

Nationally, we know former foster youth don't fare well if they "age out" of the system. These young adults experience many challenges, including **financial difficulties, homelessness, criminal justice system involvement** and **early or unplanned pregnancies**. But researchers have not comprehensively tracked youth who were **adopted, reunified** or grew up in **kinship care**.

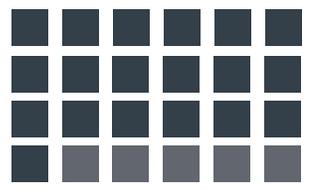
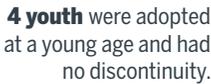
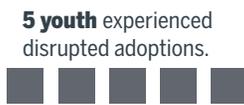
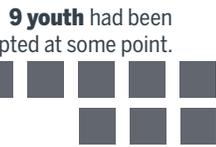
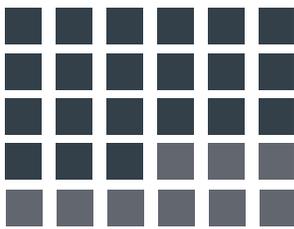


The **Texas Youth Permanency Study (TYPS)** is the first study of its kind to **compare the permanency outcomes** of Texas young adults formerly in foster care and identify **what they need to thrive in adulthood**. TYPS is a five-year study that will follow a group of Texas youth as they age out of the system and transition to adulthood.

In 2017, we conducted a pilot study & found:

2017 TYPS Pilot Study

We interviewed **30 young adults** formerly in Texas foster care.



KEY FINDING



No matter the permanency outcome for former foster youth, **having authentic relationships** was key to a successful transition into adulthood.

Authentic Relationships Matter Most

Based on the 2017 TYPES pilot study, we believe through **informal** and **formal** relationships, youth can begin to feel normal, which creates **relational permanency**.

Informal Relationships



Youth has honest & open communication with **birth family**.



Youth has supportive adults in their life like **teachers** who encourage personal growth.



Youth is allowed to have **friends** and participate in age-appropriate social activities.



Youth is allowed to have age-appropriate **romantic relationships**.

Lifelong relational permanency



When **relational permanency** is established, youth is able to fully pursue and achieve the **five key markers of well-being**:

- Safety**
- Education**
- Health**
- Life Skills**
- Vocation**

Lifelong relational permanency

Youth feels normal

Youth feels normal



Foster caregivers treat youth as one as their own, allowing freedom and honoring cultural history.



Caseworkers prioritize youth voice in case planning and challenge and hold youth accountable when appropriate.



Mental health professionals maintain confidentiality and honor youth voice about medication.



Youth has support from adults like a **CASA volunteer** who will advocate for them when needed.

Formal Relationships