

From Foster Care to College: Emerging Adults' Perceptions of Factors that Impacted their Academic Achievement

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Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood
6th Conference on Emerging Adulthood

Chicago, Illinois

*NOTE: This is an excerpt of the full presentation.
Contact RR&E for more information.*



Background to the Problem

	Youth from Foster Care	Youth Not from Foster Care
Desire to attend college	70%	70%*
Earn a high school diploma or GED	50%	75%**
Enroll in college	20%	60%

High School Graduation Rate (by race)¹

Asian	84%
Black	63%
Hispanic	69%
White	84%

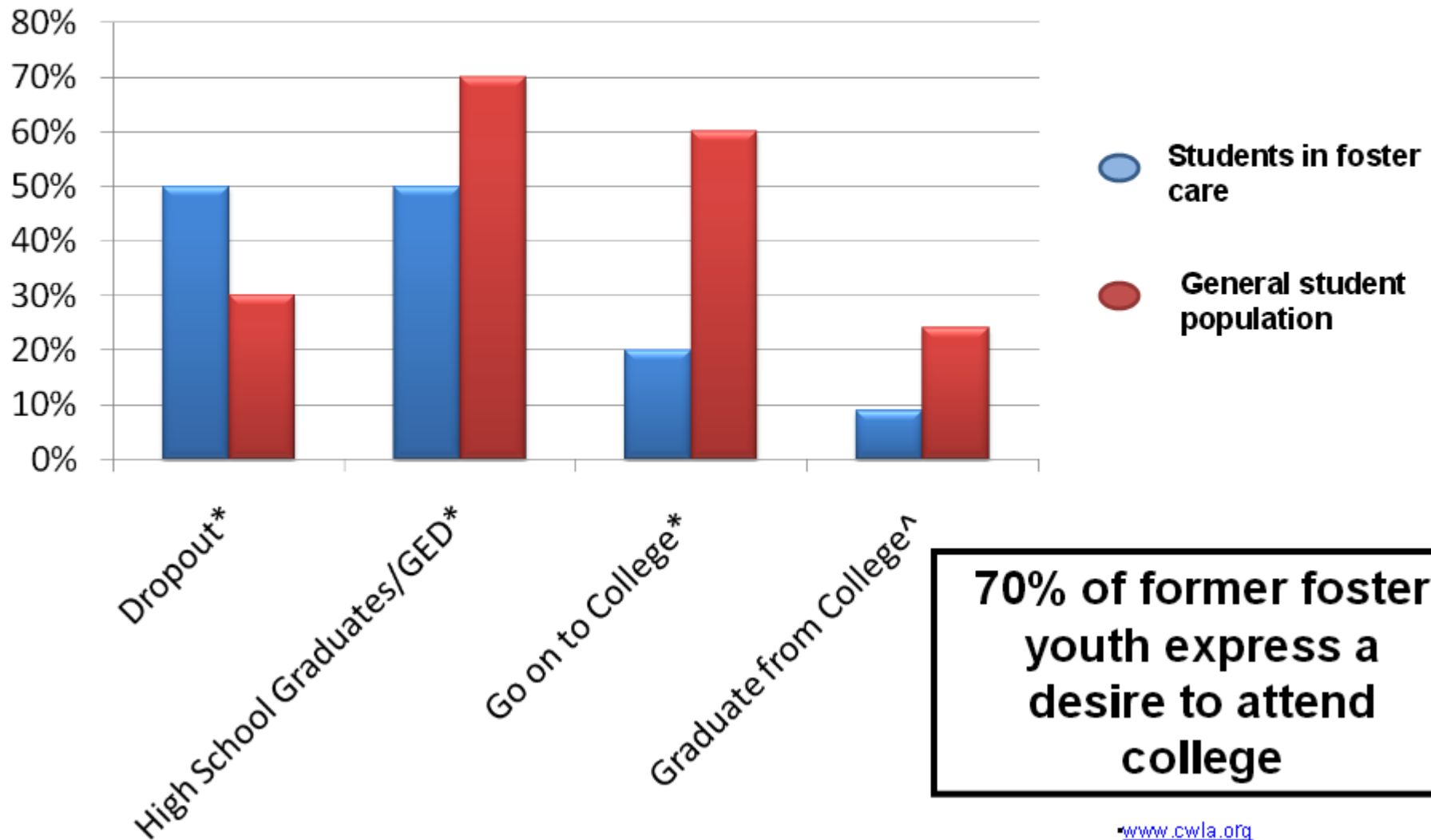


¹Florida Department of Education

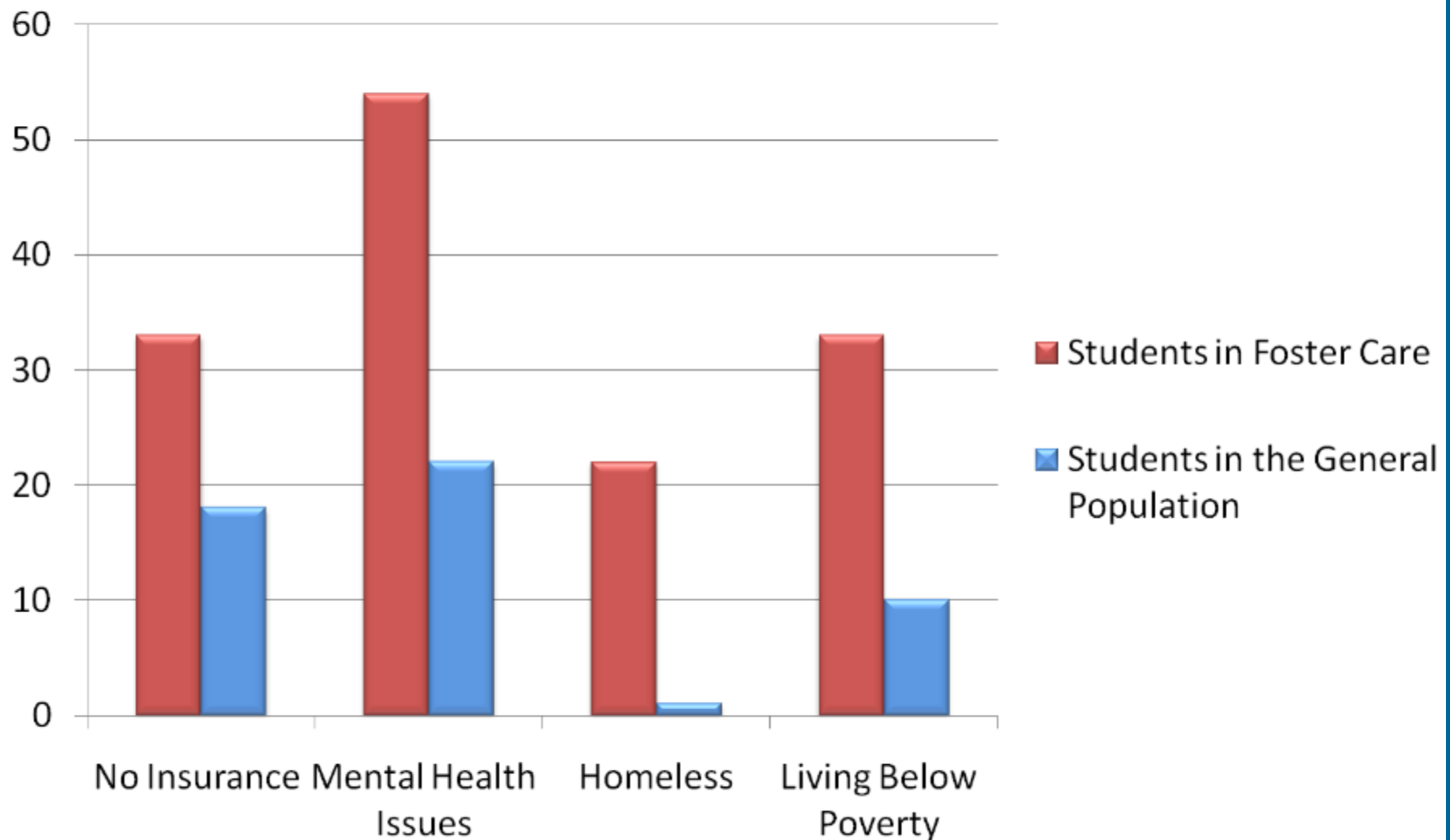
* National

** Florida

Foster Care Alumni Studies: Education Outcomes



Adult Outcomes



A Majority of Children in Foster Care are School Aged

Number of children and youth in foster care on September 30, 2009*	423,773	
<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Young children (age 0-4)	129,753	31
School age children and youth (age 5-17)	286,895	67.7
Young Adults (age 18-21)	18,333	5

Limited Post-Secondary Educational Outcomes

	Midwest Study Foster Care Alumni (% at age 26)	National Peer Group (%)	Florida Foster Care Alumni (% between 18-22)
No high school diploma or GED	20	6	NA
High school diploma only	31	18	45
GED only	9	4	22
One or more years of college, but no degree	32	26	NA
2-year college degree	4	10	7
4-year college degree	3	24	< 1
One or more years of graduate school	1	13	< 1



Source: Casey Family Programs, 2010

A Continuing Issue

“Our data suggest that the educational deficits with which foster youth approach the transition to adulthood persist into their early adult years and that they continue to lag behind their peers in the general population.”

- Courtney, Dworsky, Lee, & Raap, 2010

Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, 2010

Purpose of the Study

- To explore, explain and describe the perceptions of college students who grew up in foster care regarding the external and internal influences that impacted their educational achievement and attainment.



Major Research Question

- *What are the perceptions of college students who lived in foster care regarding external and internal influences on their graduation from high school and successful enrollment in college?*



Secondary Research Questions

1. What contributed to foster youths' overall academic success?
2. What barriers and supports did participants encounter during their K-12 education?
3. What strategies have they developed to cope with their lives and excel in school?

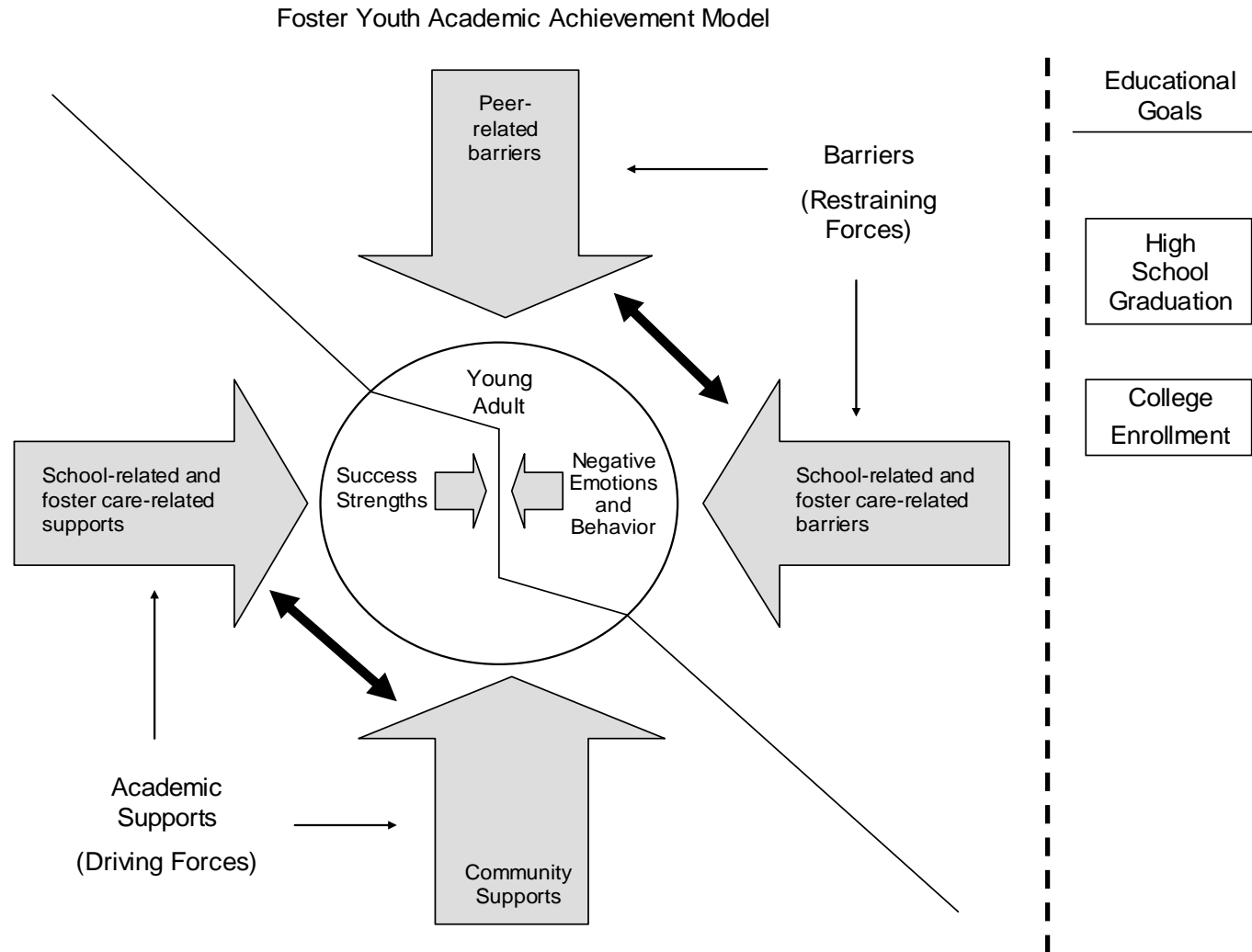


Population of Interest

- Young adults (18-24)
- Had lived in foster care at least one year
- Were attending college or university
- Were receiving Road-to-Independence stipend
- Originated from South Florida (Keys to Palm Beach)



Foster Youth Academic Achievement Model



Florida Atlantic University Freshmen Orientation DRREAM Sheet



Directions: For each of the following statements, make a mark in the box under the words that best reflect your opinion.

		Not Really	I Guess So	Yes	Definitely
1.	I consistently work hard to do well in school.				
2.	I am convinced that my academic progress is primarily my own responsibility .				
3.	I know how to find resources to help me succeed academically.				
4.	I believe that I can and will succeed in whatever I decide to do.				
5.	I nearly always persist at whatever I decide to accomplish.				
6.	I am determined to earn my college degree no matter what.				
7.	I can motivate myself.				
Power Words		Power Questions			
Go =	What is my long-term Goal ? I want to be a . . .				
D =	What have I worked at Diligently ?				
R =	How can take full Responsibility for my college success?				
R =	What Resources do I need to find or use?				
E =	How can I develop a more confidence in my abilities (self-Efficacy)?				
A =	Why should I Always persevere ?				
M =	How can I increase my internal Motivation ?				

My Power Phrase: _____ **My Power Motto** _____

My Power Goal

I, _____, commit to myself and the people I care about that I will complete my bachelor's degree in the year _____. I affirm that NOTHING and NO ONE (not even me) will keep me from this goal. I will succeed!

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____ **My Power Partner:** _____

Contact Information

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