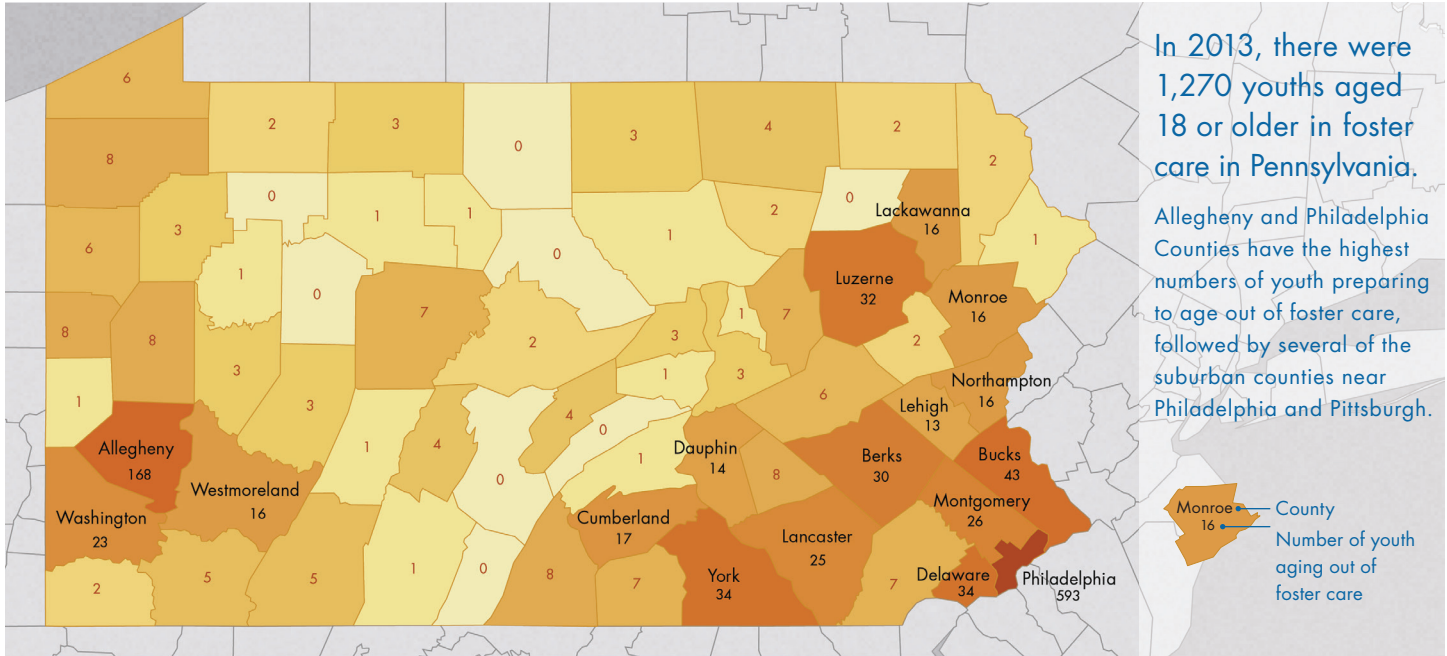


Housing Vulnerable Populations

Youth Aging Out of Foster Care



Youth aging out of foster care are one of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations:

More than

1 in 5

are homeless after age 18

1 in 4

are involved in the justice system within 2 years

after leaving the foster care system.

71%

of women are pregnant by age 21

facing higher rates of unemployment, criminal conviction, public assistance, and involvement in the child welfare system.

58%

graduate high school by age 19

compared to 87% of all 19 year olds. Fewer than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25.

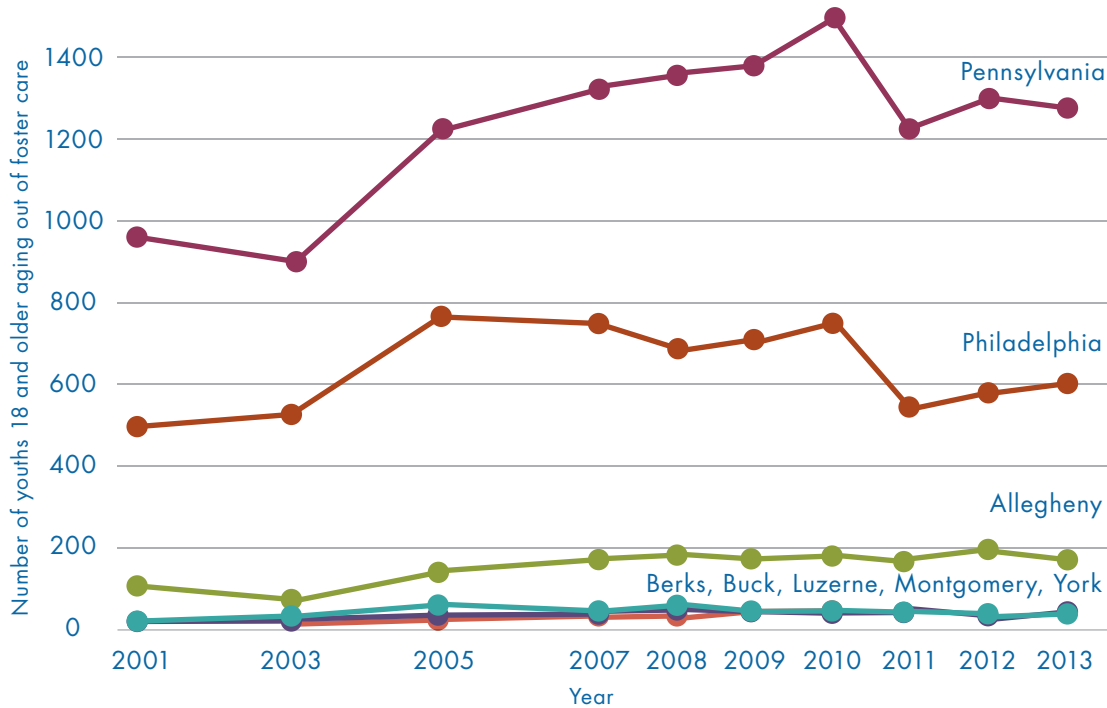
50%

are employed by age 24

Vulnerable populations have extra challenges in securing safe, decent, and affordable housing; many of them need additional supports. One vulnerable population that has received comparatively little attention in the affordable housing community is youth aging out of foster care. These youth have significantly higher risks of homelessness, pregnancy, involvement in the justice system, and lower rates of high school and college completion than youth who have not gone through the foster care system. For them, stable affordable housing is critical.

Map data source:
The Annie E. Casey Foundation,
KIDS COUNT Data Center,
datacenter.kidscount.org

Statistics source:
jimcaseyyouth.org/ourwork/
aging-out



Populations of youth aging out of foster care in Pennsylvania are most concentrated in urban counties. Resourceful developers like ACTION-Housing are using federal programs to provide housing and supportive services for them.

Chart data source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

Low Income Housing Tax Credit is a Resource for Supportive Housing

There are real opportunities to create affordable housing for youth aging out of foster care in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) is a national leader in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. One way in which PHFA provides resources for the development of supportive housing opportunities is through the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (“LIHTC”) program. PHFA allocates LIHTCs annually following a Qualified Allocation Plan (“QAP”), which sets the guidelines for awarding these resources that enable owners to access the necessary capital for the new construction or rehabilitation of properties targeting vulnerable populations. Under PHFA’s current QAP, at least four supportive housing developments will be funded each year. The QAP also continues to require at least 10% of units targeted to persons at or below 20% AMI, an innovation from several years ago that also helps serve more vulnerable populations.

The Uptown Lofts, a Pittsburgh Success Story

Innovative housing developers across the state have stepped forward to use these available resources to provide housing to vulnerable populations. ACTION-Housing in Pittsburgh, with a track record of working with youth aging out of foster care, has designed a project that will provide housing and supportive services to this vulnerable population.

The Uptown Lofts will include a total of 47 units in two buildings—one building will be home to 23 units of workforce housing, while the other will be home to 24 young people who have aged out of the foster care system in Allegheny County. The Uptown Lofts includes supportive services for the youth aging out of foster care, including individual case management, targeted programs, and classes that help the youth build skills for independent living.



Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) is a nonprofit law firm with unique expertise in affordable, sustainable housing and its related components—community and economic development, utility matters and preservation of home ownership. RHLS provides innovative project and policy solutions that help create sustainable communities offering decent, safe and affordable housing for lower-income Pennsylvanians. RHLS uses its decades of experience in affordable housing, community development, and utility issues to ensure the continued development of high quality affordable housing that is responsive to critical needs.

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