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2019-2020

# THP-NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report

COVID-19, Program Access,  
Youth Outcomes & More

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November 5, 2020  
John Burton Advocates for Youth



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# Information to Participate

## Call-in information:

Phone Number: 562-247-8422

Access Code: 259-315-547

## To submit live questions:

Click on the “questions” panel, type your question, and click “send.”

## Presentation materials:

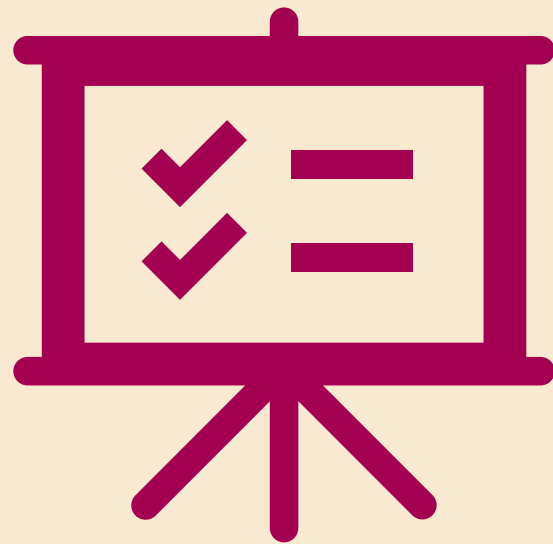
Slides, report and webinar recording will be sent to all registrants and posted at [www.jbayforyouth.org](http://www.jbayforyouth.org) under “Training Archive.”

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The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. Below it, a window titled 'Attendee List (2 | Max 1001)' is open, showing a list of attendees. The list is currently empty, with only 'Nick Pav (Me)' visible. To the right of the list, there are tabs for 'Attendees (1)' and 'Staff (1)'. Below the list, there is a search bar. The 'Audio' panel is also visible, showing options for 'Telephone' (selected) and 'Mic & Speakers'. It displays the dial-in number '+1 (480) 297-0020', the access code '653-510-658', and the audio PIN '54'. A red box contains the text 'If you're already on the call, press #54# now.' and a blue link 'Problem dialing in?'. The 'Questions' panel is at the bottom, with a text input field containing '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the very bottom, the 'Webinar' information is shown, including the 'Webinar ID: 726-486-617' and the 'GoToWebinar' logo.

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# Agenda



Welcome & Introductions

Report Methodology

Findings

- Demographics & Number of Youth Served
- THP-NMD & THP-Plus Rates
- Housing Entrance & Exit
- Education, Employment & Income
- Health & Well-Being

Policy & Practice Implications

Question & Answer – don't forget to submit your questions!

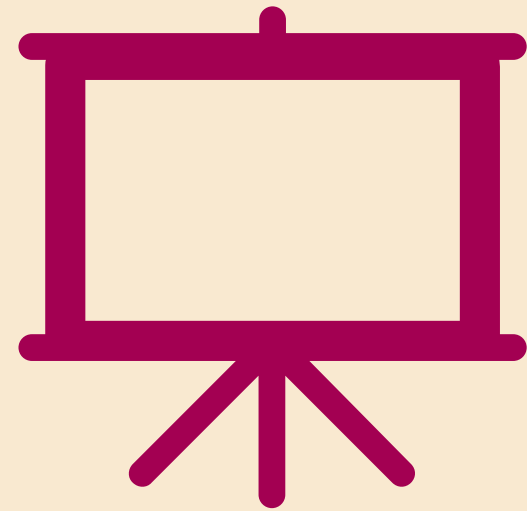
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# Today's Presenters

Amy Lemley

Executive Director, John Burton Advocates for Youth



Simone Tureck Lee

Director of Housing & Health, John Burton Advocates for Youth

Anna Johnson

Senior Project Manager, John Burton Advocates for Youth

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## **THP-NMD & THP-PLUS ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-20**

*Providing Affordable Housing  
and Supportive Services to  
Youth Transitioning from  
California's Foster Care and  
Juvenile Probation Systems*



**JOHN  
BURTON**  
Advocates for Youth

**NOVEMBER 2020**

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# Report Released Today

## 2019-20 THP-NMD & THP-Plus Annual Report

Posted on JBAY website:

<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/2019-20-thp-annual-report/>

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# Report Methodology



## Extensive survey of THP-NMD & THP-Plus providers

93% and 97% response rate from THP-NMD & THP-Plus providers, respectively

## THP-NMD & THP-Plus Participant Tracking Systems

Captures data on 51% of THP-NMD participants and 68% of THP-Plus participants statewide

## California Child Welfare Indicators Project

Provides customizable information on California's entire child welfare system

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# Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD) at a Glance

Current foster youth age 18-21 ("non-minor dependents")

Title IV-E-reimbursable foster care placement

Modeled after THP-Plus program

Implemented in 2012 with Extended Foster Care (AB 12)

# Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD) at a Glance

**2,023** youth  
placed in THP-  
NMD as of April  
1, 2020

**58** providers  
operating in **49**  
counties over FY  
2019-20



# Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus) at a Glance

Former foster &  
out-of-home  
probation youth  
age 18-24\*

Can access for  
up to 24 months\*

**\* 27 counties offer  
the THP-Plus  
extension:**  
youth in school can  
participate for up to  
36 months and/or up  
to age 25.

Est. 2001 by AB  
427 (Hertzberg)

CWS Realignment  
funds, formerly  
state funded  
program

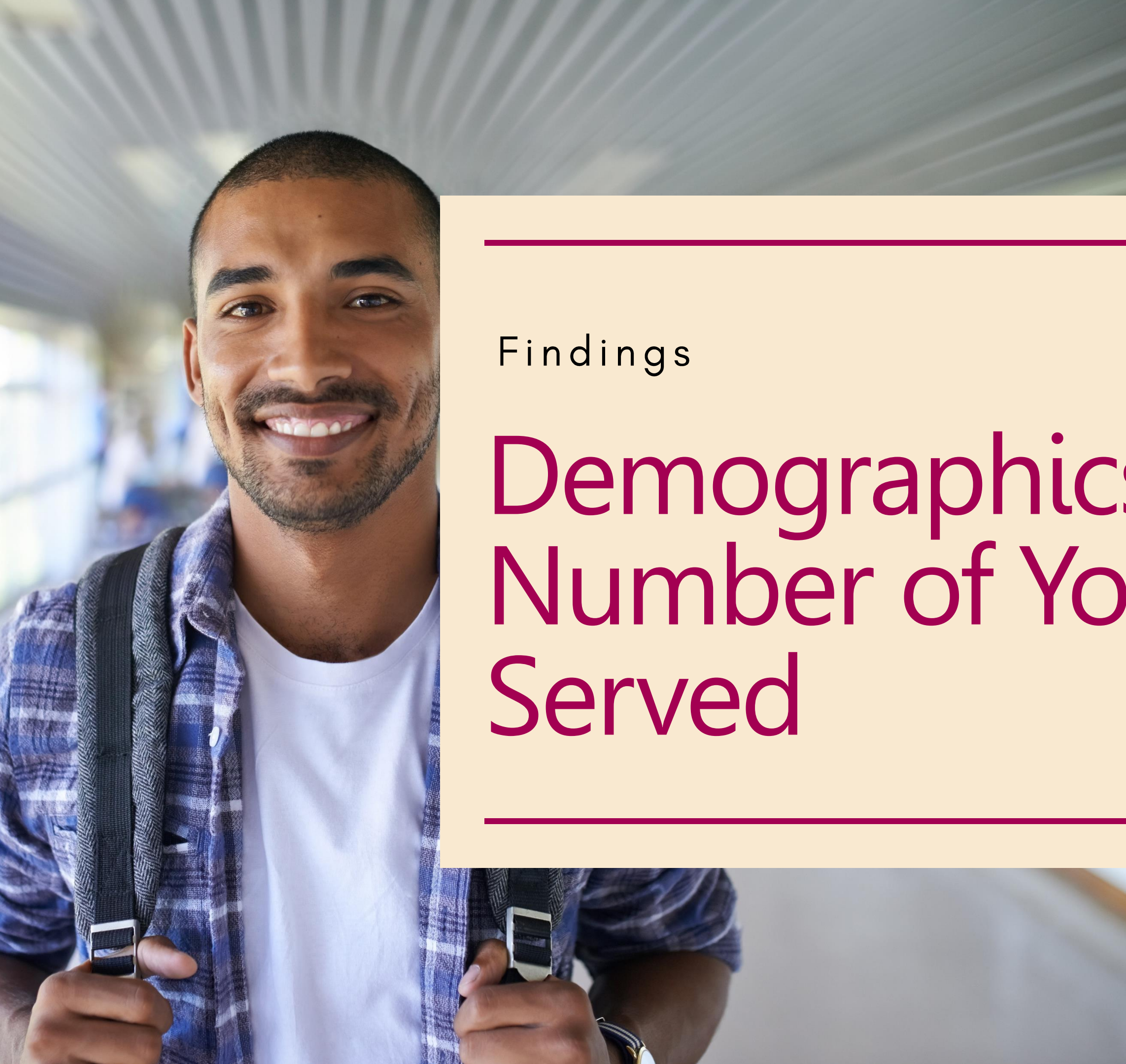
# Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus) at a Glance

**1,086** youth  
participating in  
THP-Plus on June  
30, 2020

**1,271** contracted  
THP-Plus beds  
over FY 2019-20

**52** organizations  
operated **73**  
programs over FY  
2019-20

**47** counties had  
THP-Plus  
programs over FY  
2019-20



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Findings

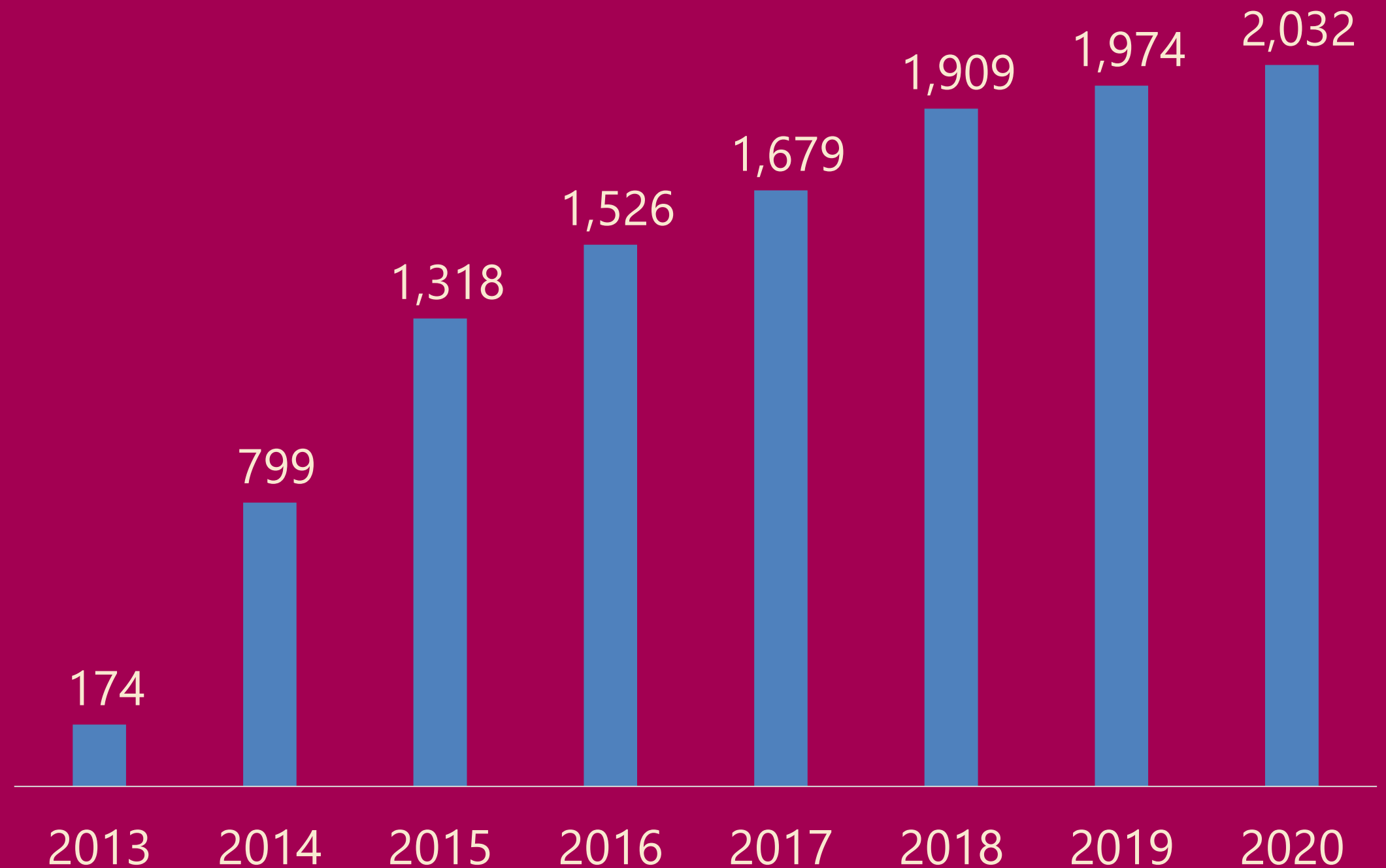
# Demographics & Number of Youth Served

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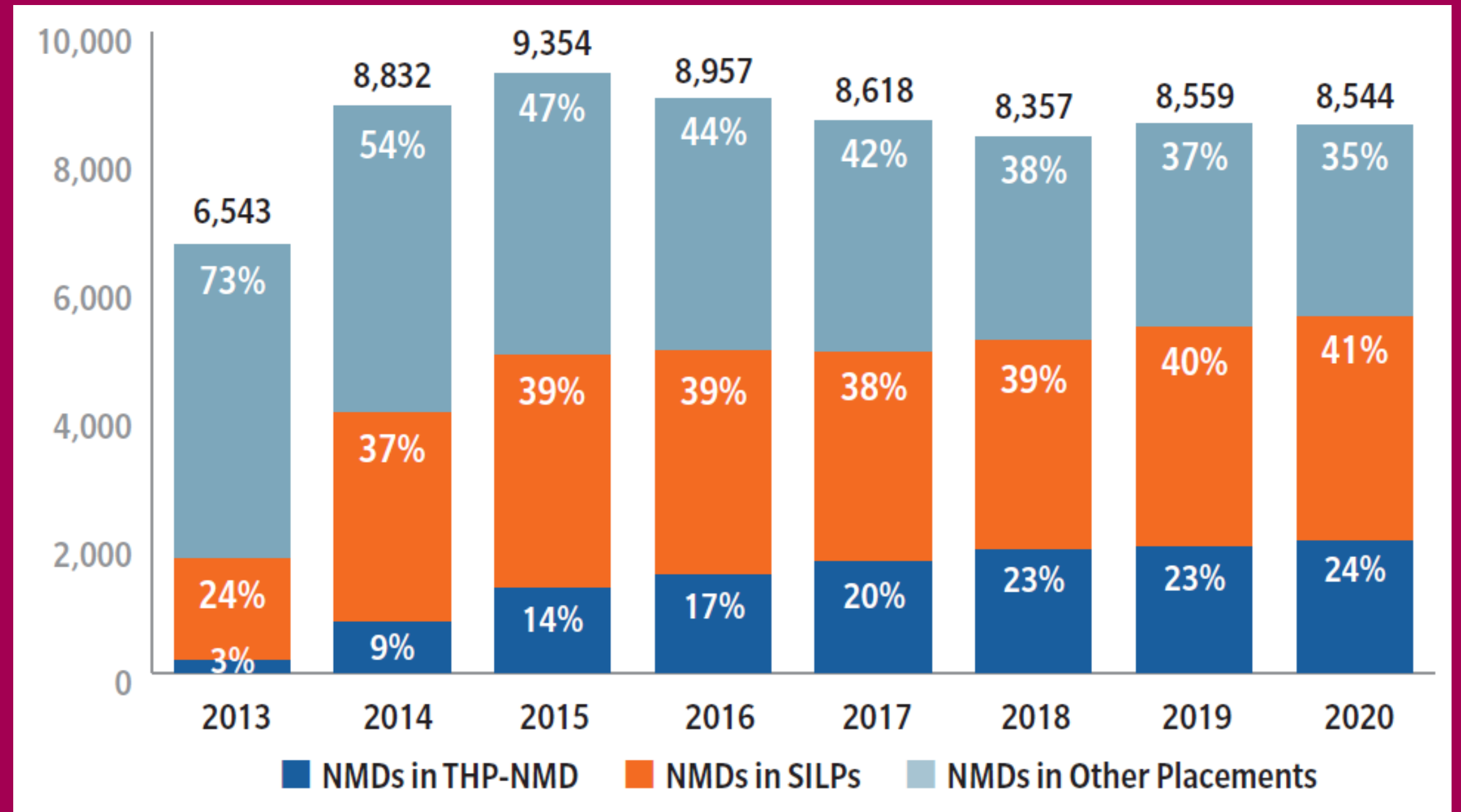
Growth continues  
in THP-NMD, but at  
a slower rate.

Number of Non-Minor Dependents  
Placed in THP-NMD as of April 1<sup>st</sup>



Over time, THP-NMD has grown as a more commonly utilized placement for youth, with nearly 1 in 4 non-minor dependents placed in THP-NMD as of April 1, 2020.

Proportion of NMDs Placed in THP-NMD, SILPs & Other Placements as of April 1<sup>st</sup>



## THP-NMD Participant Characteristics as of April 1<sup>st</sup>

The proportion of Latino youth in THP-NMD has increased 20% since 2013, and the proportion of White youth has decreased by 31%.

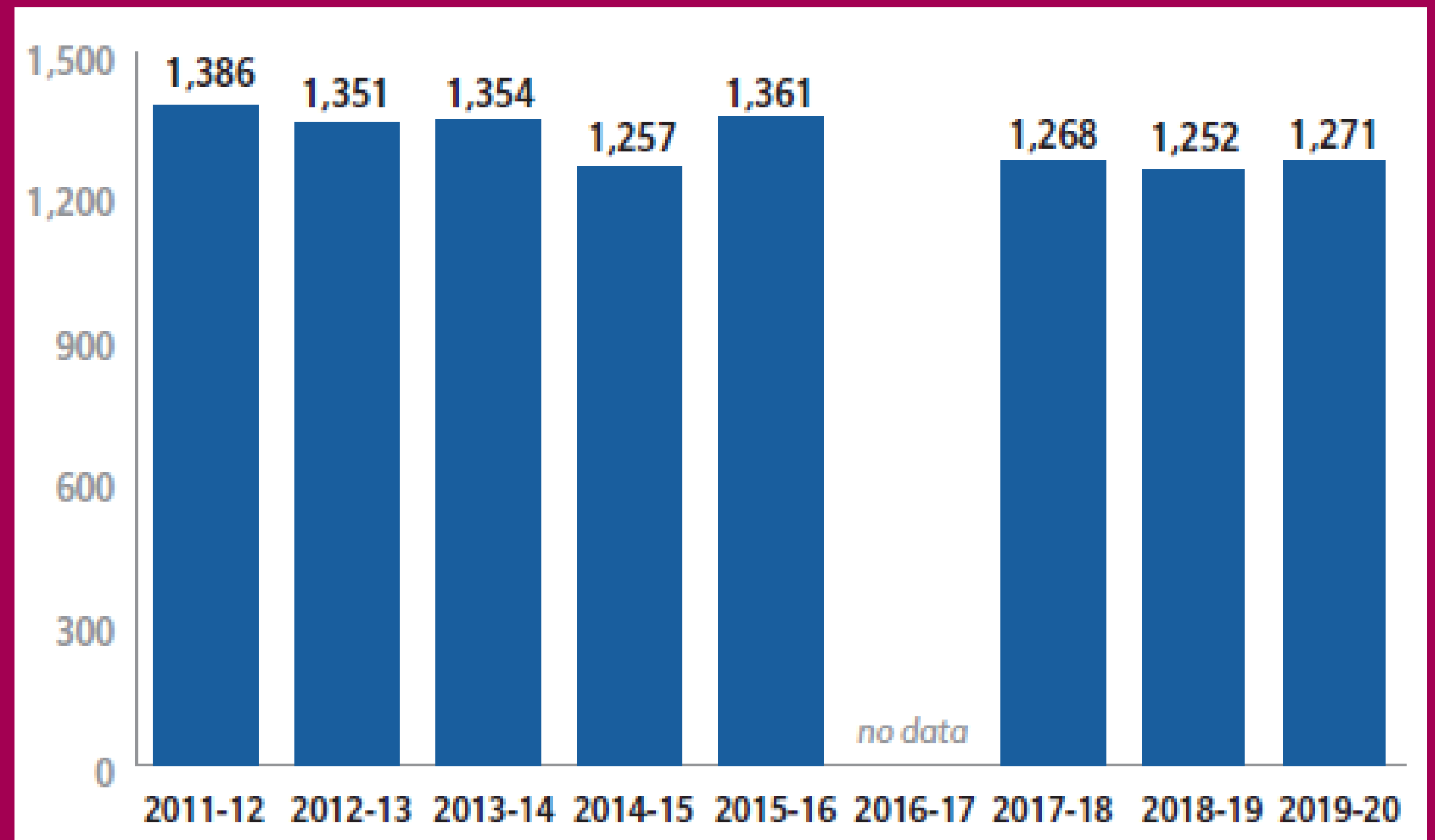
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Male</b>	40%	39%	42%	42%	43%	43%	44%	43%
<b>Female</b>	60%	61%	58%	58%	57%	57%	56%	57%
<b>Other</b>				0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
<b>LGBTQ</b>				12%	12%	14%	14%	13%
<b>Black</b>	32%	38%	38%	36%	35%	36%	35%	35%
<b>White</b>	29%	26%	24%	24%	25%	22%	20%	20%
<b>Latino</b>	35%	33%	34%	36%	37%	39%	41%	42%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%
<b>Native American</b>	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Supervised by Juvenile Probation</b>	3%	14%	17%	18%	18%	17%	15%	15%

- While slightly lower, the number of youth participating served over 12 months and the overall capacity of the program remain consistent with the previous year.
- 9% fewer youth were participating in THP-Plus on June 30, 2020 as compared to June 30, 2019.

	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Number of Youth Served in THP-Plus over 12 months</b>	1,739	1,720
<b>Number of contracted THP-Plus beds</b>	1,252	1,271
<b>Number of Youth in THP-Plus as of June 30th</b>	1,196	1,086
<b>Number of Organizations Providing THP-Plus</b>	55	52
<b>Number of THP-Plus Programs</b>	76	73
<b>Number of Counties with THP-Plus Programs</b>	47	47

Despite THP-Plus being realigned from the state to the counties in 2011, the program remains strong with just an 8% decrease since 2011.

Number of Contracted THP-Plus Slots Over Fiscal Year  
(Statewide Housing Capacity)

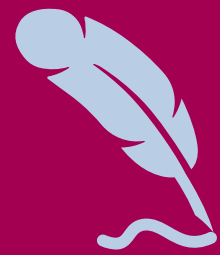




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More than half (57%) of the counties in California with THP-Plus programs provide the third-year THP-Plus extension as of June 30, 2020.

**27 counties with 70% of the statewide THP-Plus housing capacity offer the extension.**



Extension established by SB 1252 (2014, Torres)



Youth in THP-Plus programs in counties that have opted into the extension can remain in the program for an additional 12 months and/or up to age 25 if they are enrolled in school.

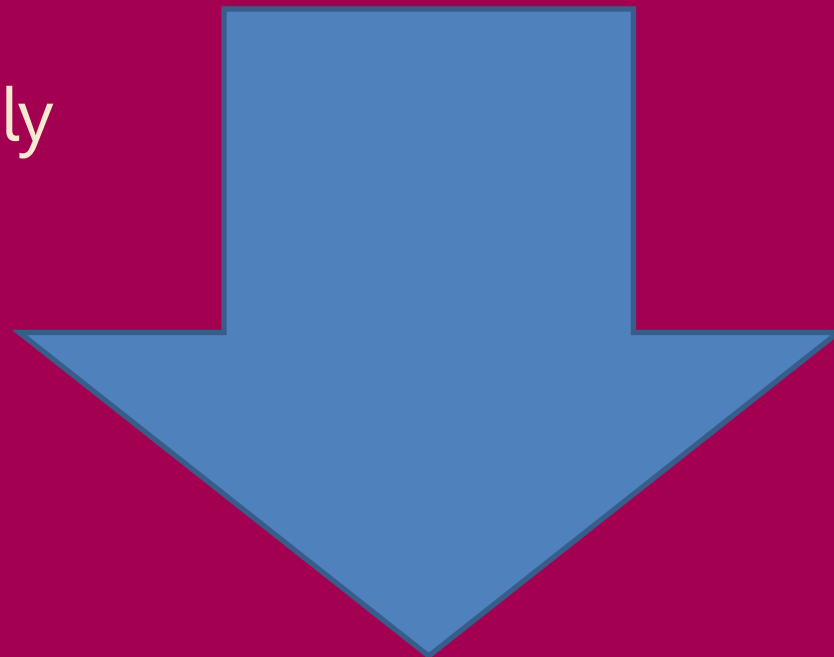
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- Imperial
  - Kings
  - Los Angeles
  - Mariposa
  - Mendocino
  - Merced
  - Napa
  - Nevada
  - Orange
  - Placer
  - Plumas
  - Riverside
  - Sacramento
  - San Bernardino
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
  - San Joaquin
  - San Luis Obispo
  - San Mateo
  - Santa Barbara
  - Santa Clara
  - Santa Cruz
  - Solano
  - Tulare
  - Ventura
  - Yolo
  - Yuba

# THP-Plus Participant Characteristics at Entrance to the Program



- Youth age 21-24
- Youth identifying as LGBTQ
- Youth identifying as multi-racial
- Youth identifying as Hispanic

- Youth previously supervised by the juvenile probation system



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Male</b>	42%	44%	44%	40%	44%	36%	39%	39%
<b>Female</b>	58%	56%	56%	60%	56%	64%	60%	60%
<b>Other</b>		1%	1%					
<b>Age 18-20</b>	52%	35%	18%	15%	13%	7%	2%	2%
<b>Age 21-24</b>	48%	65%	82%	85%	87%	93%	98%	98%
<b>LGBTQ</b>	8%	9%	11%	9%	10%	9%	12%	14%
<b>Black</b>	34%	32%	38%	33%	32%	33%	35%	29%
<b>White</b>	27%	24%	28%	28%	22%	27%	25%	26%
<b>American Indian or Alaskan Native</b>	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Asian, Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian</b>	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
<b>Multi-Racial or Other</b>	34%	41%	32%	36%	43%	37%	37%	41%
<b>Hispanic Ethnicity</b>	38%	42%	40%	42%	46%	45%	42%	44%
<b>Formerly Juvenile Probation-Supervised</b>	15%	11%	11%	9%	6%	6%	7%	9%

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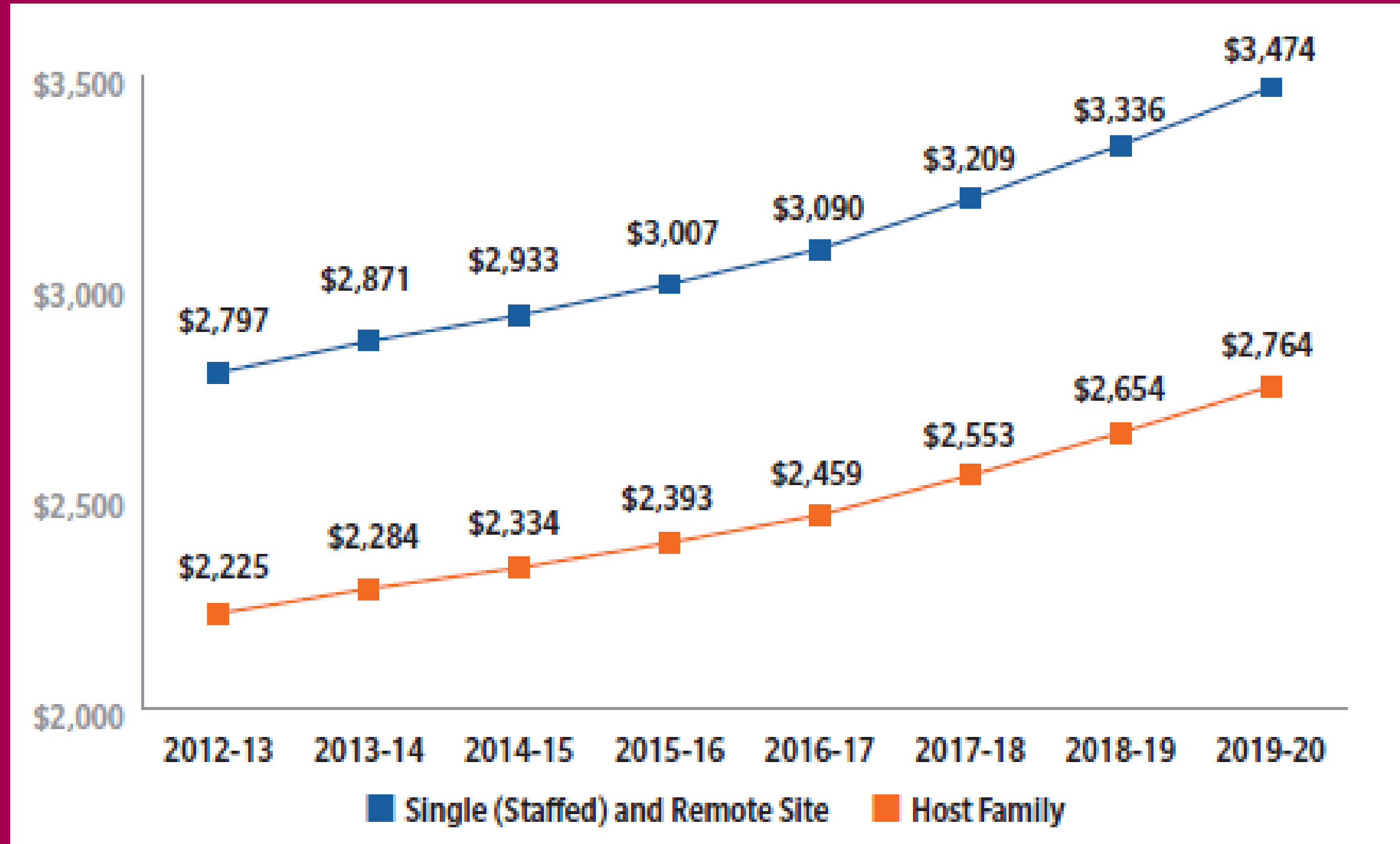
Findings

# THP-NMD and THP-Plus Rates

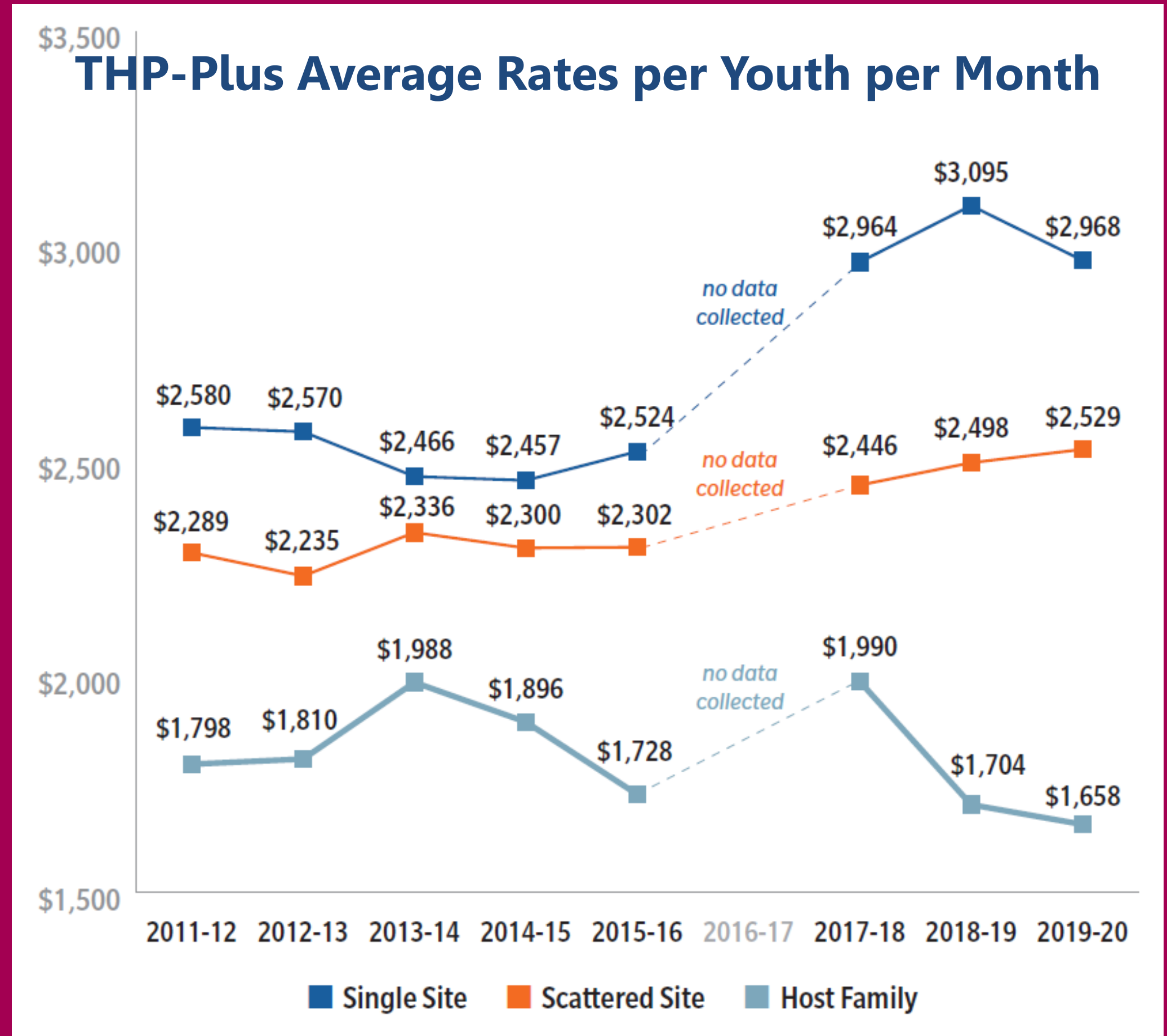
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The statewide THP-NMD rate increased by 4%, as required by statute.

Statewide THP-NMD Rate per Youth per Month



The average monthly rate paid per youth by counties to THP-Plus providers for the scattered site housing model has increased just slightly from the previous fiscal year, while the average rate for the single site and host family models have decreased.



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# THP-Plus rates continue to vary considerably across the state.

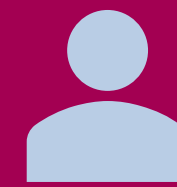


Single sites range from \$4,005 in Orange County to \$1,767 in Yuba County

**Two counties offer a higher rate for youth who are custodial parents**



Scattered sites range from \$4,131 in Marin County to \$1,538 in Kern County



**San Mateo**

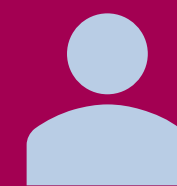
\$3,146



\$3,626



Host family rates range from \$3,146 in San Mateo County to \$500 in Ventura County



**Santa Clara**

\$2,400



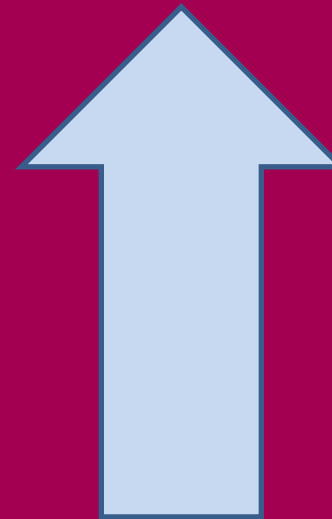
\$2,800

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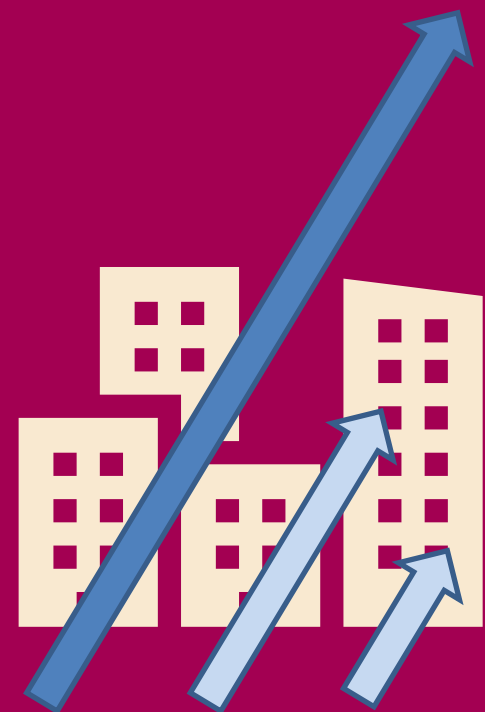
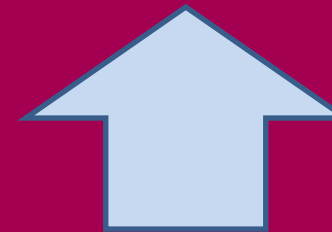
Since FY 2012-13, the THP-NMD rate has grown twice as fast as the average THP-Plus rate.

**Since FY 2012-13**

Statewide THP-NMD rate for the remote site model has grown 24%, based on annual CNI increases



Average county THP-Plus rate for the scattered site model has grown 11%



From year to year, survey respondents have consistently stressed the concern that the cost of housing has outpaced the growth in the rate for both programs.

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Findings

# Housing Entrance and Exit

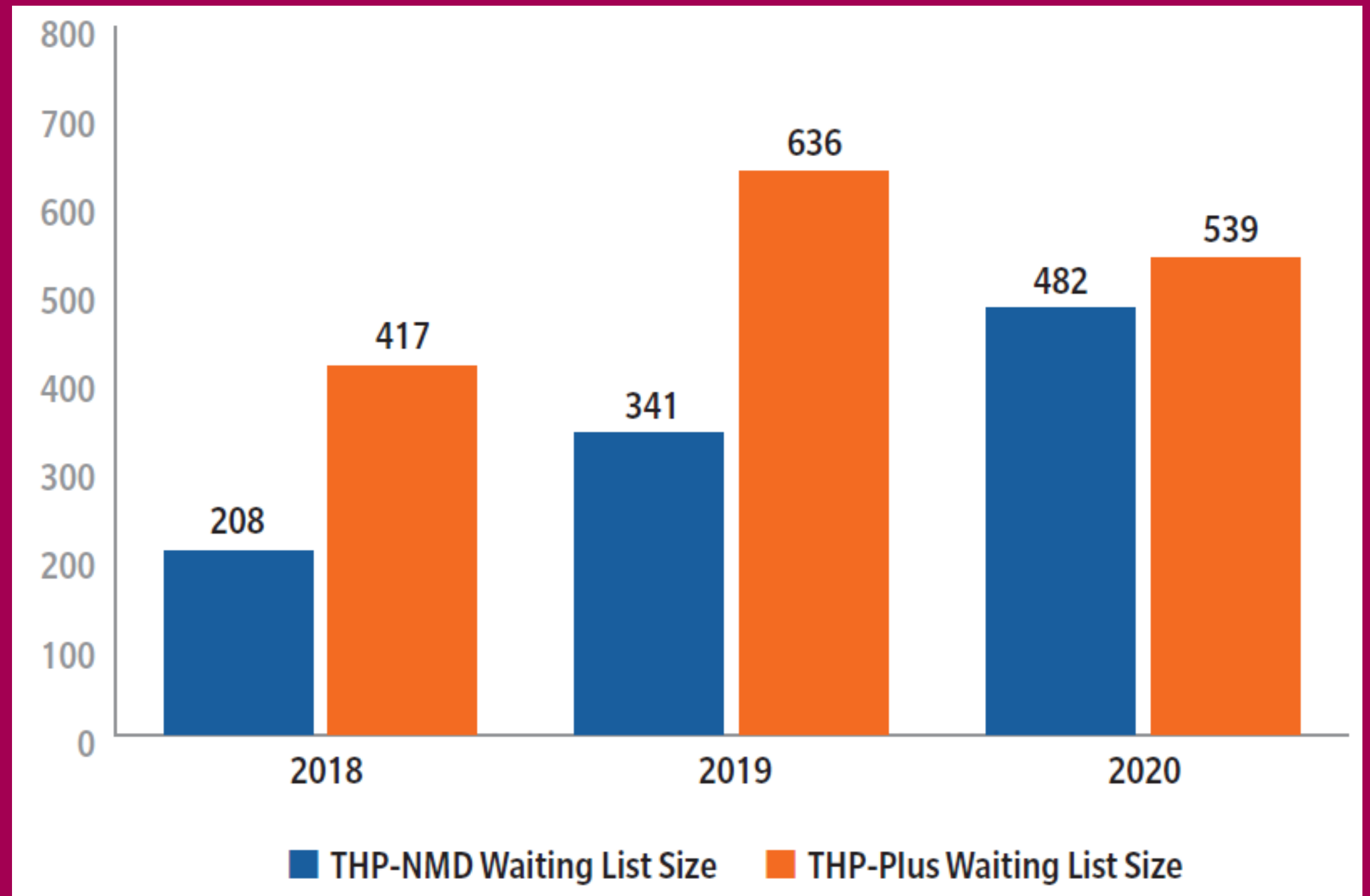
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The number of youth waiting for THP-NMD has more than doubled since 2018, with 482 youth on waiting lists as of June 30, 2020.

The number of youth waiting for THP-Plus has decreased by 15% from the previous year, with 539 youth on waiting lists as of June 30, 2020.

Number of Youth on Waiting Lists for THP-NMD & THP-Plus as of June 30, 2020



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# There is great variation in whether and how THP-NMD and THP-Plus waiting lists are maintained.

## Protocol when programs become full, vary:

- Some providers maintain a waiting list; Some providers do not

## County practice varies:

- Some counties maintain their own waiting lists; others have a policy prohibiting waiting lists.

## For those that do maintain waiting lists, management practices vary:

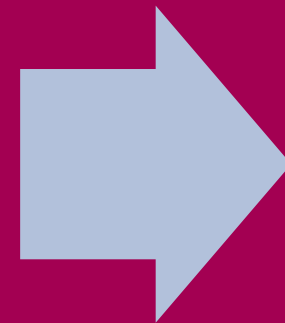
- Length of time youth remain on the waiting list
- Frequency at which youth are contacted about their continued need or interest in the program

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In addition to demand among eligible youth, there is also demand for THP-Plus among youth who exited foster care prior to turning 18 years old.

- THP-Plus eligibility criteria requires youth to have been in care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Of the state's 73 THP-Plus programs, 37 (51%) reported they had collectively denied approx. 170 youth admission to the program because they exited foster care to before turning 18.

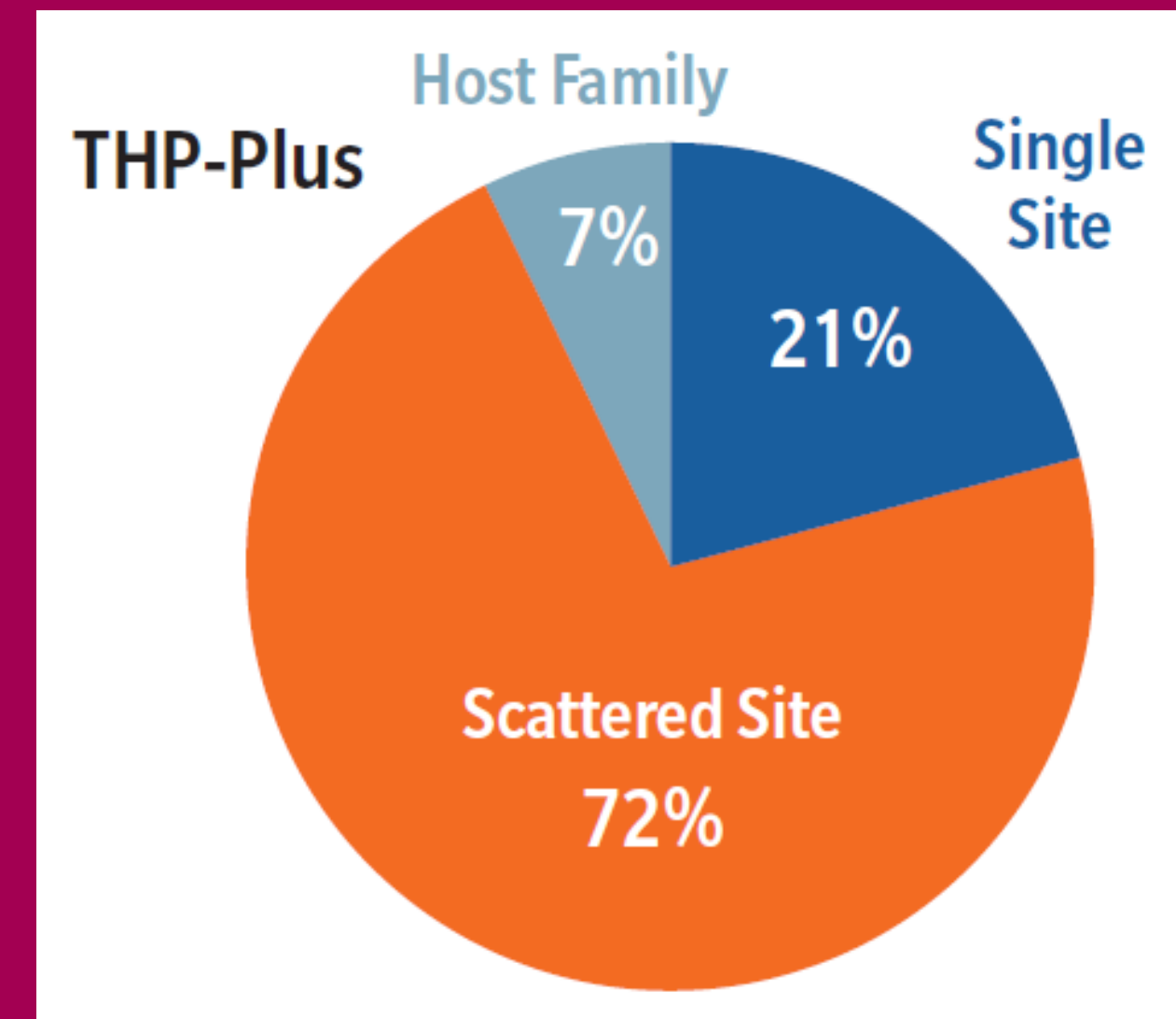
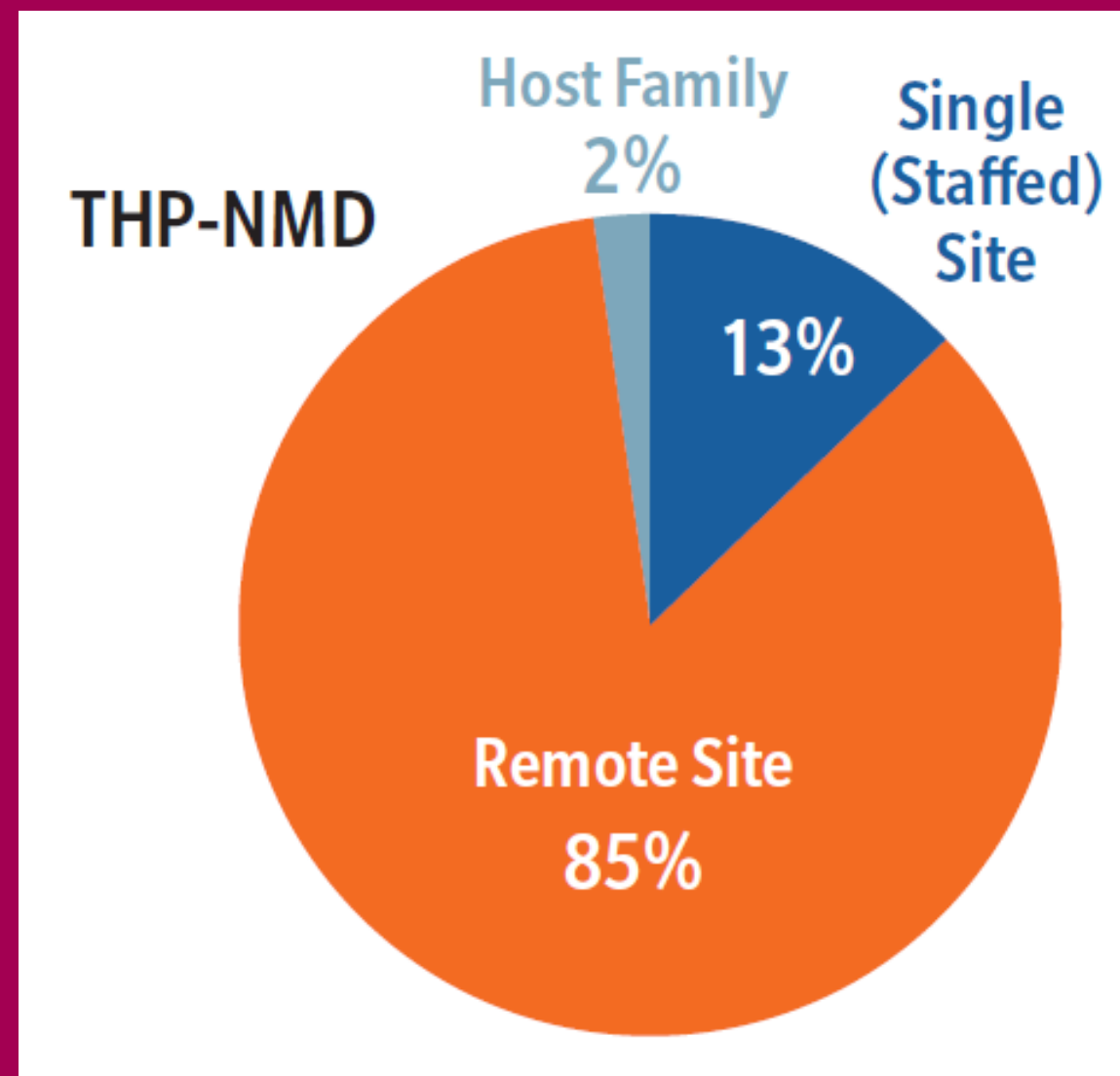


Of those youth, approx. 111 of them exited care after turning 16.

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The remote/scattered site model is the most prevalent housing model in both THP-NMD and THP-Plus.

### Capacity by Housing Model



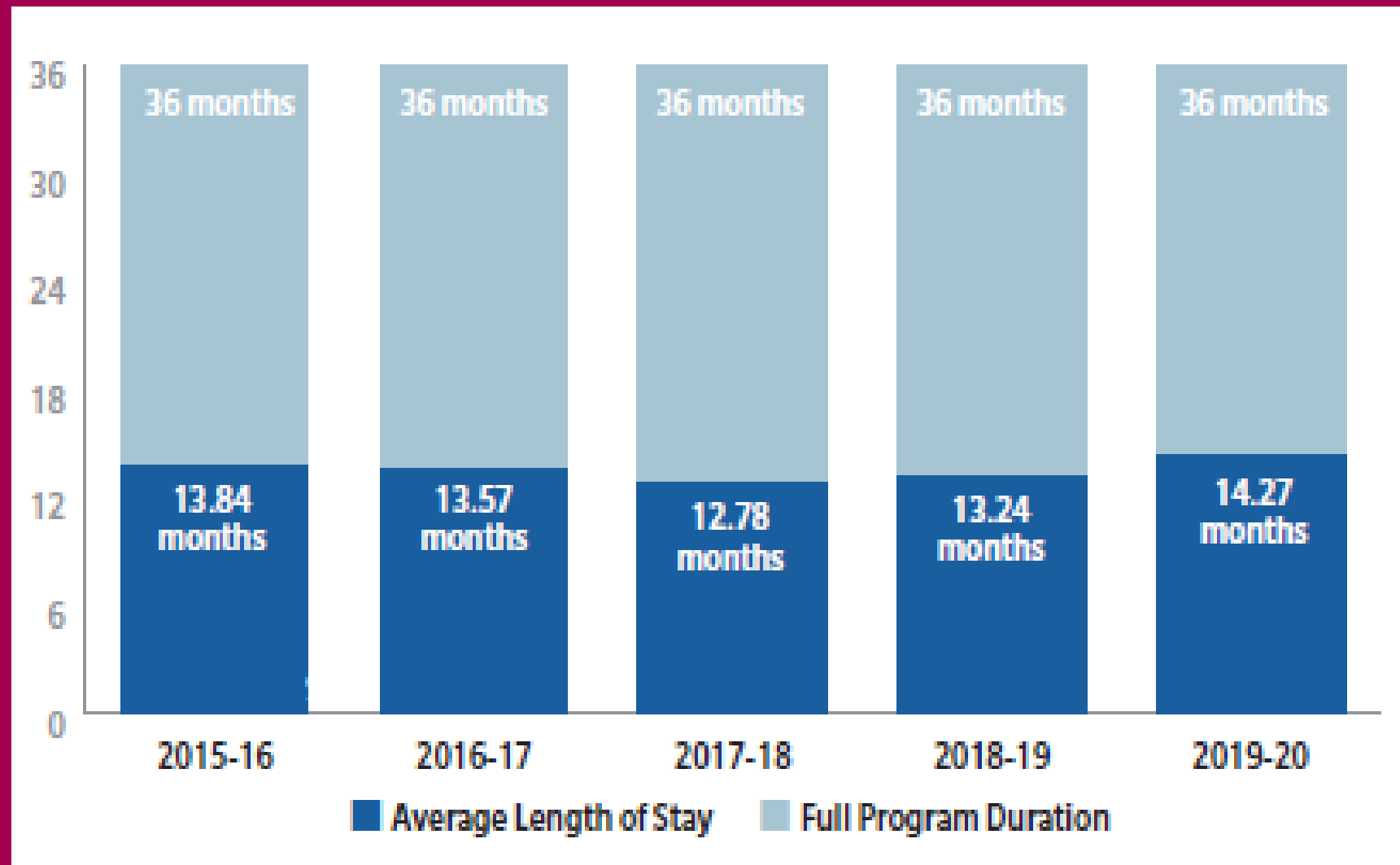
# Living Settings at Entrance and Exit

- **THP-NMD:** Youth were most likely to enter the program directly from a family-based foster care setting or congregate care and exit to living with a relative or other person in stable housing where they are not paying rent.
- **THP-Plus:** Youth were most likely to enter from and exit to renting their own or shared housing where they are paying rent.
- More youth entered THP-Plus from unstable housing or homelessness than THP-NMD.

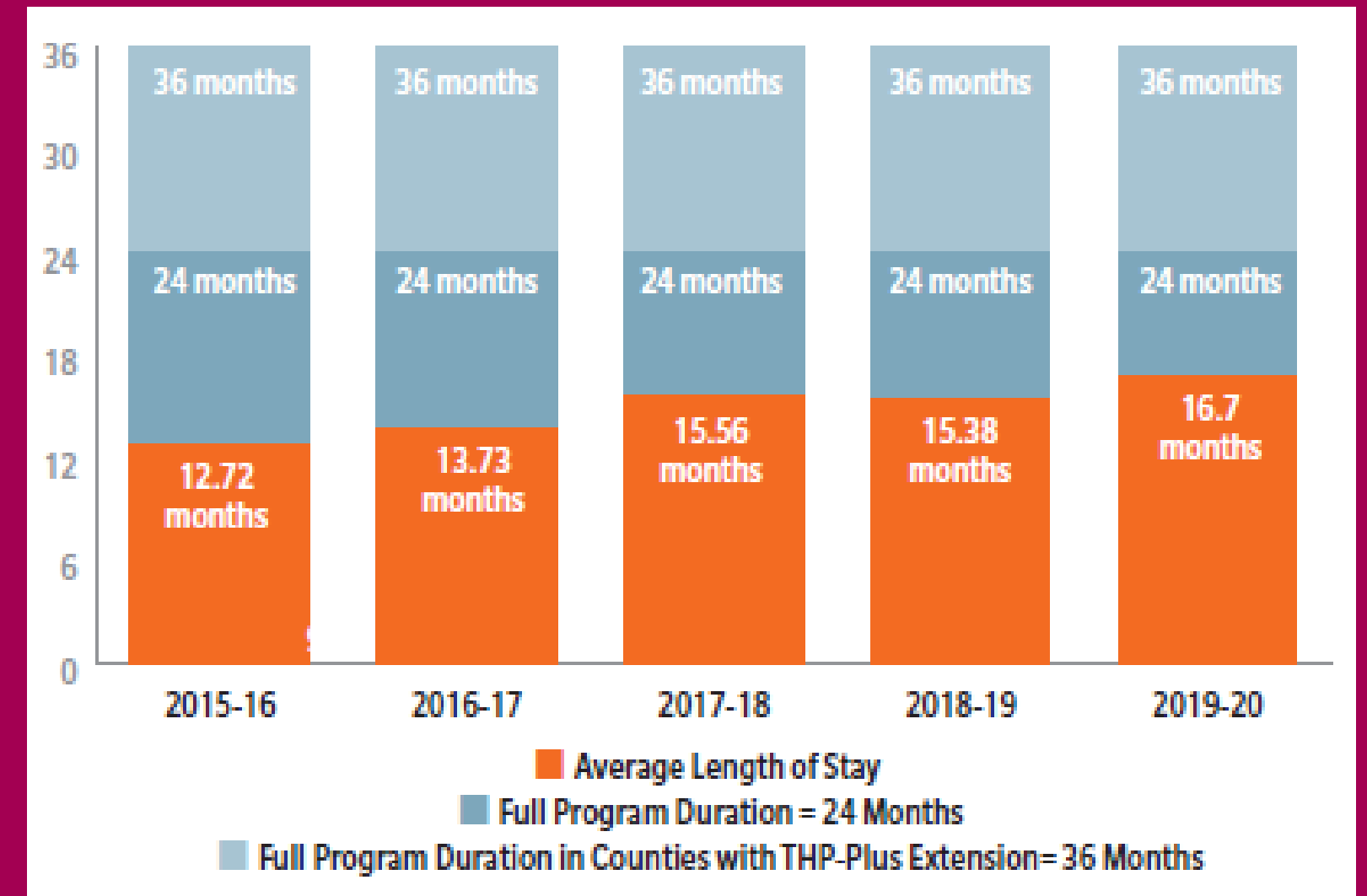
HOUSING TYPE	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Youth Entered from this Living Setting	Youth Exited to this Living Setting	Youth Entered from this Living Setting	Youth Exited to this Living Setting
A THP-Plus Program	1%	14%	4%	2%
A THP-NMD Program	7%	8%	14%	1%
Supervised Independent Living Placement	9%	11%	0%	0%
Resource Family	24%	1%	1%	0%
Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)/Group Home	23%	0%	0%	0%
THP for Minors	3%	0%	3%	N/A
Other supportive transitional housing program	1%	5%	6%	5%
Renting own / shared housing (paying rent)	4%	21%	32%	52%
Living with relative / other person in stable housing (free rent)	15%	26%	18%	24%
Emergency shelter, homeless, or other unstable housing (street, car, couch-surfing, etc.)	9%	6%	15%	6%
Incarcerated	1%	3%	1%	2%
College dorm	0%	0%	1%	1%
Other	3%	4%	5%	7%

The average length of stay has increased in THP-NMD and THP-Plus but remains well below the maximum program duration.

Average Length of Stay vs. Full Program Duration  
**THP-NMD**

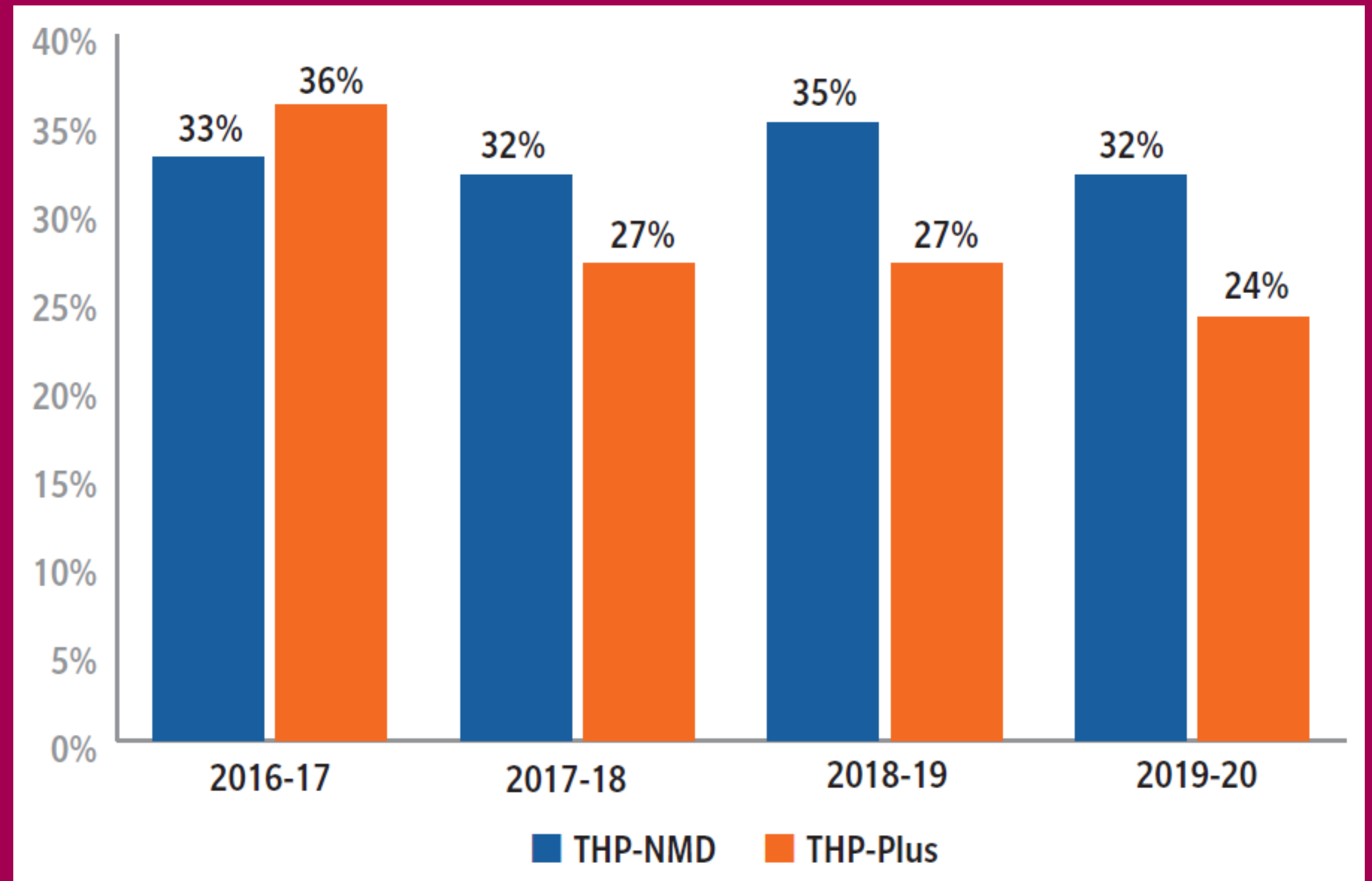


Average Length of Stay vs. Full Program Duration  
**THP-Plus**

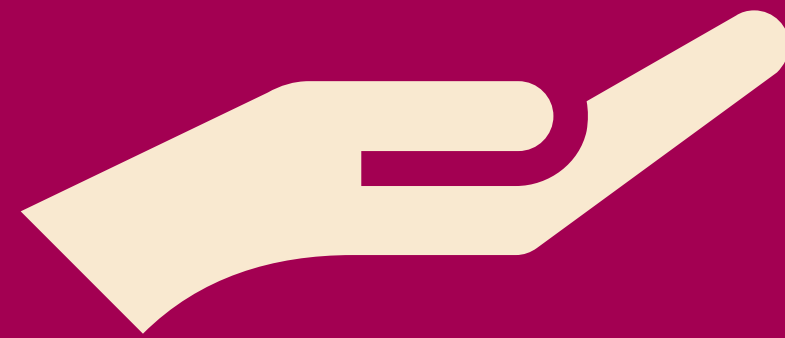


In both programs, the rate of involuntary exit has decreased since the previous fiscal year, with nearly 1 in 3 youth in THP-NMD and nearly 1 in 4 youth in THP-Plus leaving the program involuntarily over FY 2019-20.

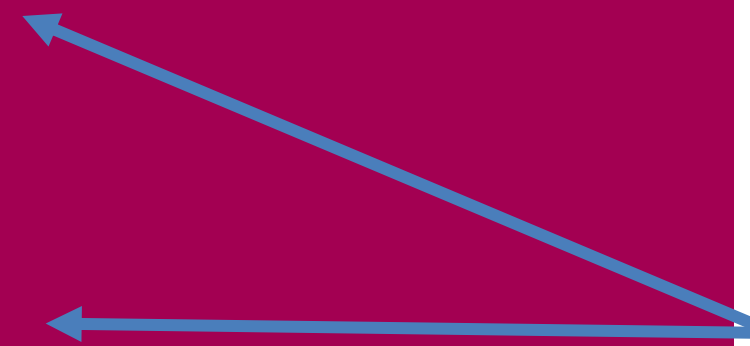
Rate of Involuntary Youth Exits in THP-NMD & THP-Plus During the Fiscal Year



THP-Plus providers offer a range of supports to youth as they transition out of the program to ensure they have access to stable housing.



- Connecting youth to apartment managers with whom the program has a relationship with to apply for an apartment in their name
- Using private funding to provide extended aftercare/alumni services.

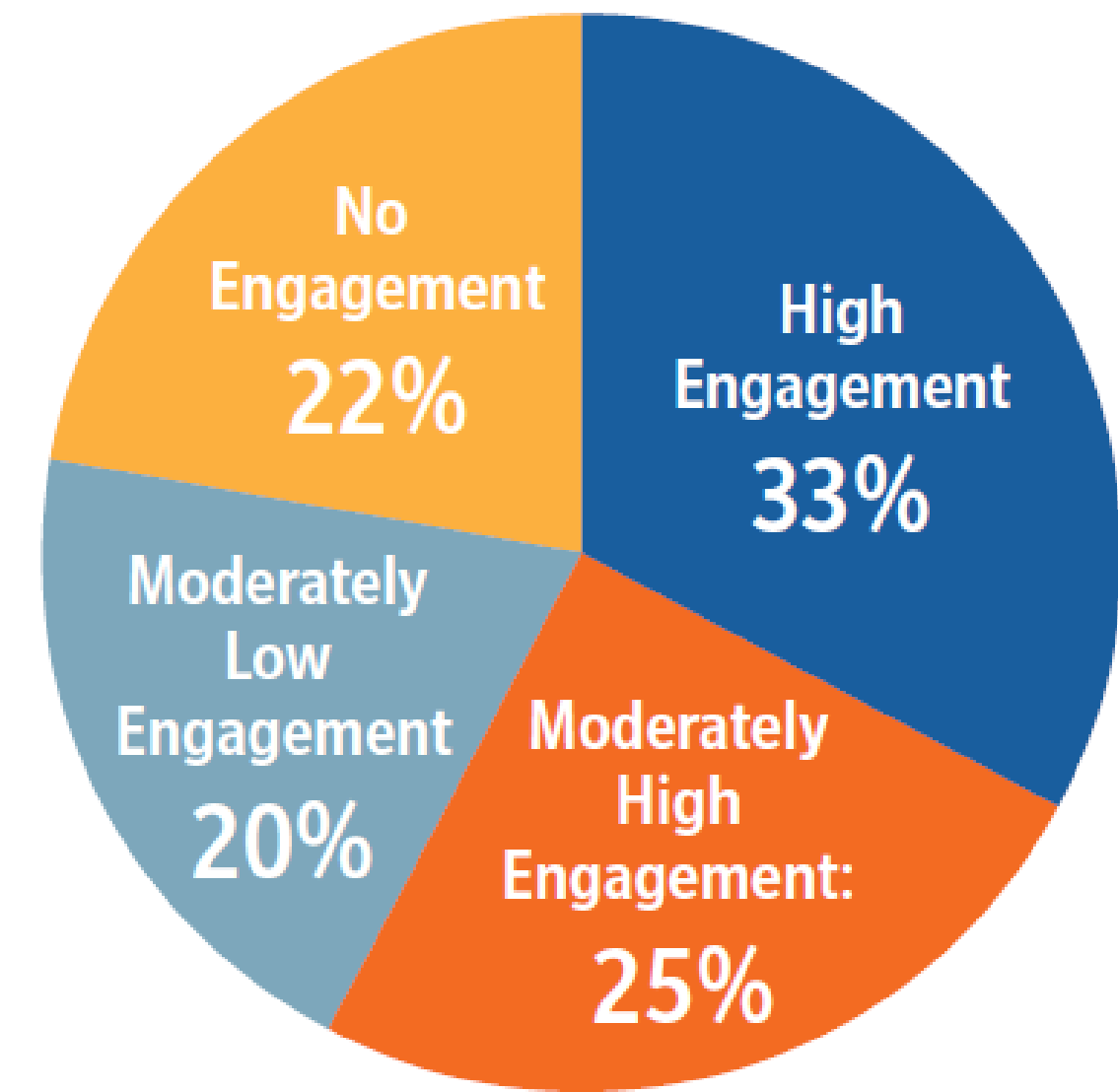


TYPE OF SUPPORT	% of THP-Plus Programs that Offer this Support
Help them apply for affordable housing	92%
Help them get on the waiting list for Section 8 housing	81%
Refer them to a specific housing or service provider	80%
Refer them to go through the local homeless Coordinated Entry System to see what services they may be eligible for	75%
If they have serious mental illness, we specifically try to help them access Permanent Supportive Housing	69%
Our organization has a supportive housing program for individuals who age out of THP-Plus; we serve them through this program	11%
Other	6%



One in three THP-Plus programs are operated by an organization that is a member of their local homeless Continuum of Care.

- Additionally, nearly 4 in 10 (39%) THP-Plus programs' survey respondents indicated their organization operates a program for homeless youth or adults funded through a contract with their local CoC.



- My organization is a member of the local CoC
- Someone from my organization attends CoC meetings regularly
- Someone from my organization attends CoC meetings occasionally or infrequently
- My organization has no relationship with the local CoC



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Findings

# Education, Employment and Income

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# High School Completion Rates

- **THP-NMD:** The proportion of youth who have completed high school increased significantly between entrance and exit from 68 to 83%.
- **THP-Plus:** The proportion of youth who have completed high school increased slightly between entrance and exit from 85 to 87%.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION STATUS	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Youth has earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent or higher	68%	83%	85%	87%
Youth has not earned their high school diploma, GED or high school equivalent or higher	32%	17%	15%	13%

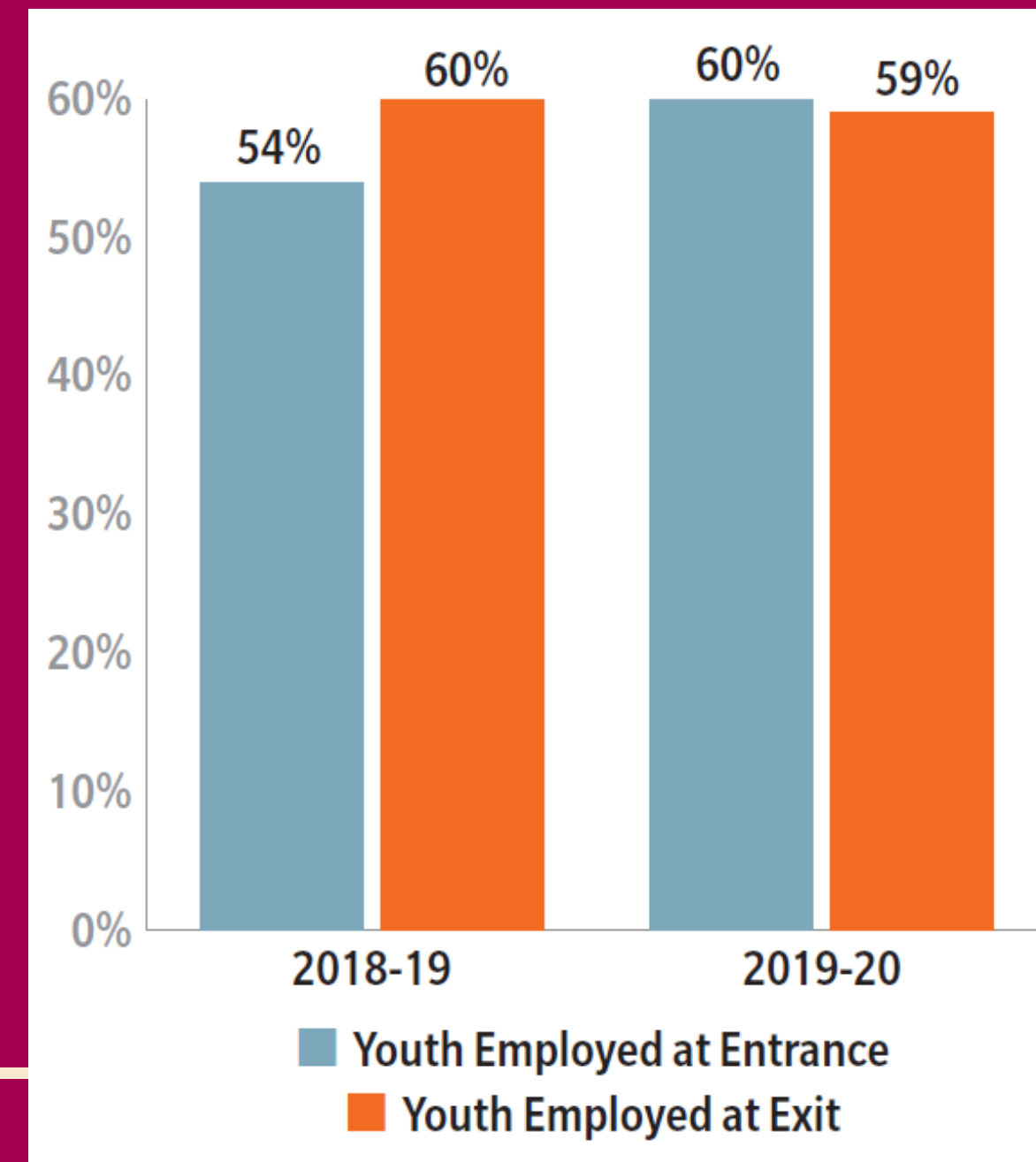
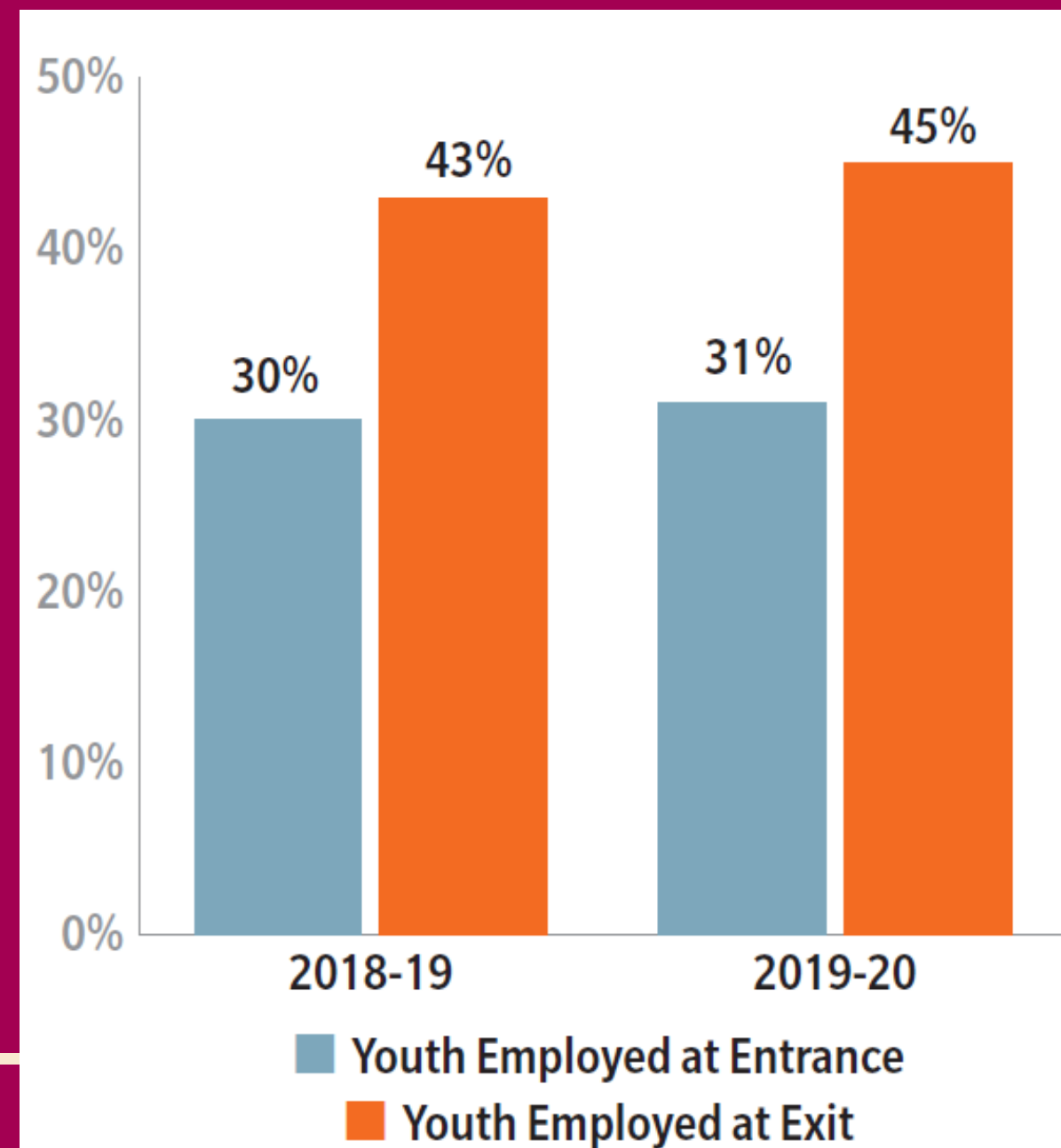
# Educational Status of Participants at Entrance and Exit

- **THP-NMD:** Many youth enroll in community college and quickly drop out.
- **THP-Plus:** Participants appear to be experiencing more success in enrolling in college and remaining in college.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
Never/not yet attended college	68%	52%	64%	54%
Dropped out/withdrew from college	4%	20%	9%	9%
Attending 2-year/community college	26%	25%	19%	27%
Received AA/AS, certificate or license from two-year community college	0%	1%	2%	2%
Attending 4-year college/university	2%	2%	5%	4%
Received BA/BS	0%	0%	1%	4%

# Employment Rates at Entrance and Exit

- **THP-NMD:** Participants experienced gains in employment from 31 percent at entrance to 45 percent at exit.
- **THP-Plus:** Participants did not experience gains in employment from entrance to exit.



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Employed youth experienced a 12% increase in hourly wage during their time in the THP-NMD program and a 20% increase in THP-Plus.

Average Hourly Wage of Employed Youth

THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
Entrance	Exit	Entrance	Exit
\$12.10	\$13.56	\$12.99	\$15.62

These wages are not much higher than California's state minimum wage as of January 1, 2020 of \$12 per hour for employers with 26 or more employees and \$13 per hour for employers with 25 or fewer employees.

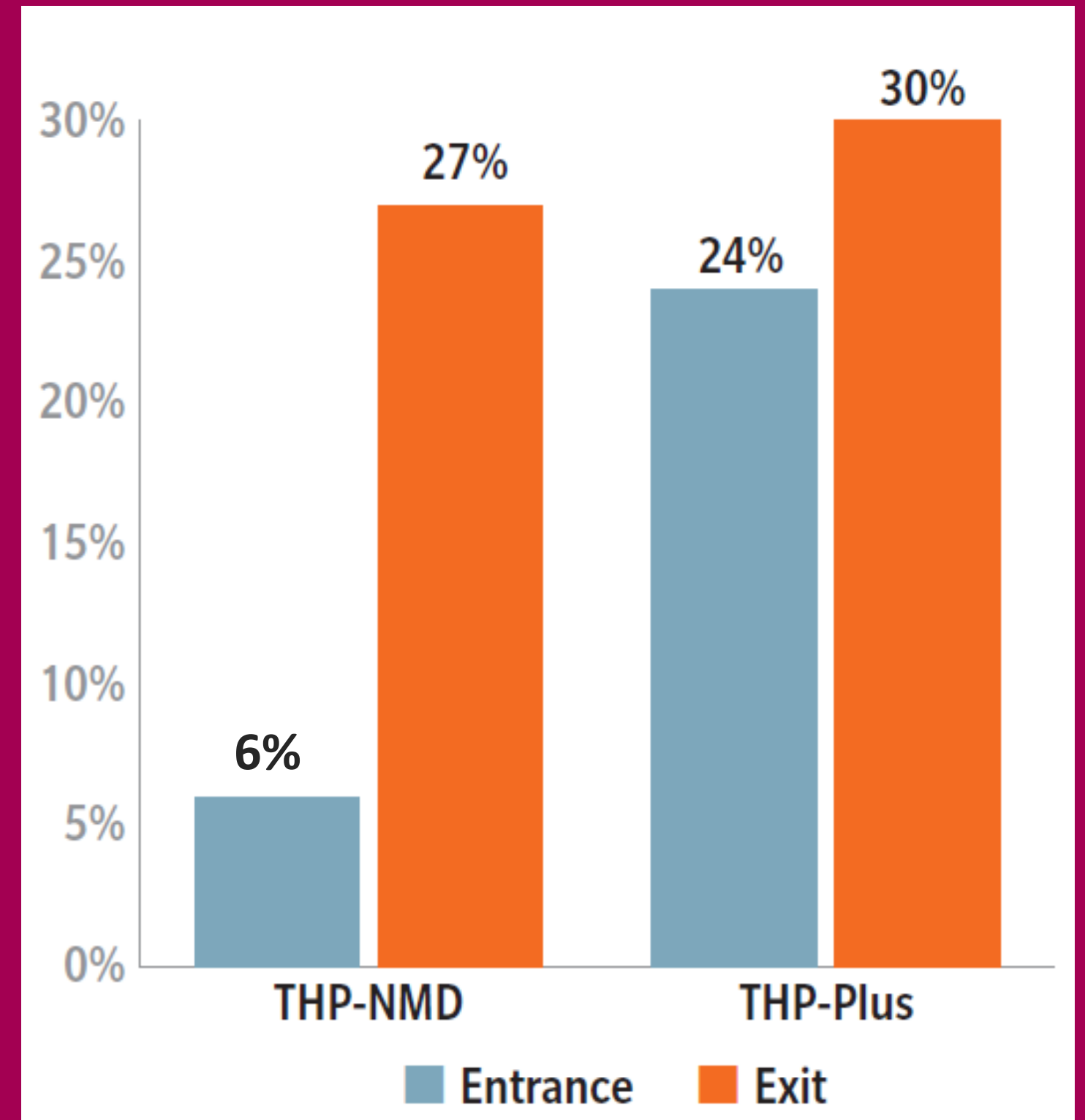
The annual income of participants in both programs is low, qualifying many for public benefit programs.

	THP-NMD		THP-Plus	
	% of Employed Youth Working These Hours	Average Annual Earnings	% of Employed Youth Working These Hours	Average Annual Earnings
<b>Working Full-Time (35-40 hours/week)</b>	41%	\$26,515	69%	\$30,543
<b>Working Part-Time (10-34 hours/week)</b>	56%	\$15,555	29%	\$17,918
<b>Working Part-Time (1-9 hours/week)</b>	3%	\$3,535	1%	\$4,072

# Percentage of Youth Receiving Public Benefits\*

- **THP-NMD:** The proportion of youth accessing public benefits increased more than four-fold from 6% at entrance to 27% at exit.
- **THP-Plus:** The proportion of youth accessing public benefits increased from 24% at entrance to 30% at exit.

*\*SSI/SSDI, CalFresh, WIC, subsidized childcare, GA, CalWORKs*







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# Impact of COVID-19

Education, Employment, and Income

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2 in 5 youth in THP-NMD who graduated high school in spring 2020 did not enroll in post-secondary education in the fall due to COVID-19.

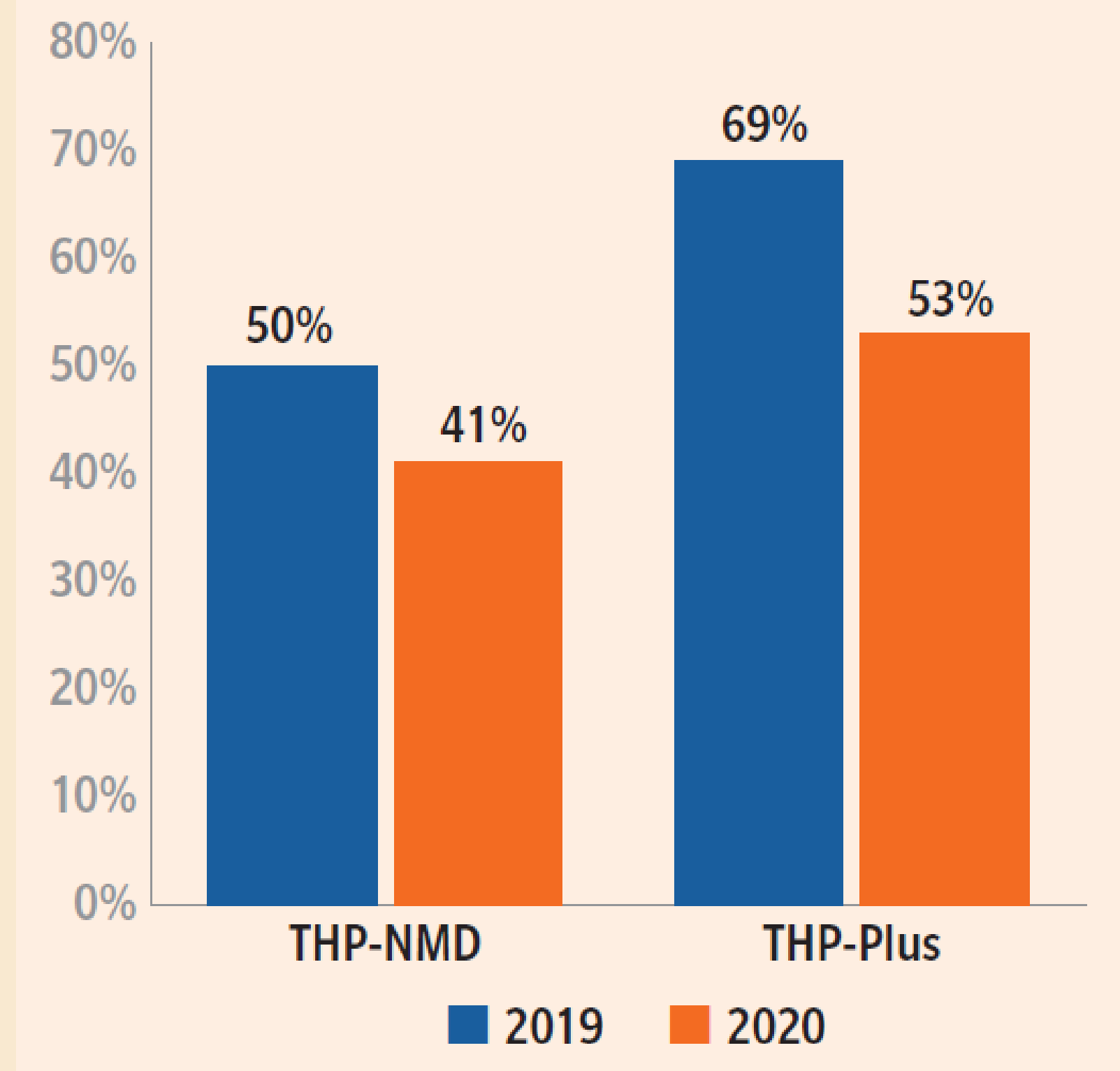
	THP-NMD	THP-Plus
<b>% of youth who graduated high school in spring 2020 that did not enroll in post-secondary education in fall 2020 due to COVID-19</b>	40%	17%
<b>% of youth who were enrolled in post-secondary education in spring 2020 who did not re-enroll in fall 2020 due to COVID-19</b>	20%	10%

Nearly 4 out of 5 youth in THP-NMD and 3 out of 5 in THP-Plus who were employed at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak experienced job loss or a reduction in hours.

	THP-NMD	THP-Plus
<b>% of employed youth who lost their jobs due to COVID-19</b>	46%	29%
<b>% of employed youth who lost hours due to COVID-19</b>	33%	31%
<b>% of employed youth who either lost hours or lost their job as a result of COVID-19</b>	79%	60%

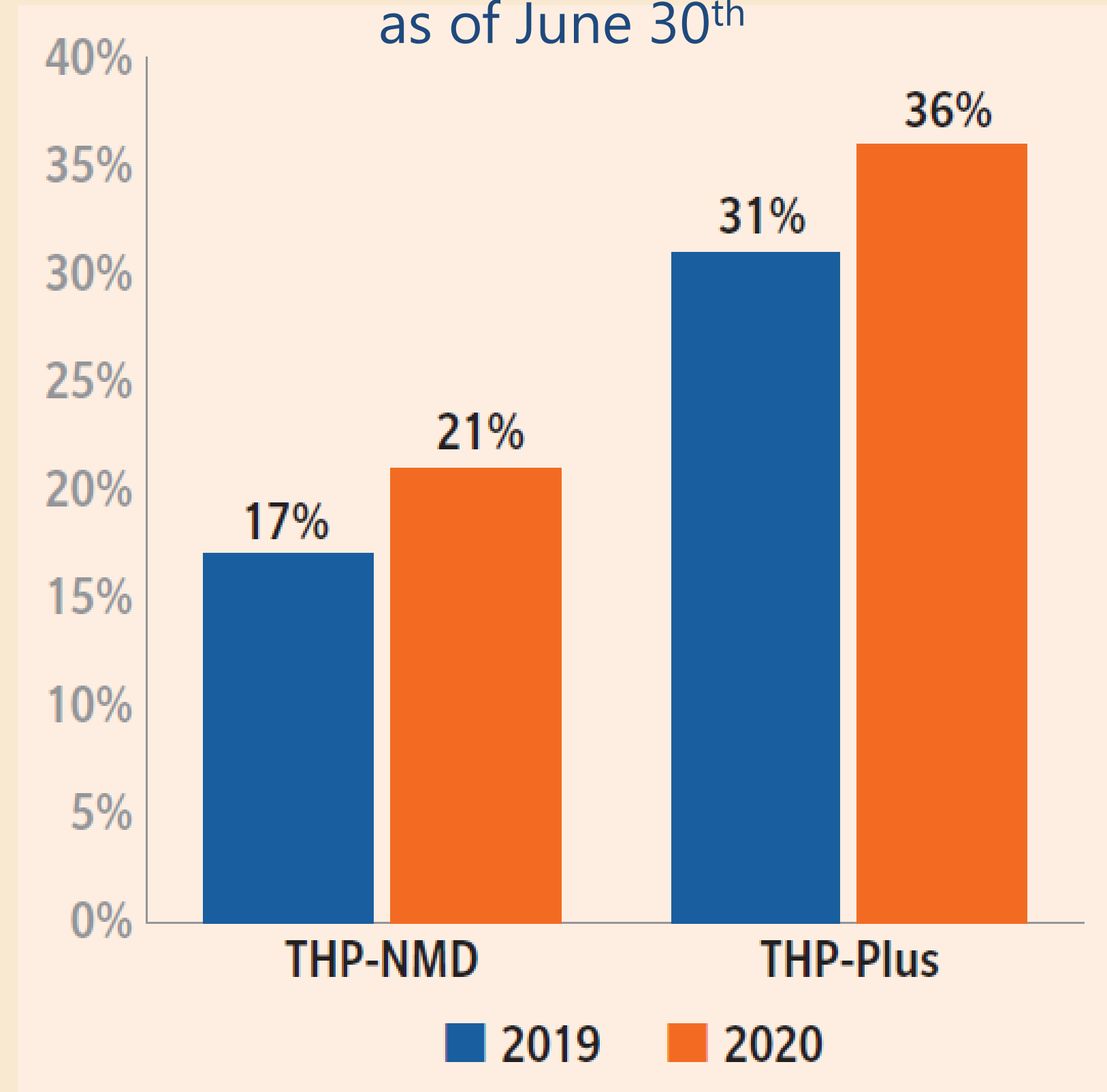
As of June 30, 2020, the employment rate of youth has dropped 18% in THP-NMD and 23% in THP-Plus compared to June 30, 2019.

Percentage of Youth Participating in THP-NMD & THP-Plus Who Were Employed as of June 30<sup>th</sup>



The proportion of youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus who were receiving public benefits as of June 30, 2020 increased slightly from June 30, 2019.

Percentage of Youth Participating in THP-NMD & THP-Plus Who Were Receiving Public Benefits as of June 30<sup>th</sup>



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Findings

# Health and Well-Being

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# Health Insurance & Special Services



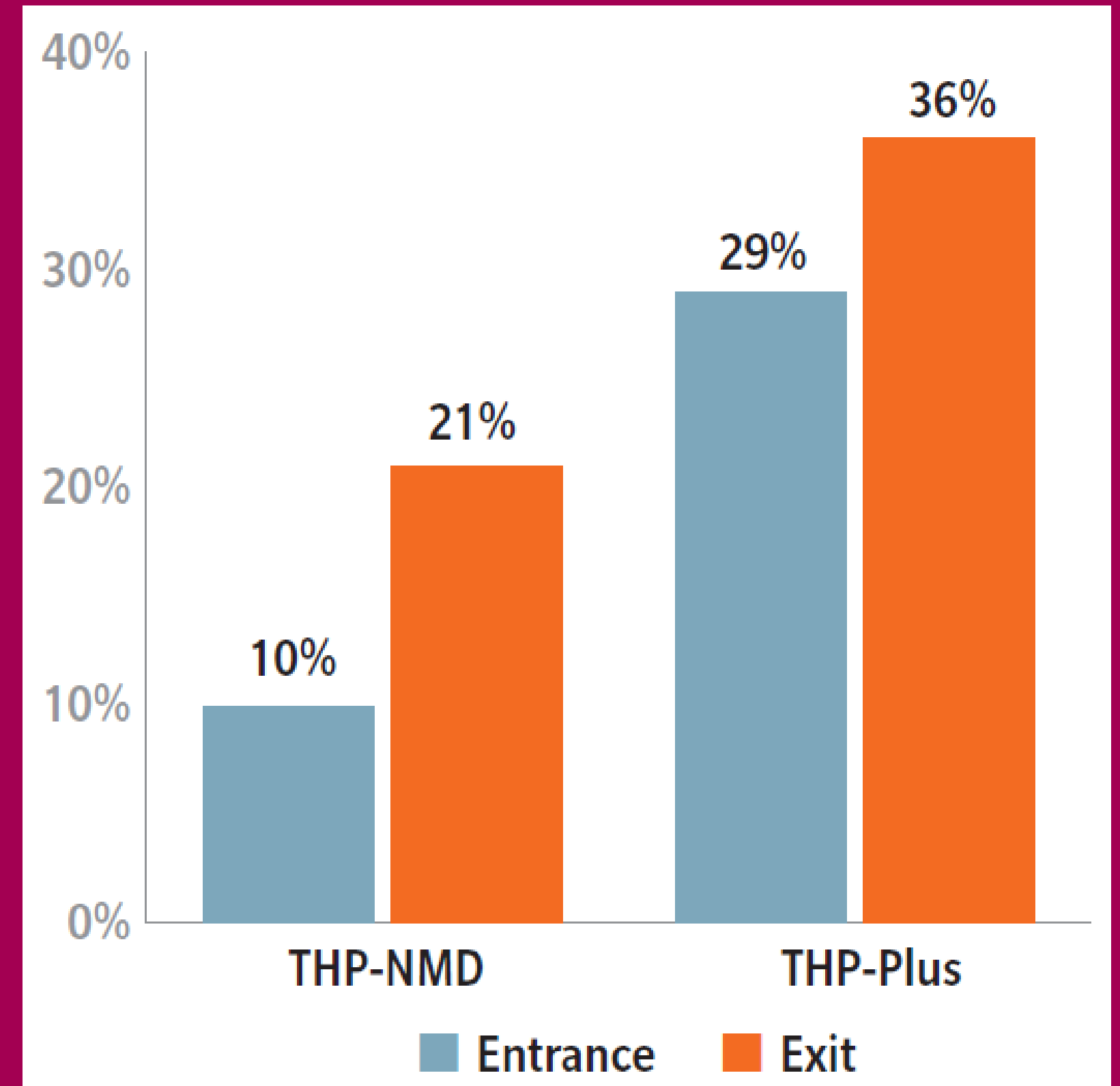
All youth in THP-Plus were enrolled in health insurance upon exit from the program.



One in four youth in THP-NMD and one in five youth in THP-Plus were receiving services for mental, physical, learning or developmental disabilities at exit from the program.

# Percentage of Female Participants who were Custodial Parents

- **THP-NMD:** During their time in the program, the proportion of young women who are custodial parents more than doubled.
- **THP-Plus:** The proportion of young women who are custodial parents increased by 24%.

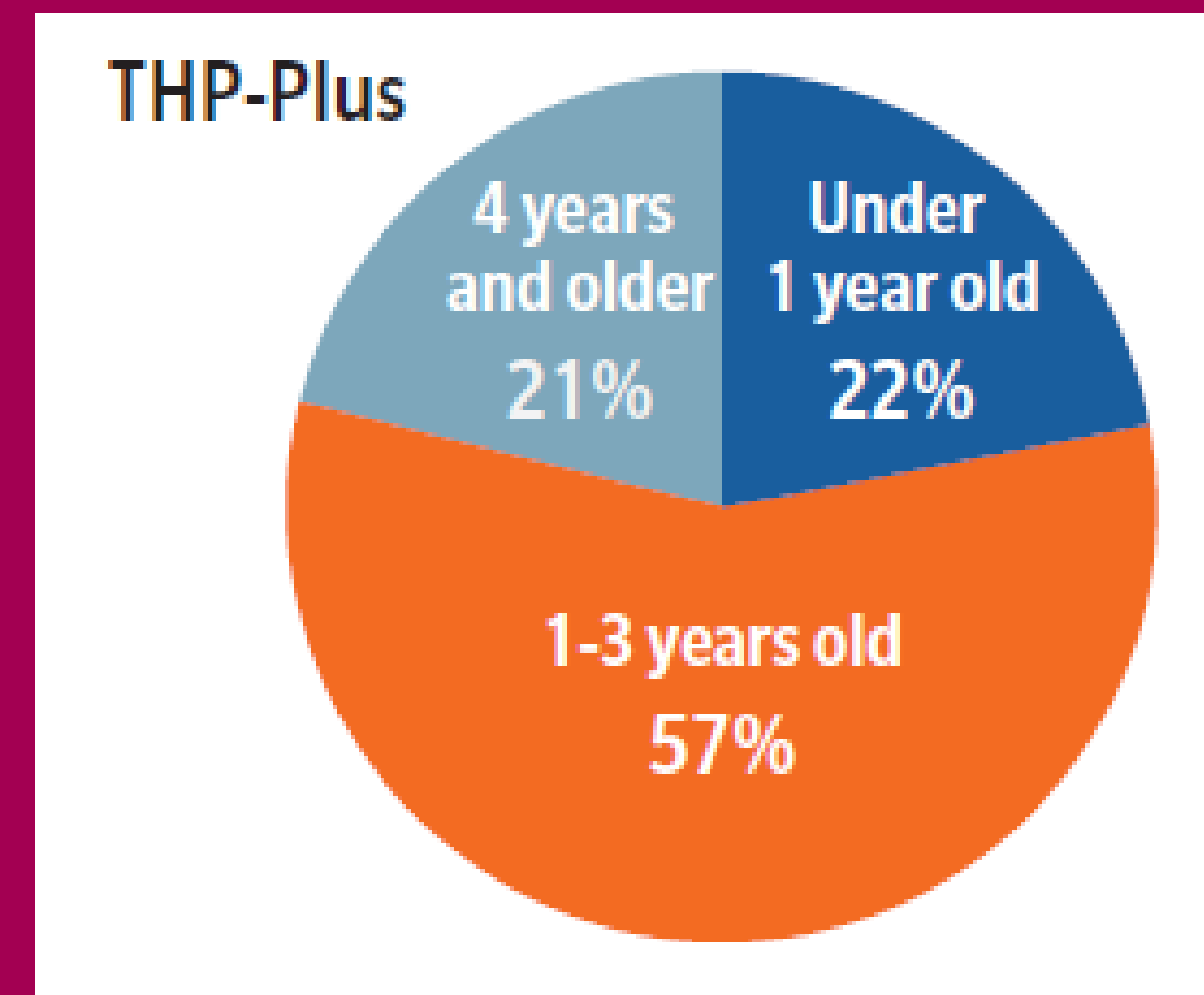
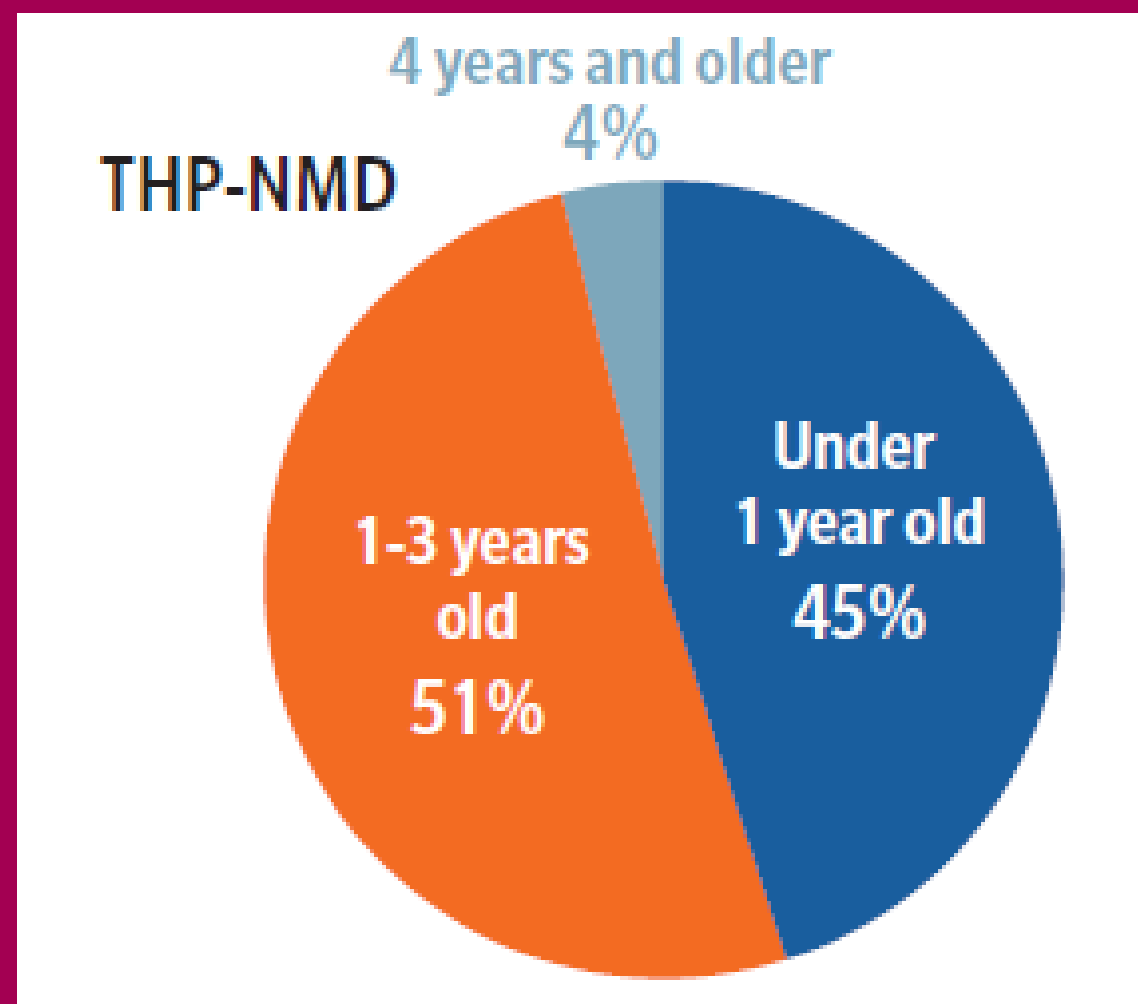




In THP-NMD and THP-Plus, a total of 657 children lived with a parent participating in the program.

	THP-NMD	THP-Plus	Total
Number of Children	341	316	657

Age Range of Children Residing with a Parent as of June 30, 2020



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# 1 in 4 expectant mothers in THP-NMD and THP-Plus received services from a home visitation program such as Nurse Family Partnership over FY 2019-20.

Survey respondents were asked whether the young women in their program over FY 2019-20 who were pregnant or were first-time mothers with a child under age 2 were **referred to or received services from a home visitation program such as Nurse Family Partnership.**



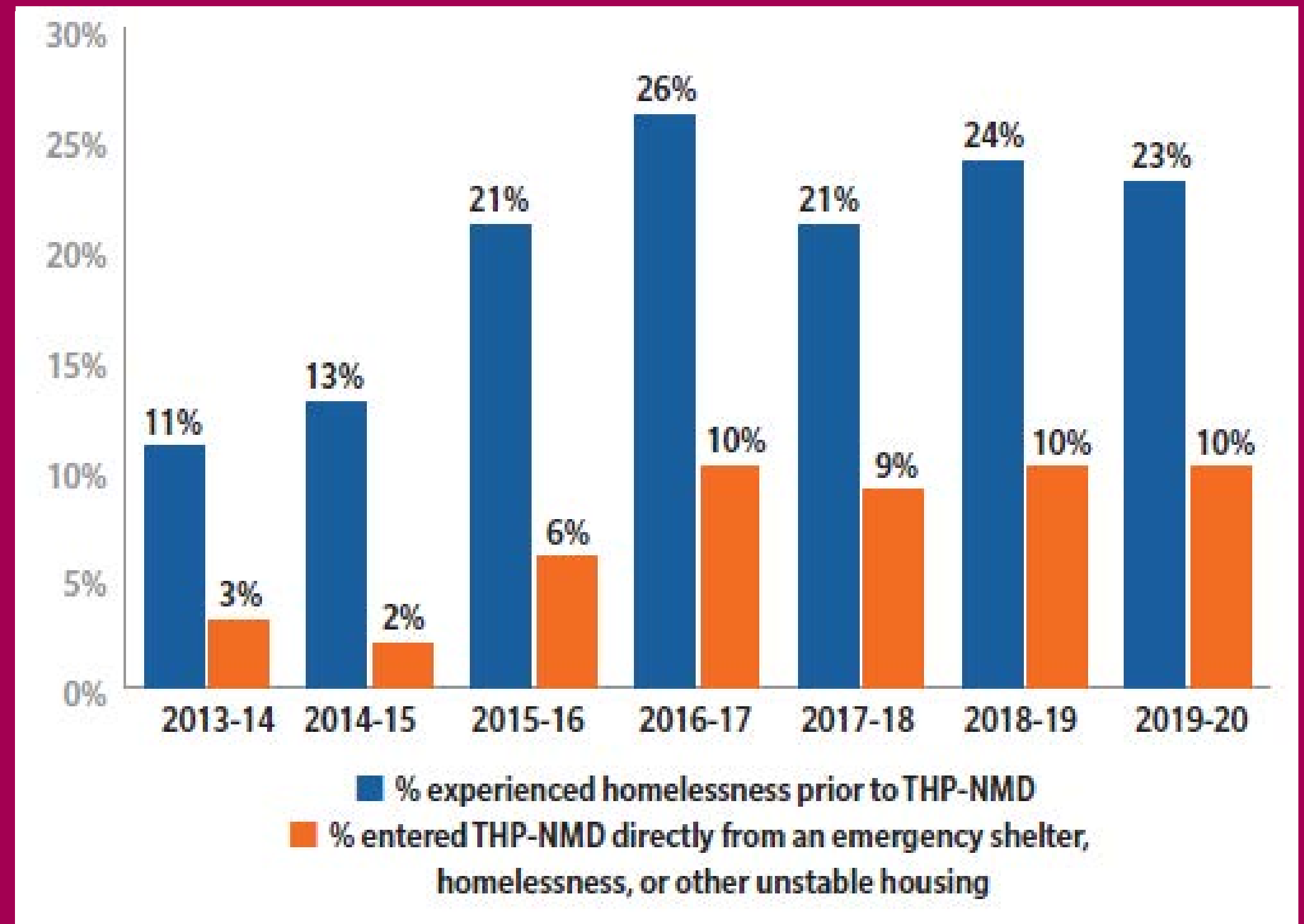
- **35%** expectant mothers in THP-NMD & **47%** in THP-Plus were referred by the county child welfare agency or provider.



- **24%** expectant mothers in either program received services.
- **18%** first-time mothers in THP-NMD and **13%** in THP-Plus received services.

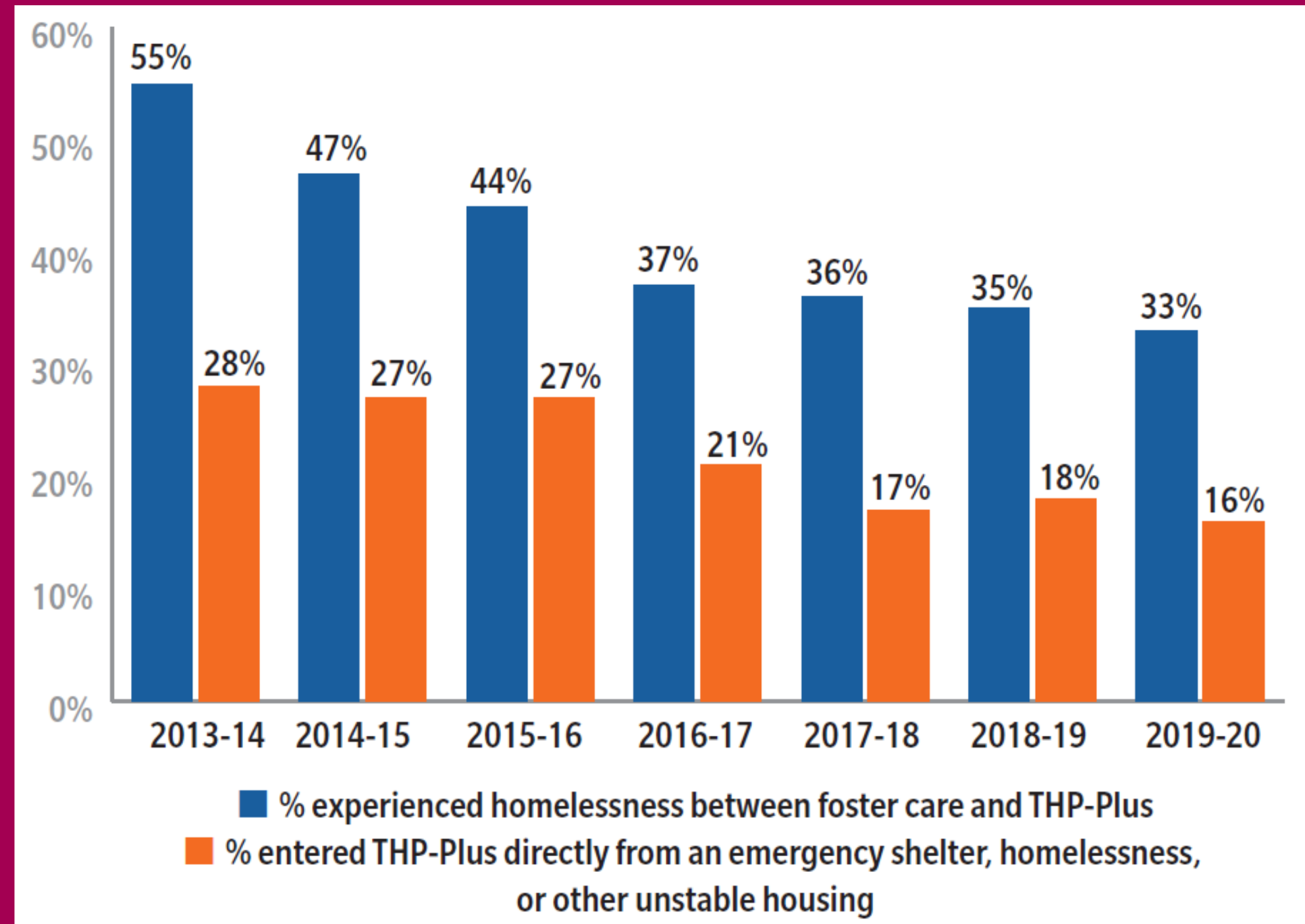
Close to 1 in 4 youth experienced homelessness while in foster care, prior to entering THP-NMD.

## Experience of Homelessness—Youth Who Entered THP-NMD Over FY 2019-20



1 in 3 youth experienced homelessness prior to entering THP-Plus, a decrease from the previous six consecutive years, but still significant.

## Experience of Homelessness—Youth Who Entered THP-Plus Over FY 2019-20



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## Policy and Practice Implications

Recommendations are offered for three audiences:



1. California State Legislature
2. State Departments
3. Counties & Providers

The background of the slide is a photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento. The building is a grand, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent central dome. The foreground shows several tall, white columns supporting a portico. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

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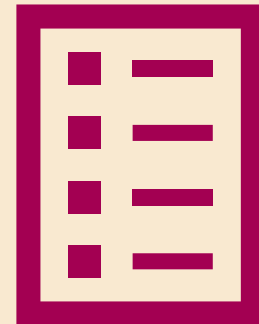
Policy and Practice Implications

# Recommendations for the California State Legislature

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# Eliminate suspension of the \$8 million Transitional Housing Program in the FY 2021-22 state budget.



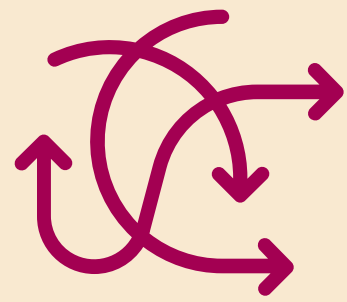
**539 youth** were **on the waiting list** for the THP-Plus program as of June 30, 2020.



**170 youth** attempted to access THP-Plus programs who exited care prior to age 18, therefore making them **ineligible for THP-Plus**.

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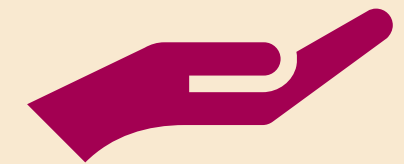
Require in state law that county social workers must assist youth with identifying housing for their Supervised Independent Living Placement if they are currently homeless or housing insecure.



Currently, NMDs being placed in SILPs are responsible for **identifying their own housing**. This may be difficult especially for NMDs whose only known support is the county social worker or probation officer.



**1 in 4 youth experienced homelessness** while in foster care prior to entering THP-NMD over the 2019-20 Fiscal Year.

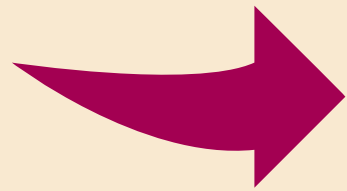


State law should **clarify that assistance in securing SILP must be provided** to NMDs experiencing homelessness while in foster care.



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# Continue the extended foster care COVID-19 extension beyond June 30, 2021 if California's economic and public health conditions do not improve.



In response to the COVID-19 crisis, an **extension of the extended foster care program was established** so that youth turning 21 between April 17, 2020 and the end of the 2021 fiscal year could remain in care until June 30, 2021.

**4 out of 5 youth** in THP-NMD and **3 out of 5** in THP-Plus who were employed at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak **experienced job loss or reduction in hours.**

State legislature should consider **lengthening the extension of extended foster care** for additional time in the FY 2021-22 state budget.

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# Modify eligibility for programs supporting former foster youth, including THP-Plus and campus support programs.



Requires youth to have been in foster care at **age 18**.



Adjust to **age 16** to align with Independent Living Skills Program eligibility.



Requires youth to have been in foster care at **age 16**.



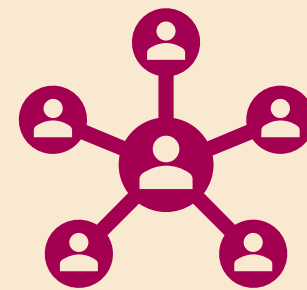
Adjust to **age 13** to align with financial aid eligibility for being an independent student on the FAFSA

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# Include the needs of homeless youth in a bold response to homelessness in California.



**170 youth** attempted to access THP-Plus programs who exited care prior to age 18.



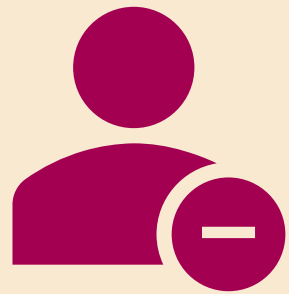
It is critical the state **establish a strong safety net** for the broader subset of homeless youth, many of whom previously spent time in the foster care system.



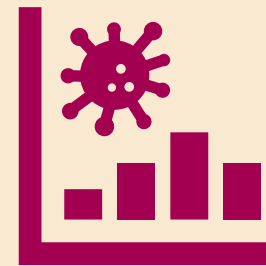
Consider establishing a **permanent revenue source to address homelessness**, with a minimum percentage of funding directed toward addressing homelessness among youth.

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# Establish funding for basic needs centers at California Community Colleges.



The percentage of THP-NMD participants who had the educational status of **“Dropped out/withdrew from college”** increased **five-fold** between entrance and exit of program.



COVID-19 has only created **additional barriers and more need for support** with for not only academics and planning but basic needs as well.



**Established basic needs centers** would serve a broad subset of students and do not require students to have been in foster care at a certain age to access support.

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# Require collection of information about the reproductive and sexual health care of youth in foster care.



In THP-NMD, 13% of youth are custodial parents. **Nearly 1 in 4 young women** exit as custodial mothers.



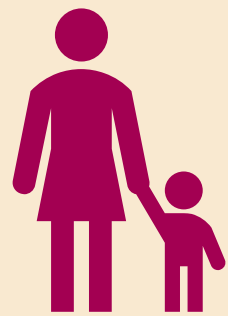
African-American females are at **a higher risk** for a range of medical conditions that threaten their lives and their infants' lives and **die of pregnancy-related causes at a rate about three times higher** than those of white women.



**Regularly collected data is needed** to consider policy changes needed to address disparities in outcomes among both foster youth and African-American youth.

---

# Establish a prenatal benefit for expectant mothers in foster care.



As of June 30, 2020, **341** children resided in the THP-NMD program with a participating parent.

**\$900** = current monthly stipend for youth who are custodial parents to assist with caring for their child.



More than **1 in 5 youth** at age 17 who reported a pregnancy, **never received prenatal care**. Only 1 in 3 youth in THP-NMD were referred to a home visitation program and less than 1 in 4 received the services.



**New policies are needed** to assist foster youth leading up to a birth.

**LA County** provides a **\$415 “Early Infant Supplement”** to youth in their 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy.

A modern, multi-story building with a white facade and large glass windows. The building is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there are green bushes and a paved area. The text is overlaid on a light yellow rectangular background.

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Policy and Practice Implications

# Recommendations for State Agencies

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# Establish a minimum standard for THP-Plus rates in statute.



Average rates have **not kept pace with rising costs** of housing. The THP-Plus rate for the scattered site model **only has grown 11%** since FY 2012-13.

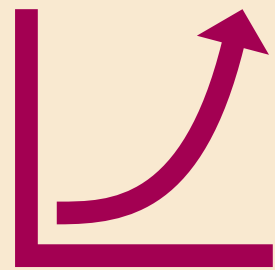


Amend the language in statute to require a **minimum standard** for THP-Plus rates that ensure quality of services provided and alignment with changes in cost of living.

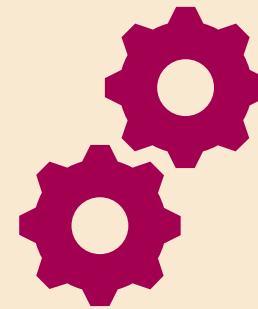


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# Establish a statewide standard for county utilization and management of THP-NMD waiting lists.



Number of youth on the waiting list for THP-NMD **more than doubled** since 2018, yet there is currently **no statewide requirement** on the utilization and management of waiting lists for this program.



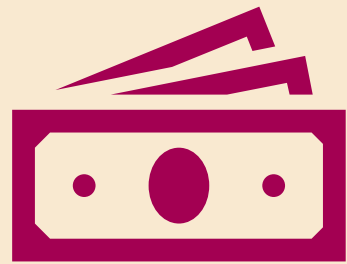
The waiting list is an important tool for fulfilling the new requirement set forth in **Assembly Bill 1979** (2020, Friedman).



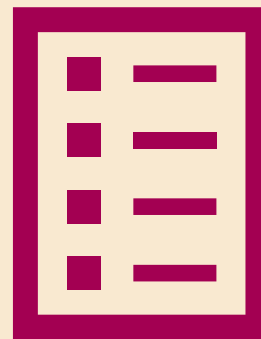
AB 1979 requires county placement agencies to evaluate their placement resources and programs in relation to the needs of NMDs and to **examine its ability to meet their emergency housing needs**.

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# Prioritize timely implementation of the THP-NMD Housing Supplement.



**\$4 million** was included in the FY 2020-21 state budget to provide a **supplement to THP-NMD rates** to better align to rising housing costs. This is currently being implemented on a phased-in basis starting 7/1/21.



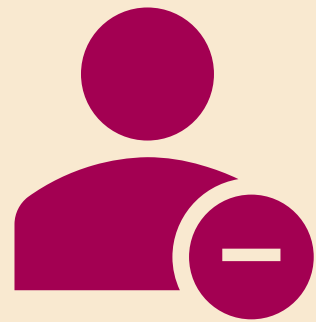
There were was a **41% increase** in the number of youth waiting for placement in a THP-NMD program.



So far, implementation is on track. Given the high demand, now confounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, the state should continue to **ensure timely implementation**.

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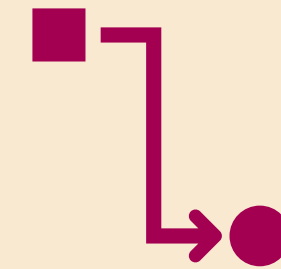
# Expedite the issuance of the new THP-NMD licensing standards.



There is **a five-fold increase** in the number of youth in THP-NMD that **withdrew from college** between program entrance and exit.



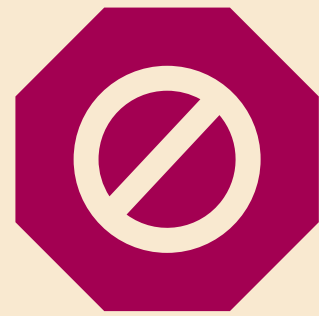
While **support with post-secondary education** is a required supportive service in THP-NMD, the **type and intensity of the support are not specified** in the governing standards.



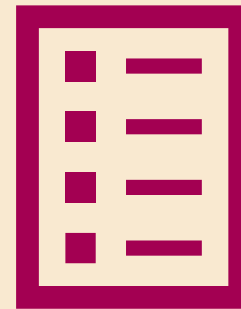
In 2018, CDSS convened a workgroup of stakeholders to make recommendations to the existing standards. The **amendments are still in internal review and have not yet been issued.**

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# Immediately disburse the \$8 million Transitional Housing Program funding.



The **\$8 million** Transitional Housing Program funding administered by the Department of Housing & Community Development was included in the FY 2019-20 state budget but as of November 1, 2020, **county child welfare agencies have not yet received their disbursement.**



There is a **critical need** for increased funding as **539** former foster youth are waiting to enter the program as of June 30, 2020. This delay also shortens the time that agencies have to spend the funds.



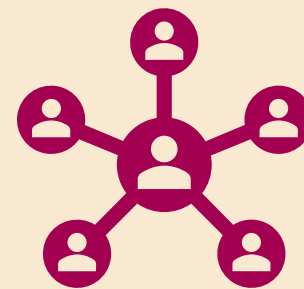
This year-long delay of the disbursement of funds in the face of a public health and housing crisis and economic recession is deeply concerning and should warrant **immediate disbursement.**

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# Include foster care data from the Department of Social Services in the second phase of development of the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS).



HDIS will allow the state to access and **compile standardized homelessness data** collected by individual Continuums of Care in order to **make data-driven policy decisions** aimed at preventing and ending homelessness in California.



It is slated to be operational in early 2021 and **a second phase will include client data from other state systems** to provide a more holistic picture of state and local services.



**1 in 3 youth experience homelessness** between exiting foster care and entering the THP-Plus and **16% entering THP-Plus directly from homelessness**. Foster care data should be incorporated into HDIS.



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Policy and Practice Implications

# Recommendations for Counties & Providers

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# Set county THP-Plus rates according to the local cost of housing and services provision.



The **regional variation in THP-Plus rates is an asset** to the program but many have not adjusted them in alignment with the local cost of housing which diminishes purchasing power in the rental market.



Counties should **set their THP-Plus rates according to the local cost of renting apartments** and providing services, taking local minimum wage ordinances into account.



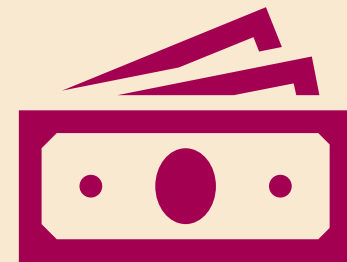
Use HUD's **Fair Market Rent** for a minimum threshold and **consult with THP-Plus providers** about true cost of renting in their respective areas.

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# Offer a higher THP-Plus rate for youth who are custodial parents.



**36% of young women** are exiting the THP-Plus program as **custodial parents**. It is critical that providers are equipped with resources to serve parenting youth.



Providers report the **cost of serving parenting youth** and their children **are higher** as a result of increased staffing costs, additional services, additional household supplies and larger housing accommodations.



Just two counties provide a parent rate:

- **San Mateo**—\$3,146 standard rate, **\$3,626** for parenting youth
- **Santa Clara**—\$2,400 standard rate, **\$2,800** for parenting youth

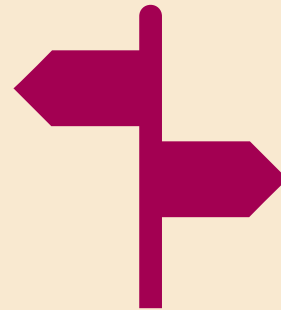


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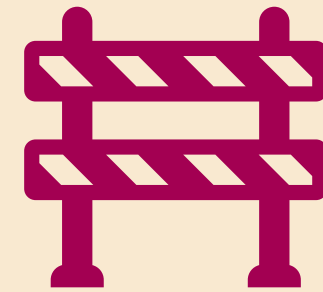
# Increase the number of THP-NMD housing slots utilized in counties with waiting lists.



The number of youth on waiting lists for THP-NMD increased by 41% between June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020, from 341 to 482.



For youth who do not pass a SILP readiness assessment, and for whom a Resource Family is not an option, THP-NMD is often the only viable alternative.



## Barriers to expanding THP-NMD

include:

- Inability to increase their capacity;
- Can not find appropriate housing that is affordable with current rate;
- County contracting requirements present challenges to operation.

---

# Extend THP-Plus for youth regardless of age or program duration as authorized in the FY 2020-21 state budget.



In the FY 2020-21 state budget, as a COVID-19 response, counties were authorized to **allow youth to remain in THP-Plus regardless of age eligibility or program duration until June 30, 2021.**



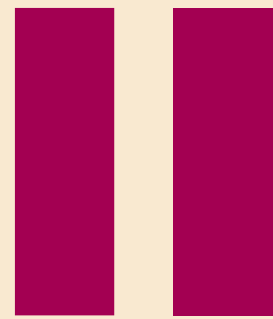
Because **youth will not be exiting foster care at age 21** or entering into THP-Plus due to the foster care extension that was also implemented, providers can allow their participants to remain in place with **no added cost to the program.**



With **60% of employed youth** in THP-Plus having experienced job loss or a reduction in hours, the THP-Plus extension is **a low-barrier way for counties to provide support** to youth who are feeling the brunt of the recession.

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# Fully implement the provisions included in the state budget to allow youth to remain in foster care after age 21 and provide flexibility related to participation conditions.



Several counties reported **not implementing the extension of extended foster care** until the release of state guidance on this policy. This is a nearly **four-month delay** on the COVID-19 response being offered to youth aging out of foster care.



Nearly **4 out of 5 youth** in THP-NMD and **3 out of 5** in THP-Plus who were employed at the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak **experienced job loss or reduction in hours**.



**2 in 5 youth** in THP-NMD who graduated high school in the spring of 2020 **did not enroll in post-secondary education in the fall due to COVID-19**.

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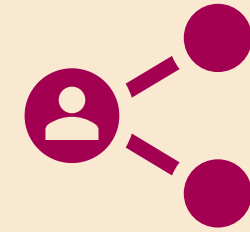
Utilize the \$5 million Housing Navigation Program allocation appropriated in the FY 2020-21 state budget to assist NMDs who are housing insecure.



The FY 2019-20 state budget included **\$5 million in one-time funding** for the Housing Navigation Program, allocated to county child welfare agencies for the **support of housing navigators to help young adults** aged 18 to 21 secure and maintain housing.



it was **not disbursed** to counties during **FY 2019-20** and was again **appropriated in the FY 2020-21 state budget**.



**Once disbursed**, county child welfare agencies **should utilize the funding** to assist NMDs who are experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness.

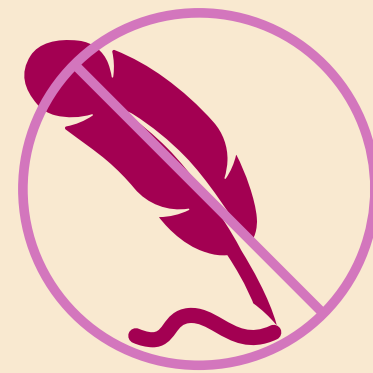
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# Implement the SB 1252 THP-Plus extension for youth in school in the manner in which its intended and required.

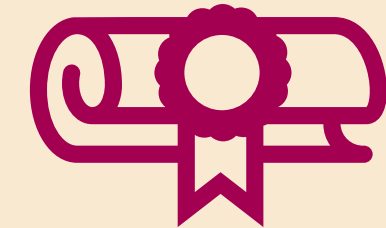


SB 1252 **allows youth** in THP-Plus to **remain in the program for an additional 12 months and up to age 25** if they are enrolled in school.

**27 counties** offer this extension.



While state guidance notes that for counties implementing this extension **it is applicable to all eligible youth in the program**, it is **not followed statewide** as some implement additional requirements that screen out some youth.



Of youth who exited a THP-Plus program over FY 2019-20, just **6%** **have earned a degree, certificate or license**. This extension provides an important resource for youth and should be fully implemented by counties that opt in.

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Establish a formal partnership with a home visitation program for new expectant mothers, such as Nurse Family Partnership, and establish a county policy to refer all expectant foster youth.



Parenting youth in THP-NMD and THP-Plus collectively had **657 children** residing with them in the program as of June 30, 2020.



Only **1 in 3** in THP-NMD and less than **half of youth** in THP-Plus were referred to a home visitation program during their pregnancy.

Less than **1 in 4** received these services.



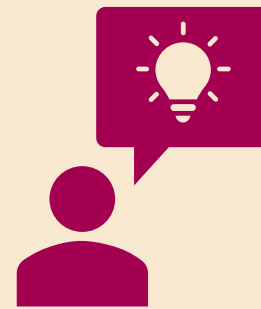
**Home visitation** is an evidence-based model, shown to **have sizable, sustained effects on important child and maternal outcomes.**

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# Ensure probation officers with NMDs on their caseload have access to information about local housing resources for youth transitioning out of care.



The proportion of youth in THP-Plus who are **formerly supervised by the juvenile probation system** has decreased from **15% to 9%** over the last 7 years.



**Ensure that probation officers** with NMDs on their caseload **have information about local housing resources** for youth transitioning out of care.



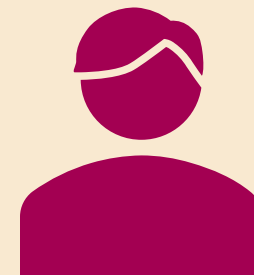
Probation officers should be familiar with THP-Plus, housing vouchers, and programs available through the local homelessness response system.

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# Explore policies or pilot approaches to target specialized services or additional transition support for youth at higher risk of homelessness.



Certain factors put **youth at higher risk of experiencing homelessness** while in foster care between ages 17 and 21 including **being male, identifying as a sexual minority, having ever been placed in congregate care.**



**Males** make up **43%** of youth in THP-NMD and **39%** in THP-Plus. Youth who disclose identifying as **LGBTQ** make up between **13-14%** and nearly **1 in 4 youth** enter THP-NMD directly from **congregate care.**

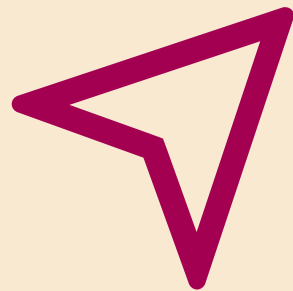


Counties and providers should consider **how they can target youth with risk factors for homelessness,** providing them with specialized services or more robust transition support.



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# Engage in a relationship with the local homeless Continuum of Care.



**3 out of 4** providers report they **refer youth to go through the local homeless Coordinated Entry System (CoC)** to see what services they may be eligible for when they transition out of their program.



**More than half** of the THP-Plus programs are operated by organizations that are either **members of their CoC**, or where a staff member **attends CoC meetings regularly**.

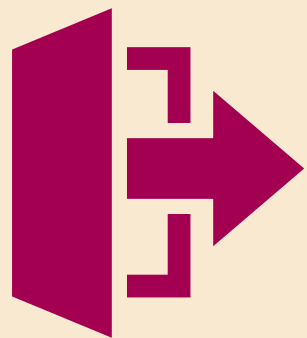


Its important that:

- Youth who are assessed through the local Coordinated Entry System are first **screened for EFC or THP-Plus eligibility**
- Youth who require continued support with housing upon leaving THP-NMD or THP-Plus are assisted with **accessing other services**.

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# THP-Plus providers should apply for funding through the California Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program.



**1 in 3 youth experienced homelessness** between leaving foster care and entering a THP-Plus program. Additionally, many youth are not eligible for THP-Plus but experience housing instability and homelessness.



FY 2019-20 state budget: one-time \$650 million with at least **\$52 million dedicated to youth homelessness.**

FY 2020-21 state budget: one-time \$300 million allocated, with **\$24 million to youth.**



Consider **applying for this funding locally** to broaden target population and serve youth in their communities who may not have been in care at age 18.

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# THP-NMD providers should provide annual training for their staff on reproductive and sexual health of foster youth.



The number of female participants who are **custodial mothers more than doubles** during their time in the THP-NMD program.



**THP-NMD program** is an opportunity to ensure youth are informed about **healthy sexual development** and reproductive and sexual health.



THP-NMD providers should provide **annual training to their staff to equip them with the information** and resources necessary to have these conversations and make appropriate referrals.

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# Question & Answer



## To Submit Questions:

Type them in the questions box and hit "Send."

## Post-Webinar Information:

To contact JBAY at a later date, e-mail Simone Tureck Lee at [simone@jbay.org](mailto:simone@jbay.org).

Presentation materials and audio will be e-mailed to all webinar registrants and posted at

[www.jbaforyouth.org](http://www.jbaforyouth.org) under "training archive."

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