

## SummerWorks 2015 Evaluation Executive Summary

SummerWorks is a program that connects youths, aged 16 to 22, with job providers in an attempt to:

- 1) Provide youth with summer employment and
- 2) Improve education and workforce outcomes for participating youth

This report was commissioned to analyze the extent to which SummerWorks achieved the latter outcome through leveraging data supplied by the SummerWorks program, the already extant education and workforce data maintained in the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System [KLDS], and the analytic capacity of the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics [KCEWS]. Assessing the impact of SummerWorks participation on education and workforce outcomes was broken down by participant location in the education workforce pipeline at the time of participation in SummerWorks.

For Secondary students aged 16-18 at time of SummerWorks participation, this analysis focused on the following questions:

- What effect, if any, did participation in SummerWorks have on graduation rate for seniors, attendance for non-seniors, and GPA for non-Seniors?
- Considering only seniors, what effect, if any, did participation in SummerWorks have on enrollment in postsecondary courses within 1 year of graduation?

For individuals aged 19-22 who had were not enrolled in Secondary school at the time of SummerWorks participation, this analysis focused on the following questions:

- What effect, if any, did participation in SummerWorks have on enrollment in postsecondary courses within 1 year of SummerWorks program participation?
- What effect, if any, did participation in SummerWorks have on employment and wages in the following years?

In order to answer these questions, a comparable sample needed to be matched to the SummerWorks cohorts using a random selection of non-participants who matched on age, grade level, race, gender, and free and reduced price lunch status when applicable. This design reduces statistical noise lending confidence to any results found being attributable to SummerWorks participation. The effects of SummerWorks participation were assessed for the 2015 year, possessing two matched samples, a 16-18 year old student control and SummerWorks matched sample and a 19-22 year old workforce control and SummerWorks matched sample. Descriptive statistics and statistical analyses were used to address the research questions.

Participation in the SummerWorks program in 2015 was not found to influence standard indicators of high school engagement such as graduation rate, attendance rate, or high school GPA when analyzing the high school cohort. In previous years, participation in SummerWorks did have a significant effect on enrollment in postsecondary coursework for two of the three applicable years analyzed, and the trend

continued in 2015. Analysis of the workforce cohort demonstrated no difference between SummerWorks participants and the control group when enrolling in postsecondary courses.

A secondary effect of the SummerWorks program appears to be increased employment after conclusion of the SummerWorks program, a trend seen for both the high school and workforce participants. The difference in employment for the 2015 workforce cohort was pronounced, with almost 90% employment in the SummerWorks group compared to 54% employment in the control group. High school SummerWorks participants also saw a higher employment percentage relative to the control group (77% to 66%). No strong wage differences could be discerned.

Overall, SummerWorks appears to accomplish its intended aim by improving some educational and workforce outcomes for participating young adults. This analysis revealed SummerWorks as a positive influence on participants throughout the requisite age spectrum. Workforce participation for both cohorts and educational pursuit for high school cohorts were enhanced for those individuals who participated in the SummerWorks program. No detrimental effects of program participation emerged in this analysis.

Cohort Demographic Information

		Variable used for Matched Pairs								
2015	Cohort Size	Mean (SD) Age	Males	Females	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other	FRL
<b>High School Cohort</b>										
SummerWorks	376	17.2 (.74)	179	197	80	279	6	2	9	287 (76.3%)
Control	376	17.2 (.74)	179	197	80	279	6	2	9	287 (76.3%)
<b>WIOA Cohort</b>										
SummerWorks	177	20.2 (.99)	91	86	57	107	6	1	6	-
Control	177	20.2 (.99)	91	86	57	107	6	1	6	-

Comparison between Cohorts on Outcome Variables of Interest

2015	Postsecondary						Median (IQR) HS	Median (IQR) HS	Median Wages (IQR) 1 year after SW (All)	Employed 1 year after SW (All)
	Senior N	Graduating Seniors	enrollment within 1 year	Median (IQR) GPA Entering SW	GPA (IQR) 1 year after SW	Attendance Rate During SW Academic Year	Attendance Rate 1 Yr After SW			
<b>High School Cohort</b>										
Summerworks	376	54	49 (90.7%)	30 (61.2%)*^	2.31 (1.53, 2.91)	2.46 (1.70, 3.02)	94.6% (87.1%, 97.7%)	92.6% (81.5%, 96.6%)	\$3,863 (\$1,747, \$6,858)	291 (77.4%)^
Control	376	54	48 (88.9%)	19 (39.6%)*^	2.28 (1.61, 2.89)	2.42 (1.78, 2.96)	92.6% (84.0%, 97.1%)	92.2% (83.0%, 96.6%)	\$,2895 (\$1,365, \$6,522)	247 (65.7%)^
<b>WIOA Cohort</b>										
Summerworks	177	-	-	61 (34.5%)	-	-	-	-	\$6,137 (\$2,947, \$11,792)	159 (89.8%)^
Control	177	-	-	63 (35.6%)	-	-	-	-	\$6,041 (\$2,555, \$12,480)	95 (53.7%)^

\*for graduating seniors only

^ significant at alpha < .05