



NYTD

The Year in Review: A National Overview of Challenges in NYTD Reporting

Miguel Vieyra, Children's Bureau

February 14, 2012

Overview of Briefing



- Provide an overview of States' common data reporting successes and challenges during FFY 2011;
- Explain how States can use the NYTD Data Review Utility (NDRU) and NYTD Portal to identify and address these challenges;
- Discuss how these challenges impact our ability to analyze and use NYTD data; and
- Address any questions States have about NYTD data reporting.



FFY 2011 by the numbers...

- States reported that approximately **96,000** youth¹ received independent living services in FFY 2011 including **68,000** youth² in the 2011A period and **70,000** youth³ in the 2011B period.
- States⁴ reported approximately **24,000** baseline population records. Of these, about **17,000** total youth participated in the NYTD survey. Nationally, the survey participation rate among baseline youth in foster care was approximately **75%**.
- **37** States were in compliance with all NYTD standards for the 2011A period and **32** States are currently in compliance with all NYTD standards for the 2011B period.

¹ This unduplicated count includes 49 of 52 States.

² Includes 50 of 52 States.

³ Includes 50 of 52 States.

⁴ Includes 49 of 52 States for the 2011A period and 50 of 52 States for the 2011B period.



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Summary of strengths from the 2011 reporting year

Strengths



1. Following file transmission and submission procedures, including using system tools (NDRU and NYTD Portal) to support this process.
2. Using the NYTD technical support help desk and other resources
3. Collecting and reporting services information appropriately
4. Collecting information on the baseline population cohort, including reporting high quality survey data



1. Following file transmission and submission procedures, including using system tools (NDRU and NYTD Portal) to support this process.

- Many States reported using the NYTD Data Review Utility extensively to QA their data file prior to transmission. States encountered few difficulties in working with the NYTD Portal.
- **49 of 52 States** were able to complete the file submission process on time during the 2011A regular transmission period. In 2011B, **50 of 52 States** completed the file submission process on time.

2. Using the NYTD technical support help desk and other resources

- **47 States have** contacted the NYTD Technical Support hotline or email address for assistance during the 2011 reporting year.



3. Collecting and reporting services information appropriately

- In 2011A, **49 of 50 States** provided information on independent living services elements (20-33) that met our error-free data standards. In 2011B, **48 of 50 States** provided information on services that met our error-free data standards.

4. Collecting information on the baseline population cohort, including reporting high quality survey data

- Many States reported high quality outcomes information on surveyed youth. For example, **46 of 49 States** passed the error-free standards for the survey data elements (37-58) in 2011A. In 2011B, **49 of 50 States** passed the error-free standards for the survey data elements.
- While survey participation rates varied greatly among States, the national rate was approximately 75%. Also, **13 States** garnered the participation of at least 80% of baseline youth in foster care, reported outcomes information that passed all error-free standards, **and** collected all such information in a timely manner for the 2011 reporting year.



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Summary of the common challenges from the 2011 reporting year

Top 10 Challenges



1. Low number of baseline records reported
2. Low baseline survey response rate
3. Improperly indicating a youth's participation in the survey
4. Collecting baseline outcomes data beyond the 45-day requirement
5. Survey data from an alternate report period included in the file (e.g., data collected in B period but reported in A period file)
6. Reporting data errors in youth survey responses
7. Missing demographic information on served youth
8. Reporting inconsistent information on services provided to youth
9. Reporting out of range values
10. Reporting missing or internally inconsistent race or ethnicity information



Top 10 Challenges

As we review each of the Top 10 challenges in turn, you'll notice that we address three questions:

What does it mean?

This section includes a **brief description** of what each challenge means in the NYTD report.

How do we measure it?

This section describes how each challenge is identified using the **NYTD Portal or NDRU**, including the **error type or data quality advisory** associated with it. Please note that internal consistency checks will be identified by number along with the abbreviation "ICC". Data quality advisories will also be listed by number along with the abbreviation "DQA". Finally, the section describes the benchmark, if any, we used to track State performance each report period.

How many States struggled with it?

This section, lists the **number of States that struggled** with a specific issue in each report period.

Low number of baseline records reported



What does it mean?

- Some States struggled to capture the full baseline population by reporting the records of all applicable 17-year-old youth in foster care.

How do we measure it?

- Analyzing NYTD baseline record count against the count of 17-year-olds reported to AFCARS.
- Specifically, we examined whether States reported *at least 80% of their 17-year-old AFCARS population in the NYTD baseline population in the corresponding report period file.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **7 States** (among States reporting baseline records, proportion of the corresponding record count in AFCARS compared to NYTD ranged from 46% to 161%)
- 2011B: **8 States** (among States reporting baseline records, proportion of the corresponding record count in AFCARS compared to NYTD ranged from 35% to 189%)

Low baseline survey response rate



What does it mean?

- Some States struggled to garner the participation of baseline youth in foster care in the NYTD survey.

How do we measure it?

- Analyzing number of baseline youth in foster care who participated in the survey compared to all baseline youth in foster care.
- Specifically, we examined whether States *garnered the participation of at least 80% of baseline youth in foster care in the NYTD survey.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **19 States** (among States reporting outcomes data, survey participation rates ranged from 9% to 100%)
- 2011B: **22 States** (among States reporting outcomes data, survey participation rates ranged from 5% to 100%)



What does it mean?

- States reported that a baseline youth did not participate in the survey but reported survey responses in the youth's record (or vice versa); or
- States reported survey data but did not indicate the youth was in the baseline population; or
- States indicated that a youth belonged in the baseline population but provided no data for any of the outcomes elements.

How do we measure it?

- Records flagged for ICC #11 (survey data elements 37-58); “missing” data errors for element 34 (outcomes reporting status); “missing” data errors for element 36 (foster care status-outcomes); records flagged for DQAs #21 (elements 34, 35, 37-58) or #23 (elements 34, 37-58).
- Specifically, we examined whether States *appropriately reported the youth's participation or non-participation in the NYTD survey by passing the 90% error-free standard for element 34 and 100% error-free standard for element 36.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **3 States** failed element 34 or 36; **15 other States** reported relevant errors or DQAs in elements 34-58.
- 2011B: **5 States** failed element 34 or 36; **14 other States** reported relevant errors or DQAs in elements 34-58.



What does it mean?

- Some States struggled to survey baseline youth within the timeframe specified in the regulation (within 45 days of their 17th birthday, but not before that birthday).

How do we measure it?

- Records flagged for ICC #7 (element 35 – date of outcomes data collection) or in some cases records flagged for DQA #21 (elements 34, 35, 37-58).
- Specifically, we examined whether States *surveyed baseline youth in a timely manner by passing the 90% error-free standard for element 35.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **9 States** failed element 35; **16 other States** reported errors in element 35)
- 2011B: **10 States** failed element 35; **18 other States** reported errors in element 35)



What does it mean?

- Some States collected outcomes data in one report period but reported in a different report period file. For example, in the 2011A file some States reported survey data collected in the 2011B period. Alternatively, some States reported survey data collected in 2011B in the 2011B file for a baseline youth who turned age 17 during 2011A.

How do we measure it?

- Analysis of dates in element 35 that do not correspond with the report period represented by the file, regardless of whether element 35 was marked in error; records flagged for DQA #21 (elements 34-35, 37-58).

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **34 States** reported a total of 1,877 records with dates in element 35 that did not correspond with 2011A (dates after March 31, 2011)
- 2011B: **33 States** reported a total of 1,449 records dates in element 35 that did not correspond with 2011B (dates before April 1, 2011 or after September 30, 2011)



What does it mean?

- Some States struggled to devise and/or implement a survey that would collect high quality data from youth. Consequently, some youth answered questions that did not apply to them or provided responses to survey questions that weren't from the list of valid responses. When survey response errors were collected, the State did not seek to resolve them.

How do we measure it?

- Missing or out-of-range errors for survey data elements 37-58; ICC#'s 12 -17 for relevant survey data elements 52-53 and 55-58.
- Specifically, we examined whether *States reported survey responses that passed the 90% error-free standard for elements 37-58.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **3 States** failed all elements 52-53 and 55-58; **14 other States** reported errors in one or more of survey data elements 37-58.
- 2011B: **1 State** failed elements 55-58; **18 other States** reported errors in one or more survey data elements 37-58



What does it mean?

- States struggled to provide all required information on served population youth's characteristics.

How do we measure it?

- Records flagged for ICC#4 for elements 15 (local agency), 16 (Federally-recognized tribe), 17 (adjudicated delinquent), 18 (educational level) or 19 (special education).
- Specifically, we examined whether States appropriately reported a served youth's characteristics *by passing the 90% error-free standard for elements 15-19.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **5 States** failed at least one of elements 15-19; **20 other States** reported errors in one or more of these elements.
- 2011B: **5 States** failed at least one of elements 15-19; **29 other States** reported errors in one or more these elements.



What does it mean?

- Some States indicated that a youth belonged in the served population but reported “blanks” for all independent living services elements (20-33), reported all “no” for services elements or provided only partial information on services provided to a youth.

How do we measure it?

- Records flagged for ICC #5 for services data elements 20-33.
- Specifically, we examined whether States *reported information on services that passed the 90% error-free standard for elements 20-33.*

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **1 State** failed all services elements (20-33); **11 other States** reported errors in one or more services elements (20-33).
- 2011B: **2 States** failed one or more services elements (20-33); **11 other States** reported errors in one or more services elements (20-33).

Reporting out of range values



What does it mean?

- A few States did not report valid responses to data elements, particularly elements 15 (local agency), 18 (educational level), 34 (outcomes reporting status), 46 (highest educational certification received), 55 (other health insurance coverage) and 56 (health insurance type-medical)

How do we measure it?

- Out-of-range errors* in any element; records flagged for ICC #6 for element 34.

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **6 States**
- 2011B: **8 States**

*NYTD Technical Bulletin #1, Table 1 lists the valid response options for each element. Appendix B in NYTD Technical Bulletin #2 shows when out-of-range errors will be counted for each element by reporting population.



What does it mean?

- Some States failed to report race or ethnicity information appropriately for all youth.

How do we measure it?

- “Missing” data errors for race data elements 6-12 or Hispanic/Latino ethnicity (element 13); ICC’s #18 or #19 for race data elements 6-12.
- Specifically we examined whether States *passed the 90% error-free standard for elements 6-13*.

How many States struggled with it?

- 2011A: **1 State** failed all race and ethnicity elements; **10 other States** reported errors for one or more race/ethnicity data elements.
- 2011B: **1 State** failed all race and ethnicity elements; **12 other States** reported errors for one or more race/ethnicity data elements.



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Impact of these data reporting challenges on
data analysis

Impact on data analysis



While any data error and some data quality advisories affect our ability to analyze data on youth in transition, some of the “Top 10” challenges uniquely impact our ability to understand the outcome experiences of all youth.

Consider Challenges #1-3...

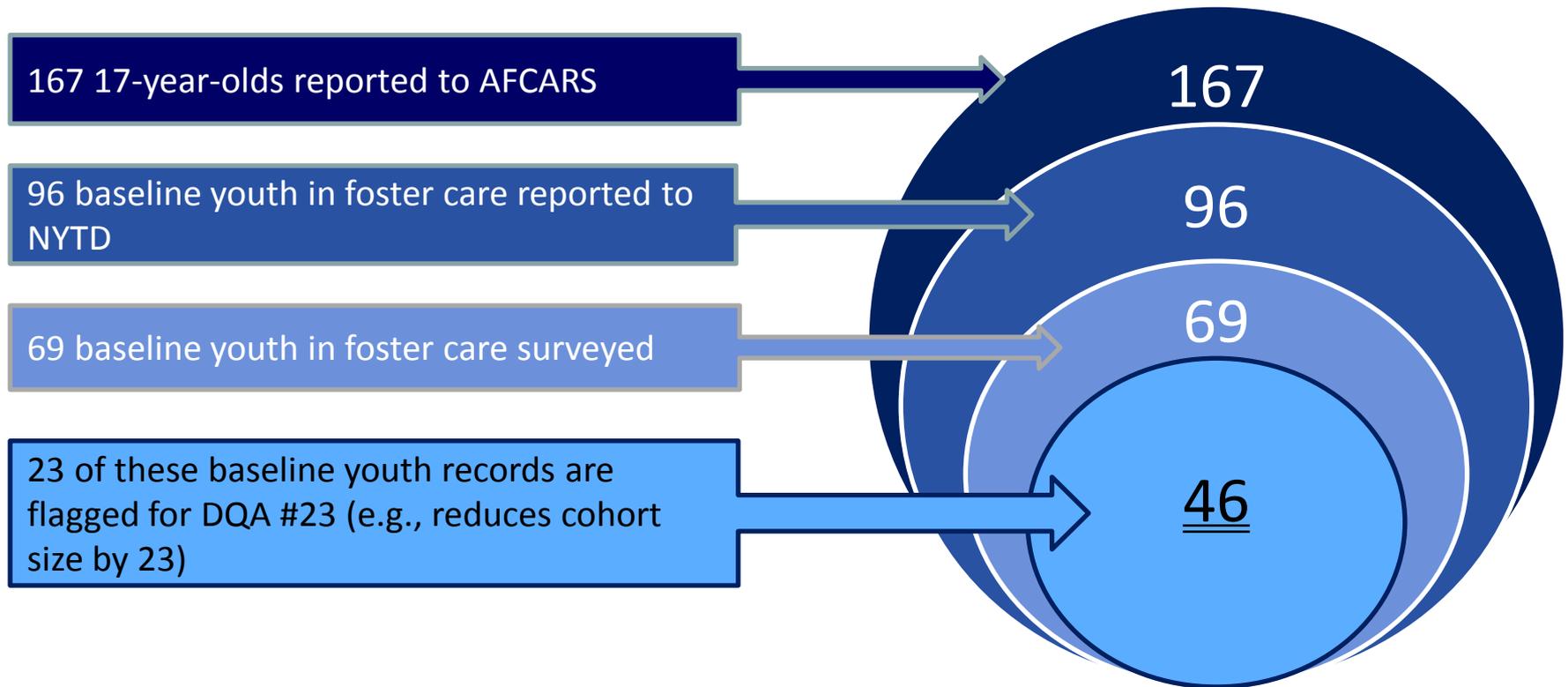
- Low number of baseline records reported
- Low baseline survey response rate
- Improperly indicating a youth’s participation in the survey



Example: A State submits the 2011B NYTD and AFCARS files with the following information...

- State reports 167 17-year-olds to AFCARS and 96 baseline population youth in the NYTD file (57% of AFCARS youth reported to NYTD).
- State reports survey information for 69 baseline youth in foster care (72% survey participation rate).
- 23 baseline youth records are flagged for DQA #23 (e.g., State reports survey information but indicates in element 34 that the youth has not “participated”)

Impact on data analysis



Impact: State's baseline population cohort only practically represents 28% (46 of 167) of possible baseline youth.

Thank you!



Miguel Vieyra, NYTD lead

202-205-7277 or Miguel.Vieyra@acf.hhs.gov

For more technical support, please contact the Help Desk:

NYTD@icfi.com or 877-565-NYTD (877-565-6983)