

Impact Evaluation of the Program *Youth with Hope*

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The *Youth with Hope* program offers free training courses for youth aged 15 - 30 who live in Zapopan, a municipality in the state of Jalisco, Mexico and are not enrolled in school.

The goal of the program is to promote employment among young people, encourage return to school, and reduce social exclusion and vulnerability to organized crime.

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1. Program Description

The *Youth with Hope* program offers free training courses for youth aged 15 - 30 who live in Zapopan, a municipality in the state of Jalisco, Mexico and are not enrolled in school. The goal of the program is to promote employment among young people, encourage return to school, and reduce social exclusion and vulnerability to organized crime.

In Mexico, 62 percent of 16 year olds are enrolled in school. About one fourth of Mexicans aged 15 to 29 are neither enrolled in school nor employed. Further, about 43 percent of those aged 12 to 29 live in poverty.

The youth living in Zapopan have better education and employment outcomes than the national average. Nonetheless, the metropolitan zone of Guadalajara has experienced increased violence and delinquent activity related to organized crime and an increase in gang activity.

In order to tackle social and economic issues affecting youth in Zapopan, the program *Youth with Hope* offers scholarships so that employed and unemployed young men and women who are not enrolled in school can attend vocational training courses. The scholarships offered in the program cover the costs of tuition for a course a participant is enrolled in. Each course lasts approximately six months.

The municipal government has established agreements to gather program support from over 50 training centers, public and private universities, and educational institutes and academies.

Through this collaboration, 350 courses were offered in the inaugural semester. By the fourth semester, the number of courses had surpassed 750.

From February of 2013 to February of 2015, the program offered nearly 32,000 scholarships to almost 24,000 beneficiaries.

This impact evaluation seeks to estimate the effect of Youth with Hope on beneficiaries' employment and educational outcomes, access to professional networks and loosening of social bonds to gang members.

Participants can enroll in one course per semester, and can participate in as many as three consecutive semesters. At a maximum, this is 18 months of schoolwork.

The municipal government has established agreements to gather program support from over 50 training centers, public and private universities, and educational institutes and academies to offer a wide array of courses for the program's beneficiaries. Through this collaboration, 350 courses were offered in the inaugural semester. By the fourth semester, the number of courses had surpassed 750.

From February of 2013 to February of 2015, the program offered nearly 32,000 scholarships to almost 24,000 beneficiaries. It is estimated that 30.7 percent of all participants registered for two or more rounds or semesters. Overall, the program has covered 10.8 percent of Zapopan's residents between ages 15 and 29 who are not enrolled in school.

2. Evaluation

This impact evaluation seeks to estimate the effect of the program in different domains of the beneficiaries' professional and personal lives. More specifically, we evaluate the impact of the program in terms of participants' employment and educational conditions, the transformation of their social capital through access to professional networks and loosening of their social bonds to gang members. In addition, we evaluate whether the program influences students' expectations for a better future.

Moreover, we investigate heterogeneous effects of the program across gender, age, and levels of marginality. The evaluation is complemented with an analysis of the graduation and re-enrollment rates, as well as an assessment of beneficiaries' experience in the program. Finally, the study provides feedback on the design and implementation of the program, as well as the elements to consider the advantages of expanding a similar program on a higher scale.

2.1 Targeting of Youth with Hope Program

Analyses of beneficiaries' background information sheds light on the type of youth who enrolled and benefited from participating in the program. Although the baseline survey was only applied to a sample of beneficiaries, we conducted descriptive statistics reflecting sociodemographic characteristics on all the beneficiaries from the second and fifth cohorts^{1/}.

Overall, the distribution of beneficiaries by gender shows that a greater percentage of women participate in *Youth with Hope*. Further, women increased their rate of participation in the program, going from 58.8 percent of the overall number of students in the second cohort to 65.8 percent in the fifth cohort. The composition by age shows that beneficiaries aged 23 or more also augmented their participation from 33.2 to 53.3 percent in the same period.

Distribution of beneficiaries of Youth with Hope by cohort, gender, age group and level of marginalization

	Cohort				
	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Total Program Beneficiaries	7,740	8,075	9,140	3,769	28,724
Gender					
Female	58.8%	62.9%	67.3%	65.8%	63.6%
Male	41.2%	37.1%	32.7%	34.2%	36.4%
Age					
Less than 23 years old	66.8%	45.7%	48.4%	46.7%	52.4%
23 years old or more	33.2%	54.3%	51.6%	53.3%	47.6%
Level of Marginality					
Low	28.2%	39.2%	37.8%	35.1%	35.2%
Medium	46.7%	42.5%	43.5%	42.4%	43.9%
High	25.1%	18.3%	18.7%	22.5%	20.8%
Gangs presence in the neighborhood					
No	69.5%	68.6%	68.2%	67.7%	68.6%
Yes	30.5%	31.4%	31.8%	32.3%	31.4%
Neighborhoods by level of crime rates					
Low crime rate	68.8%	74.1%	74.6%	73.5%	72.8%
High crime rate	31.2%	25.9%	25.4%	26.5%	27.2%

Women increased their participation in the program, going from 58.8 percent of the overall number of students in the second cohort around to 65.8 percent in the fifth cohort.

Beneficiaries aged 23 or more also increased their participation from 33.2 to 53.3 percent in the same period.

An estimated 20.8 percent of Youth with Hope beneficiaries come from highly marginalized neighborhoods.

^{1/} The researchers did not have access to socioeconomic information in the first cohort.

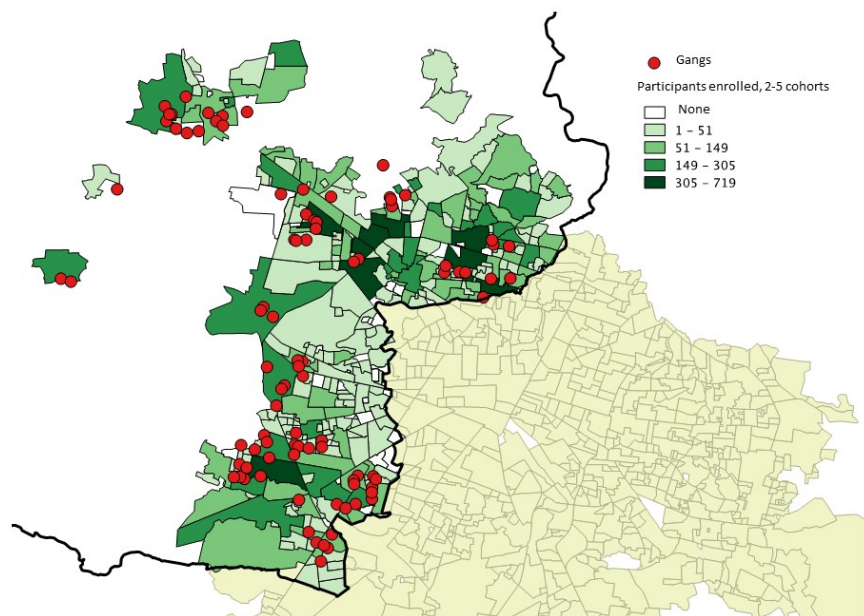
ICOE was able to increase the participation of youth in neighborhoods of high marginality, nevertheless; this group of beneficiaries was slightly under-represented in the program.

We estimated that 31.4 percent of participants of *Youth with Hope* comes from neighborhoods with a gang presence.

An estimated 20.8 percent of Youth with Hope beneficiaries come from highly-marginalized neighborhoods. The percentage of youth residing in highly-marginalized neighborhoods decreased from 25.1 in the second cohort to 18.3 percent in the third one. Nonetheless, this tendency reversed in the fourth and fifth cohorts, when it increased to 22.5 and 18.7 percent, respectively.

The Institute of Training and Educational Offering (ICOE, according to its Spanish acronym) implementing Youth with Hope, carried out concerted efforts to promote higher rates of participation amongst youth living highly-marginalized neighborhoods. Nonetheless, in the third cohort, this group of beneficiaries became slightly underrepresented in the program.

Beneficiaries of the Youth with Hope program and gang presence by neighborhoods in Zapopan



The map above shows gang activity at neighborhood level. This data was collected by Zapopan's municipal Public Security Precinct a year before Youth with Hope was launched. An estimated 31.4 percent of the program's participants comes from such neighborhoods with presence of gang groups. Further, this percentage has been relatively stable across cohorts.

This sub-representation is due to the fact that the enrollment rates of participants residing in highly marginalized neighborhoods was less than the proportion of youth between 15 and 24 years old that did not study and lived in highly-marginalized neighborhoods according to census data.

Overall, 27.2 percent of participants live in neighborhoods with high crime rates.

70.5 percent of the overall number of students enrolled in the second and fifth scholarship rounds graduated from their courses.

30.9 percent of the total number of students enrolled in more than one round.

For the universe of beneficiaries from the second to the fifth cohort, we found that 27.2 percent of Youth with Hope participants live in neighborhoods with high crime rates. In the second cohort of students, an estimated of 31.2 percent of program participants came from neighborhoods with high crime rates. This percentage decreased to 27.2 percent in subsequent rounds, as the proportion of youngsters from less-marginalized neighborhoods enrolling in the program also diminished.

The lower representation of youth from Zapopan's highly-marginalized neighborhoods can be largely explained by the fact that such areas are located in the outskirts of the city. As such, transportation costs (time and money) to participate in Youth With Hope are higher than for those who live within the city.

Based on information collected by the survey, we find that students from more marginalized areas take an average of 20 minutes more to commute to the location where courses are offered, which implies an increase of 20 percent in transport costs. This underrepresentation notwithstanding, the program successfully reached neighborhoods with gang presence and high criminal activities, where there is a high number of at-risk youth.

Finally, an estimated 70.5 percent of the overall number of beneficiaries enrolled from the second to the fifth cohorts graduated from their courses. Furthermore, an estimated 30.9 percent of the total number of students enrolled in more than one course. The terminal efficiency and the propensity to re-enroll in subsequent rounds are found to be conditioned by the student's socioeconomic circumstances, as well as situations that occurred throughout the course, monetary expenditures, scheduling problems, and specific characteristics of the courses and the educational centers.

Young women and students over 23 years of age had a higher graduation rate, as well as a higher rate of re-enrollment. On the other hand, students are less likely to graduate from their courses or to re-enroll in the program when they face scheduling problems, preference working rather than studying, and live in neighborhoods with high crime rates.

The terminal efficiency and propensity to re-register in Youth with Hope are higher for women and youth older than 23 years old.

Students who reported more course scheduling problems, those who reported that they prefer to work than to study and those who live in high-crime neighborhood have a lower probability of graduation and reregistration in the program.

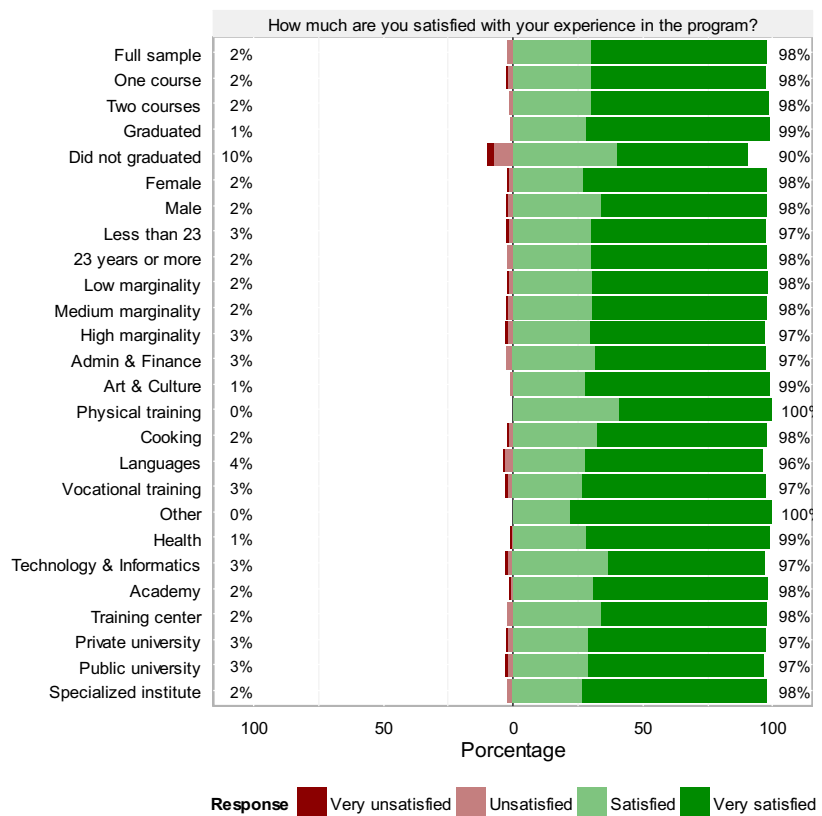
The satisfaction rate with Youth with Hope is very high, 97.6 percent for the entire sample agree they were satisfied with their experience in the program.

2.2 Self-reported assessment of beneficiaries' experience at Youth with Hope

The exit questionnaire was conducted among students in the third and fourth cohorts. Survey respondents provided information on their experience with Youth with Hope, including their opinion about quality of facilities, their professors, and content of the courses they attended.

The satisfaction rate with Youth with Hope was 97.6 percent for the sample of beneficiaries that answered the survey.

Beneficiaries' satisfaction of the Program Youth



The satisfaction levels reported are similar when we split the sample by gender, age, level of marginalization at the block level, type of course taken, and educational center. The lowest levels of satisfaction are for students who did not finish their course.

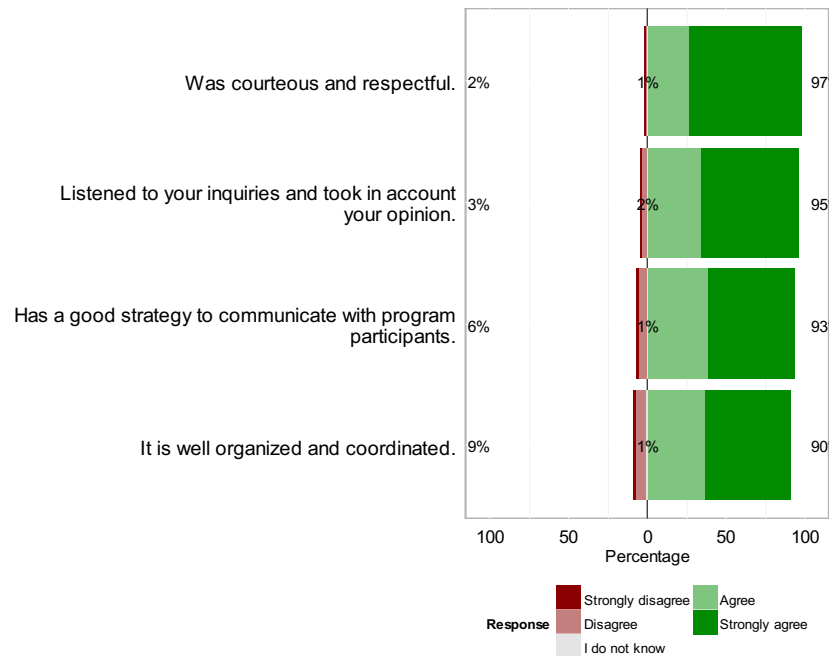
95 percent of participants who were interviewed agree that ICOE's staff attended their inquiries and take in account their needs.

90 percent of beneficiaries that were interviewed agree that they were treated like any other students in the universities or other educational institutions where they took their courses .

Students were also prompted about their opinion on the assistance received by ICOE, the institute in charge of running *Youth with Hope*, including the coordination of universities offering the courses beneficiaries take. Once again, almost every student expressed a positive opinion about ICOE's staff.

The vast majority of respondents reported a respectful and friendly treatment from ICOE's staff (97 percent), and indicated that their questions and needs were taken into account by ICOE's personnel (95 percent). Also, 93 percent of respondents considered ICOE's staff had a good communication strategy, and 90 percent indicated that ICOE's staff was organized and coordinated.

Think about the ICOE's assistance and support, to what extent do you agree with the following statement?



Students also indicated having been treated positively by the educational institutions that offered their course. In general, the vast majority of students reported a respectful and friendly treatment (98 percent), good communication with the students (95 percent), and good attention to their questions and needs (95 percent).

Additionally, over 90 percent of the surveyed beneficiaries felt that staff and teachers from the university, training center, or educational center where they took courses treated as any other student attending classes there.

73% of interviewees agreed that teachers in their courses of Youth with Hope know their material and explain it well.

74% of interviewees agreed that teachers in their courses of Youth with Hope acquired new skills and knowledge.

To analyze the quality of the offered courses, beneficiaries were asked to assess their experience their experience in their last year of formal education, as well as, the courses taken in the program Youth with Hope.

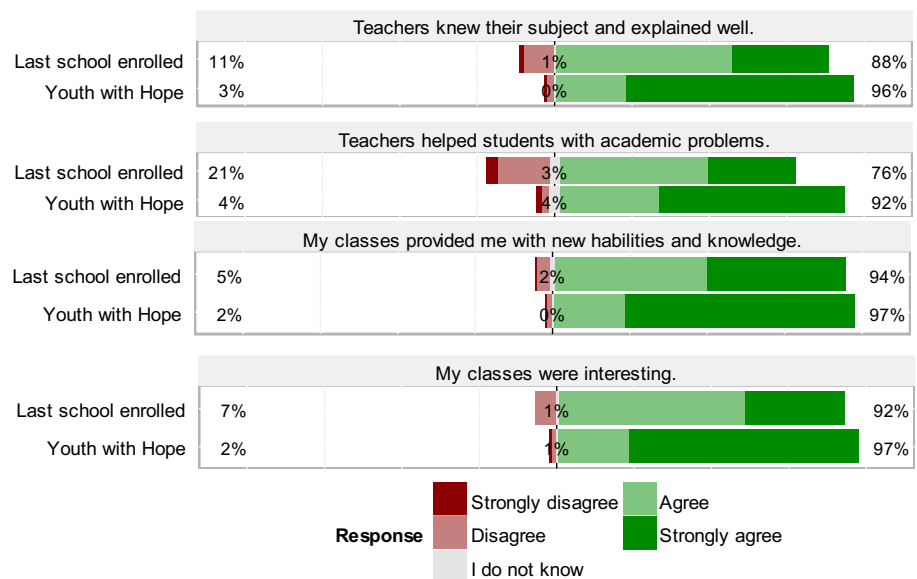
73 percent of sample agreed the professors were knowledgeable of their subject and able explainers, compared to 35 percent who expressed a similar opinion regarding the professors they had in their last year of formal education.

Further, 74 percent of the study’s participants strongly agreed that the contents of the courses at Youth with Hope provided new skills and knowledge, although only 41 percent shared this opinion regarding the subjects in their last year of formal education.

Moreover, 74 percent of all respondents strongly agreed that the course contents at Youth with Hope were interesting, compared to the 33 percent who shared this opinion regarding the subjects of the last grade of formal education they were enrolled in.

43 percent of survey respondents reported that their classmates in their previous school exhibited frequent absenteeism, though only 33 percent reported peers in their courses at *Youth with Hope* missed class frequently.

In the last school you last attended /last course in Youth with Hope, to what extend do you agree with the following statements?



Only 2% reported bad conditions (graffiti, broken windows and broken desks) at the institutions where they took Youth with Hope courses

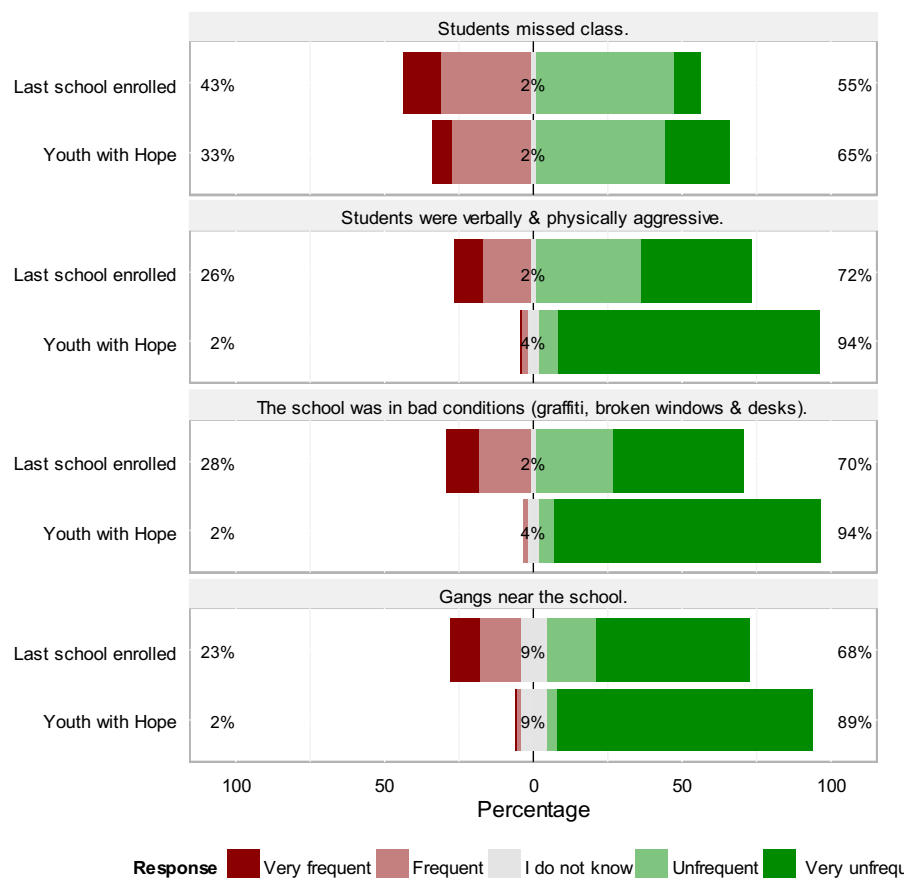
Furthermore, only 2% reported physical and verbal aggressions among peers from Youth with Hope courses

74 percent of respondents strongly agreed that professors teaching Youth with Hope courses helped students with academic problems. In contrast, 28 percent of them considered that professors at the school they last attended helped students struggling academically.

In addition, the respondents indicated building facilities were in poor condition where took courses at Youth with Hope (2 percent) to compared the classroom at the school they last attended (28 percent).

25 percent of students reported that their peers would physically and verbally assault each other at the school last attended by them, compared to two percent who reported physical and verbal aggressions among peers from Youth with Hope courses.

In the school you last attended course in Youth with Hope how frequent were the following situations?



Furthermore, 87 percent reported no gang activity near educational institutions where they took Youth with Hope courses, while only 56 percent of survey respondents indicated no gang activities around the school they last attended.

27% of the interviewees reported that what they learned in Youth with Hope helped them find their current job, and 5.7% indicated that they found their job through the program directly.

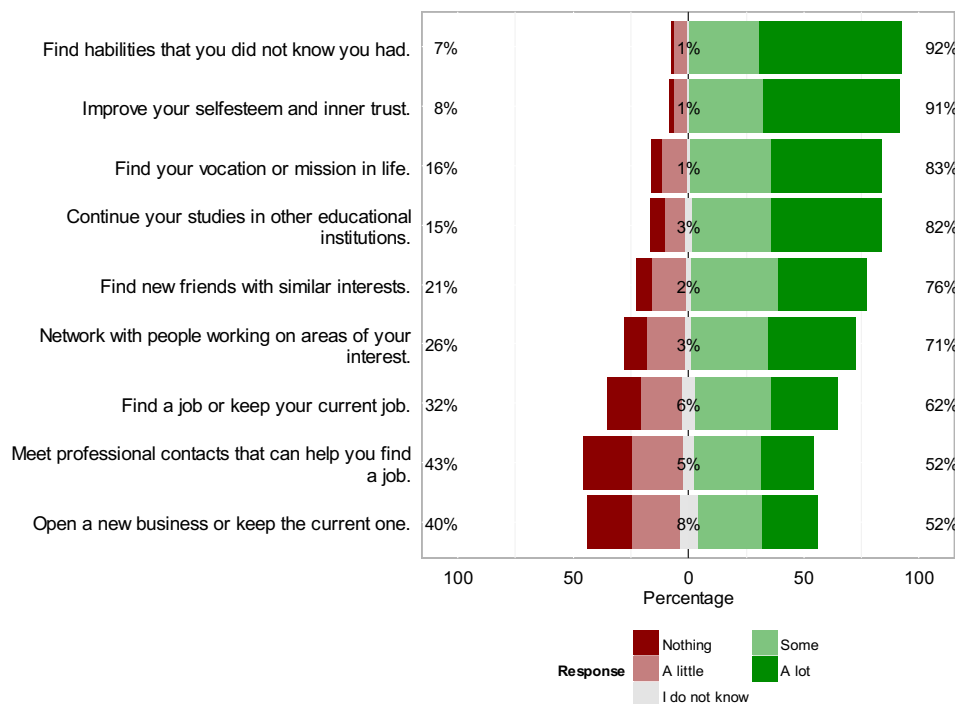
92% of the participants who were interviewed agreed that Youth with Hope helped them discover abilities they did not know they had.

91% of the participants who were interviewed agreed that the program helped them improve their self-confidence.

Regarding school's surroundings, 45 percent of respondents reported that there were no burglaries or assaults near the school they last attended. In contrast, 75 percent indicated the same lack of burglaries or assaults around the facilities where they took *Youth with Hope* courses.

On a different note, program beneficiaries surveyed were asked about the effectiveness of the program to meet their personal goals. 27 percent of the respondents reported that what they learned in their courses at Youth with Hope helped them get their current job, and 5.7 percent indicated that they found their current job through the *Youth with Hope* program—that is, either through its employment services or through a contact made via a peer or an instructor.

How much do you believe Youth with Hope helped you with the following?



Finally, 92 percent of Youth with Hope beneficiaries indicated the program helped them explore abilities and talents they did not know they had, 91 percent reported the program helped them improve their self-confidence, 83 percent declared the program helped them find their professional vocation and 76 percent pointed out that the program helped them find a group of people who share your common interests.

The impact evaluation involved a quasi-experimental design, which required a treatment group (i.e. program participants) and a control group (i.e. youth not eligible to participate in the program).

The control group is constructed by a random sample of young residents from Guadalajara's metropolitan area, rather than Zapopan.

3. Impact Evaluation

The impact evaluation involved a quasi-experimental design with a treatment group (i.e. program beneficiaries) and a control group (i.e. youth not eligible to participate in the program). The control group in this scenario serves as a counterfactual to measure what would have happened to the beneficiaries had they not participated in *Youth with Hope*.

In contrast with experimental impact evaluations, which randomly assign interventions across two groups (treatment and control), quasi-experimental evaluations construct control groups with statistical techniques.

The impact evaluation of *Youth with Hope* utilizes what is known as a “natural experiment”, which makes use of the fact that the program is directed exclusively to Zapopan's residents. The control group is constructed by a random sample of young residents from Guadalajara's metropolitan area, who are ineligible to participate in the program.

A survey was carried out in a random sample of up to 10 percent of the total number of beneficiaries from the third and fourth cohorts of *Youth with Hope* (1,635 students) and 875 youth in the control group. The sample was segmented by gender, age, and degree of marginalization at the block level. The baseline survey was carried out before the *Youth with Hope* courses started. The follow-up survey was carried out six months after the baseline, when courses had concluded.

Youth from the metropolitan area of Guadalajara were asked about their interest in participating in the program, in the hypothetically case that they were eligible. They were also asked about the course they would be interested in taking. The interview excluded from the control group those who responded they would not subscribe to *Youth with Hope* if they were allowed to participate.

Through this process, the control group is constituted of youth from outside of Zapopan, who are similar to the treatment group in terms of their interest to participate in the program (since they would decide to participate if they were given the option), but for exogenous reasons are not eligible to enroll in *Youth with Hope*.

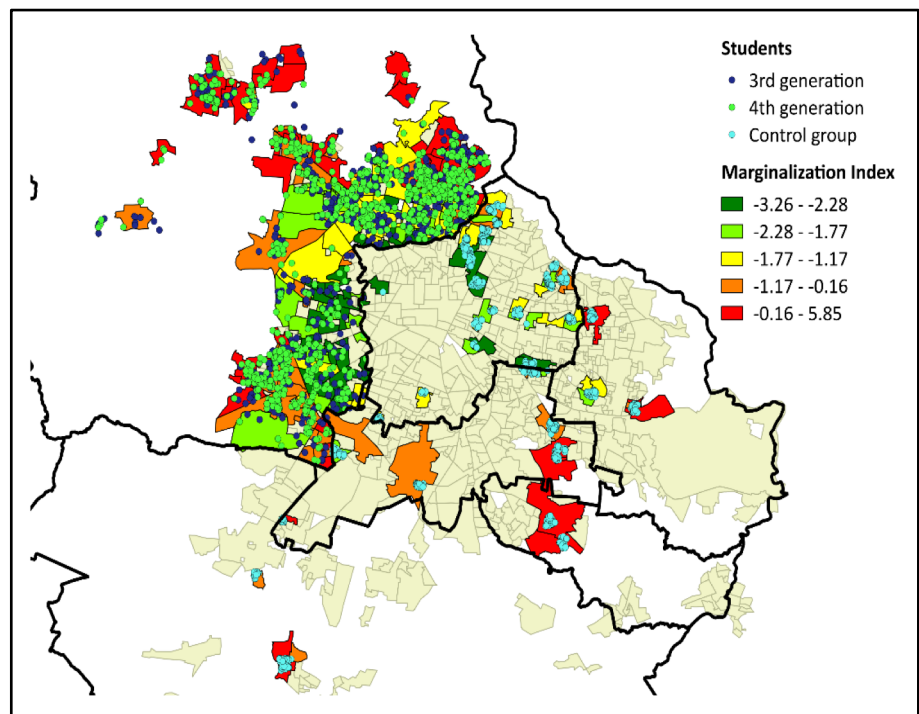
A survey was carried out in a random sample, segmented by gender, age, and marginalization of up to 10 percent of the participants in the third and fourth rounds of Youth with Hope (1,635 students) and 875 youngsters in the control group.

The first scholarship round was carried out before the program's courses started. The initial survey consisted of youngsters interviewed days before their program's courses began. The follow-up survey, on the other hand, was carried out six months after the initial one, when courses had concluded.

The a main objective of the empirical evaluation is to ensure that the control group is as similar to the treatment group as possible in terms of the variables that simultaneously affect the decision to participate in the program and the outcomes of interest.

The impact analysis involves a Difference In Difference (DID) matching strategy. The DID methodology consists of comparing the outcome of interest over time between the treatment and the control groups over time.

Distribution of beneficiaries of the program and control group neighborhoods according to their degree of marginalization



Further, we matching individuals from both groups based on what is called a “genetic” algorithm. The goal of matching is to “balance” the treatment and control group in terms of the variables that are predictive of program participation, which in turn are correlated with the outcomes of interest.

To achieve this balance, matching looks for individuals in the control group who are similar to those in the treatment group based on these variables. The genetic algorithm estimates weights for the variables that are predictive of program participation, with the goal of minimizing such differences.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the program Youth with Hope had a positive and statistically significant impact on the probability of getting a job, the reported monthly income, the number of hours of labor per week, access to professional networks, and the general optimism that beneficiaries expressed concerning their future.

In particular, we found that the program increases the probability to find a job in 11 perceptual points.

The magnitude of this effect is similar to the estimated impact for similar programs in Latin America.

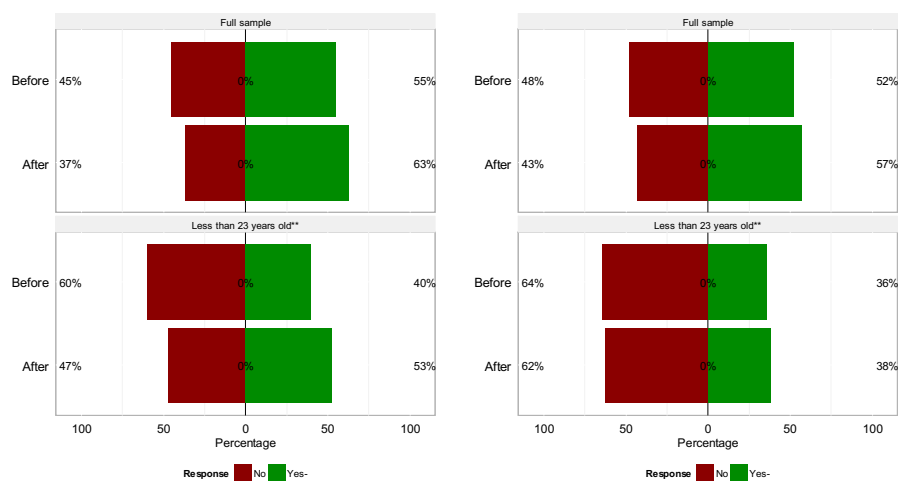
3.1. Results

The results of the evaluation indicate that the program Youth with Hope had a positive and statistically significant effect on the probability of getting a job, reported monthly income, number of hours of labor per week, access to professional networks, and beneficiaries' general optimism for their future.

With respect to the effects on the likelihood of finding a job, in each round of survey interviews, respondents were asked whether they had worked the week before participating in the survey. This binary variable was used to model the probability of work.

Statistically significant effects were found to be associated with program participants under 23 years of age. Particularly for this age group, the program increased the likelihood of finding a job by 11 percentage points.

Predicted probabilities of finding a job. Estimations based on a logit model with genetic matching.



Notably, the estimated probability of employment among youth under 23 years of age is the lowest of all age groups. This means that Youth with Hope increased the job prospects of the age group that struggles the most to find employment.

3/The impact of the program is estimated from subtracting the difference in the probability to be working between wave 2 and wave 1 for the treatment group from the difference in the probability to be working between wave 2 and wave 1 for the control

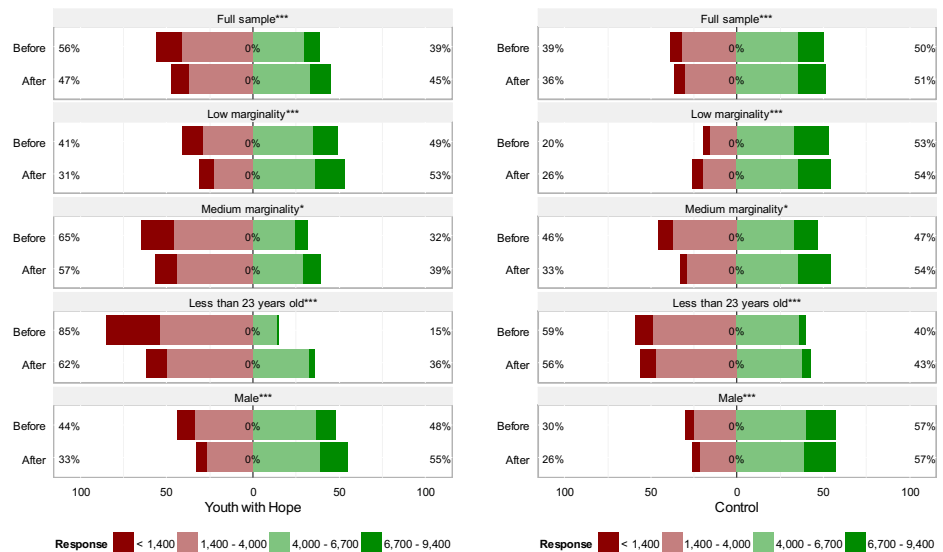
Youth with Hope program had a positive impact in the monthly income of participants under 23 years of age, as well as the income of youngsters residing in neighborhoods of low and medium marginality.

The largest income effects were observed in the population of participants under 23 years of age. The results of the analysis also indicate that the program generated an 18 percentage-point increase in the probability of youngsters under 23 years of age to earn between \$4,000 and \$6,700 pesos per month.

To estimate program effects on monthly income, we restricted the sample to youth who reported having a job during the time of the study. Moreover, to reduce measurement error, we use an ordinal measure of monthly wage, consisting of five ranges of reported salary^{4/}.

The study found that participation in the Youth with Hope program had a positive impact in the monthly income in subsamples of participants under 23 years of age, males, as well as, youngsters residing in blocks of low and medium levels of marginalization. No significant effects were found for youth from highly marginalized neighborhoods who had a job.

Predicted probabilities for monthly income level. Estimations based on a ordered logit model with genetic matching.



The largest income effects were observed in the population of participants under 23 years of age. For this group, the program appears to have reduced their probability of earning less than \$1,400 per month (equivalent to less than the minimum wage) by 18 percentage points.

The results of the analysis also indicate that the program generated an 18 percentage-point increase in the probability of youth under 23 years of age to earn between \$4,000 and \$6,700 pesos per month (from 3 to 5 times the minimum wage).

^{4/}Less than 1,400 pesos (Less than minimum wage), between 1,400 and 4,000 pesos (from 1 to 3 times the minimum wages), between 4,000 and 6,700 pesos (from 3 to 5 times the minimum wage), between 6,700 and 9,400 pesos (from 5 to 7 5 times the minimum wage), and more than 9,400 pesos (more than 7 5 times the minimum wage).

The study finds that for participants from highly marginalized neighborhoods, program participation increased the daily work hours by an average of 9 hours per week.

Youth with Hope increased the chances of knowing someone with a higher education degree by 26 percentage points for those living in neighborhoods of high and medium marginalization. Also, particularly amongst highly marginalized youngsters, we observed an estimated effect of 21 percentage points in their probability of knowing someone in their field or area of interest.

The study finds that among beneficiaries from highly marginalized areas, program participation increased the daily work hours by an average of 9 hours per week^{5/}.

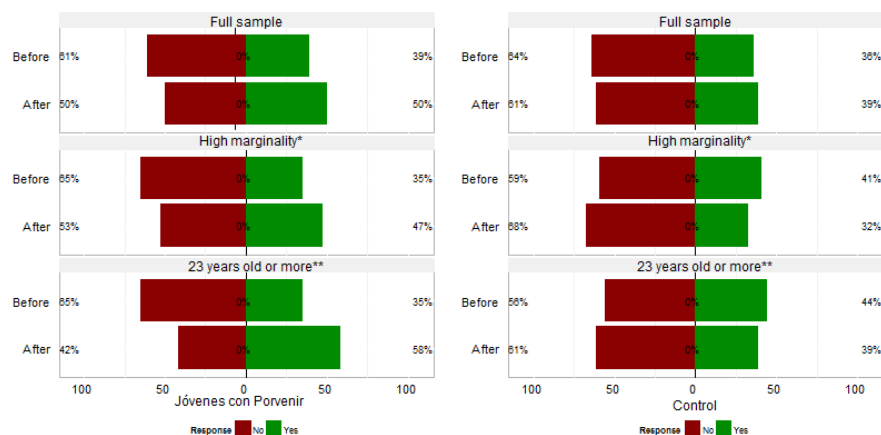
The third set of variables of interest involved the beneficiaries' re-enrollment in school and their access to professional networks. No statistically significant effects were observed in the probability of returning to school within the 12 months after starting the program.

Regarding the access to professional networks, survey respondents were asked if they had met someone with a higher education degree over the past six months, and if they knew someone who worked within their field or area of interest. The study indicated that Youth with Hope increased the likelihood of knowing someone with a higher education degree by 26 percentage points for those living in blocks of high and medium levels of marginalization. However, the program has no statistically significant effect in terms of this variable regarding youth living in neighborhoods of low marginalization.

Further, the estimated impact in the likelihood of knowing someone with a higher education degree is positive and significant, regardless of gender and age category.

The program also positively impacted the probability of knowing someone who worked in the field or area of interest of the beneficiaries. This effect is higher among highly marginalized beneficiaries. In this case, we predicted an increase of 21 percentage points in the probability of knowing someone in their field or area of interest.

Predicted probabilities of meeting someone working in the area of interest. Estimations based on a logit model with genetic matching.



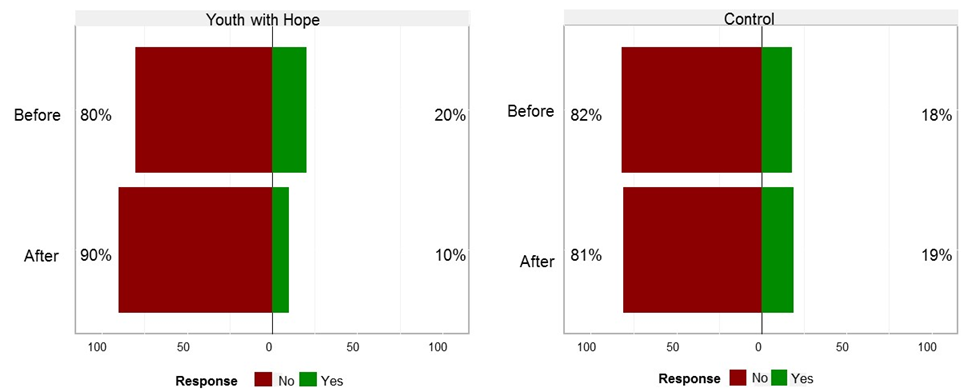
^{5/}Interviewed provided information regarding the number of hours worked per each day of the week, we summed each day worked to obtained a continuous measured of total hours worked a week.

The study finds that participating in the Youth with Hope program diminished the probability of association with gang members by 10 percentage points for students from highly marginalized areas.

Again, among participants living in neighborhoods of low marginalization, we did not detect an effect of participation in *Youth with Hope* in terms of the probability to meet people with similar professional interests. This might be explained by the fact that such students have greater access to professional networks outside of Youth with Hope.

Moreover, the program was found to diminish the prevalence of risk-prone behavior amongst youth. Particularly, respondents were asked whether they had one or more friends linked to a gang.

Predicted probabilities of having a friend or groups of friend who are linked with gangs. Estimations based on a logit model with genetic matching.



The study finds that participating in the Youth with Hope program diminished the probability of association with gang members by 10 percentage points for students from highly-marginalized areas. Although the effect is significant at the 90 percent of confidence level, this result is relevant because about 31.4 percent of program participants come from neighborhoods with reported gang activity.

Moreover, 46 percent of survey respondents residing in areas with high-marginalization indicated having friends linked to gangs. This result suggest that the program Youth with Hope as an effective prevention strategy to reduce youth violence and related behaviors among at-risk youth.

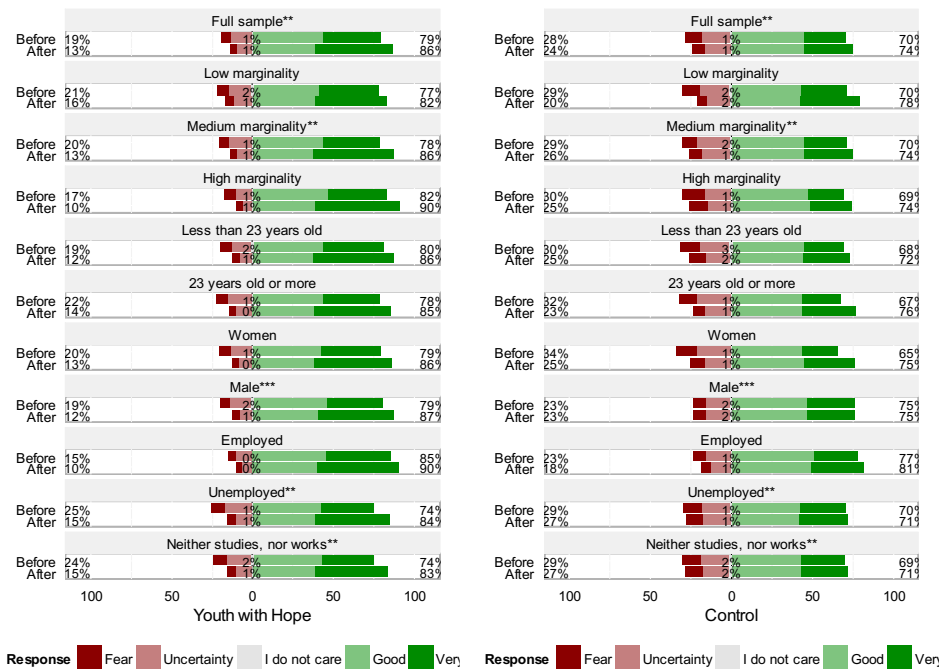
Participation in Youth with Hope increases the probability of feeling very good about their future in 7 perceptual points.

This effect is strongest among youngsters of medium marginalization, who exhibit an 11 percentage-point increase in the chance of feeling “very good” about the future.

Finally, the program’s impact was measured by examining the expectations that the beneficiaries had for their futures.

The study finds that Youth with Hope increased the perception of the future for the full sample of interviewed students. Specifically, program participation increased the chances of feeling “very good” about the future by seven percentage points. This effect is strongest among youth of medium marginalization, who exhibit an 11 percentage-point increase in the chance of feeling “very good” about the future.

Predicted probabilities of expectations about their future. Estimations based on a ordered logit model with genetic matching.



The increase in positive attitudes about the future can be explained by the analysis evaluating the program presented in the previous section. The increase in positive expectations regarding the future may be due to the reported newly-found skill-set that participants did not know they had, a greater sense of self-confidence, the program helping them find their calling, and that thanks to the program they were able to form a coterie.

^{6/} The set of answer choices is a scale of five-point scale: “I feel very good”, “I feel good”, “I do not care about my future”, “Uncertainty”, “Fear”.

The results of the impact evaluation, and the high satisfaction exhibited by the program's beneficiaries indicate that it is convenient to expand the program to a larger scale, either to the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, the state of Jalisco, or to a national scope.



4. Policy Recommendations

The results of the impact evaluation, and the high satisfaction exhibited by the program's beneficiaries suggest that it is convenient to expand the program to a larger scale, either to the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, the state of Jalisco, or to a national scope.

The design of the program can be enhanced by targeting the youth residing in neighborhoods of medium and high levels of marginality.

Moreover, it is important to focus on reducing program attrition among youth from medium- and high- marginalization levels, and by participants under 23 years of age. This is a particularly relevant task given that the highest impacts generated by the program concentrate in these group of beneficiaries. For example, the program should increase the capacity to provide financial support for transportation of potential participants who live in marginalized neighborhoods.

Additionally, to improve the effectiveness of Youth with Hope, it is also relevant to consider including other evidenced-based components for improving employment outcomes amongst former program participants, such as social skills training and professional practices in enterprises.

To foster reenrollment in formal education, it is recommended to articulate strategies with the Ministry of Public Education (SEP, according to its Spanish acronym). The main goal of these strategies should be establishing mechanisms that help young Mexicans who want to return to school.

Finally, it should be a priority of the program to create links and collaborate with complementary programs aimed at developing social resilience and prosocial behaviors between youth at risk of getting involved in gangs.

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