

Does Occupational Training by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Really Help Reemployment?
Success Measured as Matching

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- Investigation of the efficacy of the retraining service provided through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program
- Motivated by an article in *The New Yorker* about a woman who was laid off from the Fruit of the Loom plant located in Harlingen, TX at the end of 2003.

In the past five years, more than a thousand displaced manufacturing workers had been retrained as medical assistants or air-conditioning repairmen or computer-maintenance technicians. ... The state workforce commission had predicted that twenty-five medical-assistant jobs would open in Cameron County in 2003, but it would be difficult to secure one. In one class of laid-off textile workers alone, eighty-five people had been trained for the profession.

- Katherine Boo, "Letter From South Texas: The Churn," *The New Yorker*, 2004

Questions and Methodology

1. Do TAA trainees become employed in occupations for which they are trained?

I look at the match between Occupational Skill Training Code (OSTC) and Occupation Code of Employment (OCE).

- *First-degree matching*: Identical O*Net code
- *Second-degree matching*: Matching of 'related occupations'

2. How does this matching affected the circumstances that One Stop Centers deal with locally?

By merging TAPR and TAA petition data, I obtain more detailed location information for each participant.

I use county-level economic data (job growth, unemployment rate, income level) for the local labor market situation.