

Employment Outcomes for Clients Released From Juvenile Rehabilitation

Overview

This brief serves as an update to previous analysis conducted for state fiscal year (SFY) 14-18 releases.¹ The current analysis provides updated employment rates for clients who released from Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) during SFY19-20. During SFY19-20, it should be noted that COVID-19 had an impact on job availability in Washington State.²

Table 1 shows the percent of clients who had any employment in the year post-release, by age and state fiscal year of release. Client employment was included in analysis if the client had at least one hour of employment reported in the year following their release from JR.

Table 1: Percent of Clients Who Had Any Employment in the Year Post-Release, by Age of Release, SFY19-20

	State Fiscal Year of Release	
	SFY2019	SFY2020
14 or younger	8.7%	3.6%
15	14.9%	11.1%
16	23.2%	33.8%
17	53.2%	38.0%
18	59.8%	54.0%
19	60.4%	64.4%
20 or older	64.7%	60.7%
Total Released³	433	408

Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021] DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2018-2021]

¹ Fox, A. (2020) Employment Outcomes for Youth Released From Juvenile Rehabilitation. *Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability*. Olympia, WA.

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/JREmploymentOutcomesFY14-FY18.pdf>

² Monthly nonfarm employment change.* (2021) *Employment Security Department*. Olympia, WA.

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/monthly-employment-report>. This dashboard includes a footnote that because of the COVID-19 outbreak, “there was a significant decrease in jobs in April 2020 for nonfarm employment.”

³ Clients who were transferred to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the remainder of their obligations were not included in analysis (N=32). Some clients who began serving new obligations with DOC immediately upon release may be included.



Table 2 shows how many quarters clients worked in the year after their release, by state fiscal year. Overall, the percent of clients age 18 and older who obtained some employment within the year of their release from JR has remained consistent at approximately 60% for the last three state fiscal years (SFY18-20). Previous analysis for SFY14-18 releases indicated that clients who obtained employment were most likely to work one or two quarters in the year post-release. Although findings in the current analysis support this, it should be noted that the number of quarters clients worked in the year post-release are more evenly distributed for SFY20 releases than previous state fiscal years.

Table 2: Number of Quarters Working in the Year After Release for Clients Age 18 and Older at the Time of Their Release From JR

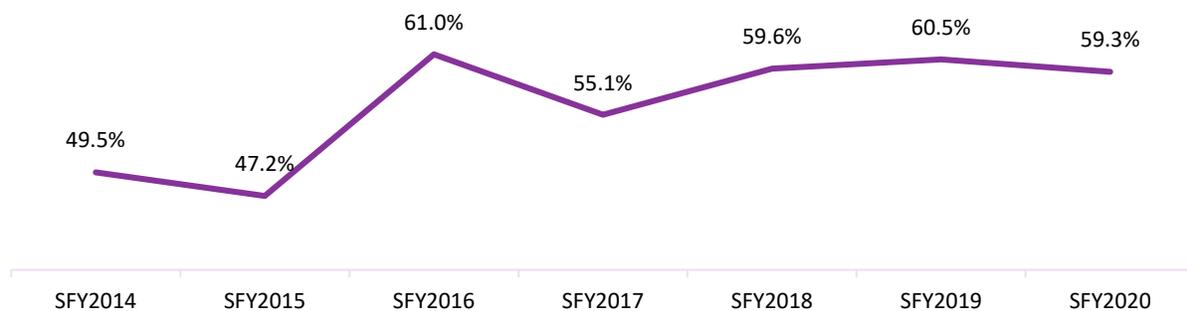
	State Fiscal Year of Release	
	SFY2019	SFY2020
Did not work in year after release	39.5%	40.7 %
Worked 1 quarter	18.0%	14.4%
Worked 2 quarters	14.5%	16.8%
Worked 3 quarters	10.5%	13.8%
Worked 4 quarters	17.4%	14.4%
Any work in the year post-release	60.5%	59.3%
Total releases over 18 years old	172	167

Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]

DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2018-2021]

Figure 1 is a line graph that shows the percentage of all clients 18 or older at the time of their release who had some employment during the year post-release for clients who released SFY14-20.

Figure 1: Percentage of Clients Age 18 and Older at the Time of Their Release from JR, With any Work in the Year Post-Release (SFY14-21)



Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]

DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2013-2021]

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Table 3 shows when clients started working in the year after release. If clients get employment, they are most likely to start work in the first quarter after release. This supports the findings in previous JR employment data, and continues to highlight the need for adequate support during a client’s transition back to their community.

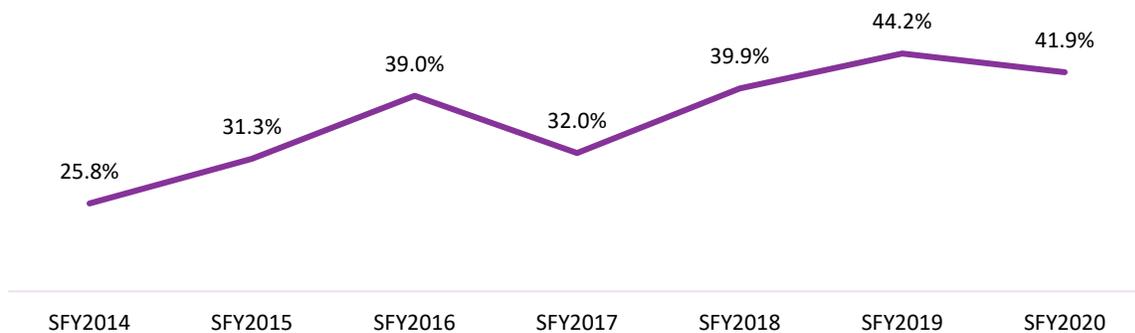
Table 3: Quarter Clients Age 18 and Older Began Working in the Year Post-Release, SFY19-20

	SFY2019	SFY2020
Did not work in year after release	39.5%	40.7%
Started in first quarter	44.2%	41.9%
Started in second quarter	8.1%	11.4%
Started in third quarter	3.5%	3.6%
Started in fourth quarter	4.7%	2.4%
Total releases over 18 years old	172	167

Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]
 DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2018-2021]

Figure 2 is a line graph that shows the percentage of clients who were over 18 at the time of their release who began working in the first quarter post-release. There was an overall increase in the percentage of clients who began working in the first quarter post-release, with over 40% of clients in SFY19-20 obtaining employment in the first quarter post-release compared to 25.8% for SFY14 releases.

Figure 2: Percentage of Clients Age 18 and Older at the Time of Their Release From JR Who Began Working in the First Quarter Post-Release (SFY14-21)



Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]
 DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2013-2021]

Table 4 shows employment rates by racial category and SFY of release from JR. Employment rates were not calculated for racial categories with fewer than 10 clients. Overall, employment varied significantly by racial category. Asian clients had the highest rate of employment in the year post-release (85.7%). Native American and Alaska Native clients had the lowest rate of employment overall (33.3%).

Table 4: Percent of Clients Age 18 and Older at Release, With Any Employment in the Year Post-Release, by Racial Category, SFY19-20

	SFY2019	SFY2020	Overall (SFY19-20)*	
American Indian/Alaska Native	LT	LT	33.3%	30
Asian/Pacific Islander	LT	LT	85.7%	14
Black/African American	65.1%	50.0%	57.8%	73
Hispanic	55.6%	62.9%	59.2%	71
White	64.5%	63.9%	64.2%	123
Unknown	LT	LT	73.3%	15
Total Releases	172	167		336

LT if less than 10 clients **p<.01; *p<.05

Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]

DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2018-2021]

WSRDAC/M: Yes; AI/AN, multiracial included in AI/AN counts and Black/African American, multiracial included in Black/African American counts. Clients in the multiracial, other racial category were not included in the analysis due to low cell counts.

Table 5 shows the rates of any employment within the year post-release for clients 18 or older, by gender and SFY. Overall, males and females gained employment at approximately the same rates, however rates of employment for female clients varied more than males due to an overall smaller number of releases.

Table 5: Percent of Clients Age 18 and Older at Release, With an Employment in the Year Post-Release by Racial Category, SFY19-20

	SFY2019	SFY2020	Overall (SFY19-20)	
Male	59.4%	60.4%	59.9%	314
Female	70.6%	LT	60.0%	25
Total released	172	167		339

LT if less than 10 clients **p<.01; *p<.05

Data Source: Employment Security Department (March 2022). [1993-2021]

DCYF Juvenile Rehabilitation (March 2022). Automated Client Tracking (ACT). [2018-2021]

Table 6 shows wage information by release year for those who were 18 or older at the time of their release from JR. This information is also disaggregated by the number of quarters that a client worked in the year post-release, and only includes clients who had some employment in the year post-release. Overall, there is a positive relationship between the number of quarters

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worked and the client’s annual wages, meaning that the more quarters a client worked, the higher their reported wages were. This relationship also appears true of the hours worked per week, although the relationship is not statistically significant.

There was a substantial increase in hourly wage between SFY18 and SFY20, increasing from \$13.58 per hour to \$16.02 per hour. This is likely the result of a minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour in King County, which took effect in 2021. As a large proportion of JR clients release to King County, it follows that the average hourly wages JR clients are receiving post-release have increased substantially.

Table 6: Description of Annual Wages in the Year Post-Release, for Clients 18 or Older Who Had Some Work in the Year Post-Release, SFY19-20

	SFY2019	SFY2020	Overall (SFY19-20)
Mean annual wages (Overall)	\$7,950.92	\$7,390.47	\$7,677.59
Mean annual wages (by number of quarters worked)			
Worked 1 quarter	\$1,724.35	\$1,682.69	\$1,706.17
Worked 2 quarters	\$3,693.77	\$5,117.86	\$4,446.12
Worked 3 quarters	\$9,728.90	\$8,011.71	\$8,765.60
Worked 4 quarters	\$16,865.87	\$15,154.26	\$16,105.15
Median annual wages (overall)	\$4,974.42	\$4,487.74	\$4,741.35
Median annual wages (by number of quarters worked)			
Worked 1 quarter	\$687.00	\$1,104.90	\$1,059.22
Worked 2 quarters	\$3,279.00	\$4,326.00	\$3,326.36
Worked 3 quarters	\$7,686.30	\$5,009.37	\$7,011.34
Worked 4 quarters	\$11,529.08	\$14,346.99	\$12,878.38
Average hours worked annually	494.3	444.8	470.1
Average number of hours worked per week			
Worked 1 quarter	8.6	8.3	8.5
Worked 2 quarters	10.6	12.1	11.4
Worked 3 quarters	13.4	12.2	12.7
Worked 4 quarters	20.3	17.4	19.0
Average hourly wage earned	\$14.75	\$16.02	\$15.37
Percent with any work	60.5%	59.3%	59.9%
Total released over 18	172	167	339

Summary

There were 339 clients who were 18 or older at the time of their release from JR during SFY19 and 20. Of those, 60% obtained some employment in the year post-release. This rate has remained consistent over the last three state fiscal years. If clients did obtain employment, it was nearly always in the first quarter post-release from JR. Findings from the previous employment report stated that “starting work quickly and retaining that work, seem[ed] to be an important issue” for clients released from JR (Fox, 2020). There is still significant variation in employment by racial category, however this variation has decreased slightly since SFY14-18. There was no significant variation in employment by gender, although female employment rates seem to fluctuate more greatly as a result of a low number of female clients released. Clients who worked a greater number of quarters, worked more hours per week and had significantly higher wages reported on average. JR should continue to seek ways to engage clients in employment within the first quarter of release, and should additionally consider ways to engage and support clients in retaining their employment.