



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CaYOUTH)

Outcomes through Age 23 and Implications for Policy and Practice

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Overview of the CalYOUTH Study

Evaluation of the impact of CA Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB 12)

1. What impact does EFC have on youth well-being outcomes?
2. What factors influence supports that youth receive?
3. How do living arrangements and other supports mediate EFC and outcomes?

CalYOUTH Study includes:

- **Longitudinal study** of young people in CA foster care making the transition to adulthood
- Periodic **surveys of caseworkers** serving young people in CA foster care
- Analysis of government program **administrative data**
 - Child welfare: sample of 113k youths in care age 16+ b/w 2006 to 2019
 - Link to other administrative data sources (e.g., public benefits, unemployment insurance & wage data, National Student Clearinghouse)

CalYOUTH Study

Funders and Partners

- **Support** the research
- **Provide** guidance and feedback
- **Host** CalYOUTH Study section with results on website
co-invest.org/resources
- **Promote** via presentations and media outreach

California Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership

California Department of Social Services

County Welfare Directors Association of California

The Judicial Council of California

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation*

Walter S. Johnson Foundation*

Zellerbach Family Foundation*

Reissa Foundation*

California Wellness Foundation*

Casey Family Programs*

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Stuart Foundation

William T Grant Foundation

**Co-investment Partnership members*

Longitudinal Youth Study

Purpose: Obtain information about a broad range of life experiences & young adult outcomes

- E.g., Foster care placement, Service utilization & preparation, Education & employment, Health & development, Social support

Sample: Youths age 16.75-17.75 in CA foster care for 6+ months as of December 2012

- Stratified random sample by county groups

Interview wave	Date	Age of youths	# Participants	Response Rate
Wave 1	2013	17	727	95%
Wave 2	2015	19	611	80%
Wave 3	2017	21	616	81%
Wave 4	2019	23	622	82%

Child Welfare Worker Study

Purpose: Obtain perceptions of service delivery context

- E.g., Service availability, Coordination of services with other service systems, Supportiveness of court personnel

- **First Caseworker Survey**

- Representative sample of caseworkers across the state serving a foster youth who had recently turned 18
- Online survey conducted in 2013
- 235 caseworkers from 49 counties (89.9% response rate)

- **Second Caseworker Survey**

- Caseworkers serving young people in the longitudinal Youth Survey who were still in care as of June 1, 2015
- Online survey conducted in 2015
- **Part A:** questions about service context in their county
 - 295/306 of eligible caseworkers completed surveys (96.4% response rate)
- **Part B:** questions about specific youth on their caseload
 - 493/516 surveys completed about youth on their caseloads (95.5% response rate)

Presentations Today

1. Trends in Outcomes Over Time
2. Relationships between Extended Foster Care and Youths' Outcomes at Age 23
3. Variation Between Counties in Their Practice and Services Context
4. Differences in Youth Outcomes by Extended Foster Care Placement Type

Disclaimer: The findings reported herein were performed with the permission of the California Department of Social Services. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the authors and should not be considered as representing the policy of the collaborating agency or any agency of the California government.



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Trends in Outcomes Over Time

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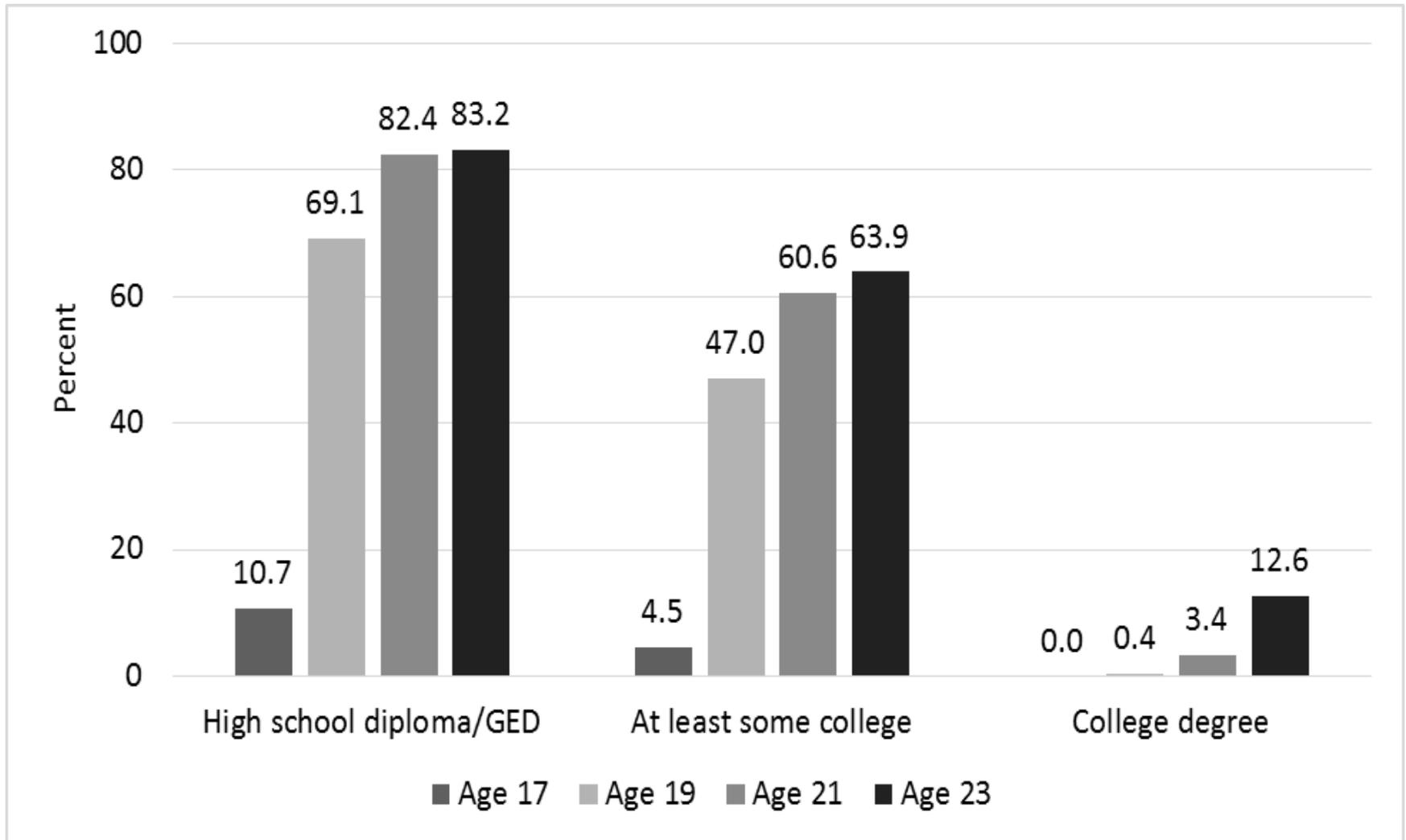
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Methods

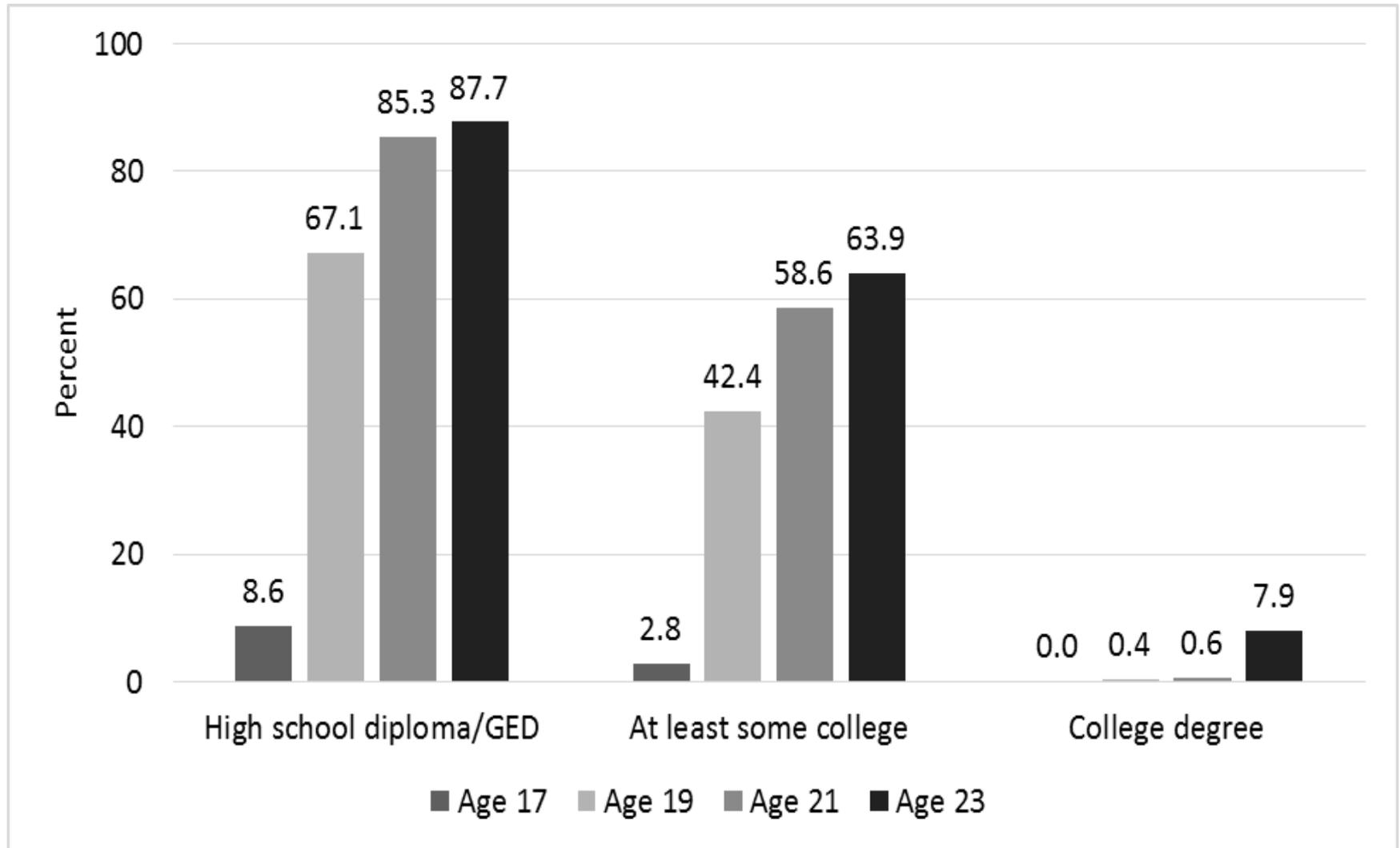
- This presentation draws on data collected over the six-year course of the study from interviews with youths at ages 17, 19, 21, and 23
- Trends in the outcomes are displayed separately for males and females
- All of the youth who participated in each interview wave were used to calculate the percentages displayed in the figures for that interview wave

	<i>n</i>	% of Wave 1 Respondents (<i>n</i> = 727)	Average age	Range of ages
Completed Wave 1 interview	727	100.0	17.5	16.9 – 18.2
Completed Wave 2 interview	611	84.0	19.5	19.0 – 20.2
Completed Wave 3 interview	616	84.7	21.6	21.0 – 22.4
Completed Wave 4 interview	622	85.6	23.6	22.9 – 24.6

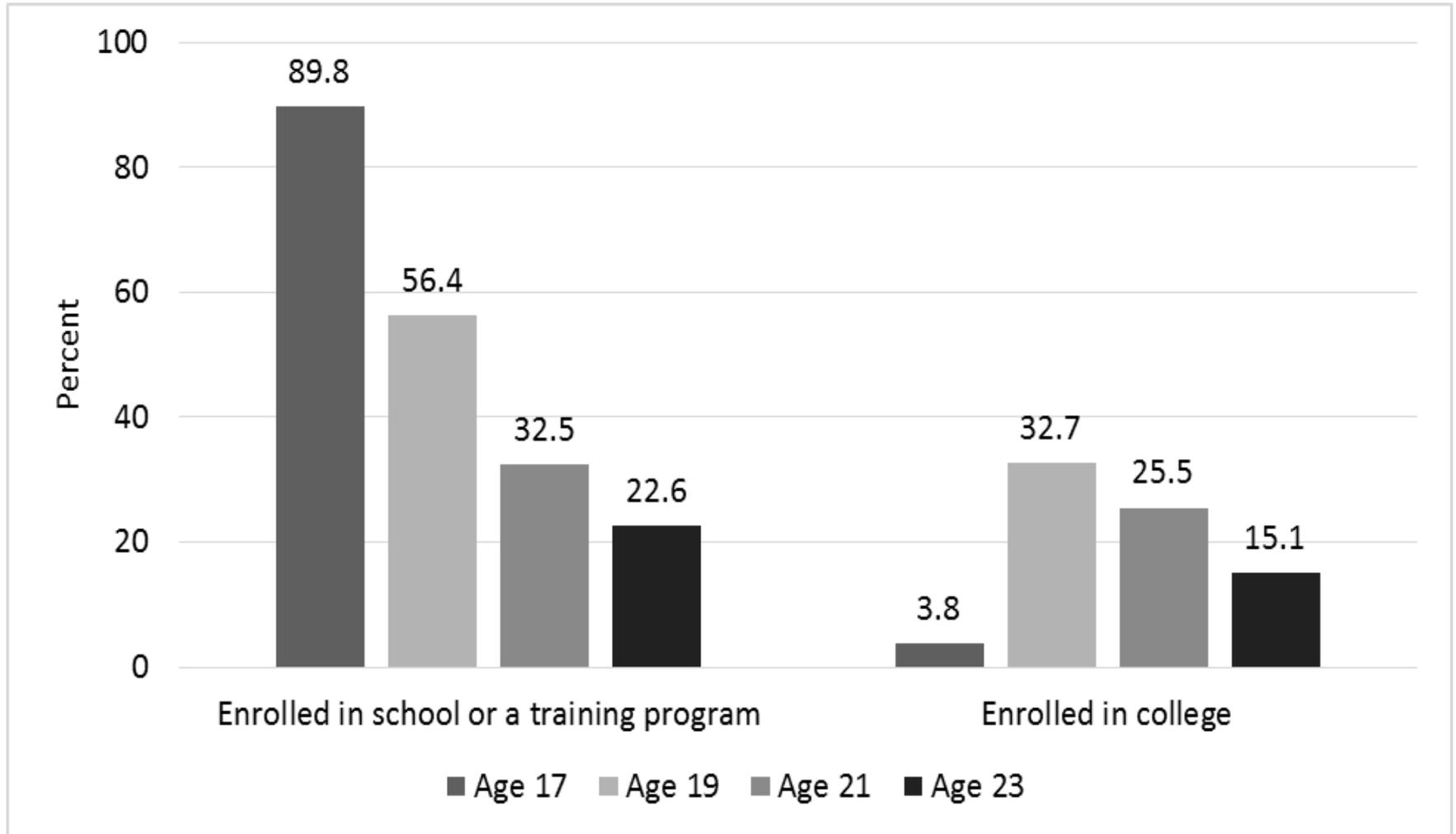
Trends in Young Women's Educational Attainment



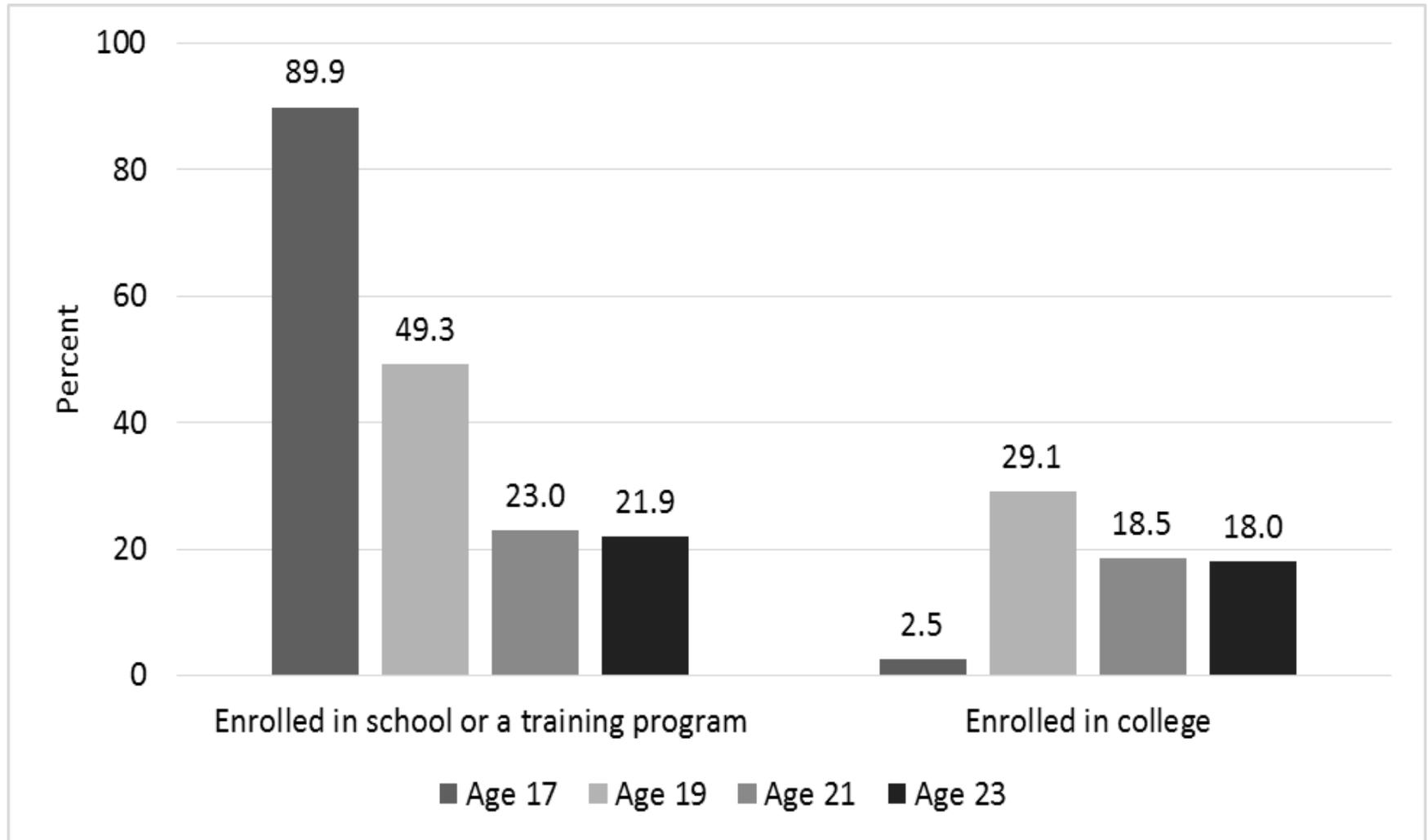
Trends in Young Men's Educational Attainment



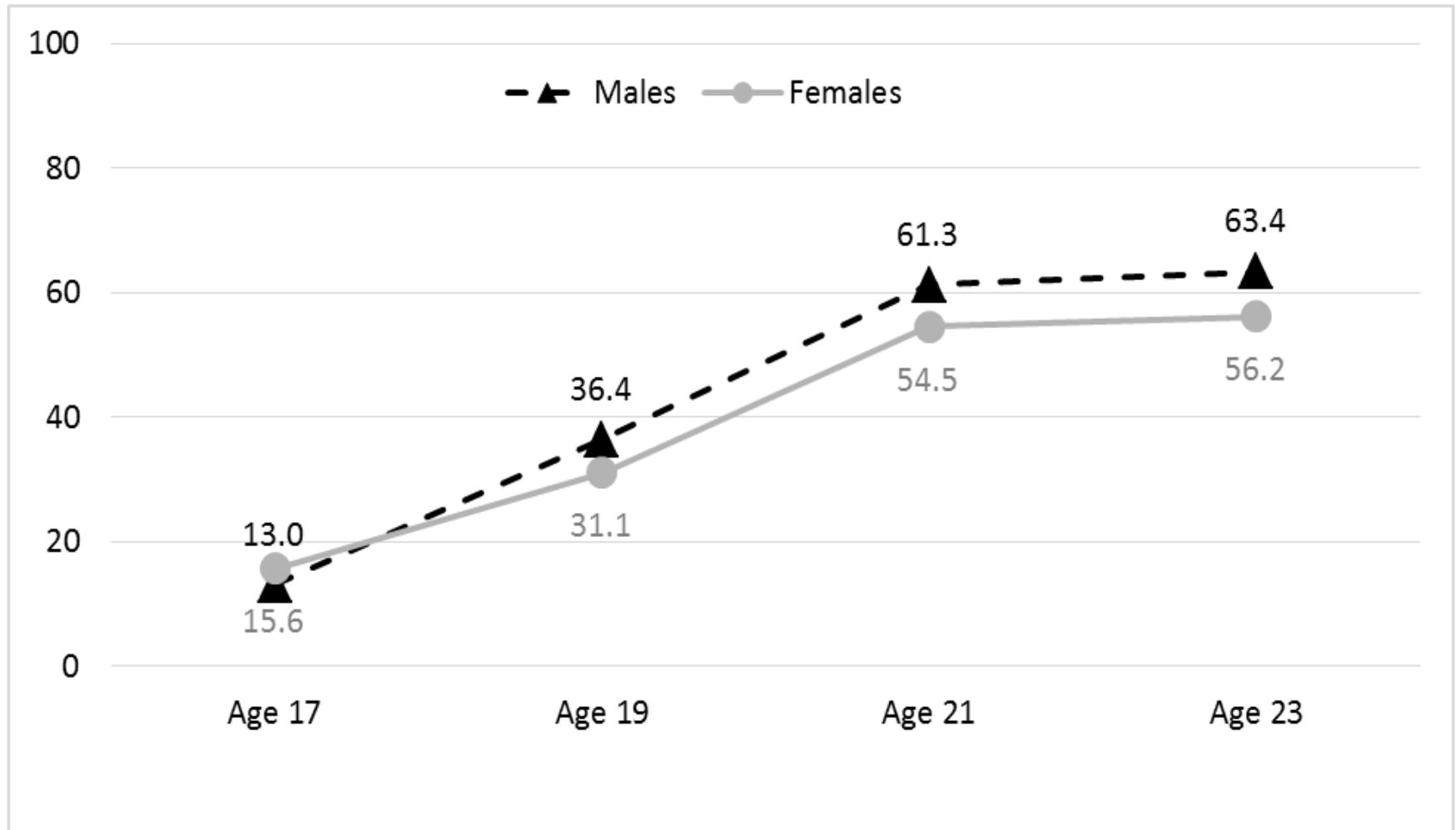
Trends in Young Women's School Enrollment



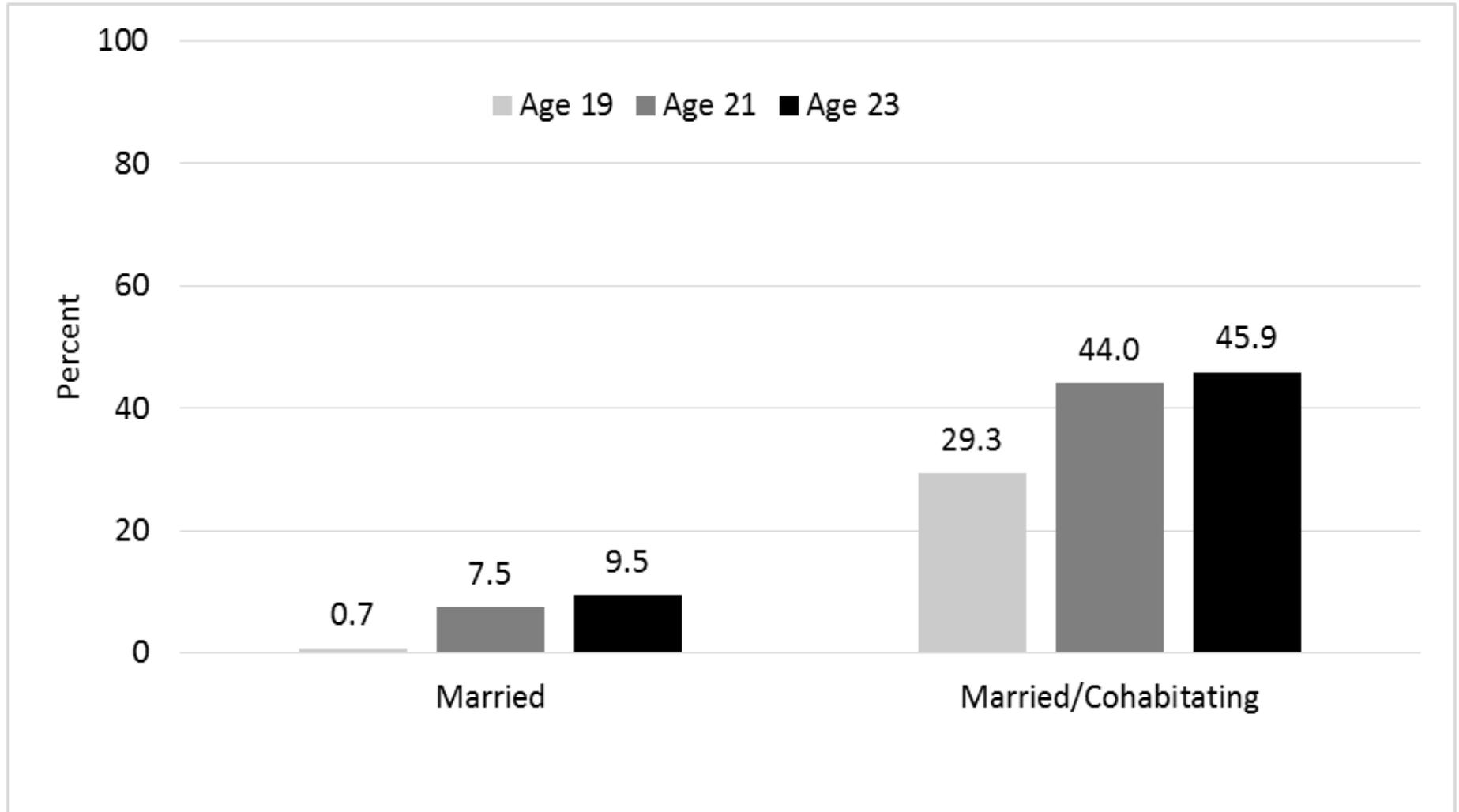
Trends in Young Men's School Enrollment



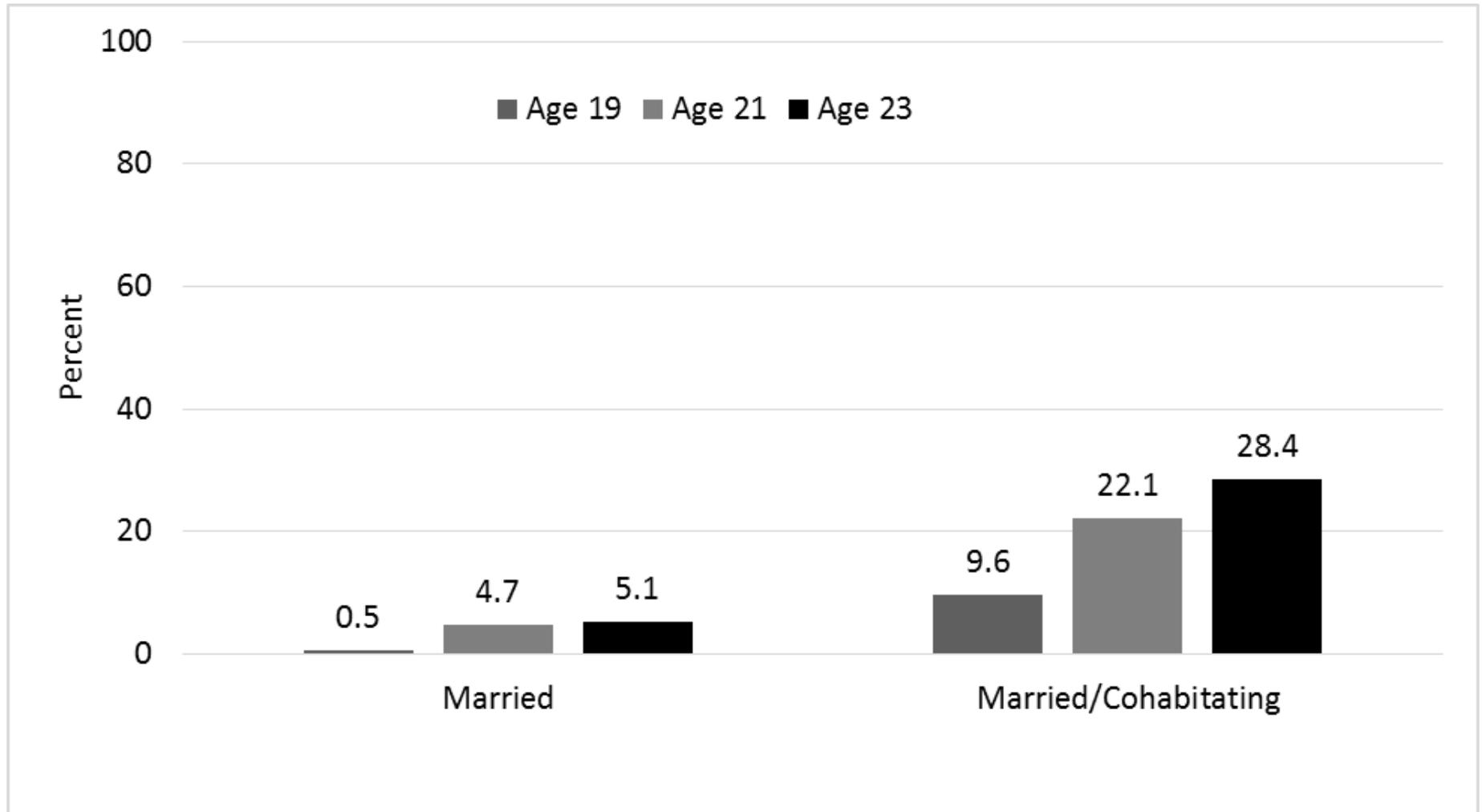
Trends in Current Employment by Gender



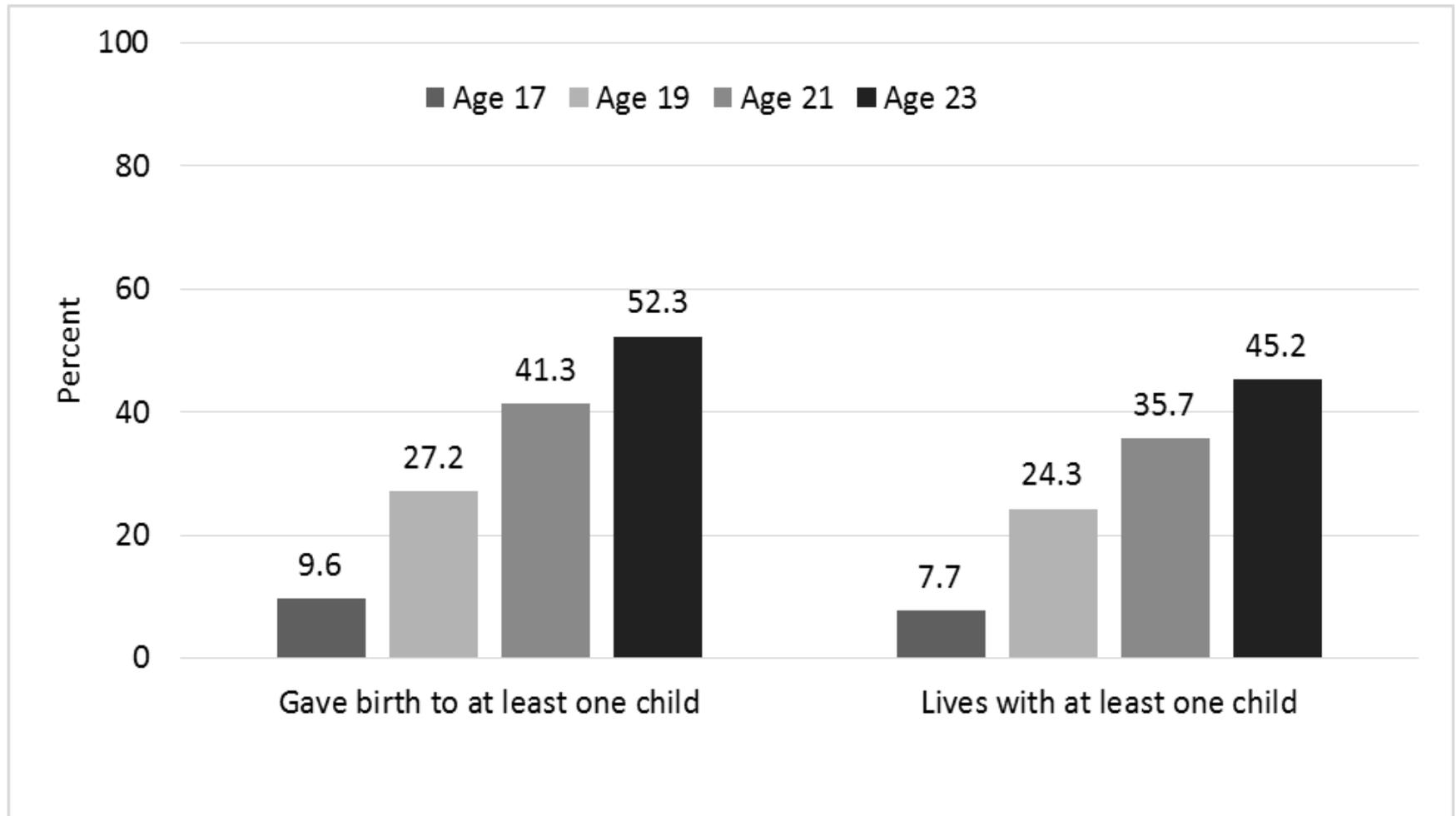
Trends in Marriage and Cohabitation Among Females



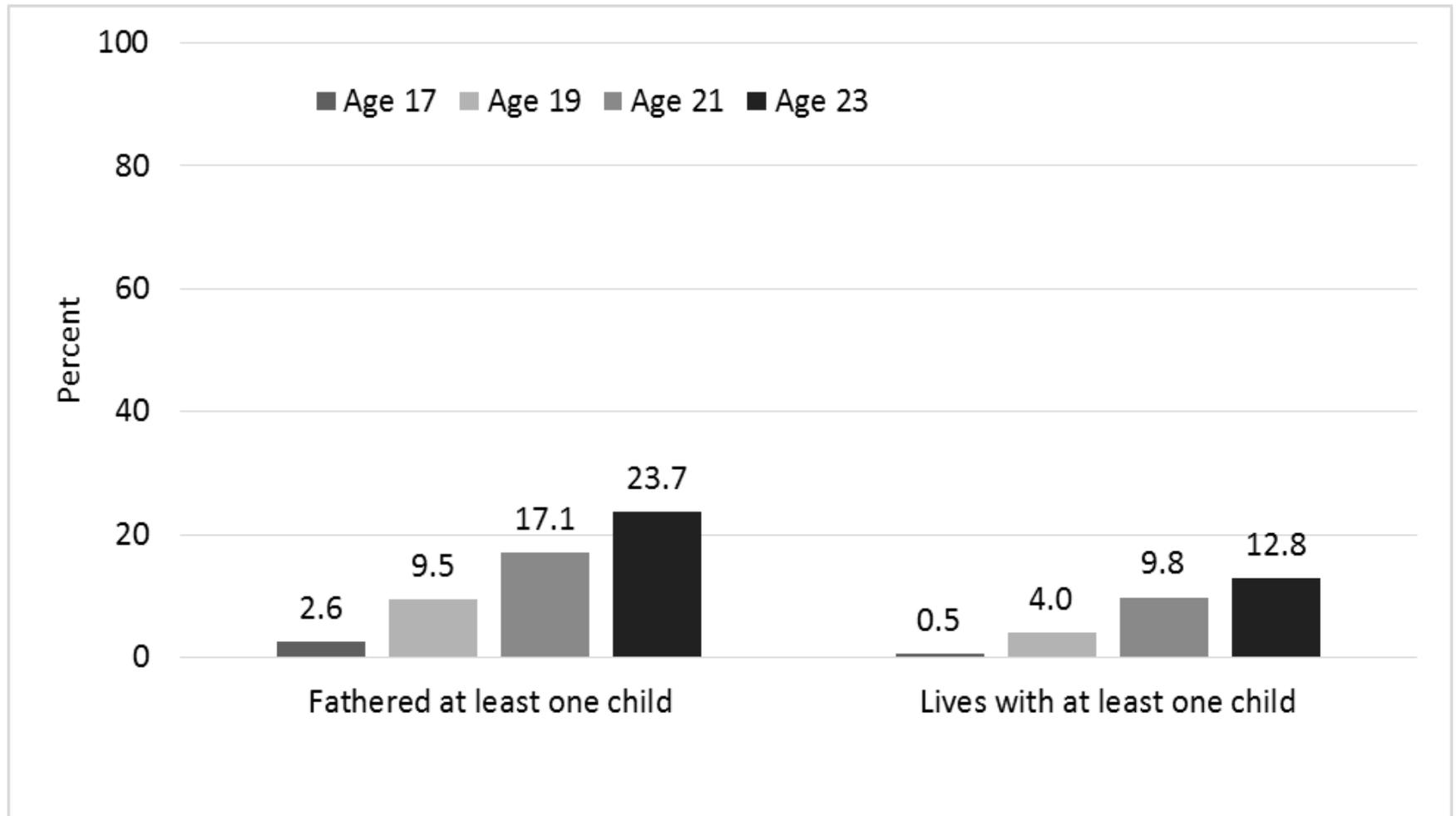
Trends in Marriage and Cohabitation Among Males



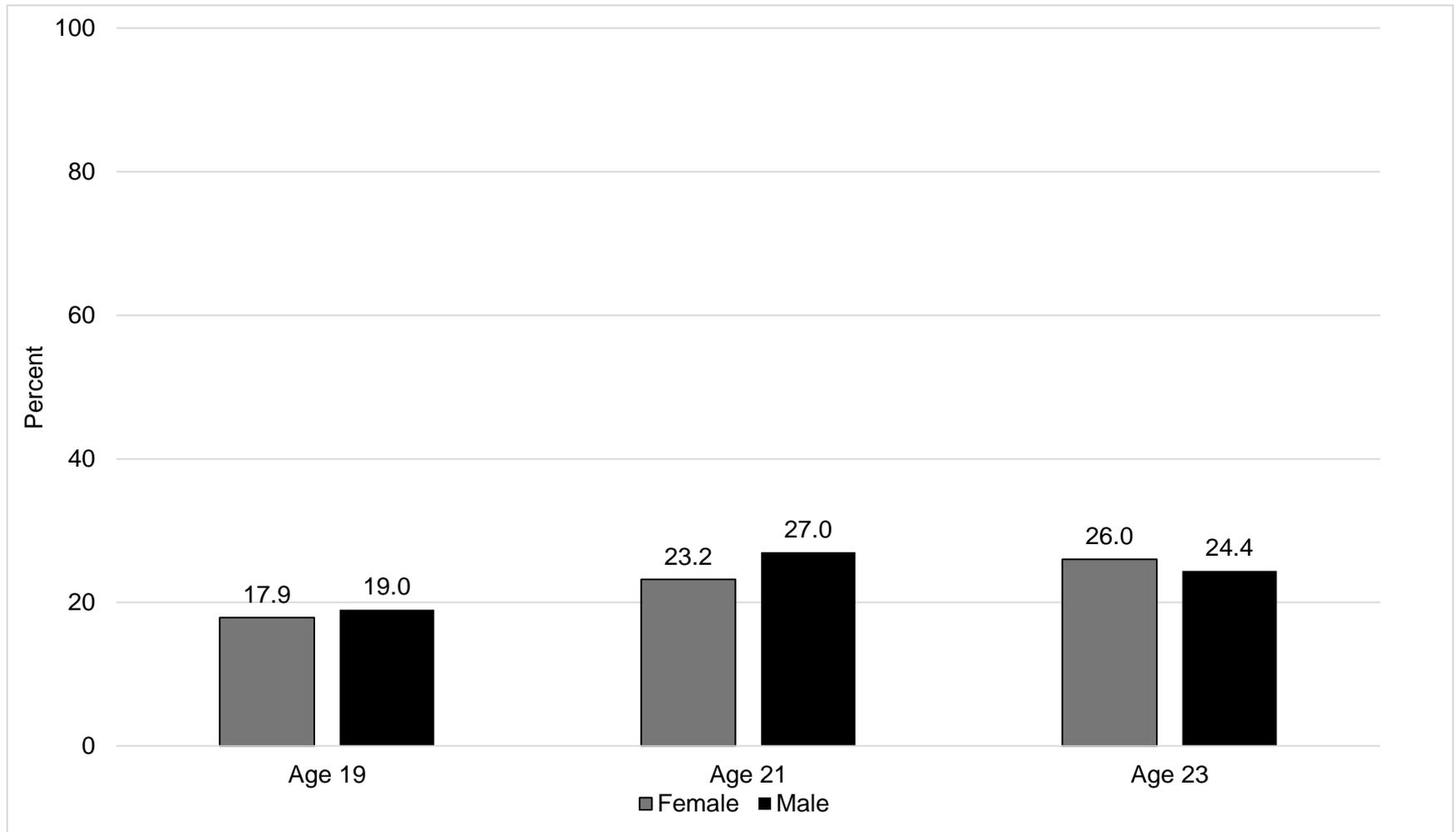
Trends in Parenthood Among Females



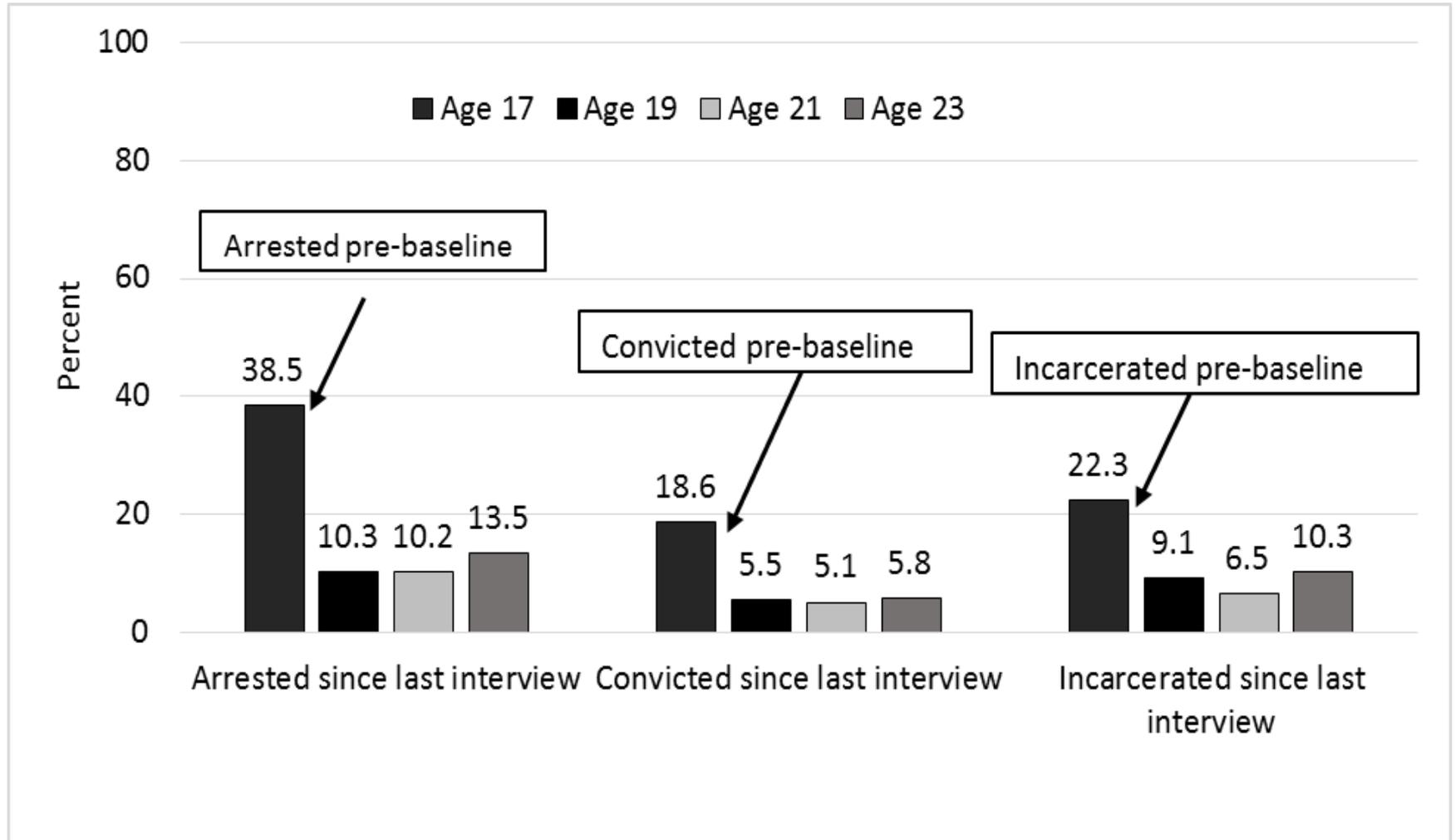
Trends in Parenthood Among Males



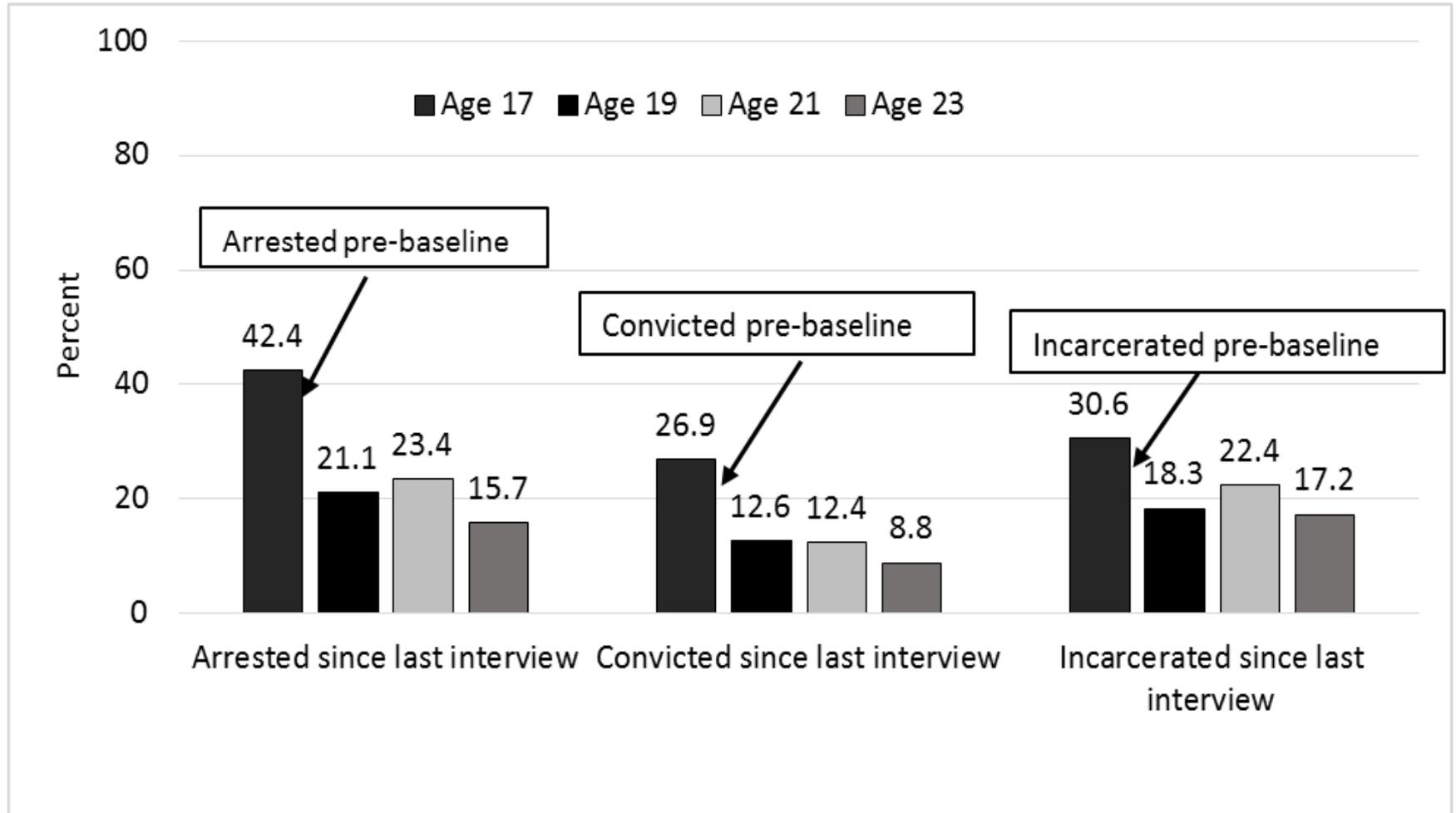
Trends in Homelessness by Gender



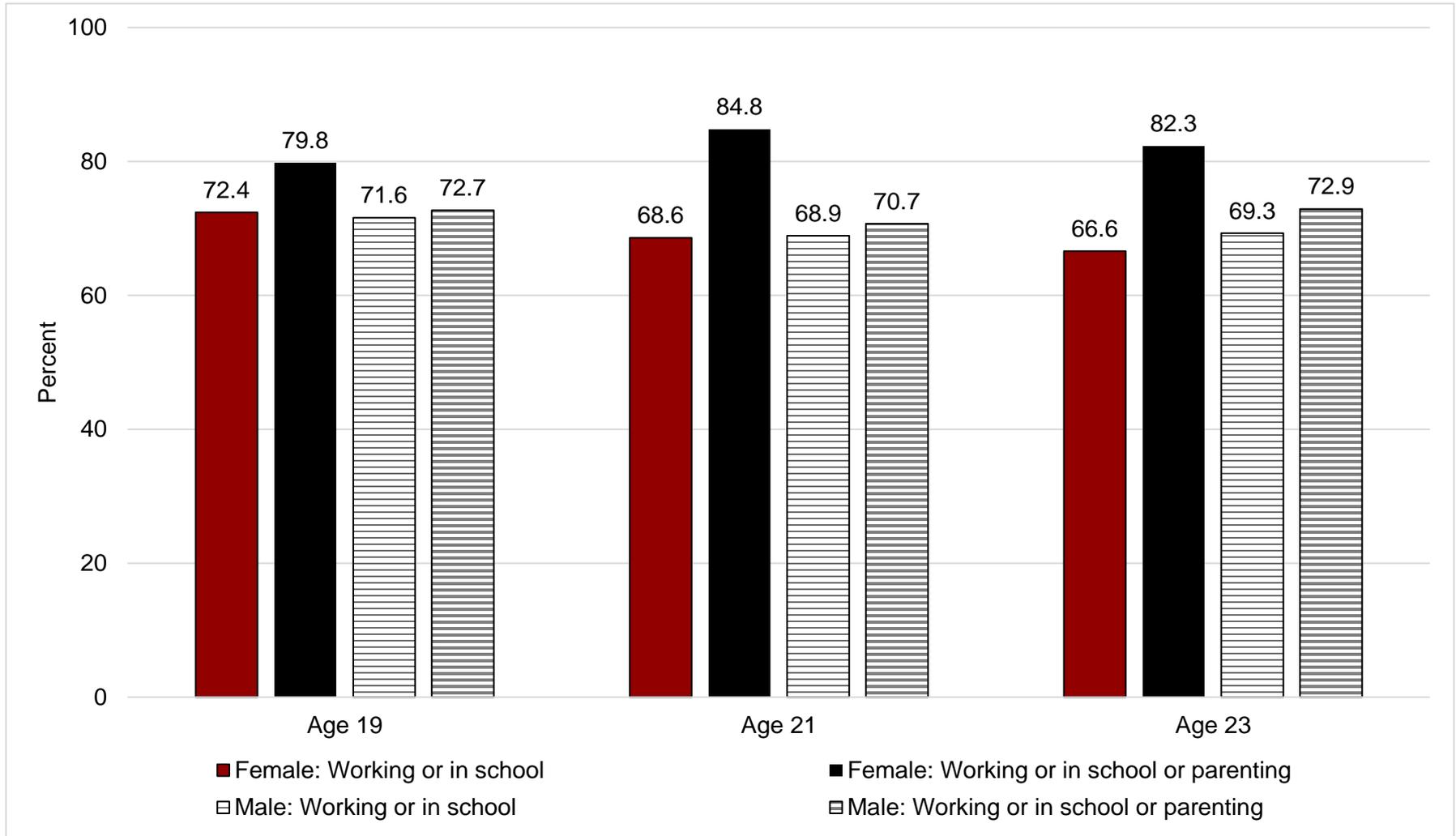
Trends in Criminal Justice System Involvement Among Females



Trends in Criminal Justice System Involvement Among Males



Trends in Connections to Work or School by Gender



Summary of Findings on Trends in Outcomes

- Declining enrollment in school, but significant number of youths are enrolled in college at 23
- Increasing employment, stabilizing at about two-fifths employed at a point in time between 21 and 23
- Increasing percentage of youths are parents of children, but males are much more likely than females to be noncustodial parents
- Troubling levels of involvement with the criminal justice system, but at lower rates than those found in earlier studies
- Over two-thirds of youths are connected to either school or work as young adults



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Relationships between Extended Foster Care and Youths' Outcomes at Age 23

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Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Background

- Since enactment of Fostering Connections law in 2010, about three-fifths of states have approved extended care laws
- To remain in care past age 18, youth must meet one of 5 eligibility criteria: secondary school, postsecondary education, employment, employment training, medical exemption
- Extended foster care (EFC) intended to promote human capital acquisition and well-being as youth transition to adulthood
- Previous CalYOUTH Study research has found more time in EFC significantly associated with outcomes at age 21:
 - Education (secondary school completion & college enrollment)
 - Employment (more time employed)
 - Savings (greater amount in savings)
 - Social support (more connections to professionals)
 - Hardships (lower public food assistance, fewer economic hardships, less homelessness/couch-surfing)
 - Family formation (decreased pregnancy)
 - Criminal justice (lower arrest & conviction)

Research Questions

Purpose of the current study is to examine the association between EFC and youth outcomes at age 23, about 2 years after EFC age limit

Is more time in EFC associated with age-23 outcomes?

- About 2 dozen outcomes evaluated
- Span many developmental domains (e.g., education and employment, hardships, family formation, physical and behavioral health, criminal justice system involvement)

Study Methods

Sample

CalYOUTH participants who completed 4th wave of interviews (age 23) in 2019/2020

- N=622 (response rate = 81.5% of original sample)

Outcomes

Created from Wave 4 interview questions

- Supplemental analyses of college outcomes constructed from National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data obtained in May 2019

Main predictor

Number of years youth spent in foster care between their 18th and 21st birthdays (calculated from CDSS's CWS/CMS data)

Statistical Analyses

EFC was evaluated by estimating the impact that a year in extended care had on each of the outcomes

- Several types of statistical models used (based on measure of outcome)
 - E.g., Linear probability regression, Ordinal logistic regression, Poisson regression
- Controlled for a wide range of youth- and county-level characteristics (next slide)
- Used multiple imputation to address missing data in the predictor variables
- Used sample weights to account for CalYOUTH's sample selection method

Control Variables Measured at Wave 1 (age 17)

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Sex
Race/ethnicity
Ages at Wave 1 and Wave 4
Number of years since last completed interview

FOSTER CARE HISTORY

History of neglect
History of physically abuse
History of sexually abuse
History of other abuse
Age first entered FC
Total number episodes before age 18
Total number of placements before age 18
Placement change rate before age 18
Ever in congregate care
Ever in kinship care
Satisfied with FC experience

COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS

Size/urbanicity (4 groups)
Fair market housing rent quintiles
Youth unemployment rate quintiles

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Highest completed grade
Ever repeated graded
Ever in special education classroom
Reading proficiency standardized score (WRAT)
Ever worked for pay

PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Self-rated health
Any mental health disorder
Any alcohol/substance use disorder (MINI-Kid)
Ever been pregnant/impregnated female
Has any living children
Number of nominated social supports

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND VICTIMIZATION

Average delinquency score
Ever spent a night in jail
Physically assaulted in past 12 months
Had gun/knife pulled/used on them in past 12 months
Ever sexually abused/molested before entering FC

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Outcomes at Age 23

Domain	Outcome	N	% or Mean(SD)
Education	Completed high school diploma, GED, other credential (%)	529	83.6
	Ever enrolled in college (%) ^a	619	63.9
	Enrolled in college between last interview and W4 (%) ^b	620	35.0
	Completed a 2-year or 4-year college degree by W4 (%) ^c	619	10.9
Employment	Worked in last 12 months before W4 at a job that lasted 3 or more months & worked at least 20 hours per week (%)	577	82.3
	Amount of income from employment in 12 months before W4 (Mean/[SD])	606	\$14,761 (\$18,019)
Assets	Current balance of all checking, savings, and money market accounts (Mean [SD])	601	\$1,704 (\$5,749)

^aNSC estimate: 60.8% enrolled in college prior to May 2019

^bNSC estimate: 31.6% enrolled in college between 21st birthday and May 2019

^cNSC estimate: 4.0% completed 2yr/4yr college degree before May 2019

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Outcomes at Age 23

(con't)

Domain	Outcome	N	% or Mean(SD)
Hardships	Number of economic hardships in past year before Wave 4 (scale of 0–6; Mean [SD])	609	1.2 (1.6)
Food insecurity	USDA Food Insecurity Measure at Wave 4 (%)	620	28.2
Homelessness	Ever homeless or couchsurfing since last completed interview (%)	622	36 .0
	Number of times homeless since last completed interview (0–5 or more; Mean (SD))	617	0.7 (1.4)
	Total number of days homeless since last completed interview (0–365; Mean [SD])	616	30.0 (81.3)
Public assistance	Amount of CalFresh benefits received in 12 months before W4; Mean [SD])	614	\$850 (\$1,495)

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Outcomes at Age 23

(con't)

Domain	Outcome	N	% or Mean(SD)
General health	General health rating (%)		
	Poor/Fair	620	24.3
	Good		33.5
	Very good		22.8
	Excellent		19.5
Behavioral health	Any mental health disorder ¹	597	28.8
	Any alcohol/substance use disorder	617	15.3
Social support	Total number of nominated supports (maximum of 9; Mean(SD))	621	2.8 (1.4)
	Total number of nominated professionals (maximum of 3; Mean(SD))	620	0.18 (0.49)
	Adequacy of social support (scale of 0 to 6; Mean(SD))	620	4.63 (1.61)

¹Includes any of the following: major depressive episode (current and recurrent), manic episode, hypomanic episode, panic disorder, social phobia, obsessive compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, antisocial personality disorder, anorexia, or bulimia.

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Outcomes at Age 23

(con't)

Domain	Outcome	N	% or Mean(SD)
Pregnancy and parenthood	Became pregnant/impregnated female since last completed interview ^a (%)	601	33.2
	Had a child since last completed interview ^b (%)	600	17.1
Criminal justice system involvement	Arrested since last completed interview (%)	596	14.4
	Convicted of a crime since last completed interview (%)	594	6.9
Victimization	Physically assaulted in 12 months prior to Wave 4 (%)	618	5.9
	Weapon pulled or used on respondent in 12 months prior to Wave 4 (%)	597	8.1
	Sexual victimization since last completed interview (%)	590	11.2

^a41.6% of females became pregnant and 18.8% of males impregnated a female

^b20.7% of females had a child and 10.9% of males had a child

Relationships between EFC and Age 23 Outcomes

(only statistically significant associations shown, control variables not shown)



Domain	Each additional year in extended foster care:	Outcome unit	Estimate	P-value
Education	Increased the expected probability that youth completed a high school credential by about 8 percentage points.	Percentage points	8.0	<.001
	Increased their expected probability of ever enrolling in college by about 10-12 percentage points ^a	Percentage points	11.7	<.001
	Increased their expected probability of enrolling in college since last completed interview by about 7 percentage points ^b	Percentage points	6.5	<.001
	Increased their expected probability of completing a 2-yr or 4-yr college degree by about 3 percentage points ^c	Percentage points	3.2	.002
Employment	Increased their expected probability of working in past year for 3+ months, 20+hrs/week by about 5 percentage points.	Percentage points	4.6	.005
	Increased amount of money youth had in bank accounts by about \$640	Dollars	\$642	.002

^aNSC estimate: Increased probability of ever enrolling in college by May 2019 by 9.6 percentage points.

^bNSC estimate: Increased probability of ever enrolling in college between 21st birthday and May 2019 by 6.8 per. points

^cNSC estimate: Not significantly associated with completing 2yr/4yr college degree before May 2019 (-0.1, p=.533)

Relationships between EFC and Age 23 Outcomes

(only statistically significant associations shown, control variables not shown) (con't)

Domain	Each additional year in extended foster care:	Outcome unit	Estimate	P-value
Public food assistance	Decreased receipt of need-based public food assistance by about \$140 in past year	Dollars	-\$143	.024
Food insecurity	Decreased odds of being food insecure in past year by about 21%	Odds ratio	0.79	.012
Homelessness	Decreased odds of being homeless or couch-surfing since their last interview by about 19%	Odds ratio	0.81	.025
	Decreased risk of additional time homeless by 23%	Relative risk ratio	0.77	<.001
	Decreased expected number of days homeless since last interview by about 10 days	Days	-9.5	.004
Criminal Justice	Decreased odds that youth had been arrested since last interview by about 28%	Odds ratio	0.72	.010
Social Support	Increased the likelihood of youth feeling like they have adequate support by about 25%	Relative risk ratio	1.25	.005

Age 23 Outcomes Where Statistically Significant Impacts Were Not Found

Outcomes not found to be significantly associated with the number of years in extended care:

- Earnings from employment in past year
- Number of economic hardships in past year
- Physical and behavioral health
- Number of nominated supports and professionals
- New pregnancies and childbirths since last interview
- Conviction of crime since last interview
- Victimization in past year

Limitations

- Data limitations
 - E.g., self-report data may not be accurate
 - NSC data did not capture college graduations occurring in May/June 2019
- Longitudinal survey analysis only includes post-AB12 youth
 - May be differences between youth who spent more/less time in EFC that are not accounted for in statistical models
 - Some outcomes are related to EFC eligibility requirements (chicken-and-egg problem)
- Analyses use generic sets of control variables, and key control variables may not have been included
- Still relatively early in EFC implementation

Conclusions

- Findings from present analysis reinforce many findings from earlier analyses of age 21 outcomes
- Findings thus far are encouraging
 - EFC appears to have positive impact several domains, including education, employment, savings, food insecurity, CJ involvement, social support
- Some future directions
 - Analyze administrative data on outcomes (e.g., CalFRESH benefits, wage data)
 - Harness new administrative data (e.g., criminal justice; vital stats on birth and deaths)
 - Explore between-county differences
 - More nuanced approach to investigating each outcome
 - Examine *how* EFC affects outcomes (mediators)



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Variation Between Counties in Their Practice and Services Context

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Background

- Extended foster care (EFC) has been an important mechanism for helping transition-aged foster youth **attain human capital**
- **EFC, employment, and education** are understood to facilitate independence and self-sufficiency in the transition to adulthood
- Past research focuses on **youth- and policy-level factors'** associations with EFC participation and human capital outcomes
- Little is known about **intermediary level factors'** (e.g. local contexts or county-level attributes) influence EFC participation and human capital outcomes

Objectives of the Present Analysis

Assess associations between county-level factors and youth outcomes

- **County-level factors as contributors:**
 1. Local context
 - Unemployment rate, housing affordability, and political atmosphere
 2. Service context
 - Court support for EFC
 - Caseworker perceptions of training and service availability, collaboration with other service systems, age of youth independence
 - Proportion of caseworkers specialized for transition-age youth
- **Youth-level outcomes:**
 1. EFC participation
 2. Educational attainment
 3. Employment

Methods: Data and Sample

- **Data**

- First and third waves of youth surveys (at ages 17 and 21)
- Second caseworker survey ($n=295$, from 46/58 counties)
- Multiple administrative data
 - CA Department of Social Service's Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS); National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), CA Employment Development Department (EDD) wages; American Community Survey; U.S. Census' Public Use Microdata Sample; CA Secretary of State's voter registration

- **Sample**

- Administrative data sample ($n=2,512$, from 45/58 counties)
 - Between ages 16.75 and 17.75 in 2013, supervised by county child welfare agencies in CA, in care for at least 6 months after age 16
- Youth survey sample ($n=597$, from 44/58 counties)
 - Subsample of EFC-participating youth
 - Between ages 16.75 and 17.75 in December 2012, supervised by county child welfare agencies in CA, in care for at least 6 months
 - From a stratified random sample of 880 youths, supervising county primary strata
 - 117/880 youths ineligible for baseline, 727/763 eligible youths completed baseline, 616/721 youth completed baseline and Wave 3, 19/616 youths did not grant permission to access to administrative records or records could not be found

Methods: Variables

- **Outcome Variables**

- Length of time in EFC between 18th and 21st birthdays (CWS/CMS data)
- College enrollment and persistence by age 21 (NSC data)
- Quarters employed and earnings between ages 18 and 21 (EDD wage data)

- **Predictor Variables: County-level**

- County local context
 - Young adult unemployment rate (American Community Survey data)
 - Housing affordability/living expenses (Public Use Microdata Sample data)
 - % of voters registered as Republican (California Secretary of State's data)
- County service context
 - County service/training availability (Worker survey)
 - Satisfaction with collaboration with other service systems (Worker survey)
 - Court personnel's support for EFC (Worker survey)
 - Perception of age youths' are ready to be independent (Worker survey)
 - % of caseworkers specialized for transition-age youth (Worker survey)

Methods: Variables

- **Control Variables: Youth-level**

- Administrative sample

- Demographic characteristics, foster care history, maltreatment history (CWS/CMS data)

- Youth survey sample

- Demographic characteristics, foster care experiences, risk and protective factors (Wave 1 youth survey)
- Foster care history, maltreatment history (CWS/CMS data)
- Additional controls for each human capital analyses
 - For education outcomes analysis: Ever repeated grade, ever enrolled in special education (Wave 1 youth survey)
 - For employment outcomes analysis: Number of quarters employed and total earnings between 17 and 18 (EDD data)

- **Analytic Approach**

- Multivariate logistic and linear regression
- Multiple imputation for missing data
- Survey weights to account for study design (youth survey sample only)

Descriptive Statistics: Main Predictors

	Administrative sample (N=2,512)	Youth survey sample (N=597)
Statistic	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
County characteristics		
Unemployment rate among ages 16-24	23.2 (5.5)	23.1 (5.5)
Proportions of republican voters	28.7 (9.5)	28.6 (9.7)
Proportions of residents spending more than 50% on housing costs	30.1 (3.3)	30.0 (3.3)
Availability of general training/services <i>(1=no training/services – 4=a wide range of training/services)</i>	2.8 (0.2)	2.8 (0.2)
Post-secondary education	3.1 (0.2)	3.1 (0.3)
Employment	3.0 (0.2)	3.0 (0.2)
Quality of general inter-system collaboration <i>(1=completed dissatisfied – 5=completely satisfied)</i>	3.0 (0.3)	3.0 (0.2)
With post-secondary education system	3.2 (0.3)	3.2 (0.3)
With employment support system	3.0 (0.4)	3.0 (0.4)
Court personnel support on EFC <i>(1=very unsupportive – 5=very supportive)</i>	4.1 (0.3)	4.1 (0.3)
Age of independence	22.2 (0.8)	22.3 (0.8)
Proportion of specialized caseworkers	42.0 (23.7)	42.6 (22.8)

Descriptive Statistics: Youth Outcomes

	Months in EFC	Enrollment in college by age 21	Persistence in the first enrollment by age 21	Quarters employed between ages 18 and 21	Total earnings between ages 18 and 21
Statistic	Mean (SD)	%	%	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)
Administrative sample (N=2,512)	23.3 (14.8)	48.1	49.7	3.7 (3.5)	\$8,700 (15.4)
Youth survey sample (N=597)	27.4 (13.0)	58.9	54.0	4.2 (3.6)	\$9,800 (15.8)

Abbreviated Regression Analysis Results

(Only statistically significant relationships shown)

Months in EFC	Administrative Sample	Youth Survey Sample
	Coef. (S.E.)	Coef. (S.E.)
County characteristics		
Unemployment rate among ages 16-24	-0.18* (0.07)	NS
Proportions of republican voters	-0.07* (0.04)	-0.16* (0.06)
Proportions of residents spending more than 50% on housing costs	-0.31** (0.11)	NS
Availability of general training/services	NS	NS
Quality of overall inter-system collaboration	NS	NS
Court personnel support on EFC	NS	NS
Age of independence	1.18** (0.45)	NS
Proportion of specialized caseworkers	0.05** (0.02)	NS

NS=Not Significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Abbreviated Regression Analysis Results

(Only statistically significant relationships shown)

Enrollment in College by Age 21	Administrative Sample	Youth Survey Sample
	Odds ratio (S.E.)	Odds ratio (S.E.)
County characteristics		
Unemployment rate among ages 16-24	0.96*** (0.01)	NS
Proportions of republican voters	NS	NS
Proportions of residents spending more than 50% on housing costs	NS	0.94* (0.03)
Availability of post-secondary education training/services	0.55* (0.14)	NS
Quality of inter-system collaboration with post-secondary education system	1.81** (0.32)	NS
Court personnel support on EFC	NS	NS
Age of independence	NS	NS
Proportion of specialized caseworkers	NS	NS

NS=Not Significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Abbreviated Regression Analysis Results

(Only statistically significant relationships shown)

Quarters Employed Between Ages 18 and 21	Administrative Sample	Youth Survey Sample
	Coef. (S.E.)	Coef. (S.E.)
County characteristics		
Unemployment rate among ages 16-24	NS	NS
Proportions of republican voters	NS	NS
Proportions of residents spending more than 50% on housing costs	NS	NS
Availability of post-secondary employment training/services	NS	1.45* (0.72)
Quality of inter-system collaboration with employment support systems	NS	NS
Court personnel support on EFC	NS	NS
Age of independence	NS	NS
Proportion of specialized caseworkers	NS	NS

NS=Not Significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Abbreviated Regression Analysis Results

(Only statistically significant relationships shown)

Total Earnings Between Ages 18 and 21	Administrative Sample	Youth Survey Sample
	Coef. (S.E.)	Coef. (S.E.)
County characteristics		
Unemployment rate among ages 16-24	NS	NS
Proportions of republican voters	NS	NS
Proportions of residents spending more than 50% on housing costs	NS	NS
Availability of employment training/services	NS	NS
Quality of overall inter-system collaboration with employment support systems	NS	3.04* (1.53)
Court personnel support on EFC	NS	NS
Age of independence	NS	NS
Proportion of specialized caseworkers	NS	NS

NS=Not Significant, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

Limitations

- Analyses **do not capture all counties** in California
 - Administrative sample from 45/58 counties
 - Youth survey sample from 44/58 counties
 - Caseworker survey data from 46/58 counties
 - Lacks representation from rural counties
- Reliance on **caseworker's perceptions and experiences** to capture and generate county-level factors
 - Some counties had only few caseworker responses
 - Perceptions may not be accurate representations of county characteristics
- May **not be generalizable** to other child welfare systems and regional contexts
 - CA's child welfare system may be different than those in other states
 - CA's county characteristics may vary from other states and counties

Implications

Participation in Extended Foster Care

- Counties with higher republican voters and counties whose average caseworker believes youth can be independent earlier may decrease youths' stay in EFC
- Counties with more specialized workers for transition-aged youth and court personnel who support EFC may provide support to keep youth in EFC longer

Education and Employment Outcomes

- A county's availability of training/services may improve education and employment
- A county's quality of collaboration with education and employment service systems may also help youth improve education and employment outcomes

County-level Contexts

- In addition to youth- and policy-level factors, intermediate-level factors also influence youth's EFC participation and education and employment outcomes
- Additional studies may help us better understand the role of county and organizational contexts in shaping youths' experiences and outcomes
- Administrators and policy makers should consider how county contexts may create disparities in EFC participation and education and employment outcomes



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DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

Differences in Youth Outcomes by Extended Foster Care Placement Type

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Background

- Providing appropriate housing when youth are in care, while helping them achieve independence, has been a critical focus of foster care services.
- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 gave states option to extend care from age 18 to age 21.
- New placements were created in recognition of youths' developmental needs and desire for more autonomy.
 - Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)
 - Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP+NMD)
- Studies have found that stable placements have a protective effect on the mental health and behavioral functioning of foster youth.¹
- Previous studies have found that children in relative foster care are likely to maintain ties with their family, thus maintaining social support.²
- Past studies mainly focused on the impact of placement stability and different placements of minors in care on child's wellbeing, it remains unknown how extended foster care placements are associated with youths' outcomes.

¹ Aarons et al., 2010; Rubin, O'Reilly, Luan, & Localio, 2007

² Okpych et al., 2018

Research Questions

Purpose of the current study is to examine associations between extended foster care (EFC) placements and youth outcomes while in EFC

Are EFC placement types associated with employment and educational outcomes?

- Specifically focuses on youth residing in SILPs vs. THP+NMD
- Controlling for a wide range of youth- and county-level characteristics

Study Methods

Sample

Youth who stayed in EFC for at least one day from 2012 to 2018, N = 51,744 (CWS/CMS data)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
N	4,688	8,122	10,799	12,863	12,574	12,081	11,582

Outcomes

Obtained from Unemployment Insurance data (UI, last updated in 2017)

- Ever been employed
- Monthly earnings

Obtained from National Student Clearinghouse data (NSC, last updated in 2019)

- Ever enrolled in college
- Among youth who spent at least 6 months in one placement, ever enrolled in 2 consecutive semesters

Main predictor

Predominant placement at each month from 2012-2018 (source: CDSS's CWS/CMS data):

- Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP)
- Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP+NMD)
- Other placements (Include relative foster care, nonrelative foster care, FFA, group home, guardian home, small family home, court specified home, tribe specified home, and adoptive placement.)

Analyses

- Mixed effects models used to examine impacts of placements on employment and postsecondary educational outcomes at monthly level for each calendar year
- Controlled for a wide range of youth- and county-level characteristics (next slide)

Control Variables

Demographic Characteristics (CWS/CMS data)

- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Ages at the beginning of the calendar year

Maltreatment History (CWS/CMS data)

- History of neglect
- History of physical abuse
- History of sexual abuse
- History of other types of maltreatment

Foster Care Characteristics (CWS/CMS data)

- Ever been placed in congregate care before age 18
- Ever ran away from a placement before age 18
- Placement change rate before age 18
- Months in care during that calendar year

Disability and Health (CWS/CMS data)

- Diagnosed physical disability, vision or hearing disability
- Diagnosed mental retardation
- Diagnosed behavioral health problems
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Other medical condition requiring special care

County Characteristics (CWS/CMS data)

- Size/urbanicity (4 groups)

Outcome-specific covariates

- Employment and earnings: Fair market housing rent quintiles (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development); youth unemployment rate quintiles (American Community Survey) ; ever employed between age 17-18 (UI data)

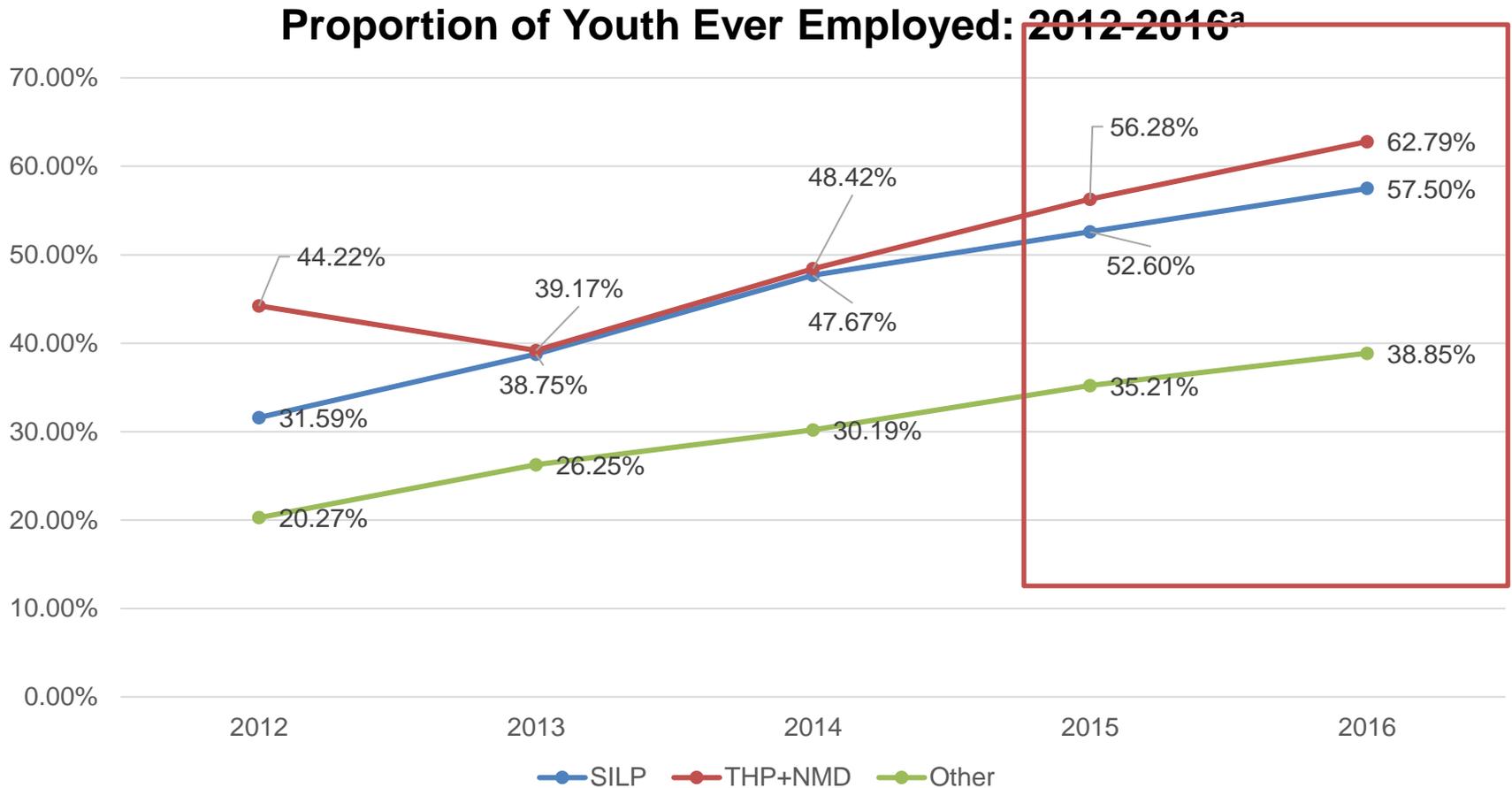
Average Proportion of Time Youth Spent in Each Placement^a : 2012-2018

	SILPs	THP+NMD	Other Placements ^b	N
2012	15%	3%	83%	4,688
2013	31%	6%	63%	8,122
2014	42%	13%	45%	10,799
2015	45%	17%	38%	12,863
2016	44%	20%	36%	12,574
2017	43%	23%	34%	12,081
2018	44%	26%	30%	11,582

^a Average Proportion of Time Youth Spent in Each Placement = number of months youth spent in that placement / number of months in foster care

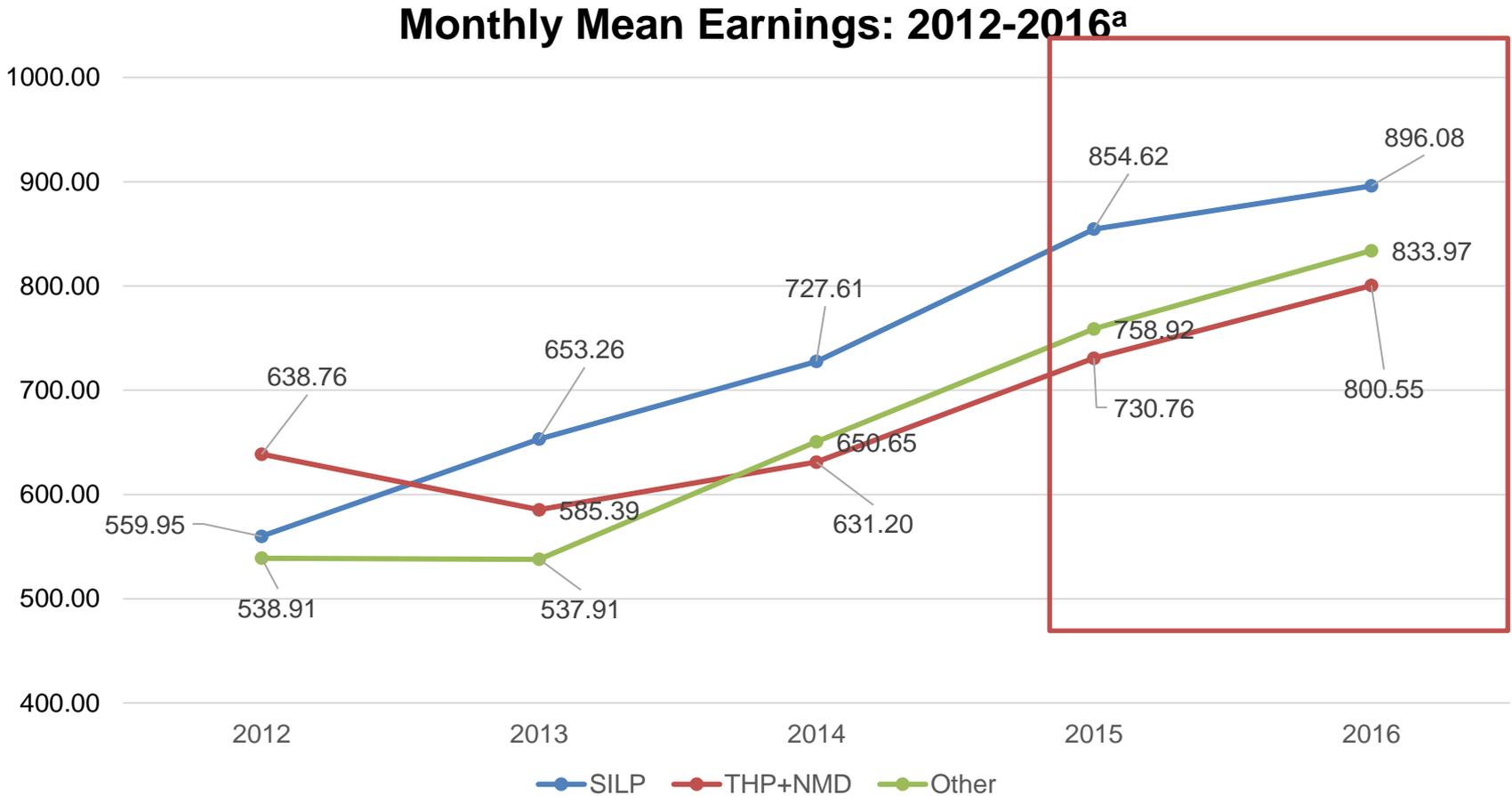
^b Include relative foster care, nonrelative foster care, FFA, group home, guardian home, small family home, court specified home, tribe specified home, and adoptive placement.

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Employment and Earnings from 2012-2016



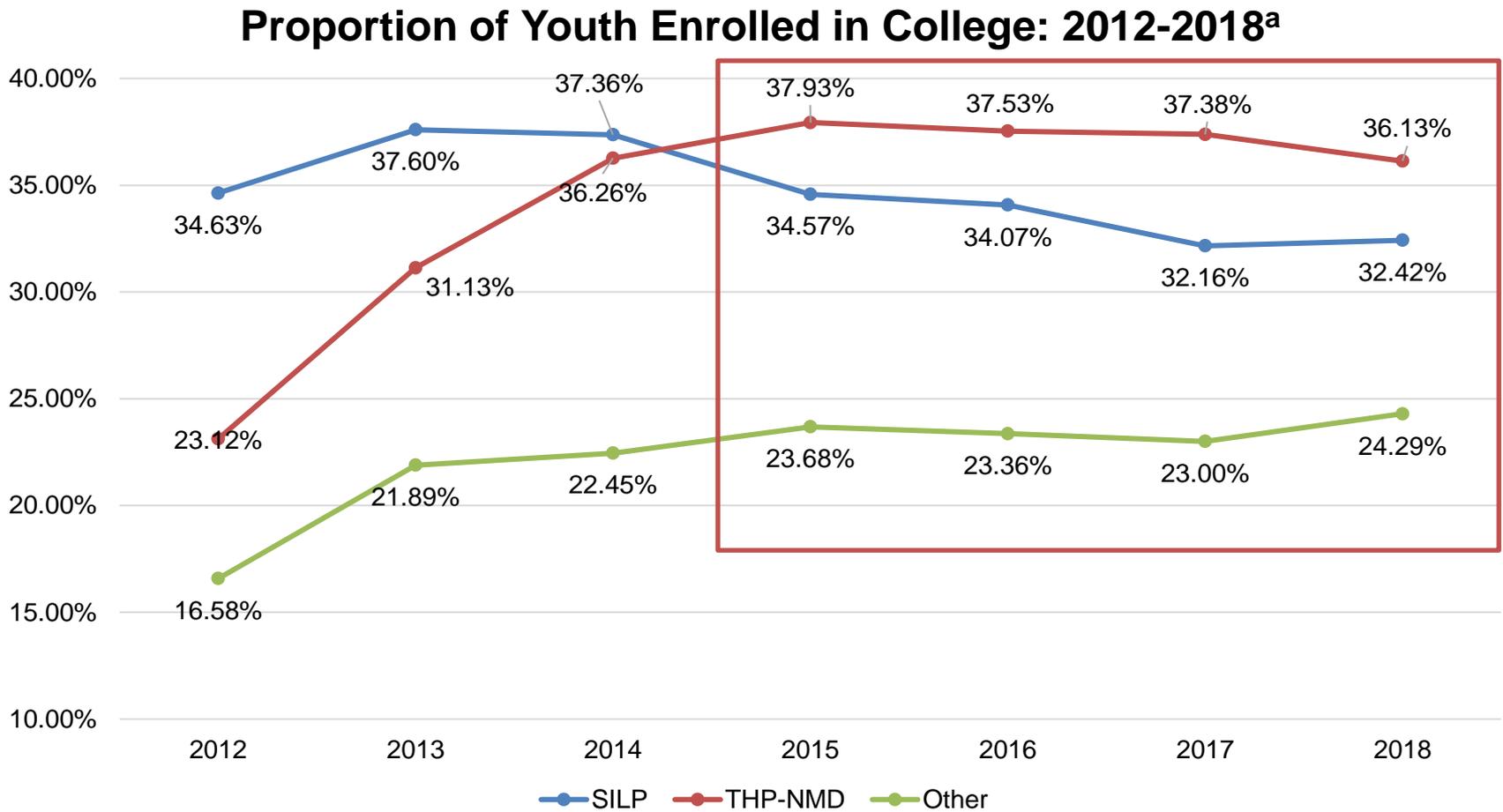
^a Proportion of Youth Ever Employed = total number of youth that were ever employed in that placement/number of youth that were ever in that placement, ranges from 0 to 100.

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Employment and Earnings from 2012-2016



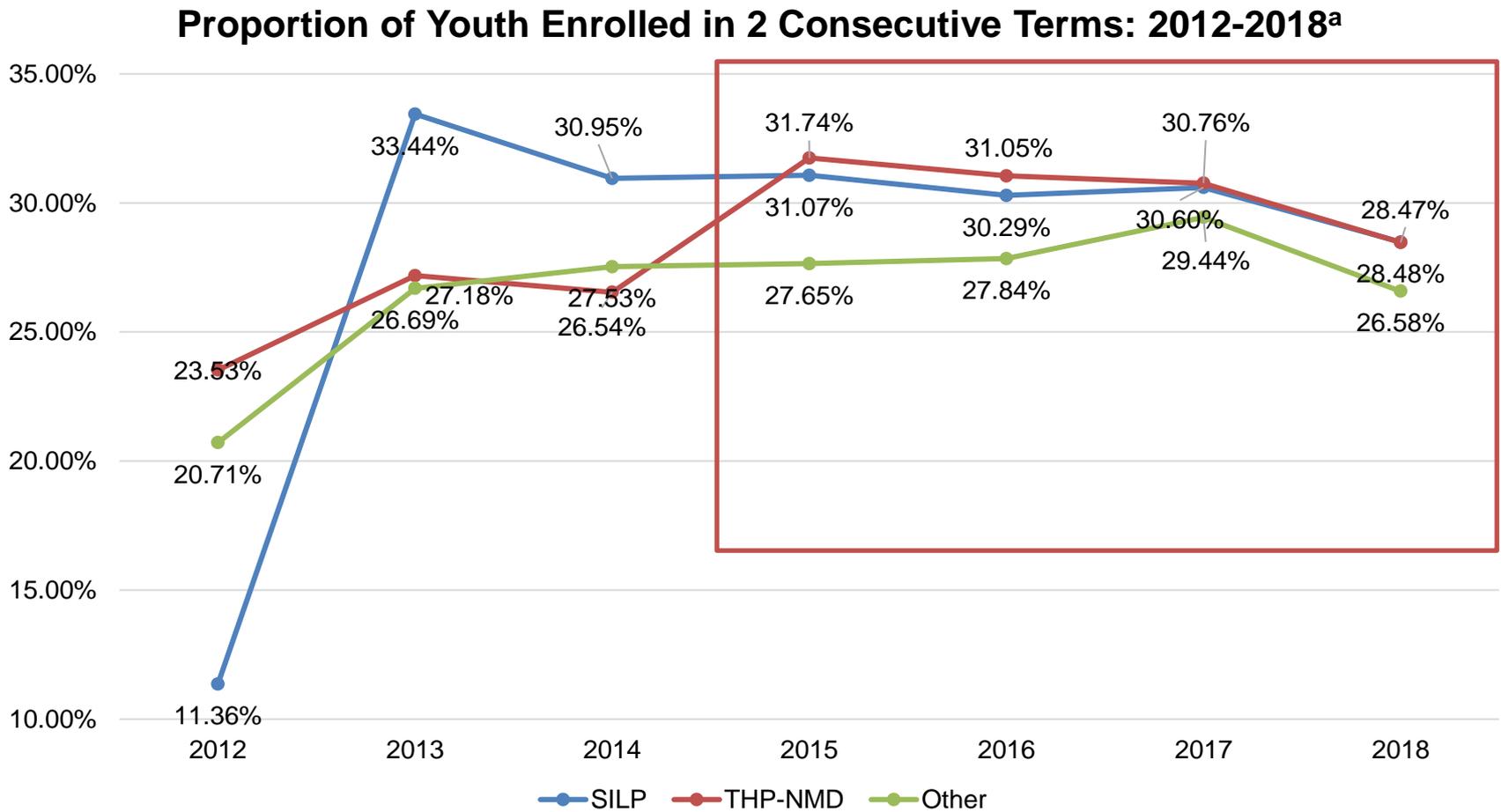
^a Monthly Mean Earnings = total monthly earnings in that year assigned to that placement/ total number of months employed assigned to that placement

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Postsecondary Education from 2012-2018



^a Proportion of Youth Ever Enrolled in College = total number of youth that were ever enrolled in that placement/number of youth that were ever in that placement, ranges from 0 to 100.

Results: Descriptive Statistics of Postsecondary Education from 2012-2018



^a Among Youth Spent At Least 6 Months in One Placement, Proportion Enrolled in 2 Consecutive Semesters/Quarters = number of youth ever persist through 2 consecutive terms in that placement/number of youth who spent at least 6 months in that placement

Relationships between Placement Types and Outcomes by Year, Risk-adjusted

Ever Employed (ref: SILP, interpreted as OR)

	2012 (n = 4,481)	2013 (n = 7,791)	2014 (n = 10,392)	2015 (n = 12,188)	2016 (n = 11,483)
THP+NMD	3.18***	1.36*	1.70***	1.38***	1.43***
Other	0.52***	0.47***	0.45***	0.45***	0.45***

Notes: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; OR, odds ratios.

Earnings (ref: SILP)

	2012 (n = 4,481)	2013 (n = 7,791)	2014 (n = 10,392)	2015 (n = 12,188)	2016 (n = 11,483)
THP+NMD	27.67	-22.92**	40.80***	5.44	1.51
Other	-28.77***	-52.99***	-52.29***	-70.95***	-89.76***

Notes: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

Relationships between Placement Types and Outcomes by Year, Risk-adjusted

Ever Enrolled (ref: SILP, interpreted as OR)

	2012 (n = 4,481)	2013 (n = 7,791)	2014 (n = 10,392)	2015 (n = 12,188)	2016 (n = 11,483)	2017 (n = 11,097)	2018 (n = 10,092)
THP+ NMD	0.1***	0.88	1.35***	1.45***	1.72***	1.64***	1.42***
Other	0.04***	0.14***	0.20***	0.19***	0.21***	0.33***	0.26***

Notes: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; OR, odds ratios.

Among youth who stayed for 6 months+, ever persisted (ref: SILP, interpreted as OR)

	2012 (n = 4,481)	2013 (n = 7,791)	2014 (n = 10,392)	2015 (n = 12,188)	2016 (n = 11,483)	2017 (n = 11,097)	2018 (n = 10,092)
THP+ NMD	0.62	0.64	0.58*	1.33	1.05	1.03	1.06
Other	0.22**	0.27***	0.11***	0.18***	0.55***	0.64**	0.56***

Notes: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; OR, odds ratios.

Limitations

- Data limitations
 - UI data only captures employment and earnings until first quarter of 2017
 - NSC data did not capture enrollments happens after April 2019
- The impact of placement type on outcomes may be lagged
- May not have controlled for all factors associated with selection into placement and employment/educational outcomes

Summary

- From 2013 to 2016, youth employment and monthly earnings increased across SILP, THP+NMD, and other placements.
- THP+NMD is significantly associated with higher odds of employment (vs. SILP), but monthly earnings did not differ between SILP and THP+NMD
- THP+NMD significantly associated with higher odds of enrollment in postsecondary education (vs. SILP), but persistence among those enrolled did not differ between SILP and THP+NMD
- Despite fact that THP+NMD serves higher needs youth, it is still associated with higher rates of youth employment and postsecondary enrollment
- Future research directions:
 - Examine the impact of placements on outcomes like CalFresh, CalWORKS benefits
 - Utilize more sophisticated statistical model that takes into account selection into different EFC placements

Thank You!

Study Information, Reports, and Issue Briefs

- <https://www.chapinhall.org/research/cal youth/>
- <https://voices.uchicago.edu/cal youth/>

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