

**Youth 17 and Older in Foster Care<sup>1</sup> on December 31, 2017**

<b>Number of Youth in Care</b>	1,582
<b>Number with ID Status Available</b>	1,289
<b>Number with One Form of ID</b>	79
<b>Number with Two or More Forms of ID</b>	1,144
<b>Forms of ID Possessed by Youth in Care</b>	
<b>All Youth in Care</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	1,198
Number with a Social Security card	1,141
Number with a state-issued ID	917
Number with a passport	305
<b>Youth Who Possess Only One Form of ID</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	60
Number with a Social Security card	12
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*

**Youth Discharged to APPLA<sup>2</sup> in CY 2017**

<b>Number of Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	649
<b>Number with ID Status Available</b>	642
<b>Number with One Form of ID</b>	15
<b>Number with Two or More Forms of ID</b>	623
<b>Forms of ID Possessed by Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	
<b>All Youth Discharged to APPLA</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	637
Number with a Social Security card	620
Number with a state-issued ID	579
Number with a passport	224
<b>Youth Who Possessed Only One Form of ID</b>	
Number with a birth certificate	14
Number with a Social Security card	*
Number with a state-issued ID	*
Number with a passport	*

Data source: APPLA discharges and in care data were from CCRS as of 1/5/2018; PYA data were as of 1/17/2018

<sup>1</sup>Youth in care includes youth 17 and older in 24 hour foster care placement. Youth in Close to Home placements are not included.

<sup>2</sup>APPLA discharges include youth ages 18-20 discharged to self and youth who reached 21 while in foster care. Young people discharged to APPLA include those receiving housing through ACS while on extensions to placement and in college. Youth discharged from Close to Home placements are not included.

Note: The number of youth who obtained identification with agency assistance is unavailable at this time.

\*The number of youth in cells with less than six youth are not shown to protect anonymity.

## **Background**

An essential part of ACS' work to prepare youth for adulthood includes making sure youth in foster care obtain government issued identification cards and other vital records. In 2017, nearly all youth discharged to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) obtained two forms of ID. The ACS Division of Family Permanency Services has a centralized Vital Records Unit that works with foster care agencies to obtain vital identification, birth and death certificates and social security cards for children and youth in foster care. This unit collaborates with external stakeholders, including foster care providers, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain vital identification for foster care youth. The unit works directly with the SSA to acquire social security cards for children in foster care. The Unit provides technical assistance to our providers and communicates with other city agencies to ensure that children and families have their vital documents. In December 2015, ACS and DOHMH signed a Memorandum of Understanding that has helped us to expedite the receipt of birth certificates for children and youth in foster care. These efforts have resulted in the implementation of a birth certificate request tracking system and the development of protocols that allow ACS to directly request copies of birth and death certificates. Our Vital Records Unit also assists with obtaining copies of birth and death certificates from other counties/states and foreign countries. Our APPLA Monitoring Unit and Older Youth Conferencing Unit in the ACS Division of Family Permanency Services also work with Provider agencies ensure that youth have secured ID's and vital records during both the completion of the Preparing Youth for Adulthood checklist and Family Team Conferences for Trial and Final discharges.