

Crossing the Bridge

National College Transition Network
Effective Transitions in Adult Ed
Conference

November 15, 2010

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Overview...

- Introduction
- Who enters postsecondary education?
- Enrollment, persistence, and completion results from *Crossing the Bridge Year 1 Report*
- Survival analysis results
- Next steps in the study

The GED Tests are no longer the endpoint for adult education...

- Many adults with GED credentials go on to postsecondary education (PSE)
- What are the characteristics of these adults?
- When do they enroll in PSE?
- Where do they enroll in PSE?
- How do they persist and how many graduate?

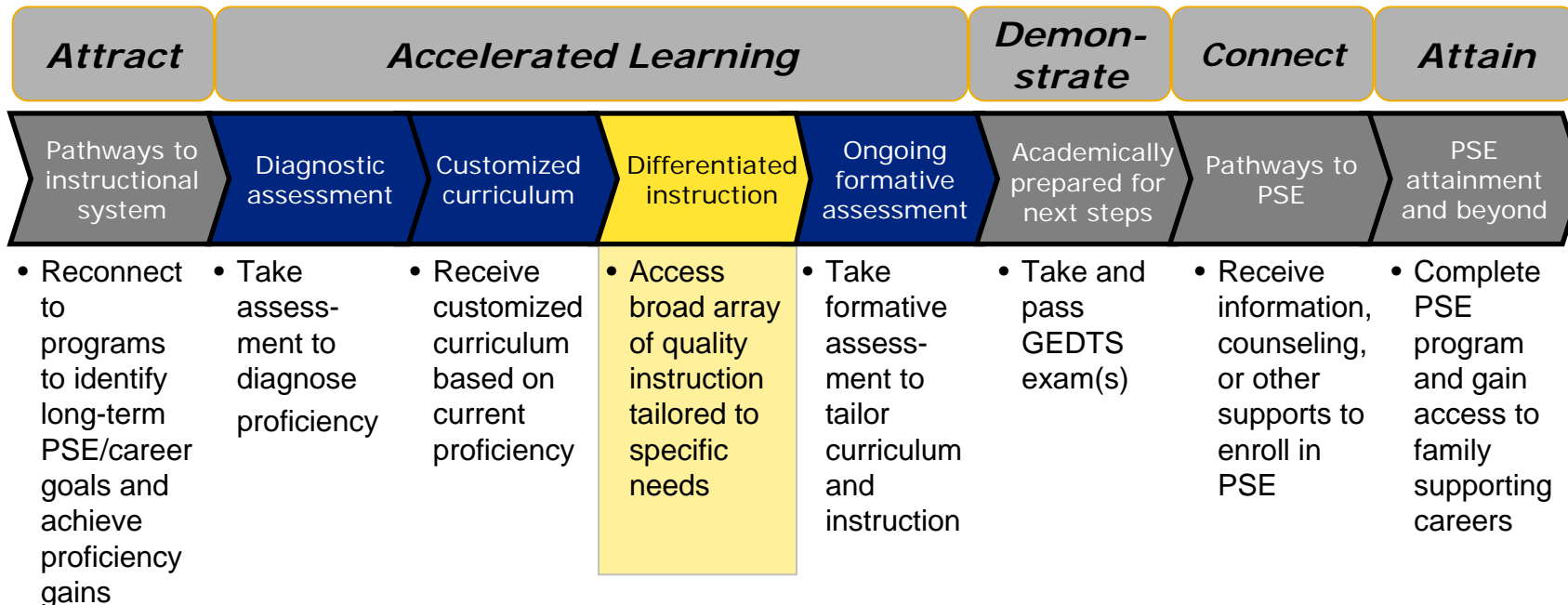


Why The 21st Century GED Initiative ?



Our goal is to facilitate pathways to achieve career / college readiness and increase postsecondary attainment

Pathways for adults to career/college-readiness

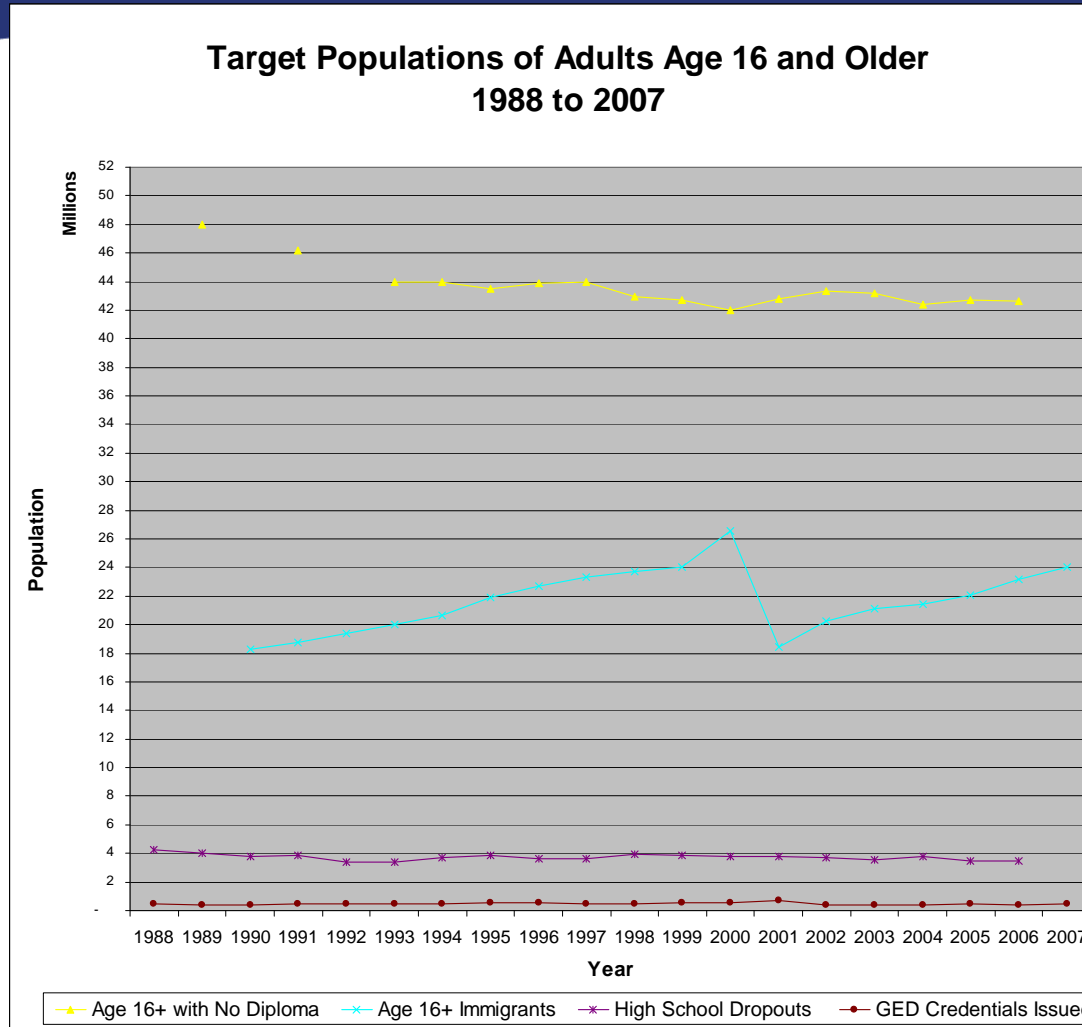


But first...where are we now in meeting the need?

- Almost 40 million US adults age 16 and older lack a high school diploma or GED credential
- Since 1942 more than 17 million adults passed the GED Tests
- 1.3 million students drop out of high school annually
- Immigration rates have steadily increased to their pre-2001 rate
- Annual GED testing rates are steady around $\frac{3}{4}$ million



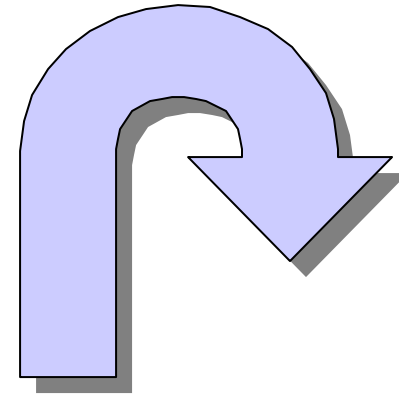
Introduction (cont'd)



Sources: U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, GED® Testing Program Statistical Reports

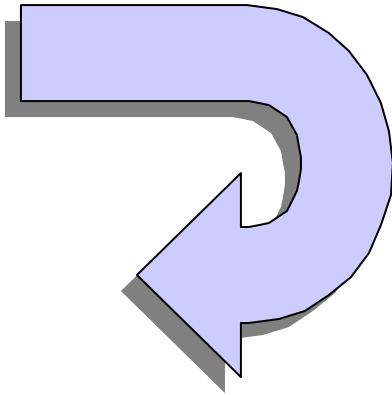
Who Enters PSE?

- 65% of GED passers give further education as a reason for testing
- Data match of 540,031 GED candidates from 2003
- 188,243 candidates enrolled in PSE
- 148,649 GED passers, or 42.9%, enrolled in PSE, which is more than double the rate for non-passers (20.5%)
- Female GED passers enrolled in PSE more frequently than males
- No significant differences in enrollment among ethnic groups except Asians, who had a higher rate of enrollment



Who Enters PSE?

At the institutions that the GED passers enrolled in:

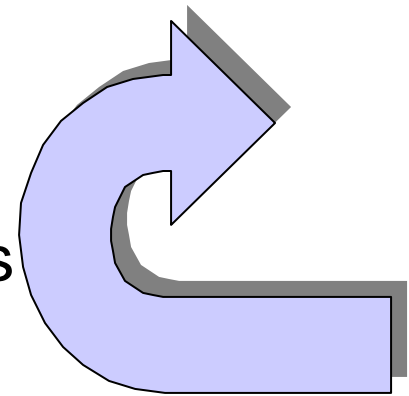


- More women enrolled on average than men
- White and African-American students had the highest enrollment
- Men with GED credentials enrolled full-time at about the same rate as men overall in the same institutions
- Women with GED credentials enrolled full time at a lower rate than their peers

Who Enters PSE?

2003 GED passers vs. traditional HS graduates

- Similarities in gender, ethnic background, and among the youngest (16 to 18 years) and oldest age groups (30 years and older)
- Regardless of educational background, most students attended full or half time
- A higher proportion of students in their twenties with GED credentials in PSE
- Proportionately more GED passers completed associate degrees, and more traditional high school graduates earned bachelor degrees



Who Enters PSE?

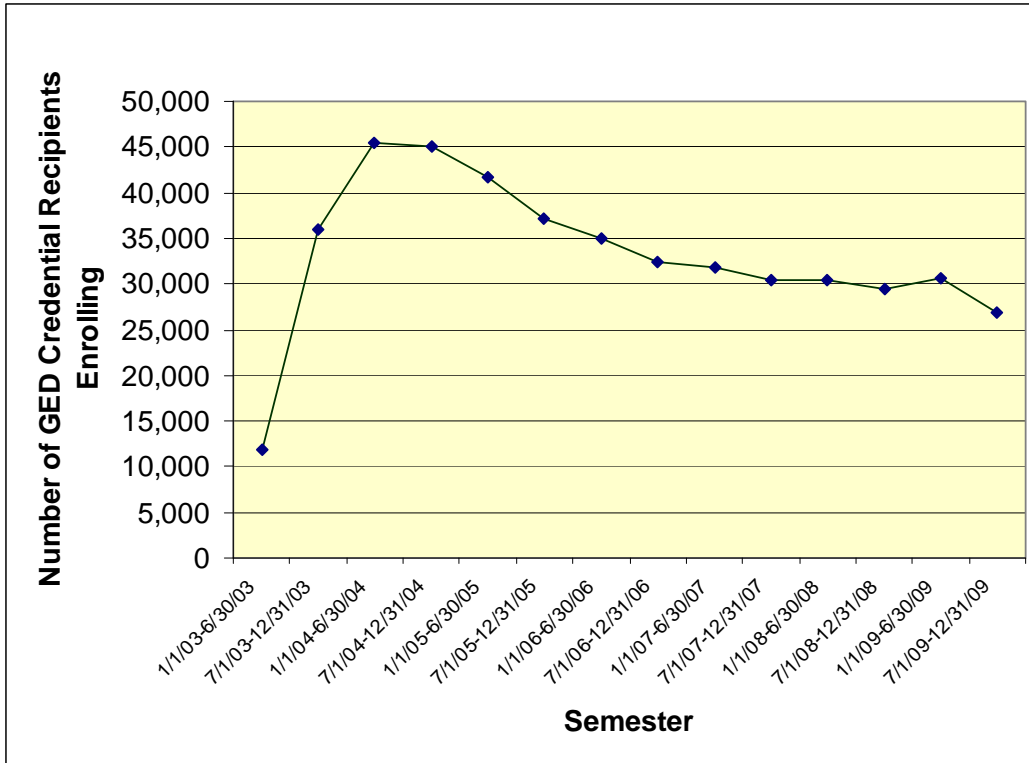
Your turn...

With your group discuss the following:

- Did you expect more or less than 42.9% of GED passers to enroll in PSE?
- Why might women who pass GED Tests enroll in PSE full time less often than their peers?
- What positive news do you see in the similarities of GED passers and traditional high school graduates in PSE enrollment? In the differences?



When Do They Enroll in PSE?



- 71.8% enrolled within 3 years of passing
- About two-thirds of those who enrolled stayed for 2 or more semesters
- Students whose primary language was not English tended to enroll much sooner after passing the GED Tests (within a year)

Where Do They Enroll in PSE?

- Most (77.8 %) GED passers enrolled in institutions offering programs of 2 years or less
- 83.1% enrolled in the same state as GED testing
- Institutions had a mean of 8,249 students, 469 full-time faculty members, and faculty-to-student ratio of 48.5 to 1
- Mean admission rate for schools was 61.9%, but only 40.3% of those admitted actually enrolled



Where Do They Enroll in PSE?



- Enrollment concentrated in about 2/5 of the 2003 GED passer institutions, with open admissions policies
- 81.9% of institutions where 2003 GED passers enrolled offered remedial services
- 39.6% offered daycare services for children of students; both rates were significantly higher than for institutions overall

How Do They Persist?



- Non-completers enrolled for 3 to 5 semesters; graduates tended to enroll for more semesters, with many patterns
- 2003 GED passers may proceed unevenly through PSE, often with one stopout
- The first- to second- semester retention rate was 50.4%
- 32.6% dropped out after the first semester

How Do They Persist?



- Males tended to enroll more frequently in and complete a program offered in a **single semester**
- Females tended to enroll in multiple semesters and graduate at higher rates than males
- Those with a primary language **other than English** tended to graduate from multiple-semester programs more frequently
- 12th-grade completers with GED credentials most frequently graduated after enrolling for multiple postsecondary semesters and least frequently dropped out after a single semester

How Many Graduate?

- 11.8% of 2003 GED passers who enrolled in PSE later graduated
- 2003 GED passers in the following groups had higher percentages of **single-semester** program completers:
 - males
 - 8th-grade (or less) and 9th-grade completers
 - those with goals of skill certification or enroll in technical school
 - those with a goal of getting a better job
 - those whose employers required the GED Tests
 - those who tested to become a role model for their families
 - full-time students when GED testing



How Many Graduate?

- 2003 GED passers with a goal of **entering a 2-year college** more often enrolled for multiple semesters and graduated
- 2003 GED passers with a goal of **entering a 4-year college** more often became multiple-semester graduates than single-semester completers
- The single most popular **major** was nursing (9.7 percent of graduates with reported majors); other popular majors included nurse assistant, criminal justice/law enforcement, emergency medical technician, and business administration



Experiences In PSE

Your turn...

With your group discuss the following:

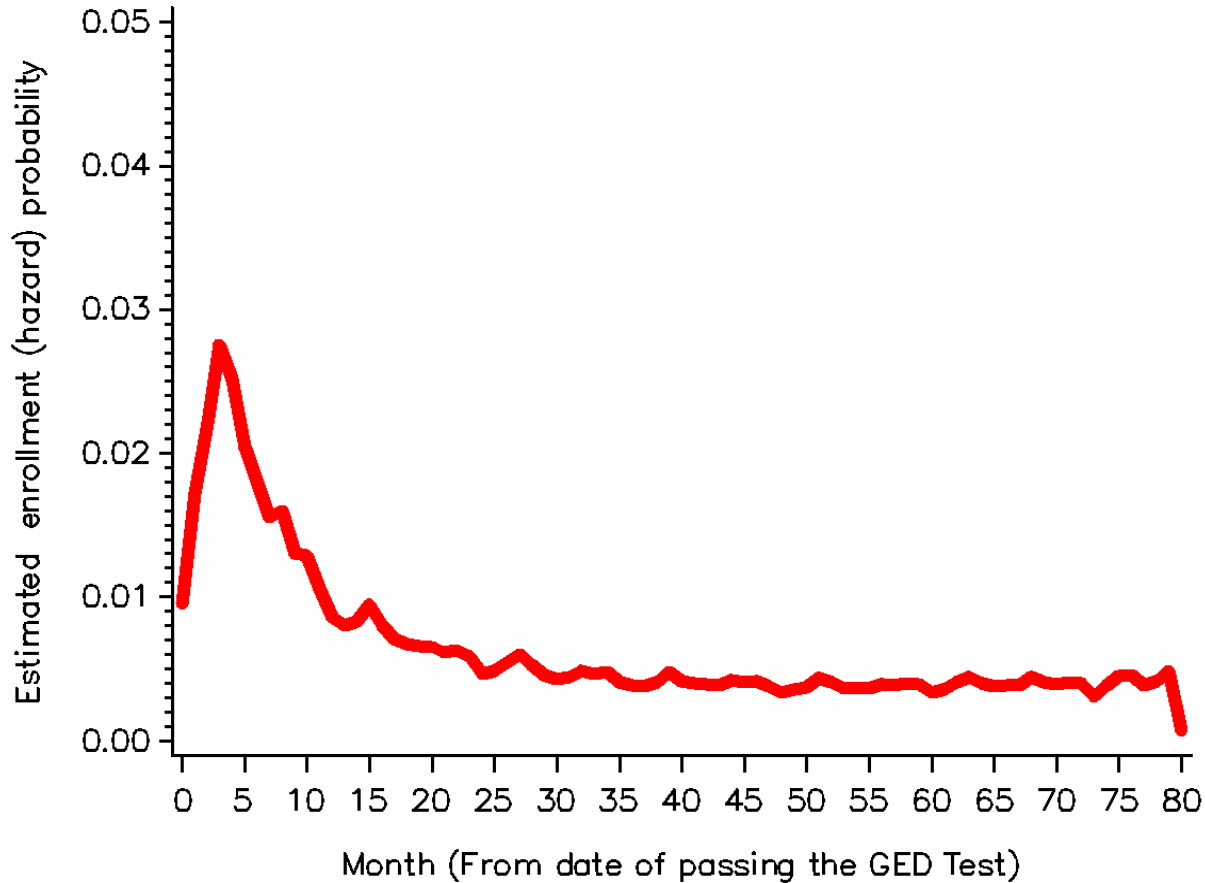
- Did you expect GED passers to enroll in PSE within 3 years? Why or why not?
- Why do you suppose GED passers might prefer PSE programs of up to 2 years?
- How would open admissions and remedial services seem attractive? What might be the disadvantages?
- Why might GED passers *not* graduate from PSE programs?



- Survival analysis
 - Describing **whether** events occur or **when** events occur
- The event occurrence of **enrollment**
 - What is the event occurrence that a GED passer will enroll in postsecondary education?
 - Is there a relationship between event occurrence of **enrollment** and GED passers' **demographic and academic** characteristics?
- The event occurrence of **graduation**
 - What is the event occurrence that GED passers who enroll will persist to graduation?
 - Is there a relationship between the event occurrence of **graduation** and GED passers' **demographic and academic** characteristics?

- The event occurrence of Enrollment
 - Cumulative enrollment rate: 41% by the end of 80 months and beyond
 - An identified critical time window to enroll in postsecondary education: within 15 months after passing the GED Tests.
- The event occurrence of Graduation
 - Cumulative graduation rate: 11% by the end of 80 months and beyond
 - An area of great concern—What has happened after they enrolled in postsecondary education?

Hazard Function for the 2003 Cohort of GED® Test Passers Who Enrolled in Postsecondary Education (2003–09)



Group Differences



- Gender
 - Female: More likely to enroll and graduate
 - Male: Less likely to enroll and graduate
- Age
 - Younger age group (16 to 24 years)
 - ❖ most likely to enroll
 - ❖ least likely to graduate
 - Older age group (35 years and older)
 - ❖ least likely to enroll
 - ❖ most likely to graduate
- Ethnicity
 - No differences for enrollment and graduation among ethnic groups

Survival Analyses

Your turn...

With your group discuss the following:

- How could transition efforts support more male GED passers to make a successful transition from GED credential to PSE?
- How could transition programs encourage adults with GED credentials who are at least 35 to enter PSE?
- How could more young students with GED credentials (up to age 24) be supported to successfully complete a PSE program?



Next Steps



- Preliminary analysis of 2004 population by December 2010
- Year 2 report published early 2011
- Year 3 report (2005 population) by early 2012
- Longitudinal report for all three years
- Follow-up sampling is planned for future years to track stability
- Companion study (qualitative) in 2011:
Perceptions and Pathways

Next Steps – 2004 Sneak Preview

- Our matching process was refined to include even more test-takers, but enrollment percents for 2004 are expected to be comparable
- Remedial course-taking rates (such as math and writing) for both GED credential recipients and traditional high school graduates are similar
- Institutions that GED credential recipients enrolled in had generally less expensive tuition and a larger total enrollment than institutions with no students with GED credentials



Conclusion and Contact Information



- Questions ?
- Completing the quiz before we say goodbye...
- For further information:
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