

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2550

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

RSA-IM-97-04

DATE: February 12, 1997

TO : STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES
(GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES
(BLIND)
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
NATIONAL FACILITIES COALITION
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING
EDUCATION PROGRAMS
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT : 2nd Interim Report of the Longitudinal
Study

Attached is a copy of the 2nd Interim Report of the Longitudinal Study. The Longitudinal Study of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Service Program was authorized under Section 14(f) of the 1992 Rehabilitation Act Amendments. Currently, baseline data collection has been completed on all 8,000 consumers participating in the study at 38 Vocational Rehabilitation district office sites; and the contractor, Research Triangle Institute, is conducting quarterly and annual follow-ups of these persons. These follow-ups will continue for three years with each consumer. Data have been collected on consumers' demographic characteristics, services received, functional limitations, employment histories, receipt of public assistance, vocational interests and their perspectives on the VR program. Data on

the characteristics and organizational cultures of VR local offices participating in the study have also been collected. Two Interim Reports have been completed. An additional sample of persons who have received Supported Employment Services is also being acquired.

Below are some selected, nationally generalizable findings contained in Interim Report Number 2.

- Persons receiving SSI/DI composed more than a quarter of the VR caseload.
- 74.9% of VR consumers believed they had enough choice in selecting a vocational goal.
- 63.7% of the consumers reported that they selected their services jointly with the VR counselor, while 19% of consumers decided on their own the services they would get.
- 43% of the consumers were very satisfied with their services and 28.5% were somewhat satisfied.
- 75.8% of the consumers reported that their counselors provided them with sufficient information to make the best choice of service providers.
- 54.3% of the consumers were very satisfied with the available choice of service providers, while 26.4% were somewhat satisfied.
- 70.4% of the consumers reported that their VR counselors always showed adequate interest, attention and

concern for their needs.

- 75.8% of the consumers reported that the VR agency did not take too long to make an eligibility determination.
- 46.8% of the consumers were very satisfied with the speed with which the counselor arranged to provide services, and 28.2% were mostly satisfied.
- At entry into VR, 27.4% had worked but not in the two years prior their application for VR services; 8.2% had never worked.
- At entry into VR, 32.9% were not working but were looking for work, while 28.1% were not working and were not looking for work.
- For VR consumers with prior employment experience, their average hourly wage in that prior employment was \$7.43 in contrast with the average hourly earnings for all private industry employees of \$11.12 in 1994.

If you have any questions regarding this report, you may contact Dr. Harold Kay, Planning, Policy and Evaluation staff, Room 3014, Switzer Building, 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-2550. Dr. Kay may be reached at 202-205-8299.

INQUIRIES TO : Regional Commissioner

Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Attachment

cc: CSAVR
NAPAS