

**Cayuga Centers  
Outcome Report**

**Follow-Up Report  
Graduated Youths from Cayuga  
Home for Children Bronx MTFC**

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**Agency name clarification:** *In an effort to provide readily accessible information to all of our stakeholders in a uniform way, previously published reports have been re-formatted into a uniform library of information. At the time this report was first published, the agency name was Cayuga Home for Children. The agency name was changed to Cayuga Centers in 2011.*

Elisa Avila, Evaluation and Research Specialist  
Cayuga Centers, December 2010

## Executive Summary

In the fall of 2010, Cayuga Home for Children contacted former Bronx MTFC Program youth that graduated out of the program between 2004 and 2009. Of the 71 people we tried to reconnect with, we were able to include 33 graduated youths in this report. The following are the findings on the graduates' current experiences, future goals and values.

With the most conservative use of the information available, considering the fact that we only had a sample of 46% of the graduated youths, we confirmed that 39% did not recidivate (the other 61% have not yet been counted). This is lower than the rate of recidivism that is commonly acknowledged. That is to say, of the people that we were able to include in this review, we had a 15% recidivism rate.

The graduates we spoke with had positive outlooks which valued family, jobs, careers, and education and also exhibited a desire to be productive and responsible adults and heads of families. These comments were self-reported during a very simple interview asking if there had been any major events, arrests, trouble with the law, completion of school, and some questions about whether family members and friends had had any trouble with the law (Complete questionnaire in Appendix 1).

A quick look at age ranges of youth we were able to contact:

- 12% graduated 1 to 2 years ago.
- 27% graduated 3 years ago
- 42% graduated 4 years ago and
- 18% graduated 5 to 6 years ago.

Within these ages, we could see long-term positive effects from these MTFC graduates. These effects were evident in the numbers who are now employed, have completed their GEDs, or are current in college. The positive effects continue in the unexpected comments they gave about their lives, their outlooks and perceptions and finally how they felt about Cayuga Home for Children

When asked about their self-perception or outlook on their future, the respondents showed optimism along with some noting realistic assessments of needs for improvement along with plans on how to improve. The graduates we spoke with were aware of their situations, felt they were doing well, and almost one fourth of them noted that they were pleased to hear back from and speak with staff from Cayuga Home for Children. These comments were provided by the youths during a structured interview with open-ended questions that were later coded for themes using textual analysis; descriptive statistics were used to assess the overall opinions held by the youths contacted.

## The Data

Since respondents had opportunities for open-ended responses (they were not given multiple choices), each respondent could fit into multiple categories. For example, a respondent that noted that they were caregivers or heads of a family could also note that they were working and in school, so each category, unless otherwise noted is the percentage of the respondents that responded with this information. The survey was intended to be quick and unobtrusive; the objective of the survey was to find out where the youths had been and how they were doing to understand the effectiveness of Cayuga Home for Children's Bronx MTFC.

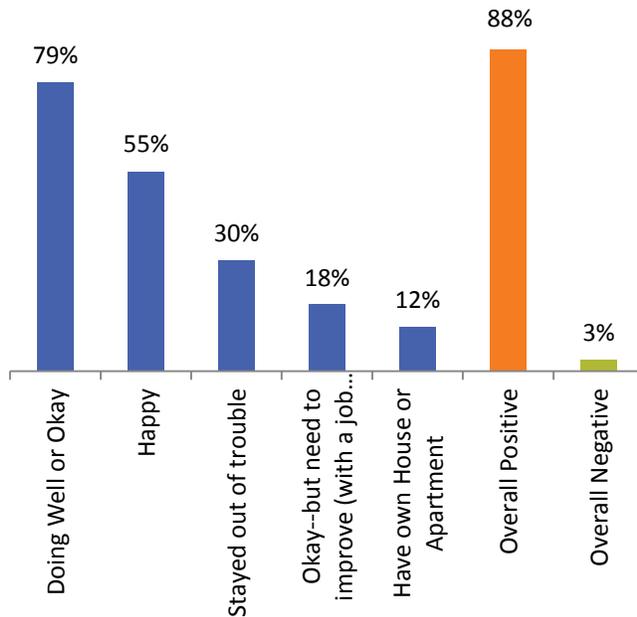
## Important Findings

- **88%** of the Youths had Positive Outlooks (n=29)
  - 9% we weren't able to speak with directly (n=3)
  - **Only 3%** did not specifically indicate they felt positive about their lives right now (n=1)
- **85%** of the respondents were either working, in school, or full-time homemakers (n=28)
- **15%** of the respondents had recidivated in some way (n=5), with only 3 currently in detention. The other 2 that are not in detention but at one point recidivated are almost indistinguishable from the rest of population in their outlooks, goals, and current status.
- Notably, **12%** indicated that living on their own or having their own home was an important factor in their lives (n=4)
  - The minimum age of respondents was 18 years.
  - The maximum age of our respondents was 21 years.
  - On average, respondents were 19 years old
- **Two thirds** of the respondents noted that *education* was something they valued either currently or in their future plans (n=22)
- **30%** noted that being an adult or having *adult responsibilities* were valued in their outlooks on their lives (n=10)

## Detailed Findings

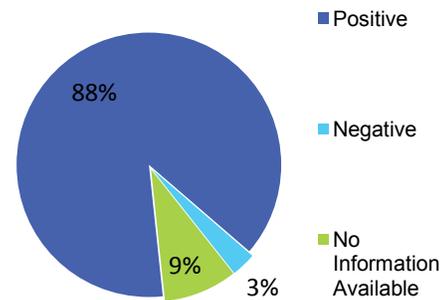
### Outlooks and Values

Percent of Respondents that indicated these characteristics during open-ended responses, n=33

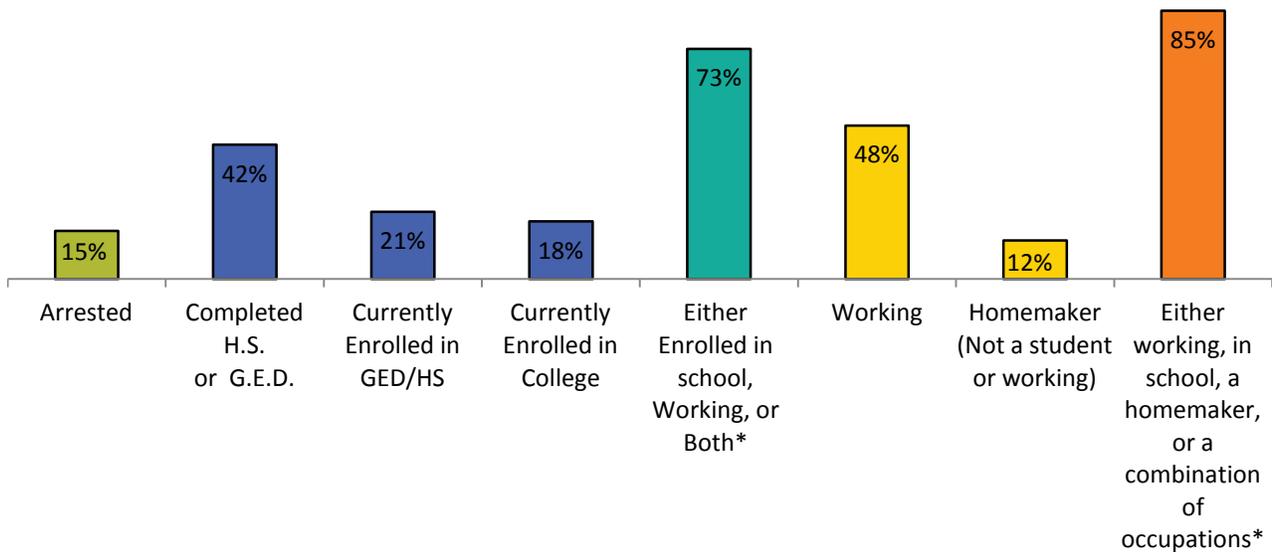


### Overall Outlook of Respondents

Percent of all respondents that mention specific milestones or characteristics as part of their outlook, n=33

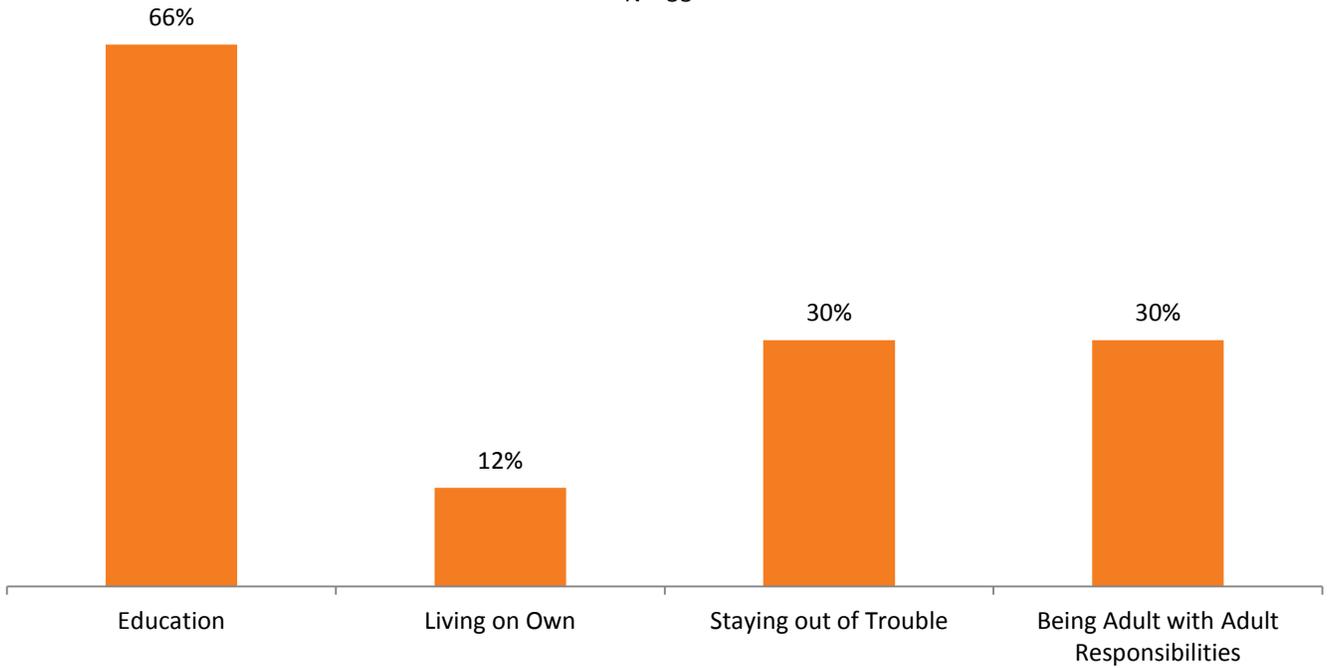


### Occupations, Education, and Arrests or Detainment



### Respondents' Future Goals and Values

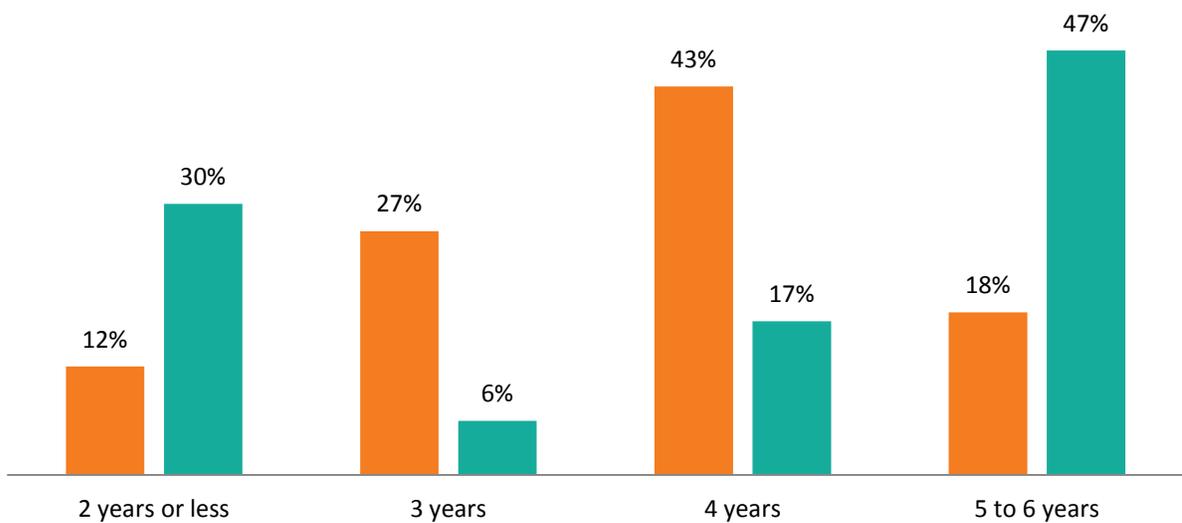
N = 33



### Distribution of Time Since Graduated from Program

Interviewed N=33, Population N=71

■ Interviewed ■ Whole Population



## Appendix 1:

Telephone Questionnaire, to be administered verbatim not deviating from the neutral tone of the script.

### Questionnaire Script:

Just to confirm, could you tell me your age, where you are living now, and how old you were when you were with Cayuga Home for Children?

1. In the last few years, have there been any major changes such as going to school, getting a job, any trouble with the law—like being arrested?
  - a. As a follow-up If Enrolled in School or Graduated since leaving Cayuga Home:
    - i. Have you had any suspensions while in school?
2. What would you say is your outlook right now?
  - a. How do you feel about your life right now?
  - b. Have any of your friends been arrested since you graduated from the program?
  - c. Have any of your siblings been arrested, suspended, or been in trouble with the law since you graduated?
  - d. What do you see for yourself in the near future? What about in the long term?
  - e. Where do you see yourself right now?
  - f. How do you think you are doing?
    - i. If short responses are given, ask follow-up questions
      1. Can you tell me a bit more about why you say \_\_\_?
  - g. Is there anything else you'd like to share in regards to the MTFC program?

