



# Wisconsin PROMISE: Building Lessons Learned into Wisconsin Workforce Programs and Partnerships

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# Wisconsin PROMISE

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- 2,024 youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families
  - Half received services as usual
  - Half received **Wisconsin Promise Services** for through DWD's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (**DVR**) and interagency resource teams
    - Employment services
    - Work incentives benefits counseling
    - Financial coaching
    - On the job social skills training
    - Family and self-advocacy training
    - Health promotion
  - Interagency resource teams included youth, family, DVR, school, long term care, mental health, foster care, juvenile justice, etc.



# Demographics of Wisconsin PROMISE Youth

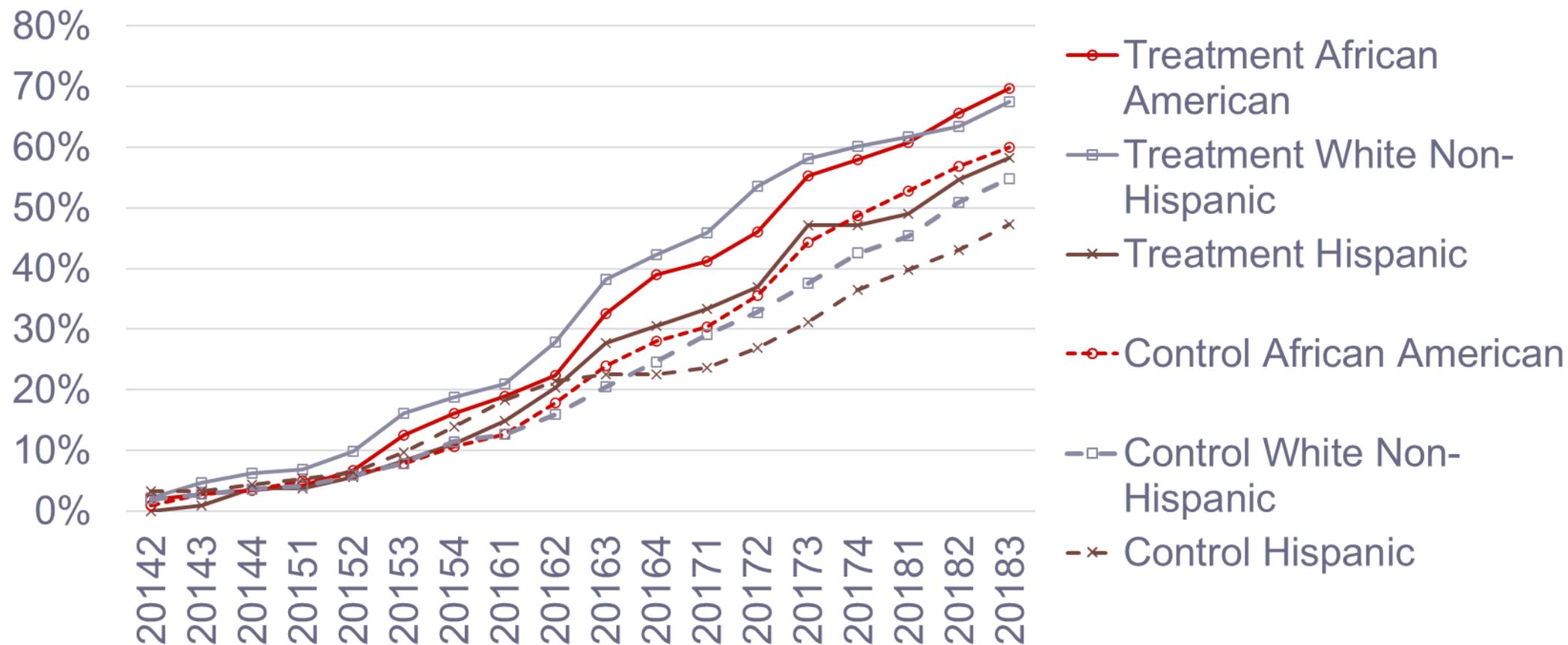
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- Race/ethnicity:
  - African American - 49%
  - White - 36%
  - Hispanic - 10%
  - Other/Not Reported - 5%
- Gender:
  - Male - 67%
- Annual household income at or below \$25,000 - 70%
- Primary disability:
  - Mental health/behavioral - 34%
  - Intellectual/developmental - 30%
  - Other (e.g., learning, speech, ADHD, etc.) - 25%
  - Long-term illness, physical/mobility, sensory, head injury, not report - 11%
- Single parent/guardian household - 66%



# Employment Rates by Race/Ethnicity

## Cumulative Employment Rates by Quarter



# Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

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- PROMISE Youth – 100% received VR services
  - Compared to 33% of youth in the control group
- Connecting teenagers receiving SSI to VR services
  - Partnerships with SSA, state Medicaid, schools, FoodShare, Wisconsin Works (W2), Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice
  - Co-enrollment with Job Centers, WIOA Title I, and Apprenticeship
- Youth SSI Solutions
  - Targeted outreach
  - Service and support navigation
  - Integrated resource teams



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# **Beyond PROMISE:**

Using PROMISE lessons learned to advance employment opportunities in Wisconsin



# The Worker Connection Program

Facilitate connections across the workforce system and local communities to:

**Amplify**

**Expand**

**Activate**

Engage 2500 people and navigate to services to meet career goals. Training funds for 500.

**Piloting:** outreach strategies, service delivery professional development, local “informed choice” and navigational assistance tools.

**Goal of Data Project:** evaluate what worked, use information to determine whether to expand.



WDA 5:  
Bay Area

WDA 2:  
Milwaukee



# Worker Connection Service Delivery

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Human-centered rapid engagement

Targeted outreach to community-based organizations



Developing a positive profile, identifying conditions of work

Integrated resource teams - wrap around support

Navigating training, employment, resources



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# Match to Good Jobs

**WorkAdvance:** an evidence-based, sectoral-focused advancement program, designed to find and fill good jobs, serving workers and employers alike.

- Combines elements of sector-based initiatives with postemployment retention and advancement support
- Higher wages and employment levels for participants appear to be the result of providers' success in delivering the following:

Training in a sector with strong local demand



High rates of completion and receipt of credential



Placements in jobs that provide better wages and benefits than individuals could obtain on their own



# Career Pathways Advancement Initiative

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- Rehabilitation Services Administration Disability Initiative Fund – Career Advancement Initiative Model Demonstration Project.
- Create capacity for career pathways, career advancement, and improved employment outcomes for people with disabilities.



# Partner Tool: Career Pathways Website

Career Pathways websites:

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/career-pathways/>

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/career-pathways/>



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# Connecting the Dots for Opportunity Youth

Find and visualize the Opportunity Youth and connect them to education, training, and careers

Potential Targets:

- School dropout or at risk
- Justice-involved
- Child welfare (foster care youth)
- Medicaid
- Foodshare



Connect to  
Career  
Pathways



Increase  
education and  
training  
employment  
outcomes



# Youth with Promise



The world ... is like a big canvas and all you need are your tools or your brush. And you can paint it into whatever you want it to be.  
- Daviantae, Promise participant



# Promisewi.com/success

## Thank you!

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