



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

DEFINING PROBLEMS. SHAPING SOLUTIONS.

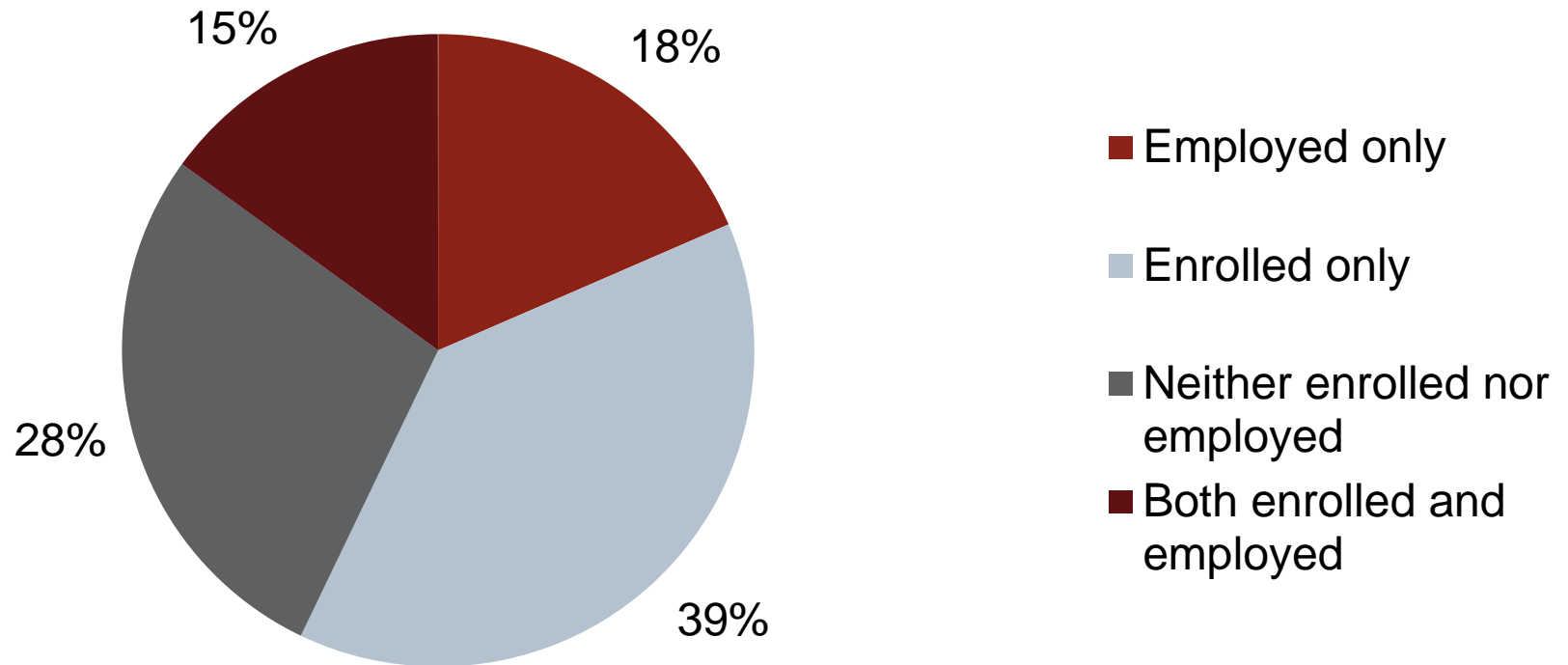
Connected or Not? Youth's Connections to Positive Social Institutions

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Policy research that benefits children, families, and their communities

Connected to School or Work (n=606)¹

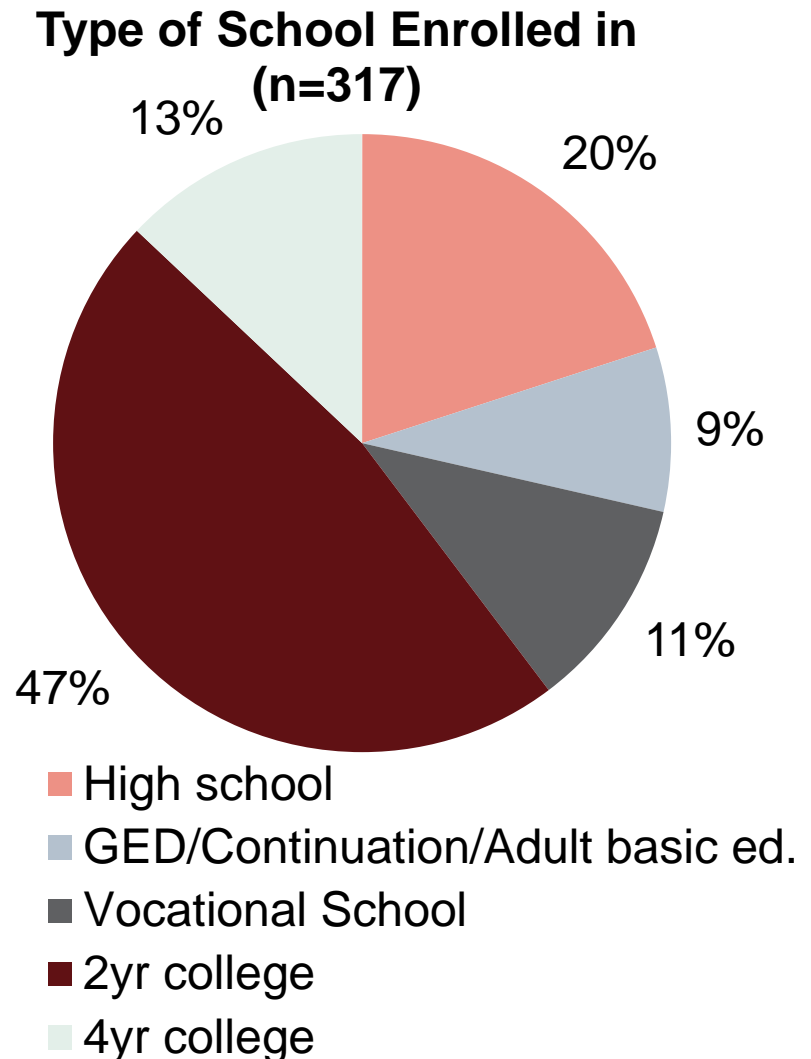


- Nearly three-quarters of youth reported being enrolled and/or employed (72%)

¹ Excludes 5 incarcerated youth

Education Status and Enrollment

- 71% of youth had a high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- 54% of youth were currently enrolled
- Among those enrolled, 60% were in college



College Enrollment ($n=268$)¹

	n	%
Paying for College (can choose more than one)		
ETV grant	148	54.3
Other scholarships, fellowships, or grants	199	71.0
Student loans	31	9.2
Own earnings from employment or savings	92	31.9
Money from a relative, friend, other	22	8.4
Money from another source	30	11.0
Involvement in campus support for F.Y.	134	50.3
Involvement in other college activities		
Tutoring	87	35.2
TRIO/EOP student support services	53	19.3
Academic advising	136	51.6
Meeting with professors outside class	147	54.8

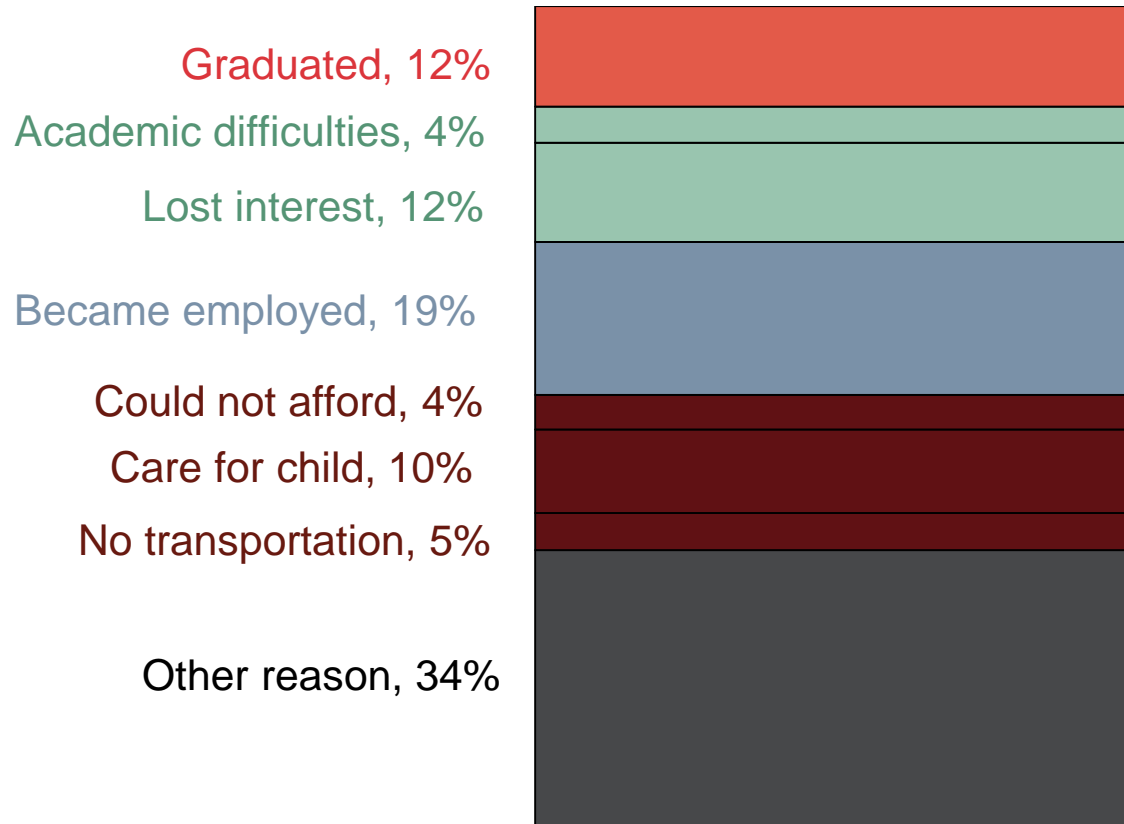
¹ Includes both youth who were enrolled at Wave 2 interview, and youth who were enrolled since Wave 1.

College Preparation Assistance and Educational Aspirations ($n=611$)

	n	%
Amount of help with college planning		
No help	72	13.3
Only a little help	88	13.7
Some help, but not enough	100	19.2
Enough help	151	23.2
More than enough help	126	20.4
Not interested in going to college	71	10.3
If you could go as far as you wanted in school, how far would you go?		
High school diploma, GED, or less	25	4.4
Some college	32	5.4
Earn a two-year degree	122	17.8
Earn a four-year degree	189	34.3
Earn more than a four-year degree	182	33.0

Reasons for Non-enrollment and Barriers to Returning to School ($n = 294$, 46%) among Youth Not Enrolled at Wave 2

Main reason no longer enrolled

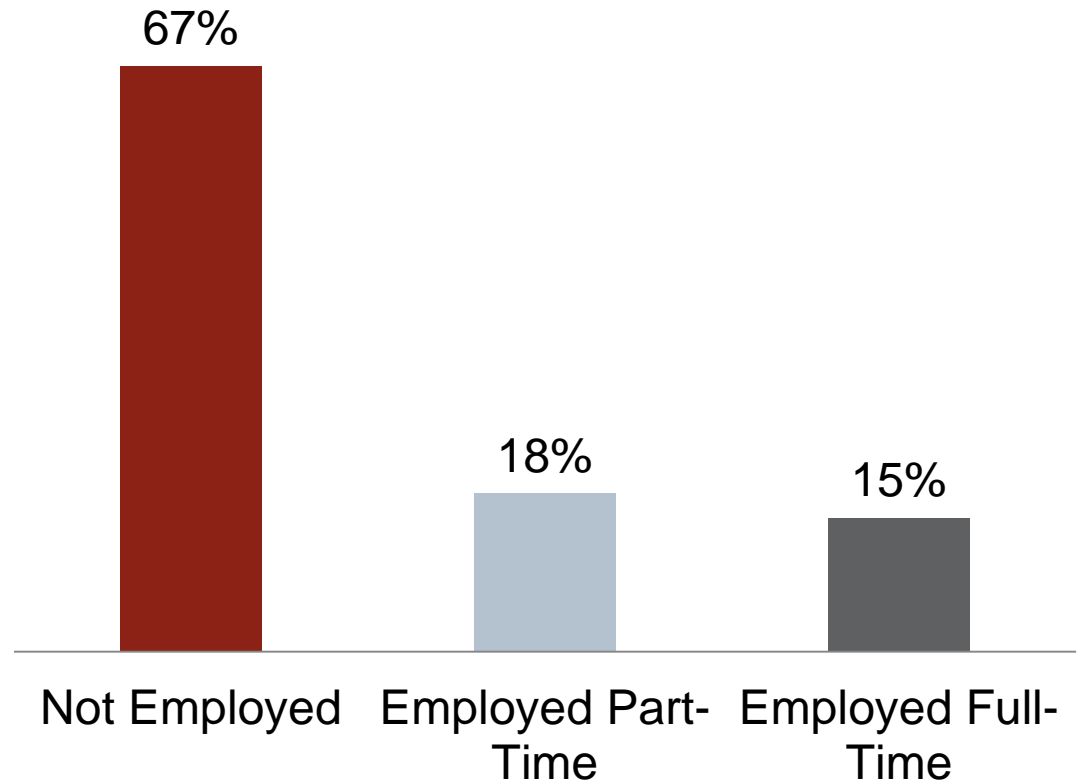


- 30% ($n = 85$) of the young people not currently enrolled reported having something preventing them from continuing education

Employment

- 76% of youth reported ever having a job
- 33% were currently employed
- Among youth not in school, 40% were currently employed
- Among all unemployed youth, most want a job (89%)

Current Employment



Current Employment and Earnings among Youth Working 10+ Hrs/Week ($n = 201$)

	n	%
Number of current jobs		
One job	176	84.5
Two or more jobs	25	15.5
Number of hours worked per week at main job		
10 to 19 hours	34	15.6
20 to 34 hours	90	43.6
35 to 39 hours	13	6.9
40 hours	38	22.8
More than 40 hours	24	11.2
Average hourly wage at main job (Mean (SD))		\$10.21 (\$2.74)

Income in Past 12 Months

	n	%
Any income from employment during past year (n=611)	364	57.4
Average amount of income from employment (n=364)		\$6,064 (\$7,820)
Any income from partner's/ spouse's employment during past year (n=129)	85	66.8
Average amount of partner's/ spouse's income if any (n=85)		\$10,864 (\$11,906)
Not including loans, received money from anyone since last interview (n=611)*	274	44.6

*Includes money received from friends, family members, or social service agencies

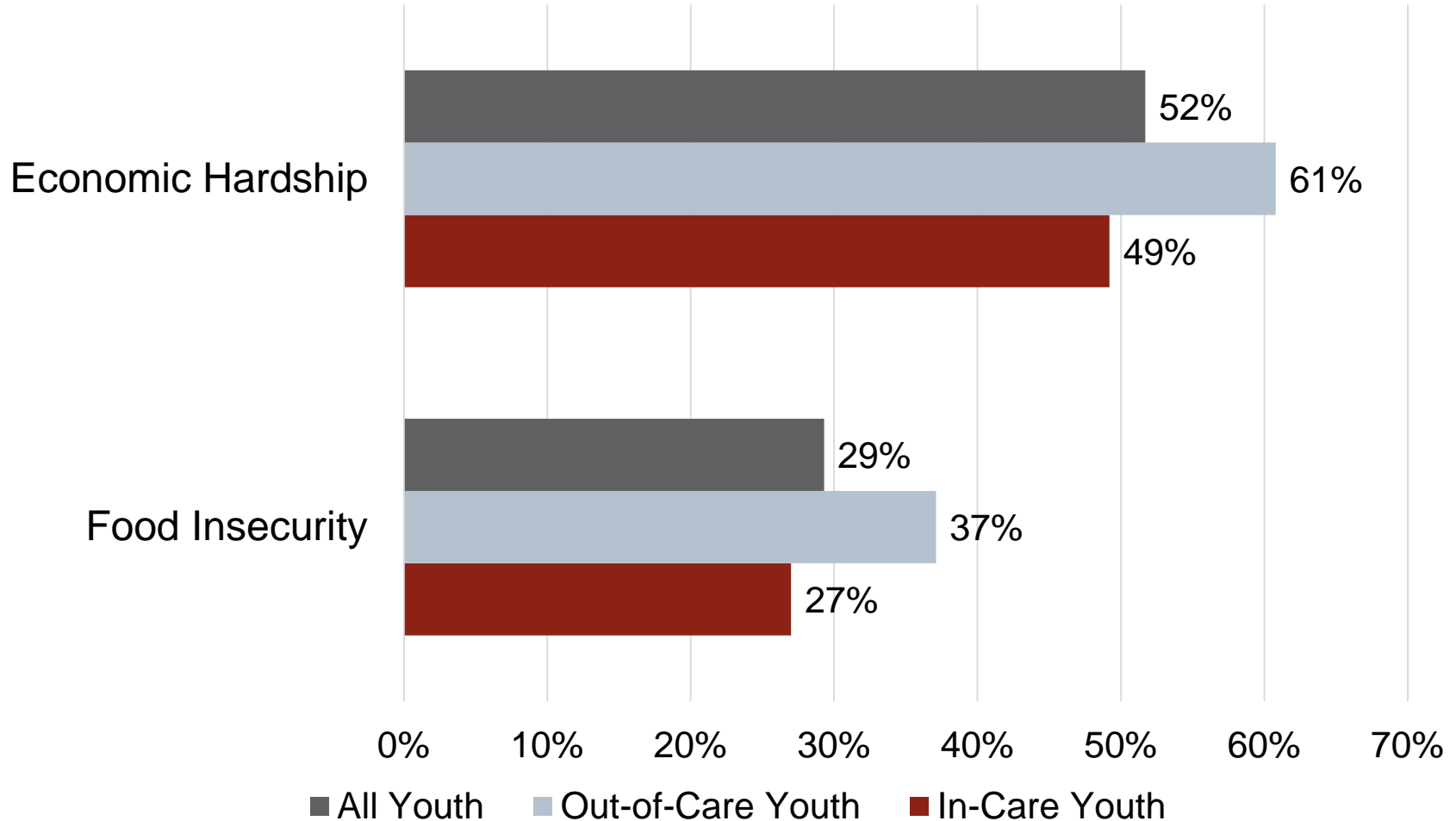
Assets

- About 60% of youth ($n=373$) reported that they had a checking, savings, or a money market account
- Of those with an account, average balance in all accounts is \$1,526 (median= \$600)
- 30% of youth said they own a vehicle

Economic Hardship and Food Insecurity in Past 12 Months

- Measure of **Economic Hardship** for this presentation: Youth said “yes” to experiencing one or more of the following in the past 12 months:
 - Not having enough money to buy clothing
 - Not having enough money to pay rent
 - Not having enough money to pay utility bills
 - Got evicted because couldn’t pay rent
 - Had cell phone or TV shut off because couldn’t pay bill
 - Had gas or electricity shut off because couldn’t pay bill
- Measure of **Food Insecurity** for this presentation (from USDA): Youth said “yes” to experiencing two or more of the following in the past 12 months:
 - Anyone in household skipped/cut size of meals
 - Did not eat for a whole day
 - Ate less than you should
 - Did not have enough money to buy food after food didn’t last
 - Could not afford to eat balanced meals

Economic Hardship and Food Insecurity in Past 12 Months



Receipt of Public Benefits

	All Youth	
	n	%
Currently receiving food stamps/CalFresh	119	19.7
Currently receiving WIC (<i>n</i> =98)*	75	77.4
Currently receiving any public housing assistance	21	3.4
Currently receiving TANF/CalWorks	8	1.7

*Includes only mothers.

Summary

- Almost three-quarters of youth are enrolled in school or are currently working
- Some youth experienced economic hardships or food insecurity
- Receipt of need-based public benefits was generally low, although many mothers were receiving WIC benefits
- Out-of-care youth were less likely than in-care youth to have finished a secondary credential and to be enrolled in school, but more likely to experience economic hardship/food insecurity