

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 35-10
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TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
JOB CORPS REGIONAL DIRECTORS
JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS

FROM: JANE OATES /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Occasional Paper titled *Analysis of Associations between Contemporaneous Job Corps Performance Measures and Impact Estimates from the National Job Corps Study*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of ETA Occasional Paper titled *Analysis of Associations between Contemporaneous Job Corps Performance Measures and Impact Estimates from the National Job Corps Study*.

2. Background. Job Corps is the nation's primary residential training program for disadvantaged youth and annually serves over 60,000 young people ages 16-24 in over 100 centers nationwide. Job Corps provides its students, the majority of whom do not have a high school diploma or GED when they enter the program, both academic and vocational training.

Job Corps centers are assessed using a set of nationally established performance measures, which fall into three categories: program achievement, placement, and quality/compliance. The National Job Corps Study (NJCS) randomly assigned eligible young people in 1994-96 to treatment and control groups and found that Job Corps had positive impacts on student educational outcomes, employment and earnings, and desistance from lawbreaking. The study also found that higher-performing centers did not show higher impacts on their students than lower-performing centers.¹ The researchers then suggested that adjusting performance measures for student characteristics may result in finding a correlation between the measures and center-level impact estimate

3. Publication Description. The current report explores possible associations between the official Job Corps performance measures, adjusted for participant characteristics, and impacts on student outcomes. To this end, the research team used NJCS data to estimate impacts on outcomes of interest for the individual centers. Then the researchers performed regressions of Job Corps center-level performance measures, both aggregate and component measures, on a set of student characteristics as well as characteristics of the local areas from which students came.

¹ John Burghardt and Peter Z. Schochet, *National Job Corps Study: Impacts by Center Characteristics*, Research and Evaluation Monograph Series 01-L, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 2001.

Those regressions were used to create the “adjusted” performance measures, which the study’s authors then correlated with center-level impact estimates.

Key conclusions of the analysis are:

- Student and local area characteristics explain a substantial portion of the variation in center-level performance measures. Nonetheless, the adjusted and unadjusted measures are positively correlated.
- The finding that the higher-performing centers (when defined using the adjusted measures) did not show larger impacts on earnings, educational attainment, and criminal offending still held.
- The finding is robust to many alternative tests.

4. Inquiries. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as to download the executive summary and full report, visit the ETA Research Publications Web page at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.