



Frequently Asked Questions

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1. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS & REPORTING POPULATIONS

1.1 Question: When is the start of the first reporting period?

Answer: The first reporting period for the National Youth In Transition Database (NYTD) begins on October 1, 2010 and extends through March 31, 2011 (73 FR 10338, 10339).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.2 Question: Over this process, are we producing six reports or 10 reports (two each for 17-, 19-, and 21-year-old) or do we also have to report on youth at ages 18 and 20?

Answer: A State is to submit a single data file to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) semiannually comprised of data on all youth in the served population, and if applicable, youth in the baseline or follow-up population (45 CFR 1356.82 and 1356.83(a) through (e)). In a year in which data collection is not required on the baseline or follow-up populations (i.e., FY 2012 when the youth in the initial baseline population are 18 years of age), a State must still submit to ACF a data file comprised of youth of any age who are in the served population for a report period.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.3 Question: The file is submitted twice in the year. Do we submit information on youth who turn age 17 in the file for the reporting period in which they turn 17 only, or do we submit information on such a youth in both files for that year?

Answer: We understand this question to be referring to youth in the baseline population who are being reported for their outcomes in a year in which such data is required. A State is required to collect outcomes data on each 17-year-old youth in foster care within 45 days following the youth's birthday, but not before that birthday. The State must submit this data for the reporting period in which the data was collected and not in both files (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 1356.83(a)).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.4 Question: Please explain the difference between the “served” and “baseline” populations.

Answer: The served population includes any youth who has received one or more independent living services paid for or provided by the State agency in a report period (45 CFR 1356.81(a)). A youth's age and foster care status is not relevant to whether he or she is in the served population. The baseline population is comprised of all youth who were in

foster care at some point during the 45 days after their 17th birthday in a specified year, regardless of whether the youth receives any independent living services (45 CFR 1356.81(b)). See 73 FR 10341-10342 for a more extensive discussion on the distinctions between the reporting populations.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 1.5 Question:** Are there youth in the served population who are not (and never were) in foster care?

Answer: It depends. Since the served population includes youth who receive independent living services that are paid for or provided by the State agency, the extent to which the served population includes youth who were never in foster care will depend on how States have structured their independent living services programs (45 CFR 1356.81(a) and 73 FR 10340). For example, a State agency that pays for independent living services to youth in detention, or a youth in the placement and care responsibility of an Indian tribe, but who were never in the State's foster care, would be in the served population according to the definition.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 1.6 Question:** Are we to collect data only on Independent Living Programs/Services paid by Chafee?

Answer: No. A State must collect data on youth who receive independent living service that are paid for, or provided by the State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) agency for a report period, rather than limiting reporting to those services paid for with Chafee funds (45 CFR 1356.81(a), 1356.82(a)(1) and FR 73 10340). In addition, the State is to collect outcomes data on youth in the baseline or follow-up reporting population regardless of whether such a youth receives independent living services from any source (45 CFR 1356.81(b), 1356.82(a)(2) and (3)).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 1.7 Question:** If a State is not passing Chafee money to Juvenile Justice Services (JJS), but by definition of foster care those youth are part of the foster care population, should those JJS youth who are receiving independent living services through JJS be included?

Answer: It is not clear from the question whether the youth described are in the served population. In general, if the youth is receiving an independent living service that is paid for or provided by the State agency in a six-month report period, the youth is in the served reporting population and the State is required to collect and report information to ACF on those services (45 CFR 1356.81(a) and 1356.82(a)(1)). The State must report information on the served population regardless of the agency responsible for delivering the service, whether the youth meets the definition of foster care, or whether the service is paid for with Chafee funds specifically (See also preamble discussion at 73 FR 10340).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.8 Question: Will we be collecting information on youth who receive independent living services while in a placement that does not qualify for AFCARS, such as a detention center?

Answer: It is not clear whether the question refers to whether such youth are in the served population or the baseline population. For the served population, as long as a youth is receiving an independent living service that is paid for or provided by the State agency in a six-month report period, then the State is required to report to ACF information on those services (45 CFR 1356.81(a) and 1356.82(a)(1)). Youth in detention, forestry camps, training schools and facilities primarily for the detention of youth adjudicated delinquent are excluded from the baseline population because such youth are not considered to be in foster care (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 73 FR 10341-10342).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.9 Question: Is referring a youth to a service provided by another State agency the same as saying that the CFCIP agency provided that service?

Answer: No. An independent living service is provided by the State agency if it is: 1) delivered by State agency staff or an agent of the agency, including a foster parent, group home staff, child care institution staff; or 2) provided pursuant to a contract between the State agency and a provider, agency, or any other entity regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service (73 FR 10340).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.10 Question: How long do youth need to be in independent living services to be included in the sample?

Answer: Every youth who receives an independent living service that is paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency in a report period is included in the served population; there is no minimum time that a youth must be receiving an independent living service to be included in the served population (45 CFR 1356.81(a)). Youth who are in the baseline or follow-up populations do not need to be receiving independent living services at any time to be included in these populations (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and (c)). Statistical sampling may not be used to collect data for either the served population or the baseline population. However, at State option, sampling, may be used to determine the follow-up population after the State has surveyed the entire baseline population (45 CFR 1356.84).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.11 Question: How long do youth need to be in foster care to be included in the baseline population?

Answer: There is no minimum time that a youth has to be in foster care in order to be part of the baseline population (73 FR 10342). However, the youth must be in foster care at some point during the 45 days following their 17th birthday, as described in 45 CFR 1356.81(b), to be included in the baseline population.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.12 Question: If a youth is age 19 and still in foster care, do we report on both outcomes and services or just on the youth's outcomes?

Answer: If a 19-year-old youth is part of the follow-up population and also part of the served population for a report period, then the State must submit to ACF a data file containing outcomes and services information in a single youth record (45 CFR 1356.81 and 1356.82).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.13 Question: Is a youth who enters care after his/her 17th birthday in the baseline population? If yes, do we have 45 days to collect these data? When does the 45-day timeframe start and stop?

Answer: If the youth enters foster care within 45 days following his or her 17th birthday in a year in which data collection is required on the baseline population, the youth is in the baseline population (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 1356.83(a)(2)). The 45 days start on the youth's 17th birthday; therefore the data must be collected within 45 days after the youth's 17th birthday.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.14 Question: Do we include clients who enter foster care more than 45 days after their 17th birthday?

Answer: No. Youth who enter into foster care more than 45 days after they turn 17 are not included in the baseline population (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 1356.83(a)(2)).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.15 Question: Is a youth who enters care at 17 years, 5 months, in the baseline population? If so, has the 45 days for data collection already expired?

Answer: See answer 1.14 above.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.16 Question: Is a youth who exits care prior to his/her 17th birthday, but turns 17 during the Federal fiscal year (FFY) part of the baseline population?

Answer: No. To be included in the baseline population, a youth must have been in foster care at some point during the 45 day period following his/her 17th birthday during the specified reporting year (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 1356.82(a)(2)).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.17 Question: What do we do with youth who enters care at age 17 years, 30 days, and exits care at age 17 years, 32 days, (in care for 2 days during the 45-day window)?

Answer: This youth, as described, is a part of the baseline population if he or she was in foster care at some point during the 45 days after his/her 17th birthday in a specified year,

regardless of the amount of time the youth spends in foster care (45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 73 FR 10342). The State must attempt to collect the required data described in 45 CFR 1356.83(d) during the time the youth is in foster care.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

1.18 Question: Does the youth have to be in foster care when they receive an independent living service?

Answer: No. For NYTD data collection purposes, the served population includes any youth who receives at least one independent living service during a reporting period regardless of foster care status.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.19 Question: How do we determine what age groups should be considered in the served population? Do we determine the served population as those defined as eligible for services under Chafee?

Answer: For NYTD, the State does not determine the served population based on youth age or eligibility for Chafee services. Rather, the served population includes any youth who receives at least one independent living service during a reporting period regardless of any other characteristic. We acknowledge that States may restrict eligibility for independent living services to particular age groups. For the purposes of collecting data on the served population, however, we do not make a distinction between a youth that is eligible or ineligible for a State's Chafee services.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.20 Question: Does a State have to report on a youth who is not eligible to receive independent living services but who is in care at age 17?

Answer: If the youth in question was in foster care at some point during the 45 days after his/her 17th birthday, in a year in which baseline data is due, then the youth would be in the baseline population. Whether the youth is eligible to receive services is not relevant to his/ her inclusion in the baseline population.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.21 Question: My State agency partners with five other organizations and we pool our funds to improve services and outcomes for foster youth. My agency is the fiscal agent for all funds. Would we count all of the services provided through this partnership?

Answer: Yes. If a State CFCIP agency partially funds independent living services for youth through pooling resources with other State agencies, then we would consider that the State CFCIP agency has “paid for or provided” these independent living services (73 FR 10341).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.22 Question: Our State is in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between the State CFCIP agency and Student Conservation Association (SCA) to provide internships in the conservation career area. SCA will post some of their instructors onsite at our contracted work-to-learn programs. Does this meet the definition of an independent living service?

Answer: Based on the description, it is not clear whether this arrangement is paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency. The regulation requires that if a service is provided to the youth pursuant to a contract for such services between the State CFCIP agency and a provider, public or private agency or any other entity, regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service, then the service would be reported to the NYTD. In general, we do not view MOUs to be agency contracts for services or require for the service to be reported, unless it is clear that a service under the MOU is provided or paid for by the State CFCIP agency.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.23 Question: If the State CFCIP agency is also responsible for administering the State's juvenile facilities and provides title IV-E funds for the juvenile delinquents in the facilities with less than 25 beds, are these youth considered to be in foster care and therefore potentially part of the baseline population? Would they be potentially part of the served population if they received independent living services?

Answer: The answer to both questions is yes. The baseline population includes youth in foster care pursuant to 45 CFR 1355.20, which includes delinquent youth who receive title IV-E foster care maintenance payments. A youth is part of the served population if the youth received at least one independent living service paid for or provided by the State during a reporting period.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.24 Question: Please clarify what constitutes a “service.” If a foster parent helps a youth write a résumé, would that count as providing the independent living service “career preparation” (data element 23)? Would it make a difference whether a foster parent spent two minutes explaining the purpose of a résumé or three hours helping a youth write a résumé? Does the service have to be curriculum-based?

Answer: Each State determines what services are included in their Independent Living Program and we have not regulated a minimum timeframe or curriculum-basis for reporting a service to NYTD. Therefore, to the extent that foster parents, as agents of the State agency, provide training or other services described in the independent living services data elements (data elements 20-33), regardless of whether these services are curriculum-based or simply provided in the home by a foster parent, States may report “yes” for data elements 20-33 as appropriate.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.25 Question: Can one independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency be counted more than once if it meets the definition of more than one independent living service data element?

Answer: It is possible that one specific independent living service may be reported in more than one service category. We did not regulate how States should decide on whether to report a service in more than one data element, but strongly suggest that the State consider the primary purpose of the service in deciding whether to report a service for more than one data element. For example, if a youth attends a class that spends an equal time on housing education and home management (data element 26) and on health education and risk prevention (data element 27), then the State could report that the youth received services under both service categories. If a youth attends a class that primarily covers budgeting and financial management (data element 25), but also briefly discusses housing education and home management (data element 27), then we expect that the State will report this service only in the budgeting and financial management category.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.26 Question: If a youth receives independent living services paid for or provided by a State CFCIP agency, and then moves to another State and receives independent living services from that State's CFCIP agency, during the same reporting period, which State reports on this youth?

Answer: Both. A youth is in the served population if he/she receives an independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency during the reporting period. If two States served a particular youth during the same reporting period, they both would report on all the relevant data elements for the particular youth including basic demographics, characteristics, and independent living services received as appropriate. It is possible for a single youth to be in more than one State's served population.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.27 Question: If one State provides Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds to a youth and another State provides other Chafee funded independent living services to the same youth, which State reports on the youth?

Answer: Both. A youth is in the served population if he/she receives an independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency during the reporting period, including education financial assistance (data element 32) such as ETV. If two States served a particular youth during the same reporting period, they both would report on all the relevant data elements for the particular youth including basic demographics, characteristics, and independent living services received as appropriate. Again, it is possible for a single youth to be in more than one State's served population.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.28 Question: Do we exclude from our NYTD reporting a youth who exits foster care before age 17, but returns to the agency to request independent living services at age 18?

Answer: Yes, the youth in question would not be a member of the baseline population because the youth exited foster care before reaching age 17. If the youth is receiving at least one independent living service paid for or provided by the State agency, however, the youth is still in the served population for that reporting period.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.29 Question: If a youth enters foster care at age 17 years, six months, then they would not be in the baseline or follow-up populations, correct?

Answer: Correct.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.30 Question: If a youth turns age 17 less than 45 days before the end of a FFY in which baseline outcomes data must be collected, then do States still report outcomes data? If yes, when does outcomes data need to be obtained?

Answer: Yes, a youth in foster care who turns age 17 **before** the end of a FFY in which baseline outcomes data must be collected is a member of the baseline population and the State is to collect youth outcomes data within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday. The State is to report the information in the report period which corresponds with the date of the outcomes data collection (i.e., data element 35).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.31 Question: If a child turns age 17 on October 2, 2010, is the child reported on in both reporting periods (October 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 and April 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011)?

Answer: Each State is to submit a single data file to ACF semiannually comprised of data on all youth in the served population, and if applicable, youth in the baseline or follow-up population (45 CFR 1356.82 and 1356.83(a) through (e)). In a year in which data collection is not required on the baseline or follow-up populations, a State must still submit to ACF a data file comprised of youth of any age who are in the served population for a report period. For the served population, as long as a youth is receiving an independent living service that is paid for or provided by the State agency in a six-month report period, then the State is required to report to ACF information on those services (45 CFR 1356.81(a) and 1356.82(a)(1)).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.32 Question: How would a State report on youth who move from their home State after being counted in the home State's baseline population?

Answer: The home State is responsible for administering the youth outcomes survey to youth in the follow-up population regardless of where the youth resides. We anticipate offering technical assistance on strategies States may employ to assist in locating youth after they leave foster care.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.33 Question: Which State reports outcomes data for an ICPC youth in the baseline or follow-up populations, the sending State or the receiving State?

Answer: The “sending” State. A youth that is included in a State's baseline population remains in that State's baseline population for the purposes of follow-up outcomes data collection. States are responsible for administering the youth outcomes survey to youth in the follow-up population regardless of where the youth resides. We anticipate offering technical assistance on strategies States may employ to assist in locating youth after they leave foster care.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.34 Question: Youth that have run away and remain missing for over six months are generally discharged from foster care. Do States still need to report on these youth and their outcomes?

Answer: It depends. If a youth on runaway status has been discharged from foster care before reaching his/her 17th birthday during a FFY in which baseline outcomes data is due, then the State is not responsible for administering the youth outcomes survey. Youth who are age 17 in the applicable fiscal year, but who have run away, are considered to be part of the baseline population if they are still under the placement and care responsibility of the State title IV-B/IV-E agency. If the youth is on runaway status at the time(s) that the State attempts outcomes data collection, the State will report the youth as having run away in the outcomes reporting status element (45 CFR 1356.83(g)(34)) to explain why that youth's information was not collected. The State would also be responsible for collecting information on the data elements relevant to a member of the served population if the youth received at least one independent living service during a reporting period.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.35 Question: If the State surveys a youth in the follow-up population in a subsequent reporting period following the reporting period in which the youth turned age 19 or 21, should the State still submit the outcomes data?

Answer: Yes. States are encouraged to submit outcomes data collected from youth in the follow-up population in a subsequent reporting period in order to maintain the continuity and completeness of the data available for current and future use. Failing to administer the youth outcomes survey to a member of the follow-up population during the reporting period in which the youth turns age 19 or 21 is out of compliance with the NYTD data collection schedule and may result in a penalty.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.36 Question: If youth that are deceased, incapacitated, or incarcerated are excluded from calculation of outcomes survey participation rate, then can the State remove these youth from the NYTD data file prior to submission to ACF?

Answer: No. The State cannot remove records for youth that are deceased, incapacitated, or incarcerated from the NYTD data file before submitting the file to ACF. For these particular subgroups, the State would report “youth incapacitated,” “incarcerated”, or “death” as appropriate for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) and these youth would be excluded by ACF from the calculation determining the State's compliance with the foster care youth participation rate and discharged youth participation rate standards. The State is still required to provide the youth's record to properly account for the experience of youth reported as in the baseline population.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.37 Question: Can you elaborate on the type of youth that will be waived from participation in the served population and the baseline population? For example, is a youth with a disability waived from the NYTD data collection requirements and/or do States have the responsibility to complete the information for them?

Answer: The term “waive” is not applicable to the NYTD. No youth may be excluded from the served population if the State pays for or provides an independent living service to that youth during a reporting period. For a youth with a disability, a State has the discretion to choose the methods, if any, by which it determines that a youth in the baseline population is unable to participate in the outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating permanent or temporary mental condition (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 1356.83(g)(34)(iv)). A State may select the method for administering the youth outcomes survey, including providing assistance in recording youth responses (i.e., filling out a survey for a youth with a disability as the youth provides responses to the survey questions). A State, however, may not supply responses to the survey questions from any source other than the youth. If a State determines that a youth is unable to participate in outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating condition, the State would report “youth incapacitated” for data element 34 and would not be responsible for reporting further outcomes information on the youth.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.38 Question: How severe must a youth's disability be to exclude them from the baseline or follow-up populations?

Answer: A State has the discretion to determine whether a youth in the baseline population is unable to participate in the outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating permanent or temporary mental condition (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 1356.83(g)(34)(iv)). If a State determines that a youth is unable to participate in outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating condition, the State would report “youth incapacitated” for data element 34 and would not be responsible for reporting further outcomes information on the youth as a member of the baseline population. Because the youth did not participate in outcomes data collection as a member of the baseline population, the youth is not a member of the follow-up population.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

1.39 Question: If a youth that receives services paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency during a reporting period is included in the served population regardless of foster

care status, then how can eligibility for Chafee services be a determinant of inclusion/exclusion?

Answer: The State does not determine the served population based on a youth's eligibility for Chafee services. Rather, the served population includes any youth who receives at least one independent living service during a reporting period regardless of any other characteristic. We acknowledge that States may restrict eligibility for independent living services to particular age groups. For the purposes of collecting data on the served population, however, we do not make a distinction between a youth that is eligible or ineligible for a State's Chafee services. (See: 45 CFR 1356.81(a))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

1.40 Question: If a youth receives independent living services paid for by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), while that youth is a TANF recipient and the Chafee agency is also the TANF agency, is this recipient part of the served population?

Answer: Yes. A youth that receives an independent living service due to the CFCIP agency's commitment of funds or resources to provide that service would be a member of the served population. Also, if a service is provided to a youth pursuant to a contract for such services between the CFCIP agency and a provider, public or private agency or any other entity, regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service, then such a youth is also a member of the served population. (See 73 FR 10340)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

1.41 Question: If a youth receives a Medicaid-funded service that falls under the independent living services category in NYTD, and is paid for using State general funds, is this recipient part of the served population?

Answer: It depends. A State must collect and report information on youth who receive an independent living service due to the State CFCIP agency's commitment of funds or resources to provide the service. It is not clear from the question whether the State CFCIP agency is committing funds or resources to provide the service. For NYTD reporting, independent living services provided to youth by the State agency pursuant to a contract for such services between the State agency and a provider, public or private agency or any other entity, regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service are included. Services that are paid for directly or indirectly by the State CFCIP agency are included as well. (See 73 FR 10340)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

1.42 Question: I understand that a State must collect outcomes information from a youth in foster care within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday during a year in which such data is due. Previously, ACF provided guidance that a baseline youth's outcomes data should be reported in the report period which corresponds with the date of outcomes data collection (data element 35). In the event that a youth's outcomes data are collected in the reporting period after the report period in which the youth turned 17, should the State also

withhold other information on that youth (i.e., basic demographic information, data element 1 – 13) until outcomes data is collected?

Answer: No. A State should report information on all data elements that apply to a youth in the baseline population during the reporting period in which the youth turns age 17 (even if a State collects outcomes data in a subsequent report period because the youth's 17th birthday fell within 45 days of the end of a report period). If the youth in the above scenario was also in the served population, the State would already have reported information on the youth's demographics, characteristics, and independent living services received as well.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

1.43 Question: If a youth is erroneously included in a State's baseline population (e.g., because of an incorrect date of birth included in the youth's record) and outcomes data is collected and reported to ACF, then is that youth a part of the State's follow-up population and should the State collect follow-up outcomes data from such a youth?

Answer: No, because the purpose of collecting outcomes data from youth in the follow-up population is to gather information that represents the collective outcomes experienced by youth at ages 19 and 21 that were formerly in foster care at age 17. In the event that a State submits erroneous information such as an incorrect birthday in a NYTD data file, a State should provide corrected information to ACF by making a subsequent data file submission. (See 45 CFR 1356.81(c))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

1.44 Question: If a youth in foster care exits to adoption after the State has included that youth in outcomes data collection as a member of the baseline population, then does that State need to survey the youth again? Is the youth included in the follow-up population?

Answer: Yes, a youth that participates in outcomes data collection as a member of the baseline population will be a member of the follow-up population, regardless of foster care status. The follow-up population is not limited to youth who are still in foster care, or who are receiving independent living services in the State at ages 19 or 21 (71 FR 40350). A State must collect outcomes data from a youth in the follow-up population during the reporting period in which the youth turns age 19 and 21.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.45 Question: If a State is unable to survey a youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday, but the State still collects and reports outcomes data to ACF, does that youth become a part of the follow-up population?

Answer: No. The definition of the follow-up population at 45 CFR 1356.81(c) only includes 19- and 21-year-old youth who participated in outcomes data collection as members of the baseline population. Consequently, if a State is unable to garner the participation of a baseline population youth in the NYTD survey within the prescribed timeframes in the NYTD regulation the youth has not "participated" in outcomes data collection as part of the baseline population (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i)) and would not be a

member of the follow-up population at ages 19 and 21. Because such a youth would not be a member of the follow-up population, the State is not required to report further outcomes information on the youth to the NYTD.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.46 Question: If a State discovers that a youth in the follow-up population is deceased when the State attempts to survey the youth at age 19, then what if any further information needs to be reported for that youth at age 21? Is the deceased youth's record excluded from subsequent reporting periods?

Answer: In the event that a youth who participated in baseline outcomes data collection dies before the State is able to administer the follow-up survey to the youth at age 19, the State must report the youth's record and information on applicable data elements (including "deceased" for data element 34 - outcomes reporting status) with the data file submission that corresponds to the reporting period in which the first follow-up survey was to be administered (73 FR 10368). Because the youth is no longer considered in the follow-up population, per previous guidance, there is nothing further that needs to be reported for such a youth at age 21 (Q&A #2.38).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.47 Question: If a youth in the baseline population participates in the NYTD survey but does not participate in the follow-up survey at age 19, then does that youth remain in the follow-up population at age 21?

Answer: A youth who participated in outcomes data collection at age 17 but not at age 19 for a reason other than being deceased remains a part of the follow-up population at age 21 (73 FR 10342).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.48 Question: The NYTD regulation notes that youth who are deceased, incapacitated or incarcerated are excluded by ACF from the calculation determining the State's compliance with the foster care youth participation rate and discharged youth participation rate standards. Are incarcerated youth in the follow-up population supposed to be excluded by the State from follow-up outcomes data collection?

Answer: No. States are required to attempt to collect information for data elements specified in sections 1356.83(b) and 1356.83(e) for each youth in the follow-up population without exception (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(3)). Per this requirement, States must still attempt to collect outcomes data from youth in the follow up population that are incarcerated, and indicate "incarcerated" for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) if their attempt was unsuccessful. Youth who are unable to be surveyed due to their incarceration will be excluded from the calculation of outcomes participation rate when ACF determines a State's compliance with NYTD standards (45 CFR 1356.85(c)(3)).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.49 Question: If a State discovers that a youth in the follow-up population is incarcerated when the State attempts to survey the youth at age 19, then what if any further information needs to be reported for that youth at age 21? Does that State still have to attempt to collect outcomes data from such a 21-year-old who was previously incarcerated and unable to participate in outcomes data collection at age 19?

Answer: As discussed in Q&A #1.48, a State must attempt to collect outcomes data for each youth in the follow-up population (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(3)). A youth who participated in outcomes data collection at age 17 but not at age 19 for a reason other than being deceased remains a part of the follow-up population at age 21 (73 FR 10342). Per data collection requirements in 45 CFR 1356.82, a State must report all applicable information on such a youth at age 21 including information on the general data elements (1-4) and demographic data elements (5-13) required for all youth reported to NYTD, information on the outcomes data elements (34-58), and information on all the data elements applicable to a youth in the served population (14-33) if the youth received an independent living service during the report period.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.50 Question: I understand that the NYTD baseline population includes tribal youth who receive title IV-E foster care maintenance payments in the placement and care of a tribal agency pursuant to a title IV-E agreement (73 FR 10340). Is a State still responsible for collecting follow-up outcomes information on such tribal youth that participated in baseline outcomes data collection but who later came under the placement and care responsibility of a Tribe at age 19?

Answer: Yes. A youth in the baseline population that participates in outcomes data collection at age 17 belongs in that same State's follow-up population for the purposes of outcomes data collection at ages 19 and 21. States are responsible for administering the youth outcomes survey to youth in the follow-up population regardless of where the youth resides or whether the youth is still under the State's placement and care responsibility (see Q&A# 1.32).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

1.51 Question: While a psychiatric hospital is not IV-E eligible and defined as "foster care" for IV-E and is not counted during a CFSR Review as a placement is it "foster care" for the purposes of NYTD if the state has placement and care responsibility?

Answer: No. NYTD regulations require title IV-E agencies to collect data and report on certain youth in foster care as it is defined in 1355.20: "24 hour substitute care for all children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility." As explained in CWPM 7.3 #1, situations exist in which a child who, while s/he may have been removed from his/her home and placed in 24 hour substitute care, is not considered to be in foster care because of the nature of the facility in which s/he is placed. In accordance with the statute, we have not considered facilities like medical or psychiatric hospitals as foster care placements. Therefore, children in these types of placements would not be considered in foster care for the purposes of NYTD.

From: Questions & Answers Released on January 13, 2011

2. DATA ELEMENTS

2.1 Question: Regarding independent living services, do you have any examples of what “other financial assistance” (data element 33) would include?

Answer: “Other financial assistance” includes any payments made or provided by the State agency to help the youth live independently (other than educational or room and board financial assistance). As we explained in the NPRM, the definition in the regulation is minimal because we do not believe we could provide an exhaustive list; however, such assistance may include payments for household expenses, subsidized transportation, or payments for business attire for job or college interviews (71 FR 40358).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

2.2 Question: Does incarceration (data element 51), i.e., whether the youth was confined for allegedly committing a crime, equate to conviction?

Answer: Not necessarily. A youth may be incarcerated after a wrongful arrest or for a minor infraction and may not be convicted (73 FR 10354). However, since the statute requires that we measure incarceration as an outcome (section 477(f)(1)(A) of the Act), we have used the term to describe a youth who has been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a misdemeanor or felony crime.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

2.3 Question: Since age is a primary variable determining the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) reporting populations, what is the implication of an incorrect date of birth (data element 4) that, once corrected, would include or exclude a child from one of the reporting populations? How would this impact data element 35?

Answer: A State that reports an incorrect date of birth for a youth risks committing errors in the State's data file submission and, consequently, could be subject to penalties for noncompliance.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.4 Question: If a foster parent provides some type of transitioning service (i.e., dishwashing or opening a checking account), whether or not the youth was in the Independent Living Program, do these services “count” for data elements relating to independent living services (data elements 20-33) even if they are not paid for with Chafee funds?

Answer: Data elements 20-33 collect information on independent living services “paid for or provided by the State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) agency” during the reporting period regardless of whether these services are paid for with Chafee funds. If a foster parent provides training or other services described in the independent living services data elements (data elements 20-33), regardless of whether the youth receiving these services is considered part of or eligible for the State's Independent Living Program, then the State may consider that a service provided by the State CFCIP agency.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.5 Question: Our State provides transportation assistance for employment for three months. Without transportation assistance, youth would not be able to access their jobs. Do any of the NYTD data elements capture information on this service?

Answer: Yes. If a State CFCIP agency pays for or provides financial assistance to a youth for transportation, a State may capture this information in data element 33 (other financial assistance).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.6 Question: The AFCARS data elements for race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity include “unable to determine” as a valid response option. Would we expand the possible race/ethnicities to include both “unknown” (for AFCARS purposes) and “declined” (for NYTD purposes) then map them to “unable to determine” for AFCARS and map them singularly for NYTD?

Answer: The NYTD definition of “unknown” encompasses two situations in which it can be used. One situation would be mapped to AFCARS and the other would not. In order to make the response option of “unknown” more meaningful to the worker, the State may want to consider alternate terminology. One example might be “incapacitated” and “multi-racial-other race not known.” These would then map in NYTD to “unknown.” For AFCARS reporting purposes:

- If a child, youth, or parent is incapacitated and unable to provide the worker with race information, the worker would select “incapacitated/unknown.” This value would be mapped to the AFCARS value “unable to determine.”
- If a person is multi-racial, but does not know the other race(s), the worker would select “multi-racial-other race not known/unknown.” This value would then be mapped to blank and only the known race would be reported in AFCARS.

Current AFCARS reporting allows for States to report “unable to determine” when an individual declines to provide either their race or ethnic origin. Many States have changed the values that workers have to select from “unable to determine” to both “abandoned” and “declined.” These options then map to the AFCARS value of “unable to determine.”

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.7 Question: Regarding data element 15 (local agency), if a youth is in foster care but receives services from a “centralized unit,” what is meant by “centralized unit”? Does a centralized unit have a FIPS code?

Answer: “Centralized unit” was provided as a response option in data element 15 to indicate that a youth who is not in foster care receives services from a centralized unit, rather than a county agency. If a State reports that a youth was served by a centralized unit, there is no FIPS code to report.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.8 Question: If a youth in the served population was an adjudicated delinquent (data element 17) during the reporting period, but not at the time the data was captured, is that youth classified as delinquent?

Answer: Yes. States report in data element 17 whether or not a youth in the served population has ever been an adjudicated delinquent by a State or Federal court of competent jurisdiction.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.9 Question: Are adjudicated delinquents in the served population counted as such if they were ever an adjudicated delinquent (data element 17), or if they were only an adjudicated delinquent during the reporting period?

Answer: Data element 17 captures information on whether or not a youth in the served population was ever adjudicated as a delinquent by a State or Federal court of competent jurisdiction.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.10 Question: If a youth drops out of school after completing 10th grade and at age 19 he/she is working on completion of his General Equivalency Degree (GED) during a reporting period, then what does the State report for data element 18 (education level) and data element 46 (highest education certification received)?

Answer: If the youth in question received at least one independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency during the reporting period, the State would report “10th grade” for data element 18 because this is the highest educational level completed by the youth. If the youth in question was a member of the follow-up population, then the State would report the youth's response to the survey question relevant to data element 46.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.11 Question: If at age 21 the same youth has received his GED, and is at the end of his second year of this Associate's degree program during a reporting period, then what does the State report for data element 18 (education level) and data element 46 (highest education certification received)?

Answer: If the youth in question received at least one independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency during the reporting period, then the State would report “college” for data element 18 because this is the highest educational level completed by the youth. Data element 18 defines the response option “college” as completing at least one semester of study at a college or university. If the youth in question was a member of the follow-up population, then the State would report the youth's response to the survey question relevant to data element 46.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.12 Question: If a youth received special education services such as tutoring from the State CFCIP agency and not from the youth's school, would the State report “yes” for data element 19 (special education status)?

Answer: No. Data element 19 (special education status) refers to whether a youth in the served population is receiving specifically designed instruction, at no costs to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. This data element does not refer to a specific independent living service paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency, but rather is meant to provide information on a particular characteristic of youth.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.13 Question: For data element 21 (academic support), does it count as a “service” every time a foster parent helps a youth with homework?

Answer: Yes. If a foster parent provides academic support as described in data element 21 to assist a youth in completing high school or obtaining a GED during the reporting period, a State may indicate “yes” for data element 21.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.14 Question: If a caseworker talks to a youth about college, does this count as the independent living service “post-secondary education support” (data element 22)?

Answer: It depends. Post-secondary educational support as defined at 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(22) must involve a service aimed at assisting a youth to enter or complete college. To the extent that a caseworker's conversation with a youth involves assisting that youth to enter or complete college, a State may indicate “yes” for data element 22.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.15 Question: Regarding data element 24 (employment programs or vocational training), I understand that we are only to report on the job programs that the State agency places/finds for a youth, but doesn't this preclude any data on those youth who find work on their own? Without also tracking this, we cannot relate their positive outcomes to these jobs.

Answer: Data element 24—employment programs and vocational training—captures information on the State agency's efforts to build a youth's skills for a specific trade, vocation, or career through classes or on-site training. This includes employment programs a State identifies for the youth such as apprenticeships, internships, or summer employment programs. Jobs secured by the youth alone are not included in the data element definition because they are not part of a service provided by the State agency. The youth outcomes survey, however, does capture information on a youth's employment status (data elements 37 and 38) regardless of whether the State agency has assisted the youth in preparing for or securing employment.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.16 Question: If State CFCIP agency staff offer budgeting and financial management coaching as part of regular case management, does this cover the independent living service described in data element 25 (budget and financial management)?

Answer: Yes. If State CFCIP agency staff provided the service, then the State would report “yes” for data element 25 (budget and financial management).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.17 Question: Our State has a partnership with the cooperative extension program that offers budgeting and financial management training to youth in foster care. We are going to use Chafee funding to provide food for the youth attending this training as well as to provide an incentive for youth to attend the classes. The agency will also ensure that the youth are transported to the classes by foster parents, residential staff, or paid transportation providers. Does this count as providing the independent living service “budgeting and financial management” (data element 25)?

Answer: No. Because the budgeting and financial management training described in the example above is provided by a partnership, and is not actually paid for or provided by the State CFCIP agency, we do not consider it a service for NYTD reporting purposes.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.18 Question: In our State, we have arranged for volunteers to provide free budget and financial literacy classes. The State CFCIP agency provides the site, transportation, food, materials and equipment using Chafee funds. Does this meet the definition of an independent living service?

Answer: We do not have sufficient information to answer this question. We are interested in a State collecting and reporting information on youth who receive an independent living service due to the State agency's commitment of funds or resources to provide the service. Independent living services that are arranged or brokered by the State agency are too far removed from the statutory mandate to collect data on youth served under the CFCIP.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.19 Question: If the State CFCIP agency pays for or provides screened and trained mentors to youth, but they do not meet face-to-face (interaction through a monitored portal via the internet), then would the State be able to report “yes” for data element 29 (mentoring)?

Answer: Yes. If the mentoring service otherwise meets the definition of “mentoring” as described in 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(29), then mentoring meetings conducted via the Internet are acceptable.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.20 Question: Our State contracts and pays transitional living programs that provide minimal supervision 24 hours a day, seven days a week for our youth, but they also provide youth with opportunities for increased responsibilities. Would the transitional living programs we contract with count as a “supervised independent living” (data element 30)?

Answer: It depends. Supervised independent living, as defined in data element 30, means that a youth is not supervised 24-hours a day by an adult. Transitional living programs vary in their service delivery as well as level of supervision provided to the youth. However, as we understand transitional living programs, they offer a supervised living arrangement with less than 24-hour a day supervision by an adult and increased youth responsibilities. If this is the case here, then the State could count the transitional living program as supervised independent living. Further, we clarified in the preamble to the final rule (73 FR 10349) that the State would report “yes” for youth participating in the Federal transitional living program as long as the youth's participation in the program is paid for or provided by the State agency and is otherwise consistent with the regulatory description.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.21 Question: We could not locate an ILP service type where transportation costs would fit—is there a data element or data elements that specifically capture information on these costs?

Answer: It depends. If a State CFCIP agency pays for or provides financial assistance to a youth for transportation, a State may capture this information in data element 33 (other financial assistance).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.22 Question: How would a State respond to data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) if a caseworker fails to survey a 19- or 21-year-old youth in the follow-up population?

Answer: If the State fails to survey a youth in the follow-up population during the six-month reporting period in which a youth turns age 19 or 21, then the State would report “unable to locate/invite” for data element 34.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.23 Question: If the State reports data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) as “youth declined,” then what is reported for data element 35 (date of outcome data collection)?

Answer: Nothing. If a youth declines to participate in the outcomes survey, then the State would leave data element 35 blank because reporting the date of outcome data collection only applies when the youth responds to the outcomes survey questions (data elements 38-56).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.24 Question: Why only collect data on full- and part-time employment (data elements 37 and 38)? What if a youth makes a livable wage working part-time?

Answer: In drafting the proposed rule and after considering public comments on data elements 37 and 38, we concluded that more detailed data on employment status is not central to the purposes of the NYTD. Even though we are not requiring more detailed employment data such as hours worked or wages earned, States may report information in other elements that may provide additional context on a youth's financial self-sufficiency (data elements 39-45).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.25 Question: Allowing States to count a previous caseworker as a “connection to an adult” (data element 48) may misrepresent whether the youth has a long lasting connection to an adult who will be there for the youth after they are no longer employed to do so. If States are allowed discretion in determining whether a youth's connection to a caseworker counts as “yes” to data element 48, then there will be inconsistencies.

Answer: Like all of the NYTD youth outcomes survey questions, it is up to the youth to determine whether he or she has positive connection to a former helping professional. The State does not have discretion to make this determination on the youth's behalf. While current caseworkers are excluded from the data element description for “connection to an adult,” a youth who reports a connection (as described in data element definition) to a former caseworker could report “yes” for data element 48.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.26 Question: Would a current Chafee-funded outreach worker be considered allowable as a “connection to an adult” (data element 48) if the outreach worker is not the youth's caseworker?

Answer: No, not if the Chafee-funded outreach worker is a current State agency employee (45 CFR 1356.83(g)(48)).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.27 Question: If a youth in the follow-up population indicates having been homeless (data element 49), would there be a need to know if they received public assistance while homeless?

Answer: No. Data element 49 relates to the youth's experiences with homelessness. For the purposes of reporting on data element 49 for a youth in the follow-up population, a youth is considered to have experienced homelessness if the youth had no regular or adequate place to live in the past two years. Whether or not the youth received public assistance during his or her experiences with homelessness is beyond the scope of this data element. The youth's receipt of public assistance is captured in separate outcome data elements (42-44).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.28 Question: Regarding data element 49 and the definition of homelessness, what is an “adequate” place to live?

Answer: We define “homeless” as having “no regular or adequate place to live.” This definition includes situations where the youth is living in a car, on the street, or staying in a homeless shelter.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.29 Question: For data element 51 (incarceration), should we ask if the youth was ever convicted?

Answer: No. Data element 51 indicates whether the youth in the baseline population has ever been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a misdemeanor or felony regardless of conviction. For a youth in the follow-up population, data element 51 indicates whether the youth has been confined to a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a misdemeanor or felony regardless of conviction in the past two years. The youth's conviction is beyond the scope of this data collection.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.30 Question: As written, data element 51 (incarceration) does not ask about the youth's experience. If the intent of data element 51 is to capture the “trauma” related to incarceration, can the question be reworded to reflect that?

Answer: The survey question collecting information on data element 51 (incarceration) cannot be reworded. Data element 51 addresses the statutory requirement to develop outcome measures pertaining to incarceration and high-risk behaviors.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.31 Question: What do States report for data element 52 (children) if a youth indicates that he doesn't know whether or not he has fathered a child?

Answer: The State should direct the youth to answer the question with one of the valid response options for data element 52, which are “yes,” “no” or “declined” as “do not know” is not a valid response. If a youth is not declining to respond, then the only choices remaining are “yes” or “no.” Regardless, it is the youth's response that the State must report.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.32 Question: If a youth in the baseline or follow-up populations has children by more than one father, but is married to one of them, then what does the State report for data element 53 (marriage at child's birth)?

Answer: It depends. Data element 53 (marriage at child's birth) asks whether the youth was married to the child's other parent at the time of the child's birth. So, if the youth was married to either of her child's fathers when either of the children was born, then the youth could report “yes.” Regardless, the State should direct the youth to answer the question with one of the valid response options for data element 53.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

2.33 Question: How should a State report race data on a youth that does not know their race?

Answer: If a youth does not know one or more of his or her races, then the State may consult a parent if available to collect this information. If race data still cannot be obtained, the State reports “yes” for data element 11 (race – unknown).

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.34 Question: Do States need to ask youth to report their race (data elements 6-12) or ethnicity (data element 13) if those data have already been self-reported in SACWIS?

Answer: No. If a youth’s race and ethnicity information is already available in a State’s child welfare information system (i.e., collected for foster care purposes), the State does not need to collect the data again. However, the State may want to confirm with the youth that this information is accurate.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.35 Question: What happens when there is a disparity between information existing in AFCARS and the information provided to NYTD? For example, what happens when a youth’s race is entered as “White” in AFCARS, however it is reported in NYTD as “Asian”?

Answer: There are no comparisons made between information on race reported to both AFCARS and NYTD for an individual youth for compliance purposes. However, the consequence of such a discrepancy is that neither the State nor the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) would have reliable information on a youth’s race information. We required States to use the same unique personal identification number for a youth reported in both the AFCARS and NYTD data sets so that there could be consistent reporting of youth that are involved in States’ child welfare systems in regard to demographic information. Consistent reporting of such information enables us to analyze the information related to a youth's foster care experiences reported to AFCARS along with their service and/or outcomes information reported to NYTD. To support this goal, we urge States to establish protocols for identifying and resolving such discrepancies prior to submitting data to ACF. (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(3))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.36 Question: My State’s Independent Living Program provides a stipend to youth who age out of foster care. Youth can choose to spend the stipend on such expenses as housing, education, food, etc. Under which NYTD independent living service category is this stipend reported?

Answer: If a general stipend or other payment is provided to the youth to assist that youth in living independently, a State would report that as “other financial assistance” (data element 33). (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(33))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.37 Question: NYTD data elements 34 (outcomes reporting status), 35 (date of outcome data collection) and 36 (foster care status-outcomes) are technically complex. States would benefit greatly from Federal guidance similar to the technical bulletins for AFCARS. Does

such guidance currently exist or can States expect any in the near future? Having technical guidance on these three data elements would be extremely useful to the technical team on the development of the extraction protocol for the data from the new SACWIS.

Answer: States may review further guidance on these data elements in questions and answers previously published by the Children's Bureau at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/nytd-guidance>. In addition, the Children's Bureau intends to issue further guidance on these and other data elements in a number of ways. First, the *NYTD User's Guide*, released by the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology in draft in June 2009, provides an element-by-element listing of the NYTD data set, including all acceptable response options and compliance standards (See <http://www.nrcwdt.org/nytd>). Second, future NYTD technical bulletins related to data file extraction, structure, transmission, and compliance standards will also address some of technical concerns surrounding data elements 34-36. We will keep States apprised of the development and release of these technical bulletins.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.38 Question: The response option “not in sample” for “outcomes reporting status” (data element 34) is used to indicate that a 19-year-old youth who participated in the baseline outcome survey is not in the follow-up sample. What, if any, information is required to be reported to NYTD for a 21-year-old young adult who participated in the baseline survey but is not in the follow-up sample?

Answer: For all data elements applicable to the NYTD follow-up population, there is nothing that needs to be reported to ACF for the 21-year-old in the example above. If the 21-year-old in this example is receiving independent living services, however, then the State is still responsible for reporting information on the data elements relevant to the served population. (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(34)); 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(3); 45 CFR 1356.82(b))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.39 Question: For the baseline and follow-up populations, if the date for element 35 (date of outcome data collection) is greater than the date required (i.e., for baseline greater than 45 days after the youth's 17th birthday), does the State still include the record in our NYTD file?

Answer: Yes. A State must report all applicable data elements for an individual youth in a single record per report period. If a State is unable to gather outcomes information from a youth in the baseline or follow-up population in accordance with NYTD standards, a State must still include the youth's record because information on all other applicable data elements is still required to be reported. (See 45 CFR 1356.83(f))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.40 Question: Is data element 40 (Social Security) intended to capture information on a youth's receipt of Social Security survivor's benefits?

Answer: Data element 40 (Social Security) collects information on whether a youth is receiving Social Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance, either directly or as a beneficiary. States are not required to include information regarding receipt of Social Security survivor's benefits in data collection. (See 73 FR 10351 and 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(40))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.41 Question: Appendix A of the NYTD regulation indicates that data elements 42-44 pertain to the “follow-up population not in foster care.” Would you please clarify which reporting populations are included in NYTD data elements 42-44?

Answer: Data elements 42 (public financial assistance), 43 (public food assistance) and 44 (public housing assistance) capture information about a youth's use of public assistance. States must report information on these data elements for all youth in both the baseline and follow-up populations. “Not applicable” is the appropriate value to report for those youth that are still in foster care. (See 45 CFR 1356.83(d) and 45 CFR 1356.83(e))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.42 Question: If the appropriate response to data elements 42-44 for youth still in foster care is “not applicable,” does the State still have to ask the survey questions related to these data elements?

Answer: No.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.43 Question: For element 55 (other health insurance coverage), what is the meaning of the response option “not applicable”? What specifically is the distinction between the meanings of response options “no” and “not applicable” for data element 55 for a youth that reports that he/she is receiving Medicaid (data element 54)?

Answer: We erred in listing “not applicable” as a valid response option for data element 55. In the regulation, we explained that a response option of “not applicable” for data element 55 (health insurance type – medical) meant a youth was participating in Medicaid and no other third party pays coverage for health insurance. We believe that if a youth reports “yes” for the survey question related to data element 54 (Medicaid) and “no” for data element 55 (health insurance type – medical), then this is sufficient information to identify youth who solely participate in Medicaid for health insurance coverage. The valid response options for data element 55 are “yes,” “no,” “don't know,” or “declined.” (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(55))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.44 Question: In Appendix B of the NYTD regulation, “no” is not listed as a valid response under data element 56 (health insurance type – medical). Is this a typographical error?

Answer: Yes. The valid response options for data element 56 (health insurance type – medical) should be identical to those listed in the regulation text at 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(56), which includes the response option of “no.”

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.45 Question: For elements 56 through 58, what does the response option “not applicable” mean?

Answer: Like all the youth outcome survey questions, the State will report the youth’s response to the question relevant to data elements 56 (health insurance type - medical), 57 (health insurance type - mental health) and 58 (health insurance type - prescription drugs). For these elements, “not applicable” means that the youth did not indicate having health insurance coverage in data element 55 (other health insurance coverage) (73 FR 10370).

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

2.46 Question: What is the difference between the response options “college” and “post-secondary education or training” for data element 18 (educational level)?

Answer: “Postsecondary education or training” refers to any post-secondary education or training, other than an education pursued at a college or university. “College” refers to completing at least a semester of study at a college or university (73 FR 10366; 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(18)).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.47 Question: Could you provide more clarity about what constitutes “special education” for data element 19? Would you consider a youth who receives assistance with a hearing disability in college as in “special education”? Does it matter who pays for the special education services?

Answer: The definition of special education for the purposes of data element 19 is consistent with the definition in 20 U.S.C. 1401(25) meaning “specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability,” including “instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings” as well as “instruction in physical education.” The intended population for special education under this definition is limited to children with disabilities receiving free public education; therefore, youth in college would not be included.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.48 Question: If a child was given an independent living needs assessment (data element 20) once, may the State continue to report “yes” for data element 20 in subsequent reporting periods for NYTD? Is the State required to administer such an assessment every reporting period?

Answer: An independent living needs assessment (data element 20) is considered an independent living service for NYTD purposes. Consequently, like all independent living

services (data elements 20-33), the State is required, per 1356.83(a) and (c), to report when a youth in the served population receives an independent living needs assessment during the six-month reporting period. There is no requirement to administer an independent living needs assessment every reporting period.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.49 Question: What does “financial assistance” include? Does this include TANF, food stamps, adult disability services, other funding to cover necessities beyond a foster care maintenance payment?

Answer: It is not clear from the question which NYTD data element is being referenced, however we believe that the question is regarding “other financial assistance” (data element 33). Under this data element, States are to report any other type of financial assistance that the CFCIP agency provides to a youth in order to help the youth transition from foster care to self sufficiency, including payments for household expenses, subsidized transportation, or payments for business attire or college interviews (71 FR 40358). Other data elements are designated for States to capture whether 19- and 21-year-old youth are receiving other types of assistance mentioned above, including TANF assistance (data element 42, “public financial assistance”) and food stamps (data element 43, “public food assistance”) (45 CFR 1356.83(g)).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.50 Question: Our State is planning to send the NYTD survey to a youth’s email or home address. In the event that a survey is not completed and returned, should the State default “youth declined” for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) or is this a response that may only be entered by the youth? Similarly, if a survey is sent to a youth but is returned as "undeliverable" through regular mail or via email, would data element 34 then be coded as "unable to locate/invite"?

Answer: While the NYTD regulation does not prescribe any specific method of survey administration (73 FR 10343), States are encouraged to use a mode of administration and youth engagement that is likely to garner the participation of a maximum number of youth in the baseline and follow-up populations (See Q&A #3.11 and the technical assistance document *Planning for the Mode of Administration for the Youth Outcome Survey* available at <http://www.nrccwdt.org>).

The practice of “defaulting”; that is, automatically converting missing data for an element into a valid response option, is not an accepted practice since defaulting may result in a misleading and inaccurate account of the information or lack of information collected (73 FR 10359). Consequently, in the event that a youth does not return a survey delivered by mail or email or if such a survey is returned as undeliverable by an email service or a postal service, the State should attempt to contact the youth and collect these data. Then, a State may indicate accurately in data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) whether the youth participated in the survey, whether the youth did not participate because they declined (“youth declined” for data element 34), or whether the youth was unable to be located or invited by the State (“unable to locate/invite” for data element 34).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.51 Question: If a youth agrees to complete the NYTD survey but then ends up declining to answer every question, should the State report “youth declined” or “youth participated” for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status)?

Answer: A youth in the baseline or follow-up population who does not provide a valid answer to at least one NYTD survey question is not considered to have “participated” in outcomes data collection (45 CFR 1356.81(c)). A State is to report “youth declined” for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) in this scenario.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.52 Question: How should States handle a situation in which a youth begins taking a survey but is not able to ultimately complete all the questions (e.g., due to death, incarceration, refusal to continue participation, etc.)? Would the State simply report the unanswered questions as blanks or mark them as “declined?” What would a State report for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) in this situation?

Answer: If a youth in the baseline or follow-up population provides a valid answer to at least one NYTD survey question, then the youth is considered to have “participated” in outcomes data collection (data element 34 – outcomes reporting status) (45 CFR 1356.81(c)). We recognize a distinction between questions that a youth declines to answer and questions that a youth has not had an opportunity to answer. Therefore, the State must report blanks for the outcomes data elements (37-58) that correspond to the survey questions a youth has not had an opportunity to answer (i.e., due to death, incapacitation or incarceration) (73 FR 10361) and a State is to report “declined” for the outcomes data elements (37-58) that correspond to the survey questions a youth does not answer because he/she refuses to continue participation in the survey (73 FR 10342)

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.53 Question: If we collect survey information in person from a youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth’s 17th birthday, then can we enter it into our child welfare information system at a later date? If so, which of these dates counts as the “date of outcomes data collection (data element 35)?

Answer: A State may collect outcomes data from a youth and then enter the data into the child welfare information system at a later date. The date provided in data element 35 corresponds to the latest date in which outcomes data was collected from a youth and not the date in which the data was entered into the child welfare information system (45 CFR 1356.83(35)). However, a State must still meet the reporting requirements related to youth in the baseline population found at 45 CFR 1356.83.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.54 Question: For a youth in the baseline or follow-up population, a State must report the youth’s foster care status (data element 36) at the time of outcomes data collection. How does the State determine the appropriate value (“yes” or “no”) for data element 36 if no

outcomes data was ultimately collected from the youth because the State was unable to administer the survey?

Answer: States are to report in data element 36 (foster care status – outcomes) whether the youth is in foster care on the date of outcomes data collection (45 CFR 1356.83(g)(36)). The appropriate response must therefore correspond with the point in time at which the State determines a response to data element 34 (outcomes reporting status). If and when the State determines that the youth will not participate in outcomes data collection (a response other than "youth participated" for data element 34), then the appropriate response to element 36 ("yes" or "no") can be established.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.55 Question: Previously, ACF has clarified that a State must collect outcomes information from a youth in foster care within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday during a year in which such data is due and should report these outcome data in the report period which corresponds with the date of outcomes data collection (data element 35) (See 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i) and NYTD Q&A #1.30 and #1.42). Please provide additional guidance on what specifically a State should report for data elements 34, 35, and 36 for such a youth for the report period in which the youth turned age 17.

Answer: As discussed in Q&A #1.42, in the event that a baseline youth's 17th birthday falls within 45 days of the end of a reporting period (e.g., March 15, 2011) and the State collects outcomes data from the youth in the subsequent reporting period (e.g., April 30, 2011), the State is to report the youth's record in the data file submission that corresponds with the report period in which the youth turned age 17. Per 45 CFR 1356.82, the data file submission would contain the following information:

- Information on the general data elements (1-4) and demographic data elements (5-13) required for all youth reported to NYTD; and
- Information on all the data elements applicable to a youth in the served population (14-33) if the youth received an independent living service during the report period.

The State is to leave data elements 34 – 58 blank in this youth's record until outcomes data can be collected from the youth in the subsequent report period.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.56 Question: If a youth in the baseline population completes the NYTD survey more than 45 days after the youth's 17th birthday, then what should the State report for data elements 34, 35, and 36?

Answer: States are required to collect outcomes information from youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i)). In a previous Q&A (#5.9) we clarified that States are encouraged to submit outcomes data collected from youth in the baseline population after the 45-day timeframe following the youth's 17th birthday provided that: 1) the youth is still in foster care, 2) the youth is still

age 17, and 3) the data is collected in time to be transmitted to the Administration for Children and Families with a State's data file submission that corresponds with the report period immediately following the end of a Fiscal Year in which baseline data is scheduled to be collected. In this event, such a State would report “youth participated” for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status), the last date outcomes data was collected for data element 35 (date of outcomes data collection) and “yes” for data element 36 (foster care status – outcomes), along with the youth’s outcomes information (data elements 37-58).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

2.57 Question: I understand that if a youth responds “no” to the survey question that corresponds to data element 52 (children), the State is to report “not applicable” for the survey question that corresponds to data element 53 (marriage at child’s birth). What is the appropriate response for data element 53 if a youth declines to answer the survey question that corresponds to data element 52 (children)?

Answer: In 45 CFR 1356, Appendix B, the survey question that corresponds to data element 53 (marriage at child’s birth) indicates that the question applies only to youth that answered “yes” to the previous survey question (73 FR 10377). Therefore, unless a youth reports having given birth or fathered any children that were born (“yes” for data element 52), the State is to report “not applicable” for data element 53 (marriage at child’s birth).

From: Questions & Answers Released on January 13, 2011

2.58 Question: I understand that if a youth responds “no” to the survey question that corresponds to data element 55 (other health insurance coverage), the State is to report “not applicable” for the survey questions that correspond to data element 56-58 (health insurance types). In the event that a youth declines to answer the question corresponding to data element 55, is it appropriate for a State to default “declined” for each of data elements 56-58?

Answer: It is not an appropriate practice for a State to default “declined” as a response to a NYTD survey question if the youth has not had an opportunity to answer such a question. In 45 CFR 1356, Appendix B, the survey question that corresponds to data element 56 (Health insurance type-medical) indicates that the question is for only those youth that answered “yes” to having health insurance coverage in the previous survey question (73 FR 10377). Therefore, unless a youth reports “yes” to element 55 (Other health insurance coverage), the State is to report “not applicable” for data elements 56-58).

From: Questions & Answers Released on January 13, 2011

2.59 Question: In the event that a youth reports “I don’t know” as an answer to the survey question that corresponds to data element 55 (other health insurance coverage), should the State automatically report “I don’t know” for each of data elements 56-58 (health insurance types)?

Answer: No. The data elements and corresponding survey questions and response options regarding health insurance types were included to solicit all types of insurance types the youth has. In 45 CFR 1356, Appendix B, the survey question that corresponds to

data element 56 (Health insurance type-medical) indicates that the question is for only those youth that answered “yes” to having health insurance coverage in the previous survey question (73 FR 10377). Therefore, unless a youth reports “yes” to element 55 (Other health insurance coverage), the State is to report “not applicable” for data elements 56-58).

From: Questions & Answers Released on January 13, 2011

2.60 Question: Previously, ACF has provided States guidance on how to report the records of baseline youth whose 17th birthdays fall within 45 days of the end of a reporting period but who are not surveyed until the subsequent reporting period (see NYTD Q&A #2.55). Should States follow this same guidance when reporting on baseline youth whose 17th birthdays occur more than 45 days from the end of a reporting period but who may not be surveyed until the subsequent reporting period? For example, a baseline youth turns age 17 on November 1, 2010 but is not able to complete the survey until April 15, 2011. How should the record of such a youth be reported in the 2011A and 2011B data submission?

Answer: As explained in NYTD Q&A #5.9, we encourage States to collect and report data to ACF even if the State is unable to garner the participation of a youth in the baseline population within the timeframes required by the NYTD regulation (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i) and (ii)). If, however, the State is reporting on a baseline youth who turned age 17 more than 45 days from the end of a reporting period but who was not surveyed during that report period, the State should indicate the reason outcomes data were not collected (a valid response for element 34 - outcomes reporting status) and the foster care status of the youth (element 36) in the corresponding data file submission (e.g., the 2011A data submission from the example provided in the question) at minimum. If the State collects outcomes data from this baseline youth in the report period immediately following the report period in which the youth turned age 17 (e.g., the 2011B data submission from the example provided in the question), the State should report these data in the corresponding data submission by indicating the appropriate valid responses for elements 34-58. A summary of the guidance is shown below:

Summary: Reporting the record of a baseline youth who turned age 17 more than 45 days from the end of the 2011A period and is surveyed in the 2011B period.

In the 2011A data submission, the State reports the youth's record with data elements 1-13, 34 (indicate the reason the youth did not participate with the appropriate valid value), 36 and any applicable data elements if the youth was also in the served population (elements 14-33).

In the 2011B data submission, State reports the youth's record with data elements 1-13, 34 (indicate that the youth participated), 35-58 and any applicable data elements if the youth was also in the served population (elements 14-33).

From: Questions & Answers released on May 24, 2011

2.61 Question: How are we to report element 36 (foster care status-outcomes) for youth in the follow-up population who are between the ages of 18 and 19 and for whom the State may

be extending title IV-E assistance as elected in the State's title IV-A plan for AFDC? Do you consider these youth to be in foster care for NYTD purposes?

Answer: Yes. NYTD regulations at 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(36) require States to collect and report data on youth in foster care as defined in 45 CFR 1355.20.

From: Questions & Answers Released on July 15, 2013

2.62 Question: How should a state report element 15 (local agency) for a youth in the served population who has been served by two different jurisdictions in the same report period? Specifically, how should a state address situations in which:

A youth not in foster care is served by two jurisdictions in the same report period?

A youth in foster care who leaves placement and care and receives services subsequently from another jurisdiction in the same report period?

Answer: The preamble to the NYTD Final Rule indicates that one major distinction for determining the local agency in element 15 is the youth's foster care status (73 FR 10346.) The preamble indicates that if a youth is in foster care, the state must report the jurisdiction of the agency that has primary responsibility for the youth's placement and care. If the youth is not in foster care, the state is to report the jurisdiction that has primary responsibility for providing services to the youth. The NYTD regulation does not contemplate situations where a state is unable to determine which jurisdiction has primary responsibility for providing services to a youth. Please see guidance below for reporting element 15 under specific circumstances:

A youth not in foster care served by two jurisdictions – In this situation, we recommend that the state report the FIPS code of the county/jurisdiction that most recently provided services to the youth.

A youth in foster care who leaves placement and care and receives services subsequently from another jurisdiction in the same report period – In this situation, we recommend that the state report the FIPS code of the county/jurisdiction that most recently provided services to the youth regardless of whether that agency had placement and care responsibility of the youth.

From: Questions & Answers Released on June 17, 2014

3. YOUTH OUTCOME SURVEY

3.1 Question: In the original 17-year-old sample, how much can we screen youth for cognitive difficulties that would prevent them from completing the survey?

Answer: A State has the discretion to choose the methods, if any, by which it determines that a youth in the baseline population is unable to participate in the outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating permanent or temporary mental condition (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 1356.83(g)(34)(iv)). The extent to which a State reports youth as not participated in the outcomes data collection, due to incapacitation or other reasons, is an area that the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) plans to monitor to provide any additional technical guidance, as needed.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

3.2 Question: If youth in foster care on runaway status are to be included in the baseline population, how does a State survey runaway youth?

Answer: Youth who have run away in foster care are considered to be part of the baseline population if they are still under the placement and care responsibility of the State title IV-B/IV-E agency. If the youth is on runaway status at the time(s) that the State attempts outcomes data collection, the State will report the youth as having run away in the outcomes reporting status element (45 CFR 1356.83(g)(34)) to explain why that youth's information was not collected.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

3.3 Question: How do States survey youth in the baseline population?

Answer: A State has the discretion to choose the method(s) it will use to administer the outcomes survey to youth (e.g., in person, via the Internet or over the phone) provided that the survey is administered to youth directly. We anticipate providing technical assistance to States in devising effective methods of administering the youth outcomes survey.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.4 Question: Can we alter the survey verbiage in Appendix B to make the survey more “youth friendly” or must we use the language listed in the regulation?

Answer: No. We choose to regulate the survey questions to ensure that each youth is provided with standard questions and response options so we can allow for consistency of the data collection nationwide. States must collect information on the youth outcome survey data elements using the survey questions in Appendix B of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) regulation and may not alter these questions in any way. It is allowable, however, for a State to use “youth friendly” language in explaining the survey questions if the youth indicates they are unclear. We anticipate providing technical assistance and further guidance on how States may best administer the survey to youth to minimize non-response bias and measurement error.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.5 Question: If a youth that is eligible for Chafee receives services through either Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Title XX for teen parent services or homelessness, would those services be counted in the survey data?

Answer: It is not clear whether the question refers to youth that are in the served population or the baseline and follow-up populations. For the served population, we are requiring States to collect and report information on youth who receive an independent living service due to the State agency's direct or indirect commitment of funds or resources to provide the service. Services provided due to another State program's commitment of funds or resources do not count as a service provided by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) agency. For the outcomes data collection, the State will report the youth's response to the survey questions. It is possible that a youth may report receiving services funded by TANF or Title XX in response to some of the outcome survey questions.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.6 Question: If a youth in the baseline or follow-up populations indicates in the outcomes survey that he/she is not receiving a particular service or benefit (data elements 37-58), can the State consult other administrative data systems to confirm whether the youth is in fact receiving a benefit or service (i.e., food stamps, Medicaid, etc.)?

Answer: No, not for the purposes of NYTD. States must administer the survey to youth directly and may not provide information on outcomes data elements from any other source including administrative databases, such as TANF, Social Security, or employment records (73 FR 10350).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.7 Question: If a SACWIS State has an interface with the Medicaid database, should data element 54 (Medicaid) be reported from the information received through the Medicaid database or through the youth's self-report?

Answer: No. The outcomes data for this element must be based on the youth's self-report. Again, States must administer the survey to youth directly and may not provide information on outcomes data elements from any other source including the State's Medicaid data system (73 FR 10350). We also added a response option of "don't know" to data elements 54-58 to permit the youth to identify the types of health insurance that he/she knows and does not know about.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.8 Question: If the youth indicates in the outcomes survey that he is still in foster care, is under age 19, and does not have Medicaid but the State knows he does have Medicaid, should the answer to survey question be "yes" or "no"?

Answer: States must administer the survey to youth directly and may not provide information on outcomes data elements from any other source including the State's Medicaid data system (73 FR 10350). A State must report the answer provided by the youth. Also, a State is responsible for determining and reporting whether a youth in the

baseline or follow-up population is in foster care. Please note that while there is a foster care status data element for the baseline and follow-up populations, there is not a survey question related to foster care status.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.9 Question: What about verification of youth responses for youths who are not truthful?

Answer: The goal of the youth outcome survey is to collect information that represents the youth's understanding of his/her circumstances and experiences as a whole. To achieve this goal, and to preserve the integrity of the survey and data, States must administer the survey to youth directly and may not provide information on outcomes data elements from any other source including administrative databases, such as TANF, Social Security or employment records (73 FR 10350). Also, States may not correct a youth's response if they have alternative knowledge about a youth's outcomes. It is, however, allowable for a State to develop a system of prompts to help the State verify whether a youth meant to provide a particular answer (73 FR 10350).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.10 Question: What about youth who may need assistance in responding to the youth outcomes survey due to a disability?

Answer: A State may select the method for administering the youth outcomes survey, including providing assistance in recording youth responses (i.e., filling out a survey for a youth with a disability as the youth provides responses to the survey questions). A State, however, may not consult any source other than the youth when administering the youth outcomes survey. A State also has the discretion to choose the methods, if any, by which it determines that a youth is unable to participate in the outcomes data collection due to an incapacitating permanent or temporary mental condition (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 1356.83(g)(34)(iv)).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

3.11 Question: Would it be allowable for a State to use an online chat session to administer the NYTD youth outcome survey?

Answer: Yes. A State has the discretion to choose the method(s) it will use to administer the outcomes survey to youth (e.g., in person, via the Internet or over the phone) provided that the survey is administered to youth directly. Each State will determine the most appropriate approach to meet its needs and the particular characteristics of the State's population of youth and young adults. We anticipate providing technical assistance to States in devising effective methods of administering the youth outcomes survey. (See: 73 FR 10343)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.12 Question: How can States verify the identity of youth taking the outcome survey if a State is not administering the survey in person (using a web-based application or a survey mailed out to the youth)?

Answer: Developing a protocol to verify the identify of a youth responding to the NYTD Youth Outcome Survey questions via the web or by mail is up to the State to determine and should be based on the method of survey administration selected by the State. (See 73 FR 10343)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.13 Question: Does a youth's non-response to any particular outcome survey question mean that a State should report "declined" for that item?

Answer: Yes. (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.14 Question: If a youth responds "yes" to the youth outcome survey question regarding full-time employment, does the State have to ask if the youth is employed part-time?

Answer: Yes. While the regulation specifies the definition of "full-time" and "part-time" employment in terms of number of total hours worked, these two data elements are not mutually-exclusive. A youth may report having both full-time employment (working in one job for 35 hours a week, for example) and part-time job concurrently (working a different job for 10 hours a week, for example). (See 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(37) and (38))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.15 Question: In the event that a youth in the baseline population exits foster care before the State attempts to collect outcomes information via the youth outcome survey within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday, should the State still attempt to collect these data and report them in the State's NYTD data file?

Answer: No. The State must attempt to collect the required data described in 45 CFR 1356.83(d) during the time the youth is in foster care. The State does not report outcomes data on a youth in the baseline population that exits foster care before the State attempts to administer the youth outcome survey. However, in the event that a youth in the baseline population exits foster care before the State is able to collect outcomes data, the State would still report information on data element 34 (outcomes reporting status). "Unable to locate/invite" would be the appropriate response option for data element 34 in this case. (See 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.16 Question: If the State attempts to collect outcomes data for NYTD for a youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday, but is not able to do so before the youth exits foster care, then should the State exclude the youth's record from the data file completely? If not, what, if any, other information should be provided on that youth for NYTD data reporting purposes?

Answer: Regarding the first question, no, the State must not exclude the record of the youth described in the scenario above. Regarding the second question, the State must still report information on data element 34 (outcomes reporting status), and on all other data

elements relevant to the youth as described in the regulation, including information on basic demographics of the youth (data elements 1-13) and, if applicable, any information on independent living services the State paid for or provided to the youth. (See: 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and 45 CFR 1356.83(b) and (d))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.17 Question: Is NYTD outcomes data collection exempt from the human subjects protection requirements specified in 45 CFR 46?

Answer: The data collection required by NYTD is not a research activity that is subject to the Federal regulations for the protection of human subjects. (See 45 CFR 46)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.18 Question: Does the Children’s Bureau have any regulations regarding consent to participate in NYTD outcomes survey, particularly for 17-year-olds? Is parental consent required because they are minors?

Answer: Because NYTD data collection is not subject to the Federal regulations for the protection of human subjects, there is no specific Federal requirement or procedure to seek informed consent of a youth, or parental consent on a youth’s behalf, to participate in the NYTD Youth Outcome Survey. However, States are encouraged to develop their own procedures to ensure that youth understand the purpose and use of the survey, including the voluntariness of the survey. States may wish to review the guidance from the Federal Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) regarding the protections of human subjects including proper procedures for obtaining informed consent from Youth Outcome Survey participants (<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/>). The basic elements of informed consent can be found in the HHS regulations at [45 CFR 46.116\(a\)](#). OHRP also has a tips sheet for informed consent available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/ictips.htm>. We anticipate providing further technical assistance to States on informed consent practices. (See 45 CFR 46)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.19 Question: If upon leaving foster care, a youth that had been in the baseline population asks the State not to contact them in the future should the State persist in attempting to engage that youth in the outcome survey at ages 19 and 21?

Answer: This is at a State’s discretion. Though the NYTD regulation outlines the standards States must meet for collecting and reporting outcomes data, including required participation rates, States are reminded that a youth’s participation in the youth outcome survey is voluntary and refusal to participate should involve no penalty to the youth. States are strongly encouraged to develop procedures to seek and obtain informed consent from a youth, including an easily understood explanation of the purposes of the survey, the expected duration of the youth’s participation, a description of the procedures to be followed, and the voluntariness of participation. (See 73 FR 10344)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.20 Question: Will there be a national website for youth to visit in order to take the NYTD youth outcome survey? Is it possible for multiple States to develop regional web portals/sites for collecting survey data from youth?

Answer: Regarding the first question, ACF will not be creating a website for the purpose of collecting survey information. The statute that mandated NYTD requires that we develop data collection requirements and impose penalties on States that do not comply with those requirements. As such, the statute creates an obligation for States to meet the data collection requirements for NYTD. Regarding the second question, it may be possible for a State or group of States to develop web-based applications for the purposes of collecting survey data from youth, but States with a SACWIS should submit their plans and business case to the Children’s Bureau/Division of State Systems (CB/DSS) in an As Needed Advance Planning Document (APD). State project teams may also discuss alternatives with the CB/DSS analyst responsible for their State. (See Sections 477(e)(2) and (f) of title IV-E of the Social Security Act)

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

3.21 Question: In Appendix B of the NYTD regulation, the youth outcome survey questions related to data elements 49 through 52 each contain two different questions—one asking about a youth’s lifetime experiences and one asking about a youth’s experiences in the past two years. Are States supposed to ask both questions of youth in the baseline and follow-up populations?

Answer: No. As described in the regulation at 45 CFR 1356.83(g)(49) through (52), these data elements relate to a baseline youth’s *lifetime experiences* and to a follow up youth’s *experience in the past two years*. Consequently, States are only to ask the question that relates to the youth’s appropriate reporting population.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

3.22 Question: For the youth outcome survey questions that correspond to data elements 42-44, 53, and 56-58 “not applicable” is listed as a valid response option in the regulation at 45 CFR 1356.83(g) but is not listed as a valid option in Appendix B of the regulation. Is it allowable to offer youth “not applicable” as response option during survey administration for the questions that relate to these data elements?

Answer: “Not applicable” is a valid response option for a State to report for data elements 42-44, 53, and 56-58 (73 FR 10369-10370). However, States are encouraged to use the required NYTD survey questions, listed in Appendix B of the NYTD regulation, to develop a survey instrument that directs the youth to answer only the survey questions that are applicable to them. Appendix B does not list “not applicable” as a response option because it is our intent that youth will be only asked questions that are applicable to them (73 FR 10375). The technical assistance document *Planning for the Mode of Administration for the Youth Outcome Survey*, available at <http://www.nrcwdt.org>, contains helpful tips on how to develop a survey instrument and present the questions in a logical manner using a variety of possible administration modes.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

3.23 Question: Is it allowable for State staff, such as caseworkers, to see the results of a survey taken by a youth?

Answer: Neither the regulations nor the statute that mandates NYTD prohibit State staff from seeing a youth's responses to the NYTD survey (45 CFR 1355.30). We are aware that some States plan on administering the NYTD survey to youth in person or by phone through a caseworker employed by the State agency.

States are encouraged to be mindful of the sensitivities of youth and to develop informed consent procedures to assist youth in understanding the purpose of the survey and the State's plans for using the youth's survey information prior to deciding whether to participate in the outcomes survey. Part of this recommended informed consent process should also include explaining the State's plans for protecting the confidentiality of the youth's responses.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

3.24 Question: If a State successfully locates a youth and invites him/her to participate in the NYTD survey, but the youth does not respond to the State's invitation and ultimately does not participate in the survey, then should the State report that the youth "declined" to participate or that the State was "unable to locate/invite" the youth for data element 34 (outcomes reporting status)? At what point do we consider a youth's non-response, after a formal invitation and appropriate follow-up contact (e.g., reminders, etc.), as "declined"?

Answer: We believe that States are too different to offer a single approach to data collection, and chose not to prescribe a single way for States develop and administer the NYTD youth outcomes survey in our regulation (73 FR 10343). Further, we have acknowledged in previous guidance that the exact reason for the youth's participation may be difficult to pinpoint (71 FR 40359). It is our expectation that a State will use all appropriate methods to encourage a youth to complete the survey in order to collect outcomes data or to indicate accurately in data element 34 (outcomes reporting status) whether the youth did not participate in the outcomes survey because they declined ("youth declined") or whether the youth was unable to be located or invited by the State ("unable to locate/invite") (Q&A #2.50).

From: Questions & Answers Released on January 13, 2011

3.25 Question: Is it acceptable for States to "correct" or "clean up" a youth's survey responses before reporting NYTD data to ACF in order to avoid logical inconsistencies in the data file? For example, if a youth answers "no" for element 52 (children) and "no" for element 53 (marriage at child's birth), then can the State report "not applicable" instead for element 53 in the data file? Similarly, if a youth answers "no" for element 55 (other health insurance coverage), "not applicable" for elements 56 (health insurance type—medical) and 58 (health insurance type—prescription drugs), but "yes" for element 57 (health insurance type—mental health), then can the State report "not applicable" for element 57 in the data file?

Answer: The goal of the youth outcome survey is to collect information that represents the youth's understanding of his/her circumstances and experiences as a whole (NYTD Q&A

#3.9). To achieve this goal and to preserve the integrity of NYTD survey data, States may not alter the youth's responses and presume that the youth's response to one question is "correct" and the youth's response to a proceeding question is "incorrect". Consequently, States may not alter a youth's survey responses without consulting the youth.

We have previously encouraged States to carefully evaluate their survey administration methods for the potential for such response errors as a result of using a particular methodology (i.e., paper survey format) (see NYTD Q&A #5.7). In addition, States are encouraged to use the required NYTD survey questions, listed in Appendix B of the NYTD regulation, to develop a survey instrument that directs the youth to answer only the survey questions that are applicable to them, thereby reducing the likelihood of internally inconsistent errors (NYTD Q&A #3.22).

From: Questions & Answers released on April 7, 2011

4. SYSTEMS REQUIREMENTS (SACWIS)

- 4.1 Question:** If our SACWIS system is operational, and we need to develop additional functionality to comply with this rule, will the development activity be eligible for enhanced funding or operational funding?

Answer: The cost to enhance a SACWIS to support the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) reporting requirements for children in foster care is eligible for title IV-E funding. The State may submit an As Needed APD to request additional funding. The applicable rate (operational or developmental) will be determined based on the business case presented in the APD.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 4.2 Question:** Do we need an approved APD Update before we start working on this project?

Answer: If a State has completed the SACWIS project and the Children's Bureau has closed the APD, a State may enhance the system as an operational expense without submitting an APD if the cost of the system enhancement is less than the thresholds defined at 45 CFR 95.611. If the State has an open APD or is requesting development funding, they should submit an As Needed APD Update as described at 45 CFR 95.605.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 4.3 Question:** Our State is building a new SACWIS, and the proposed timeframe for completion is very close to the start date for initial data collection. What steps can we take should the SACWIS not be ready?

Answer: The State should develop contingency plans to capture the information necessary to support NYTD reporting in the absence of an automated system. The cost of these contingency plans can be paid for with Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) funds or State funds, but cannot be claimed as SACWIS expenditures.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

- 4.4 Question:** If a State creates an external data base (outside the SACWIS system) for recording and maintaining data and survey information associated with youth in the follow-up population, who are no longer in foster care, will this data also be required to be added to the SACWIS data base? Can separate data reports come from SACWIS and from the external data bases?

Answer: Regarding the first question, no, these data are not required to be added to SACWIS, but if they are not included with the SACWIS, then the developmental costs cannot be allocated to title IV-E. (Operational costs for the follow-up population would not be allocable to title IV-E regardless whether included with the SACWIS or a separate database). Regarding the second question, the State cannot submit separate reports/files for each of the populations. NYTD data must be submitted as a single data file as described in *NYTD Technical Bulletin #1: File Structure* available here:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/nytd-guidance>

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

4.5 Question: Could you provide clarification regarding which costs related to developing functionality to collect and report NYTD information can be charged to SACWIS?

Answer: Please refer to the summary guidance below regarding systems development costs for NYTD.

If a State does have a SACWIS:

- NYTD system development costs for enhancements to support youth in foster care up to the maximum age for title IV-E foster care payments¹ (regardless of whether children/youth are title IV-E eligible) are charged to title IV-E SACWIS.
- NYTD system operational costs to support youth in foster care up to the maximum age for title IV-E foster care payments¹ (regardless of whether children/youth are title IV-E eligible) are charged to title IV-E SACWIS.
- NYTD system development and operational costs to support youth not in foster care, or in foster care but older than the maximum age for title IV-E foster care payments, are charged to Chafee funds and/or State-only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source.

If a State does not have a SACWIS (i.e., is a non-SACWIS State):

- All NYTD system development costs are charged to Chafee funds and/or State-only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source.
- All NYTD system operational costs are charged to Chafee funds and/or State-only funds or any other applicable non-Federal funding source.

For more guidance on development and operational costs for SACWIS, please review Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-01-05 in Section IV: Definitions, which is available on our web page at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pi0105>.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

4.6 Question: Can you provide any further clarification regarding which NYTD information must be captured in a State's SACWIS system?

Answer: A SACWIS must collect and manage information on case management activities, including the provision of independent living services, related to youth in foster care. The Administration for Children and Families is developing further guidance for SACWIS States on collecting NYTD Outcome Survey data on youth in foster care. While it is

¹ If the State elects to extend its title IV-E foster care program to ages 19, 20, or 21 per Public Law 110-351, the SACWIS would be required to support the reporting requirements for this population and the activity would be eligible for title IV-E SACWIS funding as approved in the State's Advance Planning Document (APD). If the system does not support a required population, the system would be reclassified as a non-SACWIS.

allowable for a State to use its SACWIS to collect NYTD data for youth not in foster care, the data may also be collected outside of SACWIS.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

- 4.7 Question:** Can you provide any further clarification regarding which NYTD information must be reported from a State's SACWIS system? My understanding is that all of the NYTD information must be reported in a single file. What about States that have data for youth still in foster care in their SACWIS but also data for youth who have exited in an external system?

Answer: The NYTD report may, *but is not required*, to be generated by SACWIS. All NYTD data must be submitted as a single data file regardless of the number of systems used to collect the data as described in *NYTD Technical Bulletin #1: File Structure* available here: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/nytd-guidance>. The State may merge the data produced by the SACWIS with information captured in other systems; however the cost to do this is not a title IV-E expenditure.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

- 4.8 Question:** Can States use a web-based survey application that would interface with their SACWIS so that the NYTD data could be uploaded directly into the system? Would this be SACWIS compliant? Would States be able to use title IV-E funding to develop this capacity?

Answer: Yes. For example, a State may use service-oriented Architecture approaches (e.g., web services) to meet the SACWIS requirement to collect and manage survey information for foster care youth (See ACYF-CB-IM-07-03). To ensure that specific designs are SACWIS compliant, States with an open APD should submit their plans and business case to CB/DSS in an As Needed APD. States with a closed APD contemplating NYTD enhancements whose cost will not exceed APD thresholds² are *encouraged* to provide a written description of plans to CB/DSS so that they can be reviewed for SACWIS compliance. State project teams may also discuss alternatives with the CB/DSS analyst responsible for their State.

Please refer to the summary cost guidance above on the availability of title IV-E SACWIS funds for enhancements to support NYTD requirements.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

- 4.9 Question:** Given that a number of youth in the follow-up population will transition from care and elect not to continue receiving services from the State, their individual cases within the SACWIS system will be closed. Has there been any discussion about the maintenance and or method for managing a caseload of youths (NYTD youths with no ongoing relationship to the child welfare agency) within the SACWIS?

Answer: As previously stated, a State may elect to support youth in the follow-up population that are not in foster care within the SACWIS or outside the SACWIS. If an

² 45 CFR 95.611(a)

individual has left foster care but is seeking services or included in a follow-up survey, the State may elect, but is not required, to support this population through its SACWIS. However, all unique development and operational costs would, as noted above, be funded through non-title IV-E sources.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

4.10 Question: Our State plans to administer the survey over the internet through a website youth will visit to complete and submit the survey electronically. The data will then be automatically downloaded into the SACWIS. Should we add an edit check in our system that would reject outcomes data from a youth that does not complete the survey within the prescribed timeframes in the NYTD regulation?

Answer: No. Failing to administer the youth outcomes survey to a member of the baseline or follow-up population within timeframes specified in the regulation at 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i) and 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(3) is out of compliance with the NYTD data collection schedule and may result in a penalty. States are encouraged, however, to submit outcomes data that are collected beyond the timeframes specified in the regulation for certain baseline youth as previously described in Q&A #5.9. (As discussed in Q&A #1.45, States are not required to continue to submit follow-up outcomes information for baseline youth who do not participate in the NYTD survey within the prescribed timeframes in the NYTD regulation. See 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i)). States are also encouraged to submit outcomes data on youth in the follow-up population that are collected after the reporting period in which the youth turned age 19 or 21 in order to maintain the continuity and completeness of the data available for current and future use (see Q&A #1.35).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

5. COMPLIANCE STANDARDS & PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

5.1 Question: If a State decided not to participate in National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), would the maximum penalty be 5 percent?

Answer: Yes. The maximum penalty for a State not participating in NYTD, or otherwise being out of compliance with NYTD requirements, is 2.5 percent of the State's Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) for each report period of noncompliance, which would total five percent annually of the CFCIP funds allocated or reallocated to the State (45 CFR 1356.86). We encourage States to participate in NYTD so the data can be used by States to inform practices that may result in better outcomes for youth who age out of foster care.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

5.2 Question: How did the Administration for Children and Families arrive at the participation rate standards of 80 percent of youth in foster care and 60 percent of youth discharged from foster care?

Answer: In developing the proposed rule, we carefully considered the available research on this population (See above), what we believed was a reasonable expectation for States that still have responsibility for the youth's care and placement, and our necessity for ample information to meet the statutory mandate. We believe that the 80 percent participation rate of youth in foster care and 60 percent of youth discharged from foster care is an appropriate standard. While the process of collecting outcomes data from youth no longer in the State's foster care will be challenging, we are seeking a standard that will provide us with a level of confidence in the outcome information that is reported to us. After considering the research on response rates and reviewing the Office of Management and Budget's guidance on surveys (See various publications at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html#pr>), we do not believe that a rate lower than 60 percent would serve our purposes.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

5.3 Question: Could you please provide the citations for the research papers consulted in determining acceptable outcomes survey participation rates in the Final Rule?

Answer: A number of studies documented response rates for similar outcomes surveys and assessments of youth at various ages using a variety of methods. These include:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2007). Multi-site evaluation of foster youth programs: Evaluation of the Life Skills Training Program. Washington, D.C.

Courtney, M.E., Dworsky, A., Cusick, G.R., Keller, T., Havlicek, J., Perez, A., Terao, S. & Bost, N. (2007). Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Outcomes at age 21. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

Pecora, P. J., Kessler, R. C., Williams, J., O'Brien, K., Downs, A. C., English, D., White, J., Hiripi, E., White, C. R., Wiggins, T. & Holmes, K. E. (2007). Improving family foster care: Findings from the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs. Available at <http://www.casey.org>.

Courtney, M.E., Dworsky, A., Cusick, G.R., Keller, T., Havlicek, J., Perez, A., Terao, S. & Bost, N. (2005). Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Outcomes at age 19. Chapin Hall Working Paper. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.

Courtney, M.E., Piliavin, I., Grogan-Kaylor, A. & Nesmith, A. (2001). Foster youth transitions to adulthood: A longitudinal view of youth leaving care. *Child Welfare*, 80(6), 685-717.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

5.4 Question: Is the minimum participation rate standard applied discretely to each of the two reporting periods?

Answer: Yes, the outcomes participation rate standards for youth in the follow-up population will be applied to each six-month reporting period. (45 CFR 1356.86(b)(2)(iii)(iv))

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

5.5 Question: Will a youth's refusal to participate (or parent's refusal to allow participation) in the outcomes survey effort be considered as missing data and therefore counted as an error on data elements 35-41 and 45-58?

Answer: No. We define missing data as any element that has a blank response, when a blank response is not a valid response option as described in the data element descriptions in section 1356.83(g). If a youth declines to participate in the outcomes survey (or a youth's parent declines participation in outcomes data collection as a member of the baseline population), then the State should report “youth declined” or “parent declined” as appropriate for data element 34 and leave the outcome survey data elements (37-58) blank. In this case, “blank” is a valid response option for data elements 37-58.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

5.6 Question: For the follow-up populations, the number of youth that are incapacitated, incarcerated, and deceased is excluded from the participation rate standard. What about the number of youth who decline to participate, who run away, who are missing, and who are unable to be located or invited?

Answer: If a youth who participated in the survey as a member of the baseline population subsequently refuses to participate in the follow-up surveys, then they would still be included in the calculation of participation rate to determine the State's compliance with this data standard. Youth who participated in the outcomes survey as members of the

baseline population who have since run away, are missing, or who are unable to be located or invited are also included in the calculation of participation rate.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

- 5.7 Question:** In an electronic survey, a State could code the internal consistency checks, however, in a paper survey it is likely there will be instances where a youth would mistakenly answer “no” for data element 52 (children) and “yes” for data element 53 (marriage at child's birth). How would States handle this situation?

Answer: This is a matter at a State's discretion. States should evaluate carefully their survey methods for the potential for response errors as a result of using a particular methodology. We anticipate providing technical assistance to States in devising effective methods of administering the youth outcomes survey.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

- 5.8 Question:** What is the participation rate standard a State must meet for youth in the baseline population taking the youth outcome survey?

Answer: The outcomes participation rate standard (45 CFR 1356.85(b)(3)) and associated penalty for noncompliance (45 CFR 1356.86(b)(2)) applies only to the follow-up population. There is no outcomes participation rate standard or penalty for noncompliance with such a standard for the baseline population. However, the data collection requirements found at 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i) and (ii) specify that States must collect outcomes information on each youth in foster care who turns age 17 in Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011 and in every third fiscal year thereafter (e.g., FFY 2014, FFY 2017, etc.). Further, these data must be collected within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday, but not before that birthday.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

- 5.9 Question:** The NYTD file requires that States gather outcome survey information on the baseline population within 45 days following the youth's 17th birthday. What is the penalty for data gathered on these youth after 45 days? Should States still submit outcomes data gathered from youth in the baseline population after 45 days from their 17th birthdays?

Answer: States are required to collect outcomes data from youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday. A State that fails to collect outcomes data from a baseline youth within this timeframe would not meet the data collection requirements specified in the NYTD regulation at 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i). Regarding the first question, the NYTD regulation specifies a data compliance standard at 45 CFR 1356.85(b)(1), which requires certain data elements, including data element 35, to be 90 percent error-free. A State that is unable to collect outcomes data on a youth in the baseline population within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday would constitute an error for data element 35. A State that submits a data file containing information on data element 35 that is not 90 percent error-free may incur a penalty as described at 45 CFR 1356.86(b)(2). (See 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2)(i) and 45 CFR 1356.85(b)(1))

Regarding the second question, States are encouraged to submit outcomes data collected from youth in the baseline population after the 45-day timeframe following the youth's 17th birthday provided that 1) the youth is still in foster care, 2) the youth is still age 17, and 3) the data is collected in time to be transmitted to the Administration for Children and Families with a State's data file submission that corresponds with the report period that immediately follows the end of a Fiscal Year in which baseline data is scheduled to be collected. In the event that a State is unable to collect outcomes data from a baseline youth, a State is still to report the reason it was unable to collect this information in data element 34 (outcomes reporting status).

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

5.10 Question: My State will opt to extend title IV-E foster care assistance to youth up to age 21 as provided by the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* (Public Law 110-351). If such youth are in the State's follow-up population, what is the required level of participation of such youth for my State to be in compliance with 45 CFR 1356.85(b)(3)?

Answer: As specified in Program Instruction ACYF-CB-PI-10-11 (available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pi1011>), a State agency that exercises the option to extend title IV-E foster care assistance to youth age 18 or older must consider youth receiving a title IV-E foster care maintenance payment as in foster care for the purposes of NYTD reporting (45 CFR 1356.81). Consequently, in this scenario, such a State must include youth age 18 and older when reporting outcomes information on at least 80 percent of youth in the follow-up population who are in foster care on the date of outcomes data collection (45 CFR 1356.85(b)(3)(i)).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

5.11 Question: My State failed the NYTD error-free data standard for several elements due to internally inconsistent survey responses collected and reported as part of the 2011A regular data file. How do I address such errors in my 2011A corrected data file? In particular, if my State attempts to resolve the internally inconsistent responses, should we also update the date of outcomes data collection (element 35) in the youth's record?

Answer: To address internally inconsistent errors in survey responses in a corrected file, the State is to follow-up directly with the baseline population youth to resolve these inconsistencies. To achieve this goal and to preserve the integrity of NYTD survey data, States may not alter the youth's responses without consulting with the youth or presume that the youth's response to one question is "correct" and the youth's response to a proceeding question is "incorrect". Because the State is addressing errors in the context of a corrected file for elements that initially failed the error-free data standard, there is no need to update the date of outcomes data collection (element 35) provided that element 35 accurately reflects the last date outcomes data were collected during the reporting period that corresponded with the regular data file submission (e.g., the 2011A regular data file, in this example).

From: 2011 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - August 3-5, 2011

5.12 Question: My State failed the NYTD error-free data standard for element 35 (date of outcomes data collection) as part of the 2011A regular data file. How do I address errors in my data file stemming from the State's failure to survey a baseline population youth within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday?

Answer: To address such errors after late collected outcomes data have been reported as part of a regular data file submission, a State should first examine all dates of birth (element 4) and dates of outcome data collection (element 35) to determine if any such information is incorrect. For example, we are aware that some States reported a date for element 35 that reflects when the survey information was entered into the child welfare information system rather than when the survey information was last collected from the youth. By correcting this date, the State may find that it indeed met the 45-day data collection requirement for such a baseline population youth; Similarly, a date of birthday that was entered incorrectly may also lead to inadvertent data errors for element 35. States that have actually failed to survey a baseline population youth in a timely manner cannot correct the error for element 35 as part of a corrected data file submission as the opportunity to survey a youth in a timely manner has passed. It is also not appropriate to remove records with such errors reported in the 2011A regular file from the 2011A corrected data file submission.

From: 2011 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - August 3-5, 2011

5.13 Question: How do I address errors in my State's data file stemming from our failure to determine a youth's reporting population(s) appropriately? For example, my State's 2011A regular data file contained errors related to Internal Consistency Check #3 because we left elements 14 and 36 blank in the record of a baseline population youth who was to be surveyed during the 2011A report period but who had not been surveyed by the end of that report period.

Answer: To address such errors, we encourage States to follow the guidance we issued in Q&A #2.60. In that Q&A, we explained that for a State that is reporting on a baseline youth who turned age 17 more than 45 days from the end of a reporting period but who was not surveyed during that report period, the State should indicate the reason outcomes data were not collected (a valid response for element 34 - outcomes reporting status) in the report period in which the youth turned age 17 and indicate the foster care status of the youth (element 36) in the corresponding data file submission (e.g., the 2011A data submission from the example provided in the question) at minimum. Consequently, the State should report elements 34 and 36 as explained above for such youth in the 2011A corrected file.

If the State collects outcomes data from this baseline youth in the report period immediately following the report period in which the youth turned age 17 (e.g., the 2011B report period from the example provided in the question), the State should report these data in the corresponding regular data file submission by indicating the appropriate valid responses for elements 34-58.

From: 2011 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - August 3-5, 2011

5.14 Question: If a State is found out of compliance with one or both of the outcomes participation rate standards at 45 CFR 1356.85(b)(3), how can the State address this area of non-compliance through the submission of a corrected data file?

Answer: As we previously explained in NYTD Q&A #1.35, States are permitted and encouraged to continue efforts to locate and collect outcomes information from youth in the follow-up population who could not be engaged in the NYTD survey during the report period in which the youth turned age 19 or 21. For the purposes of corrective action, a State may continue attempting to administer the survey to such youth who did not participate in the survey for any reason other than “youth declined”, “parent declined” or “death” (e.g., a youth whose outcomes reporting status (element 34) was “incapacitated”, “incarcerated”, “runaway/missing”, or “unable to locate or invite” or any other such youth who the State was unable to make contact with for the purposes of outcomes data collection). As the NYTD survey is voluntary for youth, the State must respect the decision of a young person who has declined to participate in outcomes data collection at age 19 or 21 and not attempt to re-administer the survey to that youth. For follow-up population youth who are surveyed during the subsequent reporting period, the State is to include in the corrected file submission all applicable data elements specified 45 CFR 1356.83, including the date on which the survey was ultimately administered (element 35).

From: Questions & Answers Released on July 15, 2013

6. SAMPLING

6.1 Question: May a sample be used for the baseline survey of 17 year-olds?

Answer: No. The baseline population includes every youth who is in foster care at some point during the 45 days after their 17th birthday, as per 45 CFR 1356.81(b) and 1356.82(a)(2), in a specified year. Sampling may be used only to determine the follow-up population after the State has surveyed the entire baseline population (45 CFR 1356.84).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

6.2 Question: Please re-visit the explanation of how smaller States not using a random sample can determine a minimum sample size. Will these States be required to have a 100 percent sample for the baseline?

Answer: The regulation requires States to use either a simple random sample or another accepted methodology that has been approved by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). A State's actual sample size will depend on the number of youth in the baseline population who participate in the outcomes data collection at age 17 (the sampling frame) and the application of the correct formula pursuant to 45 CFR 1356.84(c) and Appendix C. We acknowledge that, depending on the number of 17-year-olds in foster care who participate in the outcomes data collection at age 17 in the State, the resulting sample may be the entire baseline population.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

6.3 Question: How do States go about getting their sampling methodology approved? What is the minimum sample required?

Answer: States should submit their sampling methodology to their Children's Bureau Regional Office specialist who will consult with the ACF statistician. The minimum sample size will depend on population of youth who participate in the outcomes data collection at age 17 and the application of the sampling requirements at 45 CFR 1356.84(c) and Appendix C.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

6.4 Question: What do “Py” and “Pn” actually stand for in the calculation for determining sample size for the follow-up population?

Answer: “Py” is the estimated proportion in the population with the characteristic of interest and “Pn” is $(1 - P_y)$. If $P_y = 0.5$, then $P_n = 1 - 0.5 = 0.5$. A value of 0.5 for P_y maximizes the sample size and $(P_y)(P_n) = 0.5(0.5) = 0.25$.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

6.5 Question: Why do we have to use a Z coefficient of 1.645?

Answer: For the purpose of sampling, ACF has determined that a 90 percent confidence interval provides a balance between larger and smaller sample sizes for National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data reporting. When a 90 percent confidence level is

desired, the coefficient from a standard normal probability distribution (a Z-value) is 1.645.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

- 6.6 Question:** Is a single sample drawn from the baseline population for the entire Federal fiscal year (FFY) or from each of the two reporting periods during the FFY?

Answer: The State is to draw the sample from the entire FFY's baseline population that has participated in the outcomes data collection (See 73 FR 10345) and not separately for each reporting period.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

- 6.7 Question:** Is it permissible or advisable to use the formulas in Appendix C of the NYTD regulation to estimate the size of a State's follow-up population sample? Our State has a large child welfare population and anticipates opting to sample youth for follow-up NYTD outcomes data collection and wants to begin forecasting the costs associated with locating and surveying such a sample of youth in Federal Fiscal Year 2013.

Answer: States are welcome to use the formulas provided in Appendix C of the NYTD regulation for planning purposes to estimate the number of youth the State will need to locate and survey at ages 19 and 21 as part of its sample. However, the actual sample size will depend on the number of youth in the baseline population who participate in the outcomes data collection at age 17 (Q&A #6.2).

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

- 6.8 Question:** Please provide more guidance on the option to select and follow a sample of youth for follow-up outcomes data collection at ages 19 and 21. Is it accurate to say that any State that determines a sample size by using one of the formulas in Appendix C of the NYTD regulation and uses simple random sampling procedures may sample? Must States coordinate this process with ACF in any manner?

Answer: For States that opt to sample, the follow-up sample must be selected using simple random sampling procedures. States must work with the Children's Bureau Regional Office specialist, however, to approve any sampling plan where a States chooses to use a sampling methodology other than simple random sampling procedures. We will provide additional guidance on sample selection at a later date.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

- 6.9 Question:** Our State that has opted to collect and report information on the follow-up population using sampling in accordance with 45 CFR 1356.84. What should the State report for element 36 (foster care status-outcomes) for youth in the follow-up population who are not part of the sample and were never required to be surveyed?

Answer: For States that have opted to conduct sampling in accordance with 45 CFR 1356.84, the State should report in element 36 the foster care status of a "non-sample" youth as of the first day of the report period in which the youth turned age 19. The State

also should report “not in sample” as the reason for non-participation for element 34 for such youth. As previously explained in NYTD Q&A #2.38, the State is not required to report further follow-up population information specified at 45 CFR 1356.83(e) for "non-sample" youth at age 21.

From: Questions & Answers Released on July 15, 2013

7. IMPLEMENTATION COSTS AND FUNDING

7.1 Question: How much Federal funding is available to States to build the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data system, report the data, and conduct the survey? Will funding be provided above and beyond our annual Chafee grants to help us implement NYTD effectively?

Answer: There is no additional Federal funding set-aside for the NYTD. The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) program was created with a mandate for States to collect data, but the statute does not set aside funds for that specific purpose. A State with a SACWIS must incorporate NYTD information collection and reporting activities related to children in foster care into their SACWIS system and may claim such information system costs as administrative costs under title IV-E to the extent they are allowable and consistent with a State's APD and cost allocation plan (73 FR 10362).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008; 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

7.2 Question: If States who now get small Chafee allocations decide to stop taking Chafee money because they can't afford the implementation costs, will those funds be re-distributed to the other States?

Answer: A State that does not comply with the NYTD requirements does not have to forfeit all of its CFCIP funding, rather the State will be subject to a 2.5 percent penalty of its annual CFCIP allocation for each report period of noncompliance (45 CFR 1356.86). However, if a State does not apply for funds under Chafee, as specified in section 477(d)(4) of the Social Security Act, the funds to which the State would be entitled shall be allocated to one or more other States on the basis of their relative need for additional payments as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

7.3 Question: Can Chafee funding be used for incentives to encourage youth in the baseline and follow-up populations to participate in outcomes survey?

Answer: As stated in the preamble to the final rule (73 FR 10361), a State may use CFCIP funds for any and all costs associated with implementing the NYTD. However, we encourage States to be mindful of guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) entitled "Guidance on Agency Survey and Statistical Information Collections." While this guidance is directed to Federal agencies, the same general principles should guide State agencies, as well.

In the guidance, OMB states that incentives are used most appropriately with hard-to-find populations or respondents whose failure to participate would jeopardize the quality of the survey data. OMB's guidelines follow a general conceptual framework that seeks to avoid the use of incentives except when the agency has clearly justified the need for the incentive and has demonstrated positive impacts on response and data quality by using an incentive. In justifying their proposed use of incentives, State agencies should consider the following principles, among others:

- *Data quality*: One possible justification for requesting use of an incentive is improvement in data quality. For example, agencies may be able to provide evidence that, because of an increase in response rates, an incentive will significantly improve validity and reliability to an extent beyond that possible through other means.
- *Improved coverage of specialized respondents, rare groups, or minority populations*: A survey may have as its target population a highly selective group. Offering incentives to this population can be justified by describing the importance and difficulty of obtaining their participation in the study.
- *Equity*: Agencies should treat all respondents equally with regard to incentives. OMB generally does not approve agency plans to give incentives solely to convert refusals, or treat specific subgroups differently, unless the plan is part of an experimental design for further investigation into the effects of incentives.

The OMB guidance document can be located at

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/pmc_survey_guidance_2006.pdf

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008; 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

7.4 Question: Can title IV-E funds be used for incentives to encourage youth in the baseline and follow-up populations to participate in outcomes survey?

Answer: No. Incentives for youth participation in NYTD activities are unallowable as they are inconsistent with title IV-E regulations found at 45 CFR 1356.60.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

7.5 Question: Can ETV funds be used to cover the cost of child welfare information system enhancements to collect information on post secondary educational supports for NYTD purposes?

Answer: No. Section 477(h)(2) of the Social Security Act (the Act) restricts funds under the voucher program to "education and training vouchers for youths who age out of foster care." Therefore, title IV-E agencies may use voucher funds only to provide the vouchers and conduct administrative activities necessary to provide the vouchers. Using ETV funds to support information system enhancements for NYTD data collection would be outside the allowable use of funds for this program.

From: Questions & Answers released on April 7, 2011

7.6 Question: Can Chafee funding be used for incentives to encourage youth to participate in the NYTD survey even if such youth are age 21 and no longer eligible for Chafee-funded services?

Answer: Yes. Incentives paid to encourage participation in the NYTD survey meet the purposes of the Chafee Program, as referenced in section 477(d)(1) of the Social Security Act. Consequently, states may use Chafee funds to provide these incentives to 21-year-

olds regardless of whether they remain eligible for Chafee services. In providing incentives to youth for NYTD purposes, we encourage states to be mindful of guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) entitled "Guidance on Agency Survey and Statistical Information Collections." While this guidance is directed to federal agencies, the same general principles should guide state agencies, as well (see NYTD Q&A #7.3). The OMB guidance document is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg/pmc_survey_guidance_2006.pdf.

From: Questions & Answers Released on June 17, 2014

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 Question: Since the process of tracking of youth in the baseline and follow-up populations is of critical significance to successful NYTD reporting, will this component of the State plan dominate whether or not a State plan is approved?

Answer: No, NYTD is not a part of Chafee State plan requirements or approval (section 477(b) of the Act).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.2 Question: How many elements are required for a NYTD data file submission?

Answer: It is not clear from the question whether the issue is related to file formatting requirements related to the data elements or asking for a simple count of the elements. This response relates only to the data elements. Any individual youth record may contain up to 58 data elements, depending on the reporting requirements for the specific population. The Final Rule (73 FR 10365) explains that of the 58 elements, 13 elements apply to all youth in the entire reporting population; 20 for youth in the served population; and up to 25 elements apply to each youth in the baseline and follow-up population. Please see 45 CFR 1356.81-83 and the Appendix to the Final Rule for definitions of the reporting population and reporting requirements, and the requirements for the data collection and data elements.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.3 Question: Is NYTD trying to measure the impact of Chafee dollars only?

Answer: No. The services component of NYTD includes youth who receive independent living service paid for or provided by the State agency, rather than with just Chafee funds. As we explained in the NPRM, capturing information about all independent living services offered by the State's CFCIP agency gives a more complete picture of how each State supports youth transitioning into independent living (71 FR 40349). In addition, the Administration for Children and Families designed the outcomes component of NYTD to look at outcomes of youth who are or were in foster care regardless of whether they receive independent living services because we believe it is important to capture information on both youth who receive services and those who do not in determining youth outcomes and assessing State performance (71 FR 40350).

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.4 Question: Is there a standard database all states would ultimately use?

Answer: No. States may utilize their own data collection system to collect and report data. However, there will be a single Federal database to which states will submit their data.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.5 Question: When do you expect the first report to be available publicly from NYTD?

Answer: We are projecting that the first report on data collected on all reporting populations for a one year period would be available no earlier than June 2012.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.6 Question: To what extent are current and former foster youth going to be involved in data collection?

Answer: Foster youth in the baseline population and former foster youth in the follow-up population will be involved in the data collection process as they will be providing responses to the outcome surveys (45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) and (3); 73 FR 10350). The extent to which foster and former foster youth in the served populations are directly involved in data collection on independent living services is up to the State. The Children's Bureau intends to provide technical assistance, as needed, to help States engage and involve youth in NYTD data collection activities.

From: NYTD Webinar Briefing – April 10, 2008

8.7 Question: Were the data elements vetted by disproportionality experts to ensure that there are no hidden dangers in the language and definitions in order to promote proportionate outcomes and reporting?

Answer: In developing the rule, we engaged in an extensive consultation process on the information that would comprise the NYTD. Our consultation included national discussion groups with child welfare agency administrators and independent living coordinators at the State, Tribal, and local levels; public and private agency youth service providers; technical assistance providers; child welfare advocates; group home staff and administrators; and current and former foster youth and foster parents. We also conducted a pilot test of the draft data elements in seven States and one Indian Tribe and formed a work group of national associations, resource centers and State and Tribal representatives to analyze the results of the pilot test. Experts, advocates, and other representatives from the child welfare field provided public comment to the proposed rule and we incorporated some of these suggestions into the final NYTD final regulation.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

8.8 Question: Will a national technical assistance meeting be held every year to address the number of issues/questions that couldn't be addressed at this year's meeting?

Answer: Our plan is to host similar technical assistance meetings each year.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

8.9 Question: What is the citation for the definition of foster care that you are using for this reporting system?

Answer: The regulatory definition of foster care can be found at 45 CFR 1355.20(a).

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

8.10 Question: If a youth is under care and control of a State but is not currently in placement (i.e., is on a trial reunification or is a runaway), then would the youth be considered in foster care for NYTD purposes?

Answer: Youth are generally considered to be in “foster care” for NYTD purposes if they are in 24-hour substitute care under the State's placement and care responsibility and are in foster family homes, group homes, shelter care and child care institutions, regardless of whether such homes or institutions are licensed, approved or paid. If a youth is in what the State considers a “trial reunification” (i.e., at home but in the placement and care responsibility of the State agency), then the youth is excluded from the baseline and follow-up population. Youth who have run away from a foster care placement are considered to be in foster care if they are still under the placement and care responsibility of the State title IV-B/IV-E agency. If the youth is on runaway status at the time(s) that the State attempts outcomes data collection, the State will report the youth as having run away in the outcomes reporting status element (45 CFR 1356.83(g)(34)) to explain why that youth's information was not collected.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

8.11 Question: Many States have developed strong partnerships with sister State agencies such as Departments of Health and Departments of Labor to increase foster care youth's access to programs funded through these other agencies. It seems counterproductive not to count these as independent living services “paid for or provided” by the State CFCIP agency.

Answer: We recognize that States collaborate with State agency partners in a variety of ways to benefit youth as required under the CFCIP State plan. However, including youth served as a result of those collaborations or otherwise arranged or brokered by the State agency in the served population is too far removed from the statutory mandate to collect data on youth served under the CFCIP. Rather, we are interested in a State collecting and reporting information on youth who receive an independent living service due to the State agency's commitment of funds or resources to provide the service. Therefore, an independent living service is provided by the State agency if it is delivered by State agency staff or an agent of the State, including a foster parent, group home staff, or child care institution staff. The service is also provided by the State agency if it is provided to the youth pursuant to a contract for such services between the State agency and a provider, public or private agency or any other entity, regardless of whether the contract includes funding for the particular service. Services that are paid for directly or indirectly by the State agency are included as well.

From: 2008 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – July 23-25, 2008

8.12 Question: How are States supposed to collect data on youth in the served population that do not have a record in SACWIS because they are not in foster care?

Answer: States must report information on all applicable NYTD data elements for an individual youth in a single record. Consequently, if a youth has no record in a SACWIS, a State must create one and report on all applicable data elements to the NYTD. It is at the State's discretion to select a method for establishing a record and unique identification number for every youth reported to NYTD. (See: 45 CFR 1356.83(f))

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

8.13 Question: How will States link youth in the NYTD reporting populations across the country that have moved between States?

Answer: For youth in the served population, each State that paid for or provided independent living services to a youth is responsible for reporting on that youth. If two States served a particular youth during the same reporting period or in different reporting periods, they both would report on all the relevant data elements for the particular youth including basic demographics, characteristics, and independent living services received as appropriate. A youth that is included in a State's baseline population remains in that State's baseline population for the purposes of follow-up outcomes data collection. States are responsible for administering the youth outcomes survey to youth in the follow-up population regardless of where the youth resides. We anticipate offering technical assistance on strategies States may employ to assist in locating youth after they leave foster care.

From: 2009 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – June 25-26, 2009

8.14 Question: May States use the NYTD logo developed by ACF for its own marketing purposes?

Answer: No. The NYTD logo was primarily developed for use by the Children's Bureau and the Federal NYTD Team and, when used, represents content officially endorsed by the Children's Bureau. In order to keep this distinction, States are encouraged to either develop their own logo (which may be patterned from the Federal NYTD logo) or to utilize one of the logos developed by youth that can be found on the following site:
<http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/yd/nytd/nytdlogos.html>.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

8.15 Question: Are Indian Tribes that receive direct funding for Chafee and for Education and Training Vouchers required to implement NYTD?

Answer: Consistent with section 479B(f) of the title IV-E of the Social Security Act, ACF has determined that Tribes that receive direct funding for Chafee/ETV are not required to implement NYTD.

From: 2010 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting - July 21-23, 2010

8.16 Question: Will the Children's Bureau examine the differences between States so that when the data are analyzed and published it is clear to the public why one State may look different than another?

Answer: Yes. Although we have not made a final decision about the format in which these data will be presented, we do intend to ask States to submit clarifying comments (much as they do with their NCANDS and AFCARS footnote reporting) in instances where they feel practice or policy procedures may be influencing their results. The Children's Bureau will consider these comments and, where relevant, use them in its reports to provide additional explanation or interpretation of the results.

From: 2011 NYTD Technical Assistance Meeting – August 3-5, 2011

8.17 Question: How long must a state retain case-level NYTD data, such as completed NYTD survey instruments collected from youth?

Answer: In general, the record retention provisions at 45 CFR Part 92 apply to NYTD and require states to retain all case-level data collected for NYTD purposes for three years. The starting date of the retention period is the day the state submits to ACF its final Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) financial report for a fiscal year (FY) in which NYTD data were collected (e.g., 90 days after the close of the fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the funds are granted). For example, a state submits its FY 2011 final CFCIP financial report on the due date, December 30, 2012. In this case, the retention period for NYTD data collected in FY 2011 begins on December 30, 2012. These data must be retained until December 30, 2015.

Please note that, per 45 CFR 92.42(b)(2), the record retention period may be extended if “any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action involving the records” has been started before the expiration of the three-year retention period noted above. These actions include any scheduled NYTD Assessment Reviews. If ACF notifies the state of such an action, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular three-year period, whichever is later.

From: Questions & Answers Released on June 17, 2014