

# 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

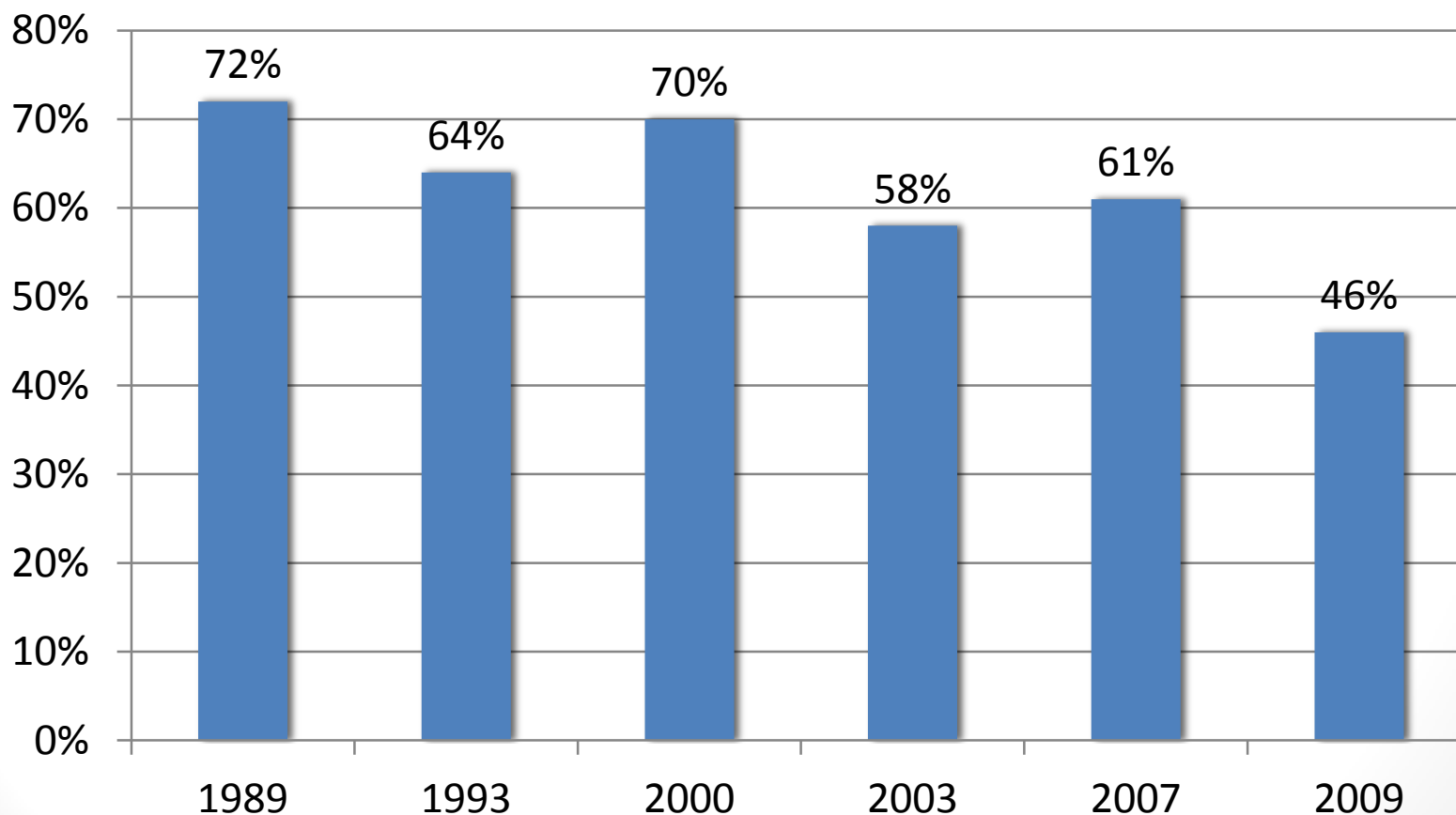
- In 2011, under the leadership of Commissioner Smith, SummerWorks began as a pilot program with 25 interns.
- In 2012, Multnomah County doubled its investment in the program by providing 50 placements for youth
- In 2013, Multnomah County sponsored 100 internships with 11 community partners, and across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

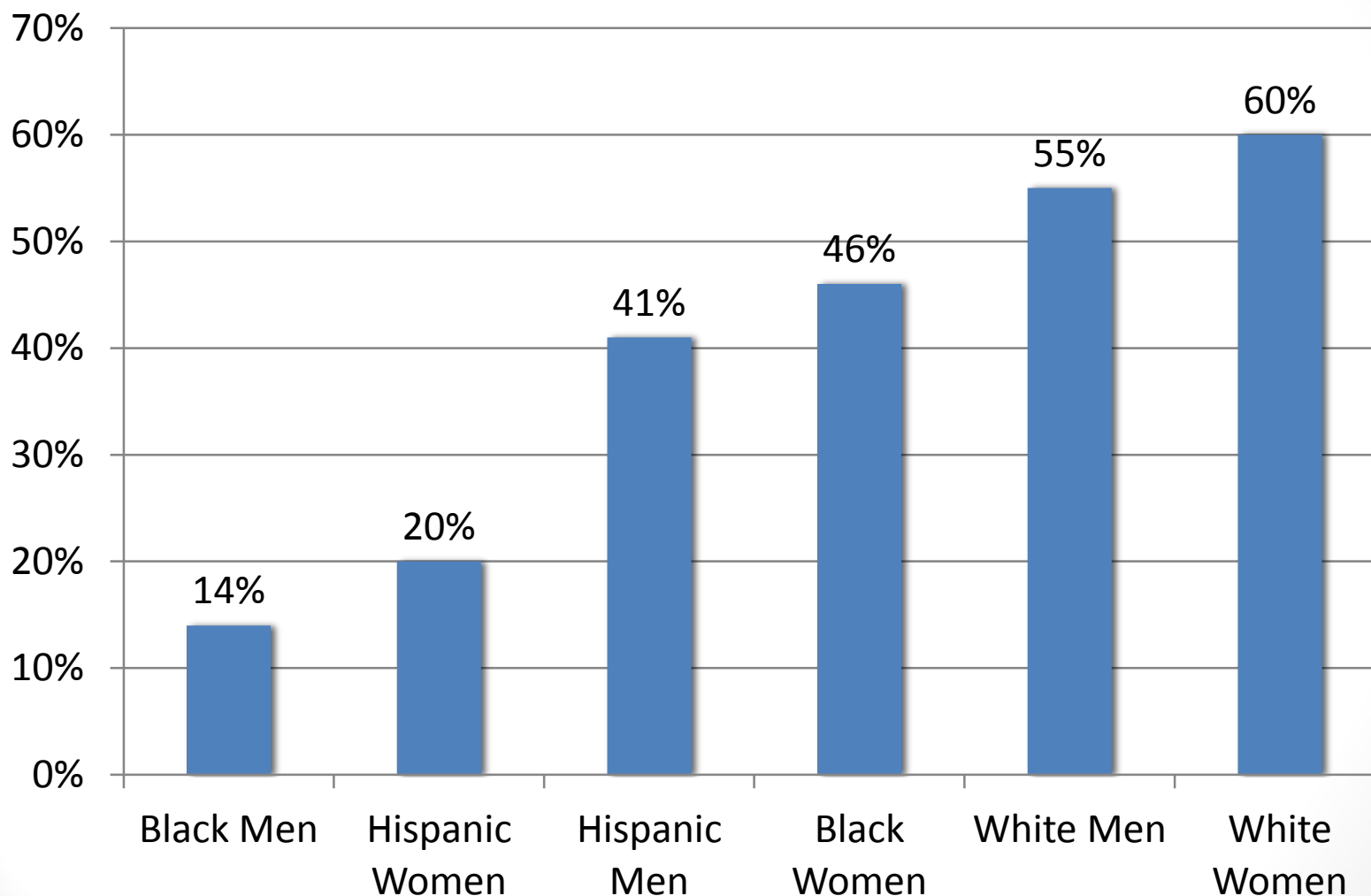
# Youth Employment Time Trends

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

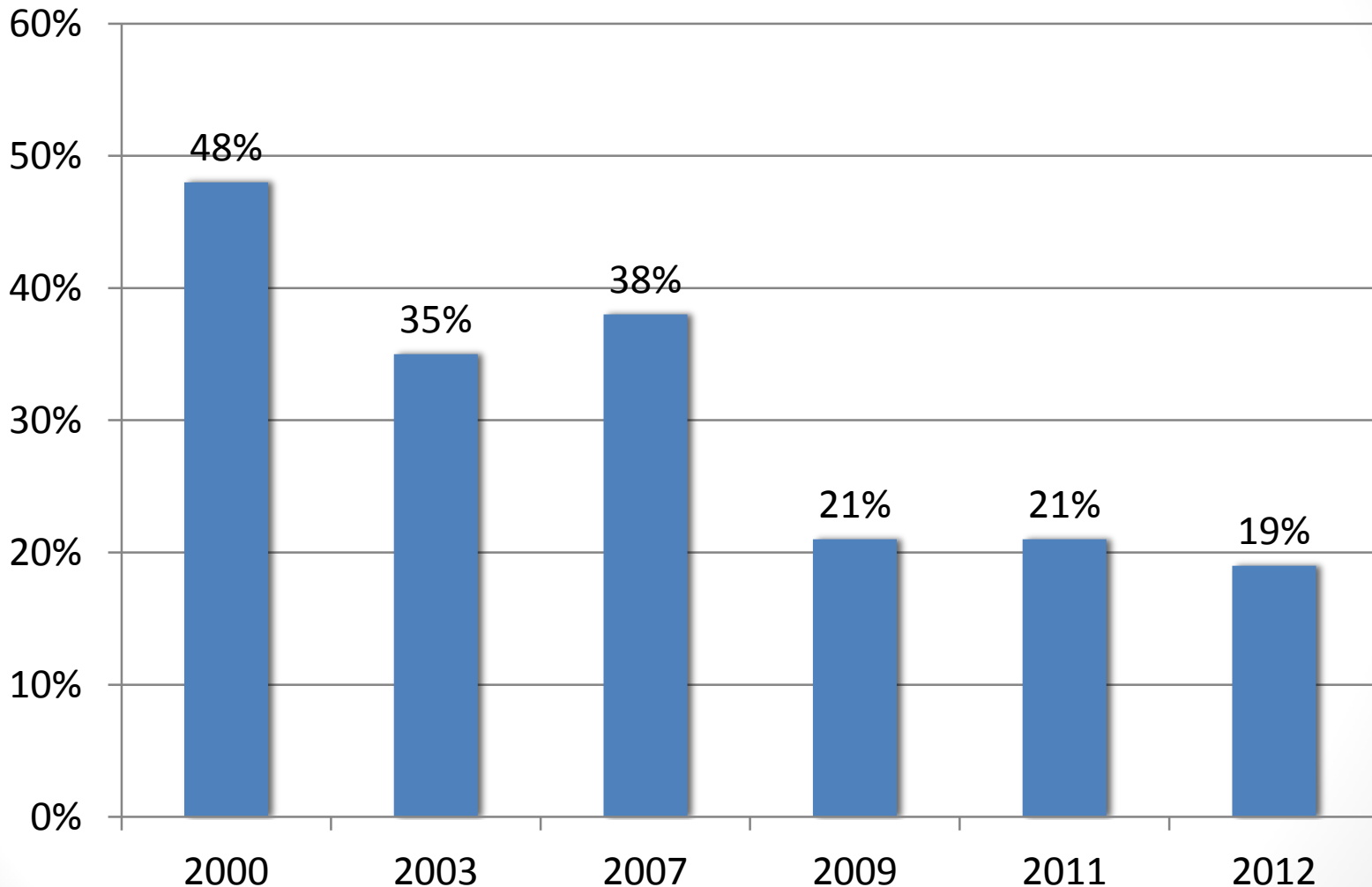


# Employment Rates of Non-College Enrolled High School Graduates from the Class of 2012

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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



# Youth Profile

Demographics	Multnomah County	Program Total
Female	66	266
Male	35	225
Latino	17	107
Native American or Alaskan Native	2	10
Asian	8	41
Black or African-American	38	156
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0	10
White	21	118
Multiracial	14	165
Not Disclosed	2	9

# Youth Profile

Employment Barriers	Multnomah County	Program Total
At-Risk of Dropping Out	16	90
Physical Disability	2	19
High School Drop Out	10	46
Gang Involved/Affected	10	41
Juvenile Justice Involved	1	17
Limited English Speaker	4	45
One or More Grade Levels Behind	6	46
Parenting/Pregnant	3	16

# Youth Profile

Economic Characteristics	Multnomah County	Program Total
Food Stamps within the last 6 months	39	197
Free and Reduced Lunch	32	133
Public Assistance	16	72
Homeless	4	26

# Regional Planning Efforts

- Multnomah County (101 interns)
- City of Portland (97 interns)
- TriMet (30 interns)
- 32 private sector placements
- Washington County doubled the number of youth served
- Special thanks to Oregon DHS for contributing \$150,000 to fund up to 75 placements for youth.

# 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, Aging and Disability

# Assessment

Results	Multnomah County	Program Total
Successful Completion*	90	417
Incomplete Participation	11	71
Terminated	2	7
Hours Worked	16,181	74,830
Wages Earned	\$144,822	\$669,729

\*Youth must complete 80% of planned hours with Supervisor reports satisfied with youth performance.

# 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