Welcome
National statistics on some vulnerable groups

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Employment rate among people with and without disabilities

Unemployment rate higher among workers with disabilities

Note: April 2020 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted).
Unemployment rates higher among Black and Hispanic workers

Note: April 2020 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted).

Unemployment rate highest among youth

Note: April 2020 unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted).
How COVID-19 Harshly Affects Older Workers

Teresa Ghilarducci
The New School
Schwarz Center for Economic Policy Analysis
Retirement Equity Lab
Even before the pandemic, Americans worked longer and died younger than elders in other advanced countries.

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Note: The trend for G7 countries excluding the U.S. is calculated as a raw average of retirement times for Germany, France, U.K., Canada, Japan and Italy. The OECD estimates retirement time using life expectancy at pensionable age, which is defined as the age at which people can draw full benefits without reduction for early retirement.
12 million of the 29 million middle-class older workers will be downwardly mobile in retirement.


Notes: Sample includes workers ages 44-64 in 2014 (ages 50-60 in 2020) and their spouses of any age. Poverty is defined as 200 percent of the 2020 Federal Poverty Level. Middle class is defined as those in the top 50 percent of the earnings distribution but below the Social Security income tax cutoff of $43,700 a year.
During past recessions, including the Great Recession, older workers were LESS likely to become unemployed than younger workers.

Unemployment rate by age, 1948-2020 (%)

Source: Author’s estimates from BLS data.
Note: The 2020 unemployment rate is for April only. Other rates are annual averages.

That has changed during this pandemic for nearly all demographic groups of middle-aged and older workers.

Evidence from one promising program

Kelly Pavich
Bridges from School to Work
Bridges from School to Work: 
Transforming lives through the power of a job

Assist special education individuals ages 17 to 24 find integrated, competitive employment
-12 urban areas, mostly Title I schools

Provide one-on-one support to participants as they transition to adulthood
- Job readiness training
- Assistance with job development and employment
- Up to a year of post-hire date support

In a typical program year:
- About 1,000 participants
- 88% placement rate
- 80% working at 90 days
COVID-19 and employment of Bridges participants

• Enrolled: 742 youth in program year 2020
  • 717 (97%) still engaged
• Hired: 569 (77%) in employment
  • 195 (34%) still working
  • 154 (27%) seeking work
• Participants affected by COVID-19:
  • Family members ill or died
  • Furloughed, or members of their families were furloughed or laid off
How is Bridges keeping 97% of participants engaged?

- Support from staff to complete remote learning in school year
- Virtual employability skills instruction
  - 1,000+ registered for summer course in New York City
- Partnered with Accenture to offer *Skills to Succeed (S2S) and a Boot Camp event*
  - 141 online career courses
  - 6 weekly events via Zoom
Questions?
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Thank you!