





Education

“Pathways to Education” (Toronto, Canada)

In the beginning of the year of 2000, community workers and the Board of Directors for the Regent Park Community Health Center developed a program called “Pathways to Education” . With the goal of supporting the academic development of at-risk youth living in Canada’s oldest and largest public housing project, in Toronto, the program was offered to all 9th grade students residing in the projects. Subscription was voluntary and participation rates raised to more than 85% in the years after implementation. In 2007, the program expanded to include two additional neighborhoods that presented similar participation rates: Rexdale and Lawrence Heights. The program’s key features were:

- (i) assignment of each student to a **support worker (employed full-time)** that monitored students’ absenteeism, grades, and participation in other Pathways activities, provided information to students about events and community resources and served as the go-to people for dealing with any issue that may have arisen at home, at school, or around the community;
- (ii) short-term financial assistance in the form of **free public transportation tickets and school supplies** provided directly by the support worker;
- (iii) extensive academic support in the form of **mandatory twice a week tutoring**, provided by volunteers;
- (iv) social support in the form of group mentoring (more or less 15 youths) with workshops from the “YouCan”  program to teach **cognitive behavioral therapy**;
- (v) **career mentoring**, including **resume preparation classes, job interview practice, college and university campus visits, and visits to potential employers**;
- (vi) **longer-term financial support** of 1,000 up to 4,000 dollars for each year of participation that could be used for tuition and other post-secondary expenses after high school graduation – average 4-year university undergraduate tuition in Ontario was approximately 6,000 dollars and an average 2-year community tuition was approximately 3,000 dollars in the period



Impacts in Regent Park

- Students in **Regent Park** presented an **improvement of 16% and 19%** in their **9th grade English score** and **math score**, respectively, and a **16% improvement** in their **global score** in the **11th and 12th grade**
- Also, these students were **40% more likely** to **finish high school** and **69% more likely** to **enroll in college or university** upon completing high school



(for more information click here)

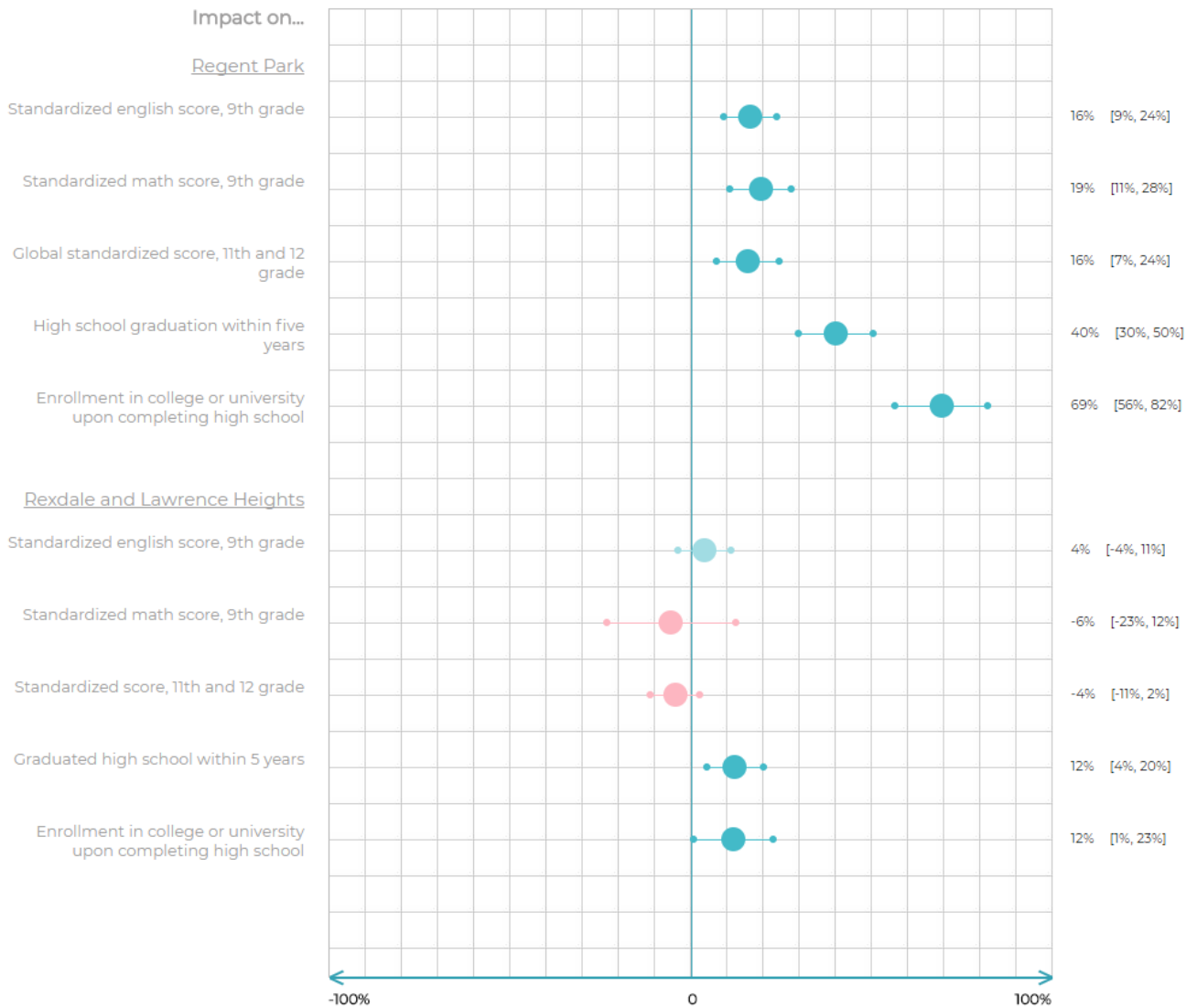


Impacts in Rexdale e Lawrence Heights

- Students in Rexdale and Lawrence Heights presented **improvement only in their 9th grade English score**
- Notwithstanding, these students were **12% more likely** to **finish high school** and to **enroll in college or university** upon completing high school



(for more information click here)



The presented results were taken from the academic articles of Philip Oreopoulos [↗](#), Robert Brown [↗](#) e Adam Lavecchia [↗](#)

References:

Oreopoulos, P., Brown, R. S., & Lavecchia, A. M. (2017). Pathways to education: An integrated approach to helping at-risk high school students. *Journal of Political Economy*, 125(4), 947-984.

Sorted and straightforward information on the impact of public policies and social programs.

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