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Information about Parenting Dependents & the Infant Supplement in California

How many young parents are in foster care in California?

- According to data provided by the California Department of Social Services, there are 1,025 youth and young adults in foster care who are custodial parents.
- The number of young parents in foster care increased in 2012, with the implementation of Assembly Bill 12 which increased the upper age of foster care from 18 to age 21.
- The greatest number of young parents in foster care live in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (45%) followed by THP-Plus Foster Care (22%), foster families (19%) and other foster care placements (14%).

What is the infant supplement?

- The infant supplement is a supplemental foster care benefit paid to support young parents in foster care for the care and supervision of their child.
- The infant supplement was established in federal law in 1985 and by the State of California in 1986. The rate was originally set at \$326 per month and increased to \$411, where it remained for approximately 20 years.
- In 2016, the California State Legislature increased the infant supplement to \$900 per month.
- The infant supplement is paid to the licensed placement, with the exception of non-minor dependents in a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) who receive it directly.

What challenges do young parents in foster care experience?

- **Late and no prenatal care:** In California, 13% of 19-year-olds who became pregnant and gave birth received no prenatal careⁱ. Another 6% did not receive prenatal care until the seventh month of their pregnancyⁱⁱ.
- **Low-birth weight children:** Of teens that did not receive any prenatal care, 21.5% were born low-birth weightⁱⁱⁱ.
- **Lack of subsidized child care:** Parenting youth in foster care struggle to secure child care. In a recent survey of youth in THP+FC, only 1 in 5 were able to access subsidized child care.

ⁱ Courtney Mark, et al. Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Youth at Age 19, 2016. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

ⁱⁱ IBID.

ⁱⁱⁱ Hueston WJ, Quattlebaum RG, Benich JJ. How Much Money Can Early Prenatal Care for Teen Pregnancies Save?: A Cost-Benefit Analysis. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* May-June 2008 vol. 21 no. 3 184-190.