**First year after care: How are they doing and what contribute to their life satisfaction?**

**A longitudinal research**

**Tamar Dinisman**

**Doctoral candidate, School of Social Work and Social Welfare, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.**

**tamar.dinisman@mail.huji.ac.il**

In the last few decades, young people from Western countries have remained economically and emotionally dependent on their parents for longer than before. However, the circumstances of young people who aged out of care are different compared to youth who grow up with their birth parents. The present study examines the condition of care leavers on their first year after care, in six life domains. Additionally the study focuses on the factors, on the verge of leaving care, that contribute to their life satisfaction a year after.

This study presents data from the first two waves of a longitudinal study in Israel. 272 adolescents from 26 residential settings participated in the first wave, while still in care. Among them 234 took part in the second measurement, a year after aging out of care. The findings of the current research indicate that most of the youth are doing fairly well in most life domains measured. Whoever, most of them suffer from severe economic hardships and lack of accommodation stability in the future. Additionally, for a small group of youth the transition from care is gloomy, as they engage in criminal behavior, binge drinking or etc. The factors found to be most contributing to the care leavers' life satisfaction were school performance and positive relationship with their mother. These findings have implications to policy and services designated for care leavers on their first year after care. And to efforts, that should be made, in order to better prepare them for life after care.