

2022 FIRST STAR NATIONAL FACT SHEET

Nationwide Outcomes

Youth in care experience unique challenges and obstacles that make it harder for them to pursue higher education. Many of these youth lack academic foundations, have limited family support, and are unaware of available resources. This puts foster youth at a disadvantage and makes it difficult for them to enter, remain in, and graduate from higher education institutions.

There are approximately 500,000 youth in care in the U.S. That is approximately 1% of the U.S. population. Of those in care, approximately 113,829 are transition age youth between 16 and 24 years of age. Of the 113,829-transition age youth, approximately 33%, or 37,563, are age 18 and older, and are at risk of losing services after exiting care.

National Statistics show that on average only 10% of these youth go on to college, and of those that do, only 3% graduate. Meaning that of the 37,563 identified above, only 3,756 will pursue college, and only 113 will graduate from college.

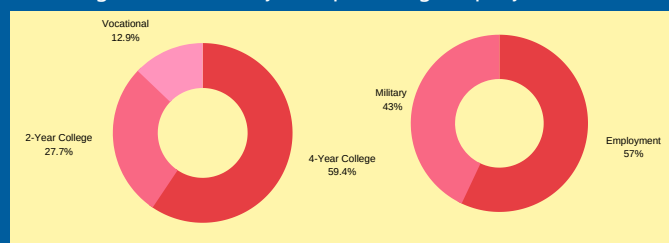
For those youth who do not go on to college, or do not graduate, national statistics tell us that 61% will be unemployed, 46% will be incarcerated, and 24% will be homeless.

Source: National Foster Youth Institute, Higher Education for Foster Youth, <https://nfyi.org/issues/higher-education/>

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

First Star Graduation Rates

96% of scholars who engage in the Academy for at least 2 years, graduate from high school and 92% enroll in higher education compared to just 50% of foster youth who graduate high school and only 10% who pursue higher education nation wide. First Star takes a whole scholar approach, supporting youth and exploring options beyond two and four-year colleges. Our data includes scholars enlisting in the Military and pursuing employment as well.



Graduated from High school	96%
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Post. Secondary Education	92%
University	63%
Community College	32%
Vocational School	5%

Non-Post Secondary	8%
Enlistment in Military	43%
Full-Time Employment	57%

Non-High School Graduates	4%
Enlistment in Military	8%
Full Time Employment	8%
GED	84%

Source: All data above is reflective of internal data submissions got graduating scholars by Academy Directors over the past five years using the First Star Data Dashboard

What scholars are saying about First Star's impact

- **94%** Believe attending college is possible for them
- **89%** Say getting good grades is important to them
- **87%** Feel like they have a plan for the future
- **76%** Feel like they are stronger because of their experience in foster care
- **70%** Feel like First Star has helped them DREAM BIGGER!

Source: All Data above is reflective of a report compiled from an Internal scholar survey that was developed by Tiller Inc., First Star Survey Key Findings, Tiller Inc. June, 2018

National Demographic Data

According to national statistics regarding ethnicity, youth in care populations in the United States are represented as Latino (22%), American Indian (2%), Asian Pacific Islander (1%), Black/ African-American (23%), Bi-racial (8%), and White (43%). First Star's scholars follow a similar pattern for those who identify as American Indian (5%), Asian Pacific Islander (2%) and Bi-racial (7%), however are more evenly split between those who identify as Latino (22%), Black/ African-American (23%), and White (43%) compared to the national foster youth population.

First Star Demographic Data

GENDER IDENTIFICATION

39%  61% 

RACE/ETHNICITY IDENTIFICATION

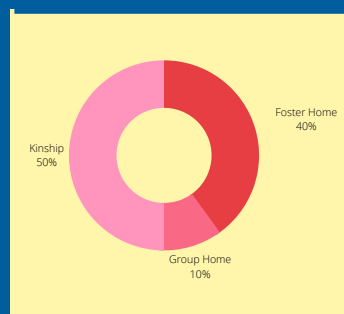
30% 30% 26% 5% 7% 2% 0%

African Amer. Latino/a White Amer. Indian Multi-Racial Asian/ Pacific Isl Other

National Placement Data

According to national statistics regarding placement status youth in care are in: Foster Home (45%), Relative/Kinship (34%), Group Home (10%), Pre-adoptive (4%), Runaway (1%), Independent living (2%), and Trial Home visit (4%). First Star's scholars have more placement stability given their engagement with the Academy program as shown by youth who are Reunited (12%), in Guardianship (13%), and Adopted (11%).

First Star Placement Data



Foster Home 43%

Guardianship 13%

Reunified with Biological Parents 12%

Adopted 11%

Kinship Care 7%

Group Home 4%

Other 4%

Indep. Living / Emanc. 2%

The First Star Programs that Lead to Success

First Star's Academies are a long-term college-prep program for high school students in foster care. We keep our scholars on track for high school graduation and prepare them for higher education and adulthood by providing specialized programming that addresses the academics, life skills, and adult supports unique to students in foster care.



ACADEMY PROGRAMS

4 year college prep. program for foster youth focused on academics and life skills through monthly and summer residential programming on a university campus.

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Weekly mentoring and tutoring sessions, as well as an open environment to connect and build community through virtual hangouts.

SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leadership opportunity for scholars focused on becoming civically engaged and enacting change in their local communities.

ALUMNI PROGRAM

Offered to scholars who graduate the Academy as a resource during their transition to adulthood.

CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

Seminars and workshops that provide tools to caregivers to become advocates for their youth.

STEAM ACADEMY

Monthly virtual sessions and access to online courses that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.