

Upcoming Research Topics

The ETA Research Grant Program

September 16, 2009

10:30 – 11:45

Privatization and Employment in the Implementation of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families: A Multi-Level Analysis

Adam M. Butz

Saint Louis University

University of Kentucky

Project Summary

- Privatization and Welfare Reform
- Why are jurisdictions undertaking various privatized approaches to TANF implementation?
- What are the consequences of administrative privatization for the employment outcomes experienced by TANF clients?
- How does TANF privatization impact the outcomes of “hard-to-serve” clientele?

Project Summary

- Proposing a fresh methodological approach to analyzing administrative arrangements and client program outcomes
- Multi-level modeling techniques
- “Hierarchical” models that incorporate both individual (client-level) and contextual-level data
- More complete understanding of how employment outcomes of TANF clients vary across different administrative environments

Ensuring the Quality of WIA Training Providers through the Eligible Training Provider Lists

Lauren Eyster

George Washington University

Lauren Eyster – Study Design

- **Topic:** Ensuring the Quality of WIA Training Providers through the Eligible Training Provider Lists
- **Research Questions:**
 - What eligibility criteria do states use to allow training providers on the ETP list?
 - What types of training providers make up states' ETP lists?
 - What elements of the state ETP design have an effect on the state's WIA performance levels?
 - To what extent do the elements of the state ETP design have an effect on ITA recipients' outcomes?

Lauren Eyster – Study Design (cont'd)

- **Data:**
 - ETP lists, applications, and supporting policy documents;
 - WIASRD;
 - Short web-based survey of state administrators
- **Analysis:**
 - Descriptive analyses
 - Multivariate analyses – regression and hierarchical linear modeling

Low-Wage Jobs in a Restructured Economy

Elizabeth Nisbet

Bloustein School for Planning & Policy

Rutgers University

Research question:

For low-wage labor markets in which there are concerns about worker shortages, how has the status of workers changed over time? What policy responses have affected these occupations?

Research focus:

Mixed-method studies of occupations said to be experiencing **labor shortages** to explain:

- trends in supply and demand
- policies affecting occupations
- development of policy responses to shortage concerns

Case studies:

- direct-care paraprofessionals
- agricultural workers

Data sources:

- public use datasets (i.e., CPS, ACS, NAWS)
- interviews with representatives of government, research and advocacy organizations; workers and employers

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

Jooyoun Park
Department of Economics
Kent State University

- 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.

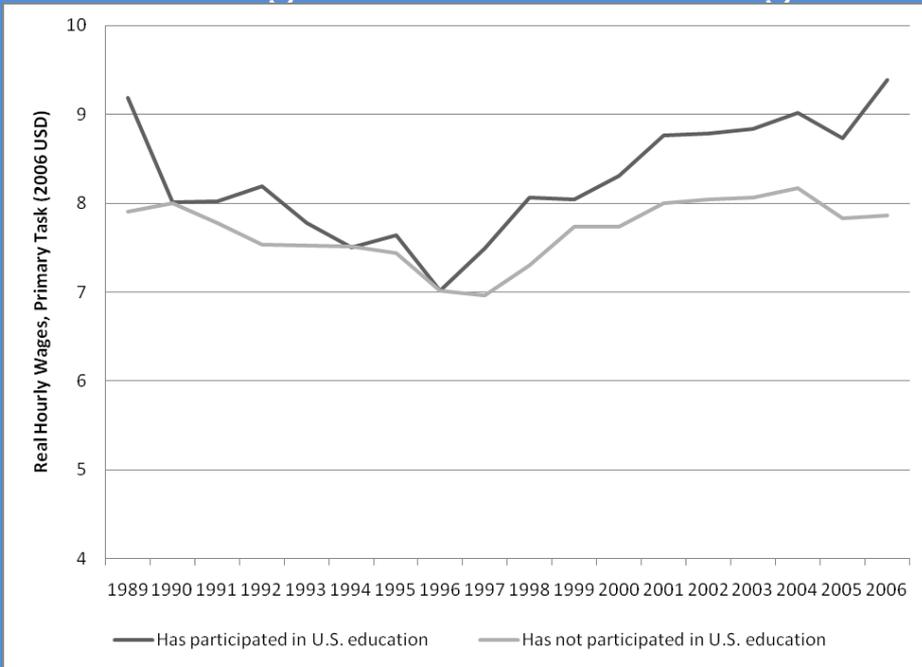
I use county-level economic data (job growth, unemployment rate, income level) for the local labor market situation.

The Effect of Continuing Education Participation on Agricultural Worker Outcomes

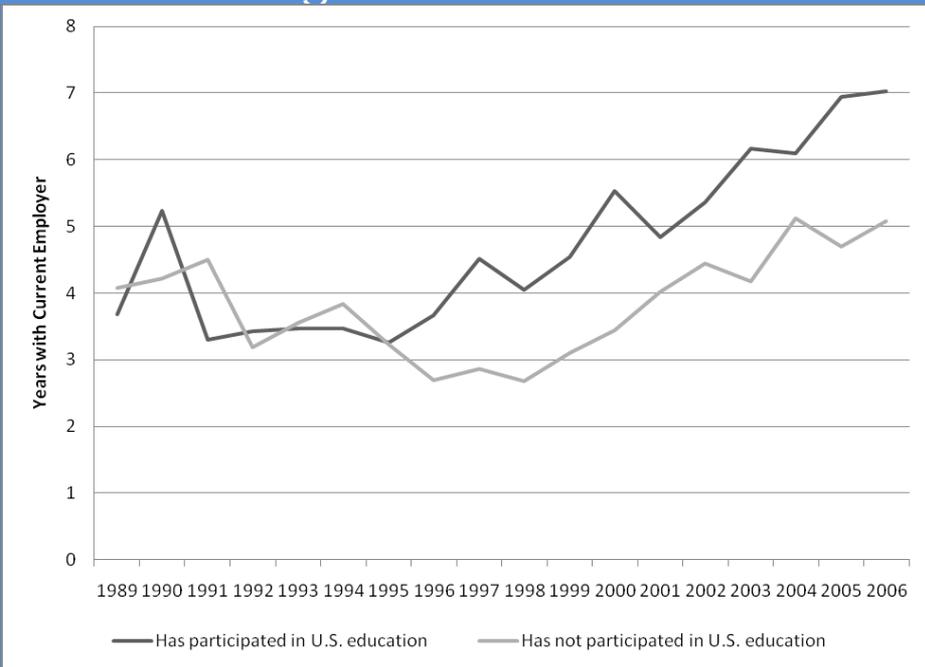
Dr. Anita Alves Pena
Colorado State University

- National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)
 - job training/assistance for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and dependents
 - stated goals include assisting farmworkers increase “economic stability”
- Employment and Training Administration (ETA) NFJP performance measures summarize participation and post-program employment rates and earnings
 - current measures: percentages entering and retaining employment and average earnings among participants
 - unconditional statistics; no account for changes in average worker characteristics and economic conditions, or for self-selection into NFJP participation
- This paper: examine outcome differentials between adult education participants and non-participants (treatment and control groups) within agricultural labor markets
 - techniques from econometrics of program evaluation (maximum likelihood treatment effects and propensity score matching)
 - ETA public data: U.S. Department of Labor’s National Agricultural Workers Survey
 - nationally and regionally representative (12 agricultural regions)
 - demographic characteristics, wages, hours, and education participation histories
 - work site sampling, three seasons per year (46,566 workers from 1989 to 2006)
 - contribution to limited academic literature on migrant education program effects
 - importance for strategic planning exercises, future workforce investments

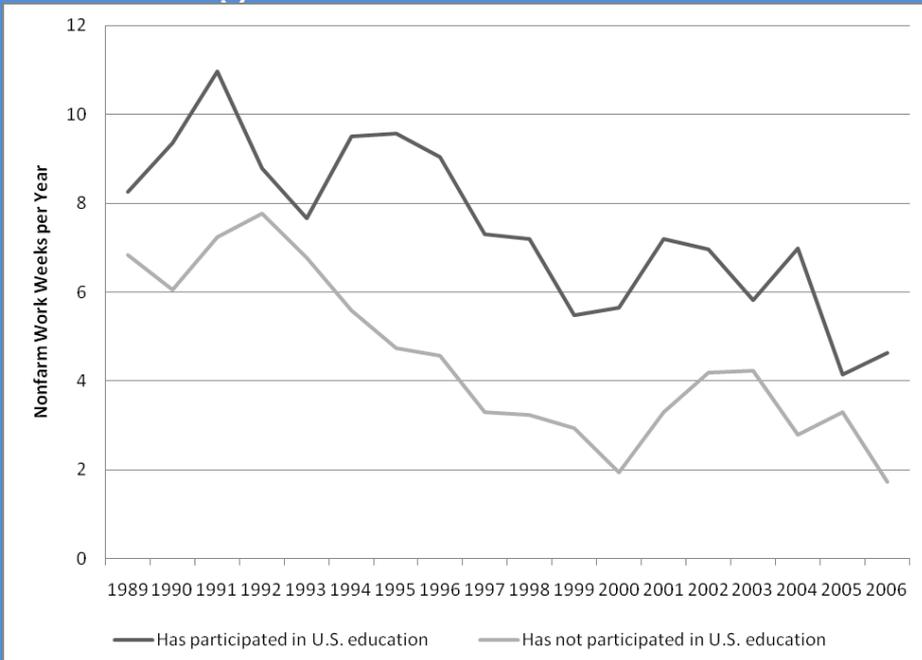
Average Farmworker Wages



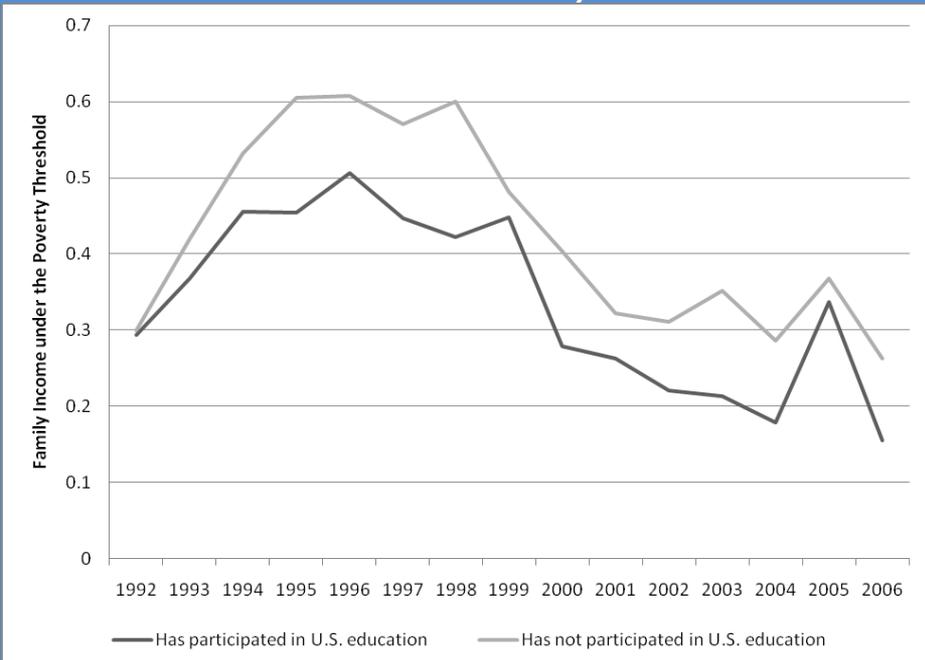
Average Tenure



Average Non-farm Work Weeks



Under U.S. Poverty Threshold



Workforce Investment Act

Training for Older Workers:

Toward a Better Understanding of Need and Successful
Response in the Next Stages of the Economic Cycle

Ting Zhang, PhD

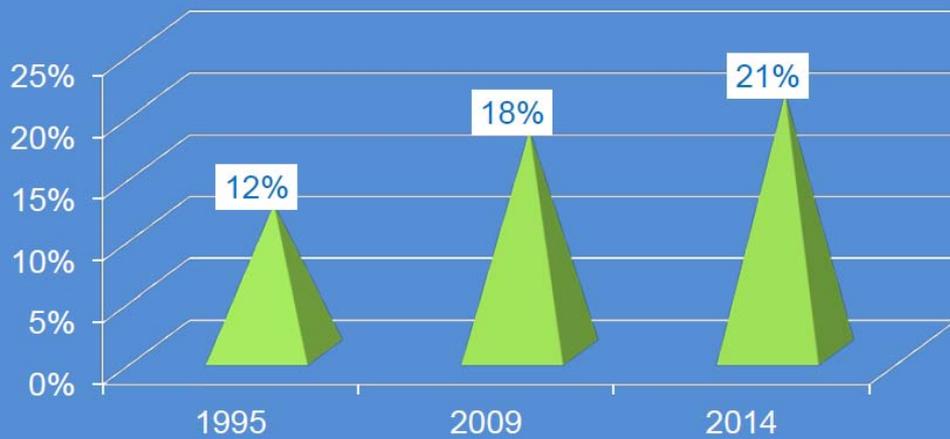
Jacob France Institute

Merrick School of Business

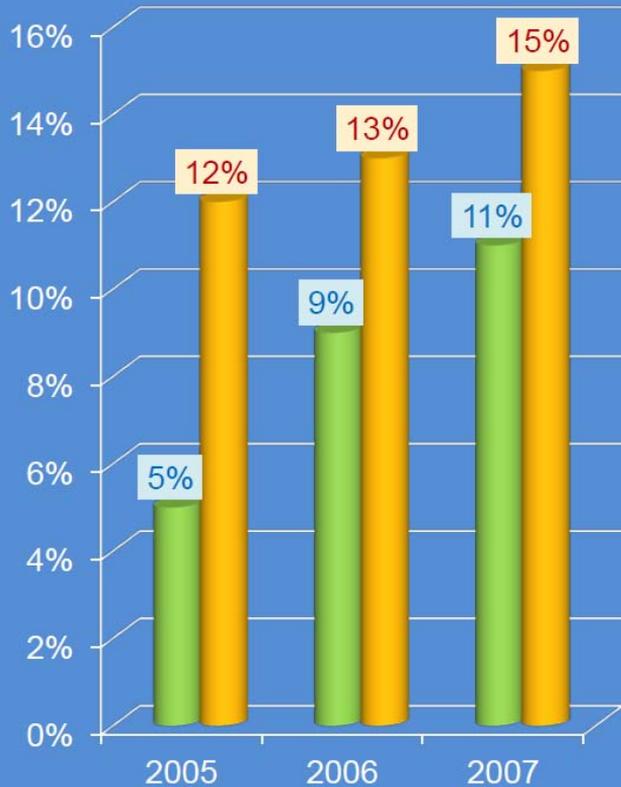
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Percentage of Older Workers Increases



Percentage of Older (55+) Participants among WIA Program Exiters Increases



Older (55+) WIA Participants Entered Employment Rate Decreases

- Due to older workers' special learning patterns and characteristics, it is therefore critical to deliver the appropriate level and mix of WIA services for older workers to continue working or return to work.

Hypotheses

- Some WIA training and related service combinations, as well as some industry sectors, can be identified to inform strategic decision-making about future allocation of WIA funds to serve older workers.
- WIA program success on behalf of older workers is sensitive to cyclical changes in labor market conditions.

Methodology

- *innovative measure of unemployment rate,*
- *seemingly unrelated regression modeling,*
- *higher-order multiplicative interaction panel data model, with the control of serial and spatial autocorrelations.*

Questions and Answers