



David H. Koch Charitable Foundation Evaluation Results: New York City

In 1998, the David H. Koch Charitable Foundation sponsored one of the most comprehensive studies ever completed on the impact of youth entrepreneurship training in America. The New York-based Research & Evaluation for Philanthropy aggressively tracked a statistically significant random sample of 253 young adults ages 18-28 who had completed the NFTE- New York City program in junior or senior high school, and compared them with a group of 252 young adults who never participated in NFTE. The young adults surveyed were from low-income neighborhoods in New York, and over half were age 21 years and older.

Some of the highlights from the report include:

- 83% of NFTE alumni want to start their own businesses compared with 57% of the comparison group and 50% of the U.S. public.
- NFTE NYC alumni were more likely to be current part-time business owners than other NYC young adults (8% vs. 6%). In fact, business formation for alumni is substantially higher than the estimated 1- 3% national rate for minority adults.
- 36% of alumni have started a business of their own vs. 9% of the comparison group.
- Of those who have started a business, nearly six in ten alumni (58%) were the first in their family to start a business.
- 76% of NFTE NYC alumni think starting and owning a small business is a realistic way out of poverty vs. 46% of the comparison group.
- NFTE increased high school exposure to business and entrepreneurship training four- fold and 80% of alumni thought about going into business for themselves after taking NFTE.
- 95% of alumni indicated that NFTE gave them a more positive view of business and they were nearly two times more likely to predict that they would support themselves by owning a business in five years.
- 56% of alumni believe that most businesses are overtaxed compared with 48% of the U.S. public, 48% of high school seniors, and 41% of the comparison group.
- Nearly all alumni (95%) report that NFTE improved their business skills and knowledge and 99% of alumni would recommend the program to others.