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**Subject: POLITICO: [PRO] New study shows risks facing youth exiting shelter, justice or foster care systems. March 7, 2017**

**[PRO] New study shows risks facing youth exiting shelter, justice or foster care systems**  
POLITICO NY - Brendan Cheney

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A new city report shows youth leaving the homeless shelter, criminal justice or foster care systems are less vulnerable to returning to those systems if they receive housing subsidies.

The report from Mayor Bill de Blasio's Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence found that 36.8 percent of youth spent time in jail or a homeless shelter within two years of exiting foster care, shelter or the criminal justice system. And each additional contact the youth had with one of these systems increased his or her chance of later ending up in shelter or jail by 30 percent.

But the study also found that youth, defined by the report as people aged 18 to 21, who get subsidized housing — like supportive housing, rental assistance or public housing — are 64 percent less likely to end up in jail or in a homeless shelter than those who don't get subsidies.

The report wasn't specific about which types of housing were better for which populations, but the city said those assessment could be part of a future analysis.

While many of the relationships outlined in the report might not surprise people who work with at-risk young adults, the knowledge of which risk factors are stronger than others is new.

The report matched and tracked young adults that had exited foster care, homeless shelter or the justice system across multiple agencies and analyzed whether some were more vulnerable to needing services again within one year, two years or three years.

"It gets us out of our city silos and it helps us to have a holistic picture of the youth so that we can better meet their needs. That I think is the beauty of the cross-agency data analysis," said Maryanne Schretzman, executive director of CIDI.

The report found that women were less vulnerable than men overall to using shelter or having a jail stay within two years of leaving one of the systems.

And while the report found that someone exiting shelter was more vulnerable to using those services again than someone exiting foster care, the report confirmed what many have believed and seen anecdotally, that multiple foster care placements made someone more likely to use those services in the future.

The report also showed that transgender people were far more vulnerable to needing these services.

The city is moving away from setting aside supportive housing units for specific types of people and selecting applicants based on mental health diagnoses and is instead going to select based on need and vulnerability. An analysis like this will help the city identify which people have greater needs and can contribute to a vulnerability index, which assesses how vulnerable somebody is to needing more services in the future.

[Read the report here.](#) The New York City Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence study and report were conducted and issued in partnership with CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing), and underwritten by the New York Community Trust.