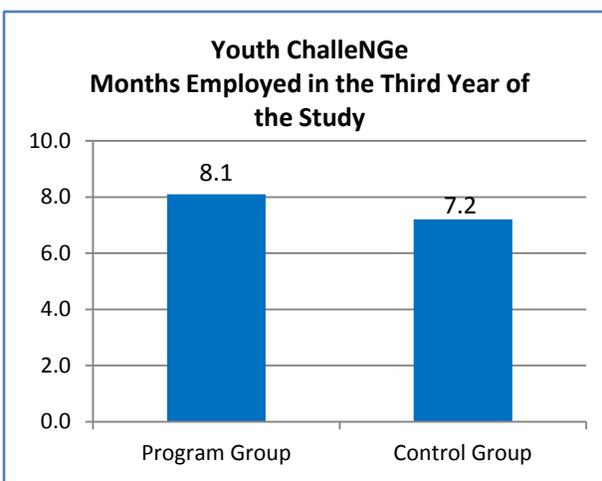
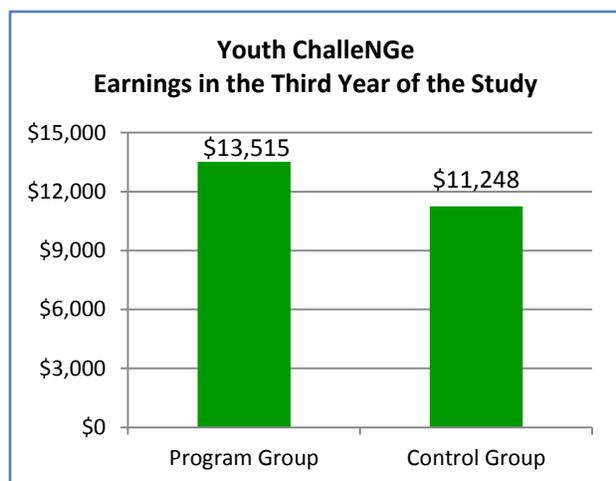


# Comprehensive Intervention Helps High School Dropouts

## 1. What's the evidence?

In June 2011, MDRC completed a rigorous impact evaluation of the National Guard Youth Challenge, a 17 month residential and mentoring program designed to reengage 16 to 18 year old high school dropouts in education and work. The study included 1,200 qualified youth, half of whom were admitted (program group); the other half (control group) did not receive services. The evaluation found that program group members earned and worked more in the third year after enrolling in the program.



Earnings and Months Employed results are statistically significant at the 99 percent level.

## 2. What's the implication?

This study offers promising evidence for improving employment and earnings. However, interviews that accompanied the impact study suggest that many of the program's graduates found it difficult to sustain the progress they had made in meeting their employment goals and gaining a foothold in the labor market. Based on these findings, in June 2015, DOL developed the Job Challenge – an enhancement of the Youth Challenge that adds five months of residential vocational training – and funded 3 grantees to implement the National Guard Youth Challenge Job Challenge program. An evaluation is getting underway to determine whether the jobs component improves participants' labor market outcomes.

## 3. For more information

- Millenky, Megan, et al (2011). [Staying on Course: Three-Year Results of the National Guard Youth ChallengeE Evaluation](#). New York, NY: MDRC.
- [National Guard Youth ChallengeE Program website](#)
- [Employment and Training Administration's Funding Opportunity Announcement for National Guard Youth ChallengeE and Job Challenge Program](#)