

Long-Term Outcomes for Transition-Age Youth with Mental Health Conditions Who Receive Postsecondary Education Support

Priyanka Anand and Todd Honeycutt

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Background

- **State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals**
- **Support for postsecondary education may improve employment outcomes**
- **Youth with mental health conditions (MHCs) are less likely to receive VR services than youth with other disabilities (Honeycutt et al. 2017)**

Objective

- **Examine the relationship between receiving VR support for postsecondary education and long-term outcomes for youth with MHCs**

Research Questions

- **How do long-term employment and earnings outcomes vary by receipt of postsecondary education support for transition-age youth with MHCs?**
- **How do federal disability benefits vary by receipt of postsecondary education support for transition-age youth with MHCs?**

Past Literature

- **Literature on how VR supports for postsecondary education affect the outcomes of people with disabilities: results are mixed**
 - Gilmore et al. (2001), Rogers et al. (2005), Berry and Caplan (2010)
- **Dean et al. (2014) found that people with MHCs in Virginia who received postsecondary education support were less likely to be employed in the first two years after initial provision of VR services**

Our Contribution

- **Focus on youth with MHCs**
- **Examine outcomes nine years after VR application**
- **Have three types of outcome measures: employment, earnings, and receipt of SSA disability benefits**
- **Control for national, state, and local factors in the analysis**

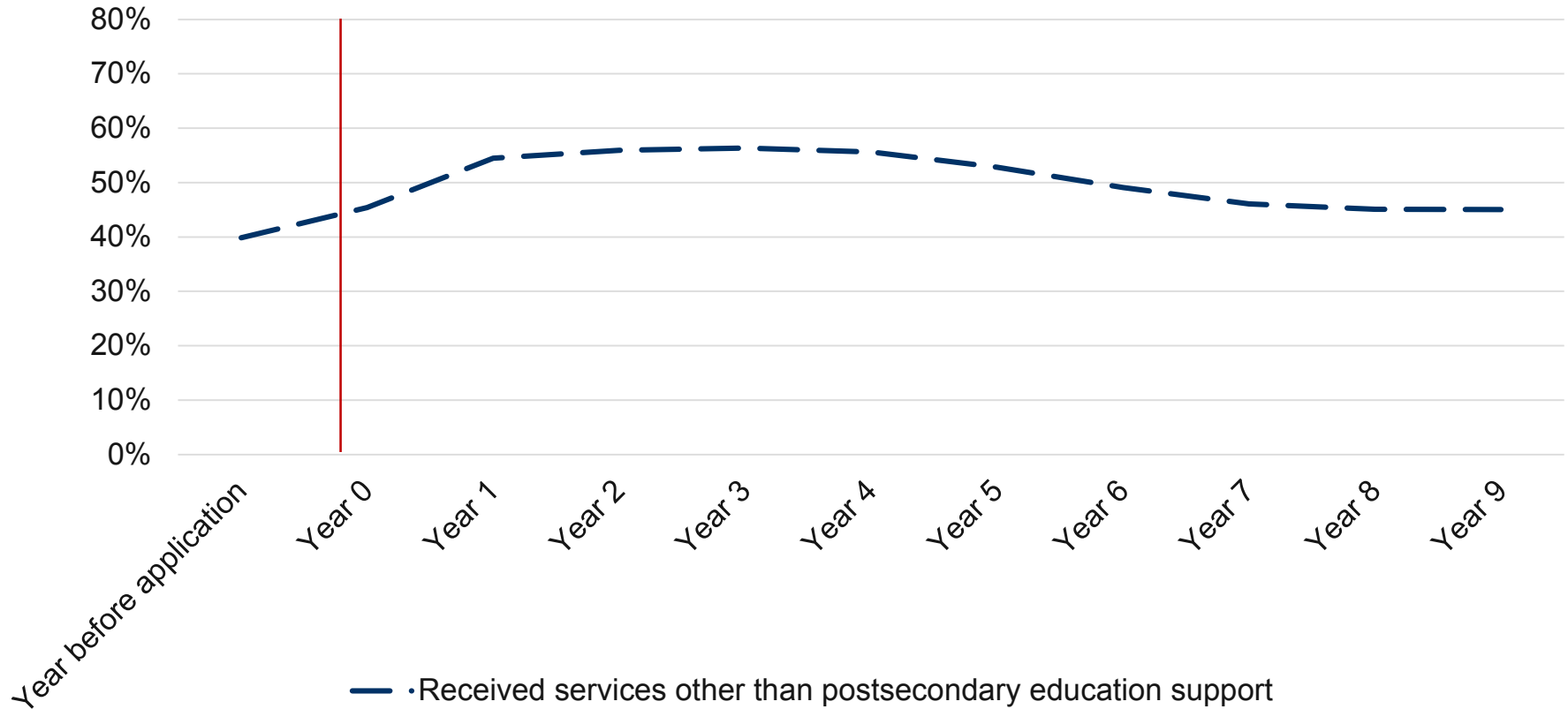
Data Sources

- **Rehabilitation Services Administration case service reports (RSA-911) for VR services information from 2002 to 2013**
- **2013 Disability Analysis File for information on SSA disability benefits**
- **Master Earnings File for earnings information**

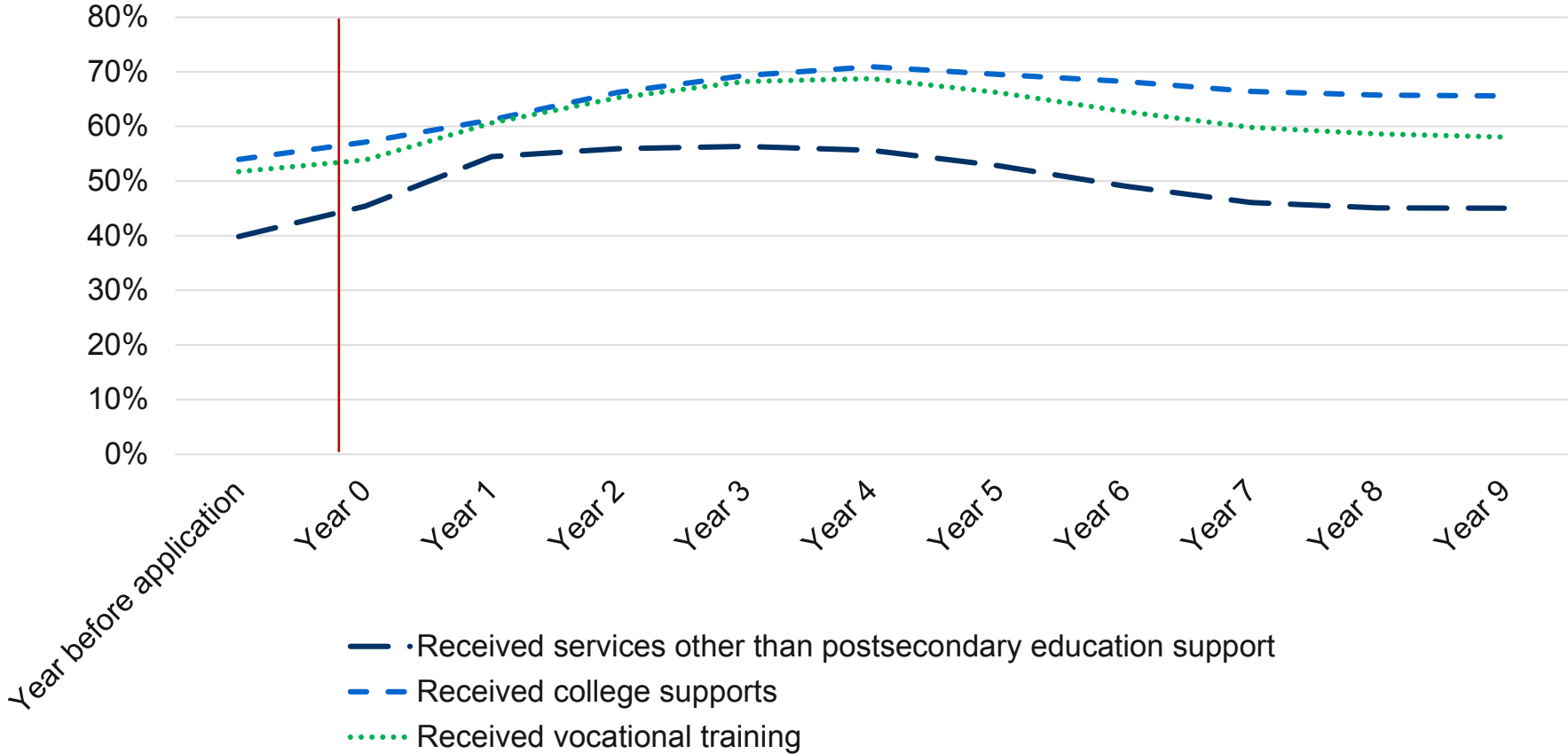
Analysis Sample and Methods

- **Sample size is 436,883 VR applicants**
 - First-time VR applicants from 2002 through 2004
 - Ages 16 to 24 at application
 - Eligible for VR services
- **Empirical methods**
 - Descriptive statistics of main outcomes by service receipt
 - Regression analysis of relationship between the main outcomes and VR service receipt

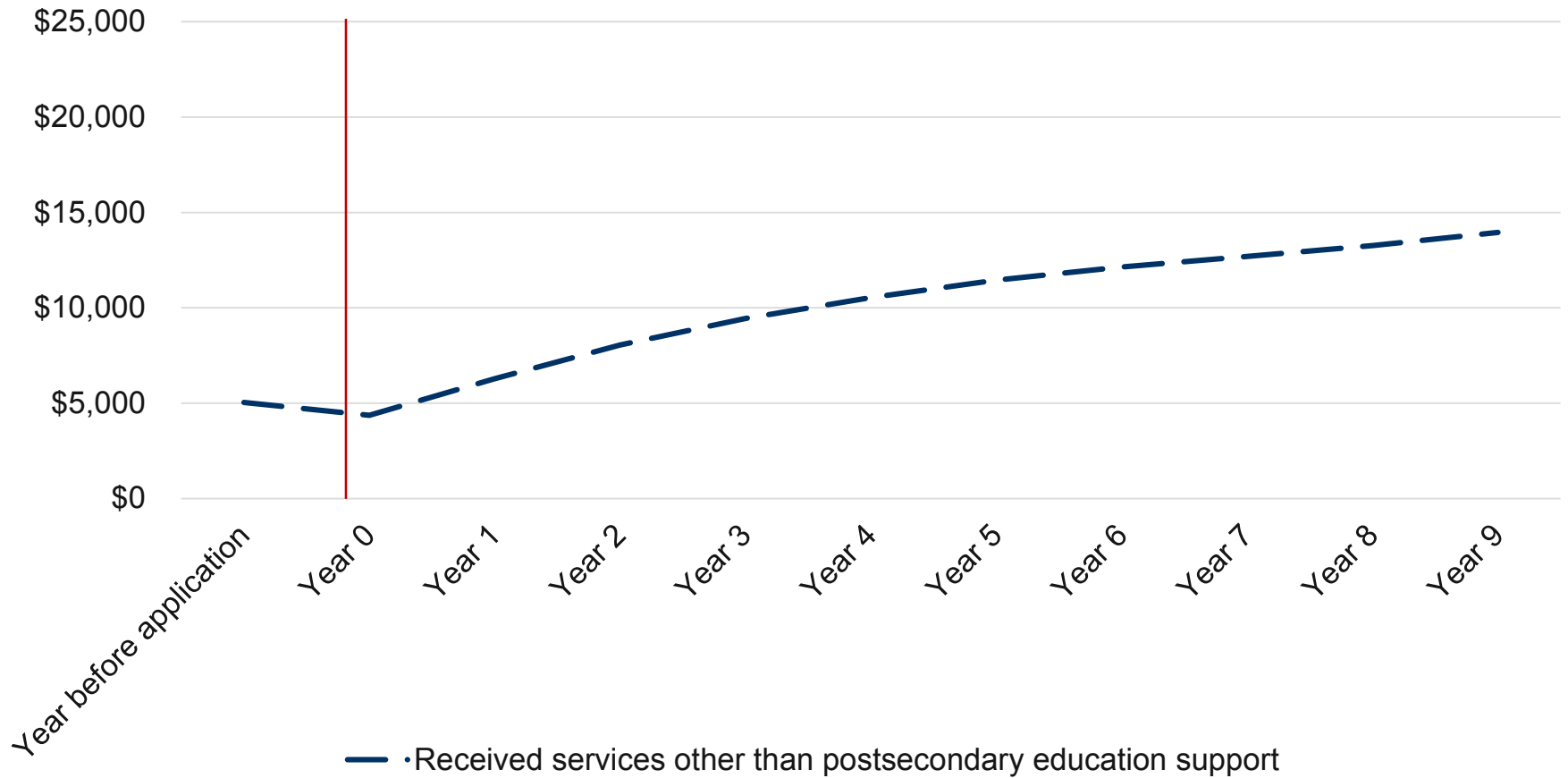
Employment Rates for MHC Youth Receiving Non-Postsecondary Education Services



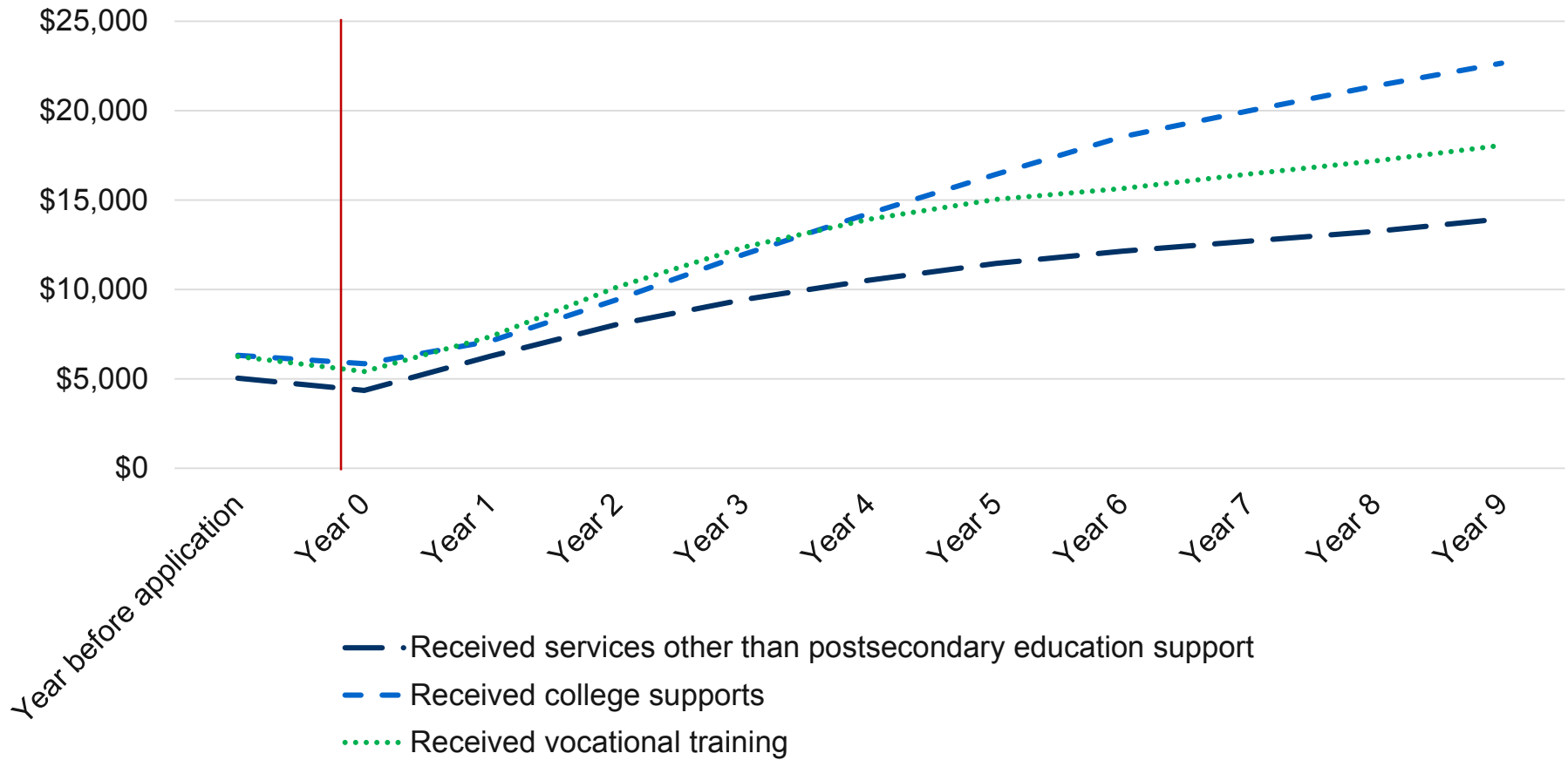
Employment Rates for MHC Youth Receiving VR Services, by Service Type



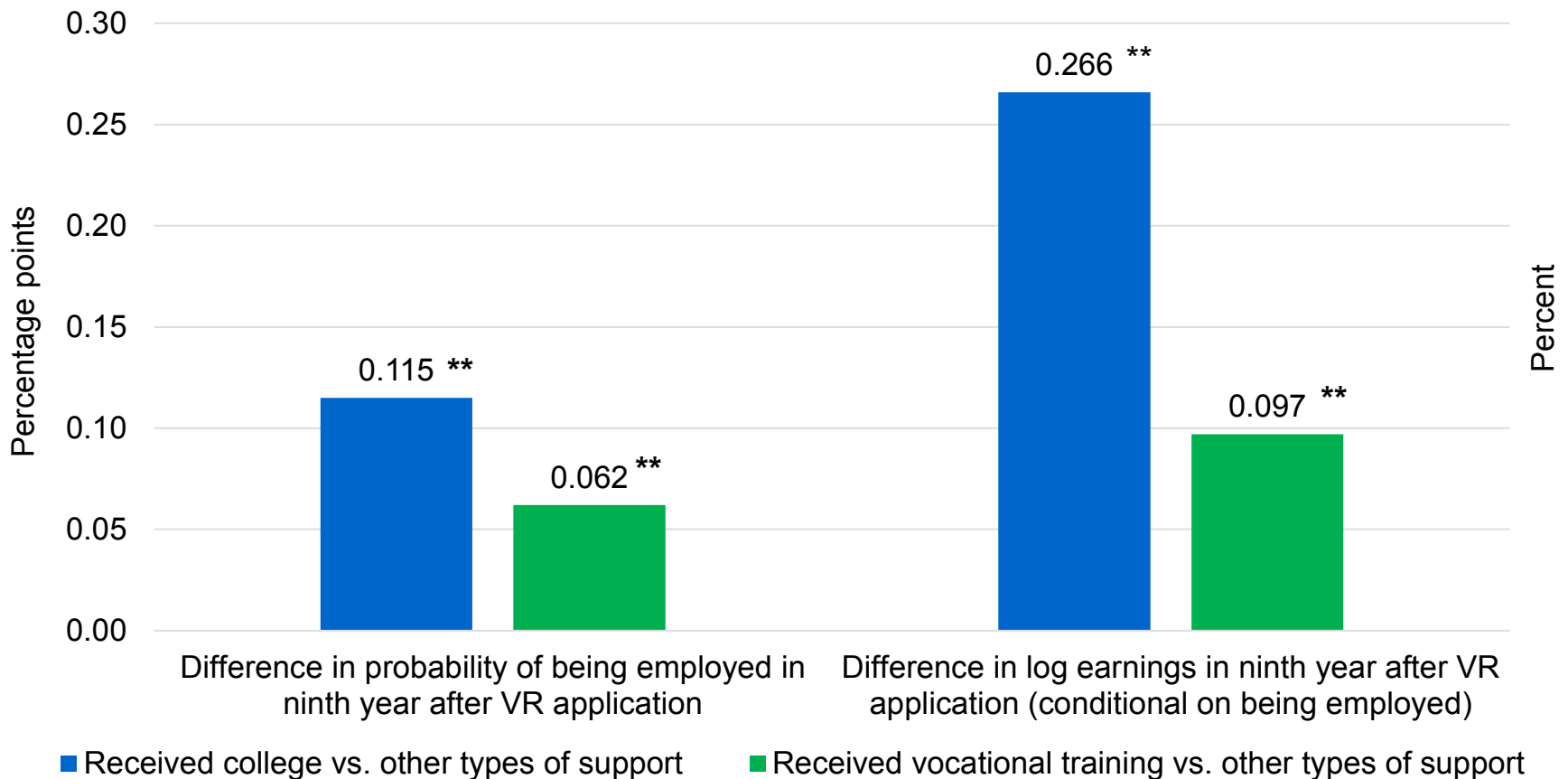
Average Earnings of MHC Youth Receiving Non-Postsecondary Education Services



Average Earnings of MHC Youth Receiving VR Services, by Service Type



Regression-Adjusted Employment, Earnings Differences by Service Type for MHC Youth

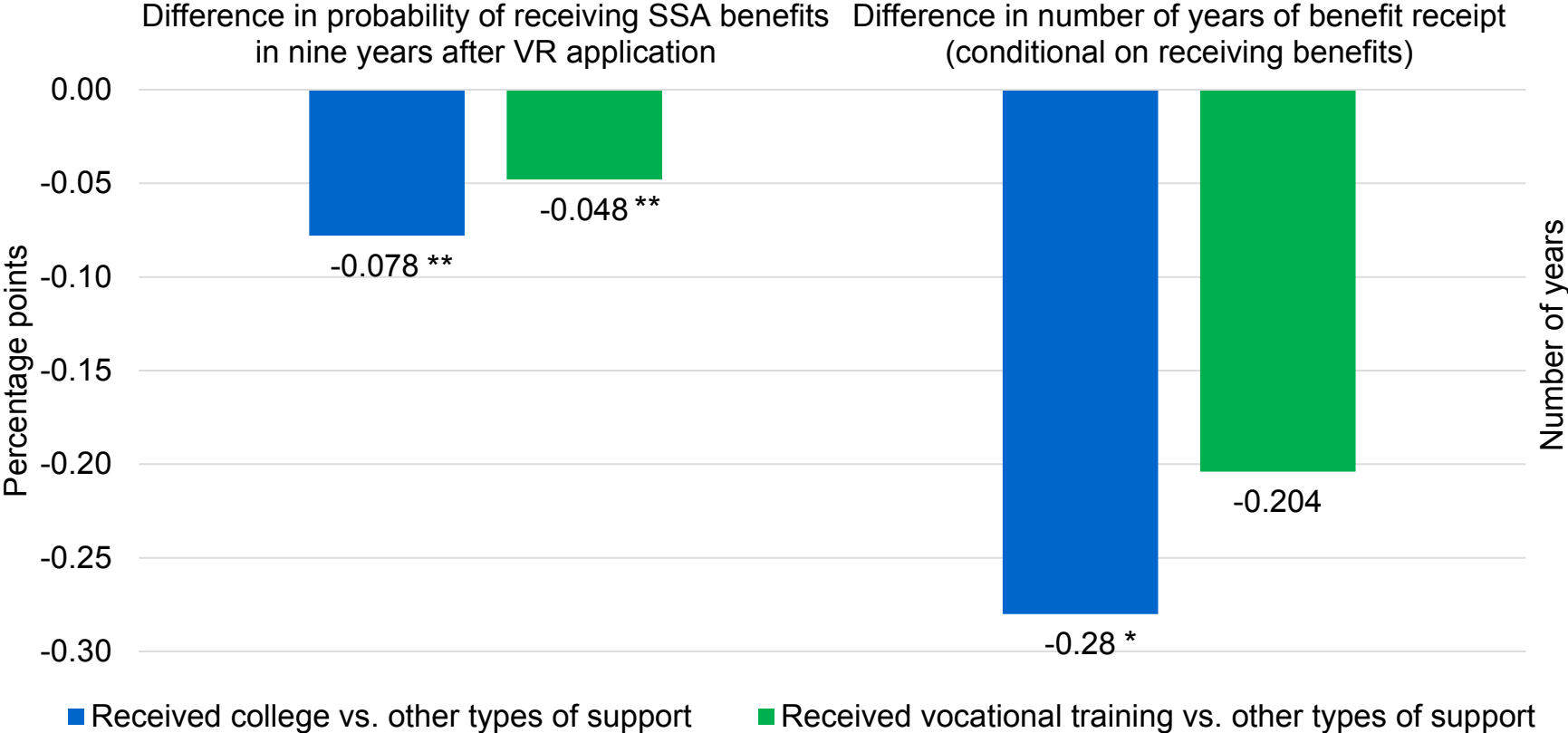


** Coefficients are statistically significant at the 1% level.

SSA Benefit Receipt for MHC Youth Without Benefits at VR Application

	Received non-postsecondary education services	Received college support	Received vocational training support
% received benefits in the nine years after VR application	18.9%	12.3%	13.5%
Average number of years received benefits in the nine years after VR application (conditional on receiving benefits)	6.4	6.4	6.2

Regression-Adjusted Difference in Benefit Receipt by Service Type for Youth Without Initial Benefits



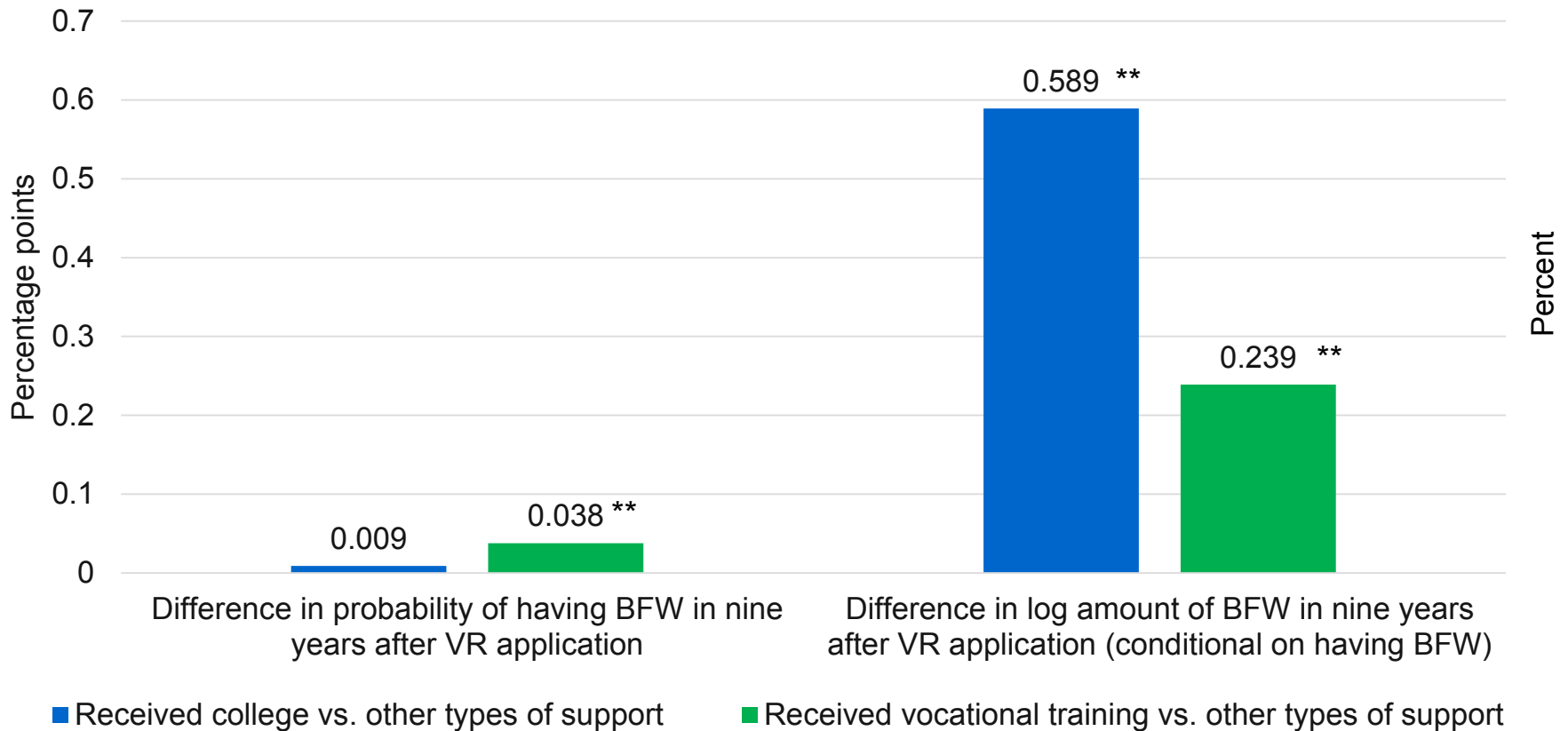
** / * Coefficients are statistically significant at the 1% / 5% level.

SSA Benefit Receipt for MHC Youth with Benefits at Application

	Received non-postsecondary education services	Received college support	Received vocational training support
% with BFW in the nine years after VR application	61.6%	61.2%	62.2%
Average BFW in the nine years after VR application (conditional on having BFW)	\$8,666	\$15,938	\$11,699

BFW = benefits forgone for work.

Regression-Adjusted Differences in BFW by Service Type for Youth with Initial Benefits



** Coefficients are statistically significant at the 1% level. BFW = benefits forgone for work.

Summary

- **For youth with MHCs, receiving postsecondary education support was associated with:**
 - Higher likelihood of being employed in the ninth year after VR application
 - Higher earnings in the ninth year after VR application
 - Lower likelihood of receiving benefits for those not receiving benefits at VR application
 - Larger amount of BFW for those who were receiving benefits at VR application

Implications and Next Steps

- **Relationships are not causal but suggest a positive relationship between postsecondary education support and outcomes**
 - A rigorous evaluation is needed for causal estimates
- **Should also consider costs and benefits when deciding whether to expand support**
 - Cost is estimated to be \$2,600 to \$7,000 higher for VR clients with MHC who receive postsecondary education support versus other support (Honeycutt et al. 2017), and BFW is \$2,100 to \$5,000 higher

Contact Information

Priyanka Anand

(current affiliation)

Center for Studying Disability Policy

Mathematica Policy Research

panand@mathematica-mpr.com

(affiliation starting fall 2017)

Department of Health Administration and Policy

George Mason University

panand4@gmu.edu