

Understanding the Baseline Population Data Collection Requirement

Many States have asked for more clarification about how the timing of a youth's 17th birthday and the timing of a youth's entry into foster care impact a youth's inclusion in the baseline population. This document summarizes the relevant Federal guidance on the baseline population and applies the NYTD data collection requirements to several practical examples.

In this brief:

We summarize the Federal guidance on the baseline population and apply the NYTD data collection requirements to several practical examples

Target audience: Data managers, SACWIS/IT managers, caseworkers

Key words: baseline population, data collection requirements

The baseline population is comprised of all youth that are in foster care and reach their 17th birthdays during Federal fiscal year 2011 or in every third year thereafter (e.g., 2014, 2017, etc.) regardless of whether the youth receives any independent living services (45 CFR 1356.81(b)). The corresponding data collection requirement at 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2) specifies that States must collect baseline outcomes information from these youth within 45 days following a 17th birthday, but not before that birthday. The preamble to the Final Rule clarified that a youth does not need to have his or her 17th birthday while in foster care, but "consistent with the data collection rule in section 1356.82(a)(2), the youth must have been in foster care within 45 days following his or her 17th birthday during the specified reporting year" (73 FR 10342).

In practice, in order to determine who is included in the NYTD baseline population, a State must first determine if the youth:

1. Had his/her 17th birthday during a Federal fiscal year in which baseline data are required to be collected (e.g., a youth in the first NYTD baseline cohort must have a 17th birthday on or between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011); **and**
2. Was in foster care¹ on his or her 17th birthday; **or**
3. Entered foster care¹ between his or her 17th birthday and 45 days after this date.

Once the State has determined if a youth is to be included in the baseline population, the State has to collect outcomes data within 45 days of the youth's 17th birthday, but not before his or her birthday.



The following scenarios describe examples of youth that **are** included in the NYTD baseline population and their corresponding data collection deadlines based on 45 CFR 1356.82(a)(2):

- A youth that turns age 17 on October 15, 2010 while she was in foster care
 - ▶ *Outcomes data must be collected by November 29, 2010*
- A youth that turns age 17 on December 1, 2010 and enters foster care on January 5, 2011
 - ▶ *Outcomes data must be collected by January 15, 2011*
- A youth that turns age 17 on September 30, 2011 and enters foster care on October 5, 2011
 - ▶ *Outcomes data must be collected by November 14, 2011*

The following are examples of youth that **are not** included in the NYTD baseline population:

- A youth that turns age 17 on September 30, 2010 and enters foster care on October 1, 2010
 - ▶ *No outcomes data collected because the youth turned age 17 before the beginning of a federal reporting period in which baseline outcomes data are required to be collected (October 1, 2010)*
- A youth that turns age 17 on October 15, 2010 and enters foster care on December 10, 2010
 - ▶ *No outcomes data collected because the youth entered foster care more than 45 days after turning age 17*
- A youth that turns age 17 while in foster care on October 1, 2011
 - ▶ *No outcomes data collected because the youth turned age 17 during a Federal fiscal year in which baseline data are not required to be collected*

¹ The Federal definition of “foster care” used in NYTD is the same regulatory definition found at 45 CFR 1355.20(a) and is further discussed in the preamble to the NYTD regulation at 73 FR 10342.

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