



Demographics and Outcomes of THP-Plus Participants: Implications for Extended Foster Care

**Online Webinar – December 7, 2011 at 10:00 am
Presented by the
John Burton Foundation**

Call-in phone number for live audio: 1 (914) 339-0030
Access code: 259-159-863

Webinar Technical Details



- Call-in phone number for live audio:
1 (914) 339-0030; Access code: 259-159-863
- To submit live questions, click on the “Question and Answer” arrow on your screen, type your question, and click “Send.”

Outline of Presentation



- Overview of THP-Plus and context for this study
- Major findings from 2010-11 THP-Plus outcome study:
 - Demographics of young adults served by THP-Plus
 - Progress from entrance to exit and outcomes at exit
 - Special populations:
 - Participants age 21 and older
 - Participants with disabilities
 - Participants with short stays or involuntary exits
- Implications for extended foster care

Today's Presenters



- Amy Lemley, Policy Director, John Burton Foundation
- Sara Kimberlin, THP-Plus consultant, UC Berkeley doctoral candidate

THP-Plus at a Glance



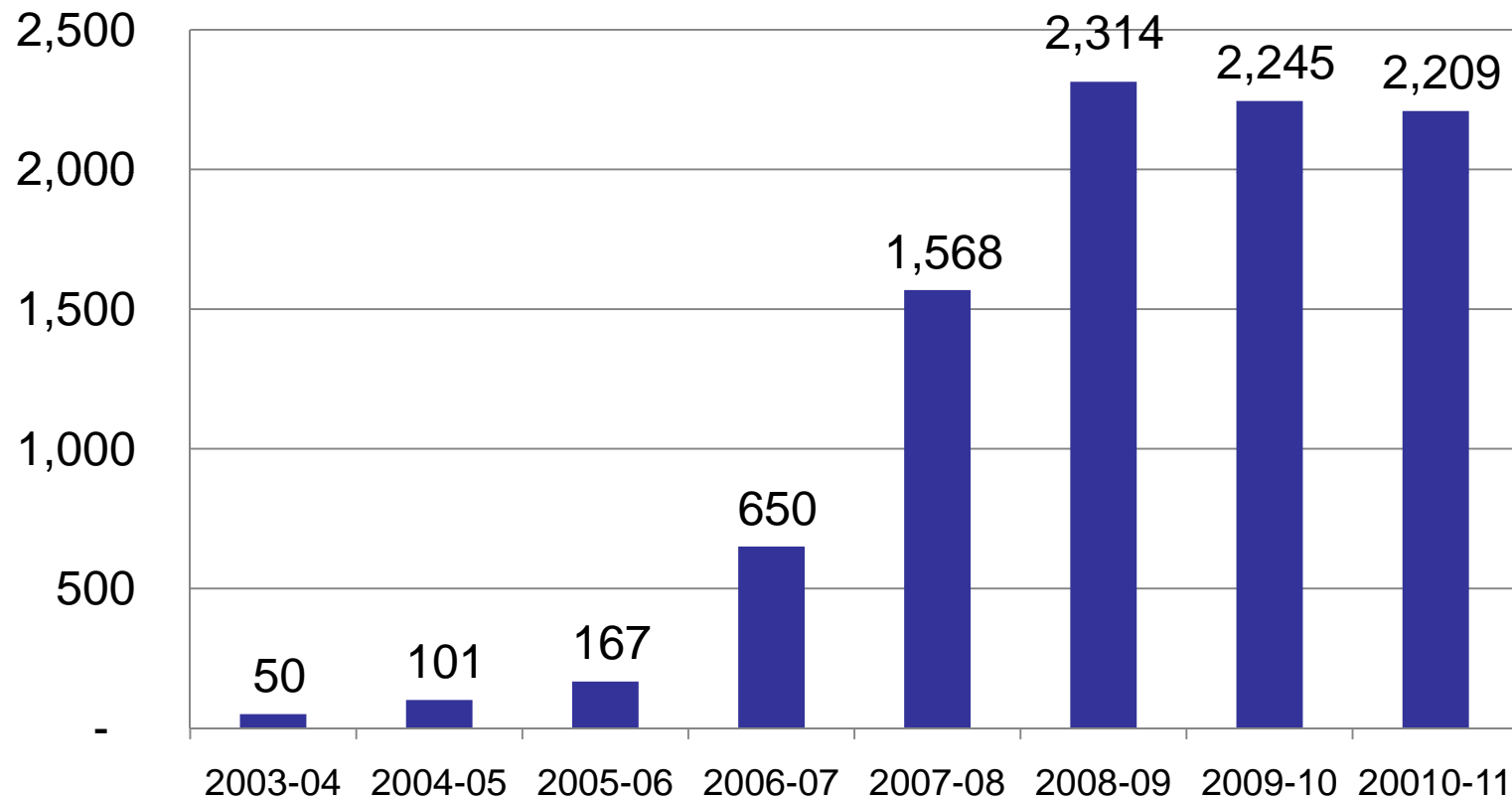
- Established by CA Legislature in 2001; first implemented in 2003
- Provides affordable housing and supportive services for a 24 month period to youth, age 18 to 24, who “age out” of foster care
- 60 THP-Plus providers in 51 counties

THP-Plus Provides Intensive Services to Young Adults



- **15 supportive services in three areas:**
 - Housing services
 - Employment and education assistance
 - Community and support services
- **Low ratio of staff to participants:**
 - 1 to 12 for non-parents
 - 1 to 8 for parents
- **Well-resourced program**
 - Average monthly rate of \$2,300

THP-Plus has Assisted 9,156 Non-Minors since 2006



Some Questions THP-Plus May Help Answer about EFC



- *Who may be interested in EFC?*
- *What will their level of education be?*
- *What will their be level of experience in the labor market?*
- *How many will be parents? Custodial parents?*
- *How many will have serious disabilities?*
- *What assistance will they need when they leave EFC?*

How THP-Plus and AB 12 Populations Compare



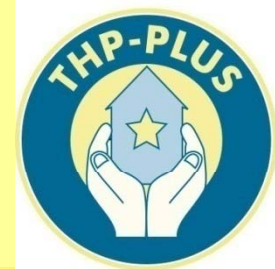
How they are the same

- Participated in of foster care or juvenile probation systems until age of majority

How they are different

- Some are > age 19

Demographic Summary of THP-Plus Participants



	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Sample size	1,049	552	454
Female	65%	62%	57%
Male	35%	38%	43%
Age 18 to 20 at entrance	82%	82%	81%
Age 21 to 24 at entrance	18%	18%	19%
Black	42%	42%	37%
White non-Hispanic	23%	25%	19%
Hispanic	20%	15%	25%
Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Multi- racial, or Other	15%	17%	19%

Demographic Summary of THP-Plus Participants



	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Parent at entrance	25%	24%	21%
Custodial parent at entrance	12%	15%	14%
<i>Receiving special needs services at exit:</i>			
Mental health	n/a	19%	21%
Substance abuse	n/a	4%	9%
Learning disability	n/a	4%	3%
Developmental disability	n/a	2%	1%
Physical disability	n/a	1%	1%

Housing Immediately Prior to THP-Plus



	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>2010-11</i>
Homeless, emergency shelter, or other unstable housing	19%	16%	18%
Foster care placement	30%	33%	38%
Living with relative or others with free rent	23%	24%	18%
Renting own or shared housing	15%	15%	14%
Supportive housing program	9%	8%	8%
Other housing	4%	5%	4%
Had experienced homelessness prior to THP-Plus	39%	36%	30%

Challenges at Entrance



Former foster youth entered THP-Plus with major challenges to self-sufficiency

- More than 1 in 6 were homeless
- 1 in 4 had zero income
- More than 1 in 4 had not completed high school

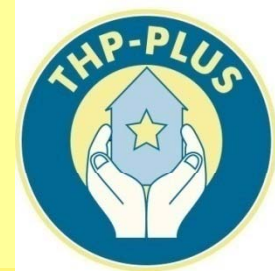
Many THP-Plus participants were parents

- 14% at entrance

THP-Plus met an immediate and urgent housing need for many participants

- 56% entered directly from foster care or homelessness

Positive Progress from Entrance to Exit



Housing Stability

- Increase in those with stable housing: 44% to 95%

Income

- Decrease in those with zero income: 25% to 19%
- Increase in median monthly income: \$750 to \$851
- Increase in hourly wage: \$9.47 to \$10.12
- Increase in access to public benefits: 22% to 31%

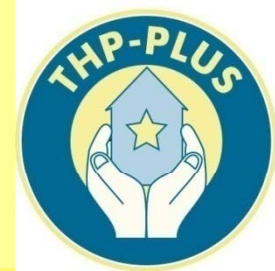
Positive Progress from Entrance to Exit



Educational Achievement

- Increase in % whose highest educational achievement was high school diploma or GED
 - 71% to 78%
- Increase in % that had completed a vocational training program
 - 7% to 10%
- Increase in % enrolled in a four-year college
 - 3% to 5%

Challenges During Program Participation



Employment

- No change in the proportion of individuals working
 - 44% at entrance & exit
- Decrease in proportion seeking jobs
 - 49% to 35%
- Increase in proportion not working and not seeking jobs
 - 8% to 21%

Challenges During Program Participation



Education

- Many enrolled in college but dropped out before program exit
 - 8% coded “dropped out” at entrance, 19% at exit

Criminal Justice

- Significant number involved with criminal justice between entrance and exit
 - 15% incarcerated
 - 7% criminal conviction

Challenges During Program Participation



Program Engagement

- Relatively short program stays
 - Average 13 months
- Involuntary exits common, but improved over prior year
 - 35%, down from 41% in 2009-10
- Legal evictions uncommon (2%)

Challenges During Program Participation



Meeting EFC participation conditions

- 30% working 0-9 hrs/wk, not in school, not in vocational training, and not receiving SSI
→at risk of ineligibility for EFC
- But no data on participation in job readiness programs

Challenges at THP-Plus Exit



Most exited THP-Plus with extremely low incomes

- Median income \$851/month, equivalent to \$10,212/yr

Most exited THP-Plus with low levels of educational achievement

- 21% had no high school credential
- <3% had college degree



Challenges at THP-Plus Exit

Many were custodial parents

- 1 in 5 at exit

Many exited into housing that was not self-sufficient or was not sustainably affordable

- More than 1 in 3 living with relatives or in supportive housing
- Median rent burden 39%



Special Populations: Youth Age 21+

Nearly 1 in 5 participants were age 21 or older at program entrance

- Somewhat higher incomes and educational achievement
- More likely to be a parent
- Almost twice as likely to enter from homelessness (1 in 3 older youth)

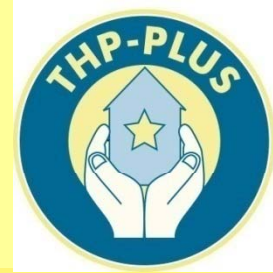
40% of participants were age 21 or older at program exit

Special Populations: Youth with Disabilities



- 7% of participants were receiving SSI at entrance and/or exit
- Mental health services most common special needs service received by SSI receivers
- Demographics largely comparable to general THP-Plus population
- Outcomes at exit (besides employment) largely similar to general THP-Plus population
- *Analysis limited by small sample size*

Special Populations: Youth with Short Stays and Involuntary Exits



- Explored variables potentially associated with:
 - Short and long program stays
 - Involuntary exits
- Included variety of participant characteristics as well as THP-Plus model as possible predictors

Special Populations: Youth with Short Stays



Predictors of short stays (<8 mo):

- Female gender less likely to have short stay
- Working at entrance less likely to have short stay
- Receiving SSI less likely to have short stay

Other participant and program characteristics not significantly associated with length of stay

Special Populations: Youth with Short Stays



Predictors of long stays (>22 mo):

- Age 21+ at entrance less likely to have long stay
- Experience of homelessness prior to THP-Plus less likely to have long stay
- Receiving SSI more likely to have long stay

Other participant and program characteristics not significantly associated with length of stay

Special Populations: Involuntary Exits



Predictors of involuntary exit:

- Age 21+ at program entrance less likely to exit involuntarily
- Receiving substance abuse services at exit less likely to exit involuntarily
- Experienced homelessness before THP-Plus more likely to exit involuntarily

Other participant and program characteristics not significantly associated with exit type

Implications for Extended Foster Care



Important to be prepared to serve pregnant parenting NMDs

- Referrals for prenatal care
- Birth and post-partum support
- Assistance securing child care
- Assistance tracking and scheduling immunizations and well-child visits
- Parenting support
- Domestic violence resources

Implications for Extended Foster Care



Important to provide intensive services to help NMDs persist in higher education

- Campus support programs, such as Guardian Scholars Programs
- Community College's Foster Youth Success Initiative
- Disabled Students Programs and Services
- EOP/EOPS
- Knowledge of how higher education process including financial aid deadlines, enrollment processes.

Implications for Extended Foster Care



Important to:

- Recognize NMDs may have limited success in the labor market
- Understand how to assist NMDs who become involved with criminal justice system
- Help exiting NMDs secure public benefits
- Help youth maintain eligibility
- Acknowledge NMDs may re-enter after experiencing difficulty



Questions or comments?

Enter questions on your screen now by clicking the “Question and Answer” arrow, typing your question, and clicking “Send.”

Or direct later questions or comments to:

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Full report of study findings will be posted on www.thpplus.org.