

## **ELAP – FRANCE – Study of Young's People to access to independence**



**The Longitudinal Study on Access to Autonomy after Placement (ELAP) aims to establish the profile of young people in child protection between the ages of 17 and 20, and identify their living conditions in placement and their immediate futures. Data collection has occurred in four distinctive waves and an Administrative data longitudinal follow-up.**

### **ELAP-W1 1622 young people in care and aged 17 to 20 years old**

The aim of the first wave is to describe the characteristics of young people aged 17 to 20 in child protection care and to gain a better understanding of their living conditions in placement: the types of placement in which they live, some elements of their placement trajectory, the support received and the perception of missing support, their network in and out of placement, their sources of income, their educational pathways, their skills acquired and the difficulties encountered for their future integration.

This first wave of the survey was conducted on a representative sample of young people aged 17 to 20 placed by the child protection services of seven French Departments in two regions: Ile-de-France (Paris, Seine-et-Marne, Essonne, Hauts-de-Seine and Seine-Saint-Denis) and the two departments of Nord and Pas-de-Calais.

The population physically cared for by these 7 departments in 2013 represented 8150 young people, i.e. 27% of young people of this age placed in metropolitan France. Indeed, in these departments, out of 1,000 young people aged between 17 and 20, 17 young people are in child protection, i.e. almost double the national average, 9 %.

Among all these young people, a random sample of 3,846 young people was drawn. The field sample consisted of 2,285 young people. Of these, 1,622 young people responded, representing a response rate of 71%.

#### - **Where did the survey take place?**

The majority of young people live in the departments that take care of them - here the child welfare services of the Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Paris, Seine-et-Marne, Essonne, Hauts-de-Seine or Seine-Saint-Denis - but some of them are oriented in other, more distant places. More specifically, at the time of the interview in 2013-2014, 702 young people were living in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, 812 young people were living in Ile-de-France and 108 were living elsewhere in France.

#### - **Method of administration**

Most of the survey was conducted face-to-face throughout metropolitan France. When the young people lived in another French département and without a close surveyor, the survey was carried out by telephone.

#### - **Date of collection**

The first questionnaire was collected in two stages for both regions:

- French Département of Nord-Pas-de-Calais: **from October to December 2013**
- French Département of Ile-de-France: **from February to May 2014**

## ELAP-W2 : 18 months later 756 young people reinterviewed in a sub-sample

The **second wave** was conducted in 2015, 18 months after the first wave. It provides information on the living and discharge conditions of the young people in care and the network of family and friends on whom they can rely at this particular period of their lives.

This second wave of the survey was conducted on a sub-sample of 1028 young people.

- The young people who were **17 years old in wave 1** were reinterviewed in order to find out the profiles of young people who will not continue in child protection through an extended care (Frechon, Marquet, 2019). They were between 18 and 19 years old in wave 2 and represented 678 young people. Among them, 502 responded in wave 2, for a response rate of 74%.
- Young people aged between **19 and a half and 20 years old** were also reinterviewed. In fact, 18 months later, they had all reached the age of 21, the limit age for extended care. This last group therefore benefited from a "Youth Adult Contract" (Contrat jeune majeur) of at least a year and a half in wave 1. They were between 21 and 22 years old and represented 350 young people. Among them, 254 responded to the second questionnaire, a response rate of 73%.

- **Attrition** : The most marked attrition was among young people in the 18-19 age group who left care in the second wave of the survey. Once weighted, 60% of 18-19 year olds were still in wave 2, 5% were no longer in care, but were receiving educational support, and 35% had left the child protection system completely. Almost all the young people in the 21-22 age group had left, with only 1% still in care beyond the age of 21.

Frechon I., Marquet L., (2019), Leaving Child Protection at Age 18 or Continuing in Young Adult Protection, In Goyette M., Mann-Feder V., (Dir) [Leaving care and the transition to Adulthood: International contributions to theory, research and practice](#), Oxford University Press, pp. 173-201

## ELAP\_W3: Interviews with 107 young people aged 20-23 years old

In 2016-2017, a first wave of qualitative interviews followed these two quantitative waves. A collective of female researchers[1] from different disciplines (sociology, demography, education sciences) conducted a series of interviews with young people who had agreed to continue the research. The interview guides are composed of a section common to all the researchers, which allows the longitudinal observation of the young people's future after the placement to be extended, and a section which allows knowledge to be developed on themes or sub-groups of young people with different profiles.

A total of 107 interviews were conducted with young people aged between 20 and 23. For all the interviews, a description sheet was used to gather a certain amount of common information on the young person's situation at the time of the interview (their residential situation, their search for accommodation, their geographical mobility, their current employment situation, their current marital and parental situation, His/her relationship with his/her parents and the network of entourage on which he/she can rely), but also his/her conditions for leaving care (on the reasons for his/her placement, for leaving the placement, for possible interruptions and return movements, and finally on the fact of having had the perception of being a witness to or actor in this care) was fulfilled for each interview.

*[1] This group is composed of Elisa Abassi (INED U. Nanterre), Nabila Amghar (ETSUP), Pascale Breugnot (ETSUP), Stéphanie Boujut (U. Rouen), Sarra Chaieb (U. Strasbourg), Pascale Dietrich-Ragon (INED), Isabelle Frechon (Laboratoire Printemps - UVSQ), Claire Ganne (U. Rouen). Nanterre - CREF), Isabelle Lacroix (INED-UVSQ), Pierrine Robin (U. Créteil), Nadège Séverac (independent researcher), Bernadette Tillard (U. Lille 1-CLERSE).*

## ELAP\_W4: Interviews with 68 young people aged 22-25 years

In 2018-2019, we conducted the last wave of interviews. It has been more difficult to implement and we have conducted 68 of the 107 planned interviews. We have lost sight of 11 young people, 8 have refused, and of the remaining 20, most of them are young people who do not want to participate in another interview but do not dare to say so. Busy agendas are also more often mentioned by young people, but it is also possible that the group of researchers found it more difficult to make a long-term commitment to data collection. In preparing research on "orphans in care", special attention was given to avoid too much attrition of orphans. Of the 45 orphans identified in V4, 28 were re-interviewed.

## Passive longitudinal follow-up using administrative data: cohort of 4,500 young people

From 2013 to 2018, a longitudinal collection of administrative data (age, gender, type of measure, type of accommodation, geographical location of placement) was conducted in addition to the youth survey in collaboration with the seven survey French départements. It is to study the care trajectory (pathway) of young people from the first wave of the survey to their definitive exit from protection.

This study is based on the sample drawn at random at the beginning of the field work. In 2013-2014, 8,150 young people aged between 17 and 20 years were cared for by the child welfare services of the 7 survey French départements. Of whom 3,486 constituted the sample for the ELAP-V1 survey.

Collected anonymously, we can carry out analyses by department to better understand inequalities in the département's policies. It can also be matched with other data from the ELAP-W1 and ELAP-W2 surveys. It has thus made it possible to determine for all the 1,622 young people who responded to the questionnaire in the first wave of the survey, whether or not they responded in subsequent waves, their age at the time of definitive release from protection.

**Among the young people in care at the age of 17, 27% left care without extension protection (on or before their 18th birthday), 9% after a "Youth Adult Contract" (Contrat jeune majeur) of less than 6 months (between 18 and 18.5 years of age), 46% at the age of their "young adults" protection and 18% on their 21st birthday.**

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## Bibliography

All articles are online here: <https://elap.site.ined.fr/en/results/results/>

Two articles in English version

Frechon I., Marquet L., (2018), [Unaccompanied Minors in France and Inequalities in Care Provision under the Child Protection System](#) [Social Work and Society, Vol. 15, n° 2, 2017, pp. 1-18]

Frechon I., Marquet L., (2019), [Leaving Child Protection at Age 18 or Continuing in Young Adult Protection](#), In Goyette M., Mann-Feder V., (Dir) Leaving care and the transition to Adulthood: International contributions to theory, research and practice, Oxford University Press, pp. 173-201

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