...I moved from the first home and went to a temporary shelter and then to another placement...

Then after that I went through a lot of homes...I've been like through six or seven foster homes...
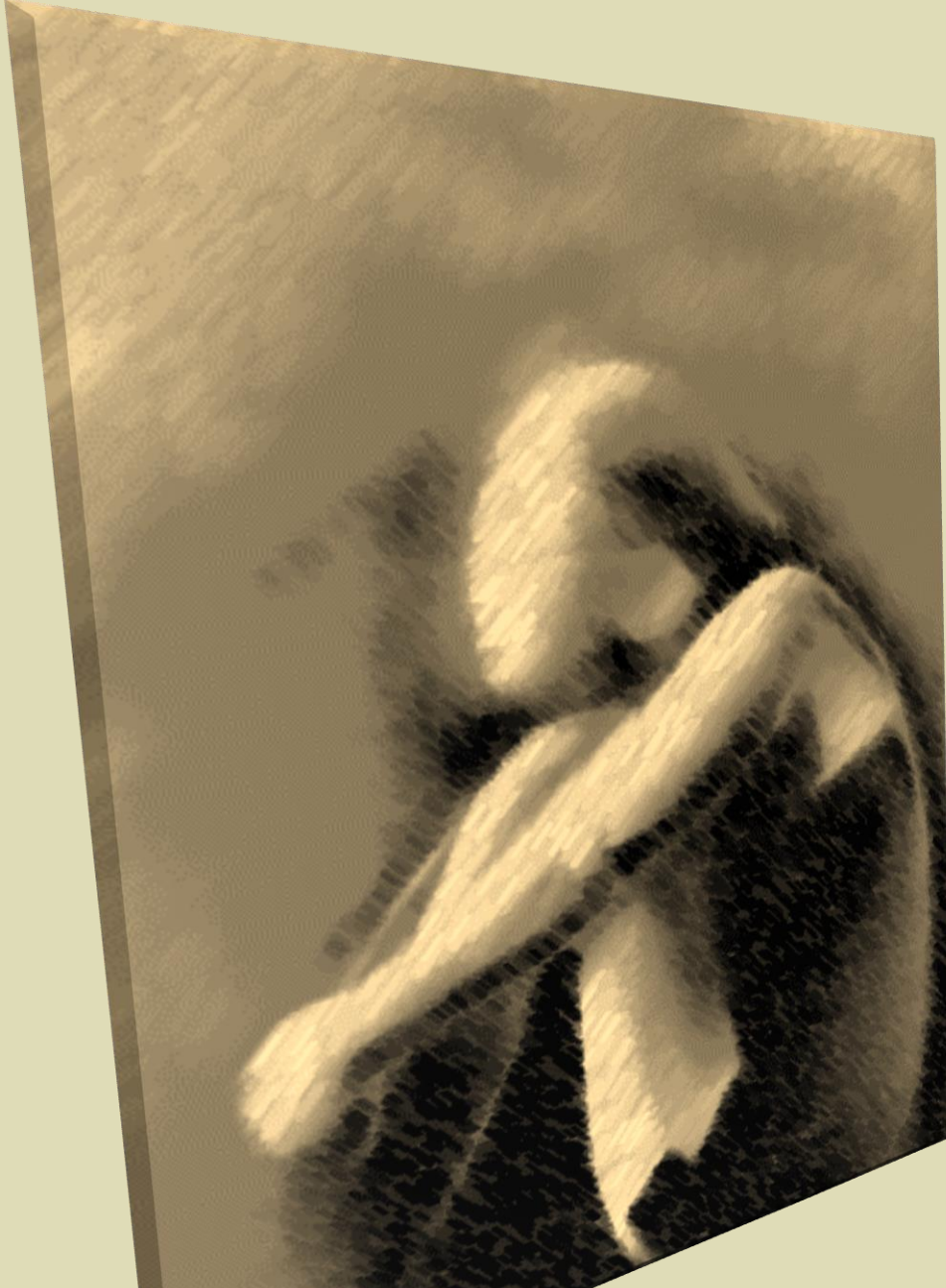
...I can't even remember their names.

1

Source: Houston, D. (2007). *Family Connections Project: Focus Group/Youth Interview Final Report*. Normal, Illinois: Illinois State University, Center for Adoption Studies.

Illinois Children *Entering* Foster Care FY 2005–FY 2014

FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
5,747	4,975	5,004	5,843	5,176	5,303	4,850	5,126	5,052	5,166

2

...all three of my siblings are adopted...

I was mad that [they] got adopted.. because that meant I was not going to get any more contact with them.

...and my mama- She just gave up... I would still see her every week, and every time I was just still so mad at her...

3

Source: Houston, D. (2007). *Family Connections Project: Focus group/youth interview final report*. Normal, Illinois: Illinois State University, Center for Adoption Studies.

Once in Foster Care...

- **50% chance of returning home**

- **Nationally, 50,000 of 400,000 adopted (FY13)** [1]

- **23,000 U.S. foster youth emancipated without permanency (FY13)**

- **In Illinois, 42% of children unable to return home were adopted (FY13)**

4

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2013). *Child welfare outcomes 2010–2013: Report to congress*. Retrieved February 15, 2016, from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/cwo-10-13 .
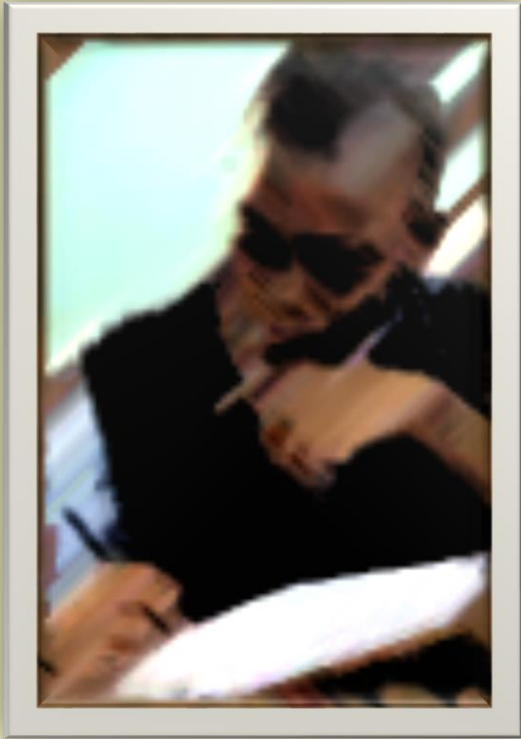
I want to study Japanese and business when I go to college...

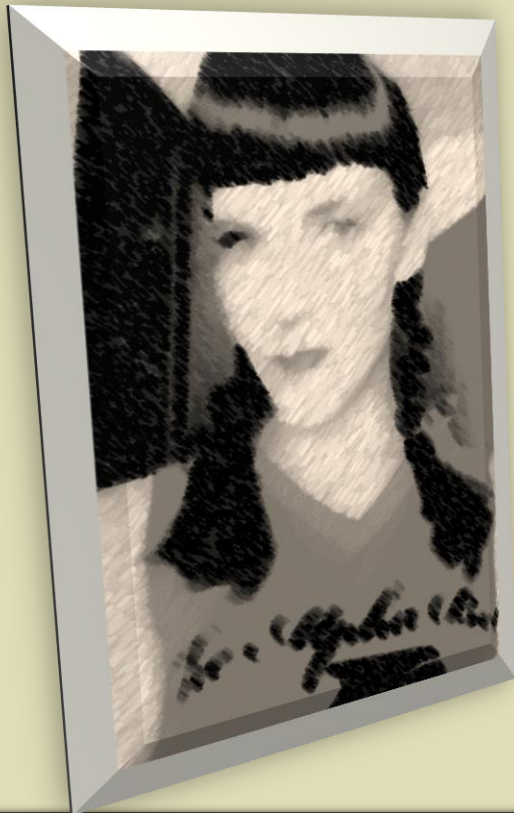*I probably won't be able to afford law school yet..*

so I might have to work as a paralegal or something. Then I can save up some money until I go to law school ... There's a lot of things I want to do.

5

Source: Houston, D. (2007). *Family Connections Project: Focus group/youth interview final report*. Normal, Illinois: Illinois State University, Center for Adoption Studies.

❑ **60% of qualified high school students from the general population enroll in a two or four year college program.**

❑ **20% of youth from foster care actually enroll in college even when they are academically qualified to attend.**

6

Source: Unrau, Y., Font, S., & Rawls, G. (2012). Readiness for college engagement among students who have aged out of foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review, 34* (1), 76–83.

☐ **On average 2-9% of foster care alumni earn a two or four year degree compared to 30% of the general population.**

Source(s): National Working Group on Foster Care and Education (2014). *Fostering Success in Education: National Factsheet on the Educational Outcomes of Children in Foster Care.* Retrieved October 15, 2015, from
http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0711WEBCASTFOSTERCAREFACTSHEET.PDF

Pecora, (2012). Maximizing educational achievement of youth in foster care and alumni: Factors associated with success. *Children and Youth Services Review, 34,* 1121–1129.

Dear Granny's Baby~

You've made me so proud... Even when people gave up on you and you almost gave up on yourself, you didn't...
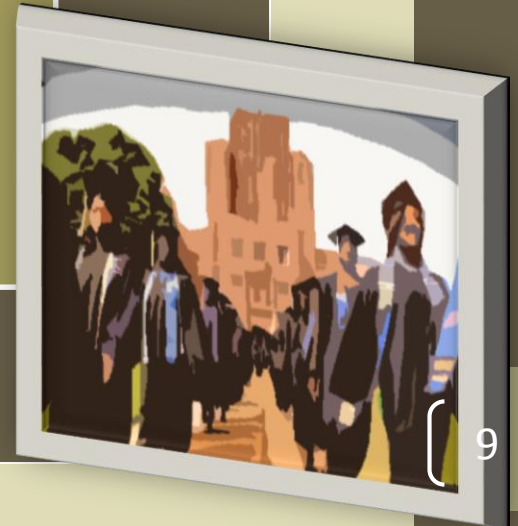
Instead, you hung in there and fought like a warrior... I knew this day would eventually come when you would tell our story in a way that would help so many people.

Although I am not there with you physically, I will forever be watching over you, covering you with my wings... (p. 159)

Source: Swan, K. (2012). *Untouchable Flame: A Memoir of a Young Girl's Hardship and Trying to Survive Through the Foster Care System*. Washington: CreateSpace Publishing.

Illinois Degrees Earned...

151 Bachelor's Degrees (2009-present)

62 Associate's Degrees (2009-present)

Source: Gutierrez, L. (2016). *YIC/YIS Graduates by Year*. DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University, Education Access Project.

Against All Odds: College Success among Foster Youth

Presenters:

➢ **Dr. Doris M. Houston –** *Center for Child Welfare and Adoption Studies at the School of Social Work*

➢ **LaShawnda Kilgore-** *Graduate researcher: Communications*

➢ **Verneice Prince-** *Undergraduate researcher: Social Work*

➢ **Lauretta Schaefer-** *Undergraduate researcher: Dance*

March 21, 2016 7pm

10

Risk Factors

Homelessness (46.6%) [1]

Lack of Academic Preparedness [2]

Delinquency/Incarceration (30-50%) [3]

PTSD 21% above norm [4]

1 Casey Family Services (2005). *The Casey young adult survey: Findings over three years.* Seattle, WA: Author.

2 Unrau, Y., Font, S., & Rawls, G. (2012). Readiness for college engagement among students who have aged out of foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, *34* (1), 76–83.

3 Cusick, G.R., Courtney, M.E., Havlicek, J., & Hess, N. (2011). *Crime during the transition to adulthood: How youth fare as they leave out-of-home care*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

4 Pecora, P., Williams, J., Kessler, R., Hiripi, E., O'Brien, K., Emerson, J., & Torres, D. (2006). Assessing the educational achievements of adults who were formerly placed in family foster care. *Child & Family Social Work*, 11(3), 220-231.

11

Risk Factors

Eating Disorders [1]

Adult Life Skill Deficits [2]

Limited Social Support [3]

1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. (2009*). The AFCARS report No. 16: Preliminary FY 2008 estimates as of October 2009*. Washington DC: Author.

2 Morris, R. (2007). Voices of foster youths: Problems and ideas for change. *Urologic Nursing*, *27*(5), 419-427.

3 Osgood, D., Foster, E., & Courtney, M. (2010). Vulnerable populations and the transition to adulthood. *Future of Children*, *20* (1), 209-229.

Scholarship of Engagement

Teaching

Research

Service

Scholarship of Engagement: Integrates "civic engagement, collaborative partnerships, and social problem solving" into the 3 pillars of university teaching, scholarship, and service.

Sources: Barker, D. (2004). The scholarship of engagement: A taxonomy of five emerging practices. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement, 9* (2), 123.

Boyer, E. (1996). The scholarship of engagement. *Journal of Public Service and Outreach, 1*(1), 11–20.

What we know…

RESEARCH

- Young adults from foster care are *underrepresented* among the higher education population…[1]

- More likely to drop out during the first year of college compared to their peers from the general population (21% vs. 13%).[2]

1 National Working Group on Foster Care and Education (2014). *Fostering success in education: National factsheet on the educational outcomes of children in foster care*. Retrieved 8-14-14 from http://www.fostercareandeducation.org/NationalWorkGroup.aspx.

2 Day, A., Dworsky, A., Fogarty, K., & Damashek, A. (2011). An examination of post-secondary retention and graduation among foster care youth enrolled in a four-year university. *Children and Youth Services Review, 33* (11), 2335-2341.

14

What we know…

RESEARCH

Benefits of a college degree…

- Increase in lifetime earning potential by more than $480,000.[1]

- 61% increase in wages compared to a high school diploma.[2]

1 Peters, C., Dworsky, A., Courtney, M., & Pollack, H. (2009). *Extending foster care to age 21: Weighing the costs to government against the benefits to youth*. Chicago: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

2 Planty, M., Provasnik, S., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Kena, G., Hampden-Thompson, G., et al. (2006). *The condition of education: 2006*. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

15

Foster and Adopted Youth Study [FAYS]

• **Student strengths** ➜ • **Student stressors** ➜ • **Emotional functioning** ➜ • **Social support** ➜ • **Campus activities** ➜	**Academic performance**

Strengths and Resilient Qualities

- Leadership ability

- Problem solving

- Managing through bureaucracy

- Life wisdom

- Resilience: Ability to "bounce back" from adversity

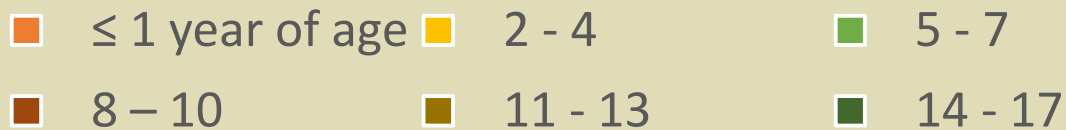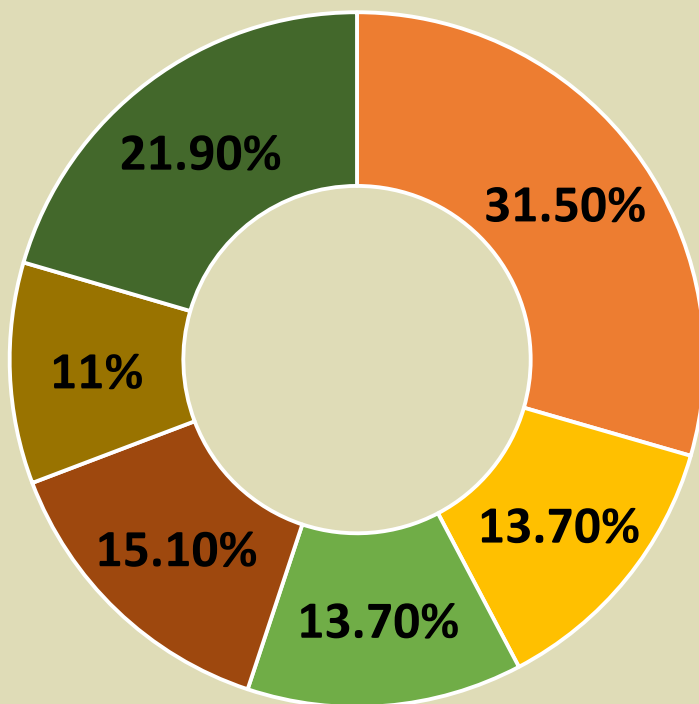- More motivated to succeed compared to their peers 10

FAYS

- Online student survey
- 350 college students - Former foster youth
- DCFS funding for college
- DCFS sent out online invitation
- $20.00 gift card
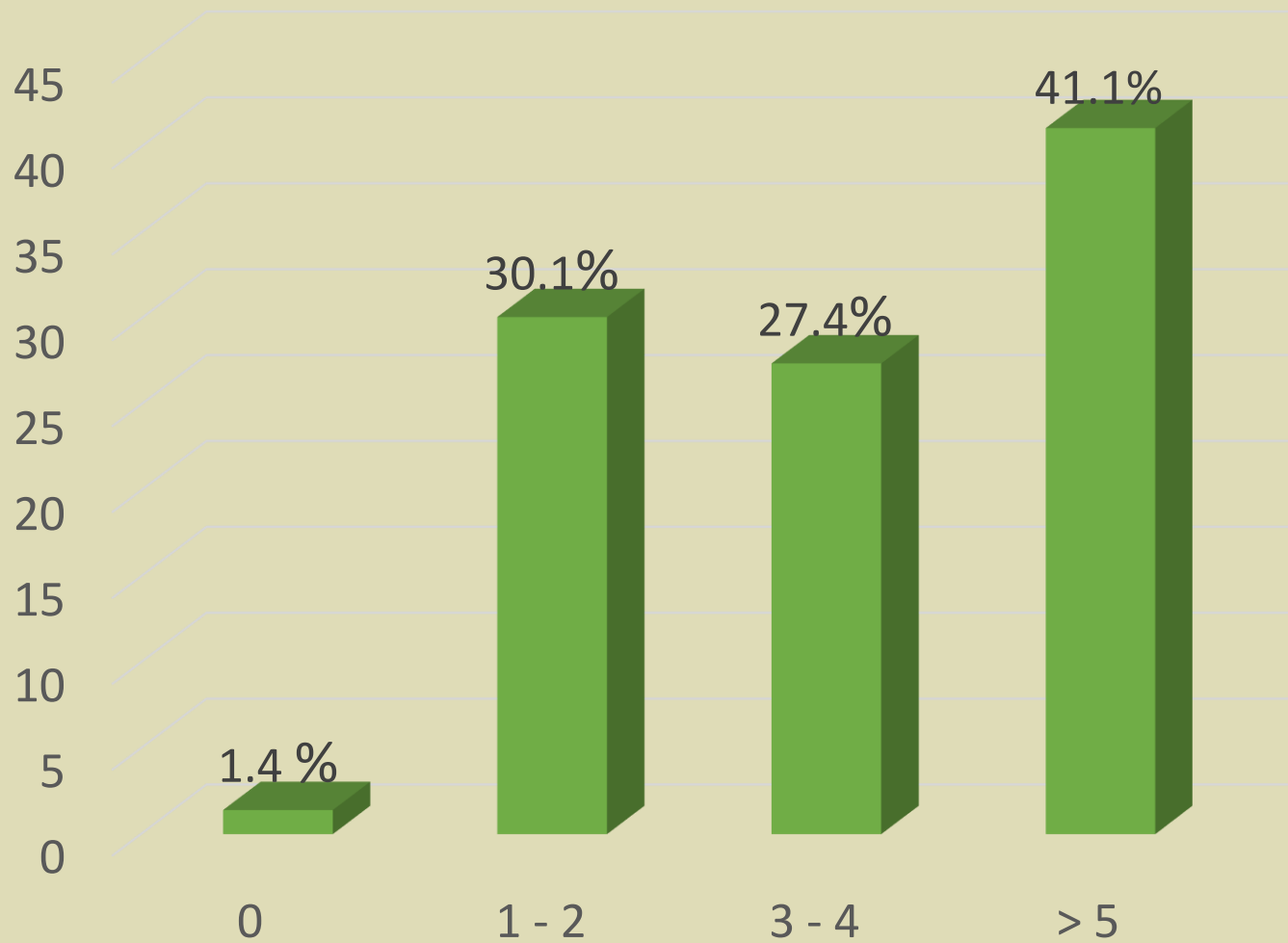
Study supported by the Spenser Foundation 2015-2016
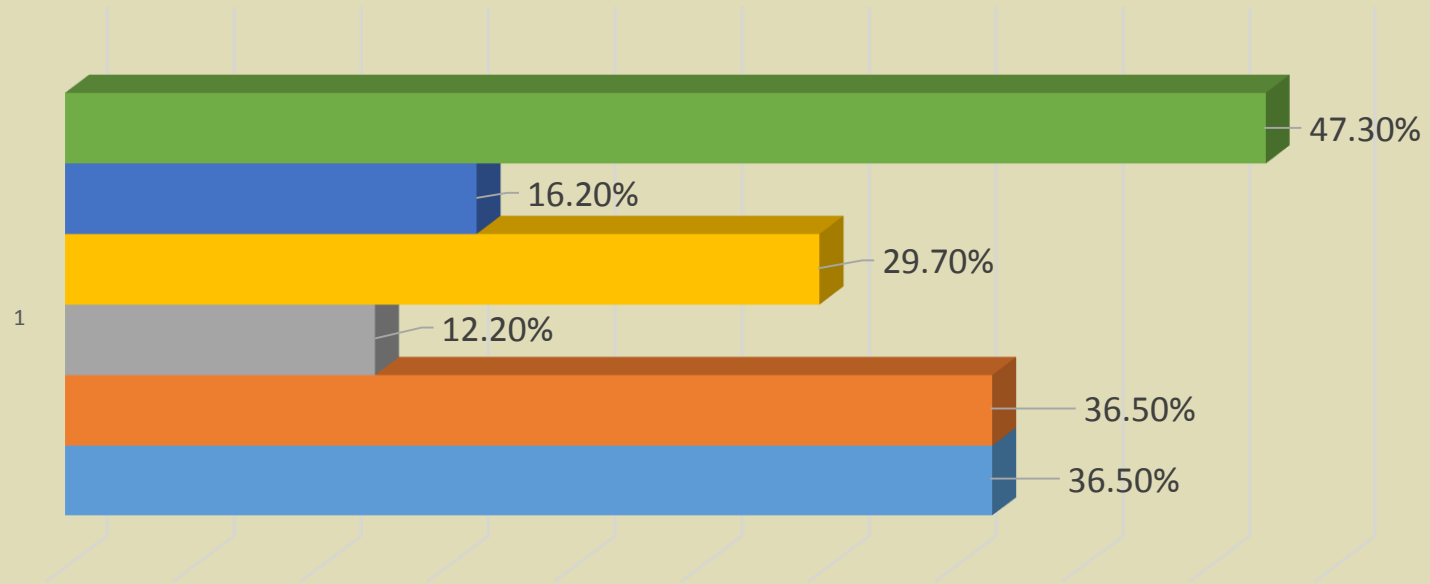
Preliminary Data

Age at Foster Care Entry (N = 73)

Legend:
- ≤ 1 year of age
- 2 - 4
- 5 - 7
- 8 – 10
- 11 - 13
- 14 - 17

Chart values:
- 31.50% (≤ 1 year of age)
- 13.70% (2 - 4)
- 13.70% (5 - 7)
- 15.10% (8 – 10)
- 11% (11 - 13)
- 21.90% (14 - 17)

Percent with Biological Siblings (N = 73)

21

Maltreatment History

Parental Substance Abuse — 47.30%
Parental Domestic Violence — 16.20%
Lack of Supervision — 29.70%
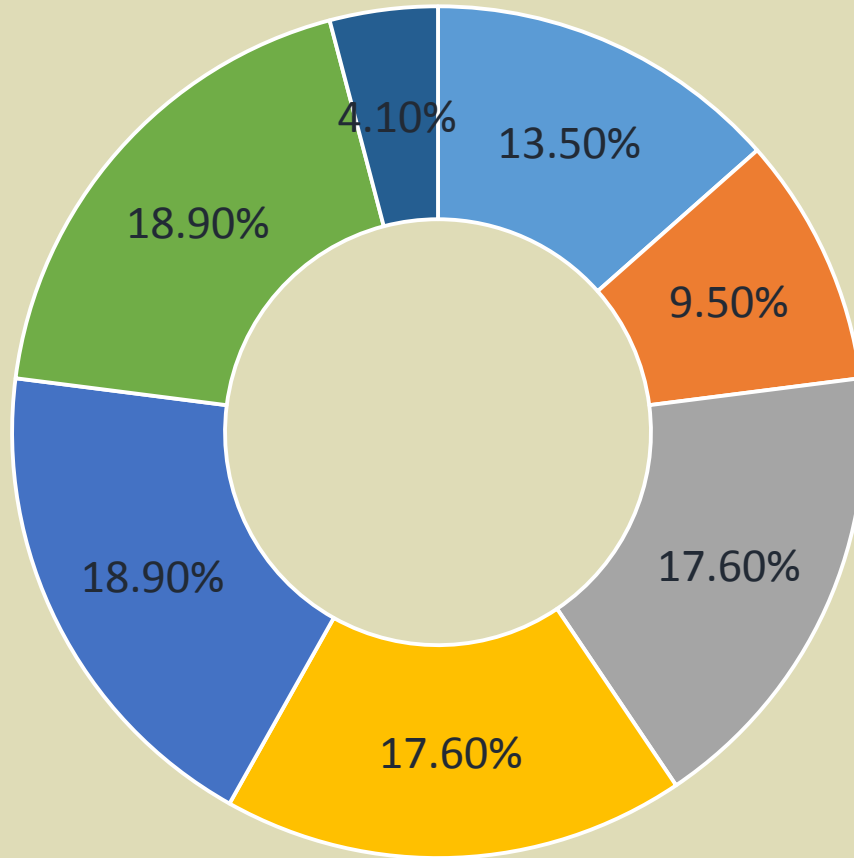Medical Neglect — 12.20%
Physical Abuse — 36.50%
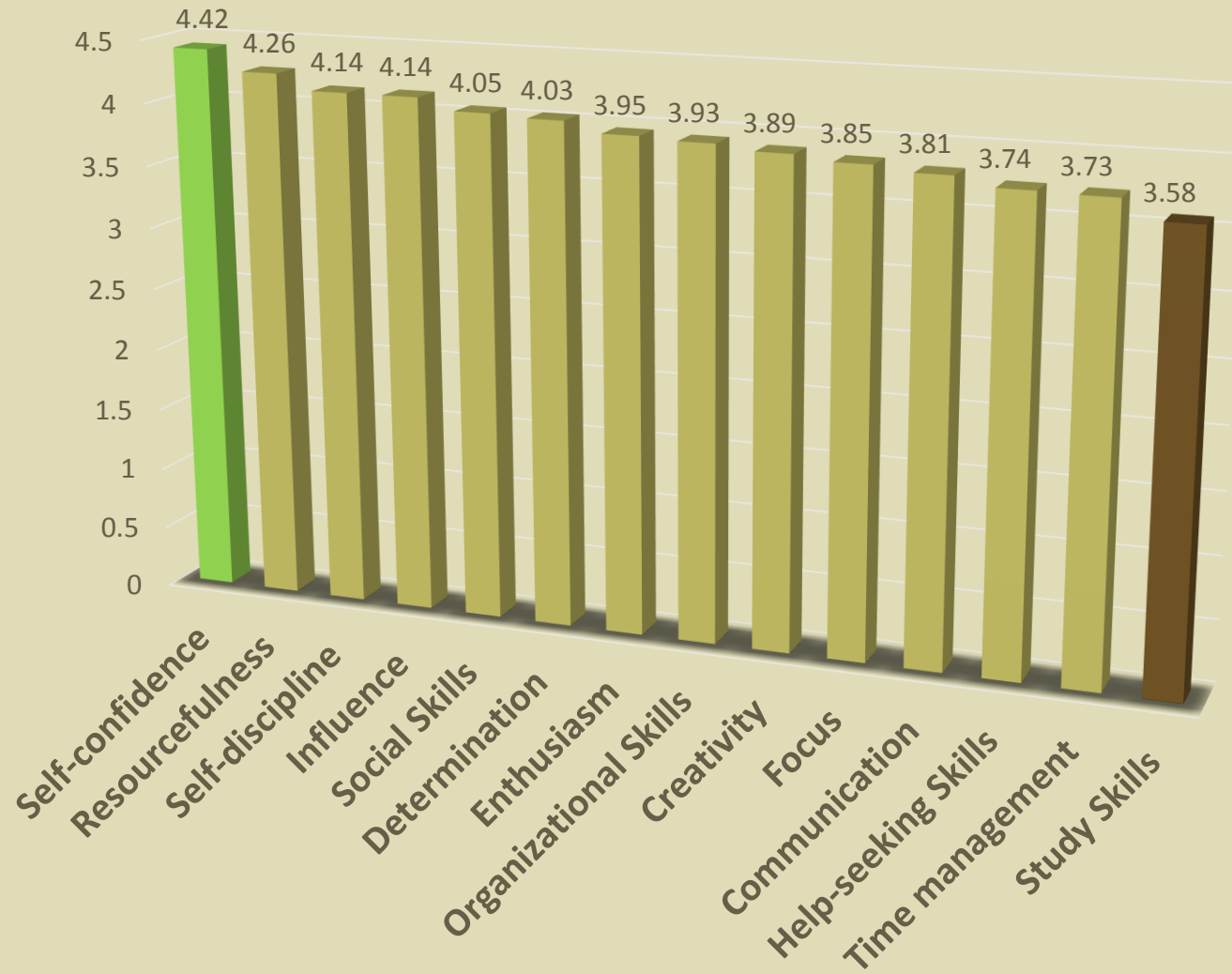Physical Neglect — 36.50%

1

Legend:
- Parental Substance Abuse
- Parental Domestic Violence
- Lack of Supervision
- Medical Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Physical Neglect
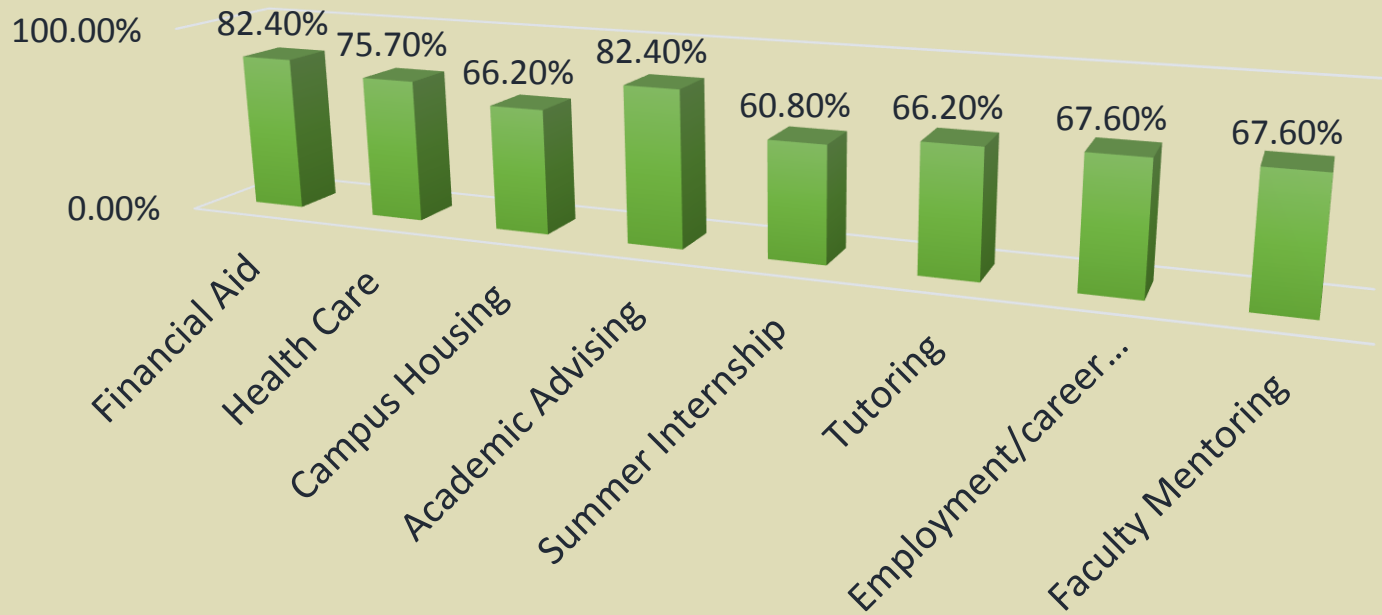
Family [Permanency] Arrangement Prior to College

🟦 Adoption by relatives	🟧 Adoption by non-relatives
⬜ Adoption by foster parent	🟨 DCFS guardianship
🟦 Legal guardianship by relatives	🟩 Emancipated
🟦 Other	

Chart values: 13.50%, 9.50%, 17.60%, 17.60%, 18.90%, 18.90%, 4.10%

23

Strengths and Talents (N = 74) M

Most Utilized Campus Resources (N = 74)

Resource	Percentage
Financial Aid	82.40%
Health Care	75.70%
Campus Housing	66.20%
Academic Advising	82.40%
Summer Internship	60.80%
Tutoring	66.20%
Employment/career…	67.60%
Faculty Mentoring	67.60%

Lauretta Schaefer

Students Advocate Against State Budget Cuts

Lauretta Schafer Testifies before the Illinois Legislature

LaShawnda Kilgore

Verneice Prince:

Students Advocate Against Budget Cuts

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYBOcLHr6zU&feature=youtu.be

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwainqNGlqE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps3kGhim-78

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