

SummerWorks

Youth Workforce Development Program

Program Overview

- SummerWorks is a youth employment program that provides low-income and disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 21, an opportunity to get work experience through a paid, 180 hour internship.
- The program supports key interventions in the lives of at-risk youth and deters student dropout and recidivism rates by connecting youth to meaningful work in career pathways
- The program is delivered in partnership with Worksystems Inc. with Multnomah County serving as the principal public sector sponsor.
- For the 2013 program, over 1,200 youth applied for approximately 500 available placements

Program History

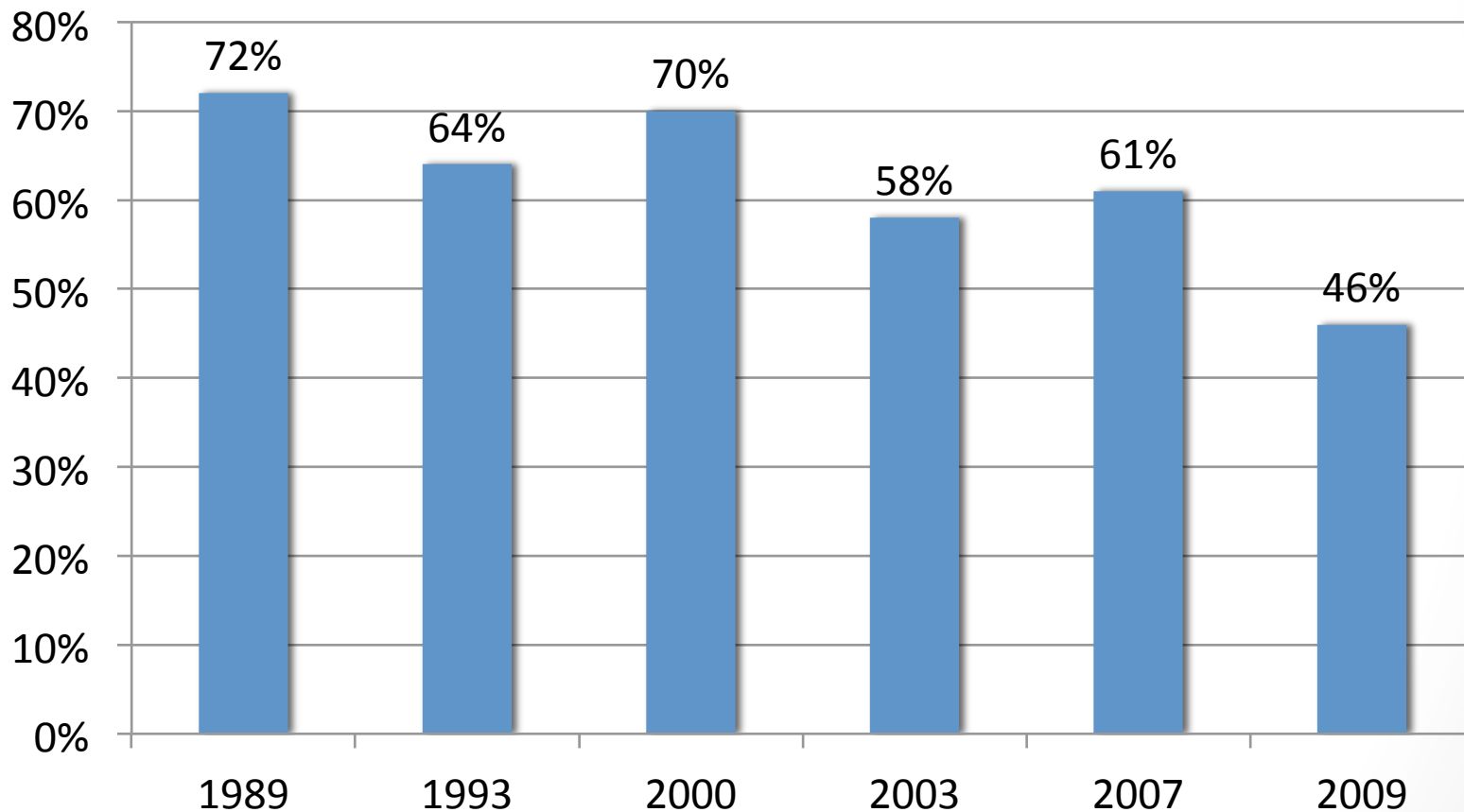
- In 2011, under the leadership of Commissioner Smith, SummerWorks began as a pilot program with 25 interns.
- In 2012, Multnomah County doubled its investment in the program by providing 50 placements for youth
- In 2013, Multnomah County sponsored 100 internships with 11 community partners, and across 26 different offices and departments

Overarching Goals & Community Benefits

- Develop and transition the next generation for the workforce
- Support local business and increase spending in the local economy
- Decrease reliance on public assistance
- Reduce youth violence and recidivism rates

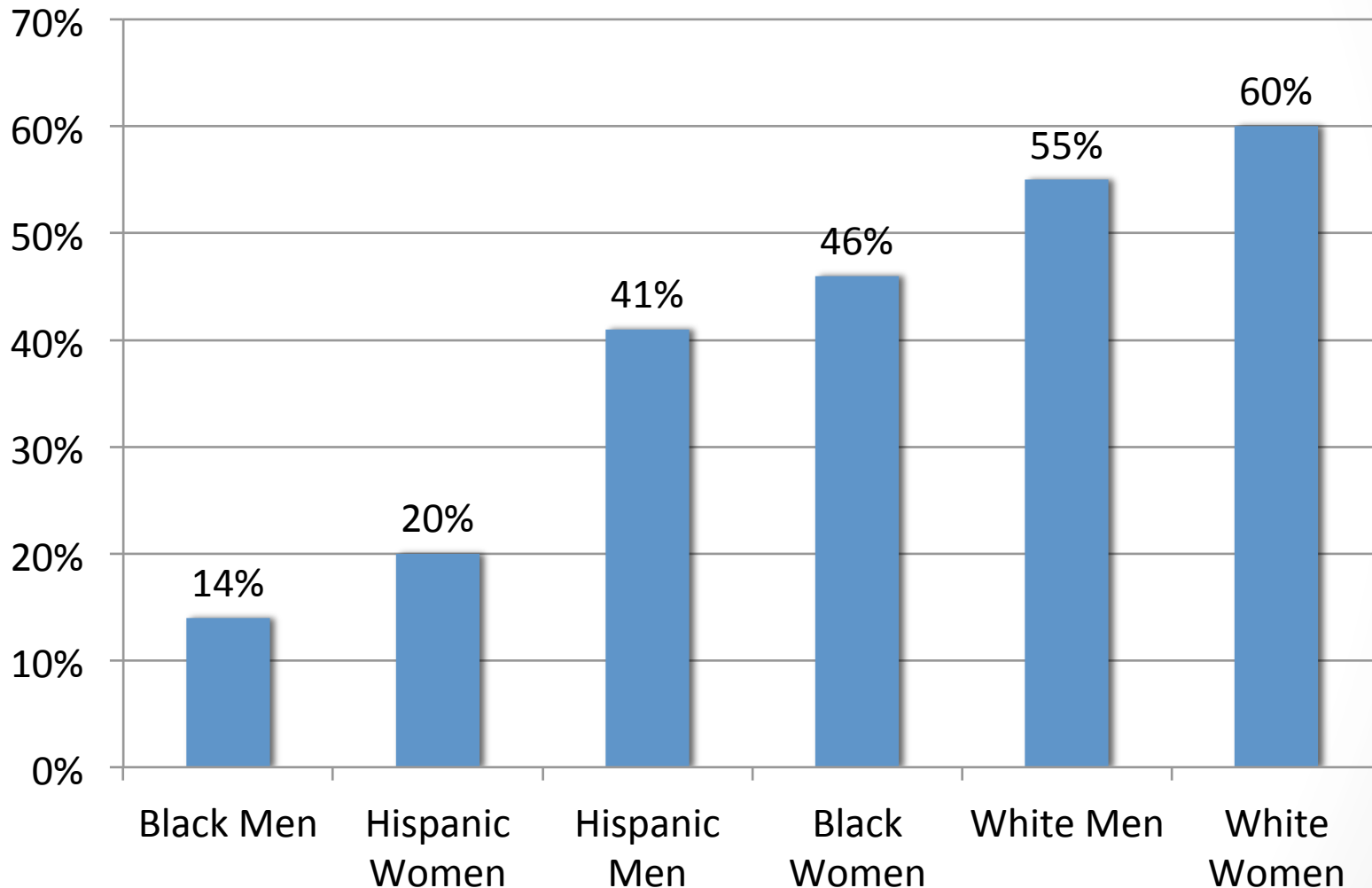
Youth Employment Time Trends

Employment Rates of New High School Graduates Not Enrolled in College in October of the Year Following Graduation

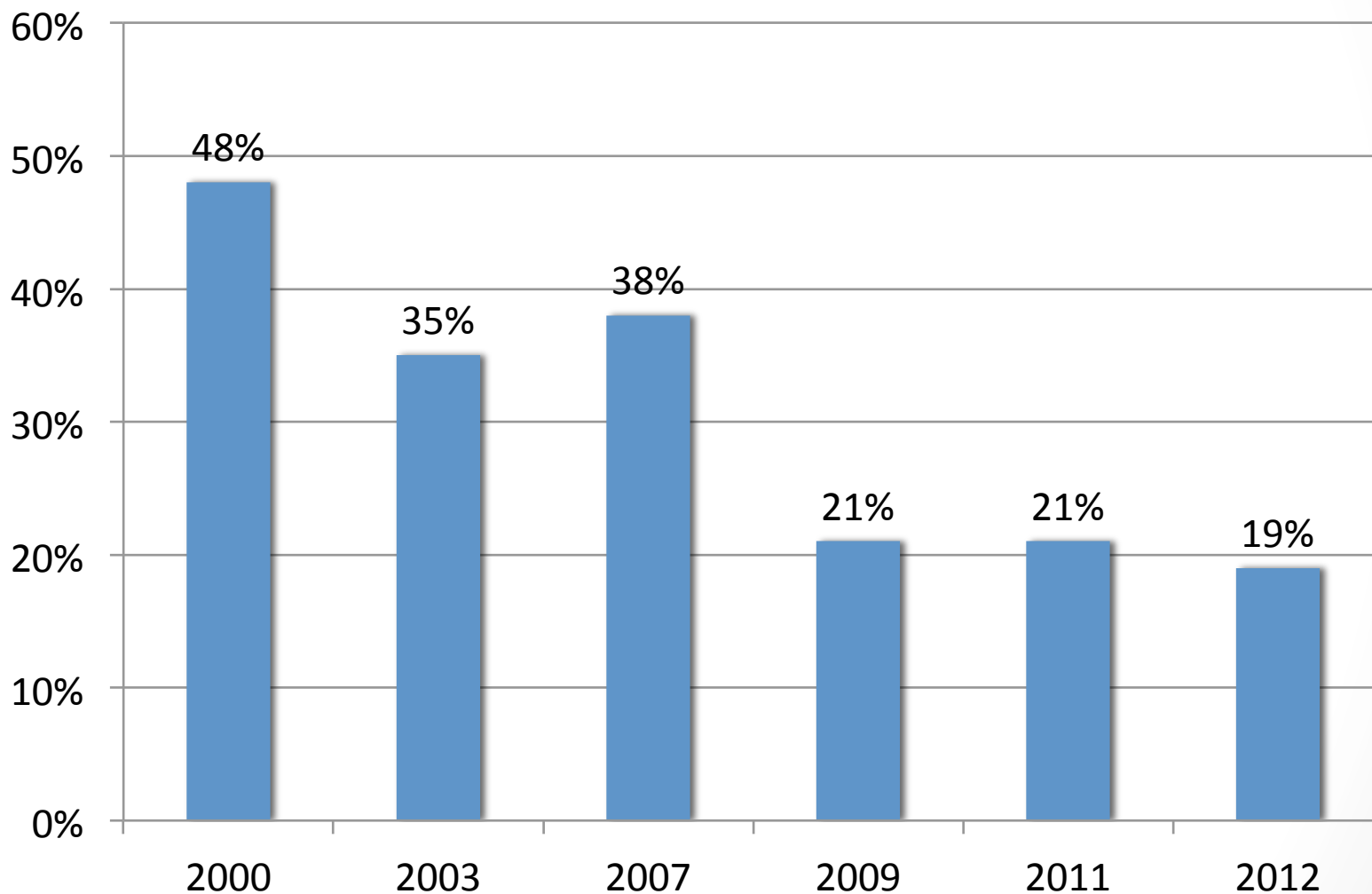


Employment Rates of Non-College Enrolled High School Graduates from the Class of 2012

Gender and Race-Ethnic Groups, October 2012



Full Time Employment Rates of Non-College Enrolled High School Graduates from the Classes of 2000-2012



Youth Unemployment Locally

- Oregon has the 11th highest percentage of unemployed teens in the country
 - 28% employment rate for youth ages 16 to 24
 - 12% employment among African-American Males
- In the Portland Metro there are 36,000 youth not working, and not in school
 - 1,500 more are likely to drop out this school year

Regional Planning Efforts

- Multnomah County (100 interns)
- City of Portland (97 interns)
- TriMet (30 interns)
- 32 private sector placements
- Doubled the number of youth served in Washington County

Multnomah County

Focused training and placements in growing public sector fields

- Education

- 16 - SUN School placements
- 20 - Multnomah County Library placements
- 4 - Arts Administration and Community Education placements

- Healthcare

- 8 - Health Department placements
- 4 – Wellness program placements

- Community Services

- 33 – Community Services placements
 - Including Animal Services, Anti-Poverty programs, Hunger Relief, Emergency Management, Ageing and Disability

Assessment

Since the program's inception in 2009:

- 91% of youth have successfully completed their internship and received a positive evaluation from their supervisor
- 81% of participating youth were assessed as “work ready”
- 93% of youth returned to high school, post-secondary, or became employed
- 97% of youth were low-income
- 76% were youth of color

Next Steps

- Strengthening internal training for youth interns
- Connecting existing programs for at-risk youth with workforce development efforts and educational opportunities
- Growing private sector involvement and investment