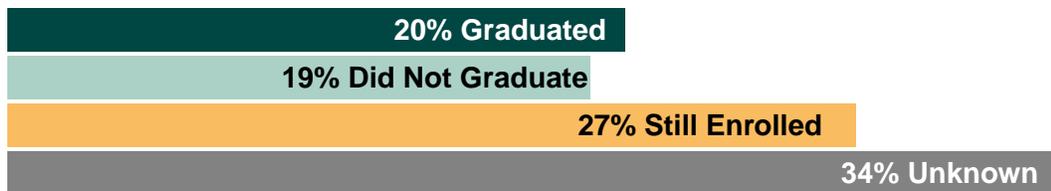


# Educational and Employment Outcomes of Rhode Island Foster Youth

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

## ONE FIFTH OF YOUTH INVOLVED WITH FOSTER CARE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

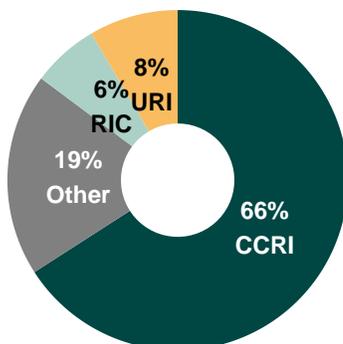
Eighty-five percent of this cohort (or 9,987 individuals) were found in Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) administrative records from 2004 through 2018. As of spring 2018, 3,218 individuals were still enrolled, but another 2,872 individuals were of graduation age (17 years or older). Among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



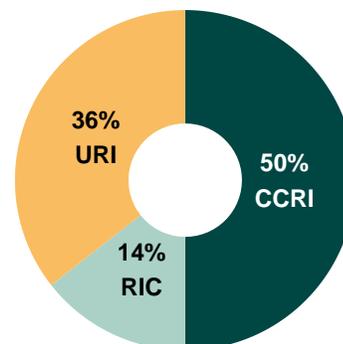
## ONLY 1% OF YOUTH INVOLVED WITH FOSTER CARE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE

Sixteen percent of the cohort enrolled in college or university, according to records from the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC) and the National Student Clearinghouse. Of the youth involved with foster care who enrolled in college or university, approximately 80% attended a Rhode Island public postsecondary institution – the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), the University of Rhode Island (URI) or Rhode Island College (RIC). The remaining 21% attended other colleges and universities across the country. Interestingly, none of the original cohort graduated from non-OPC institutions. In other words, all youth involved with foster care who completed higher education did so at a Rhode Island public college or university. Just six percent of these college students, or less than 1% of the original cohort age 20 and older, graduated with a credit-bearing certificate, Associates, Bachelors, or other postsecondary degree.

College Students



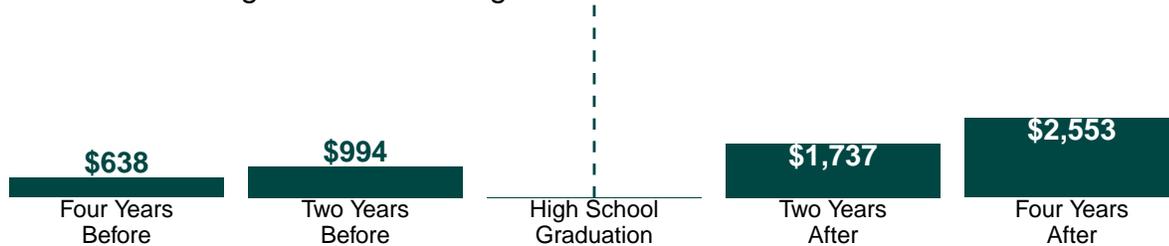
College Graduates



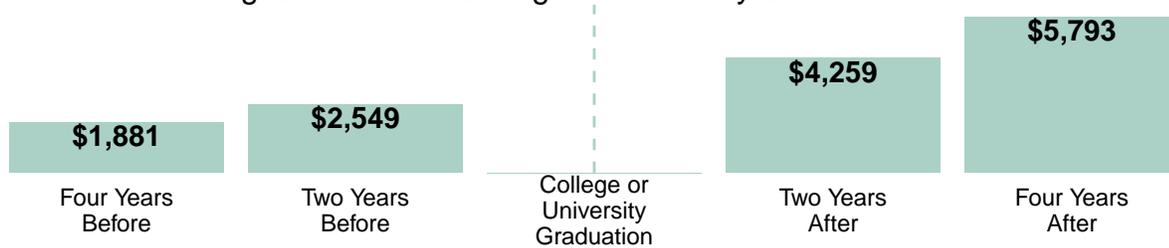
## HALF OF ALL YOUTH INVOLVED WITH FOSTER CARE ARE WORKING IN RHODE ISLAND

Fifty percent of the cohort was ever found in the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training’s Unemployment Insurance records, meaning 5,760 individuals were employed in Rhode Island and paid into the state’s unemployment insurance. As of 2018, there were 3,571 children under 14 years old, and so they could not be working. The median annual wage in 2018, the last complete year for which data were available, was \$7,863. This median obscures a wide range of ages and educational attainments for working youth ever involved with foster care, so the charts below highlight wages relative to educational and workforce milestones.

### Median Annual Wages Relative to High School Graduation



### Median Annual Wages Relative to College or University Graduation



### Median Annual Wages Relative to Workforce Training Completion



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

