

Workforce Entry Including Career and Technical Education

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Big picture

Focus on youth in the years shortly after high school

- Exact age ranges partly dictated by our data sources

Focus on period from 2005 to the pandemic

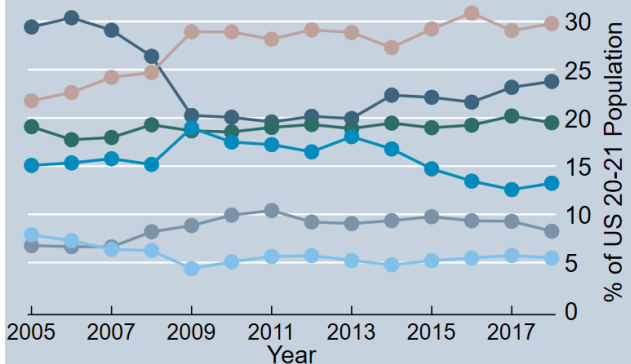
Useful acronyms employed in our paper (and this talk):

- CTE = Career and Technical Education
 - ▶ “vocational education”
- ALMP = Active Labor Market Programs
 - ▶ “employment and training programs”

Outline of paper / chapter:

- Review broad trends in education and employment
- Review trends in post-secondary enrollment by sector
- Review trends in ALMP participation
- Review developments in the CTE / ALMP evaluation literature
- Remark on the effects of COVID and the related recession

Work and Education Status of 20-21 Year-Olds



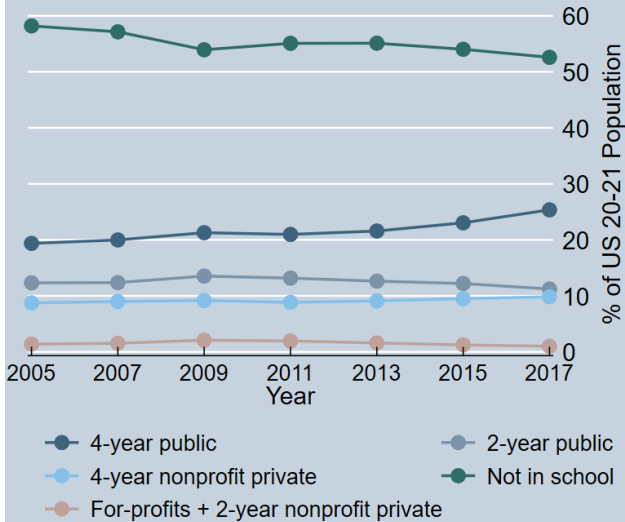
- Working FT, not in school
- Working PT, not in school
- Working FT, in school
- Working PT, in school
- Not working, in school
- Not working, not in school

Work and education status of 20-21 year-olds

Key takeaways on work and education status of 20-21 year-olds:

- Great Recession effects on employment and enrollment follow standard patterns
- Schooling remains persistently higher following the Great Recession
- Post-Great-Recession gradual decline in “opportunity youth”

Education Status, 20-21 Year-Olds



Education status

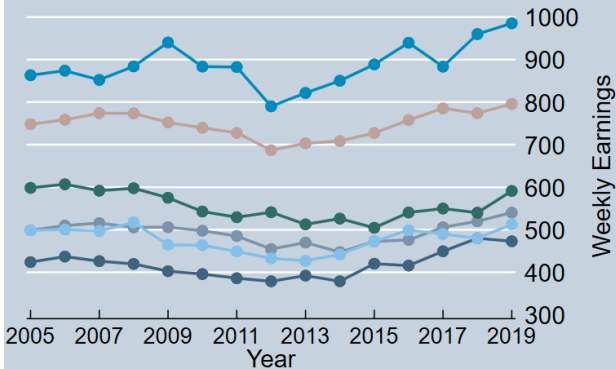
Gradual decline in fraction not in school

Gradual increase in fraction enrolled in 4-year public

Gradual decline in fraction enrolled in 2-year public

Note: for-profit plus 2-year private non-profit sector is very small

Median Real Weekly Earnings, 24-25 Year-Olds



- Less than HS
- HS
- Some college, no degree
- AA
- BA
- More than BA

Median real weekly earnings

Recession clear and persistent in the medians

Recovery shows meaningful improvement for all education groups

Little change in group level differences

Means tell the same qualitative story

But selection ...

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

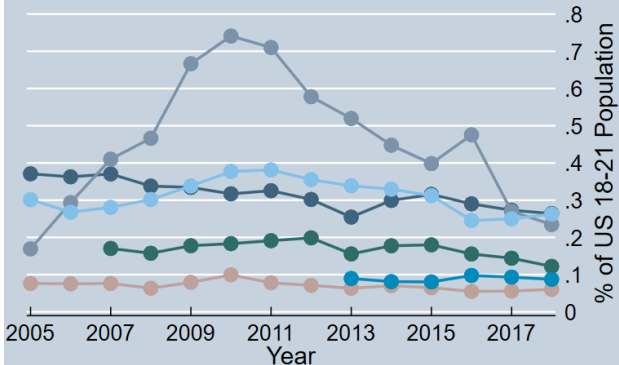
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Core and intensive (WIA) / career (WIOA) services
- Sometimes training, provided by others under contract
- Youth served in separate youth program and in the adult program
- Performance management / cream-skimming

Job Corps

- Residential program
- Provides education, occupational training, and life skills training
- Expensive

Workforce Development Program Status, 18-21 Year-Olds



- Job Corps
- WIA (adult)
- WIA (youth)
- Job Corps (w/training)
- WIA (adult w/training)
- WIA (youth w/training)

Workforce development program status

Big temporary increase in WIA adult training reflects ARRA money bomb

Job Corps is small (in terms of number served, not cost) and getting smaller

WIOA does not (and WIA did not) provide much training to youth

Most of the action is CTE at 2-year (and 4-year) schools

- 90-95 percent in “occupational” majors in 2-year institutions
- About 70 percent in “occupational” majors in 4-year institutions

Pell grants pay for more training than WIA and Job Corps combined

CTE evaluation literature

National Job Corps Study

- Two cheers for the Job Corps!

WIA Gold Standard Evaluation

- Marginal training WIA pays for has a low payoff

Small RCTs on sectoral training programs

- Positive earnings effects in the medium run sometimes

Academic papers using state administrative data

- Good (for earnings) to finish credentials in fields in demand

Damn pandemic

No underlying structural issues (e.g. housing bubble, oil price shock)

Lots of fixed costs paid imply different marginal costs (and choices) ex post

No recession-induced enrollment increase

- Enrollment decreases at some institutions due to student dislike of online instruction

Working at home less important for this age group due to industry mix?