

An Evaluation Brief: MoHealthWINS Grant Progress & Outcome Update

Prepared January 10, 2014



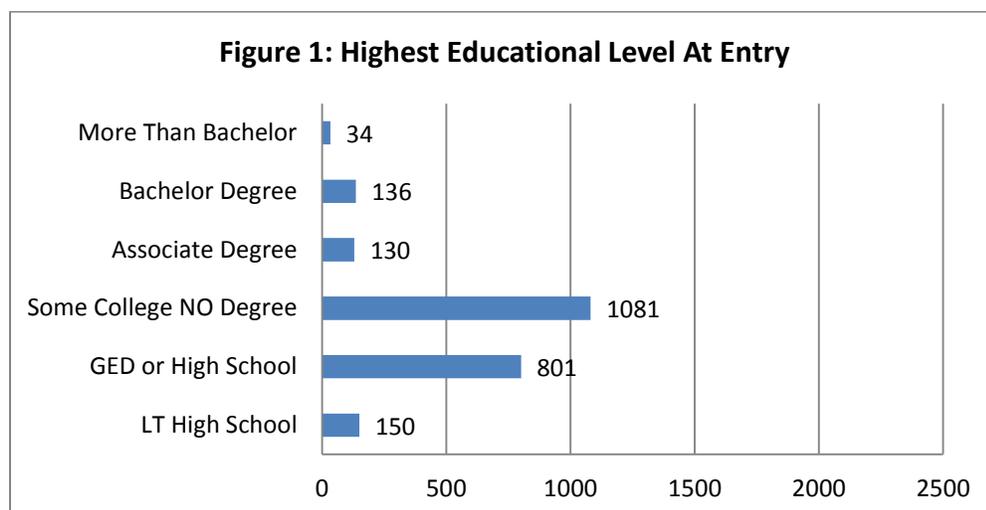
MOHealthWINS Grant Progress & Outcomes Update

Missouri initiated MHW with a vision that it could serve as a transformative process that could help Missouri lead the nation in educational attainment. Using extensive employer engagement, Missouri's community colleges would create accelerated programs which would: 1. Increase access to education beyond high school; 2. Increase the number of students who complete post-secondary education awards/credentials; and 3. Create sustainable career and employment opportunities for program completers. As MHW enters its last year, we are prepared to evaluate progress related to following public policy questions.

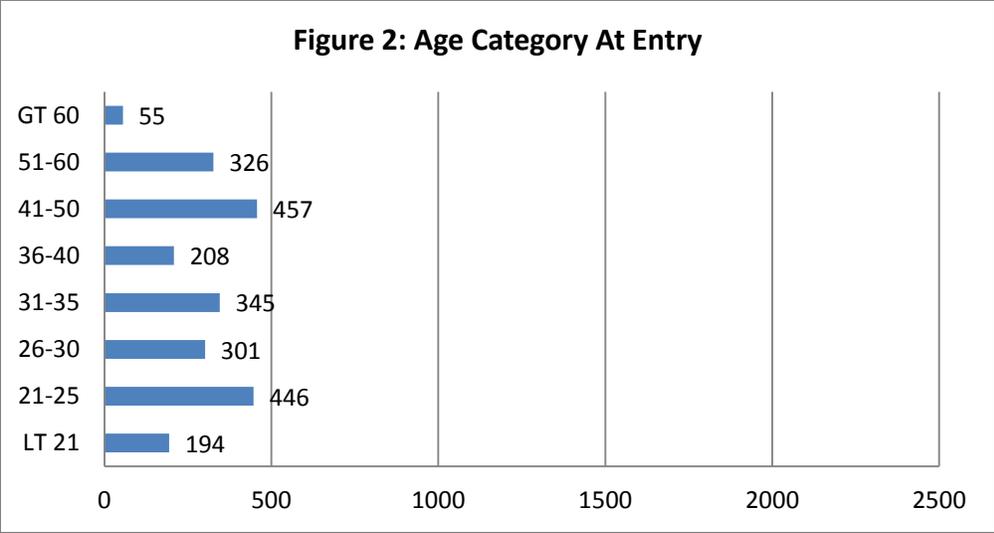
Public Policy Question 1: Has MHW increased access to higher education for grant-targeted populations such as: academically unprepared, unemployed/under-employed, and adults with no previous college?

Evidence suggests that MHW has increased access to higher education for target populations who if not for MHW, it is unlikely that they would have enrolled in college.

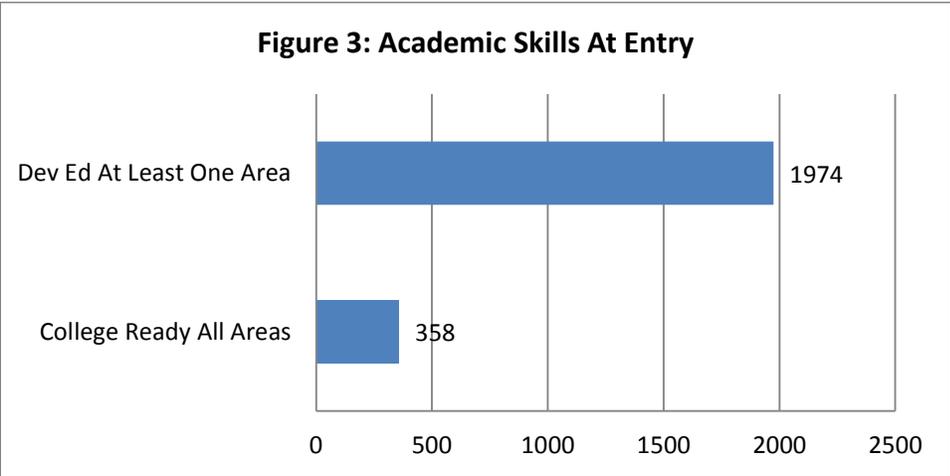
As of the end 9/30/2013, colleges had enrolled 1,976 unique participants. Current enrollment data reveals that as of December 31, 2013, the number of unique participants now stands at 2,332 (66% of the final target of 3,539). The colleges continue to make strong efforts to serve the grant-target population. Eighty-one percent of the participants were unemployed/under-employed at initial enrollment. Eighty-five percent were academically, low-skilled and 42% of the participants had never been to college before starting with MoHealthWINS. The average age of MHW participants is 36. Figures 1-4 present enrollment data for these target populations. Figure 5 reveals participant enrollment by program.



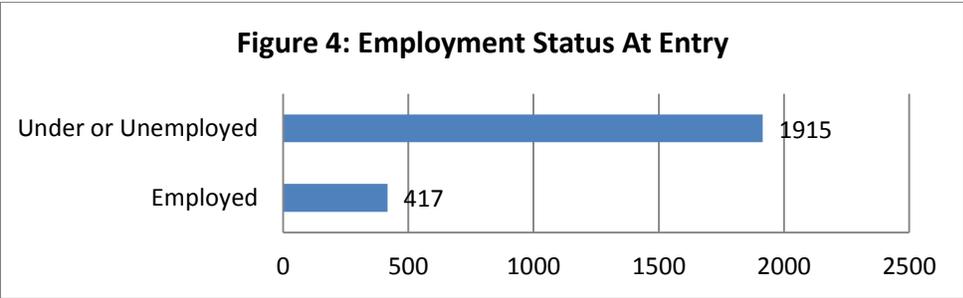
Prior to enrolling with MHW, 87% of the participants had not completed a credential beyond high school.



73% of the participants are adults over the age of 25.

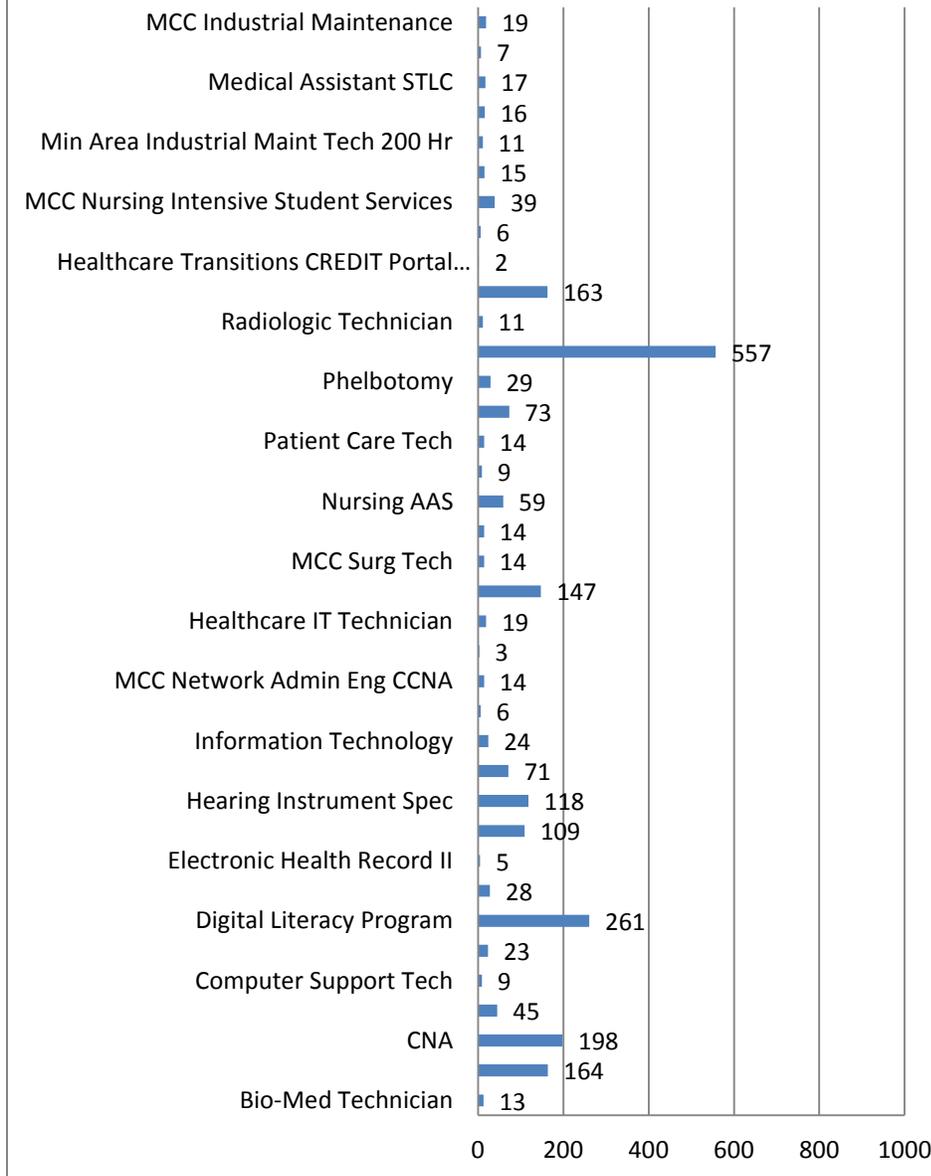


85% of the participants were not “college-ready” in at least one academic area (math, reading, or English).



82% of the participants reported being un-employed or under-employed when they started their MHW program.

Figure 5: Enrollment By Program

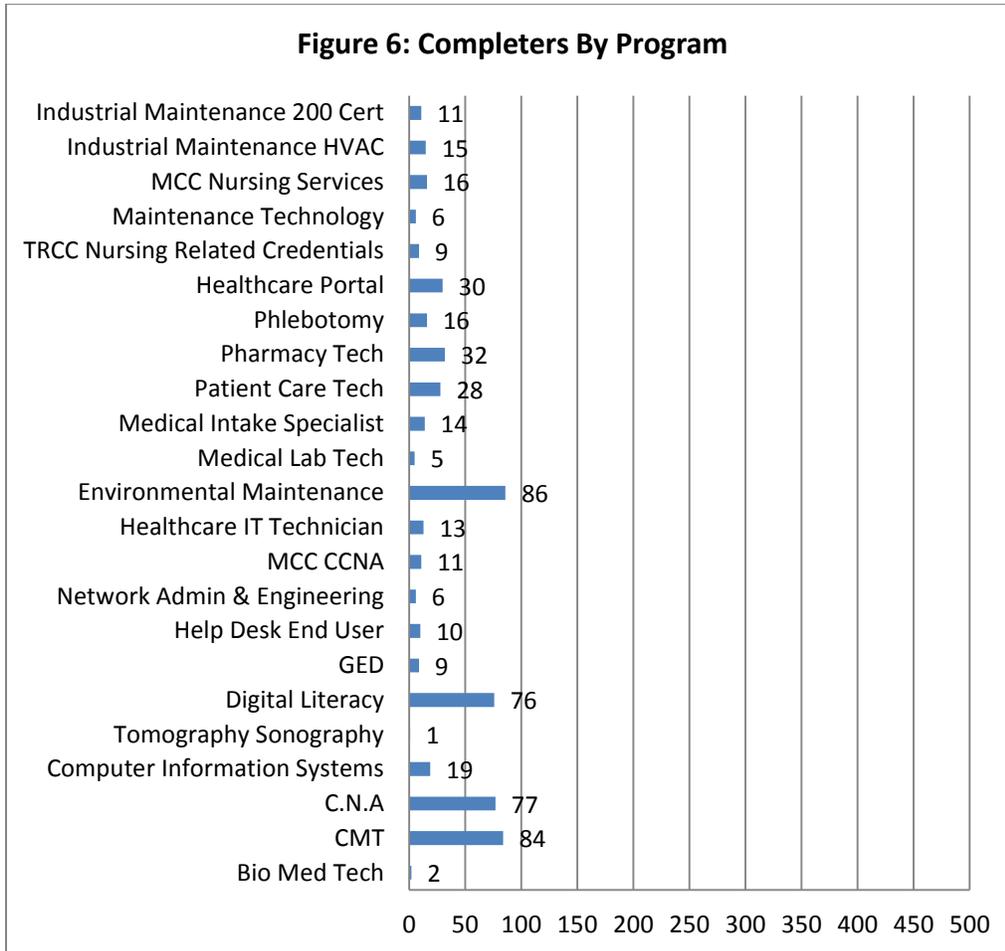


Although MHW enrollment increases are encouraging, Figure 5 reveals that 40% of the participants are enrolled in “short-term programs” (GED, Healthcare Portal, and Digital Literacy) which might not be able to positively impact employment outcomes. Additional evaluation to explore employment outcomes related to these short-term programs is currently underway.

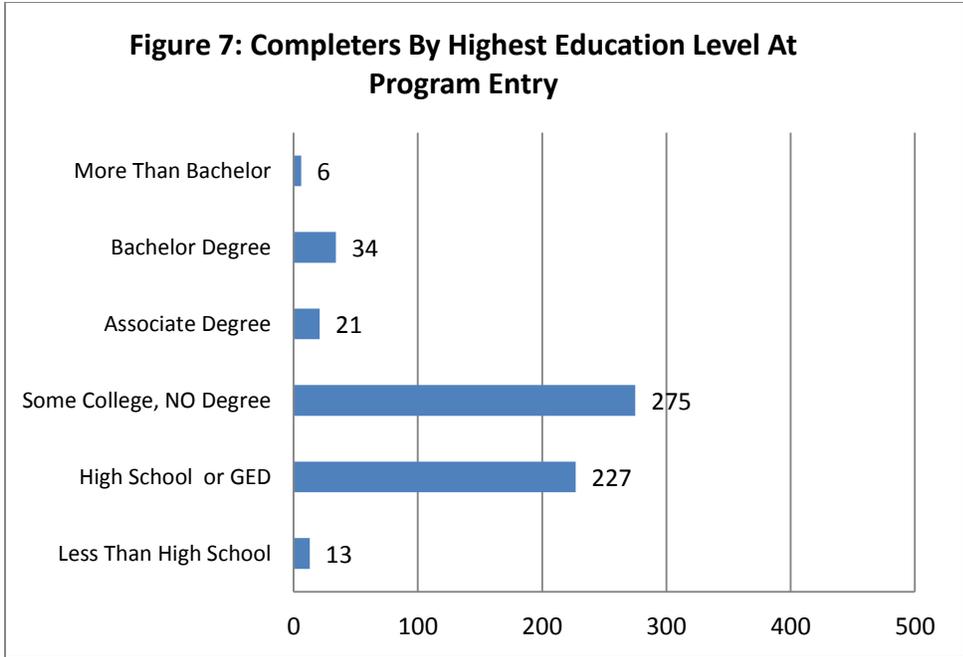
Public Policy Question #2: Are MHW participants completing programs of study and related stackable credentials in a timely manner?

Evaluation results to-date reveal that MHW participants are completing programs of study and industry-recognized stackable credentials in a timely and accelerated manner. MHW programs are designed according to career pathways and allow students the opportunity to acquire stackable credentials as they move through a program’s curriculum. MHW’s instructional formats are non-semester based and condensed, so a student can move through the program faster than in a traditional setting.

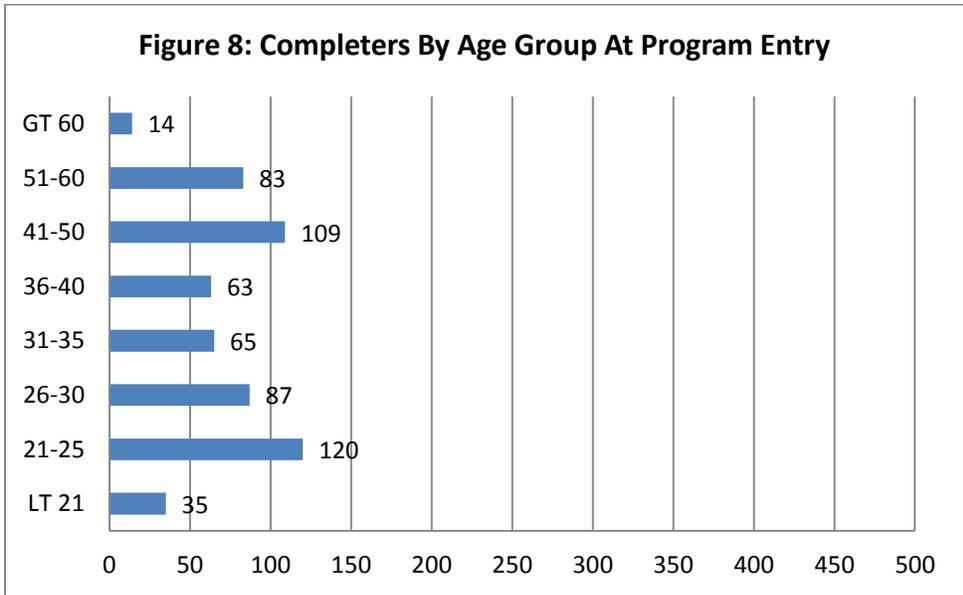
As of September 30, 2013, 50% of the participants (982) had completed at least one stackable credential and/or program award beyond high school. Twenty-nine percent (576) had completed a full program of study award. Given that most MHW programs have only been operational for a year, the completion rates of 50% and 29% are especially noteworthy. Figures 6-10 present a profile of MHW program completers.



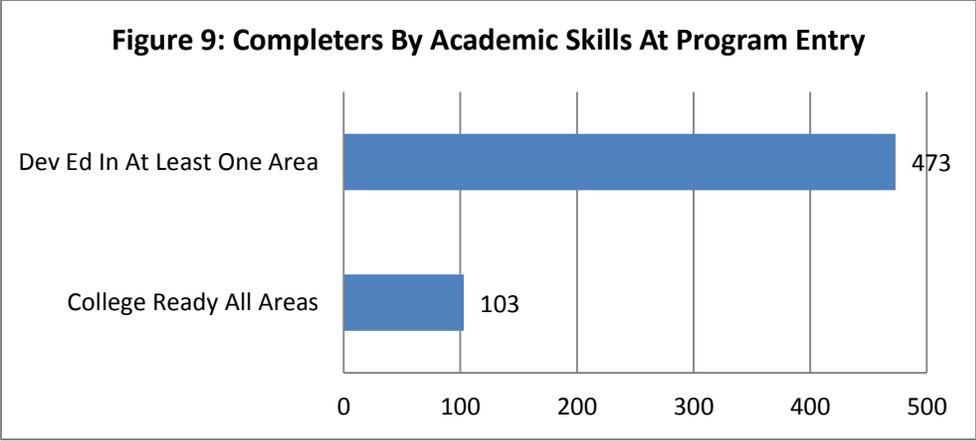
Although it is encouraging to note that participants are completing their program of study, one must also note that 20% of the completers are from “short-term programs” (GED, Healthcare Portal, and Digital Literacy). Due to the short-term nature of such programs, one might expect participants to have completed the program.



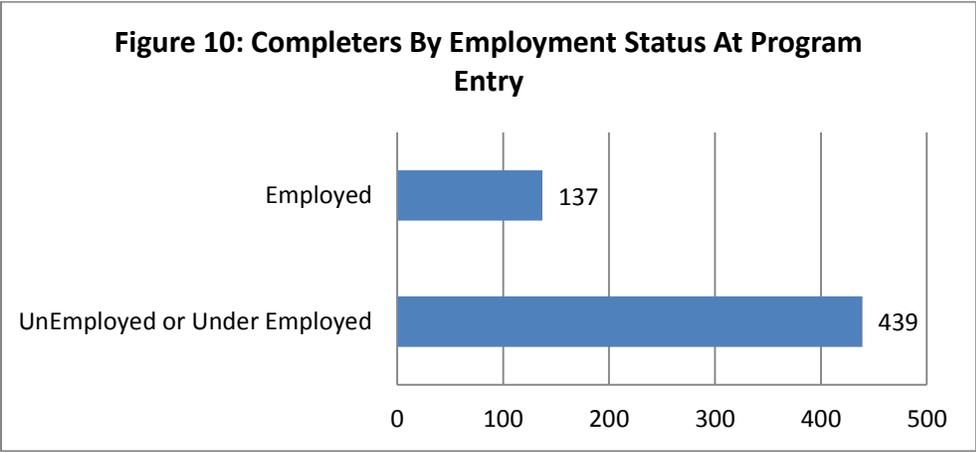
Nearly 90% of the MHW program completers did not have a credential beyond high school when they started in their MHW program.



74% of the completers are adults over the age of 25.



82% of the completers were less than college-ready in at least one academic area (math, reading or English) when they started their MHW program.



76% of the completers reported being un-employed or under-employed at the start of their MHW program.

Public Policy Question #3: Are MHW program completers securing employment in meaningful and sustainable careers?

Providing access to education beyond high school is an important MHW goal. MHW is designed to provide not only college access but also to provide employment and meaningful wages for program completers. We are using official wage/employment data and college follow-up data to determine if program completers are securing employment. **This tracking process occurs on a quarterly basis and current findings are encouraging and suggest that MHW program completers are able to obtain employment quickly upon (and at times before) program completion.**

Fifty-two percent (299) of the MHW program completers were employed as of September 30, 2013. The employment rate is likely to increase as additional program completers from August through December begin to enter the workforce. Additional findings related to employment outcomes for the program completers from the target population are presented below.

- 439 of the Program Completers were not employed when they started their MHW program. Of those students, 53% (231) were employed upon program completion.
- Employment outcomes related to “short-term programs” (GED, Healthcare Portal, and Digital Literacy) should be more fully explored. 73 of the Program Completers from these programs were not employed when they started their program. Of those students, 34% were employed upon program completion.
- For the 137 Program Completers who reported being employed when they started their MHW program, 76% (104) reported that their wages were higher upon program completion.
- 470 of the Program Completers started their MHW program with low academic skills in at least one area. Of those completers, 51% (240) were employed upon program completion.
- 240 of the Program Completes had not been to college before they started their MHW program. Of those completers, 57% (137) were employed upon program completion.
- 215 of the Program Completers were 26-40 years of age when they entered their MHW program. Of those completers 56% (120) were employed upon program completion.

“This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.”



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