

# MNYTD CONNECTION

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## **THANK YOU!**

### **As of May 18:**

348 surveys due  
293 completed (84%)

Of those 293 completed surveys **242 youth participated (83%)**

Of those 242 surveys where youth participated **183 had contact information entered (76%)**

In those 183 surveys where youth participated and had contact information, there were **511 contacts entered (average of 2.8 per youth)**

For the completed surveys, where the youth did not participate, reasons the youth did not participate:

- Incapacitated – 25
- Youth declined – 26
- Runaway/missing – 9
- Incarcerated – 6
- Parent declined – 2
- Unable to locate/invite – 3

*If we can't reach the youth for the next survey Minnesota will face additional Chafee funding cuts!*

## **Why the fuss about contact info?**

This issue of MNYTD Connection is focused on gathering high quality contact information. The rates of survey completion indicate that word regarding the survey has gotten out. However there is still a lot of room for improvement with the contact information that will allow us to find the survey participants at the time of their 19th birthdays and then again just before they turn 21. If we are unable to reach the youth for the next round of surveys, Minnesota Department of Human Services will face additional cuts to Chafee funds. Please keep in mind that case managers can access and update contact information anytime. So

please feel free to revisit the information and update it at anytime. If you know that a youth will most likely be in foster care until their 21st birthday please make a note of that in the comments section. In these cases be sure to enter the contact information for the youth (phone, email, address) and then focus your efforts on other youth who will be more challenging to reach.



59 of the youth surveyed have no contact information entered!

### **CHECK OUT THE NEW MNYTD WEBSITE WITH RESOURCES FOR YOU!**

<http://mnytd.com/for-case-managers>

We are still working on the section for youth, but the case manager side of things is up and **ready for you to use!** It includes all of the bulletins, training, newsletters and information on MNYTD!

## **A plea for contact information!**

We need your help! Around **24%** of youth surveyed have **NO contact information** entered! It is **NOT** too late! Case managers can access youth contact information for the survey anytime. Please complete contact information for those youth

for whom no information was entered, or to further complete youth information. The only contact information we have is what you enter into the SSIS system. So while you may know their addresses and their mother's name, we don't. We

do not know what city they grew up in, or what town they live in now. We are seeking email addresses for youth. We will soon begin contacting youth with regular newsletters and resources to assist them in their transition. Please help us reach every possible youth by providing complete contact information!

## The Trouble with Facebook

- Over 500 million active users
- Unlimited people with the same username
- Of our youth there are NO names without duplicate Facebook users
- An email address linked to the account is the only way to find the unique individual.
- Customizable security settings may prohibit us from seeing and/or contacting the youth via Facebook.

### MNYTD Survey Policy for the Developmentally Disabled

Developmentally Disabled youth are not categorically exempt from the definition of youth populations that are included in the NYTD baseline. Eligible youth, including Developmentally Disabled youth, need to be accounted for in our MNYTD report to the federal government. However, county and tribal agency staff has discretion in determining whether a Developmentally Disabled youth will be able to participate in the survey with accommodations and/or supports. If the youth is unable to participate with accommodations and/or support the agency staff will simply enter "incapacitated" on the Survey Status/Reporting Status button and enter the date. This will have the effect of accounting for these youth in the NYTD/AFCARS system. This policy is consistent with what the Department has provided in training to date.

Again, all youth who meet the requirement for the baseline population are required to be accounted for in MNYTD regardless of whether they have received a SELF service or their plan goal is independent living. If a Developmentally Disabled youth cannot participate in the survey list them as "incapacitated" on the Survey Status screen in SSIS then enter the date and you are done.



*Do you have tips for your fellow case managers about administering the MNYTD survey or gathering quality contact information?*

*Share them with us here:*

[www.theimprovetgroup.com/surveys/tips.htm](http://www.theimprovetgroup.com/surveys/tips.htm)

*What resources do you give transitioning youth?*

*Share them with us here:*

[www.theimprovetgroup.com/surveys/tips.htm](http://www.theimprovetgroup.com/surveys/tips.htm)

### Contact Data Status:

We asked our contracted expert from Prodigy Research to look over the contact data we currently have. This is what he found:

**5% will be very easy to find**  
**10% are somewhat easy**  
**34% could go either way**  
**42% will be somewhat difficult to contact**  
**9% will be very difficult to find with the information we have.**

These are just estimates, but they illustrate why we need your help with the youth contact information.

## Contact information: The more the better!

The best scenario for follow up success is having **many different options. The more the information the better!** Keep in mind that every situation is different but the following represents a general ranking of importance. Bottom line: **Get as much information as you can!**

### Participant

1. Cell Phone - This is the easiest if it's functioning. Unfortunately, cell phones frequently change, especially among mobile populations. Because of this it is crucial to get other information besides the cell phone.
2. Email - If a major transition occurs for a participant, they will likely keep their email because it's free and they can access it through the internet. Plus, we need the email to confirm Facebook accounts.
3. Home Phone (if applicable) - If a home phone exists, you may be able to gather other information through it even if you get no answer.
4. Home Address - If a person doesn't answer your cell call or return your messages, you need their home address to catch them when they return to home base, either with a letter or an in person visit.
5. Facebook account/Social Network - **IF THEY YOU HAVE THE EMAIL TOO.** If not, this ranking falls considerably.

**Substantial Contacts** (people who have been a big part of the participant's life)

6. Cell phones - see above
7. Home Phone - see above
8. Home Address - see above
9. Email - The substantial contacts may not be as mobile as the participants but it is important just in case they are.
10. Facebook/Social Network - I think this would be a more awkward contact method unless the participant told the contact about the project. However, an email is crucial for this one too.

**Non-substantial Contacts (Parole officers, church contacts, etc.)**

10. Cell phones - see above.
11. Main phone lines - Home or business
11. Main address - Home or business
12. Email - Emails won't likely have quick responses with this type of association but it's still an important option.
13. Facebook/Social Network - If applicable.

### All Contacts

14. Notes and other contact information. If a note is very important to the process then the ranking would rise. Notes can inform us of when a participant may be a challenge to reach or that they plan to stay in FC until they are 21. Or any other information that you feel is important for us to know.