



Succeeding Survival

Jane Kovarikova, PhD ABD, Western University



Friday, June 15, 2018

How to get there? The Resources



“What you believe, we achieve”
--Youth-in-care

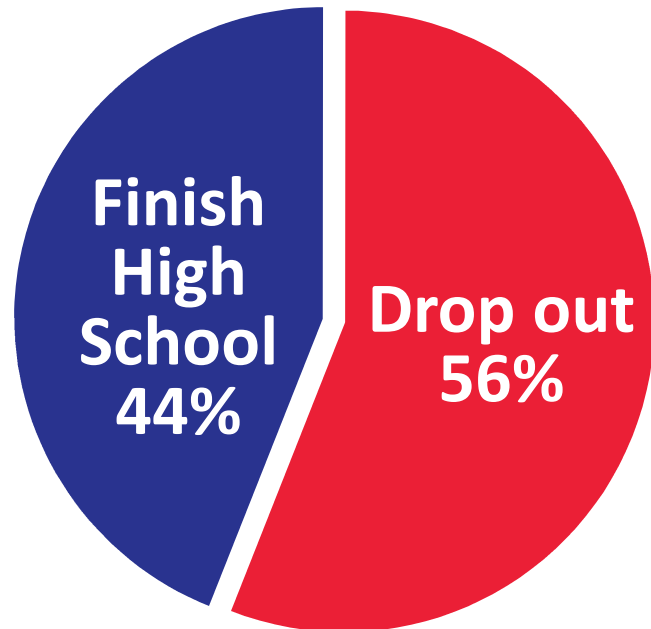
Typical Outcomes

1. Low academic achievement
2. Unemployment or underemployment
3. Homelessness and housing insecurity
4. Criminal justice system involvement
5. Early pregnancy and parenting
6. Poor physical and mental health
7. Loneliness*

[Click Here for Full Report](#)



Low academic achievement

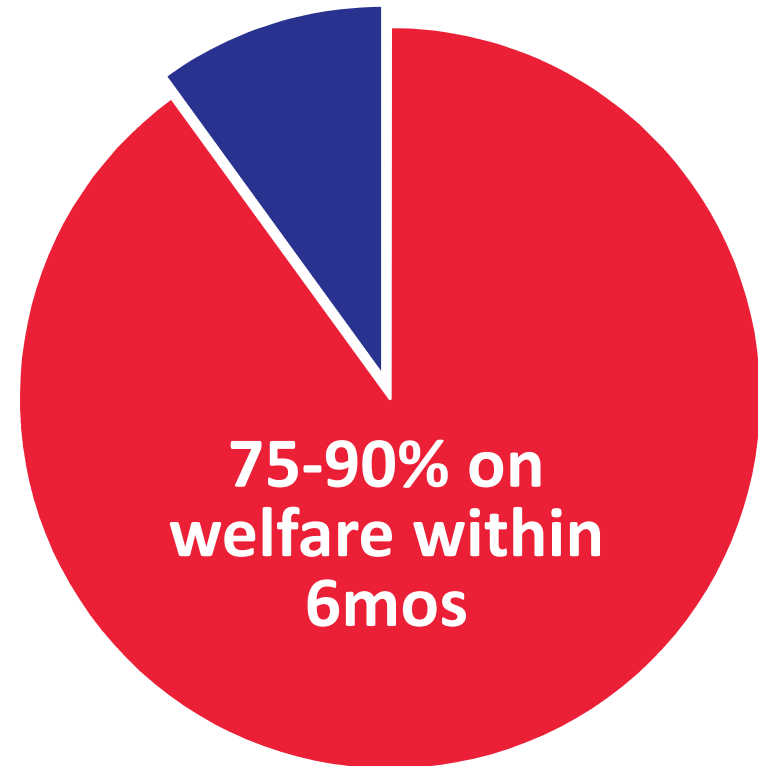


“Youth were frequently discouraged – “do not have what it takes” or “would become a great failure”

- Majority WISH to attend university; few do
- **Risk factors beyond a youth’s personal characteristics undermine academic and career trajectories**

Aged-out youth live in poverty

- **70-80% Winnipeg teenage Crown Wards = unemployed versus 17%**
- US, UK, AU and CA = same outcomes
- AND it's worse for this group than others



10-30% Homelessness Rate



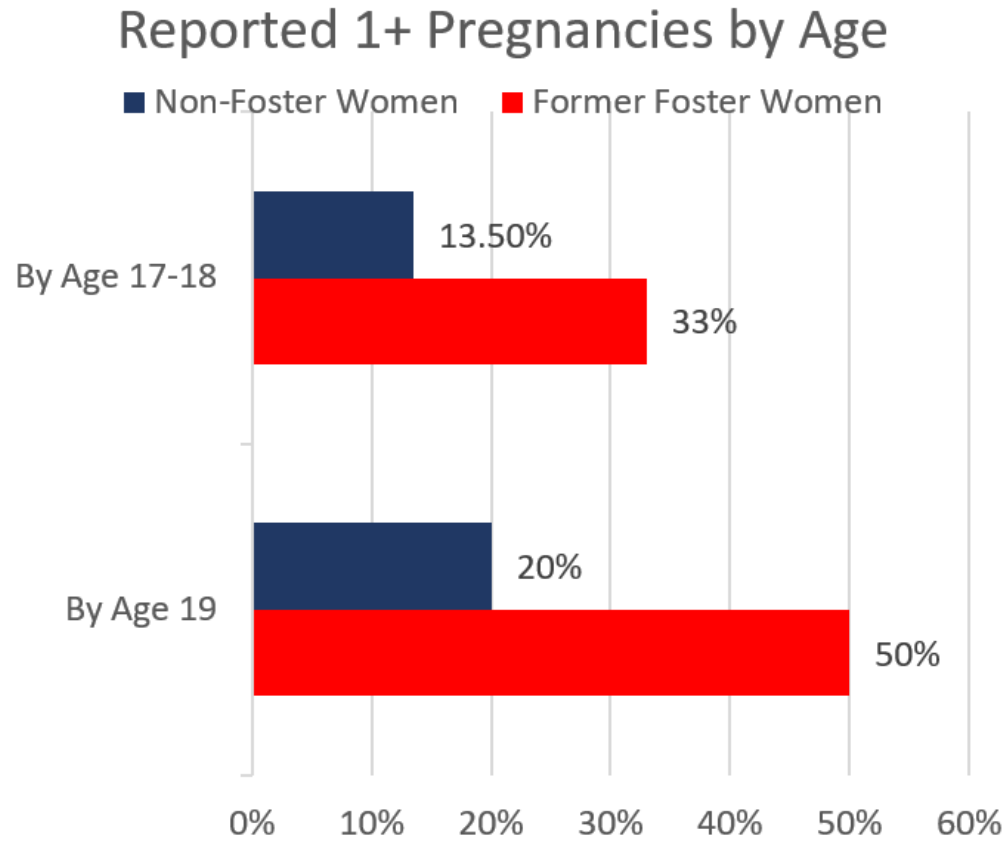
Merely the perception of having social support available lowers risk

Discrimination

- Normal behaviours = criminalized
- **Detained more, but no evidence crimes more frequent or severe**
- Harsher sentences than peers

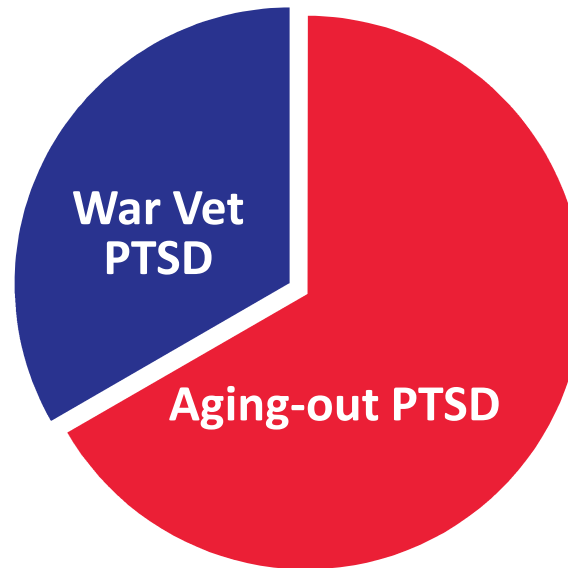


Early Parenthood



Many reported wanting early pregnancies!

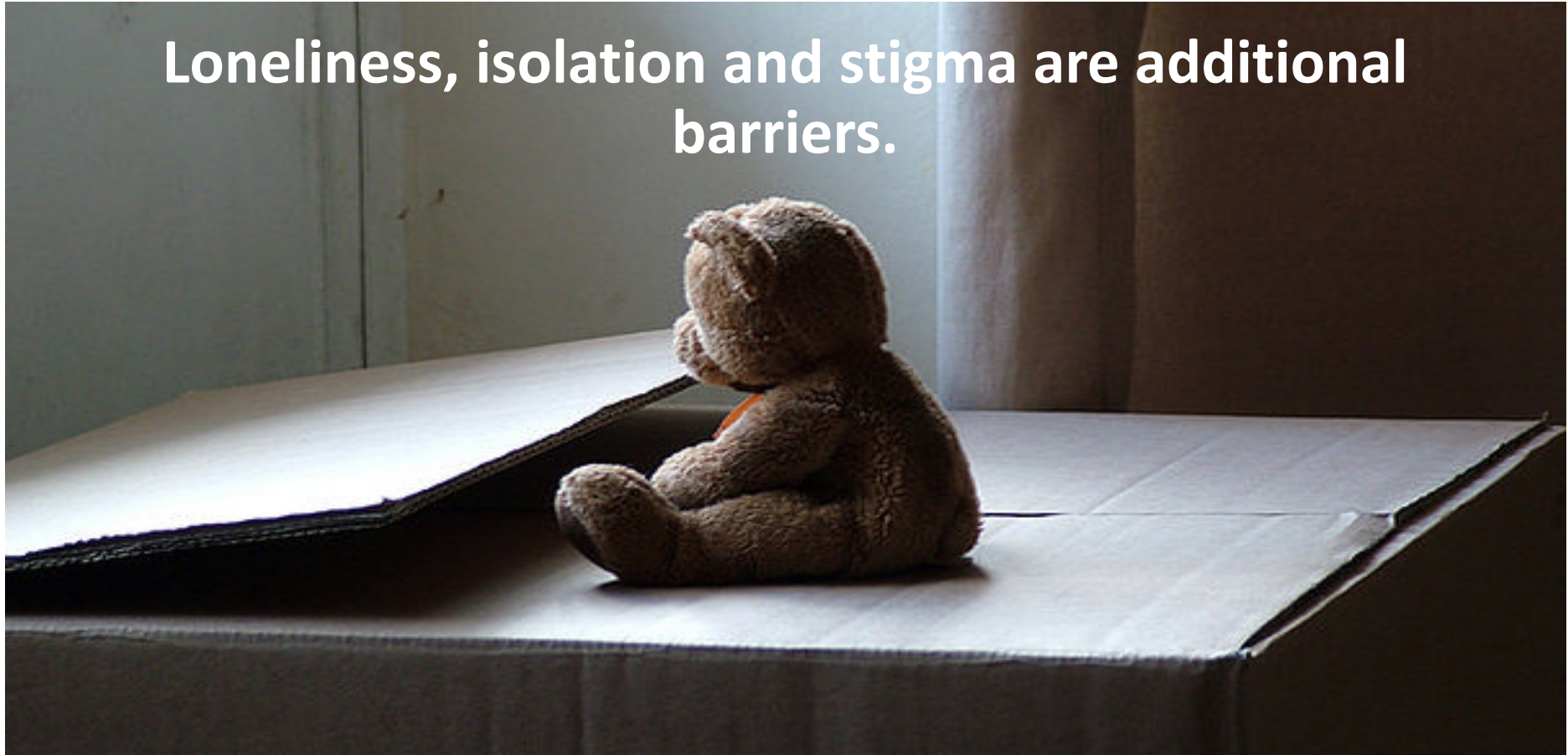
Worse Health Outcomes



One US study found youth aging-out had post-traumatic stress double the rate of war vets

What the youth say...

Loneliness, isolation and stigma are additional barriers.



“People with Down Syndrome can read, write and do arithmetic... work and live independently... drive cars and go to college too”

So is it the child or the system?



The system is not evidence-based *nor* outcomes driven



Friday, June-15-18

14

Other Systemic Problems



1. It's an **ideological** system
2. **Rights hierarchy** – child is last
3. “Child-centered” versus **paternalism**
4. Evidence-informed versus evidence-based – **Latest fads**
5. **Correlation ≠ Causation**
6. Institutionalizing **permanence** and impermanence
7. There is no such thing as **one bad day**
8. **Arrogance and prevention**
9. **Commodification** of child
10. **Trauma and the social determinants of death**



Child Welfare PAC Canada is a non-partisan federally incorporated not-for-profit

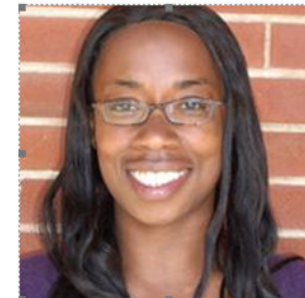
Vision: A child welfare system that ensures every youth has a bright and successful future

- **Real-life expertise**
- **Informed research**
- **Effective advocacy**

Value Proposition



- First organization to mobilize the **entire population** of people raised in child protection
- **One-track mandate:** an evidence-based child welfare system that promotes youth positive outcomes
- Annual October Queen's Park advocacy day – Oct 03, 2018



Political Priorities

The Child Welfare PAC's driving goal is a child welfare system that ensures every youth has a bright future.



1. Research.

System accountability through evidence-based policies. Check your parenting.

2. Outcomes.

Child protection is permanent for many youth. Plan for their adult futures.

3. Privacy.

We protect the privacy rights of juvenile offenders better than kids from child protection. Seal the files after "aging-out".

4. Mental Health.

The rate of post-traumatic stress for youth after care is almost double that of war veteran populations. Need a strategy.

Getting Involved?

- Add @childwelfarepac to twitter
- Connect the PAC to allies
- Volunteer
- GoFundMe campaign - **Help us fix foster care!**
- Sponsor the MPP reception at Queen's Park



“Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?”

[Who will guard the guardians?] *Juvenal (1st/2nd c.)*

 Twitter: @childwelfarepac
Email: info@childwelfarepac.com