

Also related to school performance:

- In **89.5% (2,287)** of the reviews, the child was regularly attending school.
- In **7.4% (190)** of the reviews, the child had been suspended in the six months prior.
- In **2.3% (55)** of the reviews, the child did not speak English as their primary language.
- In **1.9% (48)** of the reviews, the child had been expelled in the six months prior to review.

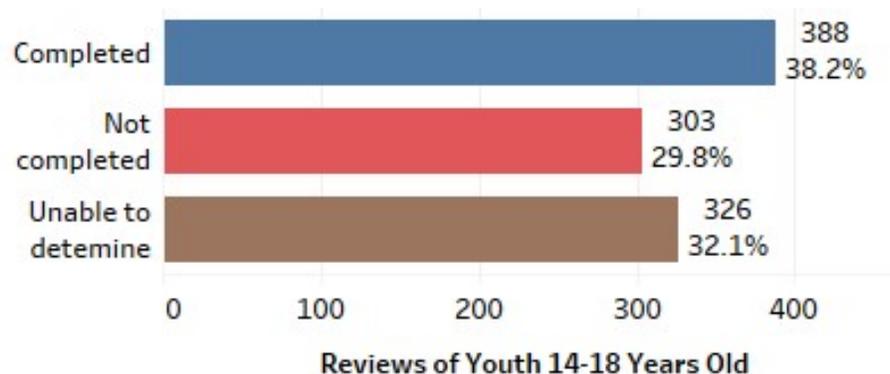
OLDER YOUTH: PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Nationally there is growing concern for the number of young adults who aged out of the foster care system and found themselves ill-prepared for adult life. Research shows that these youth are “more likely than their peers to drop out of school, be unemployed or homeless, experience health and mental health problems and not have health insurance, become teen parents, use illegal drugs, and have encounters with the criminal justice system.”⁶⁵

In FY2018-19, 143 (6.1%) left the child welfare system on the day they reached legal adulthood having never reached permanency. Whether able to return to their families or not, older youth need to begin the process of gaining skills needed as a young adult.

Independent Living Assessment. All youth age 14-18 are to take an assessment to determine which skills for adulthood are still in need of work.⁶⁶ It was completed for **38.2%** of youth this fiscal year (**Figure 44**), which is no change from last year.

Figure 44: Independent Living Assessment Completed, Youth Age 14-18, n=1,017



Transitional Living Plan. The completed Independent Living Assessment is to drive the creation of the Transitional Living Plan (Independent Living Plan). This plan must be developed for a state ward 14 years of age or older and be designed to empower youth in achieving successful adulthood.⁶⁷ It needs to be periodically updated as situations dictate.

⁶⁵ Child Welfare Information Gateway. April 2013. “Helping Youth Transition to Adulthood.” Children’s Bureau/ACYF/ACF/HHS. https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/youth_transition.pdf.

⁶⁶ Transitional Living Planning Procedure 30-2015-NDHHS.

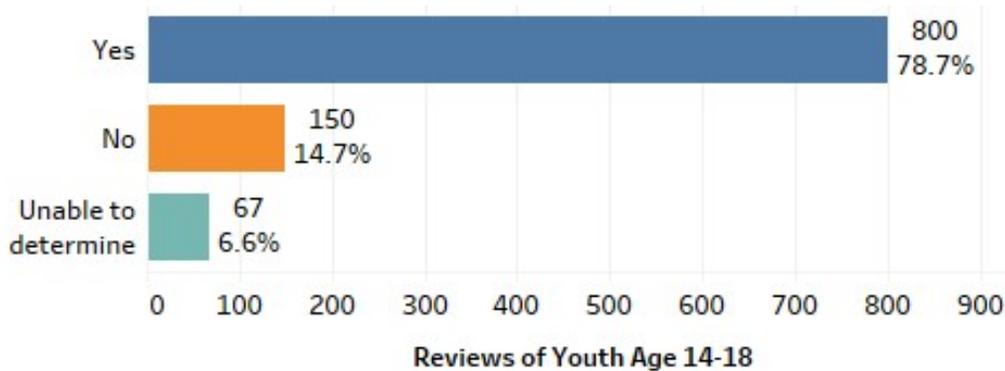
⁶⁷ Transitional Living Planning Policy Memo 30-2015, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Child Welfare

- In **73.8% (751 of 1,017)** of the reviews the plan had been created, but in 13.3% it had not.
- **Only 45.8% (466 of 1,017)** of youth aged 14-18 had an identified transition team.

Relationships with Positive Adults. All youth need to have at least one positive adult, whether family or friend, that can assist them not only as minors but also as they transition into adulthood. **Figure 45** indicates if such an adult mentor has been identified for the youth reviewed.

Figure 45: Positive Adult Mentor Identified, Youth 14-18, n=1,017



As part of the file review process, FCRO staff assess if the youth is being provided with the skills needed for adulthood. **For 23.6% of youth, however, there is not enough information provided to make this determination (Figure 46).**

Figure 46: Obtaining Skills for Adulthood, Youth 14-18, n=1,017

