

Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

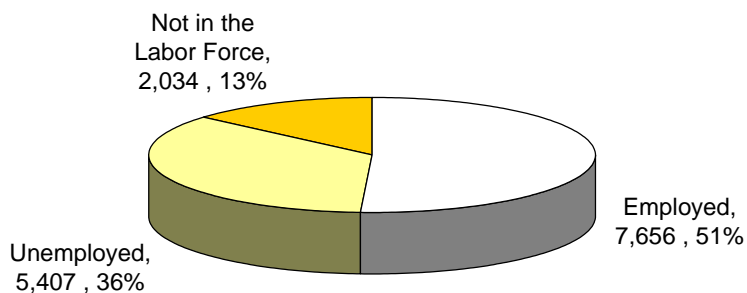
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Half of Colorado Adult Education Students Either Unemployed or Not in Labor Force Programs Aid 1 out of 12 Unemployed Without High School Diploma

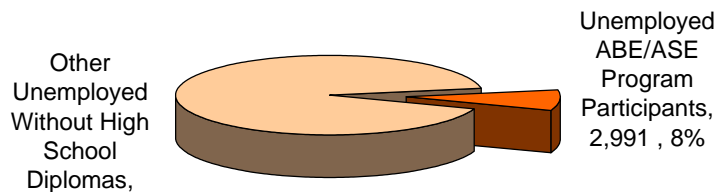
Over 5,400 unemployed Colorado adults will be better prepared to get and keep a job as a result of their participation in adult education programs. These programs are funded, in part, by sub-grants from the Colorado Department of Education from the state's federal grant under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). (See Chart 1.)

Chart 1. Colorado AEFLA Program Participants by Labor Force Status, 2003-04



Unemployed participants in Adult Basic Education and Adult Secondary Education programs comprised eight percent of the state's unemployed adults without a high school diploma in 2003. (Note: A program participant's status is determined as he or she enters a program.) (See Chart 2.)

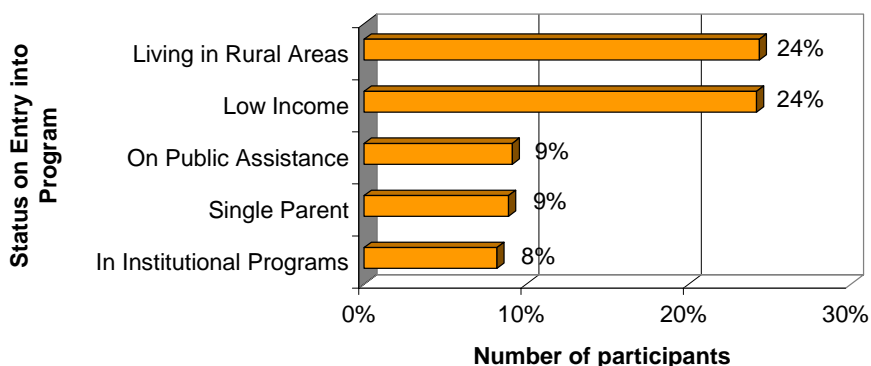
Chart 2. 2003-04 AEFLA Program Participants as a Percent of Colorado's Unemployed Without High School Diplomas, 2003



In addition to those who are either unemployed or not in the labor force, Colorado's adult education program participants also include noteworthy percentages of participants in particular groups that have special needs in finding jobs:

- Almost a quarter of program participants (24 percent) live in rural areas.
- Another quarter (24 percent) have low incomes.
- Almost one out of ten (nine percent) is on public assistance.
- Another one out of ten (nine percent) is a single parent.
- One out of 12 (eight percent) is living in an institutional setting (mostly, correctional institutions).

Chart 3. Selected Colorado AEFLA Program Participants as a Percent of All AEFLA Program Participants, 2003-04



By helping Colorado adults earn basic educational credentials, AEFLA programs help them to become more marketable in the labor force and to pursue postsecondary education and training. In both cases, these positive outcomes reduce the burden on government and strengthen the state's economy.

SOURCES

- Colorado Department of Education. Part I: Statistical Report. AEFLA, 2003-2004, Federal Table 6: Participant Status and Program Enrollment. (Not available online.)
- Colorado Demography Office, Division of Local Government, Department of Local Affairs, unpublished data based on a special tabulation from the 2000 Census. (Not available online.)
- Labor Market Information, Department of Labor and Employment, 2003 Annual Averages/Monthly Estimates (of Unemployment). Available at <http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/ali/2003laus.htm>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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