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AMERICORPS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Are AmeriCorps Alumni More Likely to Choose Employment in Public Good Sectors?

prepared by



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A study conducted by VeraWorks, Inc., suggests that Washington AmeriCorps participants are more likely than other Washington workers to be employed in sectors focusing on the public good. These sectors are made up of organizations in government, healthcare, elementary and secondary education and nonprofit services. The conclusion originates from a comparison of the fourth quarter, 2005, in-state employment of Washington AmeriCorps 2001-2005 participants to the employment of the overall employed population. A summary of the findings follows:

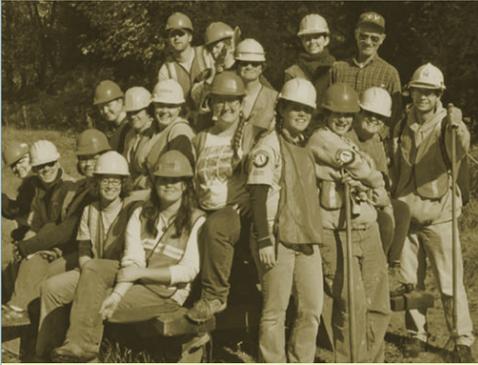
- **AmeriCorps Alumni are More Likely than Non-Alumni to Work in the Nonprofit Sector**

Employed AmeriCorps alumni are 4.1 times more likely than non-AmeriCorps workers to work in the general services nonprofit sector comprised primarily of community, civic and religious organizations. The percentage of employed AmeriCorps alumni that work in the general services nonprofit sector is 3.7 percent, compared to .9 percent of non-AmeriCorps workers. That is a statistically significant difference.

- **AmeriCorps Alumni are More Likely than Non-Alumni to Work in Primary and Secondary Education**

Employed AmeriCorps alumni are 2.9 times more likely than non-AmeriCorps workers to work in elementary or secondary education. The percentage of employed AmeriCorps alumni that work in elementary or secondary education is 15.3 percent, compared to 5.9 percent of non-AmeriCorps workers. That is a statistically significant difference.





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- **AmeriCorps Alumni are More Likely than Non-Alumni to Work in the Healthcare Sector**

Employed AmeriCorps alumni are 1.5 times more likely than non-AmeriCorps workers to work in the health sector including hospitals, residential and nursing facilities, ambulatory care and social assistance organizations. The percentage of employed AmeriCorps alumni that work in the healthcare sector is 16.6 percent, compared to 11.4 percent of non-AmeriCorps workers. That is a statistically significant difference.

- **AmeriCorps Alumni are More Likely than Non-Alumni to Work in the Government Sector**

Employed AmeriCorps alumni are 1.4 times more likely than non-AmeriCorps workers to work in the government sector. The percentage of employed AmeriCorps alumni that work in the government sector is 6.5 percent, compared to 4.8 percent of non-AmeriCorps workers. That is a statistically significant difference.

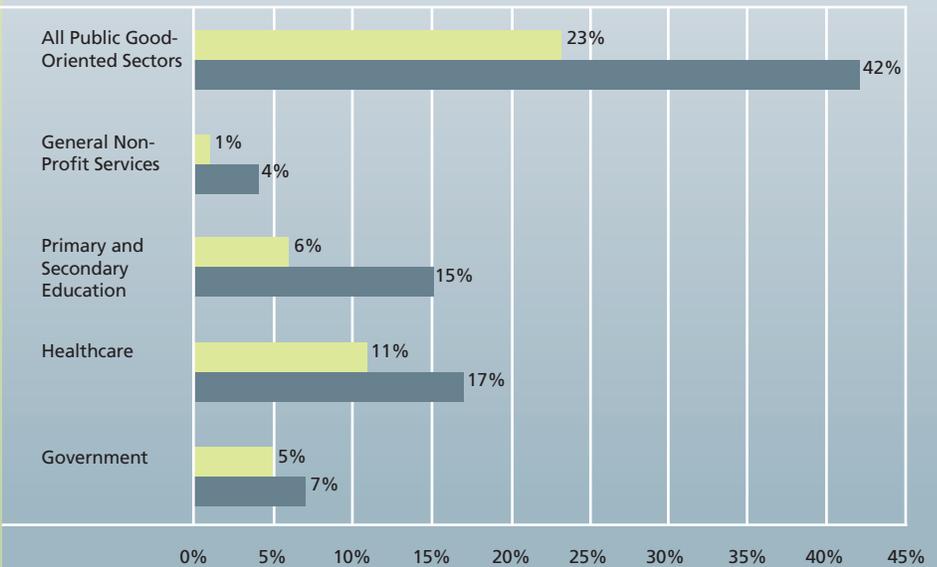
This analysis does not determine whether the greater frequency of employment in public-good oriented sectors among AmeriCorps alumni stems from their AmeriCorps service.

In sum, it appears that Washington AmeriCorps alumni disproportionately work in sectors oriented toward serving the public good and that it is possible that this is, at least in part, a result of the AmeriCorps experience itself. Nevertheless, truly understanding this propensity toward public-good oriented work among Washington AmeriCorps alumni and what leads to such choices requires further research.

Percentage of Washington Workers in Public-Good Oriented Sectors

Sources: Washington Employment Security Department and U.S. Census Bureau, Q4 2005

Other WA Workers ■
 AmeriCorps Alumni WA Workers ■



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