

Strengthening Connections: Youth and Provider Perspectives on Youth Running from Out-of- Home Placements

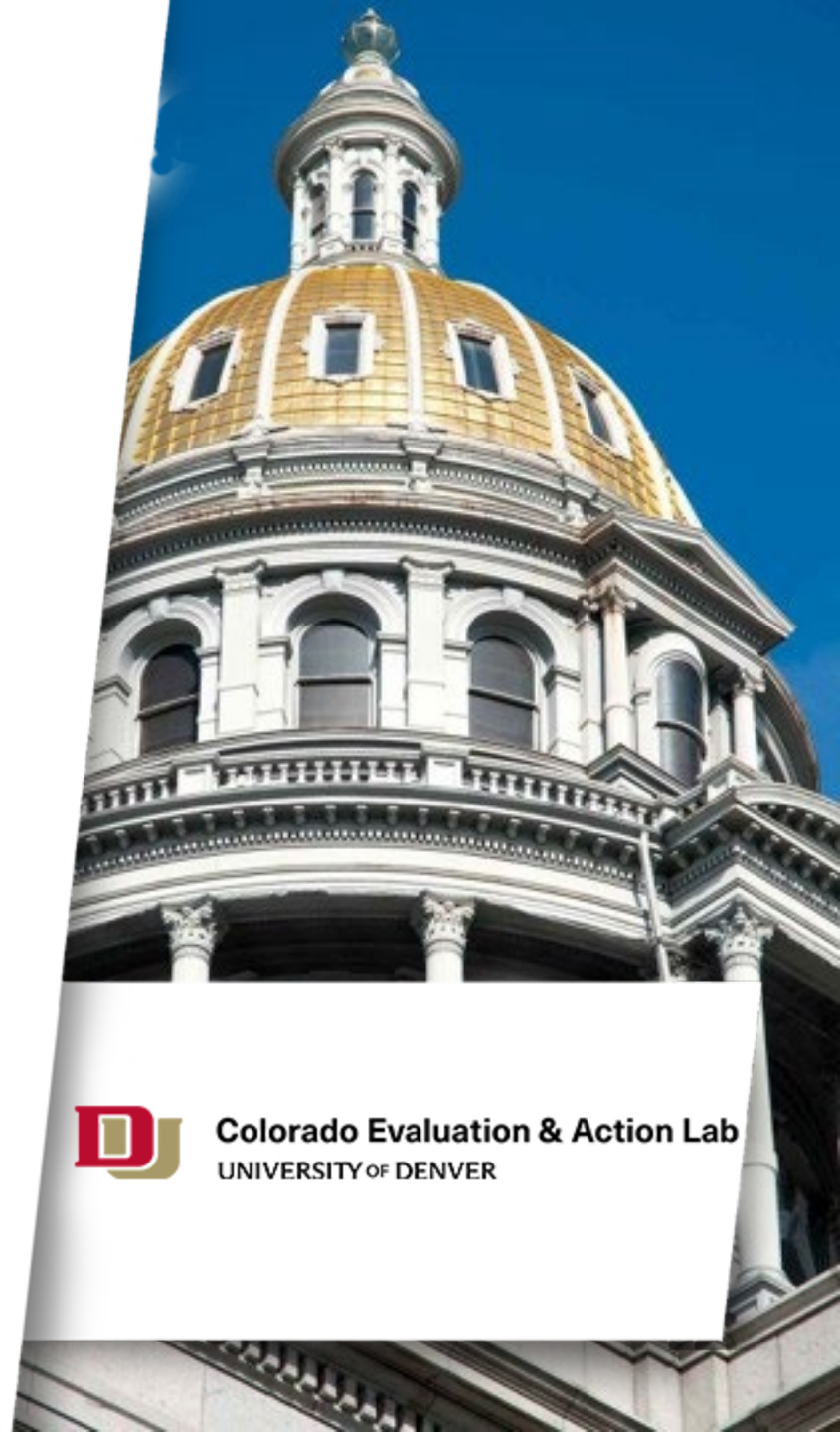
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Purpose of the Report

Questions required in HB 22-1375:

- What conditions led to running from an out-of-home placement?
- What efforts were made to locate a child or youth after a running incident?
- What services were provided to the child or youth after a running incident?
- What programmatic and systemic barriers make it difficult to prevent a run from occurring?



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Focus Group Demographics

A total of five focus groups (two providers, three youth)

- 15 out-of-home placement provider participants
- 21 youth participants ages 12-17
- Facilities located in Northern and Southern Colorado and the Front Range



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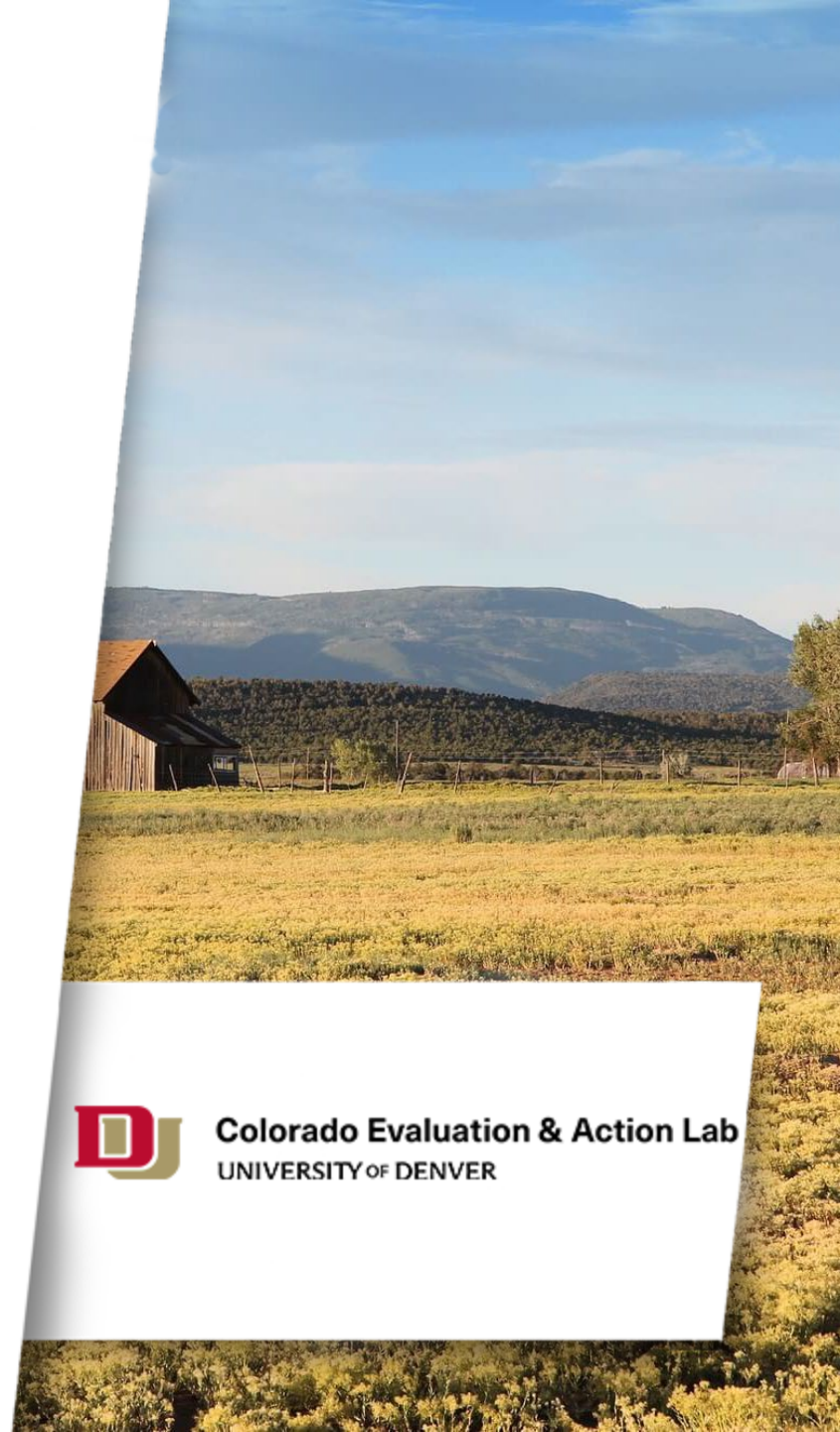


Overview of the Process

- Semi-structured interview protocol approved by Timothy Montoya Taskforce
- Focus groups were audio recorded and transcribed into written form
- Three independent researchers reviewed transcripts and developed themes
- Supporting quotes were selected and included in the report



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Report Highlights

- Conditions that led to running from out-of-home placement
- What efforts were made to locate a child or youth after a running incident
- What services were provided to a child or youth after a run
- What programmatic and systemic barriers make it difficult to prevent a run from occurring



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Lessons Learned: Opportunities for Prevention

- Consequences and connectedness
- Fear of consequences
- Connectedness with provider staff
 - Provider staff to youth ratio
- Connectedness with peers



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Key Takeaways

- Connectedness is run prevention, intervention, and aftercare.
- Youth run *from* placements when they are dysregulated or trying to get needs met.
- Youth run *to* connectedness and familiarity.
- Youth test boundaries and desire autonomy.
- Programmatic and systemic barriers make it difficult to prevent running.
- There is a need for state agencies and providers to define “imminent danger” with respect to running prevention.



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