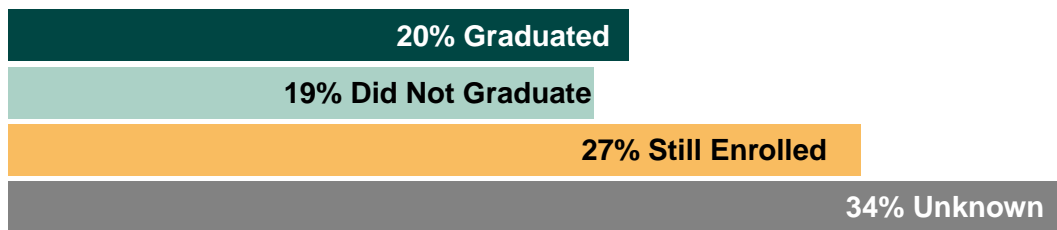


Educational and Employment Outcomes of Rhode Island Foster Youth

DataSpark partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training and the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, & Families to explore the educational and employment outcomes of foster youth in the state. We present outcomes for 11,767 foster youth in out-of-home placements between October 2006 and September 2014.

ONE QUARTER OF FOSTER YOUTHS DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

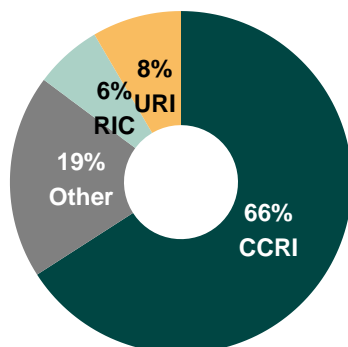
Eighty-five percent of these foster youths (or 9,987 individuals) were found in Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) administrative records from 2004 through 2018. 3,218 individuals were still enrolled as of spring 2018, but another 2,872 individuals were of graduation age. Among the youth age 17 or older, two fifths graduated from Rhode Island public high schools, and another third dropped out of high school. The secondary education outcomes of the remaining 2,200 foster youths is unknown. The chart below shows the secondary education outcomes for all foster youth in this study.



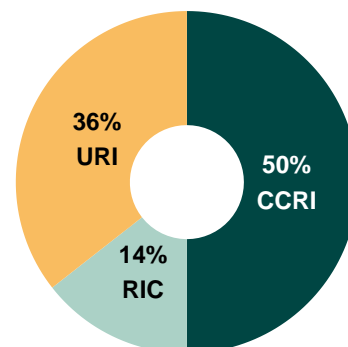
ONLY 1% OF FOSTER YOUTH GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE

Sixteen percent of the foster youth cohort enrolled in college or university, according to records from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) and the National Student Clearinghouse. Roughly eighty percent of foster youth attended Rhode Island public postsecondary institutions – the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), the University of Rhode Island (URI) or Rhode Island College (RIC). The remaining 21% attended other colleges and universities across the country. Interestingly, none of the original foster youth cohort graduated from non-OPC institutions. In other words, all foster youth who completed higher education did so at a Rhode Island public college or university. Just six percent of these foster youth college students, or less than 1% of the original cohort, graduated with a credit-bearing certificate, Associates, Bachelors, or other postsecondary degree. Nearly half of the foster youth college graduate graduated from CCRI, two fifths graduated from URI, and 15% graduated from RIC.

Foster Youth College Students



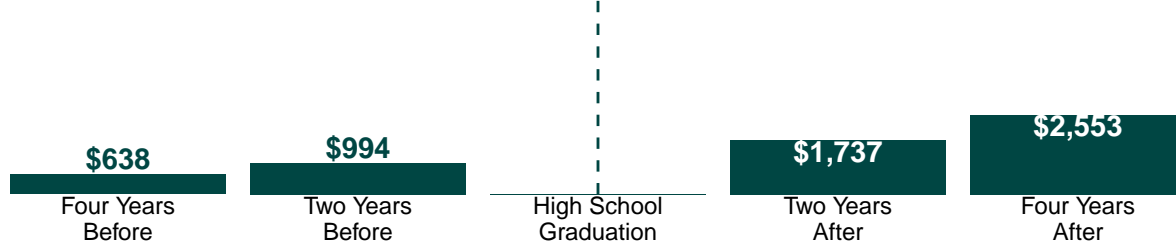
Foster Youth College Graduates



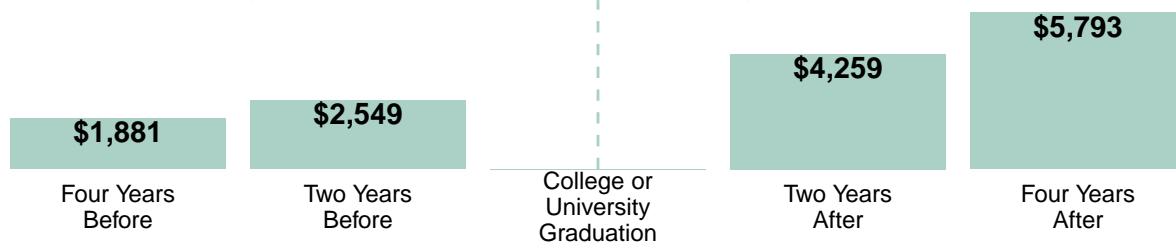
HALF OF ALL FOSTER YOUTHS ARE WORKING IN RHODE ISLAND

Fifty percent of the foster youth cohort was ever found in the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training’s Unemployment Insurance records, meaning these 5,182 individuals were employed in Rhode Island and paid into the state unemployment insurance. The median annual wage in 2018, the last complete year for which data were available, was \$7,980. This median obscures a wide range of ages and educational attainments for working foster and former foster youth, so the charts below highlight wages relative to educational and workforce milestones.

Median Annual Wages of Foster Youth Relative to High School Graduation



Median Annual Wages of Foster Youth Relative to College or University Graduation



Median Annual Wages of Foster Youth Relative to Workforce Training Completion



Nearly eight percent of the original foster youth cohort (or 909 individuals) participated in workforce training. Most participating individuals then completed the program. In fact, between 76% and 100% of individuals who participated in a workforce training program, complete it.

