Evaluation of the Economic Security for All (EcSA) program

Employment Security Department
WASHINGTON STATE

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board meeting
June 26, 2026

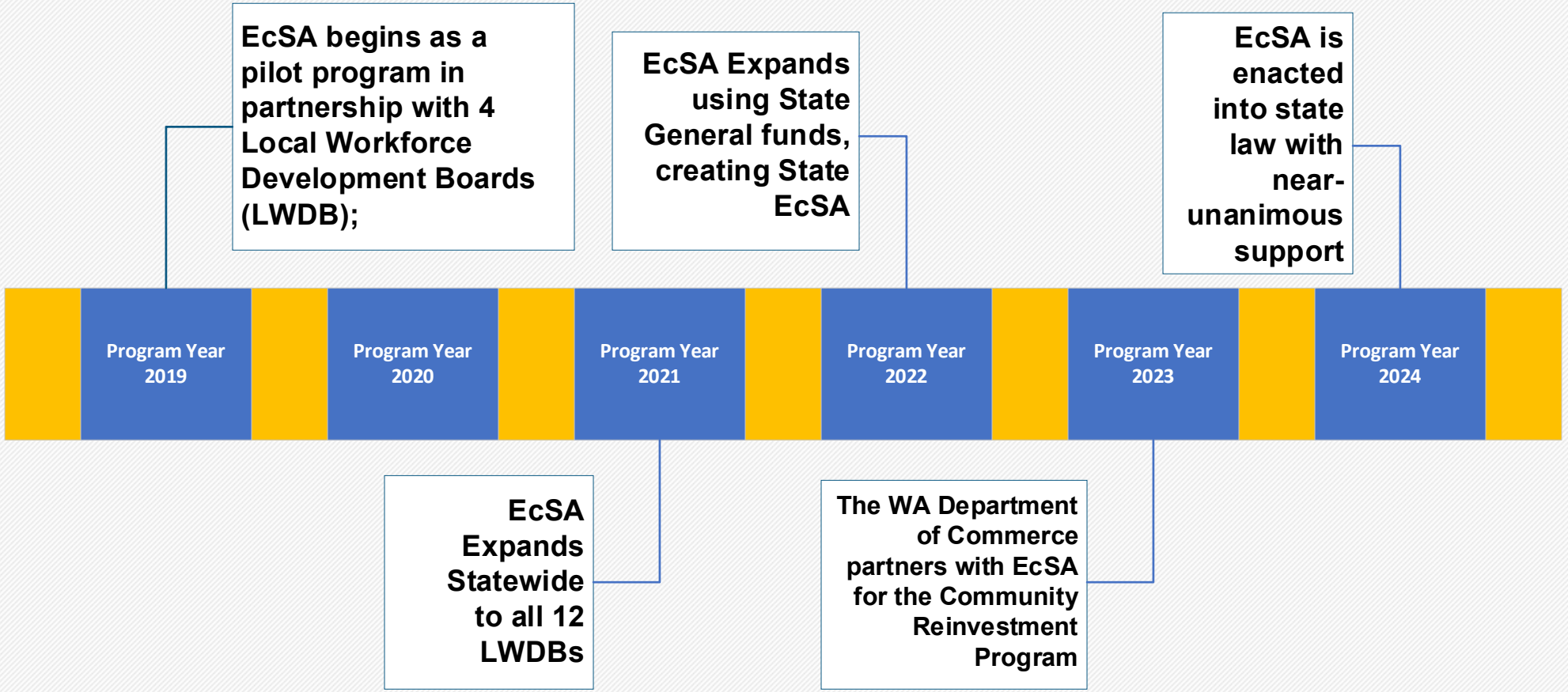
EcSA – Background

EcSA is a program aimed at helping people move out of poverty into careers that pay self-sufficient wages.

EcSA focuses on streamlining access to existing resources and developing new strategies to fill gaps by providing comprehensive services to support long-term self-sufficiency.

Designed in partnership with people experiencing poverty and the Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group

EcSA – Timeline



EcSA – Funding

Local Workforce Development Board EcSA Funding

Federal EcSA

PY18 - $5,906,800
PY19 - $5,500,000
PY20-22 - $9,309,046
PY24 - $2,278,165
PY25 - $2,869,135

State EcSA

FY23 - $6,013,000
FY24 - $9,813,000
FY25 - $9,813,000
FY26 - $5,898,124
FY27 - $3,898,124

Total EcSA Funding: $61,298,394

State EcSA – Current Results

EcSA Current Year Results

Through March 31, 2026

Enrollments: 146% of Target
2,817 participants on a target of 1,929

Participants Entering Training: 190% of Target
768 participants on a target of 404

Participants Reaching Self-Sufficient Wages: 146%
405 participants on a target of 278

State EcSA – Legislative Report

2025 Legislative Report

66% of EcSA participants were unemployed or had annual wages of less than $10,000 before entering the program.

Provided services to 3,584 Washingtonians, exceeding targets by 66%

57% of EcSA participants were People of Color in the period of performance, compared to 37% of the general population. 11% were unhoused.

Average annual wage $47,840 among participants completing the program with employment.

758 participants obtained employment at wages exceeding self-sufficiency

Community Reinvestment Program (CRP)

Community Reinvestment Program Results

FY24-25 ($48.25 million):

3,173 EcSA participants supported with nearly $22 million in Incentive payments for making progress to self-sufficiency.
Over $5.5 million saved by participants in the Matched Investment Savings Account (MISA) program.
533 businesses received business grants, totaling over $4.2 million.

FY26-27 ($14.475 million)

Thru 3/31/26:

514 EcSA participants served with $409,045 in incentive payments. **69%** of participants are BIPOC.
296 EcSA participants enrolled in the MISA program. **128 assets** purchased since 7/1/25. **72%** of participants are BIPOC.
123 businesses awarded $586,581 in grants. **96%** of businesses are BIPOC owned or operated.

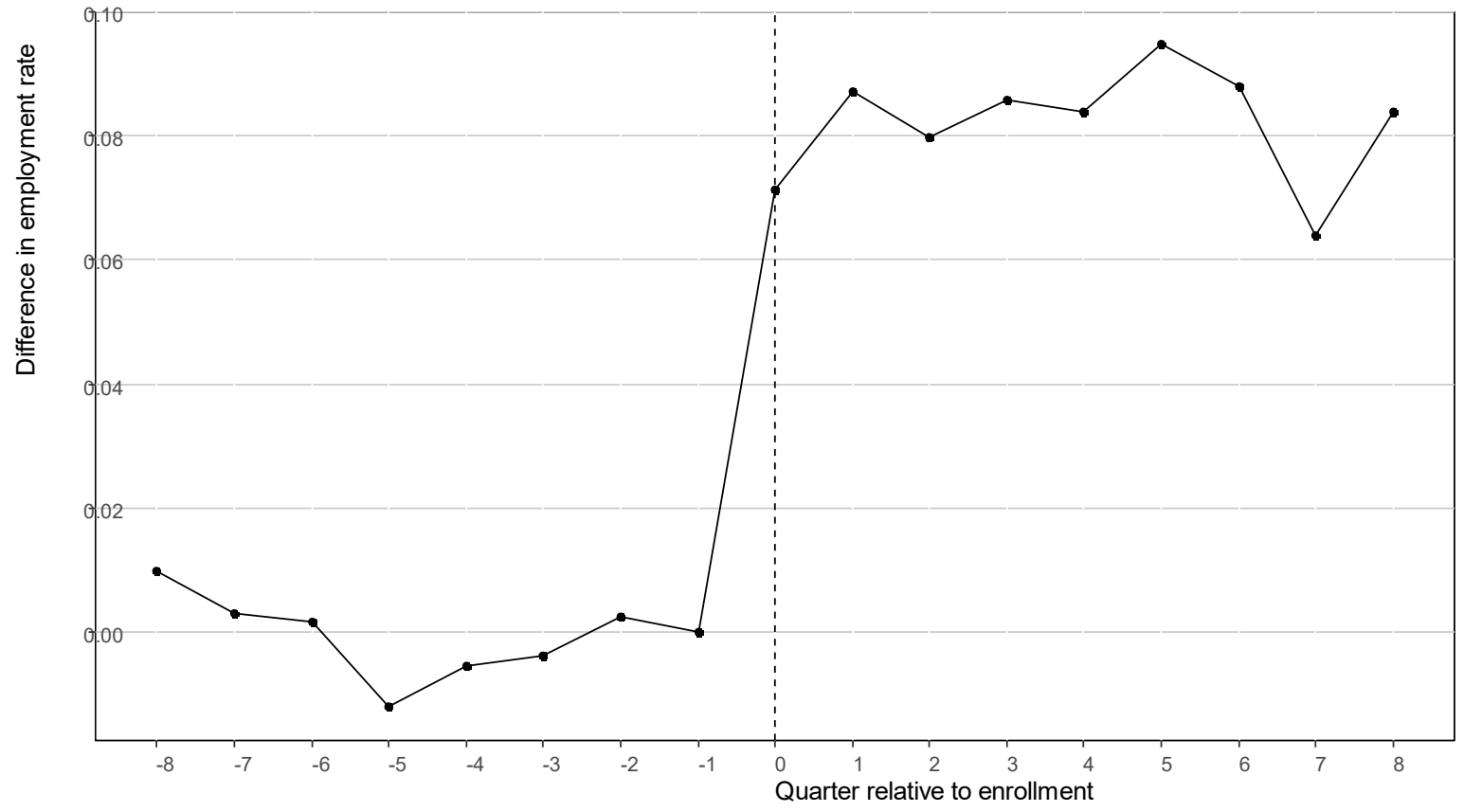
Evaluation of State EcSA

- Included in the inter-agency agreement with Commerce that launched the CRP
- Comprises an evaluation of state EcSA as a whole and of CRP incentive payments
  - Today we focus on evaluation of EcSA
  - The type of evaluation was determined through feasibility analysis by research team

Evaluation of EcSA - Overview

- Impact evaluation of the EcSA initiative
  - Assessed its *causal* effect on outcomes compared to alternative programs (WIOA)
    - Change in outcomes before and after enrollment of EcSA participants vs. similar WIOA participants
- Sample
  - Individuals enrolled between July 2022 and September 2024 (4,412)
- Data included
  - Demographic and socioeconomic information
  - Program participation and services received
  - Earnings and work hours from UI-covered employment
  - Self-sufficiency goal and derived self-sufficiency wage

Effect of enrollment in EcSA on employment



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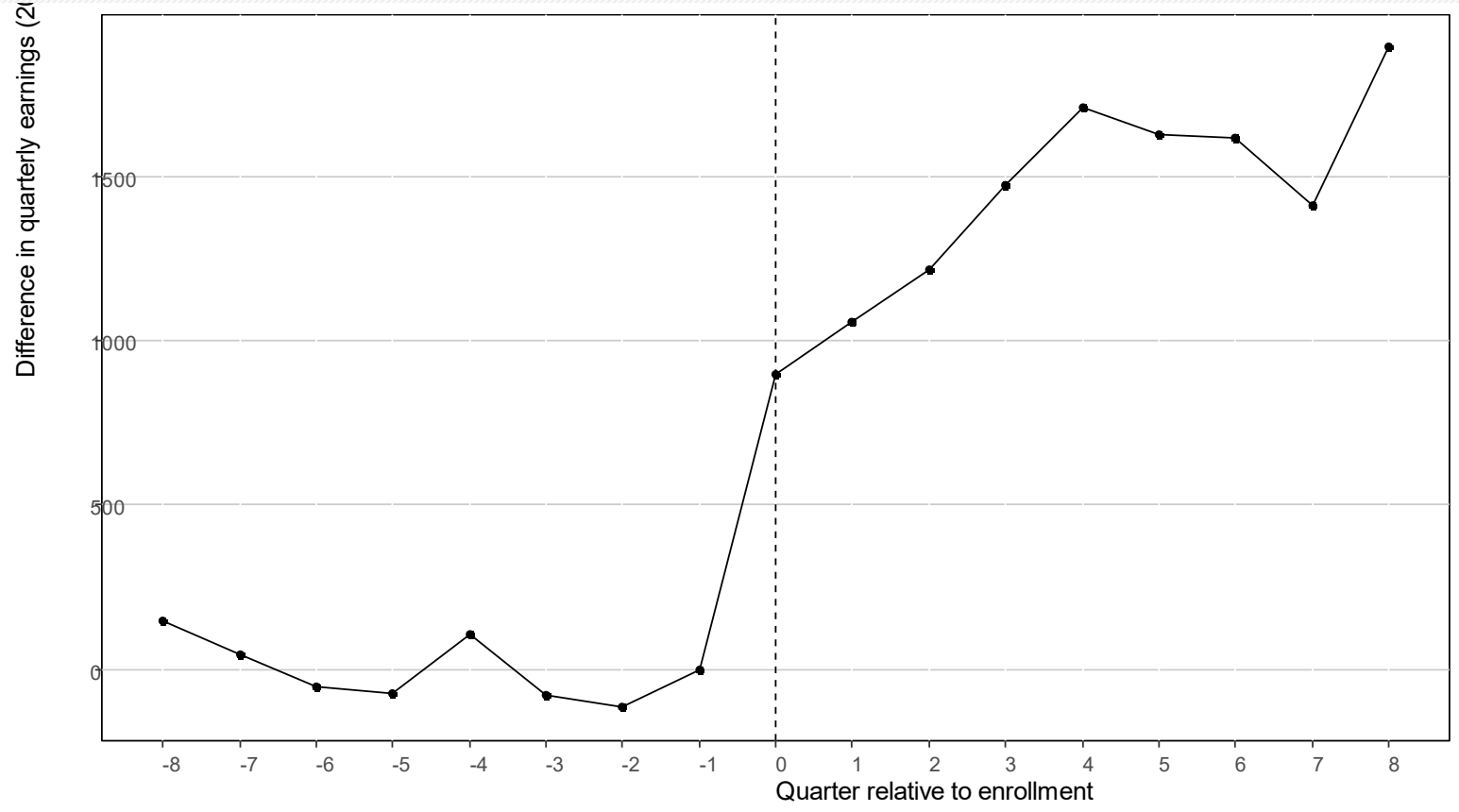
Effect of enrollment in EcSA on real quarterly earnings



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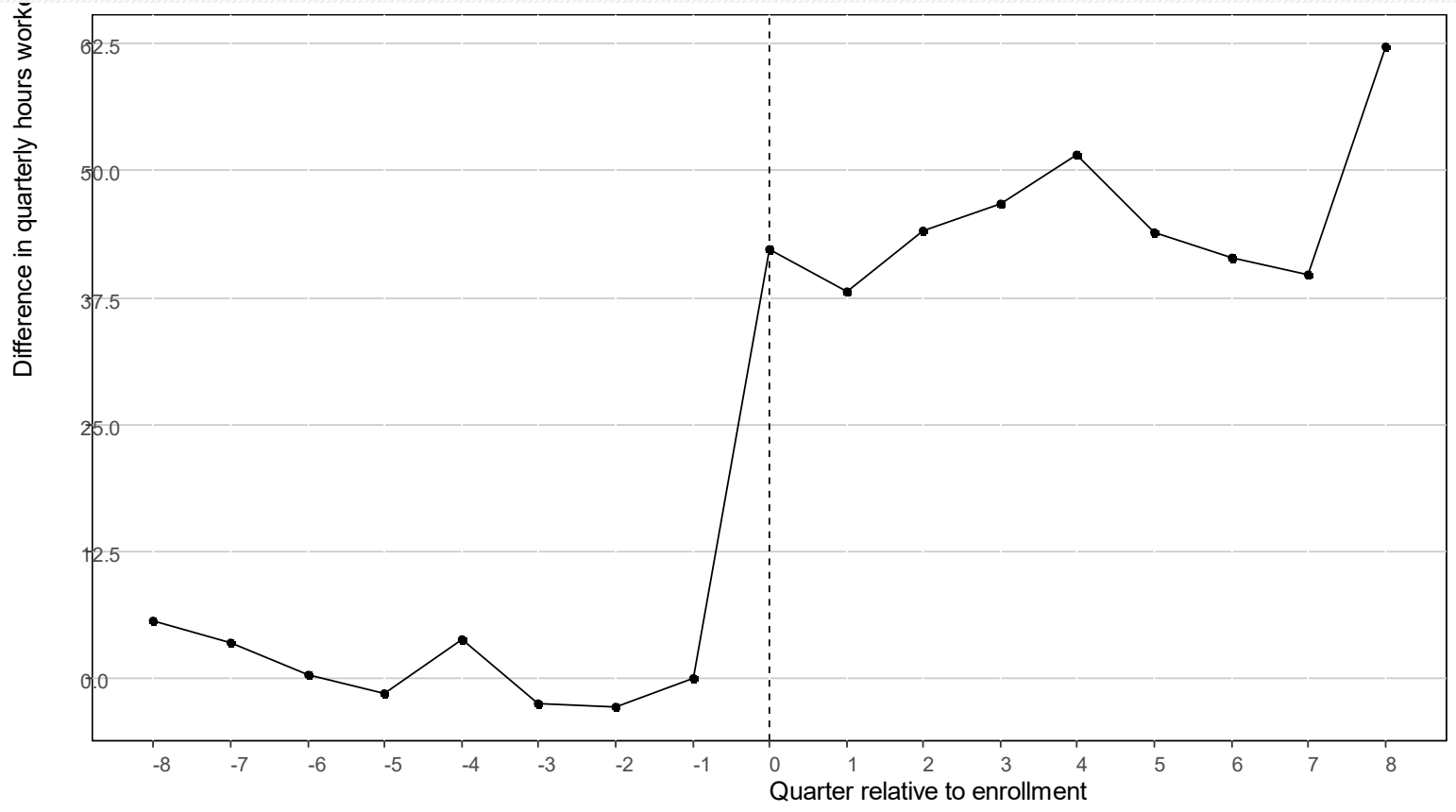
Effect of enrollment in EcSA on quarterly hours worked



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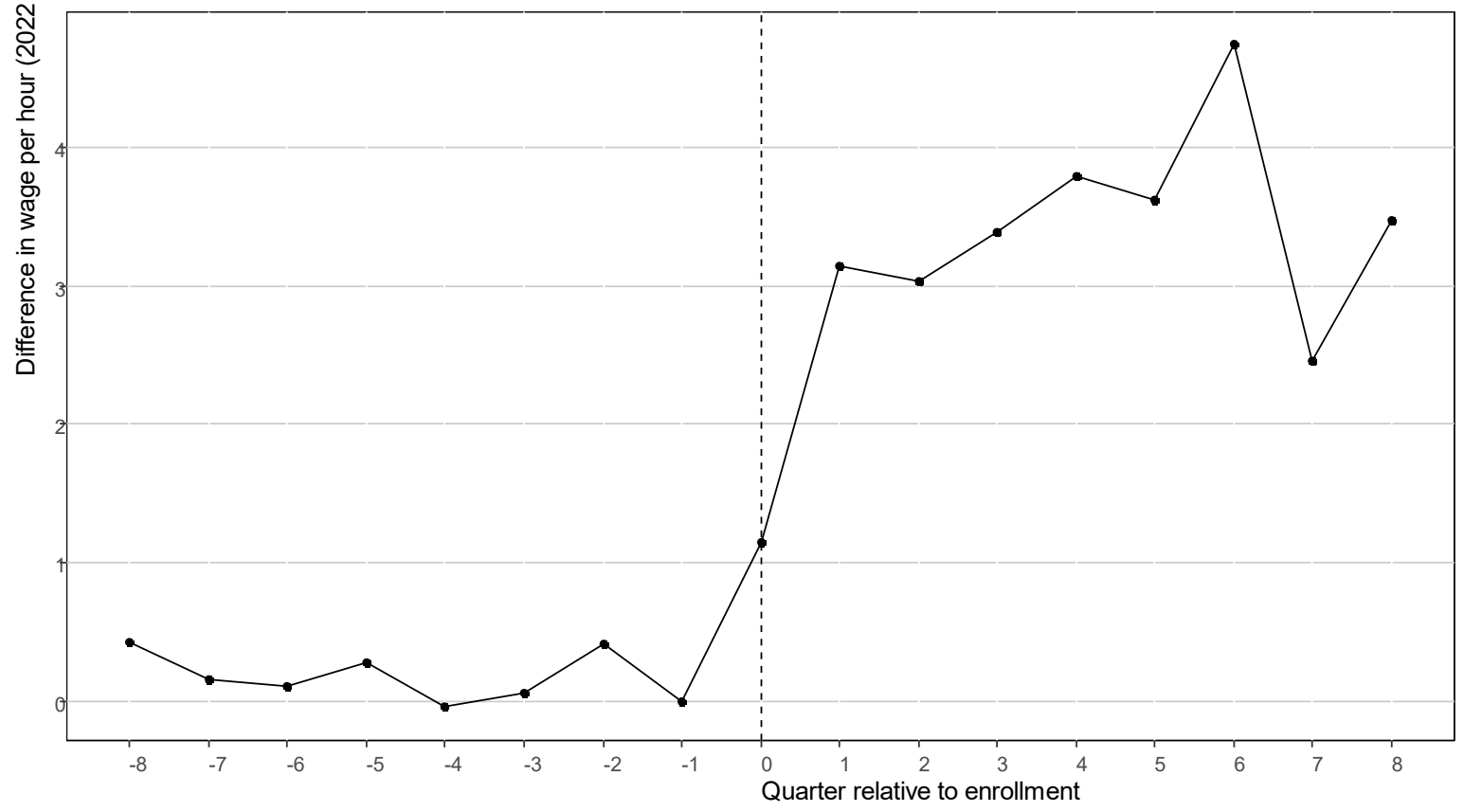
Effect of enrollment in EcSA on real wages per hour



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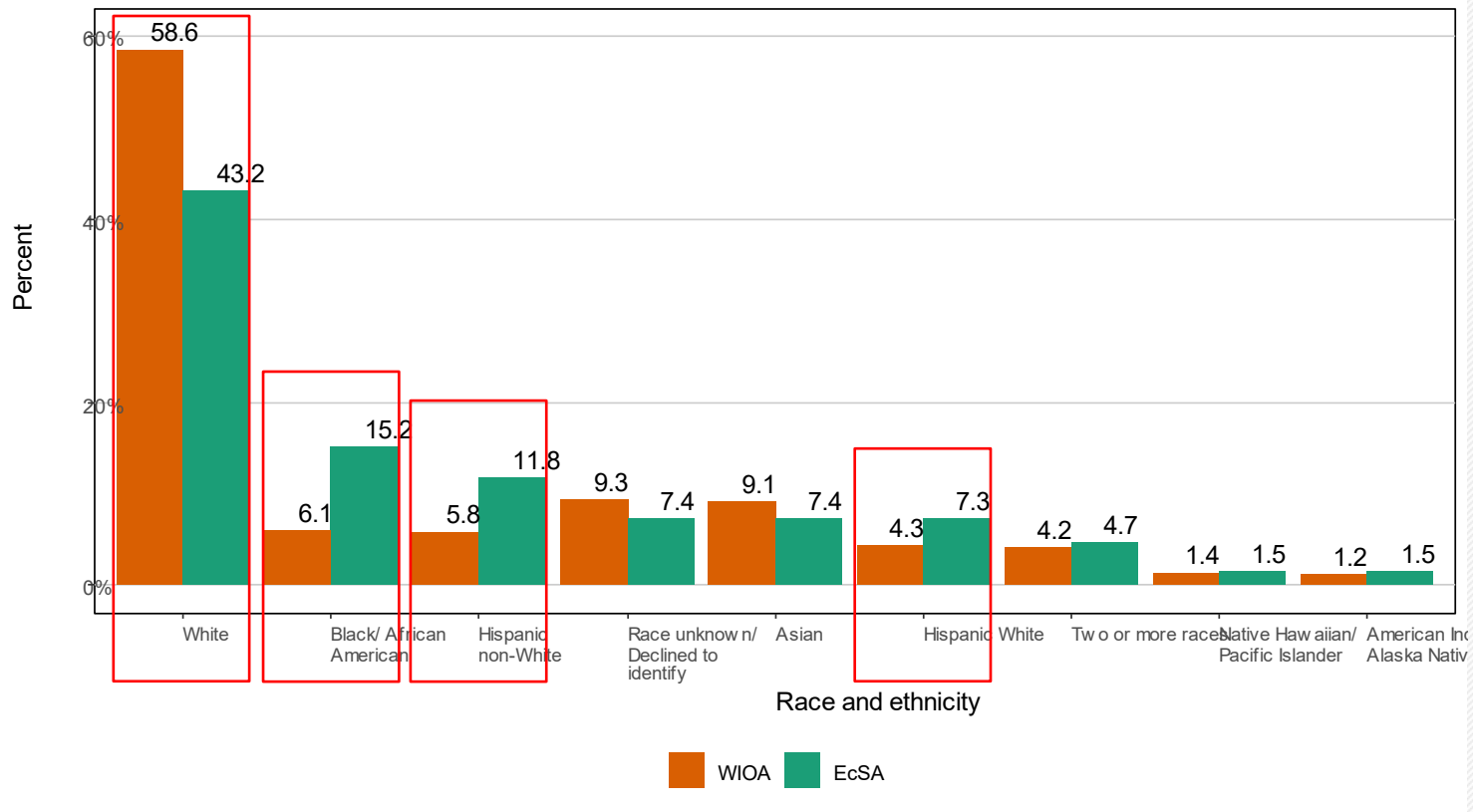
Evaluation of EcSA – Additional findings

- EcSA participants more likely to identify as Black and Hispanic than WIOA participants Details
- Participants remain enrolled for over 5 months, receive 27 services on average Details
- One third of participants enrolled in training; enrollment rates vary by participants' characteristics Details
- Employment rates increase by 10pp. soon after enrollment, remain flat until quarter 8 from enrollment Details

Thank you!

Additional slides

Race and ethnicity distribution of EcSA and WIOA participants in the sample



Socioeconomic characteristics
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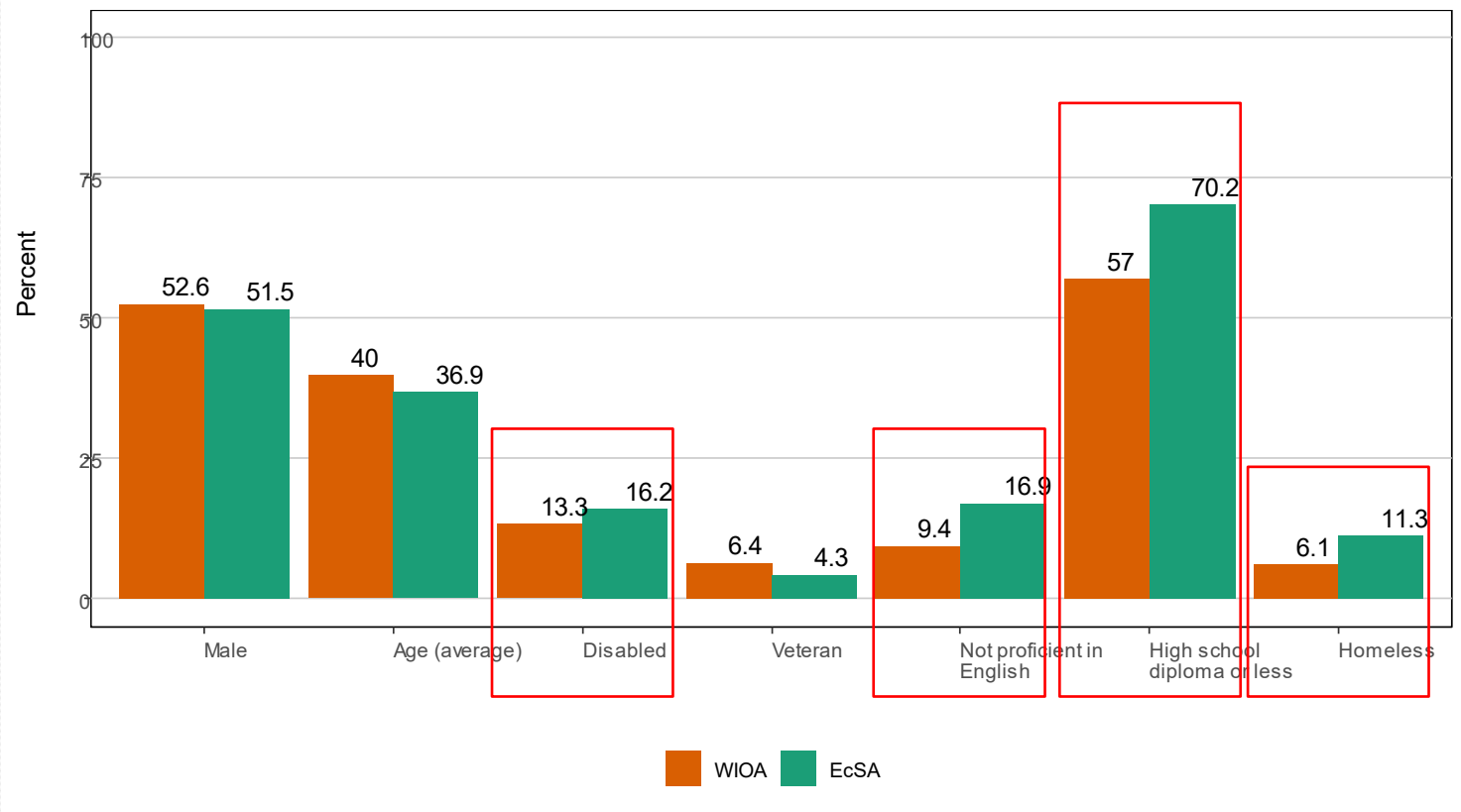
Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of EcSA and WIOA participants



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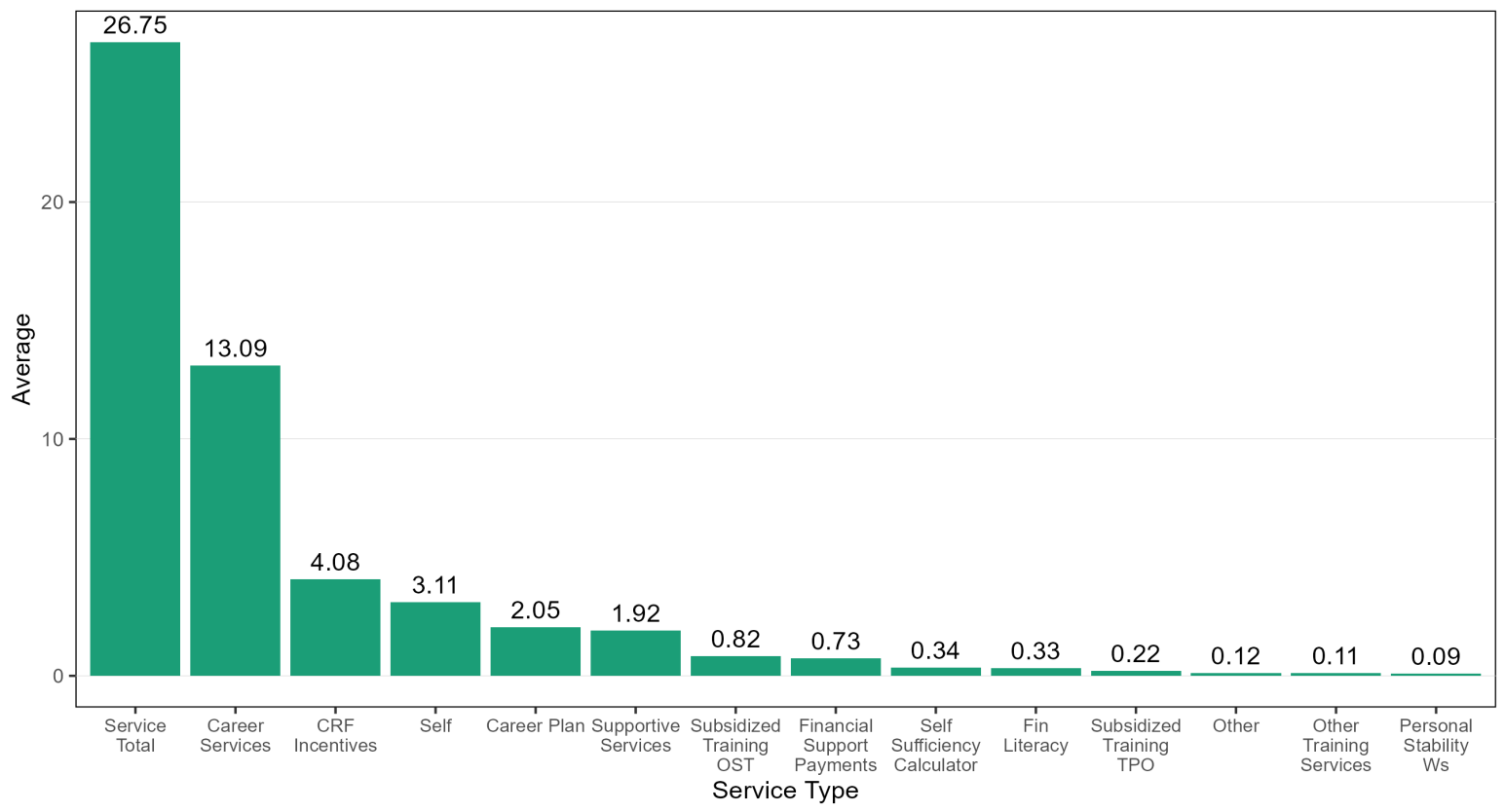
Average number of services received by participants, by type of service



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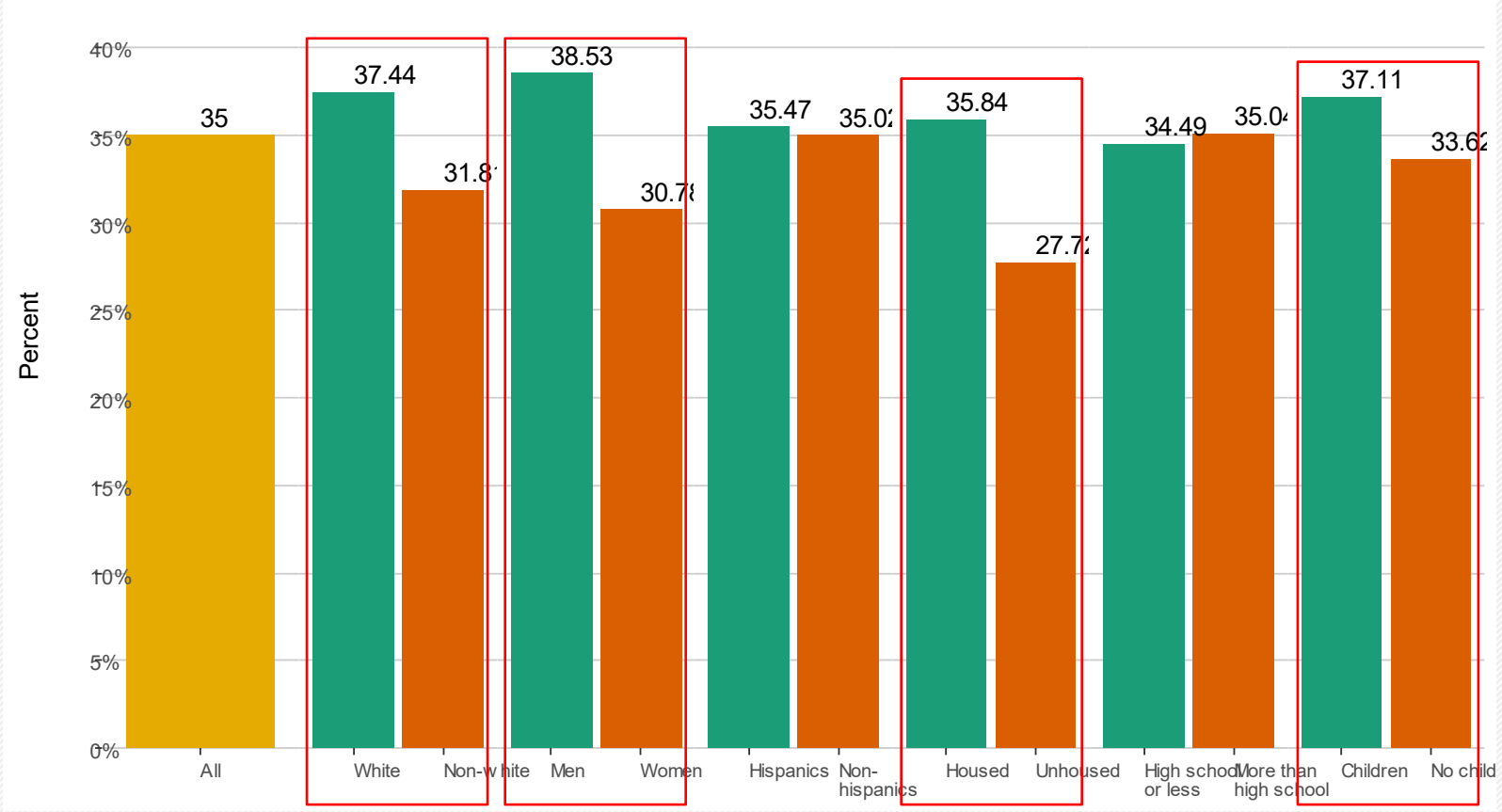
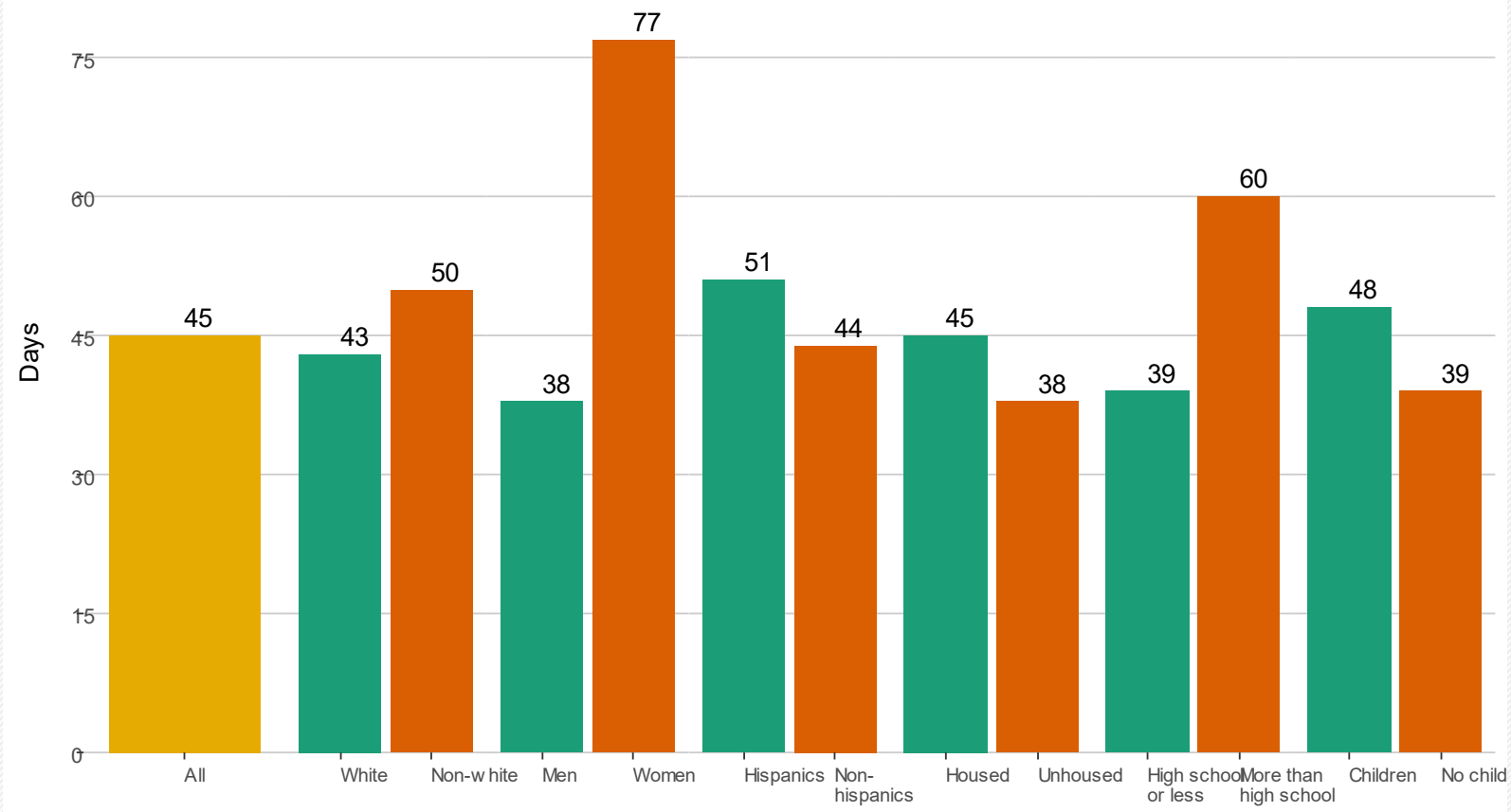
Enrollment rates in training by participants' characteristics



Training duration

Training areas

Median training duration, by participants' characteristics



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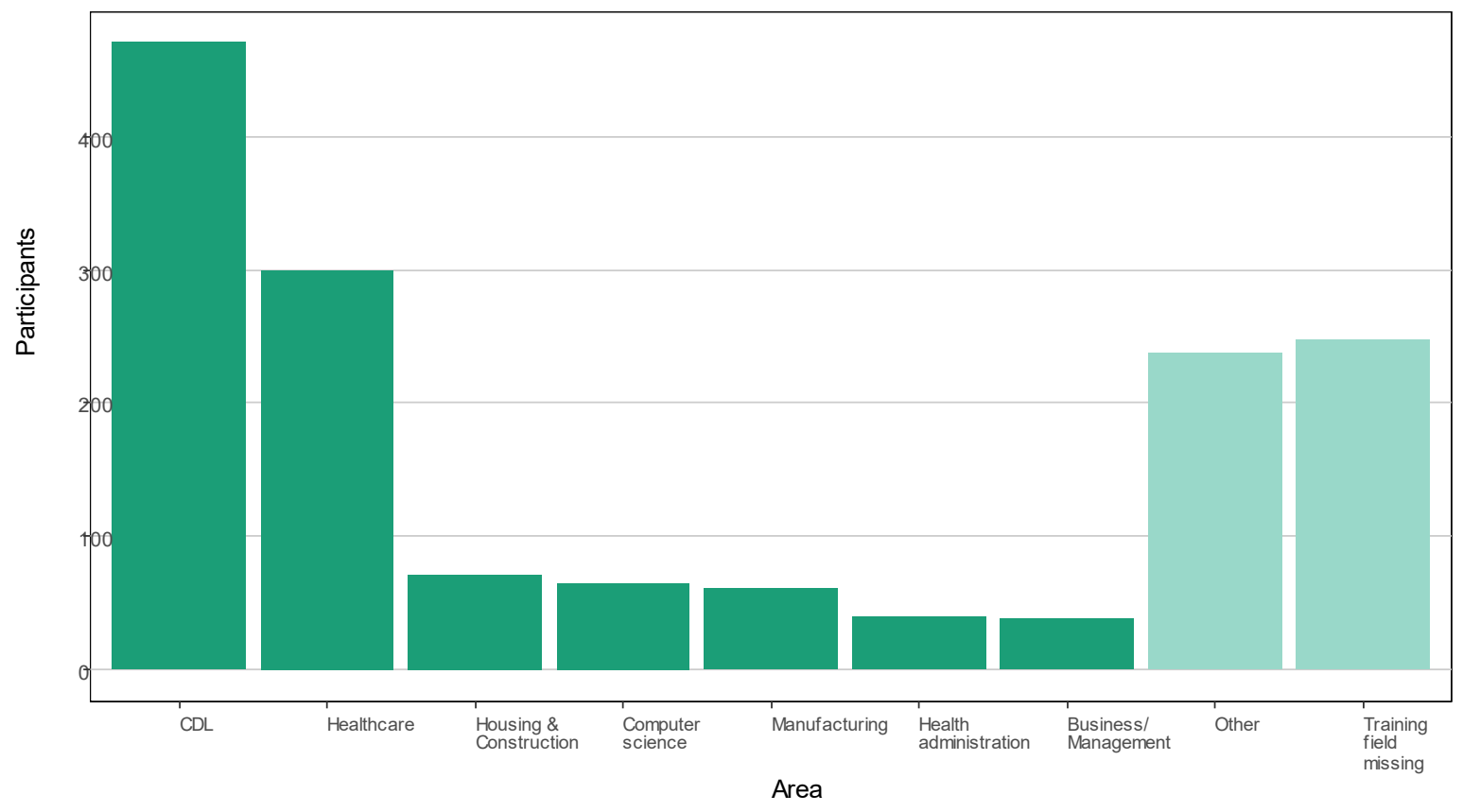
Main areas of training



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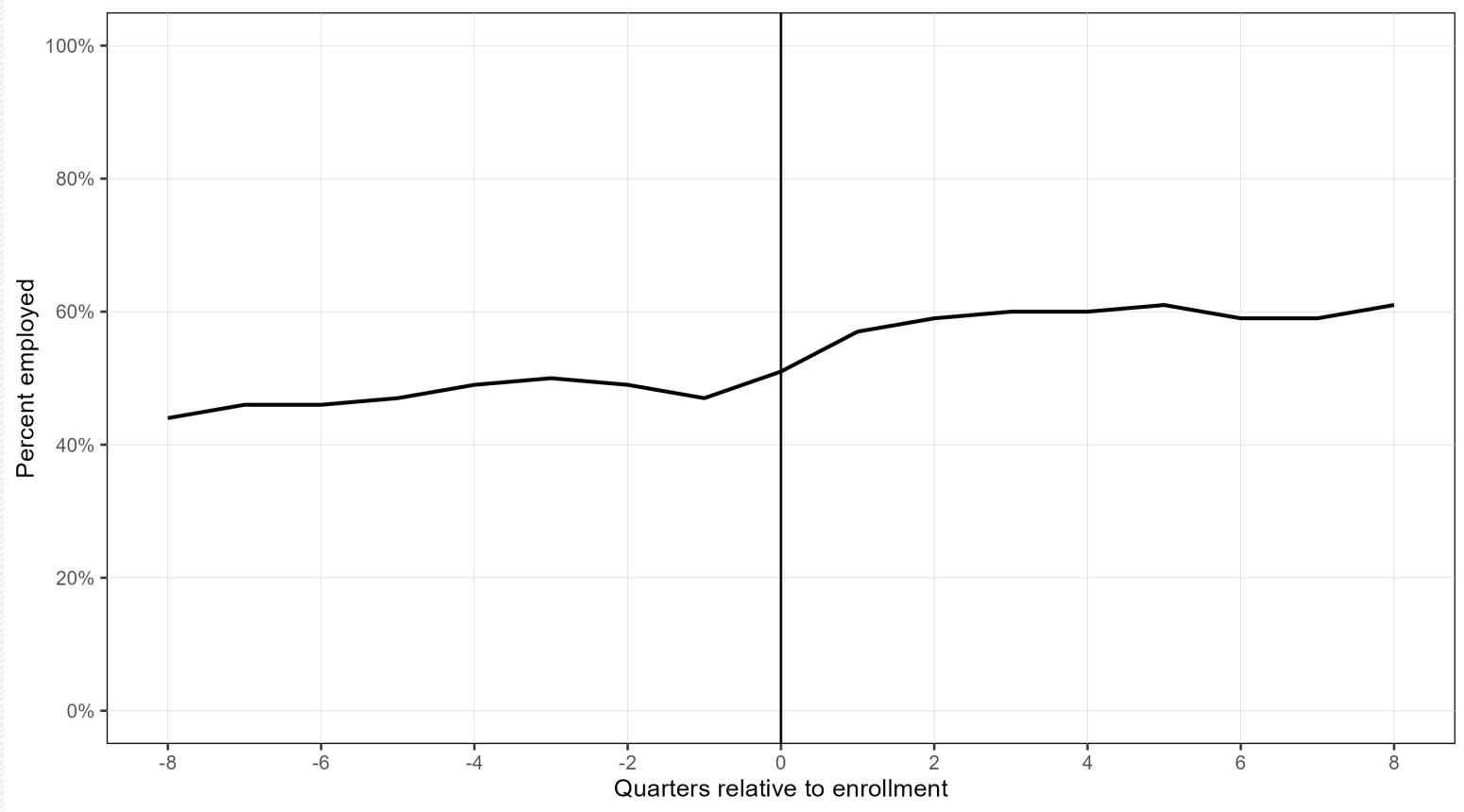
Percent of participants employed



Industry composition

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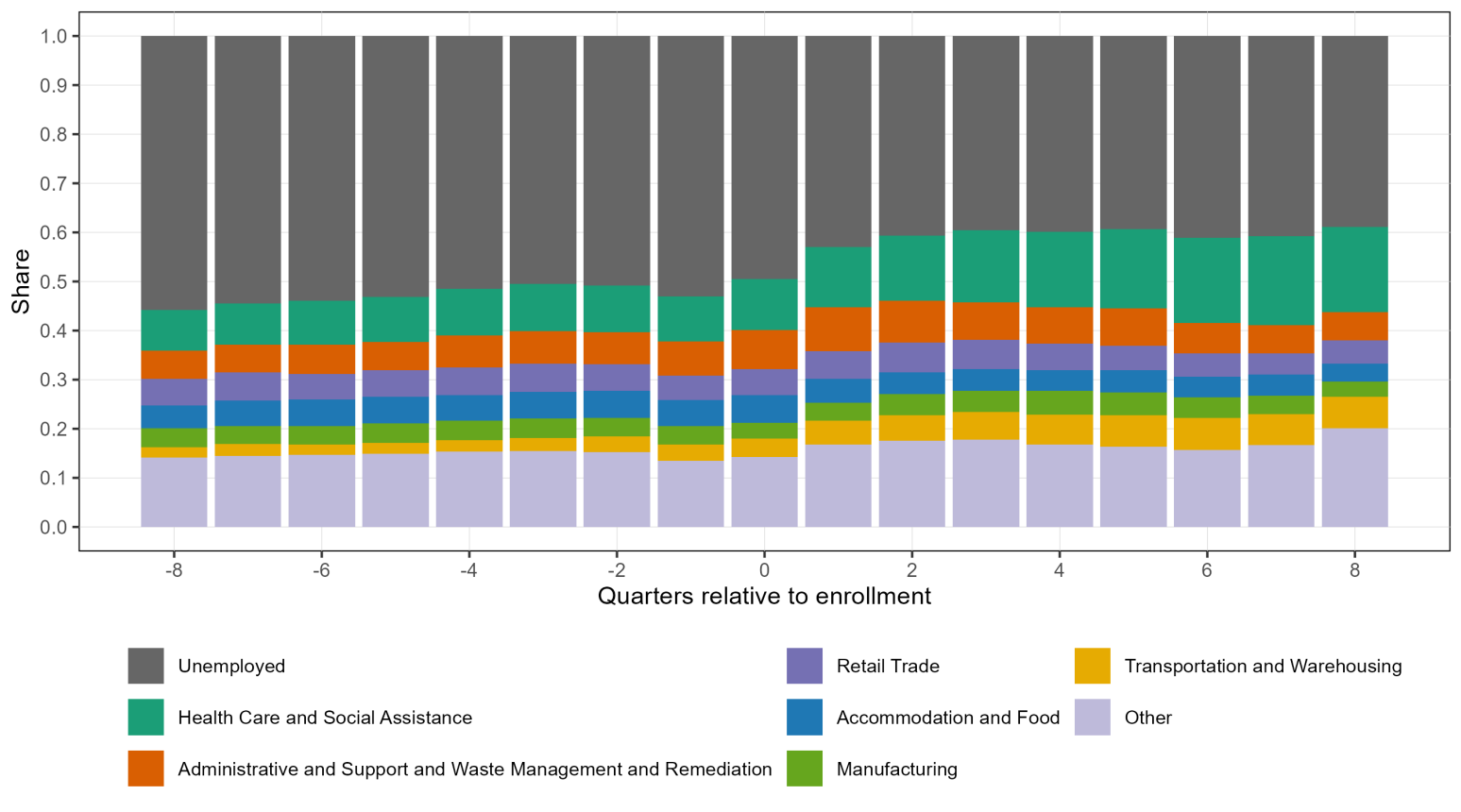
Industry composition of participants, by quarter relative to enrollment



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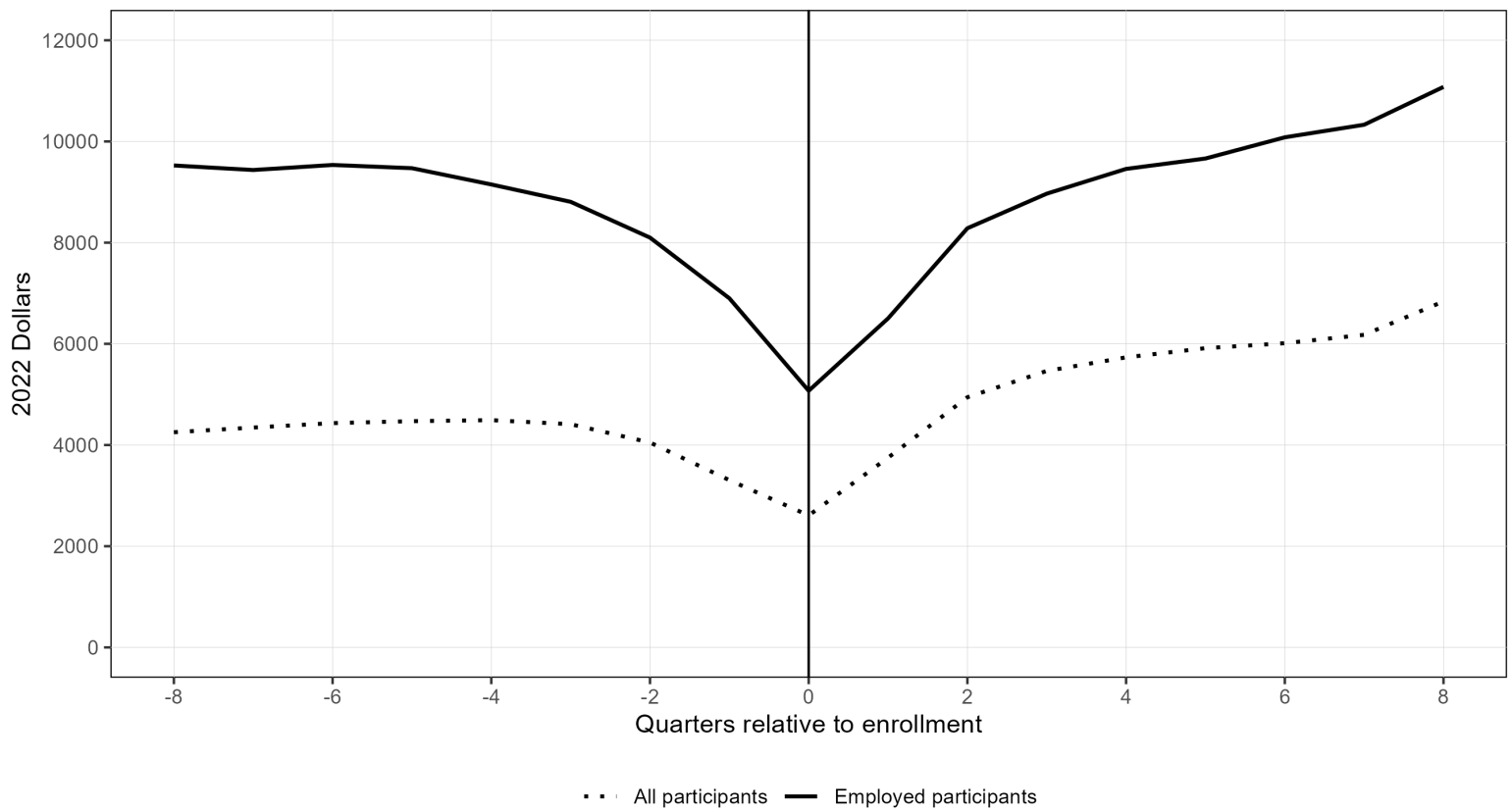
Real earnings of program participants



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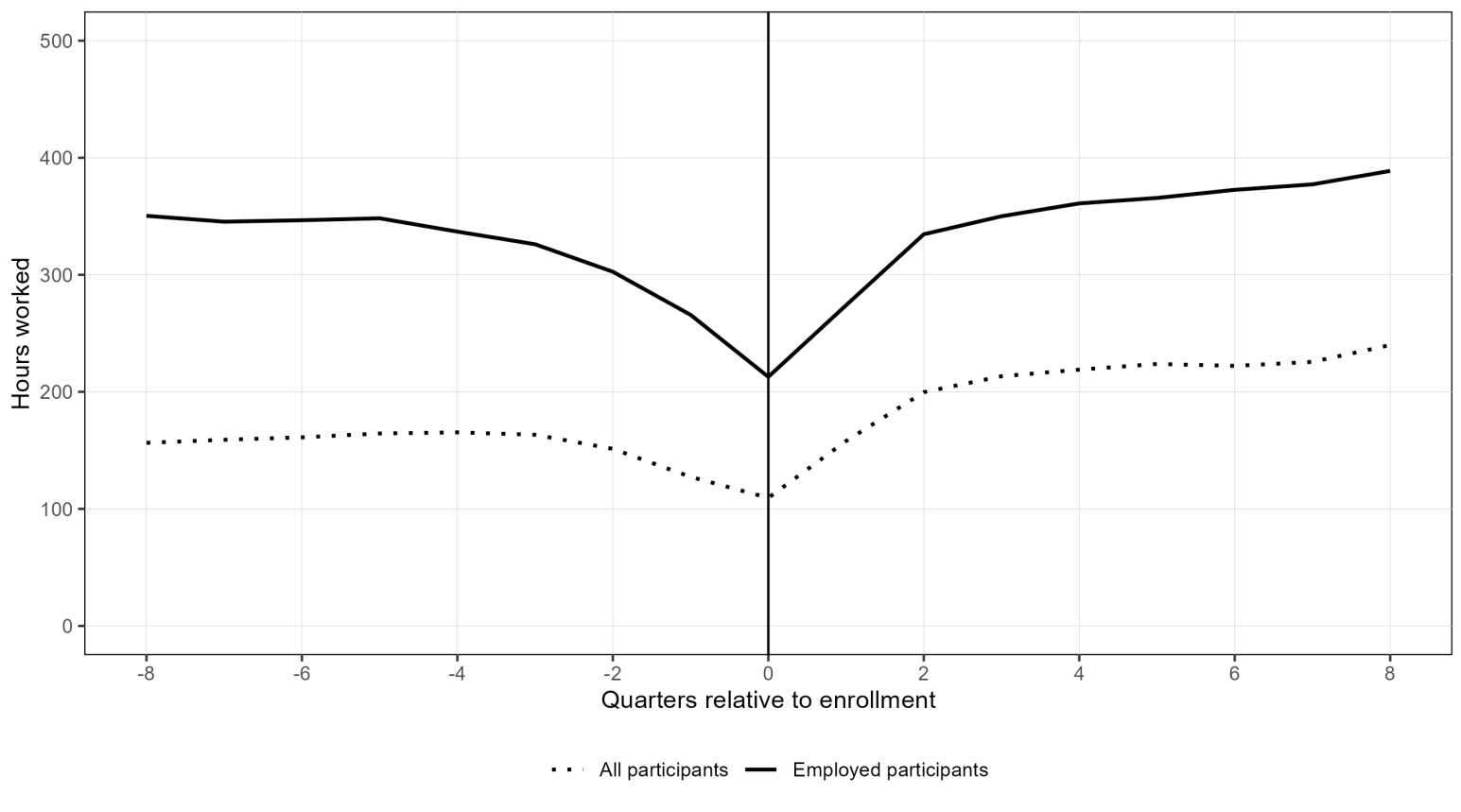
Work hours of program participants



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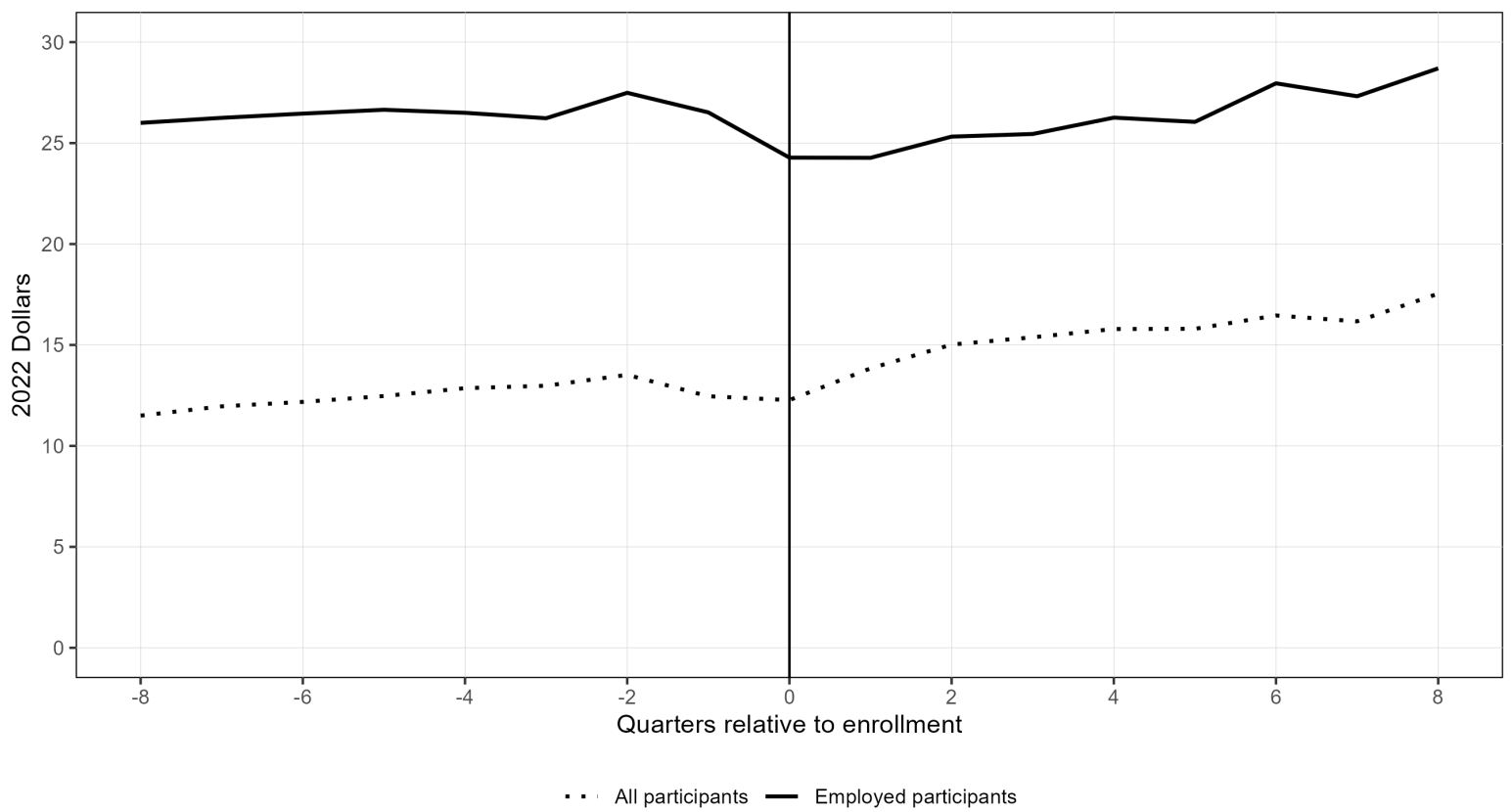
Real hourly wages of program participants



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