

# Social Wounds of Foster Care

There are many worthy causes, so what makes focusing on foster care strategic? Kids who age out of foster care without being connected to a family are far more at risk for the following:

# 1 Trauma / Mental Health - 1 in 4 will experience PTSD in their lifetime - more than twice the rate of US veterans of war.

# 2 Suicide -Adolescents who had been in foster care were nearly four times more likely to have attempted suicide than other youth.

# 3 Sex Trafficking -Statistics vary widely, but nearly all show that a majority of child sex trafficking victims - anywhere from 50% to 90% - have been in foster care.

# 4 Addiction -For kids who aged out of foster care one-third stated that they currently had drug or alcohol problems. Half admit to use of illegal drugs since leaving the system.

# 5 Drop Out -Less than half will have graduated from high school.

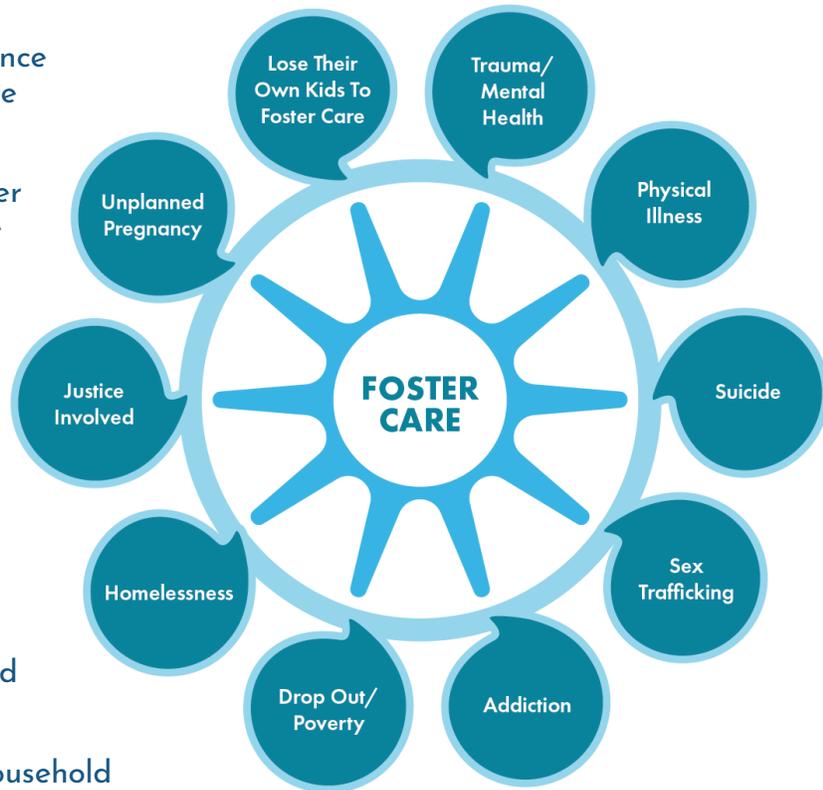
# 6 Poverty -One-third of foster alumni have household incomes at or below the poverty line.

# 7 Homelessness -Nearly half will become homeless within a year of aging out.

# 8 Incarceration -By age 23, nearly half of male foster youth have spent time behind bars.

# 9 Unplanned Pregnancy -Three times as many girls (compared to the national average) will have a child before their 19th birthday.

# 10 Lose Their Own Kids To Foster Care -When it comes to predicting if a child will enter foster care, the #1 risk factor is the mom's child welfare history.



**We are sincerely thankful for organizations that help people who are homeless, suicidal, trafficked, etc. However, you can help thousands of kids not need those organizations a few years from now because they belonged to a family instead. We can work upstream from these issues when we engage in foster care. Foster Care is not only a heart issue it's a smart issue. Together we can make a difference and change the outcomes and experiences for kids in foster care.**

 Follow us on social media  
@coloradokidsbelong

[www.cokidsbelong.org](http://www.cokidsbelong.org)

© Brian Mavis, President of America's Kids Belong. 2018



C O L O R A D O  
**KIDS BELONG**™

THE AMERICA'S KIDS BELONG FAMILY