

YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE IN BC:

McCreary's Youth Research Academy is surveying BC youth as they approach the transition out of government care (including from a Youth Agreement), and at six-month intervals after the first survey. This poster shares some preliminary results from 107 youth approaching the transition and 38 who had recently left care. For more details about the study visit: mcs.bc.ca/youth_transitioning_out_of_care_study.



Transition planning

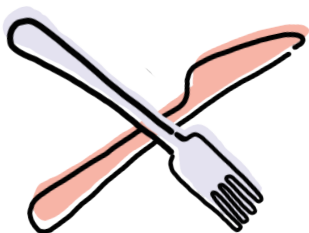
- Among youth preparing to transition out of care, 49% had a transition plan.
- Among those who had recently left care, 47% had not felt prepared for the transition, 24% felt somewhat prepared, and 29% felt quite or very prepared.
- Most youth (95%) had at least one goal for the next 6 months.

Access to services

- Half of youth preparing to transition out of care experienced decreased access to professional supports (50%) and health care (50%) as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.



We need more mental health supports for youth that runs beyond 9 AM and 4 PM."



Food security

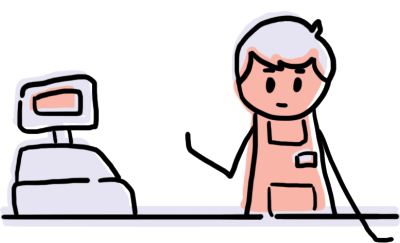
- Food security was a challenge for youth who had transitioned out of care e.g., 68% went to bed hungry at least sometimes because there was not enough money for food at home.

Housing experiences

- Among youth approaching the transition into independent living, 57% who had experienced challenges finding accommodation reported they could not afford a place.
- Among youth who had recently transitioned out of care, 25% had moved at least twice in the past six months.



The budget that is in place for rent is very out dated...if we want youth to thrive, we need to give them the budget to do it."

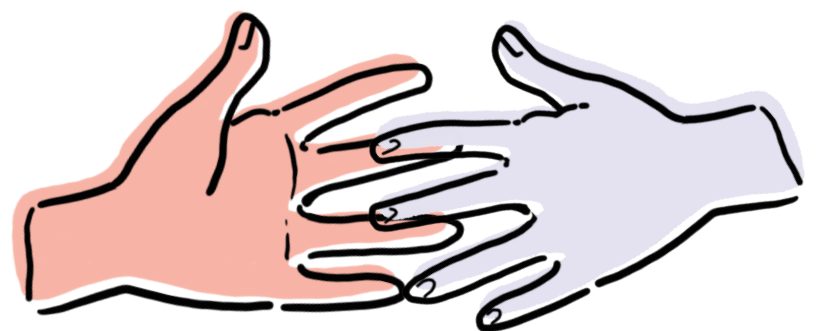


Employment

- Most youth who had transitioned out of care (86%) had worked at a paid job, and 49% were currently working. Barriers to maintaining employment included scheduling conflicts (34%), conflict with supervisor/coworkers (31%), insufficient pay (30%), and transportation challenges (30%).

Youth's suggestions for how to better support young people transitioning out of care:

- Provide better support from social workers to ensure youth have a plan in place for when they age out of care.
- Ensure youth can maintain contact with their social worker and youth worker for at least a year after aging out.
- Ensure youth receive adequate funding to live independently.
- Connect youth to housing resources (including transitional housing), mental health supports, and employment programs.



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