

Struggles, Successes, and Setbacks: Youth Aging out of the Child Welfare System in a Subsidized Housing Program

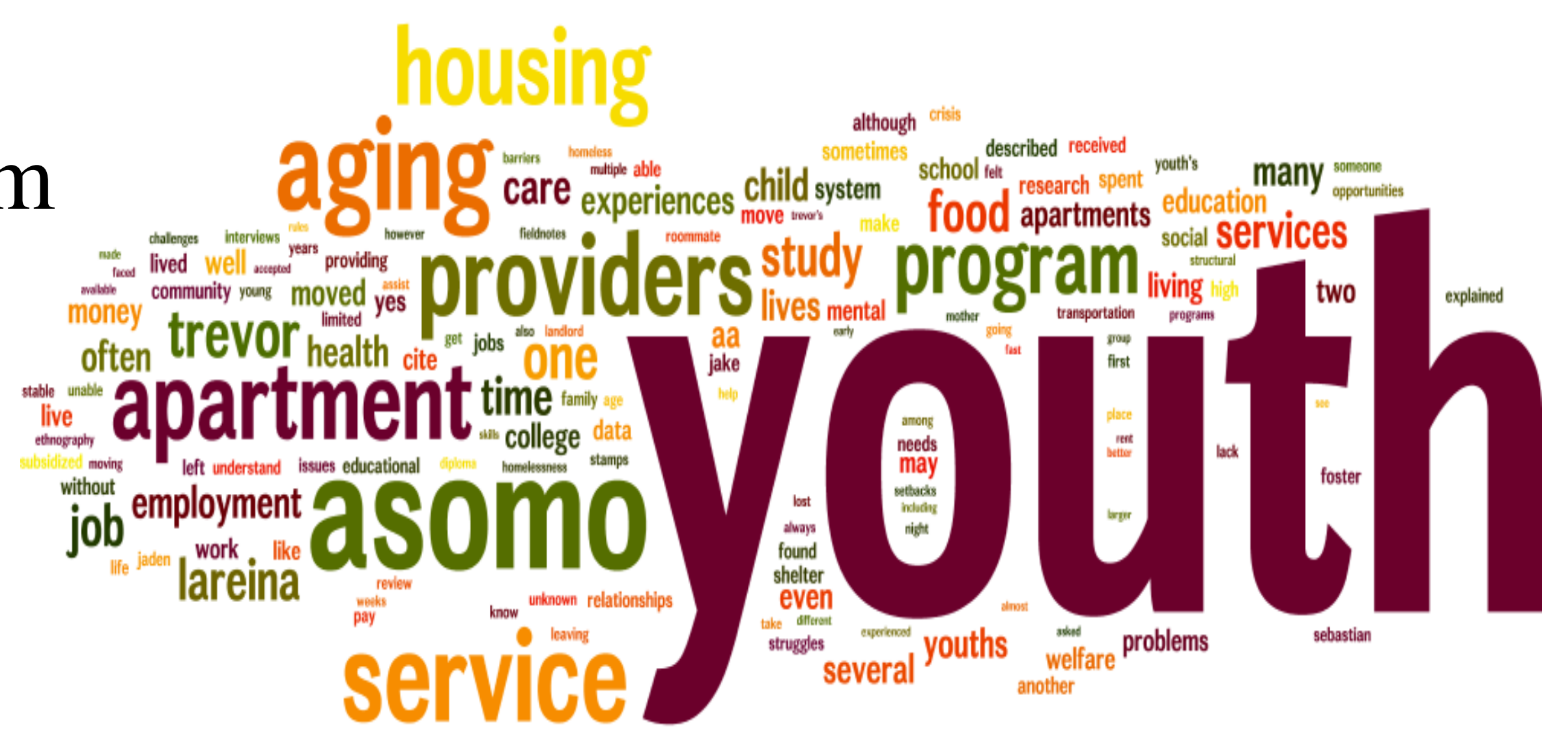
Purpose: To examine the experiences of youth aging out in a subsidized apartment program and to explore the challenges related to addressing youths' housing needs

Data: transcripts from interviews and fieldnotes from observations of 13 youth and two service providers at a scattered site subsidized apartment program for youth aging out

Analysis: Iterative, inductive coding conducted by research team using NVivo10 qualitative data analysis software

Findings:

- Receiving services and stable housing did not eliminate youths' struggles with employment, education, and mental health.
- Setbacks in even one domain often undermined their ability to maintain housing.
- Youths' stability and well-being were compromised by structural barriers such as housing quality, location of apartments, and access to transportation.
- Service providers face complex challenges while assisting youth aging out.



Program & Practice Implications:

- Consider structural barriers
- Expect fluidity of success
- Focus on multiple domains simultaneously
- Start early & stay involved