



Report to Congress

on the Youth Programs of the

Family and Youth Services Bureau

for Fiscal Years

2004 and 2005



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Family and Youth Services Bureau

SUMMARY STATEMENT

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: ACF/ACYF/Family and Youth Services Bureau

SUBJECT/ISSUES RAISED BY CORRESPONDENT:

The Report to Congress on the Youth Programs of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2004–2005

MAJOR POINTS IN THE RESPONSE:

This is a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of three programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96).

- The Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth. Funds disbursed for grants totaled \$44.4 million in FY 2004 and \$43.8 million in FY 2005;
- The Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth, which includes maternity group homes that prepare pregnant and parenting homeless youth for independent living. Funds disbursed for grants totaled \$36.6 million in FY 2004 and \$36.2 million in FY 2005;
- The Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program (Street Outreach Program). Funds disbursed for grants totaled \$13.7 million in FY 2004 and \$14.2 million in FY 2005.

In addition, the Department expended approximately \$10.1 million in FY 2004 and \$9.6 million in FY 2005 to support activities for these grantees, including a Management Information System, a National Runaway Hotline, the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, training and technical assistance, program monitoring, research and demonstration initiatives, evaluations, and administrative activities.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION: None

CONTACT PERSON:

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Harry Wilson, ACYF/FYSB (202) 205-8102



AUG 15 2006

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

TO: The Secretary
Through: DS _____
COS _____
ES _____

FROM: Assistant Secretary for Children and Families

SUBJECT: Report to Congress on the Youth Programs of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2004 and 2005

BACKGROUND

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires the Department to report biennially on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities funded under the following programs and support activities authorized by the Act:

- The Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth (BCP);
- The Transitional Living Program (TLP), which includes maternity group homes that prepare pregnant and parenting homeless youth for independent living;
- The Education and Prevention Services To Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program (Street Outreach Program);
- The National Communications System; and
- Coordinating, Training, Research, and Other Activities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the FYs 2004 and 2005 funding cycles for each of the three programs and support activities are presented below.

The Basic Center Program - Basic Centers address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families by establishing and strengthening locally controlled, community-based and faith-based programs. Each center provides emergency, short-term (up to 15 days) shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and related services to runaway and homeless youth. The centers attempt, in all cases, to reunite the youth with their families and, where this is not possible or safe, to provide alternative, safe, long-term

living arrangements. These programs strengthen family relationships, encourage stable living conditions for youth, and help youth decide upon constructive courses of action.

In FY 2004, \$49.2 million was available for the Basic Center Program. Of this amount, HHS awarded \$44.4 million to 345 grantees located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories. HHS used \$4.8 million for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.¹

In FY 2005, \$48.8 million was available for the Basic Center Program. Of this amount, HHS awarded \$43.8 million to 342 grantees located in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Territories. HHS used \$5.0 million for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.

The Transitional Living Program - Transitional Living Program funds enhance the capacities of youth-serving agencies in local communities to effectively address the needs of homeless older adolescents and young adults, including pregnant and parenting homeless youth. TLP agencies provide safe, supportive living accommodations for up to 18 months for homeless youth, ages 16–21, who require assistance in gaining the skills and knowledge that will enable them to attain self-sufficiency as adults. The program provides each participant with an individual transition plan that includes training in basic living skills, employment preparation, and job placement, as well as mental and physical health and educational advancement services.

In FY 2004, \$40.3 million was available for the Transitional Living Program. Of this amount, HHS awarded \$36.6 million to 195 grantees, and \$3.7 million was used for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.

In FY 2005, \$39.9 million was available for the Transitional Living Program. Of this amount, HHS awarded \$36.2 million to 194 grantees, and \$3.7 million was used for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.

The Street Outreach Program - Street Outreach Program grantees provide education and prevention services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to, or are at the risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation. SOP grantees establish and build relationships between street youth and program outreach staff in order to help youth leave the streets. Outreach workers provide support services that assist the youth in moving and adjusting to safe and appropriate alternative living arrangements. Grantee programs have access to local emergency shelter space that is appropriate for young people and that can be made available to youth willing to come in off the streets.

¹ In all of FYSB's Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, the number of grantees and the average grant award amount can change each fiscal year as new grantees are funded. The Basic Center Program mandates funding levels depending on the population and location grantees serve. The maximum BCP and SOP grants are \$600,000 for 3-year project periods. The maximum TLP grant is \$1,000,000 for a 5-year project period.

A total of \$15.3 million was available for the Street Outreach Program in FY 2004, HHS awarded \$13.7 million to 128 grantees, and \$1.6 million was used for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.

A total of \$15.1 million was available for the Street Outreach Program in FY 2005, HHS awarded \$14.2 million to 126 grantees, and used \$0.9 million for administrative expenses, logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal agencies.

Support Systems for Youth Programs - In FYs 2004 and 2005, HHS spent \$10.1 million and \$9.6 million, respectively, across the three programs for support systems designed to enhance the delivery of services to at-risk youth and to provide the Department with the information required to meet its management and reporting responsibilities.

Support systems for the programs include:

- The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)-FYSB's National Communications System - The NRS assists runaway youth and their families by linking them to crisis counseling, programs and resources, and each other, as appropriate. The system ensures that young people in crisis have a central place to turn for information on the help available to them.
- The Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Providers - T/TA providers in each of the 10 Federal Regions assist FYSB's youth-serving programs in delivering top quality services to runaway, homeless, and other youth in at-risk situations. Their goal is to enhance the skills and effectiveness of youth service providers by facilitating information exchange on programmatic and operational issues that are critical to runaway and homeless and other youth programs.
- The National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth (NCFY) - FYSB's National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth serves as a central information source on youth and family issues for youth professionals and policymakers. It collects and disseminates youth-related information, conducts outreach and networking on FYSB's behalf, assists FYSB in hosting critical issue forums, develops technical assistance and educational materials, and conducts resource searches to identify reference materials and possible funding sources for youth and family service programs.
- Demonstration Initiatives - FYSB continued its Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Project, which focuses on fostering collaborative efforts between State and local jurisdictions or Tribes around positive youth development. HHS allocated \$1.1 million to fund nine projects in FY 2004 and \$1.9 million to fund nine projects in FY 2005.

Page 4 – The Secretary

- Evaluation Studies - The Positive Youth Development State Collaboration grantees work with the support of a contract to help grantees develop implementation strategies, operating plans, and an evaluation.
- Administrative Expenses - Efforts in this area include peer reviews, printing, and related activities.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you sign the attached letters to the Chairmen and the Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, transmitting the FY 2004 and 2005 Report to Congress.

DECISION

Approve: _____ Disapprove: _____ Date: _____



Wade F. Horn, Ph.D.

2 Attachments:

Tab A - Letters for the Secretary's Signature

Tab B - FY 2004 and 2005 Report to Congress



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 22 2006

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Section 382 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report biennially to the Congress on the status, activities, and accomplishments of the following programs for runaway and homeless youth:

- The Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth;
- The Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth, which includes maternity group homes that prepare pregnant and parenting homeless youth for independent living;
- The Education and Prevention Services To Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program (Street Outreach Program);
- The National Communications System;
- Coordinating, Training, Research, and Other Activities.

To fulfill the legislative requirements, I am pleased to submit the enclosed Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005 Report to Congress.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Enclosure:



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 22 2006

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 382 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report biennially to the Congress on the status, activities, and accomplishments of the following programs for runaway and homeless youth:

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- Coordinating, Training, Research, and Other Activities.

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Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Enclosure:



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 22 2006

The Honorable George Miller
Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Miller:

Section 382 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report biennially to the Congress on the status, activities, and accomplishments of the following programs for runaway and homeless youth:

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Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Enclosure



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

SEP 22 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 382 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report biennially to the Congress on the status, activities, and accomplishments of the following programs for runaway and homeless youth:

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Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt

Enclosure:

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The Report to Congress on the Youth Programs of the Family and Youth Services Bureau for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005 was developed by the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, for the Family and Youth Services Bureau; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Administration for Children and Families; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. GS10F0285K.

Introduction

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to provide national leadership on youth and family issues and to assist individuals and organizations in providing effective, comprehensive services for youth in at-risk situations and their families. The Bureau promotes positive outcomes for children, youth, and families by supporting a wide range of comprehensive services and collaborations at the local, Tribal, State, and National levels. FYSB programs provide positive alternatives for youth, ensure their safety, and maximize their potential to take advantage of available opportunities. FYSB is a Bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF); Administration for Children and Families (ACF); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

FYSB administers three major grant programs, authorized by Parts A, B, and E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), that support locally based homeless youth services. These Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs are as follows:

- **The Basic Center Program (BCP):** BCP provides financial assistance to establish or strengthen community- and faith-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. The programs provide youth with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. In addition, the Basic Centers seek to reunite young people with their families, whenever possible, or to locate appropriate alternative placements.
- **The Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (TLP):** TLP provides shelter, skills training, and support services for older homeless adolescents and young adults, including pregnant and parenting youth, ages 16 to 21, for up to 18 months. Through the program, older homeless youth, who are unable to return to their homes for safety or other reasons, develop skills and resources to promote their independence and prevent future dependency on social services. The Maternity Group Homes (MGH) component of TLP allows young women vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and poverty to live with their children in community-based, adult-supervised group homes. The MGH program helps young mothers move forward with their lives by providing a range of coordinated services such as child care, education, job training, health and nutrition, mental health and family counseling, and advice on parenting and life skills.
- **The Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program, known as the Street Outreach Program (SOP):** SOP funds local youth service providers that conduct street-based education and outreach and offer emergency shelter and related services to young people who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually abused or exploited. Outreach

workers inform young people about services that can help them find suitable housing and address the problems that led them to be on the street.

Numbers Served in the RHY Programs

In Fiscal Years (FYs) 2004 and 2005, 121,708 youth entered Basic Centers, and 8,199 youth entered Transitional Living Programs. An additional 1,174,860 contacts with youth were made through Street Outreach services. The youth contacted received 666,131 food and drink packages, 905,227 health and hygiene products, and 986,296 referral handouts about help available in the area.

With its enhanced Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS), FYSB can count the number of youth who drop in or call a youth center and receive help without necessarily being brought in to the shelter. Such youth may be counseled through these “brief service contacts” while still living at home, thus preventing a runaway episode. Basic Centers reported 88,924 brief service contacts in FY 2004 and 82,797 in 2005.

(Appendix E, pages 43-57, includes a sample of the detailed information that is available on each youth in the Basic Center and Transitional Living programs. Included are demographics, living situation at entrance and exit, critical issues, services received, and changes in school status.)

Promoting Positive Youth Development Through RHY-Related Initiatives

Through its RHY programs and related initiatives, FYSB encourages communities to support young people using a Positive Youth Development approach. Underlying this approach is the idea that young people need support, guidance, and opportunities during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change. With support, they can develop self-assurance in four areas key to a happy, healthy, and successful life: a sense of competence, a sense of usefulness, a sense of belonging, and a sense of power. Programs that address these factors, as well as meeting youths’ basic needs, prepare young people to engage constructively in their communities. Positive Youth Development strategies, therefore, focus on giving young people the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and become involved in their communities. The Positive Youth Development approach also acknowledges that helping young people requires strengthening families and communities.

In FYs 2004 and 2005, building on its previous collaborations with Federal agencies and National youth-related organizations, FYSB continued its efforts to promote the Positive Youth Development approach to working with young people, especially those growing up in difficult circumstances. FYSB leadership and staff have reached out to thousands of youth workers, policymakers, and others through conference speeches, special meetings, and distribution of FYSB materials about Positive Youth Development. In FYs 2004 and 2005, FYSB also continued to enhance its internal collaborations, working with ACYF bureaus to ensure a focus on Positive Youth Development in all agency initiatives and programs.

Among FYSB’s RHY-related initiatives to promote Positive Youth Development in FYs 2004 and 2005 were the following:

1. Coordinating the National Youth Summit

The annual National Youth Summit is the culmination of FYSB's outreach and collaboration activities related to the RHY programs. Building on the first two Summits, held in 2002 and 2003, FYSB held the third and fourth Summits in FYs 2004 and 2005 (see appendix A, pages 35-36):

- "Youth Leadership in America's Communities," July 22-24, 2004, Cleveland, Ohio
- "Youth in Action—Making a Difference," July 28-30, 2005, Washington, DC

The Summits brought together about 1,600 young people from the runaway and homeless youth community and youth service professionals to explore effective strategies for promoting Positive Youth Development. A Youth Council made up of young people from across the country played a major leadership role in planning and hosting each event. In addition, youth copresented nearly all the workshops, and many young people also served as speakers in general sessions. FYSB collaborated with a variety of government agencies, youth workers, researchers, program managers and youth to increase the exposure of PYD nationally. To document the impact of this annual event, FYSB produced a printed report on each of the Summits.

2. Supporting State and Local Collaboration on Positive Youth Development

Through its research and demonstration program, FYSB explored how State and local collaboration can strengthen the Positive Youth Development approach in local communities across the country. In FYs 2004 and 2005, FYSB continued funding nine States that had developed and supported innovative Positive Youth Development strategies in FYs 2002 and 2003, enabling them to strengthen their focus on community-level initiatives. (Greater detail is provided in the Research and Demonstration section of Chapter 2, pages 33-34.)

3. Collaborating With the Children's Bureau to Support Transitioning Youth

FYSB and the Children's Bureau (CB) have collaborated for more than a decade to promote the Positive Youth Development approach in services for foster care and homeless youth. FYSB's Transitional Living Program grantees have valuable experience in helping disadvantaged older youth transition to a healthy and productive adulthood. For that reason, FYSB is helping CB's Independent Living Program grantees connect with their peers who run Transitional Living Programs.

Highlighting the collaboration is the annual Pathways to Adulthood conference for Independent Living and Transitional Living Providers. Supported by a range of Government agencies and nonprofit organizations, each conference includes site visits, keynote addresses, and workshops. In 2004, the event occurred April 13-15 in Washington, DC. The 642 participants came from programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2005, the event was held May 18-20 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 565 participants came from programs in all 50 States, the District of

Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Romania. Among these participants were representatives of all of FYSB's Transitional Living Programs.

4. Continuing to Refine the FYSB Data Reporting System

The RHY program caseload numbers cited on pages 1 and 2 come from FYSB's new data collection instrument and updated user interface, RHYMIS-LITE, which dramatically increased reporting by grantees to virtually 100 percent by FY 2003. Since then, FYSB has continued to streamline and upgrade the system. In 2004, FYSB released Version 2.0, NEO-RHYMIS (National Extranet Optimized RHYMIS), with new online analysis and reporting capabilities and other improvements.

The online site enables anyone to create and download a wide variety of standard or ad hoc reports in HTML, text, or Excel using recent or historical data (starting in FY 2002). Using this new system, FYSB has conducted data analyses that have resulted in a number of recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the RHY programs. With the increased reliability and power of RHYMIS, FYSB can also develop more refined performance measures, required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), than the interim measures adopted in earlier years, when less-reliable data were available.

Conclusion

In FYs 2004 and 2005, FYSB continued to both administer its RHY programs and enhance their effectiveness through related initiatives that promoted Positive Youth Development. In all its grant programs, outreach, and collaborations, FYSB has used the Positive Youth Development approach to foster improved support systems for youth and families.

Chapter 1 of this Report to Congress provides a description of the services offered by FYSB's RHY programs. Chapter 2 provides additional information on activities undertaken by FYSB-funded RHY support services and demonstration projects during FYs 2004 and 2005.

Chapter 1

Family and Youth Services Bureau Youth Programs

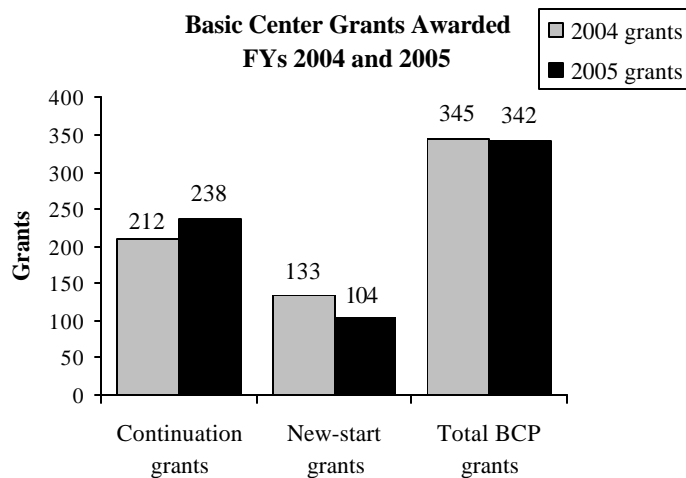
During Fiscal Years (FYs) 2004 and 2005, the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administered three grant programs to support local efforts to assist youth who ran away or were homeless: the Basic Center Program (BCP), the Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth (TLP), and the Education and Prevention Services to Reduce Sexual Abuse of Runaway, Homeless, and Street Youth Program (Street Outreach Program, or SOP). This chapter describes the services provided with funding allocated through these three programs and gives FYs 2004 and 2005 funding information for each.

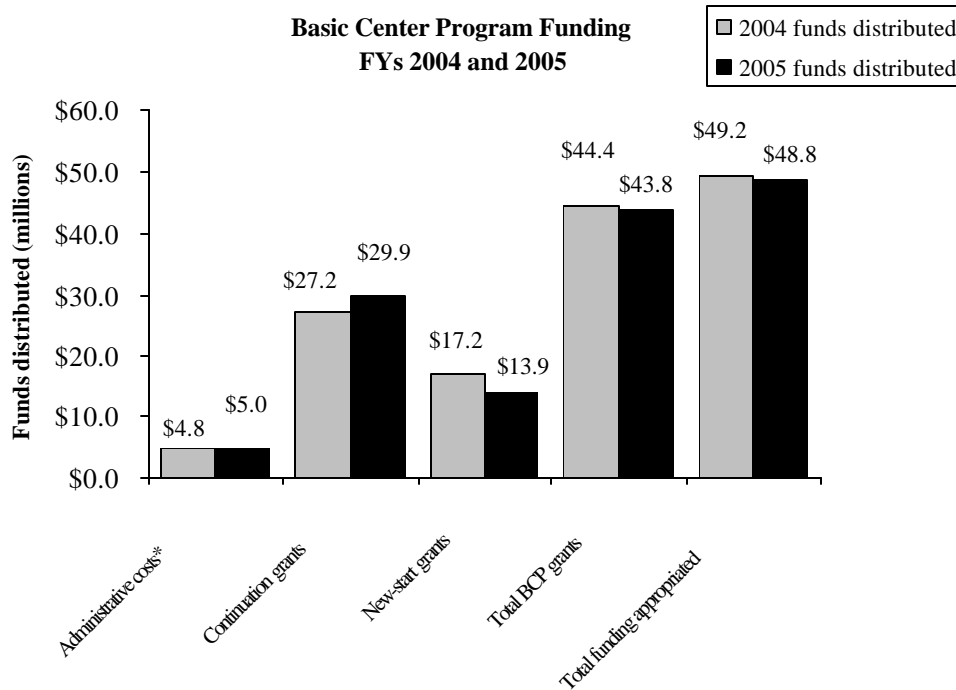
The Basic Center Program

The Basic Center Program was created by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-415). In October 2003, the program was reauthorized through FY 2008 by Part A of the RHYA, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96).

The Basic Center Program awards grants to community- and faith-based public and private agencies for the provision of outreach, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, counseling, family unification, and aftercare services to runaway and homeless youth and their families. FYSB allots BCP funds to the States using a formula based on the State's population of youth not more than 18 years of age as a proportion of the national population.

FYSB funded 345 Basic Centers in FY 2004: 212 continuations and 133 new starts (see graph at right). In FY 2005, FYSB funded 342 Basic Centers: 238 continuations and 104 new starts. The average annual FYSB grant to Basic Centers was approximately \$129,000 in FY 2004 and \$128,000 in FY 2005. (For a breakdown of the total funding allocated in FY 2004 and FY 2005, see graph on next page).





*Administrative costs include logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal Agencies.

Congress created the Basic Centers to be emergency shelters that would meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth while staff attempted to reunite them with their families or assisted them in finding appropriate alternative living situations. To that end, the RHYA includes specific requirements for shelters (see appendix B, pages 37-38). FYSB enhanced those requirements by creating program performance standards designed to ensure high-quality care.

The original RHYA sought, for example, to ensure that shelters would be accessible to runaway and homeless youth, specifying that they be located in areas “frequented by or easily reachable by” such youth. FYSB’s program performance standards expanded on this guarantee of access by requiring that shelter services be available to youth 24 hours a day.

To ensure that the community knows about shelter services, FYSB’s program performance standards require shelters to conduct promotional activities. Programs do so in a variety of ways, including announcements and publications, linkages with local school systems and other public or private agencies that come in contact with youth, media campaigns, presentations to community groups, and street outreach. Through street outreach, shelter staff seek to make contact in public places with youth who may need assistance.

When runaway and homeless youth arrive at a shelter, shelter staff must follow minimum procedures specified in the FYSB program performance standards. At intake, staff members identify young people’s immediate needs for food, clothing, medical assistance, and other services. After assessing a youth’s needs, shelter staff either provide the services directly or refer the young person to another community-based or faith-based agency or individual. Staff

explain shelter services to young people and secure their voluntary agreement to participate in services. Staff also record basic background information on each youth, and a staff member is assigned to oversee the provision of services to each young person.

Congress intended that runaway services be provided in facilities that offer youth adequate support in a home-like atmosphere. For that reason, the RHYA mandates that federally funded runaway and homeless youth shelters may house no more than 20 youth, except in those jurisdictions that require a higher limit in order to be licensed as a Basic Center Program. These centers must have an adequate ratio of staff to youth, and grant applicants must provide a rationale for the number of staff proposed. FYSB's program performance standards require that at least one adult be on the premises at all times when youth are present. Further, since the RHYA intended that these services be transitional, program regulations allow shelters to house youth for a maximum of 15 days.

The Basic Center Program in Action

Like many runaway youth, 16-year-old Brandon was wary of reaching out for help. Several months after running away, he made his first phone call to a Basic Center Program. Center staff told him about their services and gave him an open invitation to come by. Two weeks later, he showed up at the center to "check the place out," but decided not to stay. Then his mother found him and brought him to the center, where a family therapist met with them. Brandon fled in the middle of the session.

Two months went by. Brandon called again. This time, he was on drugs, everything was going wrong, and he wanted help. The center gave him shelter and conducted family counseling sessions. Today, Brandon has reunited with his family, finished high school, and enrolled in college.

During their stay, youth receive services that meet their immediate needs. In addition, they receive counseling and services that help reunite them with their families (when appropriate) or assist them in determining what alternative living arrangements will be in their best interest. To ensure that young people's basic needs are met, shelters provide temporary housing, at least two meals per day, and individual and group counseling in compliance with the program performance standards. Shelters also must identify young people's other immediate needs, such as psychological or psychiatric care, and meet these needs, either directly or by referral to another community-based agency or individual.

Because reuniting youth with their families, when appropriate, is the central goal of the Basic Center Program, the program performance standards stipulate that shelter staff must contact young people's parents within the time frame established by State law. If no State requirement exists, shelter staff must contact the youth's parents within 72 hours (and preferably 24 hours) after the youth arrives at the shelter. Once parents have been contacted, shelters must provide family counseling for the youth and his or her parents, if appropriate and requested.

Shelter staff must work with runaway and homeless youth and, as appropriate, their parents or legal guardians to decide what living arrangements are in each young person's best interest, including returning home or being placed in an appropriate alternative living situation. Once youth and, when appropriate, their parents or legal guardians have agreed upon a solution, shelter staff must arrange transportation if the young person lives in the area served by the shelter. If the youth lives outside the area, the shelter must ensure transportation by a third party and confirm the youth's safe arrival.

The RHYA specifies that shelters also must provide youth and their families or legal guardians with aftercare services and counseling after departure from the shelter. Programs can offer these services either directly or by referral to other agencies and individuals.

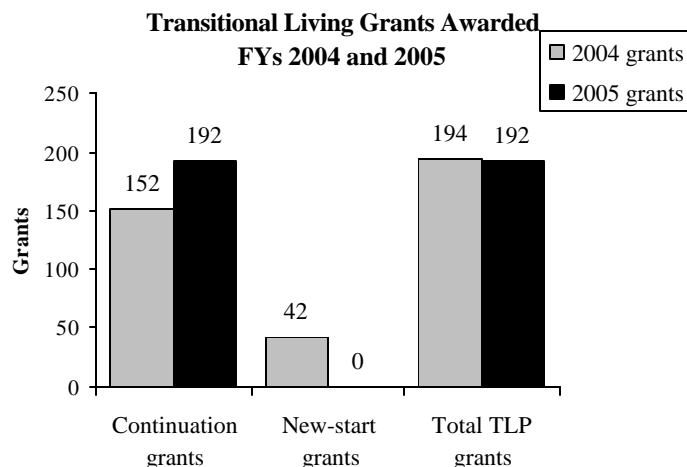
In addition, the RHYA and program performance standards address outreach and networking activities by shelters, requiring them to network with law enforcement agencies, the juvenile justice system, school systems, and other community agencies. Linkages with law enforcement and juvenile justice system personnel help ensure that staffs from these agencies are aware of and will use shelter services when assisting runaway and homeless youth who cannot immediately be reunited with their parents. Linkages with school systems allow shelters to coordinate with schools to which runaway and homeless youth return and assist young people in staying current with their studies. Linkages with community agencies give youth access to services not provided directly by the shelter.

Finally, the program performance standards require shelters to actively involve youth in the ongoing planning and delivery of services. Shelters can, for example, invite young people to serve on their boards of directors or provide opportunities for them to work as peer counselors. Shelters also can establish mechanisms for obtaining feedback from young people about the quality of services in the shelter.

See appendix E, exhibits 1 and 2, pages 43-49, for data on Basic Center services in FYs 2004 and 2005.

The Transitional Living Program for Older Homeless Youth

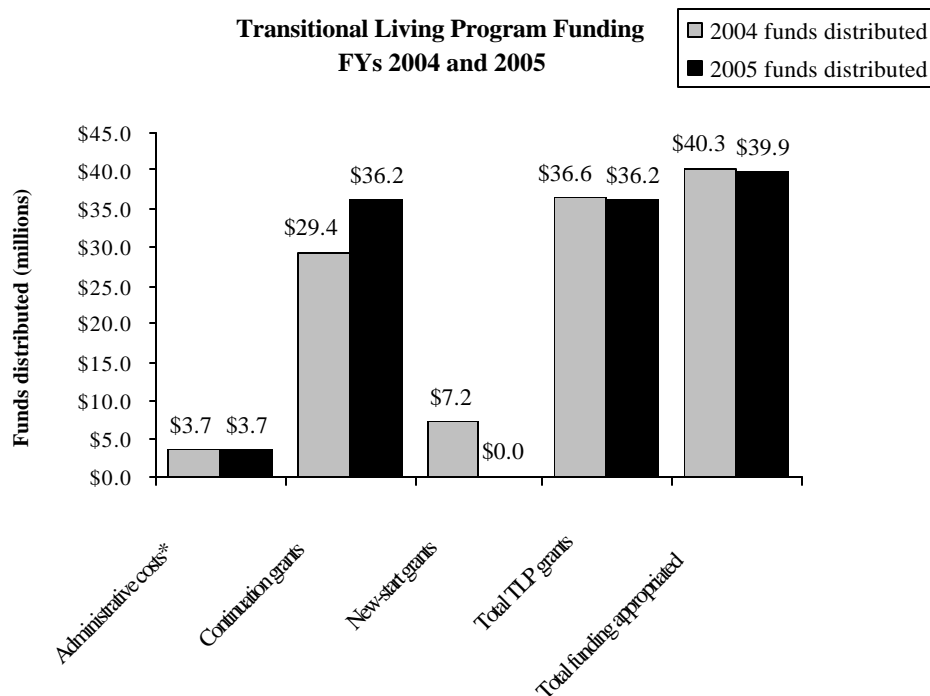
Through the Transitional Living Program, created by a 1988 amendment to the RHYA (Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act), FYSB supports programs that provide longer term residential services to older, homeless youth ages 16 to 21 for up to 18 months. (An additional 180 days is allowed if a youth has not reached age 18.) The Transitional Living Program was reauthorized through FY 2008 in October 2003 by Part B of the RHYA, as amended by Public Law 108-96.



The services provided are designed to help homeless youth make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

The RHYA of 2003 expanded TLP eligibility to specifically include Maternity Group Homes as a qualifying type of shelter. There is no separate funding level for Maternity Group Homes; FYSB awards grants for these homes to transitional living programs on a competitive basis through TLP. Applicants may develop a proposal for the specific purpose of working with pregnant and parenting youth and of serving as a maternity group home.

In FY 2004, FYSB funded 194 Transitional Living Programs: 152 continuations and 42 new starts (see graph above at right). In FY 2005, FYSB funded 192 continuations and no new starts. The average annual FYSB grant to Transitional Living Programs was approximately \$188,000 in FY 2004 and \$187,000 in FY 2005. (For a breakdown of the total funding allocated in FY 2004 and FY 2005, see graph below.)



*Administrative costs include logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal Agencies.

Of the Transitional Living Programs funded in FY 2004 and FY 2005, 19 programs classified themselves as Maternity Group Homes. These sites received a total of \$3.8 million in funding each year and served 661 youth over the 2-year period. In FY 2005, “status as a pregnant/parenting youth” was added to RHYMIS. This allows us to further break down data on pregnant and parenting youth served by all TLPs. In FY 2005, Transitional Living Programs, including Maternity Group Homes, served 762 youth specifically identified as pregnant or parenting.

FYSB requires Transitional Living Program grantees to provide youth with stable, safe living accommodations and services that help them develop the skills necessary to move to independence (see appendix C, pages 39-40). Living accommodations may be host family homes, group homes, or supervised apartments. In all three cases, Transitional Living Program facilities may not house more than 20 youth at one time. Grantee program staff must maintain contact with youth in these facilities, although staff are not required to live on site.

In the host-home approach, youth live in the community with families who have volunteered to participate in the program. While young people are participating in Transitional Living Program services, host families make sure that their basic needs are met and provide support and supervision with assistance from program staff.

Group homes give youth the opportunity to move toward independence in a structured environment while living with other young people. The group is responsible for planning menus, preparing food, doing housekeeping tasks, and resolving issues that naturally arise in a shared-housing arrangement. The program staff provide continuous supervision on site and hold regular meetings with youth to discuss problems or personal/shelter issues.

Transitional Living Programs also use several forms of supervised apartments to house young people. A grantee agency, for example, may own an apartment building and house youth in individual units. A staff person stays on the premises to assist youth as needed. Other programs use “scattered-site” apartments: single-occupancy apartments rented directly by young people, with the sponsorship of a Transitional Living Program. Youth rent an apartment in a neighborhood and location that they choose and, depending on program policies, are responsible for all or part of the rent. Youth work or go to school while continuing to participate in Transitional Living Program services. The program staff visit these young people periodically, generally more often when they first move in to the apartment and less often as they move toward independence. Some program models allow youth to keep the apartments upon completing program services.

The Transitional Living Program in Action

Jennifer entered the Transitional Living Program when she was 17 years old. She had “couch surfed” for a while, living in friends’ homes. To support herself, she worked two jobs.

The program provided her with housing, food, counseling services, educational services, life-skills training, and financial support. Now able to focus on her studies, Jennifer graduated from high school with honors and enrolled in college, where she is on her way to obtaining an associate’s degree in business. After she graduates, she wants to get a full-time position as a manager or supervisor.

In all three models, youth live in a supported, structured environment in which program staff are available to advise them as they develop the skills needed to move to full independence. These skills include budgeting, maintaining a house or apartment, paying rent, planning menus, preparing food, and building constructive relationships. In addition, many programs use a phase

system that enables youth to move from a more supervised to a less supervised environment as they learn to live on their own. Upon entering a Transitional Living Program, participants might, for example, live in group homes with other youth and a program staff person. As they demonstrate increased decisionmaking skills, responsibility, and goal orientation, young people move into apartment buildings on agency property before finally moving into individual scattered-site apartments.

To complement these practical experiences in moving toward independent living, Transitional Living Program grantees also offer (either directly or by referral) programs providing more formal, structured opportunities for learning, as well as services that meet the basic needs of young people, including pregnant and parenting homeless youth:

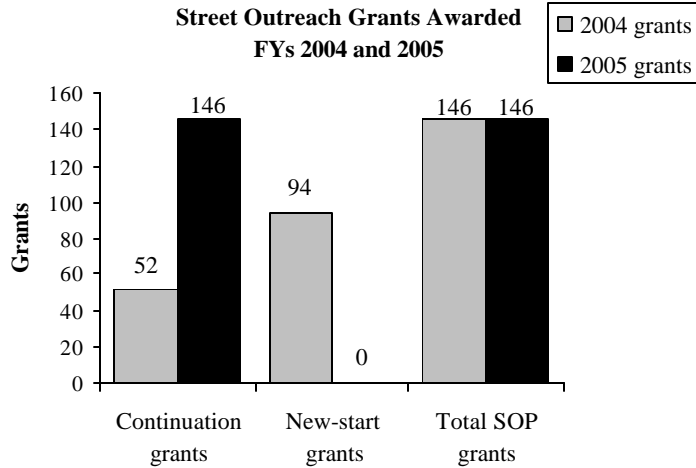
- Basic life-skill building: Develops or enhances skills in budgeting, using credit, housekeeping, menu planning, and food preparation and provides consumer education;
- Interpersonal-skill building: Develops or enhances young people's ability to establish positive relationships with peers and adults, make decisions, and manage stress;
- Educational advancement: Offers opportunities to attain a General Educational Development (GED) credential, postsecondary training, or vocational education;
- Job preparation and attainment: Provides career counseling, guidance on dress and grooming, and job placement;
- Mental health care: Provides individual and group counseling and drug abuse education and prevention;
- Physical health care: Provides routine physicals, health assessments, and emergency treatment;
- Individualized planning: Allows staff and young people to work together to develop individual transitional living plans and decide how services should be provided; and
- Child care and parenting skills: Provides access to reliable child care for the youth's child or children, early childhood education services, and medical services if necessary, as well as education in child rearing and child development for the young parent.

See appendix E, exhibit 3, pages 50-55, for data on Transitional Living services in FYs 2004 and 2005.

The Street Outreach Program

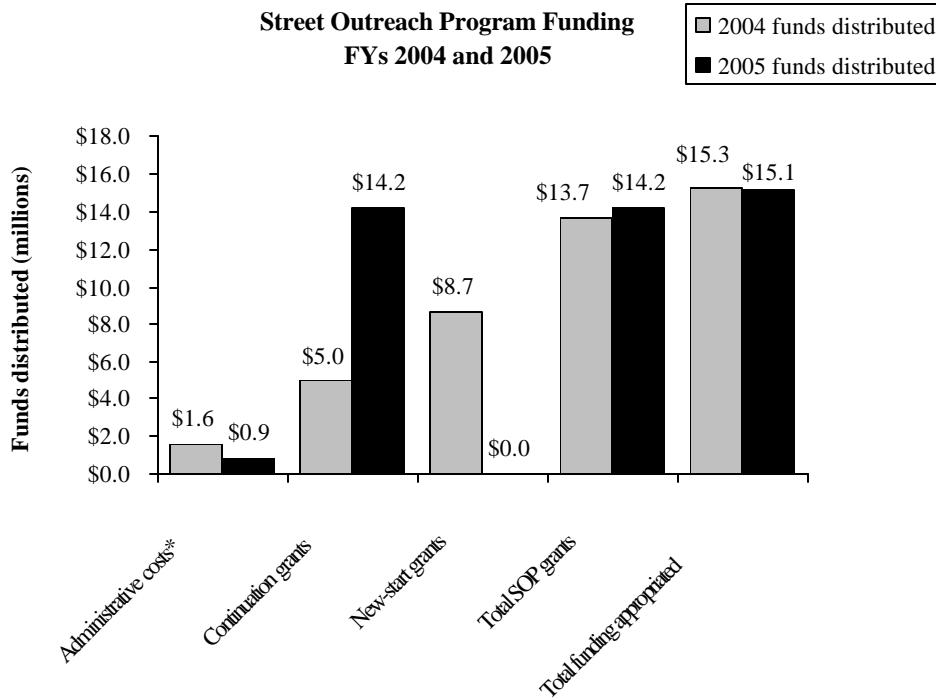
In July 1996, FYSB began implementing the new Street Outreach Program. The program was created as part of the Violence Against Women Act of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322). In October 2003, the program was

reauthorized through FY 2008 as Part E of the RHYA, as amended by Public Law 108–96.



In FY 2004, FYSB funded 146 Street Outreach Programs: 52 continuations and 94 new starts (see graph at left). In FY 2005, FYSB funded 146 Street Outreach Programs: 146 continuations and no new starts. The average annual FYSB grant to Street Outreach Programs was approximately \$94,000 in FY 2004 and \$97,000 in FY 2005. (For a breakdown of the total funding

allocated in FY 2004 and FY 2005, see graph below.)



*Administrative costs include logistics, support systems, and collaboration with other Federal Agencies.

The Street Outreach Program aims to establish and build relationships between street youth and program outreach staff in order to help youth leave the streets. Street Outreach grantees provide education and prevention services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse. FYSB requires Street Outreach grantees to offer services on the street during the hours that young people tend to be out, including late afternoons, evenings, nights, and weekends (see appendix D, pages 41-42). The programs also must employ staff whose gender, ethnicity, and life experiences are similar to those of the young people being served. Further, given the intensity of street work, FYSB requires applicants to provide staff with supportive training on issues relevant to street life. Applicants also must provide staff with street-based supervision, including guidance on the boundaries of their job responsibilities and strategies for helping youth who are survivors of sexual abuse.

The Street Outreach Program in Action

Derrick was 17 when the Street Outreach team first spied him on a downtown pedestrian mall “spanging,” or panhandling, with a cup in his right hand and a song: “Put a quarter in my cup to shut me up.” Addicted to heroin, Derrick had been on the streets since he was 11 years old. The Street Outreach team worked with him every day for 3 months, building trust and providing him with basic services.

Derrick gradually began to respond and eventually moved into a youth shelter, where he got away from the streets and into substance abuse treatment. Over the next two years, Derrick entered a housing program, mended his broken relationship with his father, and eventually moved into his own apartment, which he paid for by working a full-time job.

Street Outreach grantees must meet several key requirements. They must have access to local emergency shelter space that is an appropriate placement for young people and that can be made available. Their outreach staff must have access to the shelter in order to maintain interaction with youth. They must provide outreach services from a Positive Youth Development perspective, involving youth in designing, operating, and evaluating the program. And finally, grantees are required to develop a plan for coordinating services funded under the program with their State or local sexual assault coalitions or other agencies providing services to youth who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually abused or exploited.

See appendix E, exhibit 5, page 57, for the total number of contacts made by Street Outreach grantees in FYs 2004 and 2005.

Funding Mechanisms of the FYSB Youth Programs

FYSB solicits separate grant applications for the Basic Center, Transitional Living, and Street Outreach Programs with announcements in the *Federal Register* and on www.grants.gov. Peer panels review the applications.

FYSB-funded programs provide new-start grants on a competitive basis for 1-year budget periods. After the first year of the project, agencies may apply for continuation funding on a noncompetitive basis for up to 2 more years for the Basic Center and Street Outreach Programs and for up to 4 more years for the Transitional Living Program.

All continuation grants are subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the grantee. The maximum grant for a 3-year project period for the Basic Center Program is \$600,000; the maximum grant for a 3-year project period for the Street Outreach Program is \$600,000; and the maximum grant for a 5-year project period for the Transitional Living Program is \$1,000,000.

FYSB allocates funds for the Basic Center Program on the basis of each State's population younger than age 18, according to the latest census data. As amended, however, the RHYA requires that, beginning in FY 1995, each State receives a minimum of \$100,000 in Basic Center funding and each Territory a minimum of \$45,000. Funds for the Transitional Living Program and the Street Outreach Program are competed for nationally and are not based on a State's population younger than age 18. Basic Center, Transitional Living, and Street Outreach Program grantees are required to provide a non-Federal match of 10 percent of the grant amount.

Chapter 2

Family and Youth Services Bureau Support System

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) created its national support system to help local youth service agencies enhance their capacity to assist young people and their families. Through this system, FYSB supports a national hotline and referral system for runaway youth; offers conferences, trainings, peer monitoring, and onsite technical assistance; and documents effective practices and disseminates them to the youth service field. The system includes:

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T/TA)

- ❖ National Communications System
- ❖ National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth
- ❖ Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Monitoring System
- ❖ Regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Provider System

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

- ❖ Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)
- ❖ Research and Demonstration Program

The FYSB support system helps grantee programs deliver services that make a difference in the lives of young people. Highlights of support system activities during Fiscal Years (FYs) 2004 and 2005 appear on the following pages.

The National Communications System

In FY 1980, Congress authorized funding to establish a “national communications system to assist runaway and homeless youth in making contact with their families and service providers” through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974, as amended (Public Law 96–509). In FY 2004, the system was reauthorized through Part C, Section 331, of the RHYA, as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108–96).

Today, FYSB funds the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) to serve as that communications system. NRS assists runaway youth and their families by linking them to crisis counseling,

programs and resources, and each other, when appropriate. The system aims to ensure that young people in crisis have a central place to turn to for information on the help available to them.

The NRS toll-free hotline (1-800-621-4000 or 1-800-RUNAWAY), the central element of the communications system, operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Hotline volunteers and staff typically handle 100,000 to 120,000 calls a year. The Switchboard handled 118,735 calls in FY 2004 and 101,499 calls in FY 2005. The modest decrease in the number of calls appears to reflect a decline in the number of outgoing calls made by the Switchboard, which increasingly supplies or confirms essential follow-up information by way of e-mail or the Web. In addition, effective interventions in the outgoing calls completed may have resulted in less need for additional calls.

NRS has two special functions that ensure that all young people can access its services: a phone line for hearing-impaired youth and access to the Tele-Interpreters language line translation service, which can handle calls in 144 different languages. In FY 2004, the language line service was used to handle 465 calls (logging a total of 6,259 minutes), and in FY 2005 it was used to handle 497 calls (logging a total of 6,336 minutes).

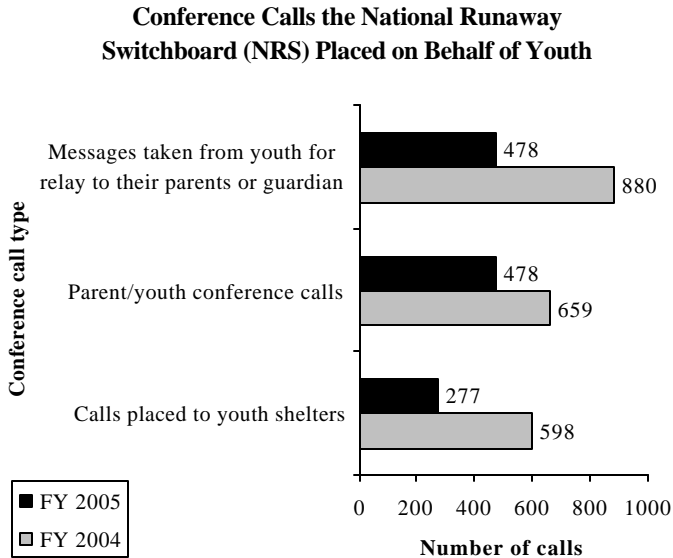
In addition to the phone lines, which are always available to respond to callers in crisis, NRS also operates an interactive Web site (www.nrscrisisline.org or www.1800RUNAWAY.org) to assist those seeking both crisis and noncrisis information. Staff respond to many e-mail messages generated by the site, 317 crisis-related e-mail messages in FY 2004 and 370 in FY 2005. On the Web site's anonymous bulletin board, youth can submit questions for staff response. NRS responded to 214 bulletin postings in FY 2004 and 161 in FY 2005. Site visitors can submit questions and comments, obtain statistics on runaway and homeless youth, and request or download NRS materials, such as the NRS Media Kit, the National Runaway Prevention Month Tool Kit, the Prevention Curriculum Teacher's Guide, or *Lisa's Diary* (the frequently requested diary of a runaway). In FY 2005, 31,549 new people visited the NRS Web site; many visited numerous times. (NRS changed its system for counting Web visits in 2005, so a corresponding number for FY 2004 is not available).

Staff respond to all information requests within 24 hours. NRS distributed 123,504 pieces of information and prevention materials in FY 2004 and 183,951 in FY 2005.

NRS staff and more than 150 volunteers, who receive 36.5 hours of comprehensive, solution-focused crisis intervention training before staffing a phone line, provide young callers with referrals to community- and faith-based programs and services. NRS has a database with information on more than 17,298 youth-related agencies nationwide; this information is updated annually. Crisis line staff and volunteers also have access to information about more than 200,000 organizations through hard-copy resource directories. Furthermore, NRS has over 2,200 affiliation agreements with local youth organizations. The affiliated agencies commit to communicating with NRS on an ongoing basis and to providing services to youth and families referred to them by NRS.

To connect youth who are away from their communities with appropriate services, such as shelter care, NRS also provides staff-mediated conference calls between young people and

community agencies that can assist them. Staff refer other young people and families to services in their home communities. Staff-mediated conference calls between runaway youth and their parents initiate the process of family reunification. (See graph below for the number of conference calls placed on behalf of youth callers in FYs 2004 and 2005.)



In FYs 2004 and 2005, NRS continued or initiated several activities designed to enhance services to runaway youth. The following are highlights of NRS projects during these years:

- In collaboration with Greyhound Lines, Inc., NRS expanded and continued to administer the “Home Free” program. Celebrating 10,000 rides home since the program’s inception in 1995, the family reunification program enables runaway youth ages 12 to 21 to

receive free bus tickets to return home. When returning home is not an option, runaway youth ages 19 to 20 may also receive free tickets to an alternative placement near their homes, such as an independent living facility. Youth served through Home Free have access to the full array of NRS services. NRS offered family reunification services to 1,108 young people in FY 2004; of these, 765 received free bus tickets to return home or to an independent living program through Home Free. In FY 2005, the corresponding figures were 744 and 497. Greyhound, Inc. spotlighted the Home Free program in their internal newsletter, to ensure all station managers are reminded of the program, and committed to printing 5,000 posters for NRS to distribute to youth-serving organizations in FY 2006.

- NRS received the 2004 Friend of Children Award from Prevent Child Abuse Illinois in recognition of the Switchboard’s commitment to youth and families.
- NRS continues to extend its outreach efforts through strategic partnerships with community-based organizations. NRS collaborates with National Safe Place to educate youth and educators in school settings across the country. In addition, NRS began a pilot collaboration with the California Coalition for Youth/California Youth Crisis Line to handle overflow calls in 2004; since the pilot was a success, the collaboration continues. Through its ongoing collaboration with Uhlich Children’s Advantage and its other national partner, the Child Welfare League of America, NRS played an instrumental role in the 2004 and 2005 Teen Report Cards. Also, NRS formed collaborations in 2004 with the Illinois Coalition for School Health Centers and the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care. These partnerships include mutual hyperlinks, Web spotlights, and collaboration letters sent with

information packets to more than 1,500 schools. Lastly, NRS renewed its partnership with Yellow Pages Integrated Marketing Association to expand the accessibility and availability of the NRS number.

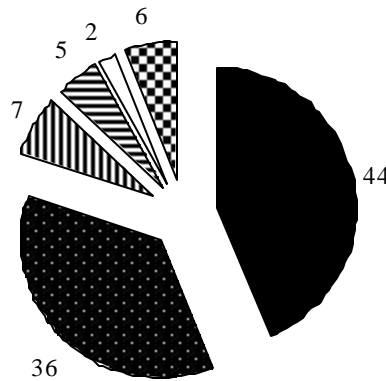
- To increase public awareness of the issues facing runaway youth and families, NRS and the National Network for Youth continued to promote and enhance the national initiative designating November National Runaway Prevention Month. NRS uses its Web site to provide resources to youth, parents, educators, and community entities to keep youth safe and off the streets. NRS's online toolkit includes a runaway prevention and education presentation module, sample press releases, and sample public service announcements. In FY 2005, a downloadable four-poster series called Youth Have Rights was added to the Web site, with a new poster unveiled each week during Prevention Month.
- NRS's response to information requests from the media led to coverage in print and on the radio and features in the national publication *Complete Woman*. A Spanish-speaking call center volunteer gave interviews at stations representing 28 percent of the market held by Univision, the Nation's leading Spanish language radio network.
- To make it easier for youth in crisis and others to contact NRS, the service launched a new toll free phone number (1-800-RUNAWAY) and Web address (1800RUNAWAY.org) in FY 2005. As part of this initiative, NRS created and distributed a public service announcement that aired on more than 150 television stations, resulting in more than 150 million audience impressions.
- NRS cosponsored the 29th Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel Conference in 2005. At the conference, NRS presented the results of a hotline benchmark research study done in collaboration with a university.
- NRS presented at the FBI's annual conference for victim assistants and developed a protocol for the FBI to better access NRS services, especially its Home Free program.
- NRS represented crisis hotlines for the United States at Child Helpline International's second International Consultation Conference.
- NRS was spotlighted by the United Kingdom's "Tonight with Trevor McDonald" television show, viewed by more than 4 million people, and an NRS representative was invited to speak at a Parliamentary Briefing about runaway youth.

In addition to these activities, NRS continued to use its management information system (MIS) to collect data about the young people and families that it serves. The NRS MIS complements FYSB's Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) (see pages 31-32). With the NRS system, crisis line volunteers document information about each hotline crisis call, including a caller profile (age and gender), the caller's issues, the focus of the call, referrals offered during the call, and followup that may be needed.

The NRS MIS data showed that in FYs 2004 and 2005, the Switchboard responded to approximately 118,735 and 101,499 calls, respectively. Of those calls, 44 percent (FY 2004) and 43 percent (FY 2005) were from youth and 36 percent (FY 2004) and 37 percent (FY 2005) from parents, with the remainder from young people’s relatives and friends, youth professionals, or another adult (see charts below at right). The majority of youth callers were female (76 percent in FY 2004 and 77 percent in FY 2005) and ages 12 to 17 (76 percent in FY 2004 and 76 percent in FY 2005). Youth between the ages of 18 and 21 made up 25 percent of callers in FY 2004 and 24 percent in FY 2005.

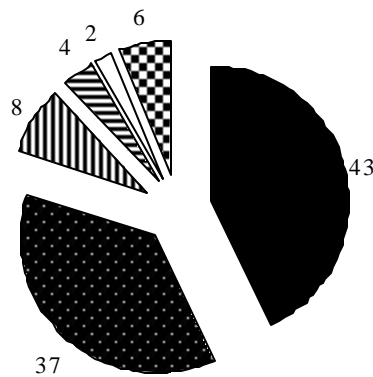
The NRS MIS also collected information on the reasons that youth contacted the Switchboard. It is important to note that youth may be reluctant to share highly sensitive information (such as information about physical, sexual, or emotional abuse) with someone they do not know. Data on these issues, therefore, typically underreport the incidence rate of highly sensitive issues. The most frequently reported reasons for contact reported by youth callers in FY 2004 and FY 2005, respectively, were family dynamics (38 percent and 36 percent), followed by peer/social issues (13 percent and 13 percent), youth service issues (11 percent and 10 percent), school-related issues (8 percent and 8 percent), and physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect (8 percent and 6 percent) (see graph on the next page).

Calls to NRS: Relationship of Caller to Youth
FY 2004 (in percent*)



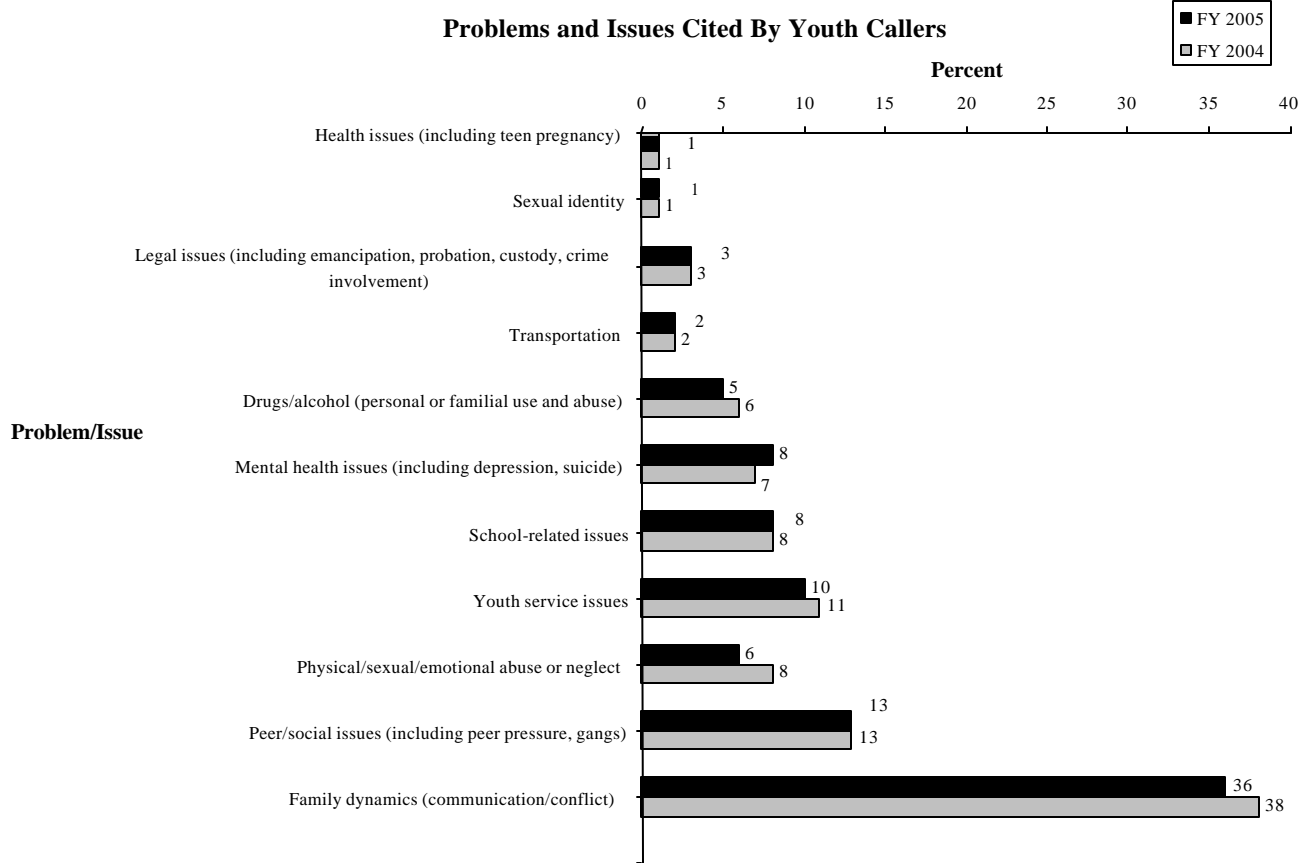
■ Youth caller	■ Parent of youth	▨ Relative
▨ Youth's friend	□ Youth professional	▣ Other adult

FY 2005 (in percent*)



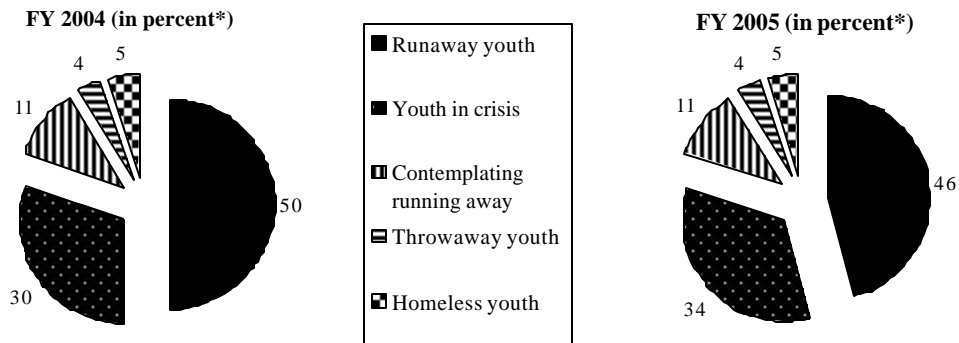
*Percentages have been rounded; therefore, the totals may not equal 100 percent.

percent), school-related issues (8 percent and 8 percent), and physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect (8 percent and 6 percent) (see graph on the next page).



The majority of youth who called the Switchboard were runaway youth (50 percent in FY 2004; 46 percent in FY 2005) or throwaway and homeless youth (9 percent in FY 2004 and 9 percent in 2005) (see pie charts below).

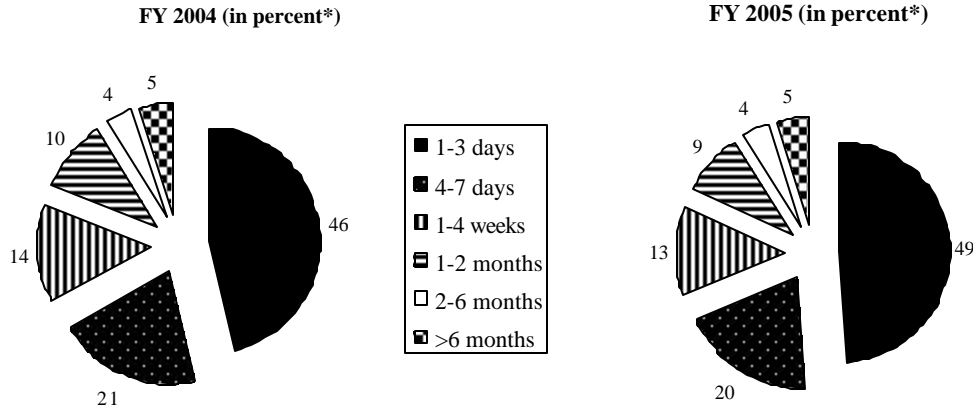
Status of Youth Callers to NRS



*percentages have been rounded; therefore, the total may not equal 100 percent.

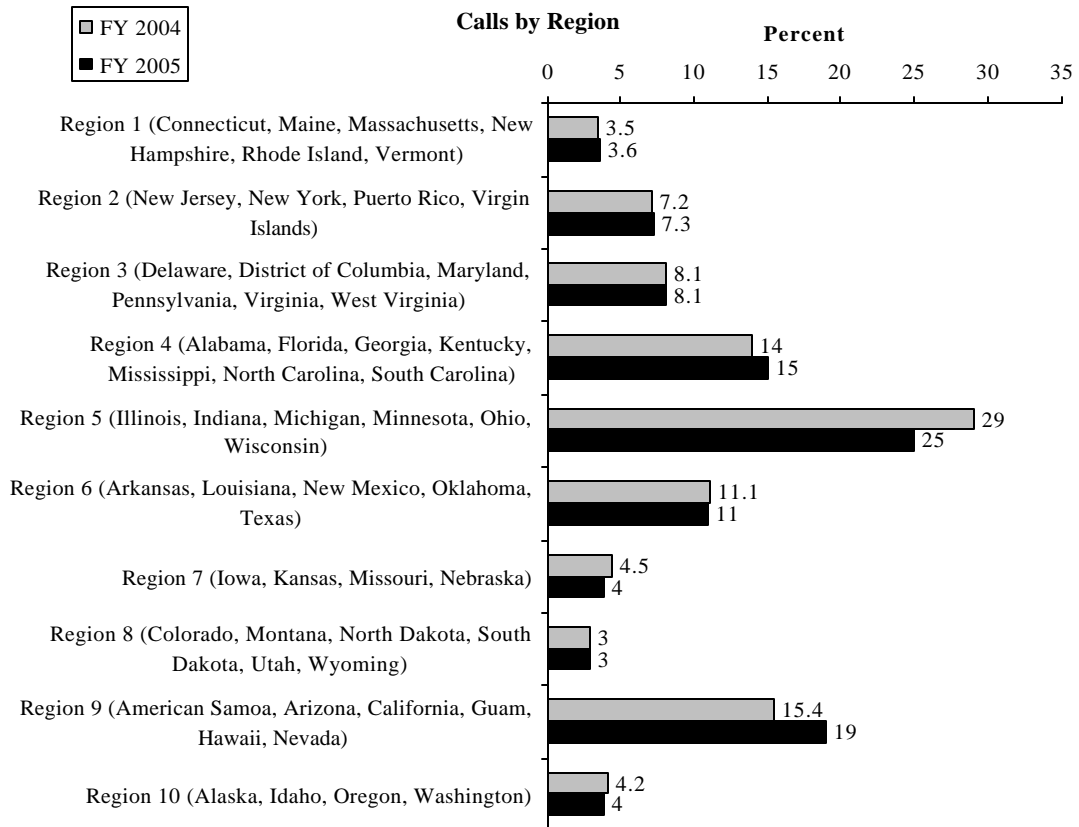
Of youth callers who had run away, 46 percent in FY 2004 and 49 percent in FY 2005 had been away from home for 1 to 3 days (see pie charts below).

Average Amount of Time Youth Are Away From Home Before Calling NRS



*percentages have been rounded; therefore, totals may not equal 100 percent.

The graph below breaks down the number and percentage of calls by region. The wide variation across the 10 regions partly reflects their geographic diversity (large versus small, and highly versus sparsely populated).



The National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth

FYSB established the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth (NCFY) in 1992 as a resource for communities, organizations, and individuals interested in developing new and effective strategies for supporting young people and their families. As a free information source for youth service professionals, policymakers, and the general public, NCFY offers the following services:

- Customized research: NCFY conducts research in response to information requests regarding youth programming and policy, available resources, national youth-related initiatives, and a range of other youth-related topics. The NCFY library contains free or low-cost publications on youth-related issues and thousands of other documents, abstracts of which are included in the NCFY searchable literature database.
- Publications development: NCFY produces a range of publications designed to assist those working with youth and families or on youth policy. These include community education guides, training and technical assistance publications and information products, publications for parents and young people, and summaries of FYSB-funded evaluations or research and demonstration projects.
- Outreach: NCFY supports FYSB in working with other Federal agencies and national organizations to develop improved practices for strengthening programs for youth and families.

NCFY worked closely with FYSB during FYs 2004 and 2005 to help the Bureau achieve its goals. Highlights of this work include:

- Providing extensive support to FYSB in planning for and hosting the third and fourth annual National Youth Summits. They were held July 22-24, 2004, in Cleveland, Ohio and July 28-30, 2005, in Washington, DC. For each Summit, NCFY-supported activities included developing a conference work plan; preparing and disseminating conference promotional materials; coordinating the production of the conference program and related materials; managing registration, speaker engagements, and youth scholarships; operating a Web site, telephone line, and e-mail account, through which NCFY responded to more than 1,000 requests for Summit information; and assisting in coordinating the event on site. See appendix A, pages 35-36 for more information about the Summits.
- Responding in FY 2004 to 1,050 requests, through the NCFY Information Service and Web site, for information on funding sources, statistics, program models, research findings, and referrals; the corresponding figure for FY 2005 was 1,306.
- Maintaining and collecting materials for a literature database containing abstracts of more than 13,500 publications on youth and family issues and making the database available on the NCFY Web site.

- Producing the following publications:
 - ***Promoting Positive Youth Development: An Investment in Youth & Communities*** (brochure and poster), a description of the Positive Youth Development Approach and how communities can use it to actively support and engage young people (in English and Spanish).
 - ***Reconnecting Youth & Community: A Youth Development Approach*** (pocket-sized edition), a guide to using Positive Youth Development to revitalize communities.
 - ***Celebrating America’s Youth: The Facts Are Positive*** (brochure), a look at positive statistics that reflect the successes and healthy choices of today’s youth.
 - ***What Are You Doing After School?*** (brochure), a guide to positive out-of-school activities for adolescents.
 - ***Team Up with Youth!*** (fact sheets), a series of five community education fact sheets that inform youth service professionals, schools, businesses, local and State governments, and the media about how to involve young people in their work.
 - Reports on the 2003, 2004, and 2005 National Youth Summits, summarizing the highlights and positive outcomes of the events.
 - Two issues of ***The Exchange*** (periodical), FYSB’s biannual publication that spotlights news from the Bureau and the youth services field. The first issue, “Mentoring as a Tool for Positive Youth Development,” highlights FYSB’s Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program and its collaborative initiative with Head Start, in which older youth mentor younger children. The second issue, “Thinking Positively: FYSB Grantees Promote Positive Youth Development in Exemplary Ways,” looks at ways that RHY grantees have incorporated Positive Youth Development into their everyday activities.
 - Updates of ***Supporting Your Adolescent: Tips for Parents*** (brochure), in English and Spanish, with expanded resource lists.
- Developing speeches and providing background information to assist FYSB in preparing for numerous meetings and events, such as the HHS-sponsored National Youth Summits, a Michigan Governor’s Education Summit, two meetings of FYSB’s

Mentoring Children of Prisoners grantees, and a conference on the sexual exploitation of adolescents.

- Preparing a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation describing FYSB's structure, philosophy, and programs. FYSB staff will use the presentation at meetings and conferences where they have to introduce the Bureau's work to an audience.
- Conducting outreach activities, including the following:
 - Exhibiting at seven national conferences in FY 2004 and six in FY 2005 and distributed NCFY materials to an additional 93 events (59 in FY 2004 and 34 in FY 2005).
 - Conducting 30 special outreach mailings in each fiscal year, including distributing NCFY-produced publications to FYSB grantees and national organizations working on youth and family issues.
- Managing and routinely updating the NCFY and FYSB Web sites, and, in FY 2005, completely redesigned the FYSB Web site, working closely with FYSB staff. (NCFY Web pages were visited more than 2,566,935 times in FY 2004 and 2,626,844 times in FY 2005).
- Compiling and distributing a monthly electronic update, *Youth Initiatives Update*, to FYSB staff, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Regional Office staff, FYSB Regional T/TA Providers, and FYSB grantees who requested to be added to the electronic mailing list that NCFY developed and maintains.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Monitoring System

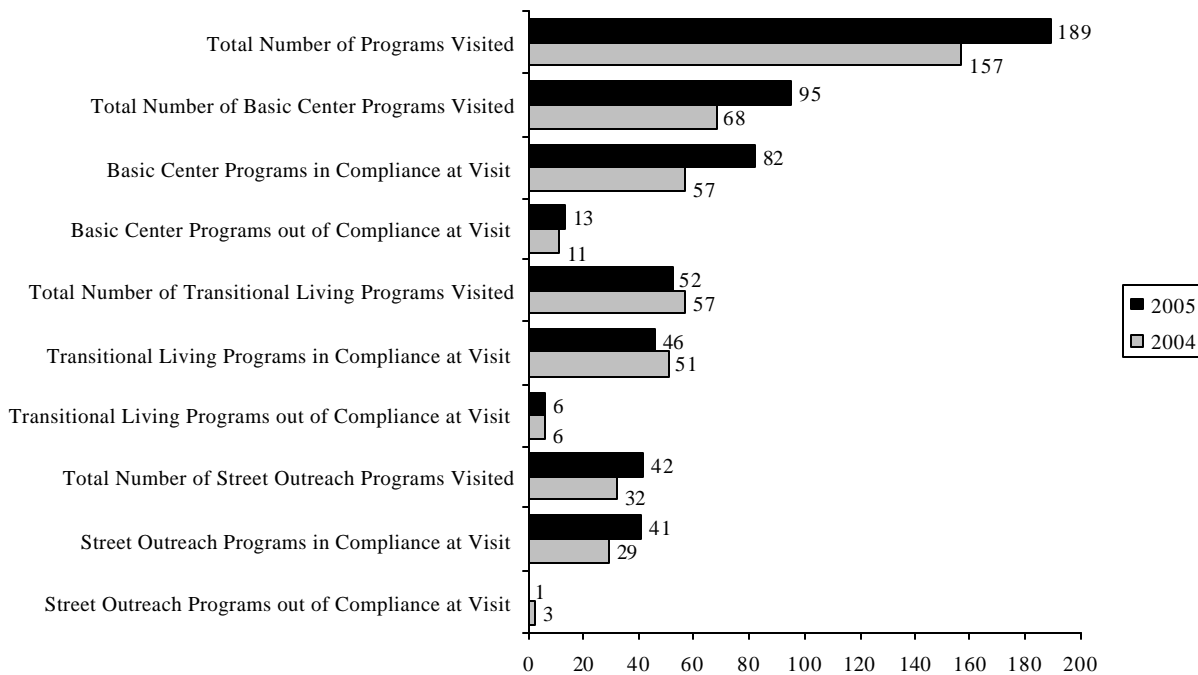
FYSB created the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Monitoring System to assess its grantee projects through onsite visits to each grantee not less frequently than once every 3 years. In FY 2004, the system was authorized through FY 2008 by Part F, Section 386, of the RHYA, as amended (Public Law 108-96).

In FY 2004, FYSB conducted monitoring visits at 93 grantee agencies. In FY 2005, FYSB visited 109 grantee agencies. Many of the agencies visited are recipients of more than one of the three RHY program grants (BCP, TLP, and SOP). Site visits are conducted by monitoring teams comprising ACF Regional Office staff and trained peer monitors from FYSB grantee agencies. There were 72 trained peer monitors in FY 2004 and 74 in FY 2005. Every other year, new peer monitors attend a 2-day National Peer Monitor Training focusing on skill development and peer monitor roles and responsibilities. Peer monitors also receive instruction on how to document visit findings in the monitoring instrument, and each trainee completes a monitoring visit at a local FYSB grantee agency.

Monitoring visits typically involve an entrance conference, several days of interviews, inspection of the facilities, reviews of case files and other agency documents, and an exit conference. Grantees typically conduct a self-assessment before the visit to allow reviewers to obtain factual information, leaving time during the site review for interaction and interviews.

Federal reviewers address financial and compliance issues, while peer monitors address program issues, provide technical assistance, and share best practices. The monitoring team then prepares a written report that identifies strengths and areas that require corrective action within a specified time frame. (See also pages 26-31 for examples of how FYSB’s T/TA Providers provided followup support to grantees on the basis of monitoring visit reports.) Grantees are provided an opportunity to review and respond to draft monitoring reports. Training and technical assistance are offered to those grantees found to be out of compliance in an effort to improve their performance. The graph below provides a summary of the results of the monitoring visits conducted during Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005.

Summary Results of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Monitoring System Visits



FYSB’s Regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Providers

FYSB funds 10 regionally based organizations to provide T/TA to local youth service agencies receiving Bureau funding. Each organization serves FYSB-funded projects in 1 of the 10 HHS regions.

Congress first established the regionally based T/TA Provider network as “coordinated networks” through amendments to the RHYA in 1977 (Public Law 95–115). In FY 2004, the system was reauthorized through FY 2008 by Part D, Section 342, of the RHYA, as amended (Public Law 108–96).

Today, FYSB funding supports several types of services to the grantees through the T/TA Provider system:

- Conferences
- Workshops and trainings
- Technical assistance (telephone, onsite, and information-sharing technical assistance are provided routinely and following monitoring visits)

Each T/TA Provider offers technical assistance through different vehicles, depending on the needs and geographic distribution of the FYSB grantees in their region; most provide this service to the majority of grantees in their region each year. For example, in FY 2004, one T/TA Provider conducted 36 onsite consultations and 175 telephone consultations; that provider also responded via e-mail to an additional 140 requests for technical assistance. Following are highlights of other activities conducted by the FYSB Regional T/TA Providers in FYs 2004 and 2005:

- Sponsored or cosponsored 52 regional or statewide conferences in FY 2004 and 57 in FY 2005
- Sponsored 259 trainings or workshops in FY 2004 and 310 in FY 2005
- Conducted 361 onsite consultations in FY 2004 and 200 in FY 2005
- Conducted 2,712 telephone consultations in FY 2004 and 1,594 in FY 2005
- Conducted 2,716 consultations by e-mail in FY 2004 and 2,299 in FY 2005
- Produced and distributed newsletters, e-mail bulletins, and other materials including, among many others:
 - ❖ *What's Hot Bulletin*: Alerts members to breaking news, upcoming events, new resources, relevant research and funding opportunities
 - ❖ *Resource Guide: Technical Assistance on Developing and Implementing Quality Mentoring Programs for Youth*
 - ❖ *Peer Pages*: Newsletter for youth peer educators and youth leaders
 - ❖ *Currents*: Newsletter jointly published by two T/TA Providers; goes to RHY grantees and other service providers in both regions
 - ❖ *Epistemology of Street Culture*: A periodical studying street-dependent youth

- ❖ *Into Practice Bulletin*: Features news, research, promising practices, resources, advocacy and public policy updates, and funding announcements as well as information about events, trainings, and conferences
- ❖ A national listserv on issues for pregnant and parenting adolescents

The T/TA Providers also periodically conduct special projects to test new project models and enhance their capacity to meet the T/TA needs of FYSB grantee agencies. The following are examples of special projects conducted by T/TA Providers during FYs 2004 and 2005:

- Training grantees on the McKinney-Vento Act, which mandates that schools provide educational services to unaccompanied adolescents without a permanent home. Training was conducted in conjunction with a regional grantee meeting and via Web site links and resources.
- Starting a pilot T/TA program to assist FYSB's first group of Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP) Program grantees. Based on a faith-based mentoring model, the program replicated the T/TA Provider's successful work with RHY grantees and adapted the approach to meet the specific needs of MCP grantees. The provider also designed and convened a meeting and a training conference for the MCP grantees.
- Cosponsoring with the National Resource Center for Youth Services a trainer certification course in managing aggressive behavior. The 12 participants will provide training for Basic Center grantees around the region.
- Employing two youth employees, who produced a newsletter for young people and planned an annual youth leadership retreat.
- Identifying and describing promising practices in spiritual programming through data-gathering, interviews, and site visits. The T/TA Provider produced *Adolescent Heart and Soul: Achieving Spiritual Competence in Youth-Serving Agencies*, which describes how religious and secular spirituality look in programs that do them well.
- Continuing work on Project ImProve, an outcome and information management project that provides training and database implementation assistance relevant to developing measurable program outcomes and integrated information management systems in youth-serving agencies. This T/TA Provider worked with FYSB, HUD, and other government agencies to create and implement reasonable data standards and facilitate data management efforts among government agencies; helped locate additional resources; and developed partnerships with database providers and agencies to improve the efficacy and availability of integrated information management systems that can meet the needs of government agencies and youth-serving organizations. The T/TA Provider trained RHY grantees on how to use ImProve and produced a toolkit that guides agencies through the ImProve Outcomes system.

- Conducting research on early puberty and the sexualization of girls, looking into the various strategies being applied in community-based settings, including the new emphasis on abstinence programming. When completed, the study will include a literature review, interviews with program directors and staff, and a description of promising practices used by community organizations and residential treatment programs.
- Developing a pre- and post-test counseling protocol to be administered to homeless, runaway, and street-involved youth who receive the HIV rapid test. The T/TA Provider plans to provide onsite technical assistance to programs that want to use the protocol to ensure that youth are appropriately prepared before they are tested for HIV.
- Conducting a region-wide public health survey, with half of all agencies in the region participating, at least one from each State.
- Working with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the RHY programs it funds to develop statewide standards for programs that serve runaway and homeless youth. Many State-funded agencies also receive Federal RHY funding; the T/TA Provider ensured that both federally funded and State-funded organizations were represented in workgroup meetings.

In addition, in these two fiscal years, many T/TA Providers used the results of FYSB Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Monitoring System visits to further tailor their activities to the specific needs of FYSB-funded programs in their regions. Examples of such activities during FY 2004 include the following:

- Assisting an agency whose monitoring visit had uncovered problems with record keeping. The T/TA Provider found that records were kept in a way that made it hard to locate information in the case file and hard to track progress and/or changes in the case plan. Reorganized files and new documentation protocols helped the agency to better assess youth and family progress, as everyone working on the case could clearly see what work had been done toward achieving goals, where there were problems, and where changes were warranted.
- Working with a TLP grantee found to be in noncompliance. Grantee staff who had received start-up training had left the program without notice and without sharing the information they learned with others in the program. The T/TA Provider offered technical assistance, in the form of resource packets and a site visit from a peer expert practitioner, on the topics of staff training, youth involvement, aftercare, outreach strategies, and program policies and procedures. The grantee, with the help of the T/TA Provider, developed a clear plan, restructuring case dispositions to effectively capture required information, and improving aftercare services, which led to more successful transitions for youth in the program. The intervention prevented the loss of a potentially valuable program in an underserved community.

- Helping an agency address its lack of policies and procedures and improve its outreach efforts. The T/TA Provider discussed possible plans with the grantee and sent the agency copies of model manuals on outreach and Basic Center policies. As a result, the grantee developed its first comprehensive policy and procedure manual. Staff trained on the manual reported that they had a clearer idea of what to do in specific situations. The grantee also developed an outreach packet—including phone numbers for free community services, advice on staying safe on the streets, and a toothbrush—which is given to youth who need services but are reluctant to go to a shelter.
- Working with an agency whose TLP housing did not meet standards. After consultation and an in-person visit from the T/TA Provider, the agency completely remodeled its facilities to meet TLP standards.

Examples of specifically tailored T/TA activities conducted in the regions during FY 2005 include the following:

- Helping a suburban agency that was placed on high-risk status because it was serving a very small number of youth. The T/TA Provider's initial needs assessment identified several ways to increase use of the agency's RHY shelter and non-residential services. Technical assistance included arranging peer consultation with a program in a similar community; providing resources from other RHY programs on aftercare, outreach, and youth involvement; helping the agency develop a "speakers bureau" that educates members of the community, such as McKinney-Vento liaisons, faith congregations, health care providers, and others about the agency's work; and developing procedures and tools to better document the number of youth served and the specific services delivered. Through monthly followup phone calls, the provider has monitored the agency's progress and identified additional needs.
- Providing cultural diversity training to help staff at one agency serve young people and families from a rural Appalachian area and to alleviate tension between staff members with urban backgrounds and staff from the local, rural area. The T/TA Provider facilitated a day of training based on approaches developed by the National Coalition Building Institute, followed by two followup conversations with key staff of the agency.
- Assisting an agency whose monitoring visit report mentioned accessing school services for youth in the runaway program. The local McKinney-Vento Homeless Youth Advocate disputed the eligibility of youth in the runaway shelter for the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act. The T/TA Provider gave the agency Federal documents listing runaway programs as eligible for McKinney-Vento services, and as a result, youth in the program were able to go to school.
- Inviting grantees to take part in its Community Youth Development Learning Resource Teams. The T/TA provider had found that monitoring visit reports often identified youth development and participation as areas for improvement at agencies

in its region. Participating grantees sent teams comprised of one youth and one adult to Community Youth Development trainings and meetings. The trainings have led to greater youth involvement and participation in some agencies. For example, one organization started a Youth Advisory Board that elects one young person to sit on the Board of Directors. The Youth Advisory Board also plans an annual outing where youth clients and adult staff members can interact and become more connected to one another.

In the spirit of promoting Positive Youth Development and leading by example, the T/TA Providers often provide opportunities for young people. For instance, one T/TA Provider employs two young people in its office. Called “youth project specialists,” these youth put together a newsletter for young people in their region and plan an annual Youth Leadership Retreat. In FY 2005, 68 young people from the four States in the region participated. They included youth in programs, youth volunteering in programs, and street youth.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System

In 1992, Congress authorized funding to implement a national reporting system through the RHYA (Public Law 93–415). The Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) captures data on the number of runaway and homeless youth being served by FYSB grantee programs, demographic information on those youth, the types of services being offered by the programs they turn to for assistance, and their status in critical areas at exit.

Although only 43 percent of grantees reported on the numbers of youth served in FYs 2000 and 2001, that percentage rose to a remarkable 99 percent in FY 2003. The level of grantees reporting has been maintained in FY 2004 at 99 percent and in FY 2005 at 98 percent. The dramatic increase in reporting resulted from a significant streamlining of the RHYMIS data reporting system and the release of a new version known as RHYMIS-LITE (Version 1.0), which was then further refined in Versions 1.1 and 1.2. In FYs 2002 and 2003, the national database was made available online. Called NEORHYMIS (National Extranet Optimized Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System), the online version provides ready access to data, which can be analyzed to further improve FYSB-supported youth services.

During FYs 2004 and 2005, RHYMIS projects included the following:

- Analyzing two years of RHYMIS data and examining the exit outcomes of all youth in Transitional Living programs to determine what factors correlate with “safe” exits for youth. The analysis will encourage further improvements in exit counseling and aftercare services provided by the TLPs.
- Analyzing three years of RHYMIS Basic Center Program data (FY 2002 through FY 2004) to identify trends in risk ratios for unsafe youth exits for specifically defined subgroups of the RHYMIS-served population. A preliminary status report, provided to FYSB in FY 2005, calculated unsafe youth exit ratios for youth demographics, living situation at entrance and exit from the program, youth critical issues, and services provided the youth by the program.

- Launching NEORHYMIS (Version 2.0) in December 2004, with new reporting capabilities, updated data collection to provide child of youth and additional youth program entry and exit parameters, and other content improvements.
- Completing updates in FY 2005 to the NEORHYMIS Federal Transfer integration process for the national RHYMIS database, required to support the new data elements received from grantees using NEORHYMIS. Corresponding modifications to the standard reports for fiscal year-end statistics for the Report to Congress and changes to the standard reports for the HHS national and regional offices were also realized.
- Maintaining the national RHYMIS database, including submissions from approximately 831 grantees in FY 2004 and 819 in FY 2005, and disseminating the data to FYSB staff, the ACF Regional Office Youth Specialists, and the T/TA Providers in the form of standard reports.
- Maintaining the Web-accessible copy of the national RHYMIS database and reports on an ACF supported Web site, the “extranet.” NEORHYMIS data, complete through the end of FY 2004, is currently freely available for analysis through these reports, driven by user-entered selection criteria. Updates included modifications required due to ACF database platform upgrades, additional software documentation per new ACF requirements, and performance improvements to the “Issues Identified at Youth Exit” reports.
- Providing ad hoc reports of national RHYMIS data, upon request, for HHS national and regional personnel where the specific information requirements were not met by the online RHYMIS extranet reports.
- Working with FYSB to update the RHYMIS national database to maintain an accurate list of current grantees for BCP, TLP, and SOP grants.
- Providing ongoing technical assistance through the FYSB-supported, toll-free RHYMIS technical support hotline and through e-mail. The team fielded 1,240 information and technical assistance requests in FY 2004 and 1,425 in FY 2005.
- Providing T/TA to new FYSB grantees and grantees experiencing difficulty in submitting their RHYMIS data. The grantee submission rate was 99 percent in FY 2004 and 98 percent in FY 2005. FYSB attributes the slight decrease in FY 2005 primarily to Region VI agencies that were unable to report because of Hurricane Katrina.

Appendix E, pages 43-57, includes a sample of the detailed information collected by RHYMIS for FYs 2004 and 2005.

Research and Demonstration Program

FYSB funds Research and Demonstration projects to enhance knowledge about key issues and build capacity in the youth service field, as authorized by Part D, Section 343, of the RHYA, as amended by Public Law 108–96.

In FY 2004, FYSB awarded \$1.1 million to nine States (Massachusetts, Illinois, Arizona, New York, Nebraska, Kentucky, Oregon, Louisiana, and Iowa) to fund 5-year Research and Demonstration projects that promote collaboration between State governments and local community jurisdictions or Tribes on issues related to young people. In FY 2005, the allocation increased to \$1.9 million. These Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Projects grew out of an earlier grant program that enabled 13 States (including the nine involved in the current demonstration project) to identify and develop new, or strengthen their existing, Positive Youth Development strategies at the State level. The nine State and local collaboration projects are aimed at moving State-level successes to the local level.

The projects focus on one neighborhood or community in each State, supporting partnerships among FYSB grantees and community- and faith-based youth service organizations. FYSB intends the partnerships to result in increased opportunities that support young people's positive development.

Overall, the demonstration project has three major programmatic objectives for fostering Positive Youth Development and positive youth outcomes: increased opportunities and avenues for the positive use of time, increased opportunities for positive self-expression, and increased opportunities for youth participation and civic engagement.

In FYs 2004 and 2005, the projects

- Organized career fairs;
- Held dialogues between youth and police;
- Enhanced after school activities;
- Provided the local community with training in Positive Youth Development;
- With the help of youth researchers, assessed youth programs in the State, or performed community mapping to identify needs and services available in the local area;
- Formed youth advisory councils; and
- Held a wellness gathering for the community.

In FYs 2004 and 2005, FYSB held three forums that brought together the State and Local Youth Development Collaboration Project grantees for cross-project information sharing. At the second and third meetings, Positive Youth Development was very much in evidence as youth

involved in the nine State projects presented alongside adult project members. Youth from the different projects also collaborated with each other to put together presentations about the issues that concern young people.

In FY 2005, an evaluation of the first round of demonstration grants involving State Positive Youth Development collaborations was also completed, showing that the projects for the most part were successful in creating collaborations among State agencies. The biggest changes observed were on youth services and human services. Changes were also reported for the juvenile justice, employment and training, education, and health care sectors.

Appendix A

National Youth Summit Highlights

“Youth Leadership in America’s Communities” July 22-24, 2004, Cleveland, Ohio

In July 2004, FYSB and other Federal and foundation partners hosted the third annual National Youth Summit to promote the Positive Youth Development approach. As in the previous Summits, a Youth Council played an instrumental role in planning and executing the conference. The event brought together more than 600 people from Federal, State, and local agencies, along with youth, Tribes, programs, organizations, and foundations. The group discussed ways youth could become meaningfully involved in community leadership and government decisionmaking.

The Summit successfully achieved its three goals:

- Providing a forum for sharing information and resources about the wide range of programs that support youth leadership;
- Exploring opportunities for expanding youth leadership into other venues; and
- Encouraging collaboration among programs promoting youth leadership with the Positive Youth Development approach.

Youth under 21 years old made up 54 percent of the Summit’s registrants, and a significant number of the presenters, speakers, leaders, and audience were youth. During sessions and informally, youth and adult attendees engaged in important discussions about youth leadership skills, including how to brainstorm ideas, launch programs, seek support, recruit volunteers, craft a message, and report results.

The program included plenary sessions, workshops, an art project, and entertainment. Plenary speakers included Claude Allen, J.D., Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families; Harry Wilson, Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau; and Jane Campbell, Mayor of Cleveland. Five accomplished youth also gave plenary speeches.

Several major conclusions emerged from the Summit:

- With support from adults, youth can play major roles in community development;
- Communities and government should seek meaningful participation from youth; and
- Positive Youth Development programs should strive to give youth the skills to increase their leadership potential.

At the Summit’s final session, youth and adults discussed programs that are effective in providing leadership opportunities for youth. FYSB collected the information from that session and published it on the Summit Web site as the *National Youth Summit Youth Leadership Guide*.

“Youth in Action—Making a Difference” July 28-30, 2005, Washington, DC

In July 2005, FYSB and other Federal and foundation partners hosted the fourth annual National Youth Summit to promote the Positive Youth Development approach. As in the previous Summits, a Youth Council was instrumental in planning and executing the conference. The event brought together more than 1,000 people from Federal, State, and local agencies, along with youth, Tribes, programs, organizations, and foundations. The group discussed ways that youth could make a difference in their communities and in the Nation by getting involved in community service and leadership. Summit organizers and presenters encouraged youth to always ask “What’s Next?”—turning what they learned at the Summit into meaningful action at home.

The Summit successfully achieved its three goals:

- Providing a forum for sharing information and resources about the many ways youth can engage in volunteerism and community service;
- Exploring how to expand opportunities for youth service across the country; and
- Encouraging collaboration among programs promoting youth service and Positive Youth Development.

Youth under 21 years old made up about 60 percent of the Summit’s registrants, and a significant number of the presenters, speakers, leaders, and audience were youth. During sessions and informally, youth and adult attendees engaged in important discussions about volunteer service, including how to brainstorm ideas, create an action plan, gain leadership skills, look for support, and integrate service learning into schools and community programs.

The program included plenary sessions, workshops, an art project, an action planning session, and entertainment. Plenary speakers included First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chairperson of the Summit; Alma Powell, Chair, America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth; Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Administration for Children and Families; Harry Wilson, Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau; and Rudy Carrasco, Executive Director, Harambee Center, Pasadena, California. Five accomplished youth also gave plenary speeches.

Several major conclusions emerged from the Summit:

- With support from adults, youth can make a difference through community service;
- Communities and government should create meaningful ways for youth to serve others; and
- Positive Youth Development programs should help young people find service opportunities through which they can build leadership skills and self esteem.

To encourage young people to implement what they learned at the Summit in their home communities, Youth Service America and America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth awarded 75 \$250 minigrants to youth attendees who developed feasible community projects.

Appendix B

Requirements of Basic Center Program Grantees for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

Part A, Section 312(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), as amended by the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires that Basic Center grantees:

“(1) shall operate a runaway and homeless youth center located in an area which is demonstrably frequented by or easily reachable by runaway and homeless youth;

(2) shall use such assistance to establish, to strengthen, or to fund a runaway and homeless youth center, or a locally controlled facility providing temporary shelter, that has—

(A) a maximum capacity of not more than 20 youth, except where the applicant assures that the State where the center or locally controlled facility is located has a State or local law or regulation that requires a higher maximum to comply with licensure requirements for child and youth serving facilities; and

(B) a ratio of staff to youth that is sufficient to ensure adequate supervision and treatment;

(3) shall develop adequate plans for contacting the parents or other relatives of the youth and ensuring the safe return of the youth according to the best interests of the youth, for contacting local government officials pursuant to informal arrangements established with such officials by the runaway and homeless youth center, and for providing for other appropriate alternative living arrangements;

(4) shall develop an adequate plan for ensuring—

(A) proper relations with law enforcement personnel, health and mental health care personnel, social service personnel, school system personnel, and welfare personnel;

(B) coordination with McKinney-Vento school district liaisons, designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), to assure that runaway and homeless youth are provided information about the educational services available to such youth under subtitle B of title VII of that Act; and

(C) the return of runaway and homeless youth from correctional institutions;

(5) shall develop an adequate plan for providing counseling and aftercare services to such youth, for encouraging the involvement of their parents or legal guardians in counseling, and for

ensuring, as possible, that aftercare services will be provided to those youth who are returned beyond the State in which the runaway and homeless youth center is located;

(6) shall develop an adequate plan for establishing or coordinating with outreach programs designed to attract persons (including, where applicable, persons who are members of a cultural minority and persons with limited ability to speak English) who are eligible to receive services for which a grant under subsection (a) may be expended;

(7) shall keep adequate statistical records profiling the youth and family members whom it serves (including youth who are not referred to out-of-home shelter services), except that records maintained on individual runaway and homeless youth shall not be disclosed without the consent of the individual youth and parent or legal guardian to anyone other than another agency compiling statistical records or a government agency involved in the disposition of criminal charges against an individual runaway and homeless youth, and reports or other documents based on such statistical records shall not disclose the identity of individual runaway and homeless youth;

(8) shall submit annual reports to the Secretary detailing how the center has been able to meet the goals of its plans and reporting the statistical summaries required by paragraph (7);

(9) shall demonstrate its ability to operate under accounting procedures and fiscal control devices as required by the Secretary;

(10) shall submit a budget estimate with respect to the plan submitted by such center under this subsection;

(11) shall supply such other information as the Secretary reasonably deems necessary; and

(12) shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted—

(A) information regarding the activities carried out under this part;

(B) the achievements of the project under this part carried out by the applicant; and

(C) statistical summaries describing—

(i) the number and the characteristics of the runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of family separation, who participate in the project; and

(ii) the services provided to such youth by the project.”

Appendix C

Requirements of Transitional Living Program Grantees for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

Part B, Section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), as amended by the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act (Public Law 108-96), requires that Transitional Living Grant Program (TLP) grantees agree:

“(1) to provide, directly or indirectly, shelter (such as group homes, including maternity group homes, host family homes, and supervised apartments) and services (including information and counseling services in basic life skills which shall include money management, budgeting, consumer education, and use of credit, parenting skills (as appropriate), interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills, and mental and physical health care) to homeless youth;

(2) to provide such shelter and such services to individual homeless youth throughout a continuous period not to exceed 540 days, except that a youth in a program under this part who is under the age of 18 years on the last day of the 540-day period may, if otherwise qualified for the program, remain in the program until the earlier of the youth’s 18th birthday or the 180th day after the end of the 540-day period;

(3) to provide, directly or indirectly, on-site supervision at each shelter facility that is not a family home;

(4) that such shelter facility used to carry out such project shall have the capacity to accommodate not more than 20 individuals (excluding staff);

(5) to provide a number of staff sufficient to ensure that all homeless youth participating in such project receive adequate supervision and services;

(6) to provide a written transitional living plan to each youth based on an assessment of such youth’s needs, designed to help the transition from supervised participation in such project to independent living or another appropriate living arrangement;

(7) to develop an adequate plan to ensure proper referral of homeless youth to social service, law enforcement, educational (including post-secondary education), vocational, training (including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998), welfare (including programs under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996), legal service, and health care programs and to help integrate and coordinate such services for youths;

(8) to provide for the establishment of outreach programs designed to attract individuals who are eligible to participate in the project;

(9) to submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes information regarding the activities carried out with funds under this part, the achievements of the project under this part carried out by the applicant and statistical summaries describing the number and the characteristics of the homeless youth who participate in such project, and the services provided to such youth by such project, in the year for which the report is submitted;

(10) to implement such accounting procedures and fiscal control devices as the Secretary may require;

(11) to submit to the Secretary an annual budget that estimates the itemized costs to be incurred in the year for which the applicant requests a grant under this part;

(12) to keep adequate statistical records profiling homeless youth which it serves and not to disclose the identity of individual homeless youth in reports or other documents based on such statistical records;

(13) not to disclose records maintained on individual homeless youth without the informed consent of the individual youth to anyone other than an agency compiling statistical records;

(14) to provide to the Secretary such other information as the Secretary may reasonably require; and

(15) to coordinate services with McKinney-Vento school district liaison, designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432 (g)(1)(J)(ii)), to assure that runaway and homeless youth are provided information about the educational services available to such youth under subtitle B of title VII of that Act.”

Appendix D

Requirements of Street Outreach Program Grantees for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

Part E, Section 351 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), as amended by the Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act (Public Law 108–96), provides the Secretary the authority to make grants for the purpose of providing street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation. The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) developed the following performance standards which require Street Outreach grantees to do the following:

“(1) describe its youth development approach to serving street youth, including how youth will be involved in the design, operation and evaluation of the program;

(2) describe current or proposed street outreach effort, including framework and philosophy, hours of operation, staffing pattern and staff support, services provided and efforts to deal with sexual abuse and exploitation;

(3) describe a plan to provide street-based outreach services where street youth congregate and during hours when youth will most likely avail themselves of those services (late afternoon, evenings, nights and weekends);

(4) show that there is guaranteed access to emergency shelter services that can be made available to street youth;

(5) describe the range of services that will be offered to street youth and how those services will be provided. At a minimum, plans should be provided for street-based outreach and education, survival aid, individual assessment, counseling, prevention and education activities, information and referral services, crisis intervention and followup support;

(6) discuss the expected impact of the SOP on the organization's capacity to effectively provide other services to runaway and homeless youth in the community, such as temporary shelter and transitional living services, if the organization is funded by FYSB to provide these services as well;

(7) explain if applicants proposing to serve a specific RHY population (e.g. single sex programs, gay and lesbian youth, a particular ethnic group, etc.) why the population requires focused services, how the services to be provided will meet the special needs of the population, and how the applicant will make referrals or otherwise address the needs of otherwise eligible runaway, homeless and street youth who are not in the population the applicant intends to serve;

(8) demonstrate that supportive training and appropriate street-based outreach supervision is provided to street outreach staff and volunteers;

(9) show that staff and volunteer gender, ethnicity and life experiences are relevant to those of the young people being served;

(10) describe how the project has established or will establish formal service linkages with other social service, law enforcement, educational, housing, vocational, welfare, legal service, drug treatment, health care and other relevant service agencies in order to ensure appropriate service referrals for the project clients;

(11) describe current or anticipated barriers to effective delivery of services and actions the program will take to overcome these barriers to serving this population;

(12) describe procedures for maintaining confidentiality of records on the youth and families served;

(13) describe how the activities implemented under this project will be continued by the agency once Federal funding for the project has ended and . . . describe specific plans for accomplishing program phase-out in the event the applicant cannot obtain new operating funds at the end of the 36-month project;

(14) agree to gather and submit program and client data required by FYSB through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS);

(15) agree to cooperate with any research or evaluation efforts sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families and;

(16) agree to submit the required Basic Center (BC) or Transitional Living Program (TLP) Annual Report to the Secretary of HHS as a Basic Center and other required program and financial reports, as instructed by FYSB.”

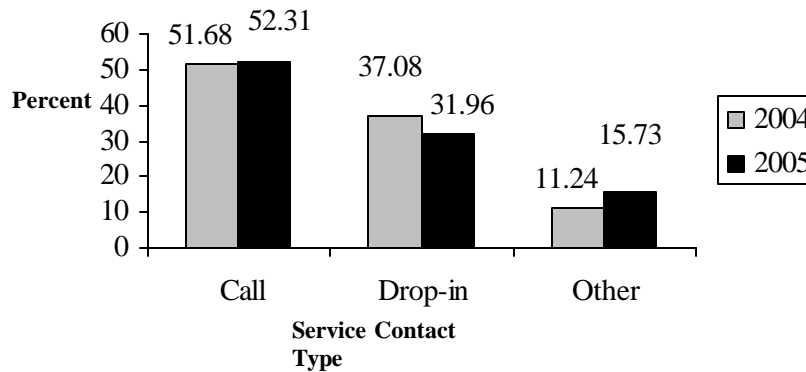
Appendix E

Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System Data for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

Exhibit 1. Basic Center Program Brief Service Contact Record

Total number of brief service contacts in FYs 2004 and 2005:
171,721

Top Three Brief Service Types



Top Three Types of Individuals Contacting the Agency

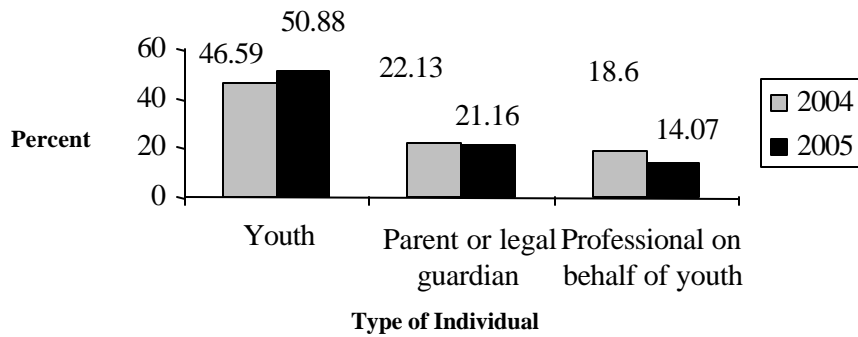
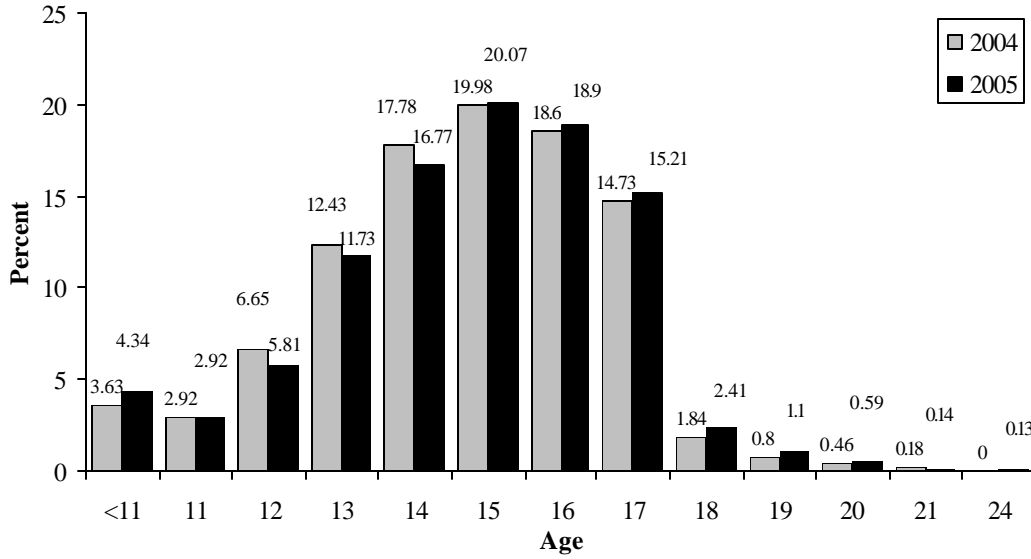
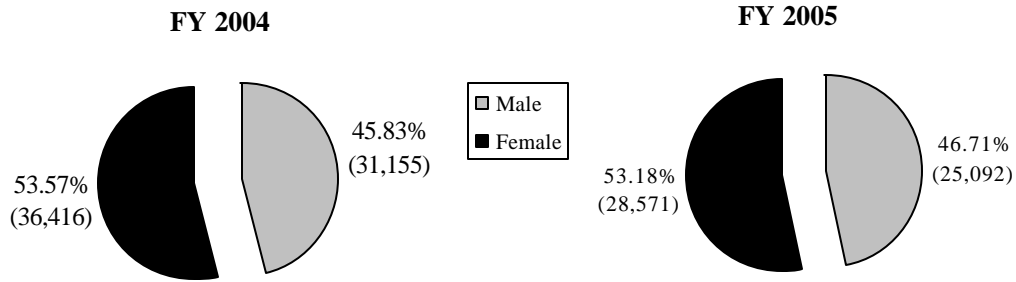


Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record

Youth Served, by Age*



Youth Served, by Gender*

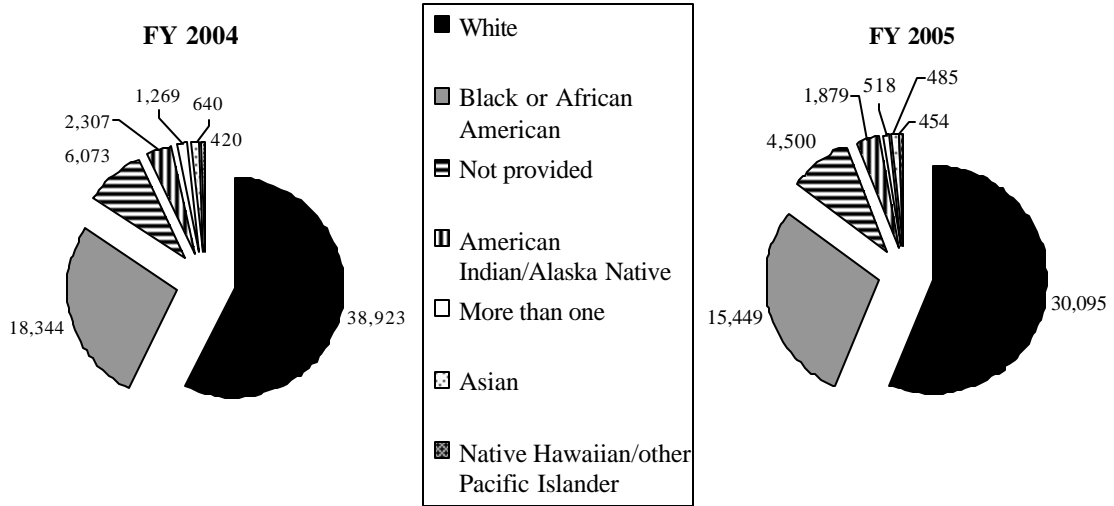


<1% of youth served were identified as transgender female to male or male to female, other, or not known/determined

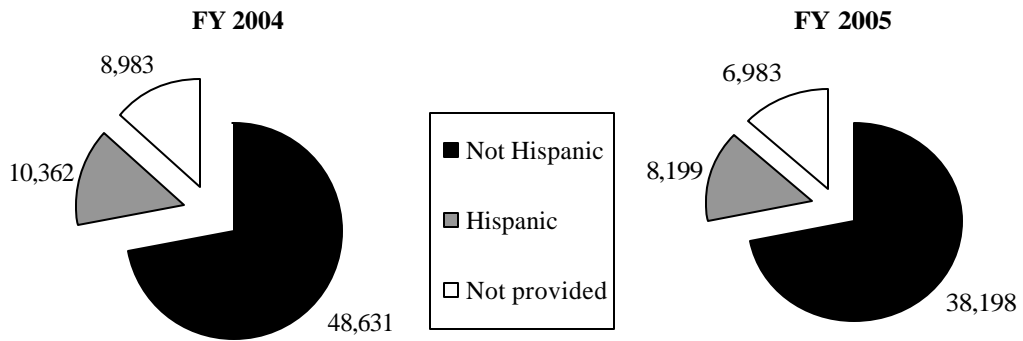
*Age and gender are reported when youth enter programs.

Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record

Youth Served, by Race*



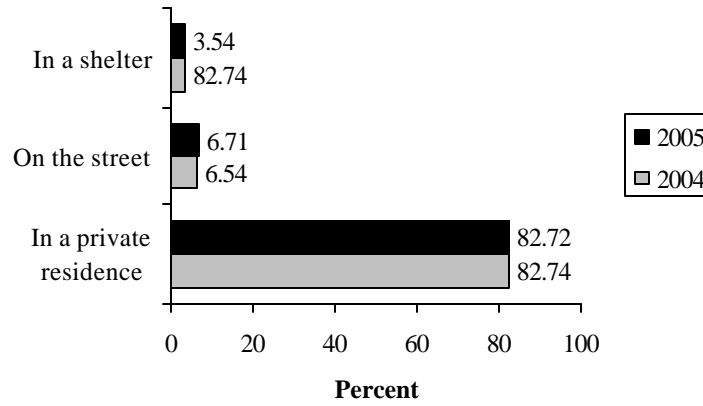
Youth Served, by Ethnicity*



*Race and ethnicity are reported when youth enter programs.

Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record (continued)

**Top Three Living Situations
of Youth at Entrance**



Top Three Referral Means

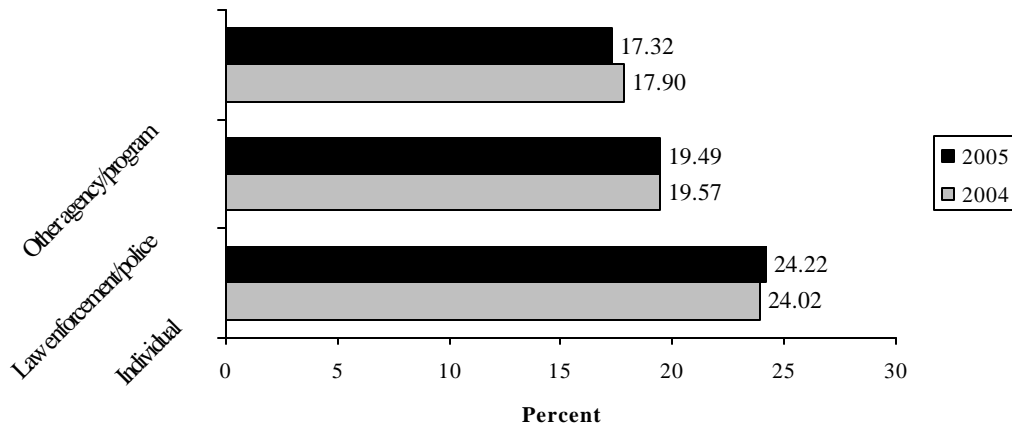
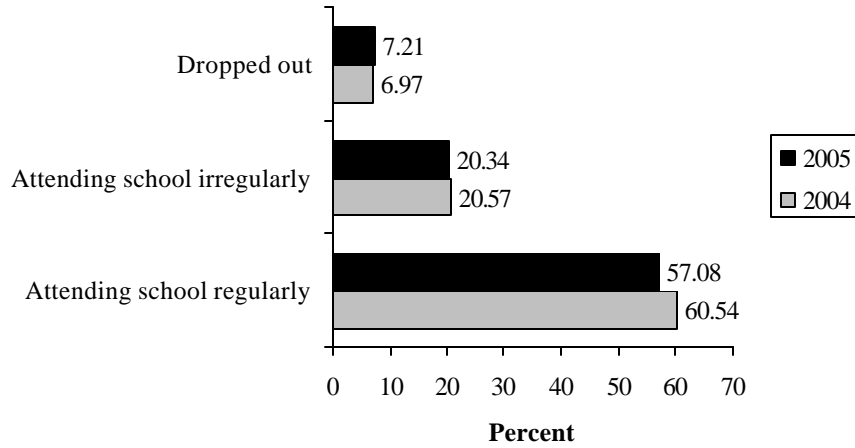


Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record (continued)

Top Three School Status Categories



Top Three Critical Issues Among Youth

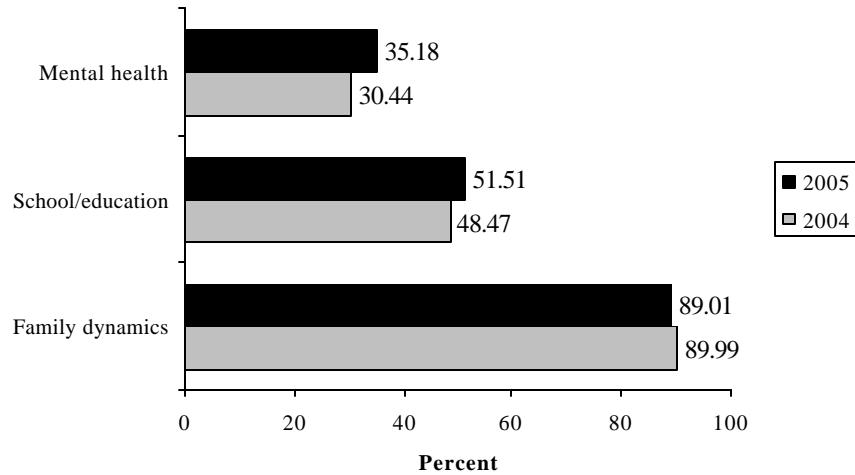
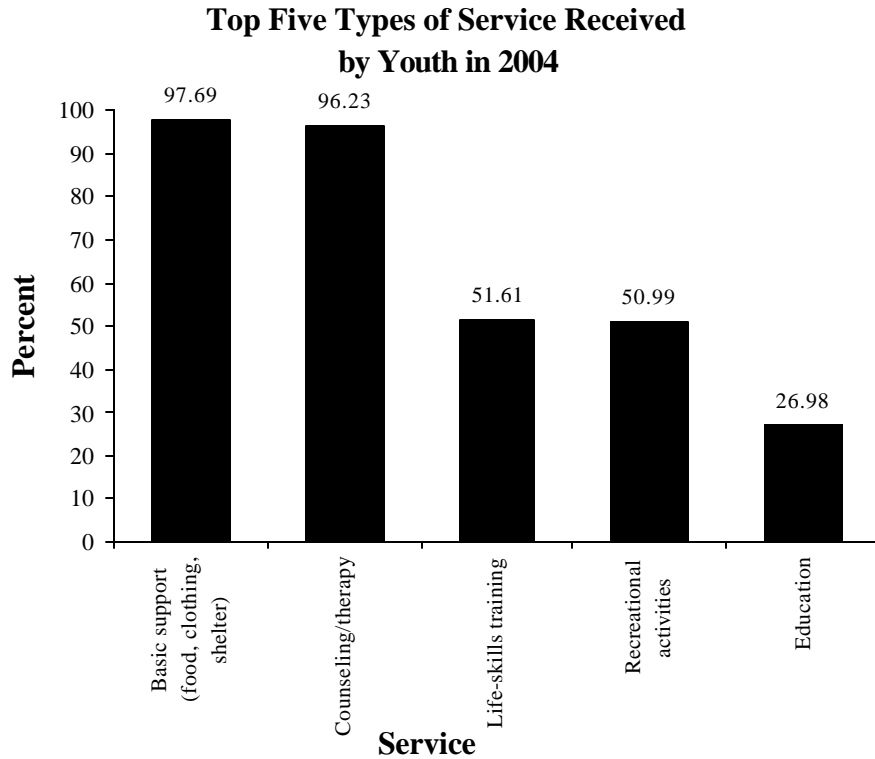


Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record (continued)



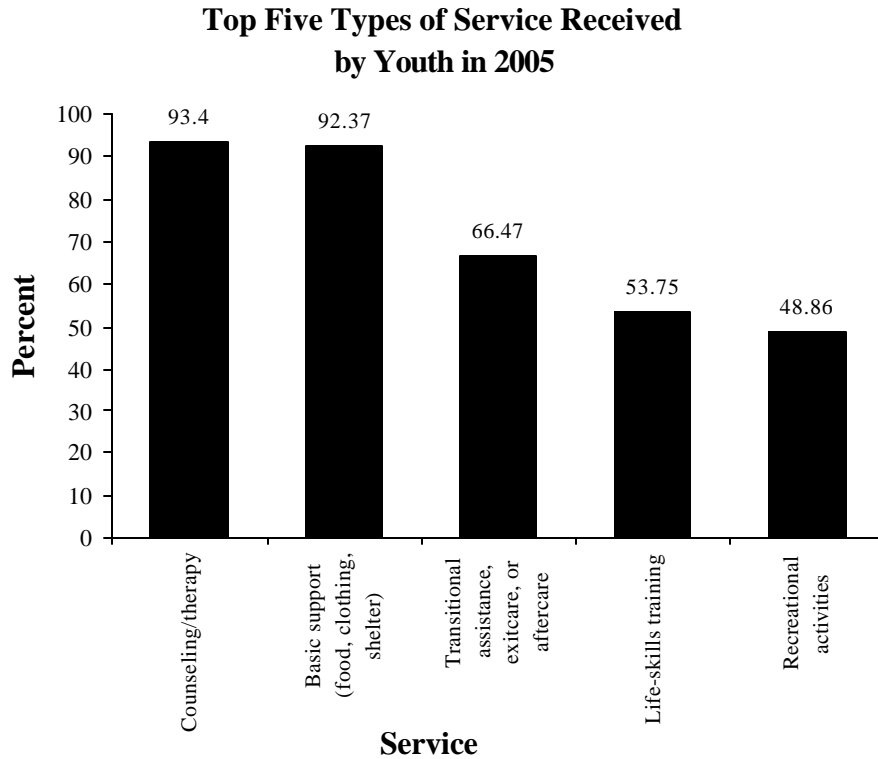
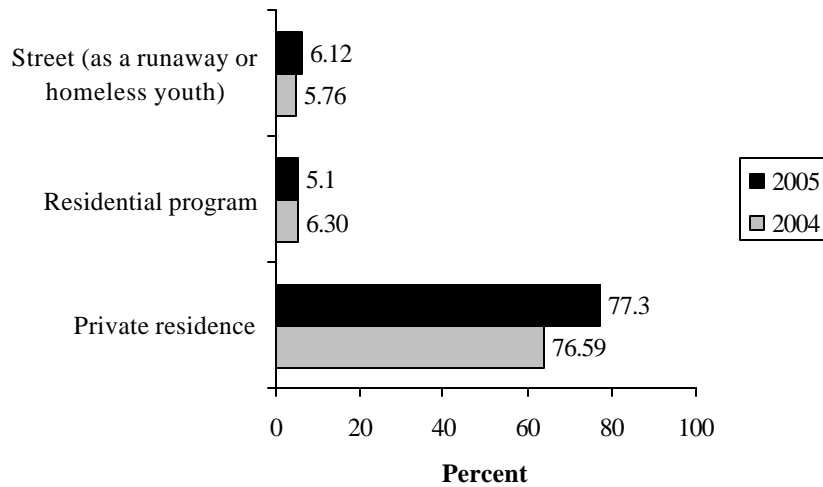


Exhibit 2. Basic Center Program Services Record (continued)

Top Three Living Situations of Youth at Exit



Average Length of Stay

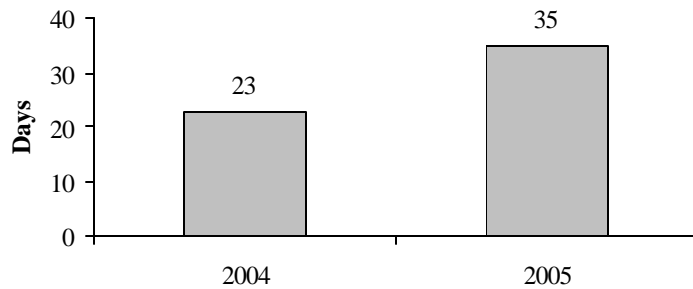
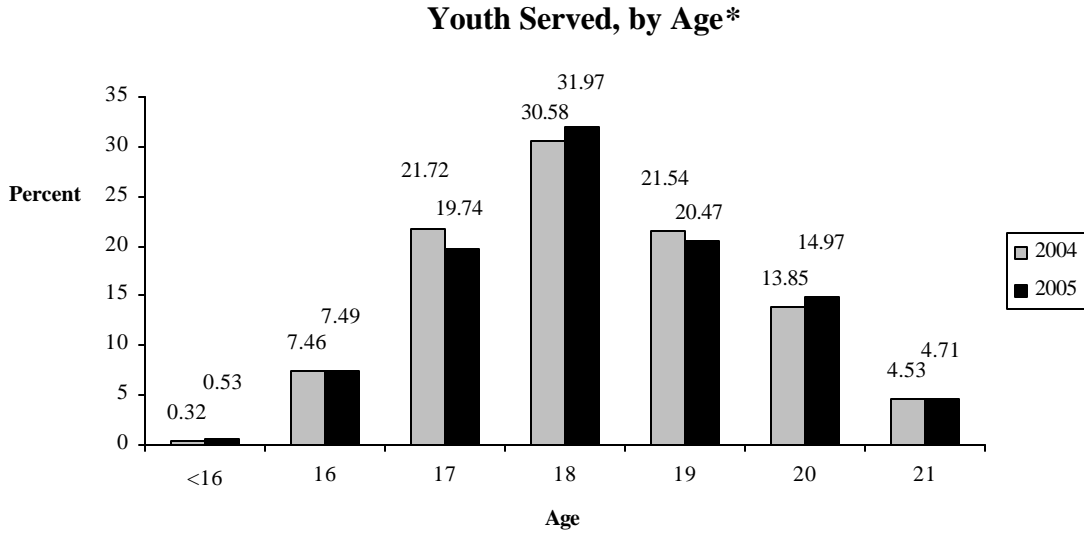
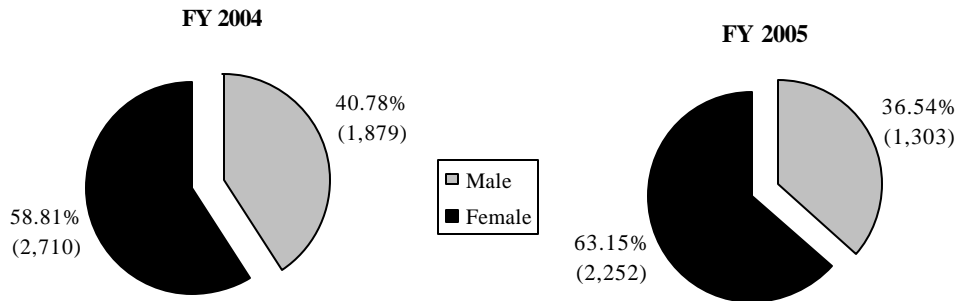


Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record



Youth Served, by Gender*

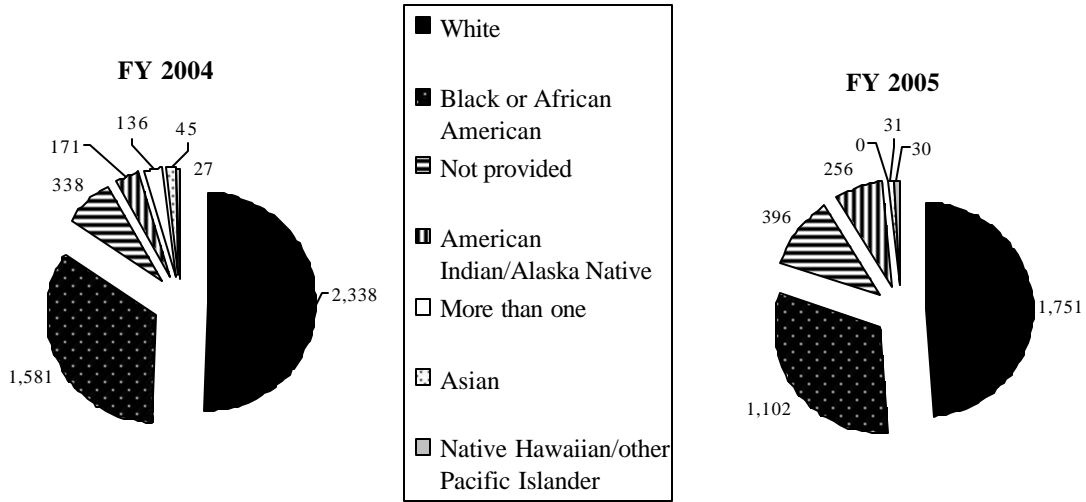


<1% of youth served were identified as transgender female to male or male to female, other, or not known/determined

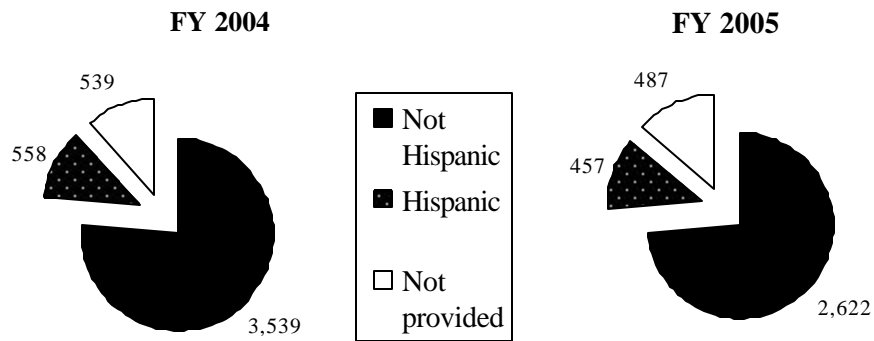
*Age and gender are reported when youth enter programs.

Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record (continued)

Youth Served, by Race*



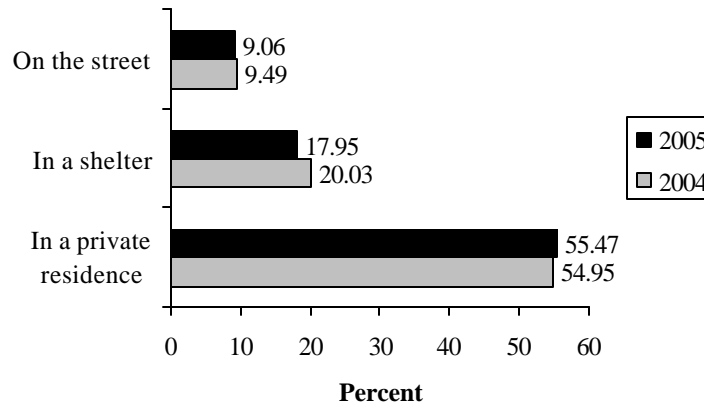
Youth Served, by Ethnicity*



*Race and ethnicity are reported when youth enter programs.

Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record (continued)

**Top Three Living Situations
of Youth at Entrance**



Top Three Referral Means

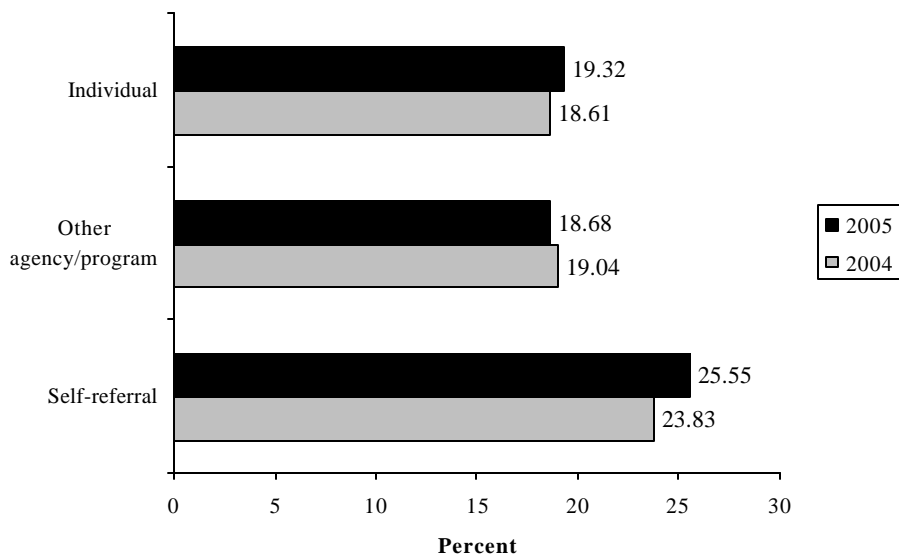
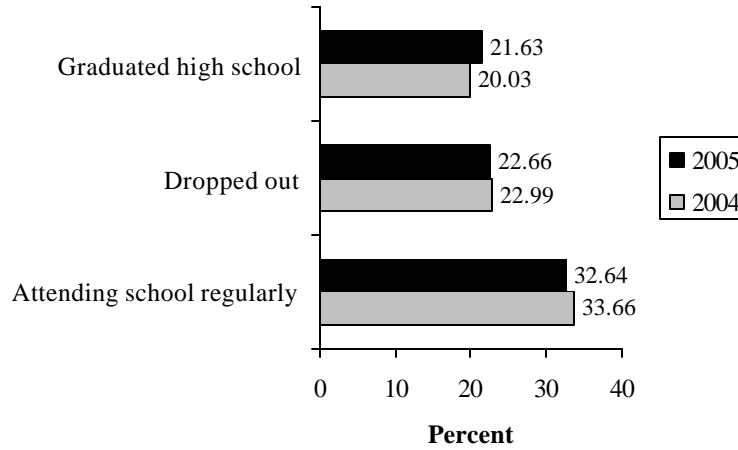


Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record (continued)

Top Three School Status Categories



Top Three Critical Issues Among Youth

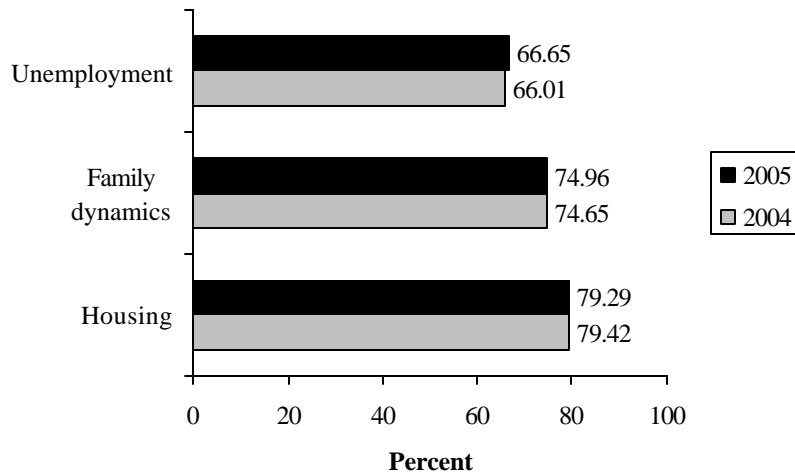
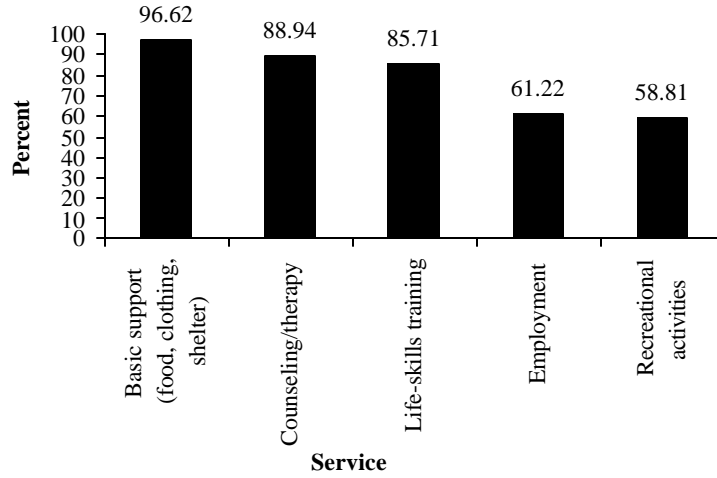


Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record (continued)

**Top Five Types of Services Received
by Youth in 2004**



**Top Five Types of Services Received
by Youth in 2005**

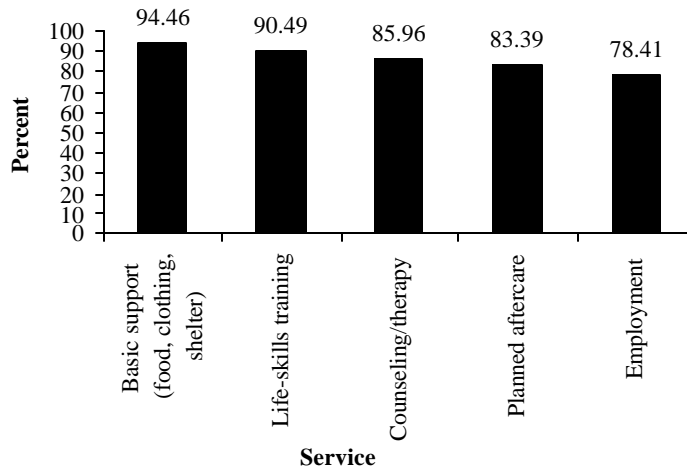
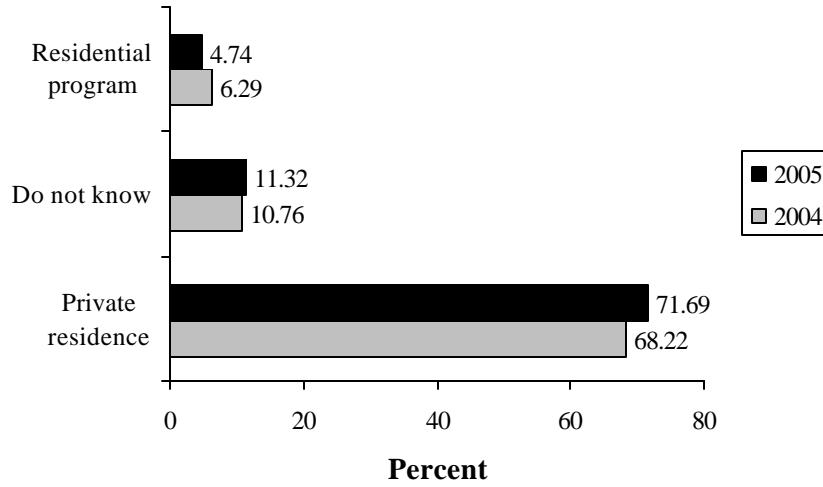


Exhibit 3. Transitional Living Program Services Record (continued)

Top Three Living Situations of Youth at Exit



Average Length of Stay



Exhibit 4. RHYMIS FYs 2004 and 2005 Issues and Services

The BCP figures below are based on **64,381** youth who exited the programs during the period covered in 2004 and **42,898** in 2005. Shelter and other basic needs are provided to all program youth. Many youth enter the RHY programs with multiple issues for which multiple services are appropriate.

Issues Identified*	Issues (#)		Services Provided**	Services (#)	
	2004	2005		2004	2005
Family dynamics	57,952	38,184	Counseling/therapy	71,363	40,068
School/education	31,978	22,096	Basic support /food-clothing-shelter	67,720	39,623
Mental health	23,706	15,092	Employment/life-skills training	42,579	25,617
Abuse/neglect	21,449	11,709	Recreational activities	36,689	20,961
Alcohol/drug abuse	21,379	11,919	Substance abuse prevention/treatment	28,681	14,669
Housing	21,259	11,278	Education	23,662	13,982
Unemployment	9,482	6,131	Planned aftercare	17,742	28,515
Health	6,592	4,090	Physical health care	12,995	5,763
Sexual orientation/gender identity	2,721	1,723	Parent education (parent of youth)	8,222	4,231
Mental disability	2,282	1,223	Community/service learning	7,342	--
Physical disability	1,066	711	Support groups	6,426	2,985
ADDED IN 2005			Psychological/psychiatric care	6,191	2,578
Insufficient Income to Support Youth		7,276	Legal services	2,928	1,219
Incarcerated Parent of Youth		1,035	Dental care	1,845	778
Pregnant or Teen Parent		762	Parent education (youth with children)	1,340	583
Total issues	199,866	133,229	Total services	333,725	201,572

The TLP figures below are based on **3,401** youth who exited the programs during the period covered in 2004 and **2,492** in 2005. Shelter and other basic needs are provided to all program youth. Many youth enter the RHY programs with multiple issues for which multiple services are appropriate.

Issues Identified*	Issues (#)		Services Provided**	Services (#)	
	2004	2005		2004	2005
Housing	3,018	1,976	Employment/life -skills training	6,532	4,209
Family dynamics	2,539	1,868	Counseling/therapy	4,077	2,142
Unemployment	2,427	1,661	Basic support	3,881	2,354
School/education	2,082	1,579	Substance abuse prevention/treatment	3,039	1,593
Alcohol/drug abuse	1,558	950	Education	2,418	1,528
Mental health	1,509	992	Recreational activities	2,392	1,403
Abuse/neglect	1,312	871	Physical health care	1,910	1,067
Health	876	585	Planned aftercare	1,539	2,078
Sexual orientation/gender identity	302	199	Community/service learning	1,234	802
Mental disability	262	205	Psychological/psychiatric care	978	676
Physical disability	109	77	Parent education (youth with children)	940	--
ADDED IN 2005			Support groups	903	545
Insufficient Income to Support Youth		688	Dental care	831	470
Incarcerated Parent of Youth		68	Legal services	470	226
Pregnant or Teen Parent		490	Parent education (parent of youth)	131	55
Total issues	15,994	12,209	Total services	31,275	19,148

* Issues identified by youth, family members, or others.

** Services provided by Basic Center or TLP, or by another organization or agency.

Exhibit 5. Street Outreach Program Contact Record

Information Requested	FY 2004	FY 2005
Total number of Street Outreach Program contacts	531,262	643,598
Average number of contacts per Street Outreach Program grantee	3,994	4,989
Total number of written materials distributed	442,193	544,103
Total number of health and hygiene products distributed	452,888	452,339
Total number of food and drink packages distributed	280,180	385,951