

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Senior
Capstone Projects

Nebraska College Preparatory Academy

2022

Foster Care and Adoption: Youth aging out

Cherish Flyinghawk

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ncpacapstone>



Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Other Education Commons](#), and the [Secondary Education Commons](#)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Senior Capstone Projects by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Foster Care and Adoption: Youth aging out

Cherish Flyinghawk

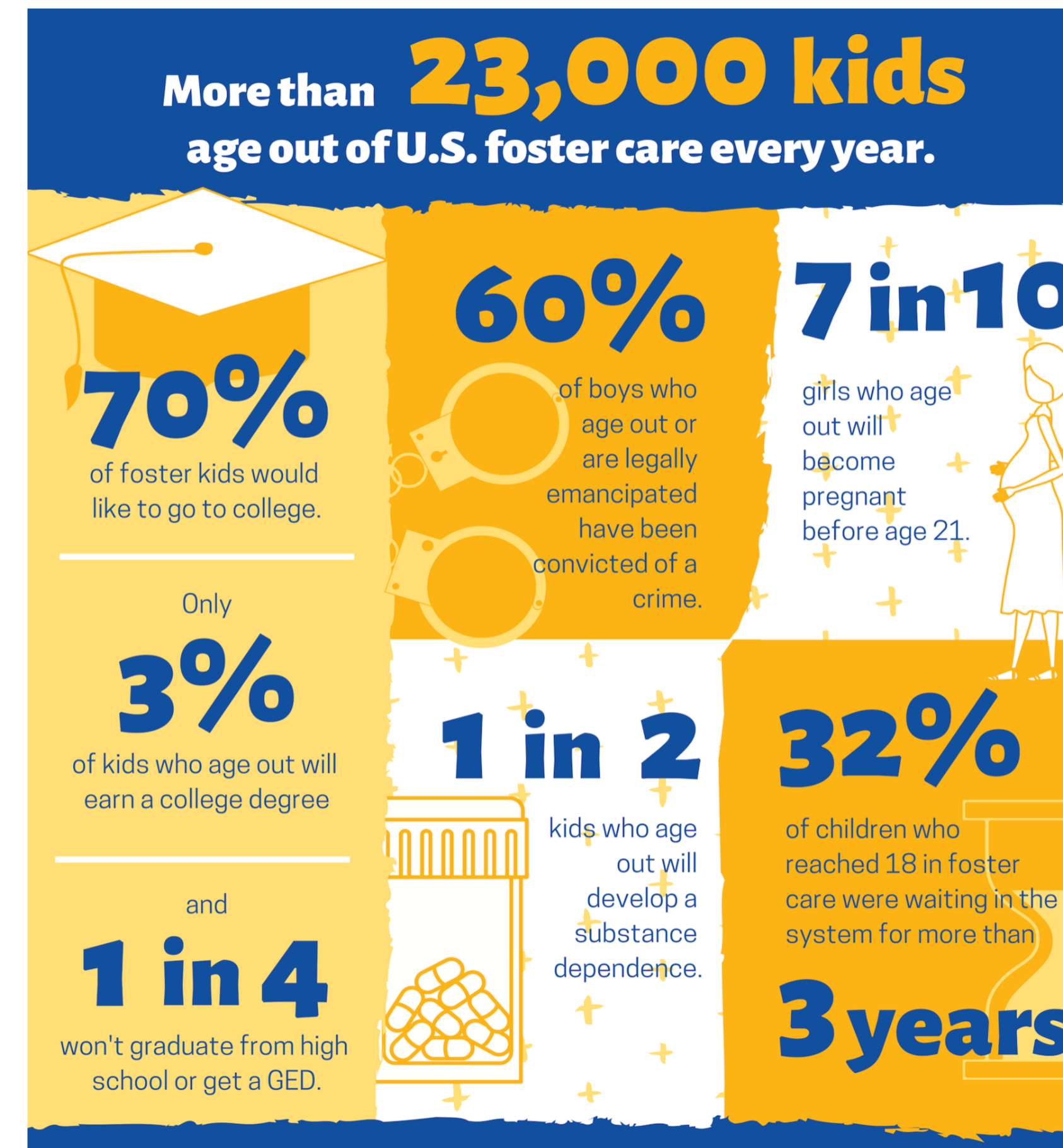
Nebraska College Preparatory Academy

Winnebago High School 2022

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Abstract

Youth in foster care age out with lots of challenges. Those challenges are finding employment, housing, financial stability, and educational attainment. Some do not have life skills like other youth in the general population. When youth age out they may not have access to education, guidance, family support, which helps them with responsible decision making. As youth get older we can see whether or not being in foster care made them stronger or broke them into a place they cannot come out of. A percent of youth are resilient from the situation. Reunification with parents or primary care takers is also known to happen until they can get back on their feet. Because some youth do not have resources or anyone to reach out to for help homelessness is seen as they become young adults.



Conclusion

In conclusion, it appears children that age out of the foster care system are not experiencing as much success as the general population. They are more likely to develop substance dependence, have lower rates of college enrollment, have higher incarceration rates and have higher rates of pregnancy before the age of 21. This puts them at a disadvantage for overall success in life. This information can be helpful in developing ways to counteract these challenges and increase opportunities for success.

What happens after they age out?

- Some are resilient and become successful.
- Access to education is limited
- Many lack guidance and family support
- Lack of preparation for responsible decision making
- Reunification with parents or primary caretakers.
- Many experience homelessness

References

Chun Liu. "A Multi-Level Analysis of the Effects of Independent Living Programs on Educational Attainment, Employment, and Housing Outcomes of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care." *Child Welfare*, vol. 98, no. 4, July 2020, pp. 97–120. EBSCOhost,

Rachel Rosenberg & Youngmi Kim (2018) Aging Out of Foster Care: Homelessness, Post-Secondary Education, and Employment, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*,

