
Evaluation title	The Evaluation of Partnership to ReConnect Performance Partnership Pilot in Seattle-King County
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A. Intervention Name

Seattle-King County Partnership to ReConnect Performance Partnership Pilot program

B. Intervention Description

Program Components and Content

Seattle-King County Partnership to ReConnect Performance Partnership (SKC) designed a P3 Pilot program that focuses on strategically aligning and sequencing Opportunity Youth¹ enrollment in education and employment re-engagement based on the youth's goals and readiness for engagement. The P3 Pilot program provides Washington State-funded GED completion and basic case management services, followed by federally-funded employment services and enhanced case management services. This sequencing of services is designed to address the issues of 1) expiring services for youth, when the support is still needed, and 2) fragmentation among various programs and youth-serving systems. This P3 Pilot intervention's key difference is the leveraging of case managers' assessment of and relationship with the young person to determine when to enroll the youth in GED completion services, employment, and enhanced case management services.

Target Population

The program serves 16 to 24 year olds in King County, Washington who are neither working nor in school, and may be facing additional barriers to education and employment attainment.

Dosage

The dosage is unique for each participant based on their employment/education goals, barriers, etc. However, a WIOA-enrolled youth typically spends 18 months receiving services. During that time period, the youth will meet at least monthly with their case manager from 1 to 8 hours.

¹ Opportunity Youth are defined as young people ages 16 to 24 years, neither working nor in school, and who may be facing additional barriers to education and employment attainment.

Delivery

Similar programs are offered at three King County locations: Youth Source, Learning Center North, and Learning Center Seattle. These are spaces where a state-funded GED completion program and basic case management services are braided with federally-funded employment services and enhanced case management services. Any differences in services at the three sites is in response to the difference in populations and areas served. For example, if one site has youth dealing with drug abuse, drug counseling is provided at that site. Or, if there are refugee/immigrant youth at a site, bilingual assistance/staff will be provided at that site.

C. Waivers

A waiver to:

1. Allow a young person who initially enrolls in a dropout recovery program focused on high school completion to be considered an out-of-school youth by WIA/WIOA even after completing a high school diploma or equivalent. This waiver allows the youth to remain eligible for subsequent workforce development services.
2. Serve youth ages 16 to 24 years who have been convicted as an adult under federal or state law, and served time as a juvenile.

D. Comparison Condition

Pilot youth education and employment outcomes were compared to the outcomes of Historical youth and Contemporaneous youth during the first 9 months of program enrollment.

E. Comparison Condition Description

The target population, dosage, and delivery are the same for the intervention and comparison groups. **Historical youth**, served from July 2013 to June 2015, received basic case management and GED completion support and/or enhanced case management and employment and education services, including 10 WIA program elements without pilot sequencing at YouthSource and Learning Center North. **Contemporaneous youth**, served from April 2016 to December 2017, received only basic case management and GED completion support services at YouthSource and Learning Center North. Youth in all three groups had access to basic case management, GED completion services, and paid internships.

F. Education and Employment Outcomes

Primary outcomes

- GED completion and high school diploma
- Secure and retain unsubsidized employment for at least 45 days

Findings

We found that there were differences between groups for education and employment, but these findings were sensitive to the analysis decisions. In the initial benchmark analyses, the Pilot group was

found to have higher levels of employment and education outcomes than one or both comparison groups; however, this finding was sensitive to whether pre-existing barriers were accounted for in the statistical analysis. In the benchmark analysis of GED attainment, 68 percent of Pilot youth completed a GED or high school diploma within 9 months of enrollment. The weighted proportions of Historical youth and Contemporaneous youth who attained a GED within 9 months were lower: 28 percent ($p < .0001$) and 31 percent ($p < .0001$), respectively. In the benchmark analysis of unsubsidized employment attainment, there was no difference in the rate of attainment between the Pilot youth (29%) and Historical youth (25%), but a higher proportion of Pilot youth ($p < .0005$) attained unsubsidized employment within 9 months of enrollment compared to Contemporaneous youth (9 percent). However, for both GED attainment and employment attainment, observed differences between groups appear to be accounted for by differing profiles of self-reported youth drug and alcohol use at enrollment. These findings suggest that the youth education and employment outcome differences at nine months are accounted for by case manager assignment to services based on their assessment of youth readiness and individual goals using the ‘best practice sequence of events.’

G.)Sample and Setting

Young people, ages 16 to 24 years living in King County who had not completed high school were eligible for participation. They may have been referred to the program as a result of the Reconnect to Opportunity outreach program or other referral sources (e.g., family, friends, counselors, juvenile justice staff). Staff enrolled 200 youth for this study. One hundred youth were assigned to the Pilot intervention and 100 were assigned to the Contemporaneous intervention.

H. Research Design and Data Collection

Education and employment outcomes for **Pilot youth** were compared to 1) outcomes attained by **Historical youth** enrolled in re-engagement and case management services from 2013 to 2015, and 2) outcomes attained by **Contemporaneous youth** (during the same time period as the Pilot youth) who received only GED completion and basic case management services (no employment or integrated wraparound services). King County Employment and Education Resources (KCEER) shared administrative data for all three samples with the evaluation team for data analysis. This is a quasi-experimental design study.

I. Schedule/Timeline

Student enrolled on a rolling basis from start date to March 2017. Pilot and Contemporaneous group data collection spanned from April 2016 to December 2017 and is ongoing. Historic youth data was pulled from the KCEER data system for the period of July 2013 to June 2015. Outcome attainment was measured at 9 months from the first day of enrollment for all youth.