



# John Burton Foundation for Children without Homes

## Policy Brief JANUARY 2012 by Sara Kimberlin & Amy Lemley

### Demographics and Outcomes of THP-Plus Participants: Implications for Extended Foster Care in California

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historically, youth who have been abused and neglected have been eligible to remain in foster care only until age 18. On becoming legal adults, foster youth then became ineligible to continue in foster care and “aged out” or “emancipated” from the foster care system. However, beginning in January 2012, foster youth in California who are aging out may choose to remain in foster care up to age 21, due to recent federal and state laws establishing this option of extended foster care (EFC). Practitioners, advocates, and policymakers have many questions about what to expect from the imminent implementation of EFC, including questions about the characteristics of youth who will choose to participate, the outcomes to be expected, and the types of support that will need to be provided to enable EFC participants to succeed.

This study sought to answer some of these questions through an analysis of data from California’s Transitional Housing Placement Plus program (THP-Plus), a state-funded transitional supportive housing program serving former foster youth throughout California. THP-Plus participants are similar to the expected participants in EFC, and the services provided by THP-Plus are largely similar to those that will be offered through EFC. Thus this study analyzed the demographics and outcomes of more than 450 young adults who exited from the THP-Plus program during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010-11, in order to identify potential implications for the implementation of extended foster care in California.

Findings show that across the full sample of THP-Plus participants, many young people entered the program with major challenges to self-sufficiency, such as homelessness, zero income, lack of high school credentials, and parenting responsibilities. From entrance to exit, THP-Plus participants in aggregate experienced improvements in their incomes and educational status, and virtually all exited into stable housing. However, some participants struggled to successfully engage with work, school, and THP-Plus program expectations during their stays, and a significant proportion might have been at risk of losing eligibility for extended foster care if they had been EFC participants. Though participants achieved

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achieved important improvements between THP-Plus entrance and exit, most young people continued to face serious self-sufficiency challenges at exit. Outcomes for three specific populations of THP-Plus participants that are of special relevance in the current policy context were also examined, namely 1) young adults age 21 and older, 2) young adults with disabilities, and 3) participants with short program stays and involuntary exits.

The study findings have several potential implications for California's implementation of extended foster care. Specifically, EFC is likely to serve as an important safety net for many vulnerable young adults exiting the foster care system, and EFC participants may be expected to demonstrate progress in some important life domains during their participation in extended foster care. A substantial number of EFC participants (particularly young women) are likely to be custodial parents of young children, and a significant number of participants (particularly young men) are likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system during their participation in EFC; thus EFC providers should be prepared to meet the special needs of these two categories of young adults. In terms of outcomes to be expected of EFC participants, the study findings suggest that former foster youth participating in EFC may struggle to secure employment in the current economic context, and they may need special support to successfully sustain enrollment in higher education. As a result, some EFC participants may struggle to maintain their eligibility for foster care by meeting required EFC participation conditions. Data from the THP-Plus program also suggests that some EFC participants are likely to experience difficulties complying with placement rules and expectations, and thus may exit and later re-enter EFC. Many, if not most EFC participants are likely to need some kind of support after they exit from foster care in order to maintain stable housing and adequate incomes and meet their basic needs. Finally, findings from this study indicate that there is also a significant need for transitional housing and supportive services among former youth age 21 and older in California, who will not be eligible for extended foster care.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The foster care system provides comprehensive care for children and youth who have been removed from their biological parents due to abuse and neglect. Until recently, youth in California were able to remain in foster care until age 18 (or in some cases age 19), at which point they "aged out" or "emancipated" from care, meaning they must exit the foster care system due to age ineligibility, and begin to support themselves independently. The age at which young people are required to exit foster care increased recently with the passage of PL 110-351, the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, and California's AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act. Together, these laws stipulate that beginning in January 2012, foster youth who are aging out in California may elect to remain in care until age 21.

This extension of foster care eligibility was motivated by substantial evidence that the transition from adolescence to independent adulthood is a particularly challenging period for abused and neglected youth who are aging out of the foster care system. A study by researchers at the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children compared the outcomes of over 600 former foster youth to those of young adults in the general population. The study found that 19-year-olds in the study were nearly three times more likely than their peers in the general population to be out of work and school. They were twice as likely to be unable to pay their rent and were four times as likely to be evicted. Within less than two years of leaving foster care, significant numbers had been incarcerated and one in seven had experienced homelessness.<sup>1</sup>

Research specific to California has also found evidence of poor outcomes among former foster youth. A 2002 survey of California's county welfare directors estimated that 65% of youth aging out of foster care in California had an imminent need for safe and stable housing.<sup>2</sup>

These poor outcomes for former foster youth are cause for serious concern, indicating a lack of preparation prior to their transition out of foster care and lack of economic and social support in early adulthood. Studies conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago have shown, however, that early young adult outcomes are better among youth who remain in foster care beyond their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, compared to youth of the same age who exit foster care at age 18.<sup>3</sup> Thus by extending the age eligibility for foster care in California, the hope is to facilitate improved outcomes among young adults from the state's foster care system.

Implementation of extended foster care (EFC) in California is imminent, and many questions remain about how the new policy will function in practice. Which young people will elect to participate in EFC, and what will their needs be? What types of support will need to be provided to help EFC participants achieve a successful transition to adulthood? What types of programmatic challenges will EFC providers encounter? Will EFC eligibility criteria facilitate access to care for young adults who need support beyond age 18?

Answers to some of these questions may be found by examining the demographics and outcomes of participants in California's Transitional Housing Placement Plus program (THP-Plus), a state-funded transitional supportive housing program serving recently aged-out former foster youth that has been in operation since 2003. Funded through the California Department of Social Services, THP-Plus provides up to 24 months of affordable housing, coupled with supportive services, for young adults ages 18 to 24 who have exited foster care after reaching the maximum age limit of 18 or 19 years old. THP-Plus housing follows three different models: a scattered site model of individual rental units scattered throughout the community, a single-site model of clustered units within a single property, and a host family model in which participants live in family settings with adults with whom they have committed, caring relationships. THP-Plus programs subsidize the rental costs associated with these living arrangements and provide a range of specified supportive services, either directly or through referral. In FY 2010-11, the program operated in 51 of California's 58 counties and served 2,209 youth, with a total annual budget of \$35.4 million.<sup>4</sup>

The young adults served by THP-Plus are very similar to those expected to participate in extended foster care, in that they are young people who participated in the foster care or juvenile probation systems through the age of majority, and they have voluntarily chosen to participate in a supportive housing program. One difference between the THP-Plus and EFC populations is that former foster youth are eligible to participate in THP-Plus up to age 24, while EFC eligibility extends only up to age 21. THP-Plus also offers support that is similar in many ways to the support that will be offered by EFC. The program incorporates both independent living and family-based housing models, and offers case management and supportive services to participants, provided directly by County agencies and/or by contracted nonprofit providers. THP-Plus is a more service-intensive program than some EFC models (e.g. SILP), however, as the program includes 15 specific supportive services, a low ratio of staff to participants (1:12 in general, and 1:8 for parenting participants), and a relatively high monthly rate (averaging \$2,300 per participant). THP-Plus differs from EFC in that participants are not under court supervision.

Because of the similarities between THP-Plus and EFC in terms of participants and programming, a close examination of THP-Plus offers valuable information about what might be

expected when extended foster care is implemented throughout California. Moreover, significant data are available about the demographics and outcomes of THP-Plus participants, facilitating this project. This policy brief reviews an analysis of data from the THP-Plus program from fiscal year 2010-11 in order to identify potential implications for the implementation of extended foster care in California.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In 2008, the John Burton Foundation, a partner in the THP-Plus Statewide Implementation Project, led the process of developing a voluntary statewide data system to collect consistent information about the demographics and outcomes of THP-Plus participants. This data collection system, developed in consultation with counties and their contracted nonprofit service providers, was implemented during fiscal year 2008-09. Currently data from 31 of the 51 California counties participating in THP-Plus, representing approximately two thirds of THP-Plus participants statewide, is voluntarily included on an ongoing basis in the statewide data collection effort, making this system the most comprehensive current collection of data on former foster youth throughout California. Information collected through the THP-Plus data initiative includes demographics of program participants as well as outcomes related to housing, employment, education, criminal justice involvement, and assets, collected for each participant at program entrance, exit, 6-months post-exit, and 12-months post-exit, as well as snapshot data collected each quarter for all participants enrolled during the quarter.

The data used for the analyses in this report comprises the data collected about THP-Plus participants at program entrance and exit, for young adults who participated in the THP-Plus program and exited the program during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010-11. The dataset used represents the most comprehensive data available on THP-Plus participation; however, because some counties and service providers are not currently participating in the system, this sample does not represent all young adults who participated in THP-Plus during the fiscal year. The total sample size is 454 individuals (fewer for some analyses due to missing data, noted as applicable). Overall, the sample is estimated to represent approximately two thirds of the total population of former foster youth who exited from THP-Plus statewide during the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

The results were obtained through descriptive, bivariate, and multivariate analyses, as indicated below. Only findings that are statistically significant are reported unless otherwise specified.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Demographics of Former Foster Youth Participating in THP-Plus**

The young adults who exited from THP-Plus during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010-11 reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of California's former foster youth. The participants included in the sample were served by THP-Plus programs in 32 different California counties. Both urban and rural parts of the state were represented. The largest geographic concentrations of participants were in the San Francisco Bay Area (25%), San Diego County (21%), Los Angeles County (8%), and Sacramento County (8%). Overall, there were slightly more participants from Northern California (56%) compared to Southern California (44%). With

respect to THP-Plus housing model, 74% of participants in the sample were in scattered-site THP-Plus programs, 21% were in single-site programs, and 5% were in host family programs.

In terms of gender, nearly three-fifths of the THP-Plus participants in the sample were female (57%) and more than two-fifths were male (43%). The disproportionate representation of young women in THP-Plus may largely reflect the demographics of California's population of aging-out foster youth, which has historically been disproportionately female.<sup>5</sup> The young adults exiting from THP-Plus came from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds. The largest proportion were Black (37%), followed by Hispanic (25%), White non-Hispanic (19%), and Other (19%), including Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, or another race/ethnicity.

Other demographic characteristics of interest for the THP-Plus program include age, parenting status, and special needs. In terms of age, most of the participants exiting from THP-Plus (81%) were 18 to 20 years old at the time they entered the program, but 19% were older youth, aged 21 to 24 at program entrance. With respect to parenting status, over one fifth of the sample (21%) had given birth to or fathered a child prior to entering the THP-Plus program, and at least 14% of participants were custodial parents at program entrance. Special needs status of program participants was measured through questions about services that participants were receiving at program exit. A full 21% of participants reported receiving mental health services at exit; 9% were receiving substance abuse services; 4% were receiving services for developmental or learning disabilities; and 1% were receiving services for physical disabilities.

## **Participant Outcomes**

Participant characteristics and outcomes were analyzed for all individuals in the dataset who exited from THP-Plus during the study period. Findings closely paralleled the characteristics and outcomes found in a previously published similar analysis conducted with data from the prior fiscal year.<sup>6</sup>

### ***Challenges at THP-Plus Entrance***

Young adults faced many challenges to self-sufficiency at entrance to THP-Plus.

- *THP-Plus met an immediate and urgent housing need for many former foster youth.*

At entrance to THP-Plus, many participants were living in unstable or unsustainable housing situations. More than half had a clearly urgent need for housing: more than one in six (18%) were homeless or staying in a shelter or other unstable housing, and almost two fifths (38%) entered THP-Plus directly from foster care as they aged out of the foster care system. The remaining half of participants were mostly staying in stable rent-free housing with relatives or friends (18%), renting their own or shared housing (14%), or living in supportive transitional housing (8%) (including 2% who were in another THP-Plus program). Regardless of their current housing situations, nearly one third (30%) had experienced homelessness at some point prior to entering THP-Plus.

- *Participants entered THP-Plus with major challenges to self-sufficiency in terms of income, educational achievement, and special needs.*

At entrance to THP-Plus, program participants had severely inadequate incomes. A full 25% entered with zero income. The median non-zero monthly income was only \$750 at entrance, for

an annualized income of \$9,000, well below the 2010 federal poverty threshold of \$11,344<sup>7</sup> for a single adult.

Participants also entered THP-Plus with very modest levels of educational achievement. Nearly three-quarters (71%) had received a high school diploma or GED, but more than one quarter (27%) entered with no high school credential, and only 2% had received a higher education degree.

In terms of special needs, more than one fifth (21%) had mental health needs and 9% had substance abuse challenges that were serious enough to require services at program exit.

○ *Participants had some important assets at entrance.*

The proportion of individuals with health insurance at entrance was high overall, at 85%, likely due to state policy making former foster youth automatically eligible for extended MediCal up to age 21. In addition, at program entrance nearly all THP-Plus participants (94%) reported having a permanent connection to a caring adult who could provide support, advice, and guidance

○ *Many THP-Plus participants were parents.*

Custodial parents represented 14% of program participants at entrance and 20% at exit overall. Young women were particularly likely to be actively parenting; at entrance, nearly one in four female participants (24%) was a custodial parent, and 30% of young women were custodial parents at exit. Achieving self-sufficiency is more challenging for parenting youth, and outcomes for these individuals affect not only the young adult participants, but also their children.

### ***Positive Progress from Entrance to Exit***

THP-Plus participants experienced some important positive changes in the domains of income, education, and housing between program entrance and exit.

○ *Participants' incomes increased in aggregate between THP-Plus entrance and exit.*

Between entrance and exit, there was a statistically significant decline in the proportion of participants with zero income, from 25% at entrance to 19% at exit ( $\chi^2=6.28$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). In addition, the median non-zero income increased from program entrance (\$750) to exit (\$851), and the mean non-zero income of program participants also showed a significant increase, from \$859 per month at entrance to \$1,049 at exit ( $t=2.92$ ,  $p=0.004$ ).

Participants who were employed saw a statistically significant increase in their mean hourly wage, from \$9.47 at entrance to \$10.12 at exit ( $t=2.35$ ,  $p=0.02$ ). For many participants, however, income gains from entrance to exit were due to increases in non-employment income.

Specifically, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of participants receiving any public benefits (Food Stamps, CalWORKS, SSI, etc.) at entrance versus exit (22% vs. 31%;  $\chi^2=21.39$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ).

○ *There were small gains in aggregate educational achievement between THP-Plus entrance and exit.*

Program participants in aggregate showed some small but statistically significant improvements in educational status between program entrance and exit. The proportion whose highest educational achievement was a high school diploma or GED increased from 71% to 78% ( $\chi^2=8.54$ ,  $p=0.004$ ). In addition, the small proportion that had completed a vocational training program increased from 7% at program entrance to 10% at exit ( $\chi^2=6.30$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). In terms of college, there was no significant change in the overall proportion of participants enrolled in a two-year college, but there was a statistically significant increase in the very small proportion enrolled in a four-year college, from 3% to 5% ( $\chi^2=4.46$ ,  $p=0.03$ ).

- *Participants increased their participation in mainstream banking services.*

The proportion of participants holding a bank account increased significantly between program entrance and exit, from 62% to 69% ( $\chi^2=8.61$ ,  $p=0.003$ ).

- *Virtually all participants exited into stable housing.*

A full 92% of participants maintained stable housing at THP-Plus exit, with only 5% exiting into homelessness, an emergency shelter, or other unstable housing and 3% exiting into incarceration. Nearly half of participants (48%) exited into rental housing. Another two fifths exited into other forms of stable, but less self-sufficient and sustainable housing; 33% moved into rent-free housing with relatives or others, and 5% moved into another supportive transitional housing program (including 1% who moved into another THP-Plus program).

### ***Challenges During Program Participation***

Findings suggest that program participants encountered some challenges in successfully engaging with work, school, and THP-Plus program expectations during their participation in the program.

- *There was no significant increase in the proportion of individuals working. In fact, findings suggest many participants entered seeking jobs, but had given up their job searches by program exit.*

The same proportion of participants (44%) was working at entrance and exit. In fact, the only significant shifts in aggregate employment status were a decrease in the proportion of participants seeking employment (from 49% to 35%,  $\chi^2= 29.66$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and an increase in the proportion not working and not seeking employment (from 8% to 21%;  $\chi^2=95.99$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), suggesting that many participants who were seeking jobs at program entrance had given up their job search by program exit.

Participants' employment outcomes must be considered within the larger economic context, as unemployment remained high throughout California during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2010-11. The job market was particularly difficult for transition-age youth, who typically have lower levels of job skills and work experience compared to other job applicants. In this context, it is a positive finding that the proportion of participants with jobs did not decline from entrance to exit, and that the mean wage for working participants increased.

- *The data suggest that a substantial number of participants enrolled in college during THP-Plus, but dropped out before program exit.*

Between program entrance and exit, there was a significant increase in the proportion of individuals whose educational status was recorded as “dropped out of college,” from 8% at entrance to 19% at exit ( $\chi^2=73.28$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). This finding suggests that many participants enrolled in college while participating in THP-Plus, but dropped out before THP-Plus exit. Dropping out may negatively affect young people’s academic records as well as their confidence in their ability to successfully engage in higher education. In addition, young adults who secure financial aid in order to attend school, and then drop out after spending the financial aid resources, may end up with no educational benefit and substantial financial debt.

- *A significant number of THP-Plus participants were involved with the criminal justice system during their program stays.*

Between program entrance and exit, 15% of THP-Plus participants overall were incarcerated and 7% received an adult criminal conviction. These figures are similar to the proportions that entered THP-Plus with a history of incarceration (12%) or an adult conviction (10%). Young men were particularly likely to experience criminal justice involvement; more than one in five in male participants (23%) was arrested and detained between program entrance and exit.

- *Many THP-Plus participants had relatively short program stays.*

Former foster youth are eligible to receive up to 24 months of housing and support through THP-Plus, but the mean length of stay among program participants was about half as long, at 13 months. Almost half of participants (48%) stayed in the program for more than one year, but 26% stayed for less than six months. Though a short stay may be appropriate for some participants, the vast majority exited THP-Plus with continuing challenges to self-sufficiency, suggesting they might have benefited from a longer period of support.

- *There was a decline in the proportion of participants who exited involuntarily, but involuntary exits were still very common.*

Over one third (35%) of exiting THP-Plus participants left the program involuntarily, which typically means they were asked to leave the program because they failed to comply with program rules or expectations. Some level of non-compliance may reflect developmentally expected behavior for youth transitioning into independent adulthood, but involuntary exits preemptively shorten program stays and disrupt participants’ case plans and exit transitions, and therefore should be minimized.

On the positive side, the proportion of involuntary exits declined significantly from FY 2009-10 (41%) to 2010-11 (35%,  $\chi^2=4.30$ ,  $p=0.04$ ), a trend which may reflect increased efforts within the statewide THP-Plus program during FY 2010-11 to reduce involuntary exits. Furthermore, only 2% of participants were legally evicted, which is a positive finding, since a record of a legal eviction can compromise an individual’s long-term ability to secure rental housing.

- *If they had been participating in extended foster care, many participants might have been at risk of not losing eligibility due to failure to meet EFC participation conditions.*

To maintain eligibility for extended foster care, young adults are required to meet one of five “participation conditions,” which include: 1) Completing high school or a program leading to an equivalent credential (e.g. GED); 2) Enrollment in higher education or vocational training; 3)

Participating in a program designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment; 4) Working at least 80 hours per month; or 5) Unable to meet any of the prior conditions due to a documented medical condition. A full 30% of THP-Plus participants were unemployed or working less than 10 hours per week, not enrolled in school or vocational training, and not receiving SSI (a proxy for having a serious disability) at program exit, and thus might have been out of compliance with EFC participation conditions if they had been participating in extended foster care. Note that this analysis may understate the proportion not meeting the participation conditions because all participants employed 10 or more hours per week were categorized as “working 80 hours or more per month” (because more precise data were not available), and thus meeting participation condition (4), when in fact many of these participants were probably working less. On the other hand, data were not available about participation condition (3), participation in a program designed to promote or reduce barriers to employment, and some THP-Plus participants may have participated in this type of work readiness activity.

### *Challenges at THP-Plus Exit*

At program exit, participants’ income, education, and housing situations had improved in aggregate, but individuals still faced serious challenges to self-sufficiency.

- *A substantial proportion of participants were custodial parents at THP-Plus exit.*

Between entrance and exit, a new child was born to 8% of THP-Plus participants. This figure includes an unknown number of participants who were pregnant or expectant fathers at the time of program entrance. There was also a significant increase in the proportion of participants who were custodial parents, from 14% at entrance to 20% at exit ( $\chi^2=10.33$ ,  $p=0.001$ ), reflecting both participants with new children born, as well as parents that regained custody of children who were living in other arrangements prior to THP-Plus entrance. As noted above, parenting particularly affected female THP-Plus participants, as a full 30% of young women were custodial parents at THP-Plus exit. Increased custodial parenting represents a challenge to the self-sufficiency of THP-Plus participants. However, this change could represent a positive outcome for participants’ young children, as it reflects living situations that are sufficiently stable to enable THP-Plus participants to maintain or gain custody of their children.

- *The proportion of participants lacking health insurance increased slightly from entrance to exit.*

Though the vast majority of participants had insurance at entrance and at exit, the proportion with health insurance was slightly smaller at exit (81%) than at entrance (85%). This small but significant decline ( $\chi^2=5.63$ ,  $p=0.03$ ) might represent older youth who reached the end of their categorical eligibility for MediCal when they reached age 21.

- *Despite income gains, participants exited THP-Plus with extremely low incomes.*

At exit, participants’ median non-zero income was \$851 per month, annualized to \$10,212 per year. This income was less than the 2010 federal poverty threshold for a one-person household (\$11,344), and was substantially less than the poverty threshold for the two-person (\$15,030)<sup>8</sup> or larger households represented by the 20% of THP-Plus participants who were custodial parents at program exit. The median exit income is far less than the amount considered adequate for

economic self-sufficiency in California, ranging from \$19,000 to \$32,000 for a single adult and \$35,000 to \$57,000 for a single parent with one preschooler.<sup>9</sup>

- *Despite educational gains, participants exited THP-Plus with low levels of educational achievement.*

At exit, 78% of individuals had a high school diploma or GED, while 21% still lacked a high school credential. Less than 3% had a college degree.

- *Though nearly all participants exited into stable housing, many exited into housing that was not self-sufficient or was not sustainably affordable.*

Over one third of participants (38%) exited into housing that was stable but not independent, such as living with relatives or a transitional housing program. Nearly half (48%) exited into independent rental housing, but rent burdens were high. The median non-zero rent paid was \$450 per month, and participants paid a median of 39% of their monthly income toward rent. Thus most program participants were paying more of their income for rent than the 30% that is generally considered an affordable rent burden. This median rent burden is comparable to the rent-to-income ratio for many very low-income individuals and families in California, where housing costs are generally high. Nonetheless, such high rent burdens suggest precarious housing affordability for many former THP-Plus participants.

## **Special Populations**

Participant characteristics and outcomes were examined more closely for three populations of THP-Plus participants of special relevance to current policy or practice discussions: participants age 21 and older, participants with disabilities, and participants with short program stays and involuntary exits.

### ***Participants Age 21 and Older***

THP-Plus is somewhat unusual among programs for former foster youth in that young adults remain eligible for services through their 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, whereas many programs targeting former foster youth – most notably extended foster care – only extend eligibility up to the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Moreover, with the upcoming implementation of EFC in California, some counties have considered discontinuing their non-foster care THP-Plus programs, which would have the effect of eliminating this type of transitional housing and support services for former foster youth ages 21 and older. Thus this analysis examined the number and characteristics of THP-Plus participants age 21 and older in order to assess the role played by these types of services for older former foster youth.

A group of older youth who would be ineligible for EFC are those who enter THP-Plus after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays. These young people represented nearly one in five (19%) of the participants served during the first three quarters of FY 2010/11. In some domains, these older young adults were similar to the overall population of THP-Plus participants. Their demographics were similar in terms of gender and race, and there was no significant difference in their rates of employment (47% vs. 44%,  $\chi^2 = 0.38$ ,  $p=0.54$ ), school enrollment (37% vs. 46%,  $\chi^2 = 2.30$ ,  $p=0.13$ ), or connectedness (66% vs. 69%,  $\chi^2 = 0.24$ ,  $p=0.62$ ) at program entrance, compared to the overall THP-Plus population. Participants entering THP-Plus at age 21 or older also had a few advantages compared to the general THP-Plus population; they were more likely to have a

high school diploma or GED at entrance to the program (84% vs. 71%,  $\chi^2 = 5.43$ ,  $p=0.02$ ) and they were less likely to enter the program with zero income (13% vs. 25%,  $\chi^2 = 4.4$ ,  $p=0.04$ ).

However, these older young adults, in aggregate, also had some significantly greater self-sufficiency challenges, compared to the overall population of THP-Plus participants. They were significantly more likely to be a parent (38% vs. 21%,  $\chi^2 = 11.54$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), and to be a custodial parent (25% vs. 14%,  $\chi^2 = 8.5$ ,  $p=0.004$ ), at entrance to the program. They were also much more likely to enter the program without health insurance (45% vs. 15%,  $\chi^2 = 48.85$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), likely because they were no longer automatically eligible for extended MediCal. And they were almost twice as likely to enter THP-Plus from homelessness (35% vs. 18%,  $\chi^2 = 14.53$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ); more than one in three participants over age 21 entered THP-Plus directly from a homeless shelter or similarly unstable housing.

Beyond the young people who *entered* THP-Plus at age 21 or older, it is important to note that a substantial proportion of THP-Plus participants entered the program prior to age 21, but stayed in the program beyond their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays. These participants, too, would be ineligible for housing and support through EFC after they turned 21. In fact, a full 40% of THP-Plus participants exiting in the first three quarters of FY 2010/11 were age 21 or older by the time they exited the program. Overall, therefore, young people age 21 and older comprised a very substantial proportion of the former foster youth who accessed THP-Plus services during the study period.

### ***Participants with Disabilities***

One question about EFC relates to how it might meet the needs of former foster youth with disabilities. Thus this analysis sought to assess whether THP-Plus served a substantial number of young people with exceptional needs and whether the program was effective for them. To identify young people with identified special needs, the analysis focused on THP-Plus participants who were receiving SSI benefits at entrance and/or exit from the program, as these young people by definition met the strict SSI criteria for having a serious disability.

Young adults receiving SSI during their program stays represented a small but significant proportion of THP-Plus participants, comprising 7% of exiting participants in the first three quarters of FY 2010/11. The demographics, characteristics at entrance, and outcomes at exit for this group were compared to those of the overall THP-Plus population. Due to the small number of SSI-receiving young people in the sample ( $n=31$ ), however, there was limited statistical power to detect significant differences between the results for this group versus the overall THP-Plus population.

No statistically significant differences between SSI-receiving participants and the general THP-Plus population were found in terms of demographics, parenting, school enrollment at entrance, connectedness at entrance, or income at entrance. And at program exit, there were no statistically significant differences between SSI-receiving youth and the general THP-Plus population in terms of parenting, school enrollment, connectedness, or income.

SSI-receiving participants were significantly less likely to be working at program exit (19% vs. 44%,  $\chi^2 = 7.53$ ,  $p=0.006$ ) and were more likely to be unemployed and not seeking a job at exit (55% vs. 21%,  $\chi^2 = 21.48$ ,  $p<0.001$ ); these results are not surprising, however, given that SSI eligibility presumes an inability to work. In fact, it may be more noteworthy that a substantial proportion of these young people were in fact employed at entrance (28%) and at exit (19%).

Also not surprisingly, SSI-receiving youth were substantially more likely to be receiving special needs services at exit compared to the general THP-Plus population. In terms of specific types of services, they were significantly more likely to be receiving mental health services at exit compared to the general THP-Plus population, with nearly three-fifths receiving such services (57% vs. 21%,  $\chi^2=21.97$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ). Overall, mental health services were the most common special needs service received by SSI-recipient participants, which may suggest that most of them qualified for SSI due to a serious mental health disability. These participants had nominally higher rates of receipt of substance abuse, developmental disability, and physical disability services as well, but these rates were not statistically different from the general THP-Plus population (perhaps due to the small sample size).

In terms of program dynamics, young people receiving SSI during their program stays were nominally less likely to exit involuntarily, had a nominally longer mean length of stay in the program, and were nominally more likely to stay for longer than 12 months, compared to the overall THP-Plus population. These differences were not statistically significant, however (again, perhaps due to the small sample size).

Overall, these results may suggest that young people with disabilities serious enough to meet the strict criteria for SSI eligibility are in most respects similar to the overall THP-Plus population in terms of many of the challenges they face to self-sufficiency at program entrance and in terms of outcomes at program exit. They were significantly less likely to be working at program exit, which is not surprising – but their mean income at exit was not significantly different from that of the general THP-Plus population. In fact, their median monthly incomes were actually nominally *higher* than those of the general THP-Plus population, at both entrance (\$848 vs. \$750) and exit (\$900 vs. \$851). Caution should be used in interpreting all of these results, however, as other significant differences may exist that could not be detected due to the small sample.

### ***Participants with Short Stays and Involuntary Exits***

Short program stays and involuntary program exits are likely to indicate problems with youth engagement with program participation requirements. Understanding these phenomena in the THP-Plus program may help EFC providers anticipate youth engagement challenges and tailor services accordingly.

Data from both FY 2010-11 and 2009-10 showed that a substantial proportion of THP-Plus participants had short program stays. More than one fifth of exiting participants in the first three quarters of each year had program stays of less than 6 months (22% in FY 2009-10 and 26% in FY 2010-11). Moreover, data from both years showed that a substantial proportion of participants exited involuntarily, though the percentage of involuntary exits declined significantly from 41% in FY 2009-10 to 35% in FY 2010-11. To better understand these phenomena, this analysis explored participant and program characteristics that might be associated with short program stays and involuntary program exits.

First, the overall distribution of lengths of stay was plotted, revealing two clusters of stay lengths: program stays of less than 8 months, and program stays of greater than 22 months. Predictors of these two lengths of stay were then examined separately, using multivariate logistic regression.

Many different variables were considered as possibly associated with short (< 8 months) or long (> 22 months) program stays. Participant characteristics that were explored included gender, age 21 or older at program entrance, custodial parent at entrance, experience of homelessness prior to entrance, working at entrance, in school at entrance, receiving mental health services at exit, receiving substance abuse services at exit, and receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit (as an indicator of serious disability). A program characteristic that was explored was the THP-Plus model of scattered site, single site, or host family (coded as dummy variables). Multivariate logistic regression models were run for each of the program stays with all of these variables included.

In terms of predicting short program stays (< 8 months), female gender (OR=0.47, p=0.01), working at entrance (OR=0.46, p=0.01), and receiving SSI (OR=0.18, p=0.04) were all significantly associated with a *reduced* likelihood of staying for less than 8 months, controlling for all other participant and program characteristics listed above. Receiving substance abuse services at exit was also marginally significantly associated with a reduced probability of a short stay (OR=0.28, p=0.052). By implication, therefore, young men, participants who were unemployed at entrance, and those not receiving SSI were more likely to experience short stays, all other considered factors being equal.

In terms of predicting long program stays (> 22 months), age 21 or older at program entrance (OR=0.37, p=0.046) and experience of homelessness prior to entrance (OR=0.34, p=0.01) were both associated with a *reduced* likelihood of staying for more than 22 months, controlling for all other variables listed above. (Note, however, that some older youth may be ineligible to stay for a full 24 months because they may reach the maximum age limit of 24 before they have completed 24 months in the program.) Attending school at entrance was also marginally associated with a reduced probability of a long stay (OR=0.54, p=0.05). In contrast, receiving SSI was significantly associated with an *increased* likelihood of a long stay (OR=4.4, p=0.03), controlling for all other considered factors.

Parenting status, receipt of mental health services, and THP-Plus program model were not significantly associated with length of stay in either analysis.

The same participant and program variables were also examined as possible predictors of involuntary program exit, again using multivariate logistic regression. Controlling for all other variables, three participant characteristics emerged as significantly associated with involuntary program exit. Age 21 or older at program entrance was associated with a *reduced* likelihood of involuntary exit (OR=0.33, p=0.02), as was receipt of substance abuse services at exit (OR=0.18, p=0.01). Working at entrance was also marginally associated with a reduced likelihood of involuntary exit (OR=0.56, p=0.06). In contrast, experience of homelessness prior to program entrance was associated with an *increased* probability of involuntary exit (OR=3.03, p=0.001), controlling for all other factors. Gender, receipt of SSI, school enrollment, parenting status, receipt of mental health services, and THP-Plus program model were not significantly associated with involuntary exits.

Considered together, these results related to length of stay and involuntary exits may suggest that participants who have experienced homelessness, and those who are unemployed at program entrance, may be particularly likely to struggle to comply with program rules and expectations and consequently experience short stays and/or involuntary exits. In contrast, participants who are receiving SSI appear to be particularly likely to avoid short stays and involuntary exits.

Substance abuse service receipt at exit was also associated with both reduced likelihood of short stays and involuntary exits, but this finding may simply indicate that participants who are motivated to engage with substance abuse services during their program stay are also motivated to comply with other THP-Plus program rules and expectations; note that other indicators of substance use or dependence are not available in the data.

## **STUDY LIMITATIONS**

As noted above, the sample used for this analysis was a non-random sample of individuals participating in the THP-Plus program. The sample is drawn from the most comprehensive available dataset on THP-Plus program participation, and represents a substantial proportion of the total THP-Plus program population, but some counties and providers of THP-Plus services are not represented in the dataset. As a result, the sample may differ from the overall population of young adults in THP-Plus, and caution should be used in generalizing results. No other comprehensive data source exists for the THP-Plus program to allow for a detailed demographic comparison, though the aggregate participant and program characteristics parallel the statewide scope of the THP-Plus program in general. Caution should also be used in generalizing these results to the larger population of former foster youth in California, as the sample is not statistically representative of the full population of aged-out foster youth, though again, it is the largest and most comprehensive dataset available of California's former foster youth.

It is also important to note that this analysis used a pre-experimental, pre-test/post-test design, with no comparison or control group of similar individuals who did not participate in the THP-Plus program. Consequently, the findings cannot provide strong evidence that participation in the THP-Plus program caused the changes observed in participants' income, education, or other outcomes; it is possible that similar changes might have occurred over time even if the individuals had not participated in THP-Plus. Nonetheless, some positive program effect is plausible at least for the substantial proportion of participants that entered THP-Plus with major self-sufficiency challenges, such as homelessness, zero income, lack of high school credentials, serious mental health needs, and/or imminent exit from foster care. Given these major barriers, forward progress on income, education, and other self-sufficiency measures would likely have been difficult in the absence of stable housing and support like the services provided by THP-Plus, and all of these housing, income, and education metrics showed statistically significant improvement in aggregate from entrance to exit.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR EXTENDED FOSTER CARE**

This analysis of participant demographics and outcomes from the THP-Plus program suggests several important implications for the implementation of extended foster care in California:

- **EFC is likely to serve an important safety net role for many young people who would otherwise experience homelessness or other crises upon exiting foster care at age 18.**

Results from this analysis show that THP-Plus served as an important safety net for many former foster youth. Young adults participating in THP-Plus entered the program with a variety of serious challenges to self-sufficiency, including no or extremely low incomes and very modest educational attainment. Many had mental health issues and other special needs; for a significant number, these disabilities were serious enough to qualify participants for

SSI. Half had an immediate and urgent housing need at program entrance. Thus EFC, too, is likely to serve as a critical safety net for vulnerable young adults with serious challenges to self-sufficiency and immediate needs for housing, income, and other support.

- **EFC participants may be expected to demonstrate progress in important life domains during their participation in extended foster care.**

During their program stays, THP-Plus participants showed overall gains in income, education, and housing, suggesting that THP-Plus may have facilitated improvements in important areas of functioning (although it is important to note that this non-experimental study, which lacked a comparison or control group, cannot confirm whether the THP-Plus program in fact caused these changes). Gains in all areas were modest, but not unexpectedly so, given the relatively short stays of many participants. Moreover, many individuals entered THP-Plus in a state of crisis (e.g. homeless or with zero income), so that even the modest change to a more stable situation (e.g. housed with a low income) is an important improvement. These findings suggest that California participants in EFC might experience similar improvements in housing, income, and education, as hoped for by those who advocated for extending foster care.

- **A substantial number of EFC participants – particularly young women – are likely to be parents who are caring for young children.**

A full 20% of THP-Plus participants – and 30% of young women participating in THP-Plus – were custodial parents by the time they exited the program. These findings suggest that EFC, too, is likely to serve a large number of young parents, a situation which represents a challenge as well as an opportunity. Thus EFC providers should be prepared to help connect participants with prenatal care, birth and postpartum support, and parenting support. Providers can also support young parents in EFC by providing referrals to affordable child care, and assisting with tracking of immunizations and well-child health care visits for the children of EFC participants.

- **A significant number of EFC participants – particularly young men – may be expected to have contact with the criminal justice system during their participation in EFC.**

More than one in five young men participating in THP-Plus (and 15% of participants overall) were arrested and detained at some point between program entrance and exit. Thus a substantial number of former foster youth participating in EFC may also be expected to come in contact with the criminal justice system. EFC providers should therefore be knowledgeable about the adult criminal justice system, and be prepared to help participants navigate encounters with law enforcement and criminal courts in ways that minimize the long-term negative consequences for these young adults.

- **EFC participants may experience challenges in securing employment, particularly until the economy fully rebounds.**

THP-Plus participants in aggregate saw no increase in employment from program entrance to exit, and findings suggest that many participants who were seeking jobs at entrance had become discouraged by exit. As the job market in California continues to lag, particularly for transition-age youth with limited education and work experience, EFC participants are also likely to struggle to find jobs.

- **EFC participants may need special support to successfully sustain their participation in higher education.**

Results from this analysis suggest that many THP-Plus participants enrolled in community college during their participation in THP-Plus, but then dropped out before program exit. Thus EFC participants, too, may struggle to persist in higher education. EFC providers can support participants by connecting them with existing campus support programs for former foster youth such as Guardian Scholars or community college Foster Youth Success Initiative programs, as well as more general support programs like EOP/EOPS and disabled student services. EFC providers should also be knowledgeable and prepared to support participants enrolled in higher education with enrollment procedures, financial aid deadlines and requirements, and processes for minimizing financial and educational consequences when dis-enrollment is necessary.

- **Some EFC participants may struggle to maintain eligibility and meet EFC participation conditions.**

At program exit, a full 30% of THP-Plus participants were unemployed or working fewer than 10 hours per week, were not enrolled in school or vocational training, and were not receiving SSI – and thus might have been at risk of not complying with EFC participation conditions. This finding suggests that a substantial proportion of EFC participants may struggle to maintain EFC eligibility, and EFC providers should be prepared to actively monitor participation condition compliance and assist participants in maintaining eligibility. Note, too, that data on one condition, participation in a program to promote or remove barriers to work, was not available in the THP-Plus analysis. Compliance with this condition may be the easiest for EFC providers to actively facilitate. Thus developing in-house work readiness programs and/or building strong linkages to existing such programs may be a strategy that EFC providers can use to support participants in maintaining their eligibility for foster care benefits.

- **Some EFC participants are likely to experience difficulties complying with placement rules and expectations, and may be expected to exit and later re-enter EFC.**

A substantial proportion of THP-Plus participants experienced short lengths of stay and involuntary exits during the study period, which suggests that many EFC participants may similarly struggle to comply with requirements and expectations. Among THP-Plus participants, prior experience of homelessness and lack of employment at program entrance predicted increased likelihood of both shorter program stays and involuntary exits, perhaps meriting targeted provider efforts focused on participant engagement and case management. Receipt of SSI, on the other hand, was associated with avoiding short stays and involuntary exits.

- **Many EFC participants are likely to need continuing support after they exit from extended foster care to maintain stable housing and incomes and meet their basic needs.**

At exit from THP-Plus, most participants continued to face challenges to self-sufficiency. Incomes were generally very low, and most individuals had a high school credential at most, limiting their opportunities to secure living-wage jobs. Most exited into stable housing, but for many the housing was not independent, and rent burdens were high. These outcomes are not particularly surprising, given that THP-Plus is a relatively short-term program serving young adults who enter the program with serious self-sufficiency challenges. Participants in EFC are likely to face similar challenges when they exit foster care at age 19, 20, or 21, and

many are likely to need additional support after exit in order to maintain adequate housing, income, and basic necessities. Many – particularly those who are custodial parents or have serious mental health issues – may need support for many years of their adult lives. Thus EFC providers should help participants connect with mainstream adult social services and resources, such as Section 8 or public housing, means-tested MediCal, SNAP (food stamps), CalWORKS, and SSI. Furthermore, policymakers should consider establishing categorical eligibility or priority for mainstream public benefits for former foster youth, such as priority for subsidized housing or automatic eligibility for MediCal, as important complements to EFC.

- **Former foster youth age 21 and older, who will not be eligible for EFC, also demonstrate a significant need for transitional housing and supportive services.**

Nearly one in five former foster youth served by THP-Plus entered the program after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and these older youth often had greater self-sufficiency challenges at program entrance, with higher rates of custodial parenthood and increased likelihood of entering the program from homelessness. Moreover, a full 40% of THP-Plus program participants were age 21 or older by the time they exited the program. Together these findings suggest an ongoing need for transitional housing and supportive services separate from (but ideally coordinated with) EFC to meet the needs of former foster youth who are beyond the age limit for extended foster care.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## DATA TABLES

### THP-Plus Programs Represented in Sample

	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
San Francisco Bay Area	25%	454
Sacramento County	8%	
Other Northern California	24%	
<i>Subtotal Northern California</i>	<i>56%</i>	
Los Angeles County	8%	
San Diego County	21%	
Other Southern California	15%	
<i>Subtotal Southern California</i>	<i>44%</i>	
THP-Plus housing model		
Scattered site	74%	
Single site	21%	
Host family	5%	

### Participant Demographics

	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>
Female	57%	451
Male	43%	
Black	37%	443
White non-Hispanic	19%	
Hispanic	25%	
Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, or Other	19%	
Age 18 to 20 at entrance	81%	454
Age 21 to 23 at entrance	19%	
Age 21 or older at exit	40%	454
Parent at entrance	21%	345
Custodial parent at entrance	14%	454
Receiving special needs services at exit:		
Mental health	21%	423
Substance abuse	9%	423
Learning disability	3%	420
Developmental disability	1%	420
Physical disability	1%	424
Receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit	7%	31

### Income and Employment

	At entrance		At exit		$\chi^2$ or t (p-value)
	% or $\bar{X}$	n	% or $\bar{X}$	n	
Zero income	25%	276	19%	340	$\chi^2=6.28$ (p=0.01)
Mean non-zero income	\$859	207	\$1,049	275	t=2.92 (p=0.004)
Employed	43%	338	44%	420	n/s
Seeking employment	49%		35%		$\chi^2=29.66$ (p<0.001)
Not employed and not seeking employment	8%		21%		$\chi^2=95.99$ (p<0.001)
Mean hourly wage	\$9.47	139	\$10.12	177	t=2.35 (p=0.02)
Receiving any public benefits	22%	454	31%	454	$\chi^2=21.39$ (p<0.001)

### Educational Status

	At entrance		At exit		$\chi^2$ (p-value)
	%	n	%	n	
In school	46%	340	35%	429	$\chi^2=18.68$ (p<0.001)
Attending high school or equivalent	17%	340	6%	429	$\chi^2=33.69$ (p=<0.001)
Attending 2-year college	26%		24%		n/s
Attending 4-year college	3%		5%		$\chi^2=4.46$ (p=0.03)
Dropped out of college	8%	340	19%	429	$\chi^2=73.28$ (p<0.001)
Had completed vocational training	7%	327	10%	394	$\chi^2=6.30$ (p=0.01)
Highest educational achievement					
Some high school	27%	295	21%	440	$\chi^2=9.23$ (p=0.002)
High school diploma, GED, or high school equivalent	71%		78%		$\chi^2=8.54$ (p=0.004)
Associate's degree	2%		2%		n/s
Bachelor's degree	0%		<1%		n/s

### Meeting Extended Foster Care Participation Conditions

	%	n
<i>Likely meeting participation conditions:</i> Working 10+ hours/wk, enrolled in school or vocational training, or receiving SSI due to disability at exit	70%	411
<i>At risk of not meeting participation conditions:</i> Unemployed or working <10 hours/wk, not enrolled in school or vocational training, and not receiving SSI due to disability at exit	30%	

### Self-Sufficiency Assets

	At entrance		At exit		$\chi^2$ (p-value)
	%	n	%	n	
Bank account	62%	343	69%	431	$\chi^2=8.61$ (p=0.003)
Health insurance	85%	341	81%	440	$\chi^2=5.63$ (p=0.02)
Connection to caring adult	94%	339	96%	432	$\chi^2=4.65$ (p=0.03)

### Self-Sufficiency Challenges

	%	n	$\chi^2$ (p-value)
Incarcerated between entrance and exit	15%	424	n/a
Incarcerated between entrance and exit – <i>male participants only</i>	23%	181	n/a
Adult criminal conviction between entrance and exit	7%	402	n/a
New child born between entrance and exit	8%	444	n/a
Custodial parent at entrance	14%	454	$\chi^2=10.33$ (p=0.001)
Custodial parent at exit	20%	454	
Custodial parent at exit – <i>female participants only</i>	30%	257	n/a

## Housing

	At entrance (n=341)	At exit (n=418)	$\chi^2$ (p-value)
Homeless, emergency shelter, or other unstable housing	18%	5%	$\chi^2=50.53$ (p<0.001)
Foster care	38%	<1%	
Renting own or shared housing (paying rent)	14%	48%	$\chi^2=405.21$ (p<0.001)
Living with relative or others in stable housing (free rent)	18%	33%	$\chi^2=63.85$ (p<0.001)
Supportive transitional housing program	8%	5%	
Other housing	4%	9%	
Experienced homelessness prior to entrance (n=288)	30%	n/a	

## Rent Burden

	% or $\bar{X}$	n
Median non-zero rent at exit	\$450	189
Median percent of income represented by non-zero rent at exit	39%	163

**Length of Stay and Exit Patterns**

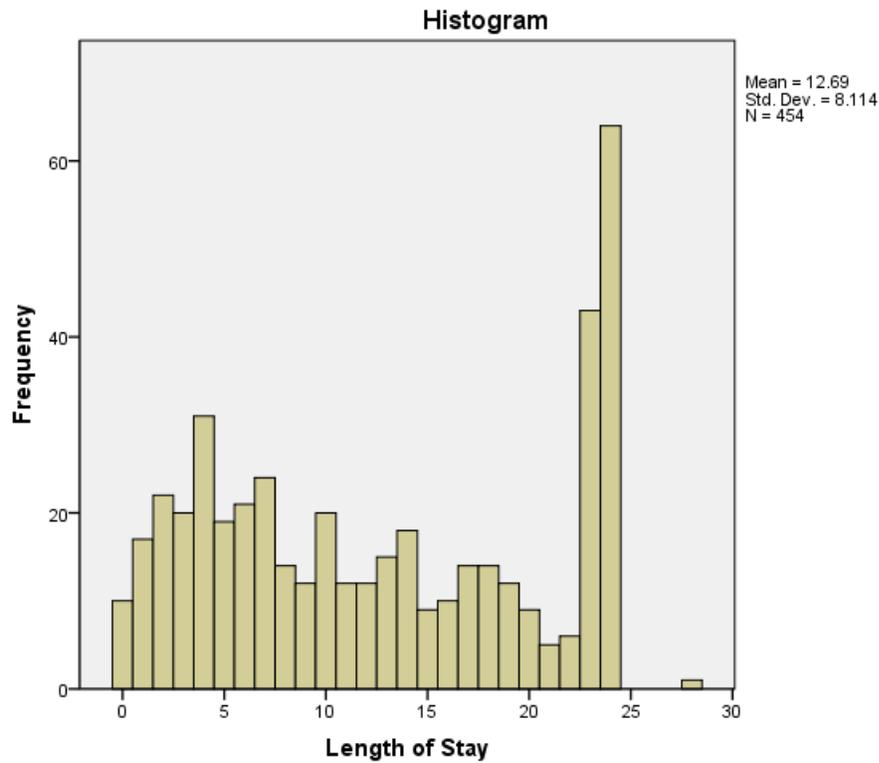
	<b>% or <math>\bar{X}</math></b>	<b>n</b>
Mean length of stay	13 months	454
Stayed <6 months	26%	
Stayed 6-12 months	25%	
Stayed >12 months	48%	
Voluntary exit (including timed out)	65%	413
Involuntary exit (asked to leave) but no legal eviction	33%	
Legal eviction	2%	

### Participants Age 21 and Older

Characteristics at Entrance	Age 21 and Older at Entrance		All THP-Plus Participants		$\chi^2$ (p-value)
Working	47%	n=70	44%	n=338	n/s
In school	37%		46%		n/s
Connected (working and/or in school)	66%		69%		n/s
Zero income	13%	n=60	25%	n=276	$\chi^2=4.36$ (p=0.04)
Highest educational achievement high school diploma, GED, or high school equivalent	84%	n=64	71%	n=295	$\chi^2=5.43$ (p=0.02)
Had health insurance	55%	n=71	85%	n=341	$\chi^2=48.85$ (p<0.0001)
Parent	38%	n=72	21%	n=345	$\chi^2=11.54$ (p=0.001)
Custodial parent	25%	n=87	14%	n=454	$\chi^2=8.55$ (p=0.004)
Entered THP-Plus from emergency shelter, homelessness, or other unstable housing	35%	n=71	18%	n=341	$\chi^2=14.53$ (p=0.0001)

## Participants with Short Stays and Involuntary Exits

### Distribution of Lengths of Stay



## Results of Multivariate Regression Models

### *Predictors of Short Stays (<8 Months)*

	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>p</b>
Custodial parent at entrance	1.11	0.39	ns
<b>Female</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Age 21+ at entrance	0.90	0.36	ns
<b>Working at entrance</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Enrolled in school at entrance	1.34	0.28	ns
Experienced homelessness prior to entrance	1.45	0.32	ns
THP-Plus model:			
Scattered site	1.15	0.65	ns
Single site	1.15	0.69	ns
Host family (omitted)			
Receiving mental health services at exit	0.97	0.37	ns
<b>Receiving substance abuse services at exit</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.052</b>
<b>Receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.04</b>

***Predictors of Long Stays (>22 Months)***

	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>p</b>
Custodial parent at entrance	0.83	0.45	ns
Female	1.19	0.33	ns
<b>Age 21+ at entrance</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Working at entrance	1.35	0.32	ns
<b><i>Enrolled in school at entrance</i></b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.054</b>
<b>Experienced homelessness prior to entrance</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.01</b>
THP-Plus model:			
Scattered site	0.98	0.71	ns
Single site	0.97	0.77	ns
Host family (omitted)			
Receiving mental health services at exit	1.94	0.47	ns
<b>Receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.03</b>

***Predictors of Involuntary Exits***

	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>p</b>
Custodial parent at entrance	0.62	0.46	ns
Female	0.94	0.32	ns
<b>Age 21+ at entrance</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.02</b>
<b><i>Working at entrance</i></b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.06</b>
Enrolled in school at entrance	1.02	0.30	ns
<b>Experienced homelessness prior to entrance</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.001</b>
THP-Plus model:			
Scattered site	0.75	0.67	ns
Single site	0.59	0.73	
Host family (omitted)			
Receiving mental health services at exit	1.31	0.41	ns
<b>Receiving substance abuse services at exit</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit	0.50	0.77	ns

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