Outcomes for Education and Vocational Training in CalWORKs Before and After the Great Recession

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CalWORKs

Outcomes related to Los Angeles County’s Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program

GAIN offers flexible mix of job search, education, job training, and work activities
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Outcomes related to Los Angeles County’s Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program
THREE EDUCATION COMPONENTS

- Self-Initiated Program (SIP)
- Vocational training (VOC)
- Remedial education (REM)
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

❧ Are there differences in the participant completion rate for SIP, VOC and REM?
❧ Are completion rates similar across education providers?
❧ What are the employment trends before and after ending an of the education component?
THE GREAT RECESSION IN CALIFORNIA

Incomes Fell in the Great Recession Across the Spectrum

Source: Authors' calculations from US Census Bureau data

From Sarah Bohn's expert testimony, March 1, 2012
THE GREAT RECESSION IN CALIFORNIA

Unemployment Rate Yet to Improve for Low Income Workers

Source: Authors’ calculations from US Census Bureau data

From Sarah Bohn’s expert testimony, March 1, 2012
DESIGN

COHORT 1
N=7,903
Ended GAIN Education Component
June 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

COHORT 2
N=19,971
Ended GAIN Education Component
June 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Tracked individuals two years prior to and two years after ending education component
Question 1: Are there differences in the participant completion rates for SIP, VOC and REM?

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS = YES

VOC +++
REM ++
SIP +

Pre-Recession ++
Post-Recession +
Question 2: Are there differences in completion rates across education providers? YES

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- On average 34.7% of participants completed their education component
- Completion rates ranged from 16.2% to 63.6% across education providers
Question 3: **What are the employment trends before and after ending an education component?**

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

![Graph showing employment trends before and after GAIN participation](image-url)
Question 3: **What are the employment trends before and after ending an education component?**

**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

![Graph showing employment trends before and after GAIN participation with labels for REM, SIP, and VOC]
Question 3: What are the employment trends before and after ending an education component?

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

![Graph showing employment trends pre and post-GAIN participation.]
CONCLUSION

• Variability in component completion rates by education component

• Variability in component completion rate by education provider

• Across all components, a robust increase in employment following the end of an education component

• This increase was less pronounced following the Great Recession than before it
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