

2012 Program Report Card: Summer Youth Employment (CT Department of Labor)

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut working age residents have jobs that provide financial self-sufficiency.

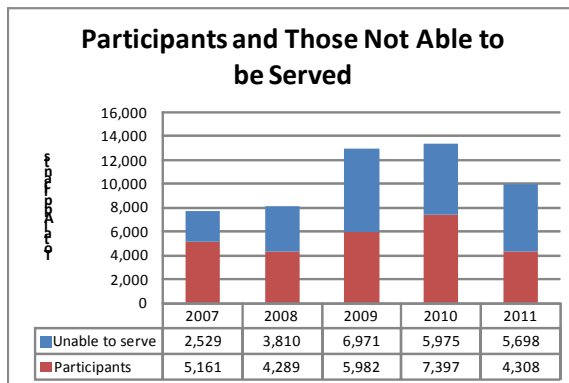
Contribution to the Result: The five workforce boards provide youth with work opportunities designed to increase their success in school and careers by giving them knowledge and experience in the world of work.

Program Expenditures	State Funding	Municipal Funding	Other Funding	Total Funding
Actual PY 11	\$4,179,432	\$1,850,000	\$438,368	\$6,627,800
Estimated PY 12	?	?	?	?

Partners: Employers, municipal government, CSSD, DCF, other state agencies, community agencies, local boards of education, and parents.

How Much Did We Do?

Number of Participants Served



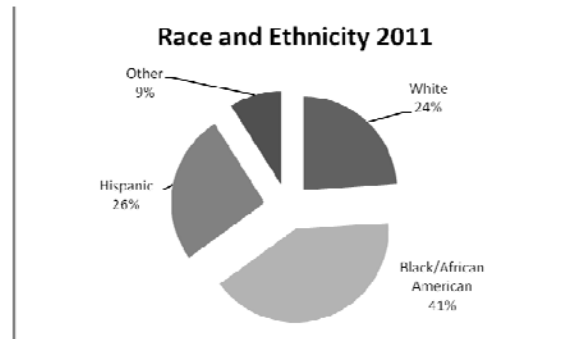
Story behind the baseline:

The uncertainty of the amount of funding, the source, and whether there will be funding makes planning and a significant problem. Despite this uncertainty, the demand and levels of service have continued to grow. The top portion of the bar shows the growth in the number served. The bottom portion of the bar shows the number eligible that remain unserved. Together the bars show the increasing demand and the increasing need for funds to meet the growing demand.

Trend: ▲

How Well Did We Do It?

Age Distribution of Participants



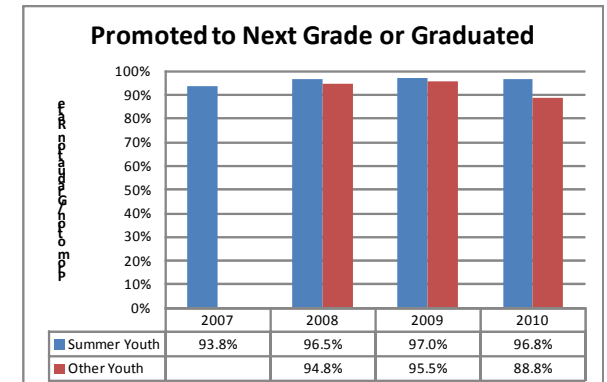
Story behind the baseline:

The distribution is similar to that of other years. The large proportion of Hispanic and Black youth demonstrates that the program is focusing on minority youth who are often most in need of employment experience, especially because they have the highest unemployment rates. The distribution of males and females is similar (47% female and 53% male). Age distribution is not reported. It can vary from year to year depending on the funding sources. For example, in 2010, the use of additional TANF funds increased percentage of those 18 or older to nearly 40% where it had been around 15% to 20% in previous years.

Trend: ◀▶

Is Anyone Better Off?

Percent of Participants Promoted to the Next Grade or Graduated



Story behind the baseline:

The better off measures have been made more meaningful by including a comparison group. The "Other Youth" are young people eligible for free or reduced priced meals at the beginning of the school year, and therefore meet income criteria similar to the summer youth participants. The graph shows that program participants have consistently higher promotion or graduate rates than those who did not participate or were unable to participate because of insufficient program resources. There is no substantial change for program participants, although fewer other youth advanced.

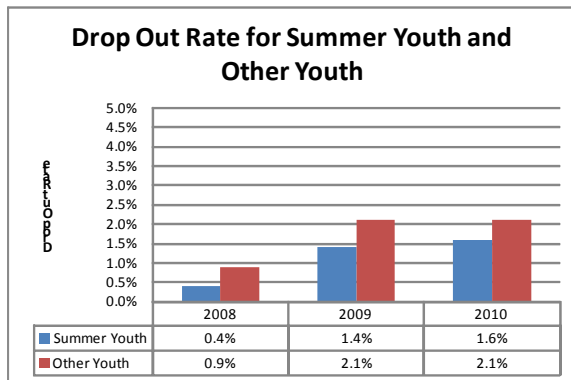
Trend: ◀▶

2012 Program Report Card: Summer Youth Employment (CT Department of Labor)

Quality of Life Result: All Connecticut working age residents have jobs that provide financial self-sufficiency.

Is Anyone Better Off?

Drop out Rate for Summer Youth



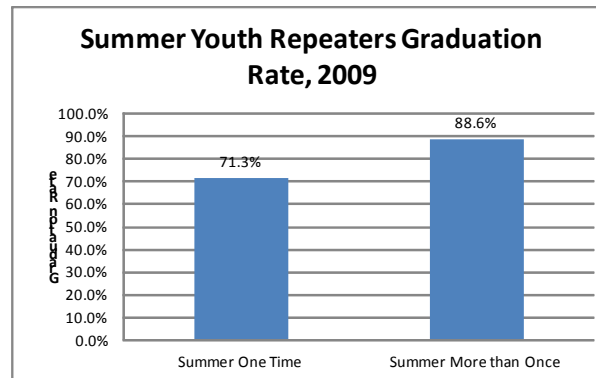
Story behind the baseline:

As with the grade promotion measure, “other youth” are those eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Other youth are more likely than participating youth to drop out of school according to data for the three most recent years. Participation is consistently associated with staying in school. There are important consequences to dropping out. Drop outs are likely to be among the most economically disadvantaged, and have the lowest lifetime earnings, according to Andrew Sum of Northeastern University. They are also more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system, have health-related problems, and be more susceptible to a host of other negative outcomes. Participating youth are less likely to experience these negative consequences.

Trend: ▲

Is Anyone Better Off?

Graduation Rate for Repeaters and Non-repeaters



Story behind the baseline:

In 2009, an analysis was conducted with the help of the Connecticut State Department of Education. While the workforce boards felt that even a single 6-week program could be beneficial, they wanted to understand if the benefits could be enhanced by additional summer employment experiences. As the chart shows, the graduation rate for those with more than one summer experience is 17 percentage points higher than for those youth who only had a single experience.

Trend: ▲

Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:

Currently, summer youth employment leaves too many young people un- or under-served. The economic benefits to both the young people as they enter adulthood and the communities in which they live are great, while the investment is relatively small. The acquisition of more funding and more stable funding will help address the documented demand and increase the ability to take a more strategic approach to the use of the summer employment program as part of a more comprehensive approach to preparing youth for success in education and careers.

The connections to employers need to be strengthened. The approach will need to take into account the industry sectors that hold the greatest promise for future jobs.

The third action is to connect the summer employment with year-round career exploration and development so that summer employment is not an isolated, one-off event for young people.

Data Development Agenda:

Several efforts to improve data collection and analysis are underway. The boards have agreed that programs in which youth attend 80 percent or more are likely to be better quality programs. They will begin regular reporting of those data for all summer youth next year. They are also planning to conduct analyses with the help of CSDE to determine if young people’s school behavior (e.g., attendance, suspensions, expulsions) change from the time before they participate and after they participate. The program attendance measure and these analyses are being tested and will be reported in the coming year.