



MY-CIL Practice Brief 6

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How might CILs use data on diverse populations of youth and young adults?

About the MY-CIL Project: MY-CIL is a collaborative effort of Hunter College, the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York Independent Living Research Utilization, and Mathematica. The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research and the Office of Independent Living Programs at the Administration for Community Living funded MY-CIL to improve outcomes for out-of-school youth with disabilities. It seeks to produce and share knowledge that empowers Centers for Independent Living to improve outcomes for out-of-school youth with disabilities from minority backgrounds.

To learn more about MY-CIL, please visit: <https://minorityyouthcil.com/>

MY-CIL created CIL-specific data briefs (available at <https://mathematica.org/features/my-cil-reports>). Each brief summarizes information about the education, employment, race, and ethnicity of transition-age youth who live in a specific CIL's service delivery area. The briefs then compare the information to characteristics of CIL customers of all ages. The goal of these briefs is to help CIL staff understand how the youth they serve compare to out-of-school youth from minority backgrounds in their service areas.

Youth from minority backgrounds

MY-CIL uses the term *youth from minority backgrounds* to refer to transition-age youth and young adults (ages 16 to 24) from nationally recognized racial and ethnic minority groups.

As you review your data brief, consider these questions:

- Are the youth described in the data what you would expect for your area? If not, why?
- Could these data and additional data help inform new outreach efforts? Adaptations or changes to CIL programs so that they are accessible to people from different backgrounds? Applications for grant funding to expand services to minority populations you might not be serving?

New Outreach Efforts: CILs might consider expanded outreach to youth and young adults from minority backgrounds through collaborations with several types of groups:

- Neighborhoods or community centers
- Religious groups
- Vocational rehabilitation agencies
- Mental health agencies

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- Developmental disabilities agencies
- Schools

Cultural Adaptations: Some CILs have made cultural adaptations to programs to help youth and families feel comfortable and welcome:

- Preparing informational materials in several languages
- Employing recent clients as peer mentors to clients who are similar culturally
- Hiring and training staff who represent the communities in their area
- Developing content and goals reflecting the different cultural norms (for example, in certain cultures, a goal is to live with parents and contribute to the family's finances, rather than to live independently)

Grant Applications: Data can be helpful when applying for grants to fund new programs focused on increasing outreach and services to transition-age youth to achieve several objectives:

- Describe the population who could benefit from new programs
- Determine the potential need
- Determine the potential impact

For more detailed data or support, please contact MY-CIL for customized technical assistance at support@minorityyouthcil.org. We are happy to further analyze the data on youth in your service delivery area or help identify resources that may help you to adapt your programs, so they best meet the needs of youth and families in your area.

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