**Numbers to Know: Foster Youth and Education**

*U.S & Nevada Foster Youth Statistics*

* There are 427,910 children living in out-of-home care in the U.S.[[1]](#footnote-1) and 4,485 children living in out-of-home care in Nevada.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* There are 66,105 youth ages 16 and older in foster care in the U.S.;[[3]](#footnote-3) 372 of them live in Nevada.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* 20,789 youth age out of foster care each year in the U.S.[[5]](#footnote-5), 160 of them in Nevada.[[6]](#footnote-6)

*The Importance of High School Completion in Finding Sustainable Employment*

* According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for high school dropouts is $25,636, significantly lower than wages for those who have completed high school ($35,256) and those who have attended some college but not earned a degree ($38,376).[[7]](#footnote-7)
* High school drop outs are also far less likely to find work: their unemployment rate is 8% compared to 5.4% for those who just complete high school and 5% for those who have attended some college but not earned a degree.[[8]](#footnote-8)

*The Cost of Disconnected Youth: Lost Earnings and Increased Dependency on Social Service sand Criminal Justice Costs*

* From a societal perspective, youth who are not working and are not in school are not contributing to the tax base, more dependent on social service programs, and participate in criminal behavior at much higher rates. A recent study commissioned for the White House Council on Community Solutions estimated that each youth ages 16-24 that is not working or in school imposes an immediate **$51,350** fiscal and social burden, and a **$700,000** burden over their lifetimes[[9]](#footnote-9).
1. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport23.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption-fy15> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport23.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group?loc=30&loct=2#detailed/2/30/false/573,869,36,868,867/1889,2616,2617,2618,2619,122/12988,12989> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport23.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6277-children-exiting-foster-care-by-exit-reason?loc=30&loct=2#detailed/2/30/false/573,869,36,868,867/2631,2636,2632,2633,2630,2629,2635,2634/13050,13051> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_001.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. http://www.civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/econ\_value\_opportunity\_youth.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-9)