



The University of Chicago
Department of Statistics
Master's Seminar

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**Effect of Early Intervention on Job Tenure:
The Perry Preschool Program**

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ABSTRACT

One heavily-touted method for dealing with poverty-induced social issues is through preschool education programs. Numerous significant benefits have been associated with these programs, and cost benefit analyses have estimated returns to investment in preschool programs over a wide range of values. This paper extends the Perry Program literature to include a thorough analysis of reported job tenures and their implied unemployment spells using nonparametric and semi-parametric methods. A distinction between nonemployment rates (which are explicitly reported by the Perry Program) and unemployment rates (which must be computed indirectly) are drawn. This is important because changing jobs is in itself costly and because longer job tenures lead to less unemployment; a significant effect of preschool programs on adult job tenures is found and explored.