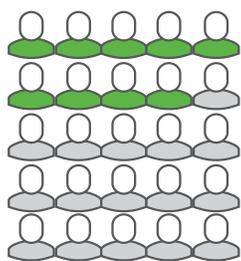


THE ROAD TO COLLEGE

TEXAS FOSTER YOUTH & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

In response to a 2016 Texas legislative mandate, a dataset was created by the exchange of data between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to examine the outcomes of higher education of youth formerly in foster care. This study examined a **cohort of 4,263 youth** formerly in foster care who turned 18 between September 1, 2009 & August 31, 2010.

STUDY SAMPLE



1,529 former foster youth were included in this study

Youth who met the criteria of: 1) being a former foster youth in Texas who turned 18 years old in 2009 & 2010 and 2) were enrolled in a higher education institution by August 31, 2016 were included in this study.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Former foster youth who used the **tuition waiver** are **3.5X** more likely to **graduate with a bachelor's degree** compared to former foster youth who did not use the tuition

Tuition Waiver Utilization

36% of the former foster youth cohort **enrolled in higher education** n=1,529

47% of the former foster youth were **tuition waiver eligible** n=724

60% used the **tuition waiver** n=431

40% did not use the **tuition waiver** n=293

Youth who first enrolled at a **4-year university** were **more likely to use the waiver** than those first enrolled in other types of higher education institutions.

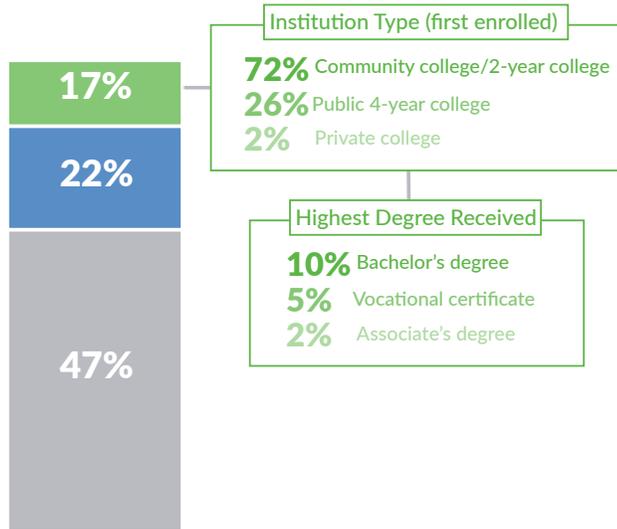
Higher education refers to any public technical institute, public junior college, public senior college or university, medical or dental unit, public college, or agency of higher education as defined by Texas Education Code section 61.003.

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT & DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Enrolled in higher education in Fall 2010; traditional cohort

Enrolled in higher education after 2010

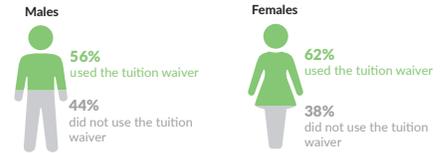
Not enrolled in higher education (2010-2016)



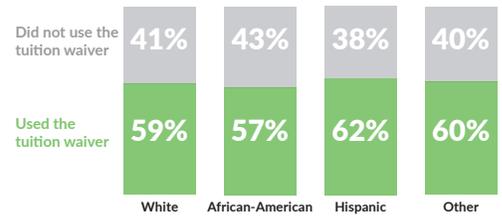
Data on higher education & degree attainment is from the former foster youth cohort (n = 4,263)

Demographics

GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY



Demographic data is among tuition eligible youth (n = 724)

LOOKING FORWARD

Programs & policies can address **lack of waiver use** & **barriers** faced by former foster care youth.



RECENT LEGISLATION

- Every public college and university must have a person designated as the campus liaison for former foster youth.
- Campus liaisons must complete a required training for on how to help former foster youth.



CAMPUS PROGRAMS

- Campus support programs are valued by former foster youth.
- Robust programs may improve waiver use, higher education retention, and graduation rates.



For more information, contact:

Toni Watt, tw15@txstate.edu

Monica Faulkner, mfaulkner@mail.utexas.edu

Prepared by:

