

Executive Summary

Key Dataset Facts

Dataset Name: **Maryland Noncredit Workforce Completers System**

Publisher: Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

Website: https://data.mhec.state.md.us/Documentation_mac2_NWCS.asp

Unit of Analysis: Individual

Purpose of Dataset: To track labor market outcomes associated with the completion of non-credit courses offered by Maryland public higher education institutions. This dataset is included in our data quality assessment as a representative of other states' noncredit education tracking systems.

Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Good	MHEC has access to high quality data on earnings from state data systems. However, there are limitations in Maryland's ability to track students from other states, or those who move out of Maryland shortly after credential completion.
Coverage	Good	Public institutions are required to submit data to MHEC on enrollments. However, private institutions are not required to submit data and, as a small state in a metropolitan area that crosses state boundaries, many Marylanders may be receiving noncredit workforce instruction in states not covered by this dataset.
Granularity	Excellent	Detailed information is available on the noncredit programs completed by students and their future earnings.
Consistency	N/A	We could not identify a suitable comparison dataset. While the data collection format for post-completion earnings is similar to the WIOA PIRL, the population is very different.
Timeliness	Good	Data is updated annually.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Fair	While researchers should be able to access microdata, the procedure for data access is unclear.
Interoperability	Good	Researchers could probably link to TrainingProviderResults.gov for some program outcomes.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Poor	The dataset is less than one year old (first data was reported in 2021).
Overall Recommendation	Good	This dataset has potential for helping us fill in gaps in our understanding of the value of non-degree credentials.

Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
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Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Fair	This dataset is limited to non-credit credentials in one particular state, but does have an impressive level of information on who completes which credentials.
Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Good	Data on post-completion earnings is a strength of this dataset.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Good	The dataset contains necessary information on gender and race to identify patterns of inequality in attainment and post-completion value.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Good	Despite limitations, it (and, presumably, similar systems in other states) could be used to identify the characteristics of non-credit certificate programs reported by individuals responding to the NTEWS.