Longitudinal Transition Outcomes of Youth with Emotional Disturbances

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Today’s agenda

- Examine “the good news and the work ahead”\(^1\) in improving the outcomes of youth with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD)
  - Draw a nationally representative picture of outcomes for youth with EBD in 1990 and 2005 using data from the original National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS) and its “second generation” (NLTS2)
- Using NLTS2 data, document the post-high school outcomes of young adults with EBD nationally up to 8 years after high school

## NLTS and NLTS2 Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NLTS</th>
<th>NLTS2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focuses on</td>
<td>Youth and young adults</td>
<td>Youth and young adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study began</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age at start of study</td>
<td>13 to 21</td>
<td>13 to 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability categories</td>
<td>All disability categories</td>
<td>All disability categories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longitudinal</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>10+ years</td>
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<td>2 waves of data over 4 years</td>
<td>5 waves of data over 9 years</td>
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Sample design

- NLTS and NLTS2 both have a nationally representative sample of school districts and special schools from which students were randomly selected to generalize to:
  - Students receiving special education who were in each study’s age range
  - Each federal special education disability category in use at the time, including EBD
  - Each single-year age cohort
Data sources

- **NLTS/NLTS2 comparison: parent and youth telephone interviews**
  - Secondary school outcomes: NLTS Wave 1, 1987 (n = 400); NLTS2 Wave 2, 2003 (n = 300). Youth were 14-18 years old.
  - Post-high school outcomes: NLTS Wave 2, 1990 (n = 270); NLTS2 Wave 3, 2005 (n = 280). Young adults were 18-21 years old
- **NLTS2 young adult outcomes study**
  - Wave 5 parent and youth telephone interview/survey (2009); young adults were 21-25 years old and out of high school up to 8 years
Outcomes of Youth and Young Adults with EBD: NLTS and NLTS2

- High school achievement
- Postsecondary education enrollment
- Employment
- Independence
- Community integration
High school academic outcomes of students with EBD (1987 and 2003)

- The percentage earning “mostly As and Bs” increased from 21% to 47%.
- The high school completion rate increased from 39% to 56%.
- The percentage suspended for 1 or 2 days increased from 2% to 11% and average days absent in a 4-week period increased from 1.9 to 3.1.

*p < .05; **p < .01.

Postsecondary school enrollment (1990 and 2005)

Young adults with EBD attended:

- **Any postsecondary school**
  - 1990: 18%
  - 2005: 35%
  - Percentage-point difference: +17**

- **2-year/community college**
  - 1990: 10%
  - 2005: 21%
  - Percentage-point difference: +11

- **Vocational, business, technical school**
  - 1990: 7%
  - 2005: 24%
  - Percentage-point difference: +17***

- **4-year college**
  - 1990: 1%
  - 2005: 6%
  - Percentage-point difference: +5

**p < .01; ***p < .001.
Postsecondary employment (1990 and 2005)

Young adults with EBD:

- Were employed at time of interview: 1990 59%, 2005 41%; percentage-point difference -18
- Worked 35 or more hours per week: 1990 69%, 2005 67%; percentage-point difference -2
- Received paid vacation or sick leave: 1990 62%, 2005 45%; percentage-point difference -17
- Received health insurance: 1990 44%, 2005 39%; percentage-point difference -5

Inflation-adjusted average wage:

- 1987: $8.10/hour
- 2003: $13.90/hour

Productive engagement at time of interview (1990 and 2005)

- Engaged in postsecondary education, employment, or job training:
  - 1990: 57%
  - 2005: 73%
  - Percentage-point difference: +16

- Employment only:
  - 1990: 51%
  - 2005: 48%
  - Percentage-point difference: -3

- Postsecondary education only:
  - 1990: 1%
  - 2005: 13%
  - Percentage-point difference: +12

- Employment and postsecondary education:
  - 1990: 4%
  - 2005: 12%
  - Percentage-point difference: +8

Independence outcomes (1990 and 2005)

Young adults with EBD:

- Lived independently: 19% (1990) to 27% (2005), difference: -8
- Were married or in marriage-like relationship: 6% (1990) to 8% (2005), difference: -2
- Had or had fathered a child: 14% (1990) to 18% (2005), difference: -4
- Had savings account: 40% (1990) to 48% (2005), difference: +8
- Had credit card: 14% (1990) to 22% (2005), difference: +8

Community participation (1990 and 2005)

Young adults with EBD:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Percentage-point difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belonged to a community group</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>+9</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e.g., sports team, hobby club)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participated in volunteer or community service activity</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>+13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a driver's license</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>+6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Were registered to vote</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>+19**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were ever arrested</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>+25***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** p < .01; *** p < .001.

Post-High School Outcomes and Experiences of Young Adults with EBD, 2009
Postsecondary school enrollment, 2009

Ever enrolled in:

- Any postsecondary school
  - Young adults with EBD: 53%**
  - Young adults in the general population: 67%

- 2-year/community college
  - Young adults with EBD: 38%***
  - Young adults in the general population: 21%

- Vocational, business, technical school
  - Young adults with EBD: 33%**
  - Young adults in the general population: 20%

- 4-year college
  - Young adults with EBD: 11%***
  - Young adults in the general population: 40%

** p < .01; *** p < .001.

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years. Young adults who had enrolled in more than one type of postsecondary school were included in each type of school they had attended.

Intensity of postsecondary school enrollment

Enrolled "continuously" since first began, rather than "off and on"

- Enrolled full time: 59%
- Enrolled "continuously" since first began, rather than "off and on": 58%

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.
Disclosure of disability to postsecondary school

- Did not consider self to have a disability: 53%
- Considered self to have a disability, did not inform school: 21%
- Considered self to have a disability, informed school of disability: 27%
- Received supports and accommodations because of disability: 20%
- Received schoolwork help from school overall: 37%
- Got help on own: 28%

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Special Education Research, National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2), Waves 2-5 parent interviews and youth interviews/surveys, 2003-2009.
Postsecondary school student’s perceptions of help with schoolwork

Usefulness of help with schoolwork

- Not at all or not very useful: 25
- Somewhat useful: 24
- Very useful: 51

Sufficiency of help

- Definitely or probably not getting enough: 18
- Probably getting enough: 45
- Definitely getting enough: 37

32% of those never receiving assistance with schoolwork thought it would have been helpful.

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years. Young adults who had enrolled in more than one type of postsecondary school were included in each type of school they had attended.

Postsecondary school completion

Graduated from or completed program at any postsecondary school

- Young adults with EBD: 35%
- Young adults in the general population: 52%**

** p < .01.
NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.
Post-high school employment

- Working for pay outside the home at time of interview:
  - Young adults with EBD: 50%***
  - Young adults in the general population: 66%

- Had been employed since high school:
  - Young adults with EBD: 92%
  - Young adults in the general population: 91%

***p < .001.

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.

Hours worked at current or most recent job

Hours per week:
- More than 40 hours: 16%
- More than 34 to 40: 47%
- 20 to 34: 26%
- Fewer than 20: 11%

Average hours per week of young adults:
- With EBD: 36 hours
- In the general population: 37 hours

If working < 35 hours, wants to work part time: 51%

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.
Duration of employment

Number of months employed:

- Less than 6 months: 26%
- 6 to 12 months: 30%
- More than 12 months to 24 months: 23%
- More than 24 months to 36 months: 10%
- More than 36 months: 11%

Average number of months employed of young adults:

- With EBD: 18.8 months
- In the general population: 21.8 months

Average number of jobs held since high school by young adults with EBD: 4.6 jobs

Disclosure of disability to employer

- Did not consider self to have a disability: 70%
- Informed employer of disability: 21%
- Employer aware of disability: 24%
- Received accommodations: 22%

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.
Hourly wage

Average hourly wage of young adults:
- With EBD: $11.00
- In the general population: $11.40

Percentage of employed young adults with disability reporting he or she is paid “pretty well”: 70%

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years.
Employment benefits

Received:

- Any benefits (one or more of the following) - 53%
- Paid vacation or sick leave - 45%*, 57%
- Health insurance - 41%**, 56%
- Retirement benefits - 29%, 39%

* p < .05; **p < .01.

NOTE: Analyses include young adults with EBD out of high school up to 8 years. General population data not available for any benefits.

Relevant reports

- **NLTS/NLTS2 comparison**

- **NLTS2 report for young adults out of high school up to 8 year**
For more information:

- Full reports
- Executive summaries
- Fact sheets & Data briefs
- Data tables

www.nlts2.org