

# NATIONAL CRISIS: More Youth Aging Out of Foster Care



In 2013, more than

# 30,000

children in foster care aged out of the system.

These young men and women left foster care not because they were reunited with their families or adopted, but simply because they were **too old to remain in care**.

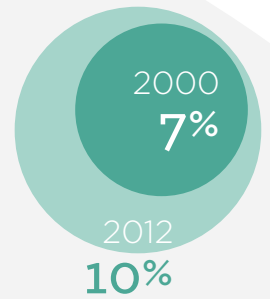


## The percentage of youth that age out of foster care has increased.

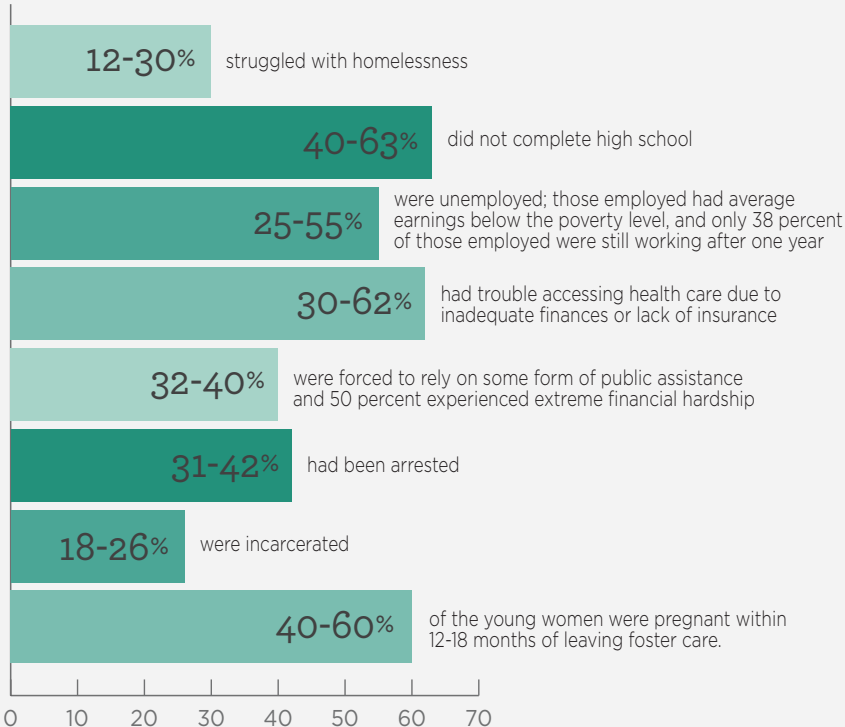
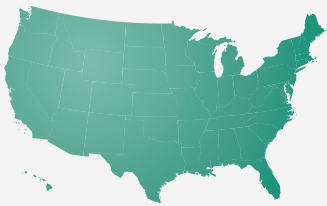
*In 2000, the percentage of exits due to aging out was 7 percent. In 2012, 10 percent of the children who exited foster care aged out.*

Without family or any other dependable adults to rely on for assistance, these young people are at high risk of:

- Homelessness
- Joblessness
- Illness
- Incarceration
- Welfare Dependency
- Early Childbearing
- Sexual & Physical Victimization



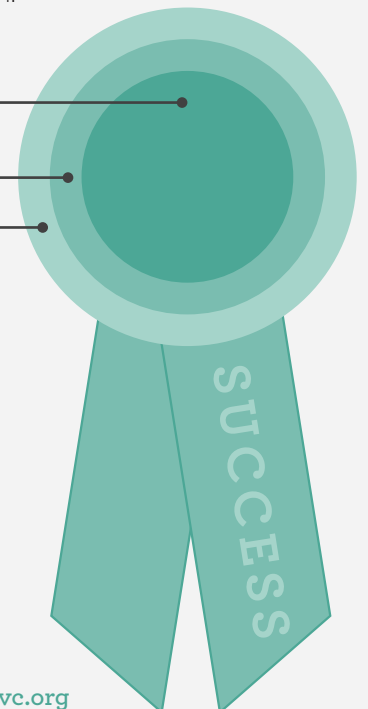
According to various studies across the country of young people who have aged out of foster care without a permanent family:



## Factors Leading to Success

Research and experience tells us that youth are more likely to succeed if they are exposed to protective factors—conditions that buffer risks and improve the likelihood of future positive outcomes. The development of resilience and protective factors among youth in care are strengthened through:

- Close relationships with caring adults
- High expectations
- Opportunities for positive contributions and recognition through participation in educational activities and community volunteer experiences



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