

ABSTRACT

THE EFFECTS OF THE FOSTER CARE EXPERIENCE ON THE ETHNIC IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT OF SIX FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

This study explores the effects of the foster care experience on the ethnic identity development in six young adults formerly in foster care. Participants were recruited from the Fresno County Transitional Living Center. These young adults came from a range of ethnic backgrounds and foster care experiences. Utilizing constant comparative analysis of qualitative interviews, this thesis presents themes and conceptualizations as they apply to study participants. Through participants' voices, implications for social work policy and practice are highlighted. In addition, this thesis provides a basis for further study and contributes to the social work knowledge base for research with this population.

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