC Berkeley)
- **FACT:** 50% of foster youth complete high school, significantly below their peers who complete high school at a rate of 70%. (Source: Institute for Higher Education Policy, December 2005)
- **FACT:** 2% of foster youth earn an AA degree and 2% transfer to a 4-year college. In comparison, 37% of students who attend a community college nationally complete a degree at some institution and 19% transfer to a 4-year college. (Source: Center for Social Services Research, UC Berkeley, Youth Emancipating From Foster Care in California: May 2002, Funding Provided by CDSS, Study uses a sample of 12,306 youth.)
- **FACT:** Nine percent of African American males, 5 percent of White males and 6 percent of Latino males enter the state prison system within 7 years of emancipation from foster care. (Source: Ibid, CSSR, UC Berkeley)