The Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study

Employment: Findings from Age 22

The Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS) is excited to announce the release of Age 22 data on March 25, 2024! The FFCWS is a longitudinal birth cohort study that has been following approximately 5,000 young adults and their families since they were born about 22 years ago. The study oversampled births to unmarried parents resulting in an oversample of disadvantaged families who are often underrepresented in large, national datasets. We have collected data on these young adults and their parents at 7 time periods: when the child was born and when they were ages 1, 3, 5, 9, 15, and 22.

In this brief, we present weighted findings from the FFCWS Year 22 national sample which includes 2,157 young adults and 1,978 PCGs. These findings focus on the topic of Young Adult employment; the Year 22 data also include questions about PCG employment. Year 22 items related to employment are outlined in Box 1.

Box 1. Employment Items in FFCWS Y22 Data

In both YA and PCG surveys:
- Current work status, type of work, work schedule
- Earnings
- Impact of COVID-19 on employment

In YA survey only:
- Under-the-table work and gig work
- Military service
- Main activities at each age from 18-Year 22 survey

Benefits

71% of young adults reported that they were working at the time of the Year 22 survey.

Note: YAs who reported not working but not looking for work because they already had a job are included in this percentage.

| Benefits reported by young adults who were working at the time of the Year 22 survey |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Health insurance | 46 |
| Dental insurance | 35 |
| Paid sick leave | 40 |
| Paid vacation | 48 |
| Paid parental leave | 27 |
| Retirement plan | 35 |

Hours Worked

Of the young adults who were working at the time of the Year 22 survey:
- 47% reported working less than 40 hours per week
- 33% reported working 40 hours per week
- 20% reported working more than 40 hours per week

Reasons Not Looking for Work

52% of young adults who were not working at the time of the Year 22 survey reported that they were looking for work.

Of those not looking for work:
- 35% were in school or a training program.
- 10% were stay-at-home parents.
- 41% reported other reasons for not looking for work.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health under award numbers R01HD036916, R01HD039135, and R01HD040421, as well as a consortium of private foundations. The content does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.