

Using Administrative Data to Examine the Performance of Federal Workforce Training Programs

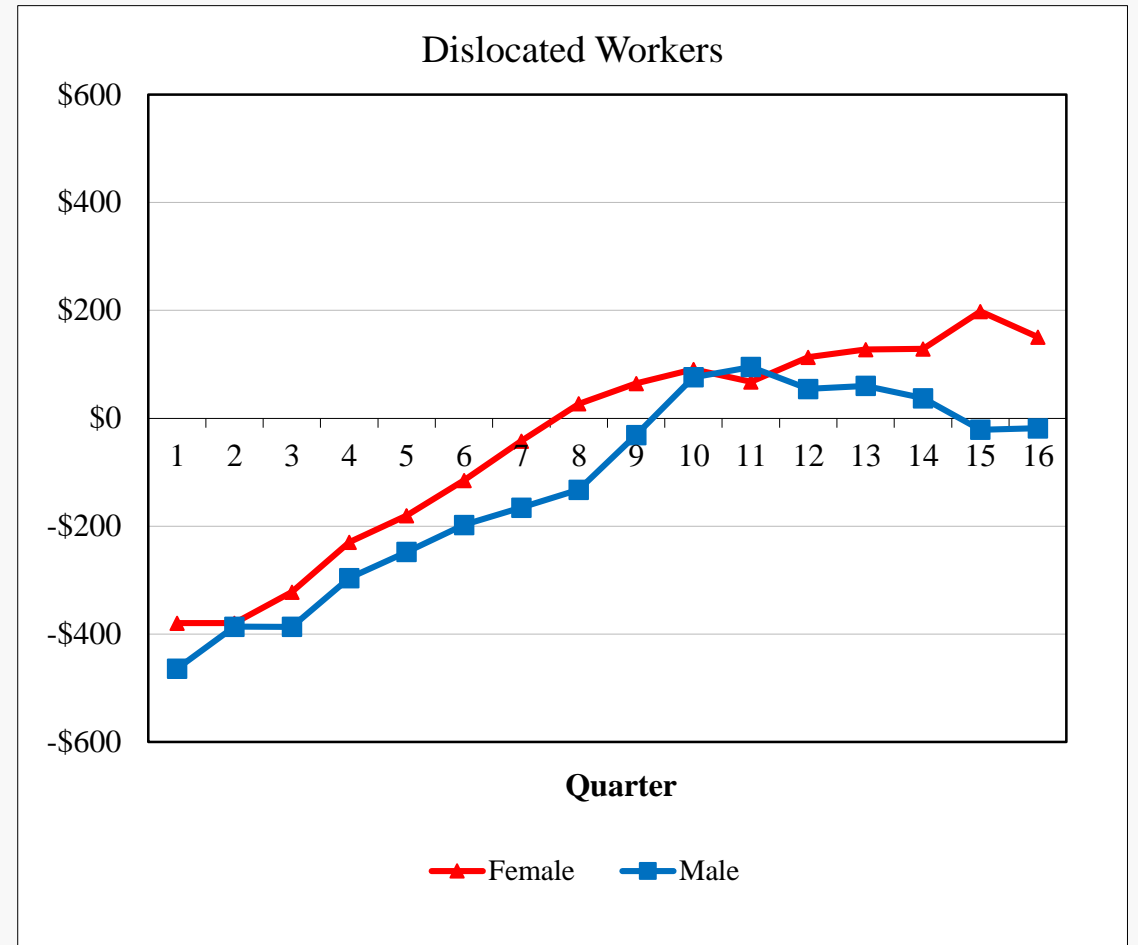
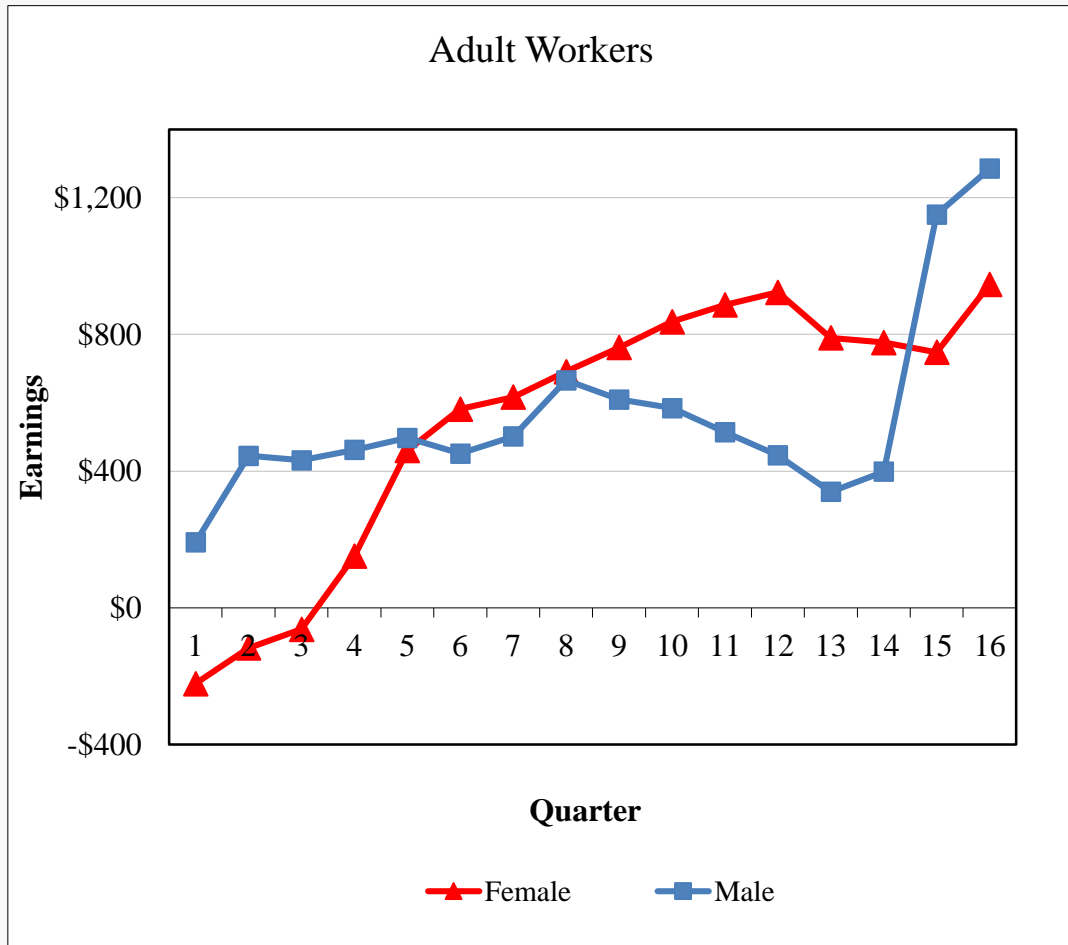
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Introduction

- Want to demonstrate the usefulness of administrative data by discussing two of my project that made use of administrative data
 - First project examined the impact of federal job training program (WIA) on participants' earnings and probability of employment
 - Second project examined the impact of passing the GED on employment, earnings and probability of entering post-secondary education

Impact of Job Training on Earnings



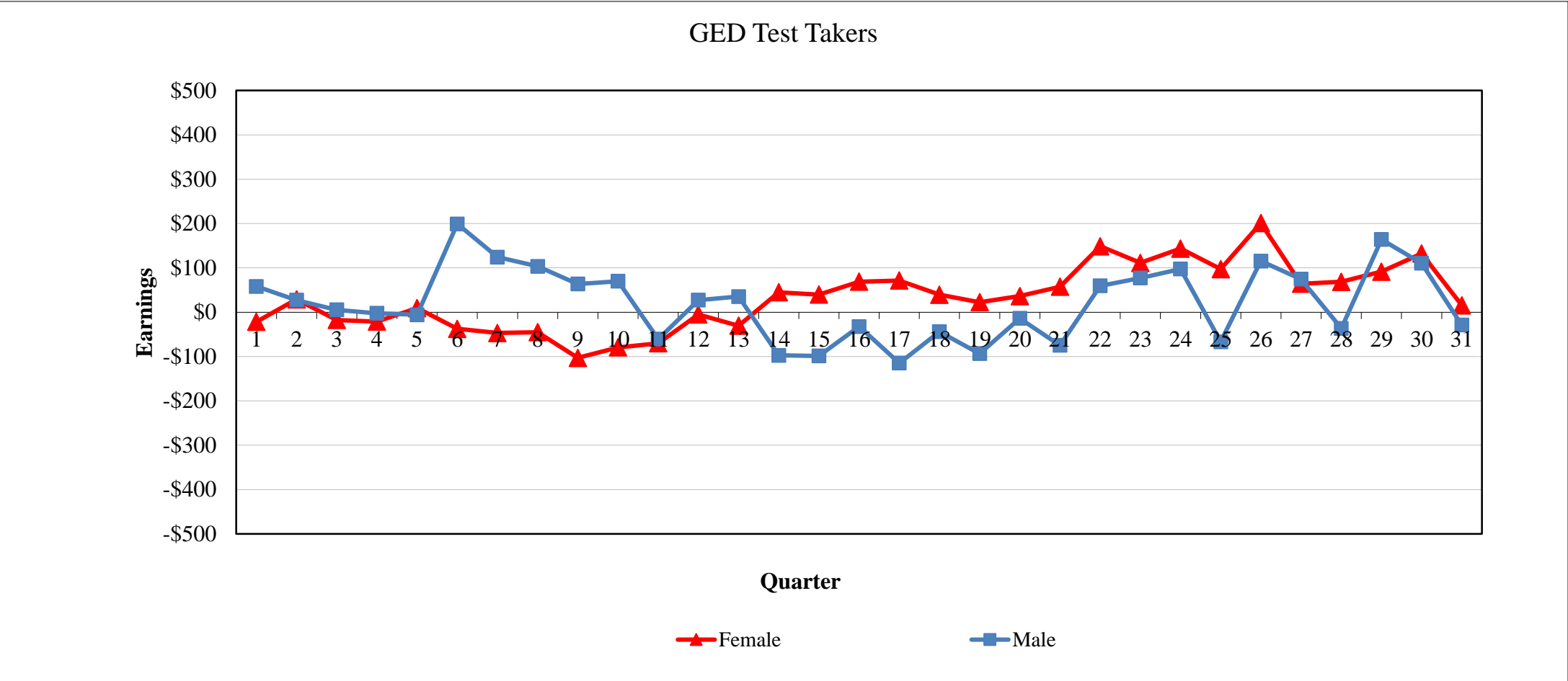
Impact of Job Training

- Positive impact on earnings for Adult Workers, very little impact for Dislocated Workers
 - Similar finding for probability of employment
 - For Adult workers benefit appears to exceed costs
- Basis of a report for Department of Labor. Project took 15 months, cost \$1.5M.
 - Launched Randomized Control Trial (RCT) at same time--2007. Cost \$23M. Only releases short term (15 months) results for far.
 - Short term results match results from our study
 - Requested data from all 50 states, got data from 12

Takeaways from Study

- Based on findings of little benefit for dislocated workers
Congress allows local training boards to move money from Dislocated to Adult worker program
- Strongest results on cost/benefit come from RCT, but ...
 - More expensive and time consuming
 - Aren't good at addressing other questions
- Room for both, but non-RCT trails requires administrative data

Impact of Passing the GED on Earnings



Impact of Passing the GED

- No significant impact on earnings. Find similar results for probability of employment
- Some positive impact on probability of attending post-secondary school
 - Men complete around 1-1/2 credits; women approximately 6 credits
 - No significant impact on earnings or employment, even for those who go back to school
- GED may be valuable for some people, but is not particularly valuable for most people who take it

Takeaways from Study

- Most job training programs urge high school dropouts to take GED
 - Focusing on credentials
 - Likely more valuable programs for them to participate in, particularly Adult Workers
- Need to do more work to see who can benefit from the GED
- These data are for a single state—need data for multiple states

Conclusion

- Administrative data are invaluable for improving existing government programs, but we need to improve their use
 - Ensure state collected data, particularly UI wage-record data, are available for all 50 states and are more readily accessible to researchers
 - Ensure that evaluations such as this are done on a regular basis and in a timely fashion
 - Make sure studies are completed before reauthorization and used as part of the process
 - Do all this in a way that enhances data protection