

Improving Education and Employment Among US Youth

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Outline

- Trends in Outcomes among US Youth
- Some Explanations
- Implications for Youth Programs and Policy

Trends in Outcomes

- Secular Trends Up to 2007
- Effects of Great Recession: Since 2007
- Outcomes: Employment and Wages, Educational Attainment, Achievement, Social Behaviors

Trends

- For Young Women: Rising Enrollment and Employment
- For Young Men: Enrollment Rising Less Rapidly, Employment Falling
- Since Recession: Larger Increases in Enrollment, Declines in Employment
- Additional Factors: Achievement, Marriage, Crime and Incarceration

Explaining Trends

- Structural Changes in Economy: Hurt the Less-Educated, esp. Young (Black) Men
- Gaps in Achievement: Predict Future Education and Employment; Large Gaps by Race, F. Income
- Falling Marriage, Rising Crime and Incarceration, – Related to Employment Trends
- Policy Changes in 1990s: Women v. Men
- Men: Barriers and Disincentives from Incarceration and Child Support
- Recent Trends for Less-Educated White Men (Employment, Marriage) Similar to Those of Blacks

Policy Implications

Supply-Side:

- Education and Training
- Improving Labor Force Attachment: Expanding Earned Income Tax Credit
- Reducing Barriers and Disincentives from Incarceration and Child Support

Demand-Side:

- Job Creation
- Improving Job Quality

Education and Training

Programs Aimed at Youth:

- Youth Development/Mentoring
- In-School Youth: Reduce Dropping Out, Improve Achievement, Raise Postsecondary Attendance and Employment
- Out-of-School Youth: Dropout Recovery: Achieve Secondary Degree, Raise Postsecondary and/or Employment
- Youth Systems

Positive Youth Development

- At-Risk Adolescents: Youth Development, Mentoring (Big Brothers/Big Sisters, etc.)
- Modest Costs, Modest Impacts, Some Fadeout

Programs for In-School Youth

- Reducing High School Dropout Rates: Individual Services, Whole School Reform (Talent Development, High Schools that Work, Small Schools of Choice)
- High-Quality Career and Technical Education: Career Academies, Apprenticeships
- Creating Multiple Pathways in High Schools, including those for those behind academically (OMPG in New York)
- Access to Postsecondary: Dual Enrollments, AVID, Federal TRIO Programs

Out-of-School Youth: Education, Training and Employment

- Achieving Secondary Degree: National Guard Challenge
- Access to Postsecondary: Gateways
- Job Market Training and Experience: Job Corps, YouthBuild, Youth Service and Conservation Corps, Center for Employment and Training, Year Up
- Public Service Employment: YIEPP

Systems for Youth

- Poor Neighborhoods: Youth Opportunities
- Entire City: Philadelphia Youth Network

A Few More Points

- Crucial Issues at 2-Year and 4-Year Colleges: Community and Technical College: Raising Completion Rates and Responsiveness to Labor Market!
- Better Remediation, Financial Aid, Career Counseling, and Institutional Incentives
- Similar Issues at 4-Year Schools – Importance of Information to High-Achieving Low-Income Students!

Improving Work Incentives: EITC

- Low-Income Mothers with Children: EITC Raises Income and Labor Force Activity
- Little for Childless Adults, Non-Custodial Parents
- Proposals for Expanding to These Populations
- Marriage Penalties?
- Cost: Already \$50-60B

Reducing Effects of Incarceration and Child Support

- Incarcerating Fewer People
- For Ex-Offenders: Reducing Employment Barriers, Providing Transitional Jobs and Other Supports
- For Non-Custodial Fathers: Reform Child Support Orders, Manage Arrears

Job Creation and Job Quality

- Job Creation for the Disadvantaged: Public Service Jobs, Subsidized Private Sector Experience, “Earn and Learn” Models
- Raising Job Quality: Collective Bargaining and Higher Minimum Wages? Other Approaches...