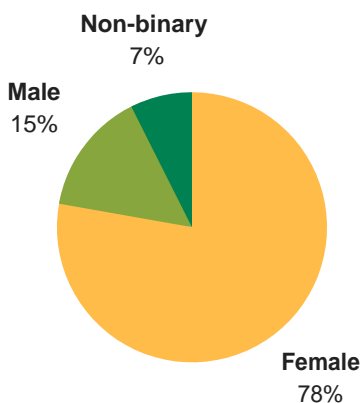


REUNIFICATION: SUPPORTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RETURN HOME

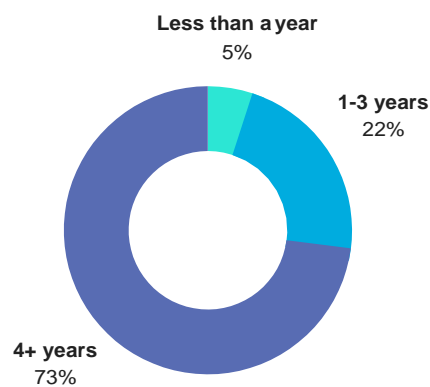
Reunification services provide important support for successful transitions home for children, youth, and families. In 2016, 233,108 children in foster care left foster care to be reunified with their parent or primary caregiver (AFCARS Report, 2017). To understand how reunification services impact reunification, the National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council conducted a survey on the experiences of youth returning home after being placed in foster care. The survey was conducted in March 2018 and there were 106 respondents. Questions were asked about the supports and services youth and their families received.

Of the **106** respondents:

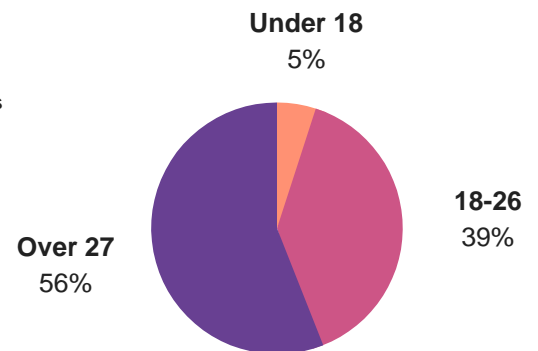
Gender:



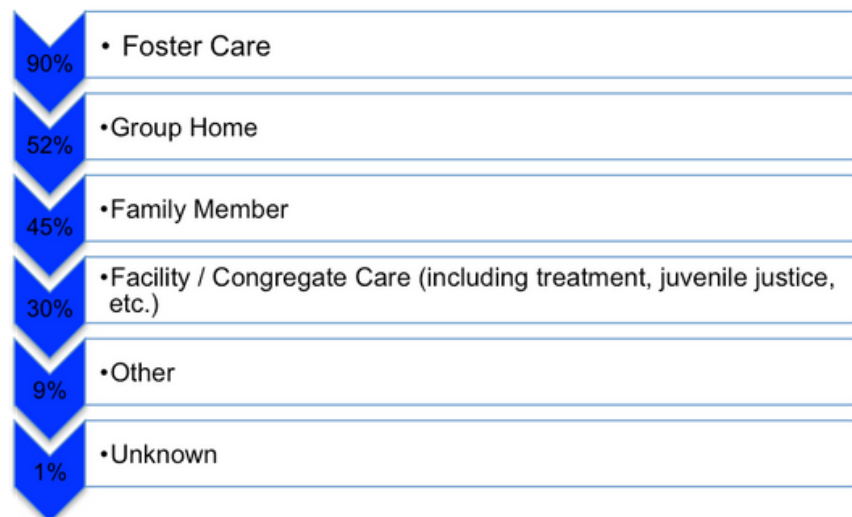
Time in Foster Care:



Age:



Foster Care Experience (*respondents were able to select multiple experiences*) :



When asked to describe preparation services to return home:



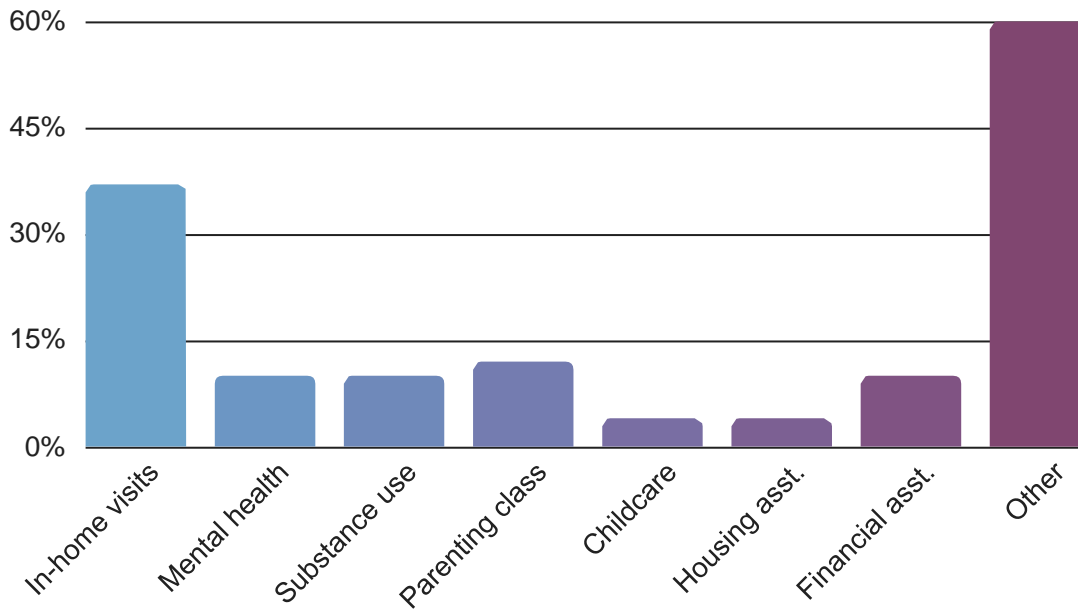
- **3%** responded "I was provided a lot of information and support in preparing to return home"
- **17%** responded "I received some information and support prior to returning home"
- **25%** responded "I had hardly any information or support provided in preparation to return home"
- **46%** responded "No information or support provided"

Council Member Testimony:

"We weren't prepared to come home. My mom had been working on herself and was ready to be a mom, but I wasn't ready for that... That transition could have been easier if I had been prepared for that."

-Kodi, Former Foster Youth (Iowa)

Services Youth & Families Received to Support Reunification



Of the **106** respondents:



While only **10%** received mental health services to support reunification, **58%** believed that mental health services would have supported a successful return home.



65% reported "there were issues going on in the home that were not known and/or addressed prior to returning home."



63% of youth surveyed who were reunified with family eventually returned to foster care. Only **37%** remained at home with no re-entry into care.



The National Foster Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council, a partnership project administered by FosterClub and Foster Care Alumni of America with support from Casey Family Programs, convenes to provide federal stakeholders with relevant and timely information as policies and procedures are created that will impact children and families throughout the country.

<http://nationalpolicycouncil.org/>