The Colorado GED Study: A Compelling Story Unfolds

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Background...

- Since its inception in 1942 over 15 million people have received a GED credential.
- One in every 7 Americans with a high school credential have received a GED.
- One in every 20 college students received a GED credential.
- 98% of U.S. Colleges and Universities accept the GED as a prerequisite for admission.
**Postsecondary Outcomes**
- Over 60% of GED test takers self reported they were planning on further education
- Results vary and estimates show 15% to 30% of GED completers enroll in a postsecondary institution
- Vast majority (75%+) only enroll for a semester or less
- Even fewer earn degrees

**Labor Market Outcomes**
- GED completers tend to earn less than traditional high school graduates but more than dropouts
- Value of GED increases with work experience and time
- Percentage of high school graduates and GED completers in middle-income classes decreased approximately 14% in 35 years

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**National Research**

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**The Colorado Study..........**

- Unique longitudinal study
- The magic SASID
- Interagency collaboration
• Completed GED tests between June 2007 and December 2011
• GED test takers born between 1985 (27) and 1994 (18)

• Postsecondary Enrollment limited to Colorado public institutions (includes 2 and 4 year IHEs)

• National Research Shows:
  - Public, less than 2 yr: 17%
  - Public 2 yr: 9%
  - Public 4 yr: 6%
  - Private (NFP) less than 4 yr: 12%
  - Private (NFP) 4 yr: 7%
  - Private for profit less than 2 yr: 15%
  - Private for profit 2 yrs or more: 15%
  (2004 NPSAS, NCES)

**Methodology**

![Percent of GED Students Enrolled in a Public Institution of Higher Education in Colorado](image)

- **Enrolled**
  - 5,593
  - 33.63%

- **Not Enrolled**
  - 11,032
  - 66.34%

Total n= 16,625 GED test takers
A slighter higher percent of females enrolled in a postsecondary institution compared to males. Of the female GED population, 35.46% matriculated while 32.43% of the male population progressed into postsecondary education.
Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

Percentages are based upon enrollment within individual race/ethnicity and not of the total population. Examining the total population, the majority of GED students were White (58.9%), followed by Hispanic (27.3%).

Enrollment by GED Test Outcomes

Of the 16,625 GED students, 92% passed the five required GED tests and 8% did not pass. Of those who did not pass 2.72% still enrolled in a postsecondary institution.
Math and Writing Average Test Scores were statistically significant factors predicting enrollment in a postsecondary institution.
- Link GED test takers to National Student Clearinghouse Data
- Add retention factors to GED dataset, explore predicting variables
- Add remediation data
- Next year add Private degree granting institutions
- Link GED test takers to Labor and Employment wage data
- Explore wealth of qualitative GED data available

Next Research Steps.....

Questions?
Ideas?
Thank you!

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