# **Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study**

Final Report

2004

# **Office of Children's Administration Research**

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This project is made possible with funding from Washington State Chafee Grant, Casey Family Programs and Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration This study was made possible through the cooperation of DSHS foster youth and DSHS social workers statewide. We truly appreciate the time and candidness foster youth and social workers have given us to collect the information for this study. We hope that this information will help to improve services for future generations of foster youth.

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# Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study Final Report Executive Summary

# Introduction

The Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study was made possible through funding by Casey Family Programs, Washington State Chafee Grant, and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration.

This is the third and final report on the Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study (FYT). The FYT study had three primary goals: (1) to examine the characteristics of youth leaving public child welfare foster care in Washington State; (2) to examine how prepared those youth are for emancipation; and (3) to examine post emancipation outcomes for youth.

The first annual report included a complete description of the study background, purpose, design and other methodological details (Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study First Annual Report, 2002). To summarize, the study first interviewed youth who had been in out-of-home care a minimum of 12 consecutive months, and were approaching emancipation at age 17. These same youth were also interviewed 6 to 12 months post emancipation. The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) social worker assigned to the youth was also interviewed to obtain their perception of the youth's readiness for independence, as well as the reasons the youth entered foster care.

The second annual report presented complete data on Phase 1 (preemancipation interviews with youth and social workers), including the youth's readiness for independence, services provided to assist the youth toward independence, and youth characteristics that might influence readiness for independence<sup>1</sup>. This final report presents results on the outcomes of emancipated youth 6 to 12 months after emancipation. Outcomes examined include education, housing, employment, risk behaviors (including arrest), and social support.

# Results

Former foster youth completing the post-emancipation interview were representative of eligible<sup>2</sup> youth in care based on length of time in care and race/ethnicity<sup>3</sup>. However, significantly more females participated in the study than did males. Former foster youth responding to the post-emancipation interview represent 70% of the youth who participated in the pre-emancipation interview, and 50% of the original sample of eligible youth. No differences were found between the eligible youth participating in the post-emancipation interview and those who participated in only the pre-emancipation interview based on race/ethnicity and length of time in placement. No difference was found between youth who completed the post interview at six versus 12 months out of care in terms of demographics and outcomes.

At the time of the post-emancipation interview, one-half of the young adults had completed high school or earned a GED and 19% were working toward a high school diploma or GED. Additionally, one-fourth had started some college classes. Less then one-half (43%) were employed, and 45% were looking for work. Of those employed 47% were making wages at or below the poverty line. One-third of the young adults were enrolled in at least one public assistance program. Almost all of the young adults could identify someone they could call if they needed help. Even so, 13% were homeless at some point since leaving care for one day or more.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> FYT reports can be found at http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/research.asp

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Eligibility consists of youth in long term care (12 or more consecutive months) at the time of emancipation and youth who were not developmentally disabled.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Race/ethnicity was collapsed to white vs. non-white for this comparison.

Services provided while these former foster youth were in care included: counseling services (93%), independent living services (64%), drug/alcohol counseling (59%), tutoring (41%), and employment services (38%). One fifth (21%) of the former foster youth scored in the "mastery" range on the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA)<sup>4</sup> demonstrating readiness for independence.

Over two-fifths of the former foster youth scored high on a depression scale indicating depressive symptomatology. Other risk indicators include: unwed pregnancy (41% of females), unmarried with child(ren) (13% of women and men), on public assistance (32%), arrested (38%), and jailed (22%). Nationally, 11% of 15 to 19 year old females are reported to get pregnant, and 6.9% of juveniles are arrested. Further regression analysis showed that the more services a youth received in care, the less likely they were to be arrested. Additionally, for each additional IL service received the chance of <u>not</u> receiving public assistance increased by 21%.

Increased IL services (more skills taught and more sessions attended) is related to successful outcomes for youth emancipating from out-of-home care such as decreasing the likelihood of receiving public assistance or being arrested. However, youth who experienced certain types of abuse (sexual abuse, neglect and abandonment) may require special attention in order to achieve the same levels of success as other youth. Additionally, males developed less mastery (based on the ACLSA) in independent living skills than did females.

#### Summary and Conclusion

One-half of the former foster youth earned a high school degree or equivalency by the time of the post-emancipation interview with 19% still in school. Most

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment – Short form (ACLSA) was designed to measure skill areas important for transition to independence. "Mastery" is determined by 74% or more of the items answered at the highest range possible. For more information, visit the website www.caseylifeskills.org

youth participated in counseling services and a majority participated in Independent Living classes. Two-fifths of the youth had indicators for depression. More than twice as many foster youth had gotten pregnant compared to the general population of youth nationwide. More than five times as many foster youth had been arrested than the general population of youth nationwide. Most former foster youth did not have the basic skills or knowledge to live independently once out of care (based on the ACLSA). Although most youth participated in counseling services, 42% had indicators for depression.

Clearly, most youth are not getting what they need in out-of-home care to transition to independence successfully. Some youth are missing out on basic skills and knowledge to help them transition successfully, and some youth are making poor choices that have long term consequences (i.e., pregnancy, crime, and drugs).

Foster youth need more concrete services in the areas of daily living skills, skills in obtaining housing, employment and education to help them transition successfully to independence. The relevance and/or quality of counseling services need to be examined to ensure they are meeting the needs of the youth in care.

Special attention needs to be paid to youth who experienced sexual abuse, neglect and abandonment previously in their lives to help them achieve the same level of success as other youth in care. Additionally, special attention needs to be paid to males in care to help them successfully transition to independence.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This is the final report on the Foster Youth Transition to Independence study (FYT). The purpose of the study was to examine the characteristics of youth leaving public child welfare foster care in Washington State, to examine how prepared those youth are for emancipation, and to examine how the youth fare after emancipation. The first annual report completed in 2002 provided information on the study background, purpose, design and other methodological details. The second annual report completed in 2003 provided data on youth preparation for emancipation based on youth self report and social worker interview. Data reported in the second report included youth's readiness for independence, services provided to prepare youth for independence, and youth characteristics that might influence readiness for independence. The current report documents outcomes for these same foster youth at six to 12 months post emancipation, including services received to help achieve independence. Additional regression analysis was conducted to identify predictors for who successfully emancipate from out-of-home care. Finally, based on data collected in this study, recommendations are included for improving services for foster youth while in care to help more youth have successful transitions to independence.

#### **METHODS**

As previously mentioned, details on the overall study design and methods, as well as the results of the first phase of the study (pre-emancipation readiness for independence) are available in the first and second annual reports.

The post-emancipation survey includes questions related to educational attainment, housing, employment, risk behaviors, mental health, and support structures. See Appendix for a complete list of post-emancipation survey measures and questions. All interview material and procedures were reviewed and approved by the Washington State Institutional Review Board (WSIRB) prior to administration. In addition to youth self report of post-emancipation

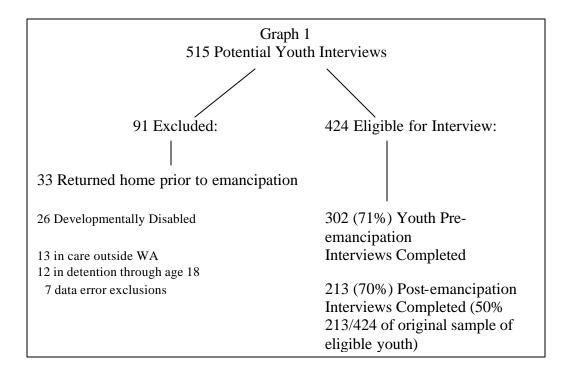
functioning, Washington State Patrol arrest data for 6 months post emancipation was examined.

Post-emancipation interviews were attempted with all former foster youth who had previously completed the pre-emancipation interview. The interviews were conducted between 6 and 12 months following emancipation. These former foster youth were located using the contact names they provided during the preemancipation interview, through their last foster parents and social worker, and through online search engines. Initial contact was made with a letter explaining the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of the study, information that an interviewer would contact them by telephone a week later to provide more details about the study and a request for participation. Participants were also provided with a toll free number to call the research office. Initially, participants were told they would receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a department store as an incentive for participation. Due to a very low interview rate after the first few months of attempts, the incentive was increased (with IRB approval) to \$75.00. Increasing the incentive resulted in an improved response rate. Participants who initially received a \$25.00 incentive were re-contacted and given an additional gift certificate to bring their amount up to \$75.00.

## **RESULTS**

#### **Interview Rate:**

A majority (70% or 213 of 302) of the eligible youth completed the postemancipation interview (see Graph 1 for participation rate and exclusion reasons).



To determine how representative the young adults interviewed were compared to all eligible youth preparing to exit care, chi square analysis was conducted using Pearson significance testing. Youth completing the pre-emancipation interview were found to be representative of eligible youth in care based on length of time in care and race/ethnicity. However, significantly more females participated in the study than did males. Table 1a shows a comparison of all youth completing the pre-emancipation interview, youth completing only the pre-emancipation interview and young adults completing the post-emancipation interview. Significance testing was conducted between the group of youth completing only the pre-emancipation interview and those completing the post-emancipation interview and is indicated in the table.

#### Table 1a. Demographics

Youth Characteristic	Total Pre-	Completed Only	Completed Both	
	emancipation	Pre-emancipation	Pre & Post-	
	survey	survey	emancipation	
			surveys	
	n=302	n=89	n=213	p value
Gender				
Females	50% (150)	34% (30)	56% (120)	***
Males	50% (152)	66% (59)	44% (93)	***
Race/ Ethnicity				
Caucasian	59% (178)	57% (51)	60% (127)	ns
Mixed race	30% (90)	30% (27)	30% (63)	ns
Hispanic/ Latino	4% (12)	6% (5)	3% (7)	ns
African American	3% (9)	3% (3)	3% (6)	ns
Native American	3% (8)	1% (1)	3% (7)	ns
Asian/ Pacific Islander	1% (3)	2% (2)	<1% (1)	ns

\*\*\* = p<.001, \*\* =p<.01, \*= p<.05, ns= not significant

#### **Demographics**

In order to determine if there was difference between those who completed the post-emancipation survey and those who did not, we compared the youth who completed the post emancipation survey to youth who completed only the preemancipation survey. No differences were found for ethnicity of participants between the two survey groups. Over one-half of the youth indicated they were Caucasian and just under one-third self-identified as more than one race/ethnicity. As noted in the previous report, the rates of Caucasian youth are similar to the general population of youth in long term out-of-home care in Washington State, and African American and Hispanic youth are under-represented in the study sample. However, this difference may be due more to an undercount of multi-racial youth in the state database, than a real difference in race/ethnicity between the samples. For example, one-third of the youth in the study self-identified as multi-racial compared to 8% in foster care overall. However, in the foster care system, race/ethnicity is identified by someone other than the youth, so there may very well be under-representation of multi-racial youth in the state database. Females were significantly more likely to complete the post-emancipation interview than males, whereas the percentage of females to males was equal for the pre-emancipation interview.

Table 1b details a comparison of placement (and pre-placement) experiences for eligible youth in care based on interview status (i.e., youth who completed both the pre- and post-emancipation surveys versus youth who completed only the pre-emancipation survey). No differences were found between youth who participated only in the pre-emancipation interview and those who completed both the pre and post-emancipation interviews based on number of placements, services provided and type of abuse. However, youth who experienced multiple types of abuse were more likely to participate in the post-emancipation survey. The length of stay<sup>5</sup> in out-of-home care also varied between the two groups, although close to one -half of the youth in both groups lived in out-of-home care 5 or more years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Length of stay is overall time in out-of-home care; some youth have multiple re-entries and some youth moved multiple times during this time period.

#### Table 1b. Placement and Pre-Placement Experiences

r				
	Total Pre-	Completed Only	Completed Both Pre	
	emancipation	Pre-emancipation	& Post-	
	survey	survey	emancipation	p-value
	000		surveys	
T	n=302	n=89	n=213	
Type of Abuse	100( (100)	500( (0.1)	4004 (400)	
abandoned	49% (133)	53% (31)	48% (102)	ns
physical abuse	67% (180)	71% (41)	66% (139)	ns
sexual abuse	52% (140)	47% (27)	54% (113)	ns
physical neglect	77% (207)	81% (47)	76% (160)	ns
emotional	77% (207)	86% (50)	74% (157)	ns
multiple types	81% (244)	62% (55)	90% (189)	***
Length of Stay in				
Care				
1-1.99 years	15% (44)	12% (11)	16% (33)	*
2–2.99 years	13% (40)	9% (8)	15% (32)	*
3- 3.99 years	15% (46)	14% (12)	16% (34)	*
4- 4.99 years	11% (32)	19% (17)	7% (15)	*
5+ years	46% (138)	46% (41)	46% (97)	*
	4070 (100)	+070 (+1)	4070 (07)	
# of Placements				
1-3	33% (98)	37% (33)	31% (65)	ns
4-9	33% (99)	26% (23)	36% (76)	ns
10 or more	33% (101)	36% (32)	32% (69)	ns
Age at first Placement				
0 - 5	25% (73)	19% (16)	27% (57)	
6 -12	( )			ns
	31% (92)	33% (28)	31% (64)	ns
13 and up	44% (129)	48% (41)	42% (88)	ns
Services Received				
Independent Living Class(es)	63% (191)	61% (54)	64% (137)	ns
Individual	93% (281)	93% (83)	93% (198)	ns
Counseling	. ,			
Group Counseling	57% (171)	52% (46)	59% (125)	ns
Drug/Alcohol	46% (140)	47% (42)	46% (98)	ns
Counseling			(/	-
Employment	38% (115)	38% (34)	38% (81)	ns
Tutoring	42% (128)	46% (41)	41% (87)	ns

\*\*\* = p<.001, \*\* =p<.01, \*= p<.05, ns= not significant

#### Placement (and Pre-placement) Experiences

Close to one-third of the former foster youth had up to three different placements, about one third had between four and nine placements and one-third had ten or more different placements during their overall time in out-of-home care. Over one-half were removed from their homes more than once.

A majority of the former foster youth who participated in the post-emancipation interview experienced more than one type of maltreatment. More than one-half of these young adults were first placed by the age of 12.

The most common services provided to youth in care include counseling and independent living classes. Close to two-thirds of the young adults reported receiving Independent Living services while in out-of-home care. Almost all of the former foster youth received individual counseling, 59% received group counseling and 46% received drug/alcohol counseling while in out-of-home care.

In summary, close to one-half of the youth lived in out-of-home care five or more years and one-third experienced ten or more placements. Youth in care longer periods experienced more placements than youth in care shorter periods. Services provided to youth in care focused on mental health problems and transition needs. The young adults who participated in the post-emancipation interview were representative of eligible youth in care based on type of abuse, number of placements, age at first placement, and services received. A higher percentage of females participated in the post-emancipation than the pre-emancipation interview. Differences for length of stay approached significance.

Table 2 depicts outcomes for young adults completing the post-emancipation interview.

Item	Percent of youth (number)
Education:	
High School (or GED) graduates	50% (105)
Some college or training	26% (54)
Employment:	
Employed	43% (91)
Looking for work	36% (75)
Self Sufficiency:	
Public assistance (any type)	32% (68)
Food Stamps	26% (56)
TANF	9% (19)
WIC	10% (22)
Public Housing	2% (5)
ACLSA Mastery*	24% (51)
Risk Behaviors:	
Unmarried pregnant or impregnated someone	28% (59)
Single parent	13% (28)
Depressive symptoms	42% (89)
Illegal drug use (past 90 days)	24% (51)
Tobacco use (daily)	52% (111)
Arrest/Incarceration:	
Arrested (ever)	38% (81)
Arrested (before leaving care)	33% (70)
Jail (ever)	22% (47)
Jail (before leaving care)	20% (42)

# Table 2. Health and Well-Being Outcomes for Former Foster Youth6 to 12 months out of Care

\*Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) developed by Casey Family Programs is a 20 item multiple choice survey designed to assess knowledge and skills necessary for independent living. Mastery is calculated by youth scoring at the highest possible skill level at least 70% of the time.

#### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING POST EMANCIPATION

**EDUCATION:** One-half of the young adults completed high school or received their general education diploma (G.E.D.) by the time of the post-emancipation interview. Additionally, one-fourth had taken some college classes or vocational

training. High school graduation rates with similar populations of youth exiting foster care range from 39% to 65% (McMillen and Tucker, 1999; Barth, 1990; Reilly, 2003; and Festinger, 1983). Nationally, 81% of 18 – 24 year olds graduate from high-school (US Census Bureau, 1997). In the current study, females and males were just as likely to complete high school and continue on to college. No differences were found by race/ethnicity for educational achievement.

**EMPLOYMENT**: Forty-three percent of the young adults were employed at the time of the post-emancipation interview and more than one-third (36%) were looking for work. The remaining young adults were unemployed due to illness, taking care of others or were full-time students. A study by Goerge, Bilaver, and Lee, (2002) documents an unemployment rate of 30% in Illinois, 23% in California and 14% in South Carolina for youth aging out of foster care. Foster youth exiting care in Missouri were found to be employed at the rate of 38% (McMillen and Tucker, 1999). In the present study, the salary level of close to one-half (47% or 43) of the employed emancipated foster youth was at or below the poverty level. Goerge, et.al., also found very low incomes for youth aging out of care. No differences were found for employment by gender; however, whites were more likely to be employed at the time of the post emancipation interview than non-whites (47% vs. 41%).

**SELF- SUFFICIENCY:** The purpose of independent living services is to prepare youth for self-sufficiency following emancipation. Data from this sample of youth indicate that after leaving care, one-third were on at least one public assistance program. This includes one fourth receiving food stamps, one in ten receiving temporary assistance to needy families (TANF), one in ten receiving Women Infant and Children (WIC) funding/services, and a small percentage (2%) residing in public housing after leaving care. Cook (1994) found a similar rate of public assistance for former foster youth at 30%. In the current study, females were more likely to receive public assistance than males (38% vs. 25%). No

**RISK BEHAVIORS:** More than one-third of the former foster youth had been arrested by the time they were out of care six months. This arrest rate is more than five times the national average of 6.9% (FBI statistics, 2001). Males were more likely to be arrested than females (50% vs. 29%) and jailed (32% vs. 14%). One-half of the young adults reported daily cigarette smoking and one-fourth reported taking illegal drugs in the 90 days prior to the interview. National estimates of tobacco use among 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students range from 23% to 27% (Center for Disease Control, 2002; and National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2002). National estimates for illegal drug use are similar to the study rates of 25%. Most young adults interviewed reported being sexually active (89%). Twofifths of the females experienced at least one pregnancy and one-fifth of the males reported getting someone pregnant. One in ten of the young adults were single parents. Additionally, 15% of the females and 2% of the males reported they contracted at least one sexually transmitted disease. A San Francisco study found a similar proportion of former foster youth reporting pregnancy one year after leaving foster care (40%) (Barth, 1990).

**Housing:** Former foster youth were asked to list all the types of places they have lived since they turned 18 years of age. The results are summarized as follows: one in ten youth (11% or 24) had been homeless (i.e., slept in a shelter, in a car, or on the streets) at some point since leaving care, and one in four (25% or 53) "couch surfed" with a friend. Females were just as likely to be homeless as males. Forty-three percent (n=92) of the former foster youth stayed with relatives or with their birth family, 15% (n=31) lived with a former foster family, and over one-half (53% or 113) rented a house or apartment. When asked what housing situation they felt they were most successful in, 20% said renting a house or apartment, 13% said with family or relatives, 7% with a spouse or partner, and 6% said staying with friends. Other places mentioned include: a college dorm, with a former foster parent and in the job corps. One third of the participants declined to answer this question.

**READINESS FOR INDEPENDENCE:** The Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment - Short Form (ACLSA-Short Form), an instrument developed by Casey Family Programs to assess preparedness for living independently, was administered as part of the interview packet. The ACLSA covers several domain areas including: daily living skills, housing and community resources, money management, self care, social development and work/study habits. Twenty-one percent of the emancipated foster youth scored in the mastery range on the ACLSA, indicating readiness for independence. In other words, nearly 80% of the youth in this study were assessed as not being sufficiently prepared to live independently within a year after leaving care.

#### ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

In order to explore the data more fully, we undertook a series of additional analyses examining the relationship of specific variables to outcomes for the emancipated youth. First, we employed a data reduction strategy using principal components analysis to group the various outcomes measured into three logical groups. Table 3 provides the results of the principal components analysis. These groups related to whether the emancipated youth had an outcome of pregnancy/receiving public assistance (group 1), or were arrested/incarcerated (group 2), or were classified as a "general success" (group 3).

1. Pregnancy/Public Assistance	2. Arrest/Incarceration	3. General "Success"
Unmarried and pregnant	In jail/detention before leaving care	Does not receive food stamps
Unmarried and impregnated someone	In jail after leaving care	Does not receive any form of public assistance
Unmarried with children	Arrested after leaving care	Employed
Receives WIC	Arrested before leaving care	Received high school degree/GED
Receives TANF		Some college or post high school training
		Not homeless
		Not in public housing

#### Table 3. Outcome Components

Then we conducted a series of logistic regressions to examine the contribution of specific independent variables to the outcome group of interest. For Group 1 (Pregnancy/Public Assistance), we found that youth who were victims of sexual abuse, who frequently used drugs/alcohol and used tobacco were significantly more likely to be receiving some form of public assistance, to be unmarried and pregnant or to be with children. For Group 2 (Arrest/Incarceration), we found that males were significantly more likely to be arrested/incarcerated; children who had been victims of physical abuse, and/or neglect (failure to provide) were also more likely to be arrested/incarcerated. Interestingly, youth who used tobacco were also more likely to be arrested/incarcerated, but youth who used alcohol were not.

The logistic regression model for the third group (those who were generally successful defined as not receiving public assistance, not homeless, completing high school, taking post high-school classes, and employed) was more complicated. Youth who were victims of sexual abuse and who rated IL services they received as useful were less likely to have general success outcomes. However, youth who reported higher scores on daily living skills mastery and had a higher score on the ACLSA were more likely to be in the general success group. Additional analyses of the data revealed that the number of IL sessions a youth participates in is associated with skill acquisition, and increased skill acquisition promoted the youth's abilities and subsequent success. Furthermore, the number of abilities for which youth showed skills (e.g., daily living skills, skills involved in obtaining housing, employment, and education), is directly related to the number of skills taught in IL service programs. The more skills taught, and the more sessions attended, the greater the youth's abilities, and the more likely to be successful upon emancipation. Youth self-report of the usefulness of IL services in making a difference in their life was an outcome of the number of IL sessions in which they participated, the sum of skills they were

taught in IL services, and the levels of social support felt from the program services.

The finding related to IL skill acquisition and type of maltreatment is worth noting. Children who were victims of physical abuse report more skill acquisition than children who were in placement as a result of abandonment, sexual abuse and neglect. Youth who had been victimized by sexual abuse did worse on the general success outcome, suggesting that they may benefit from services beyond those presently offered, which would address their special needs. One question might be: What are the differences in dynamics or consequences to child development for these different types of maltreatment that make it more difficult for these children to transition successfully? Furthermore, since many of these children were in long term placement and received services (including counseling), why were there not more successful outcomes for these youth during their stay in foster care (e.g., engagement in services), and upon emancipation (e.g., successful outcomes)? This question seems especially important for youth who were in placement as a result of neglect – failure to provide. They appear to have developed fewer skills as a result of their involvement in IL programs than children who were in placement for other reasons. This data suggest that special attention may need to be given to youth who are victims of neglect (failure to provide) for them to receive the same degree of benefit from IL skill-building programs as youth maltreated in other ways. Overall, there may need to be some additional examination of the relationship of developmental issues for children who experience different types of maltreatment, and how those issues relate to their ability to benefit from the kinds of services currently provided in IL programs.

Another interesting finding is related to a youth's perception of social support and IL skill acquisition. Youth who were abandoned (as a reason for placement) and who used drugs reported lower levels of social support. These youth might benefit from extra efforts to connect them to social supports to assist them in successful emancipation outcomes.

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The data also suggest that youth who are in longer term placements might benefit from specialized programs geared toward helping them develop mastery of the kinds of skills deemed important for their successful emancipation (as represented in the Ansell Casey measure). Findings indicate that youths who were in placement for longer periods of time received more services of all kinds, but developed less mastery. This may indicate the limited ability of IL classes to compensate for long stays in foster care with multiple placement changes for some youth. The findings indicate that males also reported less mastery.

Further analyses of the group 3 outcomes explored individual areas that went into making up the general success group, that is, we looked at factors that might predict not receiving public assistance, being employed, added education, and housing separately to see if we could better understand the dynamics that predict success in these individual areas.

Findings from analyses revealed are:

- Youth who used tobacco were 2.75 times less likely to receive a high school diploma, equivalency or GED, and were at least 2 times more likely not to have received vocational training or some college after high school completion.
- In contrast, youth who used alcohol were less likely (2.3 times) to receive any public assistance.
- Youth who indicated IL made a helpful difference in their lives were 1.9 times less likely to go on for additional vocational training or college after high school, and were 1.7 times more likely utilize at least one public assistance program.
- For **each additional service** a youth received while in care, their chance of not receiving public assistance increased by 21%.
- Mastery (as measured by Ansell-Casey) more than doubled the odds that a youth would not be unemployed for reasons other than being a student, pregnancy, caring for a disabled person, or being disabled themselves.

 For each additional skill on the ability scale, the odds of a youth receiving post-high school educational or vocational training increased by 9.7%.

Additional analyses were performed to examine outcomes for group 1 and group 2 that were too small for the testing of predictive models using logistic regression, and additional analyses for group 3. These analyses involved chi square and t-tests depending on the scaling of the variables.

- A relationship between the quantity of services a youth received and being arrested and/or incarcerated within six months post emancipation was found. Youth who received more services were less likely to be arrested or incarcerated.
- Youth who had higher mastery based on the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment were significantly less likely to be arrested in the six months following emancipation than those who did not have mastery.

## Summary of Pre and Post-Emancipation Interviews

A majority of the eligible youth (71% or 302) in long term foster/group care completed a pre-emancipation interview prior to emancipation, and 213 (70%) of these same youth (now young adults) completed a post-emancipation interview six to 12 months out of care.

**SELECTION BIAS:** No differences were found between the former foster youth who completed the pre and post-emancipation survey and those who completed only the pre-emancipation survey based on youth race/ethnicity, type of abuse, age at first placement, and number of placements. Differences were present for gender, number of different abuse types documented for youth and length of time in care (however, close to one-half of the youth in both groups had lived in out-of-home care longer than five years). Additionally, no selection bias was found between the young adults who completed the post-emancipation interview at 6

months and those at 12 months. However, we were not able to test for differences in the youth who were never interviewed in the original sample.

**PREPARATION FOR TRANSITION:** At the pre-emancipation interview, youth and their social workers were asked how they thought the youth would fare on their own following emancipation. Social workers were more optimistic than the youth themselves on how well the youth would transition to independence. One-half (51%) of the social workers thought the emancipating youth were likely to transition successfully, while fewer (44%) of the youth felt well prepared for *independence.* Other indicators examined for their relationship to successful transition include high school graduation (and post-high school education), absence of drug abuse, absence of pregnancy, financial stability (i.e., not being on public assistance), and high levels of social support. Just under one-half of the youth earned a high school degree or GED by the time they had been out of care six to 12 months, over one-fourth had gotten pregnant (or, if male, impregnated someone), 13% were single parents, 24% reported use of illegal drugs within the previous 3 months (9% reported weekly or more frequent use). Most young adults (99%) had at least one support person they could call if they needed help with most indicating they would call a former foster parent, two-fifths would call their biological parents, and over one-half would call relatives or kin.

In further analysis, indicators for positive outcomes were grouped based on logistic regression to form a general "success" variable<sup>6</sup>. Increased IL services (more skills taught and more IL sessions attended) was found to be a predictor of successful outcomes. Although, this did not hold true for youth in longer term care; youth who had been in placement longer received more services yet developed less mastery. Additionally, the type of abuse experienced also influenced the success outcome for youth. Youth who were sexually abused, abandoned and/or neglected fared worse on the success variable. Additionally, sexual abuse victims who used drugs or tobacco were more likely to receive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> General "success" variable consists of: not receiving public assistance, not homeless, completion of high school, receiving post high-school classes, and having employment.

public assistance. Males were found to develop less mastery than did females. On the positive side, IL services were found to be related to financial selfsupport; for each additional IL service, the chances of <u>not</u> receiving public assistance increased by 21%.

**Housing:** A majority of the youth (80%) had plans for where they would live after leaving care. The most common plans were to live in their own apartment (19%), with a friend (14%), or with relatives (7%). During their first 6 to 12 months out of care, these young adults stayed in a variety of places. More than twice as many were able to rent a house or apartment than had expected to (53% vs.19%), more stayed with friends than had planned to (25% vs. 14%), and more stayed with family or relatives (43% vs. 7%). Additionally, one in ten of the young adults were homeless at some point after leaving care (not including staying with friends).

**EDUCATION:** An association was found between youth who identified plans for post high-school education and youth who actually took college classes or vocational training. Most of the youth (86%) had education plans following emancipation. Of those with education plans, 44% hoped to go to college and earn a bachelor's degree, 23% hoped to earn an associates degree, 20% hoped to get their high school diploma or GED, and 18% planned to gain vocational training (youth may have answered yes to more than one goal). By the time of the post-emancipation interview, one-half of the former foster youth had completed high school or obtained a GED and one-fourth had taken additional college courses or vocational education. As a comparison, a Wisconsin study (Courtney et al 2001) found that 63% of foster youth had completed high school by the time they were out of care 12 to 18 months, and a national study (Cook et al, 1991) found that nationally, 54% of former foster youth had completed high school. Individual factors that were found to be related to education outcomes include independent living skills, i.e., for each additional skill attained the chance of high school completion increased by 9.7%. Youth who used tobacco were twice as likely not to have vocational education or college classes.

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**EMPLOYMENT:** Over three-fourths (80%) of the youth said they had employment plans following emancipation. However, fewer were employed at the time of the post-emancipation interview than were actively looking for work (43% vs. 45%). Of those working, just under one-half (47%) earned salaries at or below the poverty level.

**SOCIAL SUPPORT:** Before leaving care, most youth were able to identify someone or several people they would call if they needed help once out on their own. Additionally, most youth (86%) had regular visits with their biological family and extended family members while living in out-of-home care. Almost all of the youth (97%) reported having a close positive relationship with at least one adult. We found that youth who reported having an "excellent" relationship with a caregiver were more likely to complete high school and attend college. Further analysis showed that youth who had been abandoned and who use drugs had less social support than other youth.

**ARREST/INCARCERATION:** One third of the youth were arrested while still in care and one fifth were jailed or placed in detention. Thirty-eight percent of the youth had been arrested at any time (in or out of care) with 22% jailed or placed in detention at any time (4% had been arrested and 2% had been jailed since leaving care). Males were more likely to be arrested and jailed than females. Further analysis showed that the more services youth received in care, the less likely they were to be arrested. Victims of physical abuse or neglect were more likely to be arrested than other youth. Additionally a relationship was found between high scores on the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment and lower arrest rates.

#### CONCLUSION

This report documents striking outcomes for youth emancipating from the foster care system. High levels of arrest, pregnancy, tobacco use and receipt of public assistance plague our emancipating youth. Independent living services were

found to make a difference in many circumstances; however, the data indicate a need to better identify the <u>type</u> of services that would make a difference for special groups of youth. For example, victims of physical abuse and physical neglect were more likely to be arrested than other youth, and sexually abused, neglected and abandoned youth appear to need more specialized services. Generally, increased services seem to help most youth succeed following emancipation. However, youth remaining in care longer do not benefit from an increased amount of services. We need to look closer at the match of service type (and content) to needs for these youth.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH IN OUT OF HOME CARE:

- Provide skill based, concrete Independent Living services to better meet the needs of youth in care. Examine and adjust Independent Living services currently being administered. Most youth report they have attended (at least initially), independent living services, but we found that they aren't learning the skills necessary for living on their own (e.g., daily living skills, skills around obtaining housing, education and employment).
- 2. Assist and encourage youth to attend independent living classes to help even reluctant youth participate. Inform all eligible youth about Independent Living services and connect them with an appropriate service. Increased independent living training was found to improve outcomes for youth emancipating from out-of-home care. Extra efforts to engage previously abandoned, neglected and sexually abused youth may be necessary to help them start and continue with services.
- 3. Examine counseling services currently provided for youth in care and determine if they are using best practice standards to meet the needs of youth in care. A majority of youth in out-of-home care participate in counseling, yet 42% scored high on a depression scale prior to emancipation. Are counseling services provided as a "one size fits all" solution for troubled youth in care, or are they being tailored to meet the specific needs of youth who experienced various forms of abuse and who have different ways of processing information to promote change? Are evidence based practice models being used to help youth with mental health disorders?

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**OCAR 2004** 

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_ Sub ID#: \_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_ DOB:

### Post-Emancipation Interview

Hi, it's nice to talk with you again. This interview is a follow-up to the one you participated in about a year ago, and some of the questions are the same as or similar to the ones you answered then. The information you provide will help us to improve services for current and future foster youth, because by talking to you we can learn more about the foster care system.

#### Leaving Care

First I'm going to ask you some questions about leaving foster care.

- 1. What month and year did you leave care? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- 2. Why did you leave care? (Interviewer: Be sure to distinguish between 1 and 3)
  - 1 = You left because you were discharged (turned 18)

2 = You left because you were discharged (returned to birth/adoptive family before 18)

- 3 = You were discharged **but stayed with the family you were living with**
- 4 = You left of your own accord before you were discharged
- 5 = Other reason \_\_\_\_\_(2a.)
- 3. Before you left care, did your social worker, Independent Living Provider, foster parent or agency help you to:

3a.	Get a job?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3b.	Get a job interview?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3c.	Get medical and dental insurance/coverage?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3d.	Get public assistance like food stamps, or welfare?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3e.	Get your health records?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3f.	Find or obtain housing?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3g.	Find child care for your child(ren)?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
3h.	Find contact people who would help you if you	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
	had problems?			

- 4. Before you left care, did your social worker, Independent Living Provider, foster parent or agency help you in any other way?
  - 1 = Yes 0 = No If no, skip to question 5

4a. Please specify:

- 5. Looking back, how prepared for independence do you feel you were when you turned 18?
  - 3 = Very well prepared
  - 2 = Somewhat prepared
  - 1 = Not very well prepared
  - 0 = Not at all prepared

*If very well prepared:* How did you become prepared? (*Read answer options and record responses.*)

(Choose all that apply):

5a.	Independent Living Program	1 = Yes	0 = No
5b.	Responsible Living Skills Program	1 = Yes	0 = No
5c.	Assistance from Foster Parent	1 = Yes	0 = No
5d.	Classes at School	1 = Yes	0 = No
5e.	Assistance from Relatives	1 = Yes	0 = No
5f.	Other(5g.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

6. *If somewhat, not very or not at all prepared:* What didn't happen that you thought should have to help you prepare for living on your own?

#### <u>Housing</u>

Next I would like to ask about the types of living situations you've had since you turned 18. "Lived" means the place you considered to be your home or your primary place of residence for at least 30 days, even though it may have been shared with someone else.

- 7. How many places have you lived since you turned 18? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Since you turned 18, where have you lived? (Interviewer: Let respondent answer and circle all that apply)

8a.	Foster Care under a VPA	8k.	Home of Birth Parent(s)
8b.	Home of Former Foster Parent (as renter)	81.	Home of Other Relative(s)
8c.	Home of Former Foster Parent (rent-free)	8m.	Inpatient in Medical Hospital
8d.	College Dormitory	8n.	State or Private Mental Hospital
8e.	Home of Family Friend	80.	Supervised IL (individual or group)
8f.	Rented Apartment, House or Room (by self)	8p.	Jail or Prison
8g.	Rented Apartment, House or Room (with friend)	8q.	Residential Job Corps Center
8h.	Drug/Alcohol Rehab Center or Treatment Program	8r.	Military Barracks/Housing
8i.	Homeless (slept in shelter/car/on the streets, etc.)	8s.	With Spouse or Partner
8j.	Stayed w/friends (i.e. couch surfing)	8t.	Other
			(8u.)

#### If respondent has only lived in one place, skip to question 11

9. What type of living situation have you spent <u>the most time in</u> since you turned 18? Choose one.

1	Foster Care under a VPA	11	Home of Birth Parent(s)
2	Home of Former Foster Parent (as renter)	12	Home of Other Relative(s)
3	Home of Former Foster Parent (rent-free)	13	Inpatient in Medical Hospital
4	College Dormitory	14	State or Private Mental Hospital
5	Home of Family Friend	15	Supervised IL (individual or group)
6	Rented Apartment, House or Room (by self)	16	Jail or Prison
7	Rented Apartment, House or Room (with friend)	17	Residential Job Corps Center
8	Drug/Alcohol Rehab Center or Treatment Program	18	Military Barracks/Housing
9	Homeless (slept in shelter/car/on the streets, etc.)	19	With Spouse or Partner
10	Stayed w/friends (i.e. couch surfing)	20	Other
			(9a.)

10. Of all the types of living situations in which you've lived since you turned 18, which place do you feel you did the best, or were most successful? Choose one.

1	Foster Care under a VPA	11	Home of Birth Parent(s)
2	Home of Former Foster Parent (as renter)	12	Home of Other Relative(s)
3	Home of Former Foster Parent (rent-free)	13	Inpatient in Medical Hospital
4	College Dormitory	14	State or Private Mental Hospital
5	Home of Family Friend	15	Supervised IL (individual or group)
6	Rented Apartment, House or Room (by self)	16	Jail or Prison
7	Rented Apartment, House or Room (with friend)	17	Residential Job Corps Center
8	Drug/Alcohol Rehab Center or Treatment Program	18	Military Barracks/Housing
9	Homeless (slept in shelter/car/on the streets, etc.)	19	With Spouse or Partner
10	Stayed w/friends (i.e. couch surfing)	20	Other
			(10a.)

11. How many times have you moved to a totally new neighborhood or town, since you turned 18? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Education**

Now I'm going to ask some questions about your educational background.

- 12. What is the highest grade in school you completed?
- 13. Did you get a high school diploma or pass a high school equivalency test?
  - 0 = No *If no, skip to question 15*
  - 1 = Received high school diploma
  - 2 = Passed equivalency test or got GED
  - 3 = Currently working toward high school completion/GED

#### If respondent is still in high school or GED program, skip to question 17

- 14. Since high school have you received any other educational training, degrees or certificates? If so, what?
  - 0 = None
  - 1 = Some college
  - 2 = Vocational certificate
  - 3 = Associate degree (AA, Jr. College)
  - 4 = Bachelor's degree
- 15. Are you currently a student?
  - 1 = Yes (Full time) 2 = Yes (Part time)
  - 0 = No If no, skip to question 17
- 16. How is your schooling funded? (*Let answer* and record responses)

16a.	Scholarship	1 = Yes	0 = No
16b.	Grants/Financial Aid	1 = Yes	0 = No
16c.	DSHS/IL Funds	1 = Yes	0 = No
16d.	Family/Relatives	1 = Yes	0 = No
16e.	Self	1 = Yes	0 = No
16f.	Other (16g.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

#### **Employment**

Now I'll ask some questions about your employment history.

- 17. Are you employed? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 18. Which one of these best describes your current employment status?
  - 1 = Regularly work full-time 35 or more hours/week
  - 2 = Regularly work part-time, less than 35 hours/week
  - 3 = Work sometimes, when work is available
  - 4 = Unemployed, looking for work
  - 5 = Don't work because of family responsibilities
  - 6 = Don't work because of illness or disability
  - 7 = Don't work because don't want to work
  - 8 = Don't work because currently a student

9 = Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_(18a.)

#### If employed, skip to question 21

- 19. (If unemployed) Have you been employed any time in the last 6 months?1 = Yes 0 = No If no, skip to question 25
- 20. What kind of work did you do? (Code using Hollingshead scale)

For respondents who don't work, skip to question 25 (The next 4 questions are only for those who are employed full time, part time or intermittently.)

- 21. Do you have more than one job? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 22. What kind of work do you do on your (main) job? What are your main duties? (Get type of work, position, and responsibilities).
- 23. What kind of company or place do you work for? (Code using Hollingshead scale)
- 24. Generally, how satisfied are you with your current job?
  - 1 = Very satisfied
  - 2 = Somewhat satisfied
  - 3 = Not very satisfied
  - 4 = Not at all satisfied
- 25. How many different jobs have you had since you turned 18? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Income

Next I'll ask you some questions about your income.

26. Here I want you to think about your total income from all sources after taxes and deductions are taken out. Could you estimate how much money you make per week? (If married, use combined income. Also include any financial aid subject is receiving.)

(Interviewer, circle the number in the left hand column that corresponds to the salary level of the respondent. **Clarify that they are estimating their take home pay**.)

	Per YEAR	Per MONTH	Per WEEK
1	Less than \$5,000	Less than \$418	Less than \$97
2	\$5,000 - \$9,999	\$418 - \$833	\$97 - \$192
3	\$10,000 - \$14,999	\$834 - \$1250	\$193 - \$288
4	\$15,000 - \$19,999	\$1251 - \$1666	\$289 - \$384
5	\$20,000 - \$24,999	\$1667 - \$2083	\$385 - \$480
6	\$25,000 - \$29,999	\$2084 - \$2500	\$481 - \$576
7	\$30,000 - \$34,999	\$2501 - \$2916	\$577 - \$673
<u>8</u> 9	\$35,000 - \$39,999	\$2917 - \$3333	\$674 - \$769
9	\$40,000 - \$44,999	\$3334 - \$3750	\$770 - \$865
10	\$45,000 - \$49,999	\$3751 - \$4166	\$866 - \$961
11	\$50,000 or more	More than \$4166	More than \$961
DK/Not Sure			
Refused/No			
response			

- 27. How many people, including you are dependent on this income? \_\_\_\_\_
- 28. Many people receive financial help from other programs or agencies. Think about the past 6 months and tell me if you received help from any of the following programs or agencies. (Choose all that apply)

28a. 28b.	Medical assistance like Medicaid or Medica Food stamps	are1 = Yes 1 = Yes 1 = Yes	0 = No 0 = No 0 = No
28c. 28d.	Public assistance or welfare, like TANF WIC	1 = 1  res 1 = 1  Yes	
28e.	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1 = Yes	0 = No
28f.	Social Security Annuity (SSA)	1 = Yes	0 = No
28g.	Foster care or adoption subsidy	1 = Yes	0 = No
28ĥ.	Unemployment insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
28i.	Public housing assistance	1 = Yes	0 = No
28j.	Energy program assistance	1 = Yes	0 = No
28k.	Child care subsidy	1 = Yes	0 = No
28I.	Any other type of aid?	1 = Yes	0 = No
	(Specify):	_ (28m.)	

#### Self-sufficiency

Next I'll ask you some questions regarding skills you may have or want to have.

#### **Computer literacy**

29. Do you have access to a computer

29a.	At home?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29b.	At work?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29c.	At school?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29d.	At a friends house?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29e.	At a library?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29f.	At a community center?	1 = Yes	0 = No
29g.	At some other place?	_(29h.)1 = Yes	0 = No

30. Do you use a computer for any purpose? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 32* 

31. Do you use the Internet and other online services:

31a.	At home?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31b.	At work?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31c.	At school?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31d.	At a friends house?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31e.	At a library?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31f.	At a community center?	1 = Yes	0 = No	888 = N/A
31g.	At some other place?	_(31h.)1 = Yes	0 = No	888 =N/A

#### Transportation

- 32. Do you have a driver's license?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 34*
- 33. Did you get your driver's license before leaving foster care? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 34. Do you use any of the following ways to get around?

(Choose all that apply):

34a.	Own vehicle/drive self	1 = Yes	0 = No
34b.	Ride from spouse/partner	1 = Yes	0 = No
34c.	Ride from friend	1 = Yes	0 = No
34d.	Ride from family member/foster parent	1 = Yes	0 = No
34e.	Bus	1 = Yes	0 = No
34f.	Bicycle	1 = Yes	0 = No
34g.	Motorcycle	1 = Yes	0 = No
34ĥ.	Taxi	1 = Yes	0 = No
34i.	Walk	1 = Yes	0 = No
34j.	Other(34k.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

35. What is your primary way of getting around? (Let answer and record response)

35a.	Own vehicle/drive self	1 = Yes	0 = No
35b.	Ride from spouse/partner	1 = Yes	0 = No
35c.	Ride from friend	1 = Yes	0 = No
35d.	Ride from family member/foster parent	1 = Yes	0 = No
35e.	Bus	1 = Yes	0 = No
35f.	Bicycle	1 = Yes	0 = No
35g.	Motorcycle	1 = Yes	0 = No
35ĥ.	Taxi	1 = Yes	0 = No
35i.	Walk	1 = Yes	0 = No
35j.	Other(35k.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

#### Money Management

- 36. Do you have a bank account?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 38*
- 37. Did you open your bank account before leaving foster care? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 38. How difficult is it for you to pay your monthly bills?
  - 1 = Very difficult

- 888 = N/A
- 2 = Somewhat difficult
- 3 = Not very difficult
- 4 = Not at all difficult
- 39. Do you use any forms of credit, like credit cards, loans or financing for purchases?
   1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 41*
- 40. Do you feel that your use of credit is:
  - 3 = Very much under control 2 = Somewhat under control 1 = Somewhat out of control 0 = Very much out of control 777 = Don't Know 888 = N/A
- 41. Do you have the following?

41a.	Monthly budget	1 = Yes	0 = No
41b.	Savings account	1 = Yes	0 = No
41c.	Retirement account	1 = Yes	0 = No
41d.	Medical Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41e.	Dental Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41f.	Life Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41g.	Fire Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No

41h.	Auto Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41i.	Homeowner's Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41j.	Renter's Insurance	1 = Yes	0 = No
41k.	Other insurance:	(41n.) 1 = Yes	0 = No
41I.	Emergency funds	1 = Yes	0 = No
41m.	Vacation funds	1 = Yes	0 = No

42. In general, would you say that your bills get paid on time?

4 =Always 3 =Most of the time 2 = Sometimes 1 =Rarely 0 =Never 888 =N/A

#### Risk Behaviors

#### Some people become involved in activities that can be thought of as risky, such as using drugs or alcohol, being sexually active or getting in trouble with the law. The next set of questions has to do with these subjects.

Drugs/Alcohol:

The following questions are about drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

43. In the past three months have you smoked cigarettes, used chewing tobacco or snuff?

#### 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 45*

44. How often in the past three months did you smoke cigarettes, use chewing tobacco or snuff?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

- 45. In the past three months did you drink beer, wine, wine coolers, malt liquor or hard liquor?
  - 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 47*
- 46. How often in the past three months did you drink beer, wine, wine coolers, malt liquor or hard liquor?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

- 47. In the past three months did you ever try or use marijuana? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 49*
- 48. How often in the past three months did you try or use marijuana?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

- 49. In the past three months did you try or use crack or cocaine? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 51*
- 50. How often in the past three months did you try or use crack or cocaine?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

- 51. In the past three months did you try or use speed, meth, crystal or uppers? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 53*
- 52. How often in the past three months did you try or use speed, meth, crystal or uppers?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

53. In the past three months did you try or use any prescription drugs that weren't

prescribed to you, like Ritalin, tranquilizers or painkillers?

1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 55* 

54. How often in the past three months did you try or use any prescription drugs that weren't prescribed to you, like Ritalin, tranquilizers or painkillers?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

- 55. In the past three months did you sniff anything to get high, like glue or aerosol cans? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 57*
- 56. How often in the past three months did you sniff anything to get high, like glue or aerosol cans?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

57. In the past three months did you try or use any other illegal drugs that we haven't

already mentioned?

- 1 = Yes 0 = No If no, skip to question 60
- 58. What was the drug? (Choose all that apply):

58a.	LSD (acid)	1 = Yes	0 = No
58b.	Heroin	1 = Yes	0 = No
58c.	Other	(58d.) 1 = Yes	0 = No

59. How often in the past three months did you try or use any other drugs we haven't already mentioned?

Almost every day	(1)
3 or 4 days a week	(2)
1 or 2 days a week	(3)
1 to 3 days a month	(4)
Less than once a month	(5)
One time	(6)

#### Criminal Activity

The next set of questions asks about criminal activity you may have participated in during different time periods. The first few questions ask about criminal activity **in the past three months only**.

- 60. In the past three months, did you ever take part in any gang activities? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 61. In the past three months did you belong to a group that other people consider a gang?
  1 = Yes 0 = No
- 62. In the past three months, did you steal or shoplift? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 63. In the past three months were you ever in a physical fight? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 65*
- 64. In the past three months how many times were you in a physical fight?

One time	(1)
2-5 times	(2)
6-12 times	(3)
more than 12 times	(4)

For the next few questions be thinking of the time period since you turned 18:

- 65. Since you turned 18 have you been arrested? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 66. Since you turned 18 have you had to stay in jail, training school, juvenile center or detention center?
   1 = Yes 0 = No
- 67. Since you turned 18 have you carried any kind of a weapon? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 68. Since you turned 18 have you threatened someone with a weapon? 1 = Yes 0 = No
- 69. Since you turned 18 has anyone threatened you with a weapon? 1 = Yes 0 = No

And for the last few questions in this section, be thinking of the last six months.

- 70. In the last six months have you been arrested for any crime?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 74*
- 71. What crime were you arrested for? \_\_\_\_\_

**OCAR 2004** 

- 72. Were you charged? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question* 74
- 73. What were you charged with?
- 74. In the last six months have you been the victim of a crime? 1 = Yes 0 = No

Sex/Pregnancy:

The next set of questions has to do with pregnancy and sex. For these questions, sex means the act of sexual intercourse.

- 75. Have you ever had sex?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 85*
- 76. During your life, how many different people have you had sex with? \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Let respondent answer and code response below.)

6 or more	(5)
4-5	(4)
3	(3)
2	(2)
1	(1)

- 77. Did you use any methods of birth control? 1 = Yes 0 = No 3 = Sometimes 4=N/A
- 78. Have you ever contracted any form of a STD (sexually transmitted disease)?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 80*
- 79. How many times have you contracted any form of a sexually transmitted disease? (Let respondent answer and code response below.)

6 or more	(5)
4-5	(4)
3	(3)
2	(2)
1	(1)

- 80. *If female*: Have you ever been pregnant? (*Including if pregnant now*)
  1 = Yes 0 = No 777 = Don't know *If no or don't know, skip to question 85*
- 81. How many pregnancies have you had? \_\_\_\_\_ (Including if pregnant now) (Let respondent answer and code response below.)

6 or more	(5)
4-5	(4)
3	(3)

2	(2)
1	(1)

- 82. If male: Have you ever contributed to someone's pregnancy?
  1 = Yes 0 = No 777 = Don't know If no or don't know, skip to question 85
- 83. Do you have any children?
  1 = Yes 0 = No 777 = Don't know *If no or don't know, skip to question 85*
- 84. How many children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_\_(Let respondent answer and code response below.)

Currently pregnant/unborn	(1)
1 child	(2)
More than 1 child	(3)
Don't know	(777)

#### Relationship Stability

The following questions have to do with your relationship status.

- 85. Have you ever been married?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 90*
- 86. How many times? \_\_\_\_\_
- 87. If you have been married more than once, how many of these marriages ended in divorce or annulment? \_\_\_\_\_
- 88. Are you currently married?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 91*
- 89. Overall, would you rate your marriage as excellent, good, fair or poor?
  - 1 = Excellent
  - 2 = Good
  - 3 = Fair
  - 4 = Poor

#### Skip to question 94

90. Have you ever had a marriage-like relationship or partnership with someone that lasted at least one year?

1 = Yes 0 = No If no, skip to question 102

- 91. Are you currently in a marriage-like relationship or partnership?1 = Yes 0 = No
- 92. How long (did you have / have you had) this relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

# If not currently in a marriage-like relationship, skip to question 102

- 93. Overall, would you rate your relationship or partnership as excellent, good, fair or poor?
  - 1 = Excellent
  - 2 = Good
  - 3 = Fair
  - 4 = Poor

No matter how well a couple gets along, there are times when they disagree or fight. Couples use many different ways of trying to settle their differences. I'm going to read a list of some things that your (husband/boyfriend/wife/girlfriend) might have done when you had a dispute with each other during the <u>last three months</u>.

Please tell me how many times during the <u>last three months</u> he/she has responded in this manner. **[Interviewer: Read the answer set – "0 = Never, 1 = Once and 2 = More than once."]** 

0 = Never	1 = Once	2 = More than once

During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did he/she	0	1x	>1x
94a. Discuss the issue calmly	0	1	2
94b. Get information to back up his/her side of things	0	1	2
94c. Bring in or try to bring in someone to help settle things	0	1	2
94d. Insult or swear at you	0	1	2
94e. Sulk or refuse to talk about it	0	1	2
During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did he/she	0	1x	>1x
95a. Stomp out of the room/house/yard	0	1	2
95b. Cry	0	1	2
95c. Do or say something to spite you	0	1	2
95d. Threaten to hit or throw something at you	0	1	2
95e. Throw, smash, hit or kick something other than you	0	1	2
During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did he/she	0	1x	>1x
96a. Throw something at you	0	1	2
96b. Push, grab or shove you	0	1	2
96c. Slap you	0	1	2
96d. Kick, bite, or hit you with his/her fist	0	1	2
96e. Hit or try to hit you with something	0	1	2

During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did he/she	0	1x	>1x
97a. Beat you up	0	1	2
97b. Choke you	0	1	2
97c. Threaten you with a knife or gun	0	1	2
97d. Use a knife or gun	0	1	2

Next, I'll ask how many times during the last three months <u>you</u> have responded in this manner when you and your husband/boyfriend/wife/girlfriend had a dispute with each other. [Interviewer: Read the answer set – "0 = Never, 1 = Once and 2 = More than once."]

# 0 = Never 1 = Once 2 = More than once

During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did you	0	1x	>1x
98a. Discuss the issue calmly	0	1	2
98b. Get information to back up your side of things	0	1	2
98c. Bring in or try to bring in someone to help settle things	0	1	2 2 2
98d. Insult or swear at him/her	0	1	
98e. Sulk or refuse to talk about it	0	1	2
During the last three months when you had a dispute, how many times did you	0	1x	>1x
99a. Stomp out of the room/house/yard	0	1	2
99b. Cry	0	1	2
99c. Do or say something to spite him/her	0	1	2
99d. Threaten to hit or throw something at him/her	0	1	2
99e. Throw, smash, hit, kick something other than him/her	0	1	2
During the last three months when you had a dispute,		1x	>1x
how many times did you	0	17	~1
100a. Throw something at him/her	0	1	2
100b. Push, grab or shove him/her	0	1	2
100c. Slap him/her	0	1	2 2
100d. Kick, bite, or hit him/her with your fist	0	1	2
100e. Hit or try to hit him/her with something	0	1	2
During the last three months when you had a dispute,	0	1x	>1x
how many times did you	U	17	~1
101a. Beat him/her up	0	1	2
101b. Choke him/her	0	1	2
101c. Threaten him/her with a knife or gun	0	1	2 2
101d. Use a knife or gun	0	1	2

## Depression:

Now I'm going to ask you some questions about how you've been feeling lately.

As I read the following statements, please tell me how often you felt or behaved this way IN THE LAST WEEK. Did you feel this way:

- 0 =Rarely or none of the time (i.e. less than 1 day)?
- 1 =Some or a little of the time (i.e. 1-2 days)?
- 2 = Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (i.e. 3-4 days)?
- 3 = Most or all of the time (i.e. 5-7 days)?

		R	S	0	М	NR
102.	I was bothered by things that don't usually bother me	0	1	2	3	
103.	I did not feel like eating; my appetite was poor	0	1	2	3	
104.	I felt that I could not shake off the blues even with help from my family and friends	0	1	2	3	
105.	I felt that I was just as good as other people	0	1	2	3	
106.	I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing	0	1	2	3	
107.	I felt depressed	0	1	2	3	
108.	I felt that everything I did was an effort	0	1	2	3	
109.	I felt hopeful about the future	0	1	2	3	
110.	I thought my life had been a failure	0	1	2	3	
111.	I felt fearful	0	1	2	3	
112.	My sleep was restless	0	1	2	3	
113.	I was happy	0	1	2	3	
114.	I talked less than usual	0	1	2	3	
115.	I felt lonely	0	1	2	3	
116.	People were unfriendly	0	1	2	3	
117.	l enjoyed life	0	1	2	3	
118.	I had crying spells	0	1	2	3	
119.	I felt sad	0	1	2	3	
120.	I felt people disliked me	0	1	2	3	
121.	I could not get going	0	1	2	3	

## Social Support

Now I'm going to ask about the social support you receive from family, others and friends.

122. Since you've been out of care, have you visited with your biological family? (Including Adoptive Family)

1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 124* (Note: "Visited" = in person only)

nce every:	Month		(1) (2)
	1 to 3 months		(3)
	4 to 6 months		(4)
	6 months +		(5)
	Other	(123a.)	(6)

124. Have you had any contact with other family members, like aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.? (Including Adoptive Family)

1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 126* 

125. How often? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*Let respondent answer* and code response below.)

Once every:	Week		(1)
	Month		(2)
	1 to 3 months		(3)
	4 to 6 months		(4)
	6 months +		(5)
	Other	(125a.)	(6)

126. If you needed help who would you call? (*Read list* and record responses)

(Choose all that apply):

126a.	Former foster family	1 = Yes	0 = No
126b.	Biological/Adoptive parents	1 = Yes	0 = No
126c.	Relatives or kin	1 = Yes	0 = No
126d.	Spouse or partner	1 = Yes	0 = No
126e.	Former social worker	1 = Yes	0 = No
126f.	Friend	1 = Yes	0 = No
126g.	Neighbor	1 = Yes	0 = No
126h.	Teacher	1 = Yes	0 = No
126i.	Other adult	1 = Yes	0 = No
126j.	Church member	1 = Yes	0 = No

126k.	Youth group leader		1 = Yes	0 = No
1261.	Mentor		1 = Yes	0 = No
126m.	YMCA staff		1 = Yes	0 = No
126n.	IL Program Staff		1 = Yes	0 = No
1260.	Other	_(126p.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

127. Who do you spend holidays with? (*Let answer* and record responses) (*Choose all that apply*):

127a. 127b. 127c. 127d. 127e. 127f. 127f. 127g. 127h. 127i. 127i.	Former foster family Biological/Adoptive parent Relatives or kin Spouse or partner Former social worker Friend Neighbor Teacher Other adult Church member	ts	1 = Yes 1 = Yes	0 = No 0 = No 0 = No 0 = No 0 = No 0 = No 0 = No
1271. 127j.	Church member		1 = Yes 1 = Yes	
127k. 127l. 127m.	Youth group leader Mentor YMCA staff		1 = Yes 1 = Yes 1 = Yes	0 = No 0 = No
127n. 127o.	IL Program Staff Other(12	7p.)	1 = Yes 1 = Yes	0 = No 0 = No

128. Do you have a close, positive relationship with at least one <u>other</u> adult?

1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question* **132** 

129. Who is this relationship with? (Let answer and record below)

(Choose all that apply):

130. How long have you had this/these relationship(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ Months

131. What situations do you turn to them for?

#### Access to Medical Care

Next I'm going to ask you some questions about health care.

- 132. Do you currently have any type of health insurance?1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 134*
- 133. What type of insurance is it? (*Let answer* and record responses)

	1 = Yes	0 = No
Private health insurance plan purchased directly	1 = Yes	0 = No
	1 = Yes	
State health insurance (i.e. DSHS Medical Coupons)	1 = Yes	0 = No
Medicare (SSI/SSA benefits)	1 = Yes	0 = No
Medicaid (Coverage after emancipation)	1 = Yes	0 = No
Other(133h.)	1 = Yes	0 = No
	Indian Health Services State health insurance (i.e. DSHS Medical Coupons) Medicare (SSI/SSA benefits) Medicaid (Coverage after emancipation)	Private health insurance plan purchased directly1 = YesIndian Health Services1 = YesState health insurance (i.e. DSHS Medical Coupons)1 = YesMedicare (SSI/SSA benefits)1 = YesMedicaid (Coverage after emancipation)1 = Yes

134. When was the last time you saw a doctor or went to a clinic for a medical checkup? \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Year) (code number of months): \_\_\_\_\_ Months

135. How often have you needed or been to a doctor in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

Times

136. When was the last time you went to the dentist for a check-up or for other dental work? \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Year) (code number of months): \_\_\_\_\_ Months

#### **Future Expectations**

The next questions are about your future. They ask how LIKELY you think it is that these things will happen in your future.

137. How likely is it that you will have a child without being married?

1 = Very unlikely 2 = Unlikely 3 = Not sure 4 = Likely 5 = Very likely

138. How likely is it that you will get divorced?

1 = Very unlikely 2 = Unlikely 3 = Not sure 4 = Likely 5 = Very likely

139. How likely is it that you will have to go on welfare at some point during your adult life?

1 = Very unlikely 2 = Unlikely 3 = Not sure 4 = Likely 5 = Very likely

140. How likely is it that you will go to college?

1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
141. How likely is	it that you will b	e able to get the	money neces	sary to go to college?
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
142. How likely is	s it that you will h	ave a successfu	career?	
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
143. How likely is	s it that you will g	et a scholarship	for college?	
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
144. How likely is	s it that you will lo	ose your job?		
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
145. How likely is	s it that you will g	et the job you wa	int?	
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely
146. How likely is	s it that you will b	e unemployed at	some time du	rring your adult life?
1 = Very unlikely	2 = Unlikely	3 = Not sure	4 = Likely	5 = Very likely

# Use of Services

Next I'll ask about services you may have received since leaving foster care.

147. What services did you receive after you turned 18?

## (*Read list* and circle response(s)):

147a.	Individual counseling	1 = Yes	0 = No
147b.	Group counseling/group work	1 = Yes	0 = No
147c.	Drug/alcohol counseling	1 = Yes	0 = No
147d.	Independent living training	1 = Yes	0 = No
	Employment services/training	1 = Yes	0 = No
147f.	Organizations/clubs/camps	1 = Yes	0 = No
147g.	Tutoring/educational services	1 = Yes	0 = No
147h.	Medical coupons	1 = Yes	0 = No
147i.	Housing assistance	1 = Yes	0 = No
	Mentoring	1 = Yes	0 = No
147k.	Vocational training	1 = Yes	0 = No
147I.	Mental health services	1 = Yes	0 = No

147m. SSI / SSA		1 = Yes	0 = No
147n. Food stamps		1 = Yes	0 = No
147o. WIC		1 = Yes	0 = No
147p. Daycare		1 = Yes	0 = No
147q. Other (incl. IL \$)	(147r.)	1 = Yes	0 = No

- 148. Are there services you needed that you didn't receive? 1 = Yes 0 = No *If no, skip to question 150*
- 149. What services?

# <u>\*\* If respondent has not received any services since turning 18 or has only</u> <u>received one service since turning 18, skip to question 152 \*\*</u>

150. Which service that you received since leaving foster care has been the <u>most</u> helpful?

Individual counseling	(1)
Group counseling/group work	(2)
Drug/alcohol counseling	(3)
Independent living training	(4)
Employment services/training	(5)
Organizations/clubs/camps	(6)
Tutoring/educational services	(7)
Medical coupons	(8)
Housing assistance	(9)
Mentoring	(10)
Vocational training	(11)
Mental health services	(12)
SSI / SSA	(13)
Food stamps	(14)
WIC	(15)
Daycare	(16)
Other (incl. IL \$)	(150a.) (17)

151. Which service that you received since leaving foster care has been the <u>least</u> helpful?

Individual counseling	(1)
Group counseling/group work	(2)
Drug/alcohol counseling	(3)
Independent living training	(4)
Employment services/training	(5)
Organizations/clubs/camps	(6)
Tutoring/educational services	(7)
Medical coupons	(8)

Housing assistance	(9)
Mentoring	(10)
Vocational training	(11)
Mental health services	(12)
SSI / SSA	(13)
Food stamps	(14)
WIC	(15)
Daycare	(16)
Other (incl. IL \$)	(151a.) (17)

## Ansell-Casey Questions:

Please answer the following questions using the following answer choices:

1 = Not really like me 2 = Like me 3 =Very much like me 152. I ask questions to make sure I understand something someone has said. 153. I can explain the education or training needed for my career options 154. I can name three ways to find out about job openings \_\_\_\_ 155. I can explain why good job references are important \_\_\_\_\_ 156. I think about how my choices now affect my future a year or more from now 157. I get help if my feelings bother me \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 158. I deal with anger without using violence. 159. I know how to wash my clothes according to the label (for example, hand wash, dry clean, cold water) 160. I fix breakfast, lunch, or dinner 161. I follow the basic fire prevention and safety rules for where I live I can contact places around where I live to get information on sex or 162. pregnancy 163. I can explain how to establish and maintain a good credit rating 164. I can name two ways to save money on things I buy 165. I talk over problems with a friend 166. I talk with an adult I feel close to \_\_\_\_\_ 167. I am polite to others 168. I respect other people's ways of looking at things, their lifestyles, and their \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes 169. I look over my work for mistakes 170. I prepare for exams and presentations 171. I use the library, newspaper, phone book, or other resources to get information

172. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience since leaving foster care?

That's it! Thank you for taking the time to participate in the second part of our study. Where would you like your gift certificate mailed?

175.	Name:	
	Address:	

If you have any questions about the interview or the study after today, please call Carol Brandford at 1-888-437-0490.

# Foster Youth Transition to Independence Study Sources for Post-emancipation Interview

		1 Still in care; <sup>1</sup> OCAR-developed and The Casey
Leaving Foster Care		Family Program Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study
		(2000) T1-2
		The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care
Housing		Alumni Study (2000) R4-R5; R7 and OCAR-developed;
Ũ		R8
Education		LONGSCAN DEMB 5-7 and OCAR-developed
		LONGSCAN DEMB 8-10; 12-14 and OCAR-developed
Employment		and The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster
		Care Alumni Study (2000) B10
		LONGSCAN DEMB 25-26 and The Casey Family
Income		Program Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study (2000)
	<i>.</i> .	C9
Adult Self-Suf	ficiency	
	Computer Literacy	The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care
		Alumni Study (2000) B42-46 and OCAR-developed
	Transportation	OCAR-developed
	Money Management	OCAR-developed and The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study (2000) C2
Risk Behavior		Northwest Poster Care Aldmin Study (2000) C2
INISK DEHAVIOI		Adapted from the Composite International Diagnostic
	Drugs/Alcohol	Interview (CIDI) (1990)
		LONGSCAN Age 8 and Age 12 Interviews and OCAR-
		developed and questions based on The Casey Family
	Criminal Activity	Program Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study (2000)
		Section F
		LONGSCAN Age 8 and Age 12 Interviews and The
	Sex/Pregnancy	Casey Family Program Youth Outcomes Follow-up
		Survey (1999)
	N. 1 III.	The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care
Relationship S	Stability	Alumni Study (2000) E1-4; E7, E9, E27 and
		LONGSCAN CTB 1-19
Depression		LONGSCAN Age 8 and Age 12 Interviews
Social Suppor		
	Biological Family	The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care
	Other Relatives	Alumni Study (2000) and OCAR-developed and The
	Foster Family	Casey Family Program Youth Outcomes Follow-up
	Friends Other Supports	_ Survey (1999)
Other Supports		The Casey Family Program Northwest Fester Care
Access to Medical Care		The Casey Family Program Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study (2000) C19-22 and OCAR-developed
Future Expectations		LONGSCAN FEQA 1, 3-11
•		Independent Living Program Manager and OCAR-
Use of Services		developed
		Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment Short Form
Ansell-Casey Short Form		(2000)
		· · · ·