University of Washington
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation (CCER)

Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and State Rehabilitation Council Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Phase I of Report

Submitted to:
Washington State Rehabilitation Council
Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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May 30, 2013

Analysis of Existing Data Results

Description of Data Sources

A variety of existing data sources were reviewed for the purposes of identifying and describing the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) target population and sub-populations statewide. These sources included the following:

1. United States Census Bureau 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates,
2. United States Social Security Administration (SSA) data for 2011,
3. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) data for 2011, and
4. DVR case service data for FY 2011.

The ACS is a continuous data collection effort conducted by the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau that is used to produce annual estimates at the national, state and local level on the characteristics of the United States population. It replaces the decennial Census long form and collects information on an annual basis from approximately 3 million addresses in the U.S. Next, SSA data are not collected for research purposes. SSA maintains a master file on individuals and their characteristics in order to carry out administrative tasks. However, SSA's Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics provides extractions of the master file for research and other purposes. Furthermore, states submit a Part B, Annual Performance Report to the Office of Special Education Programs, and data for that academic year are made available to the public through the Data Accountability Center. Finally, FY 2011 DVR case service data was used for the analysis of secondary data in order to make comparisons with the most recent state estimates of disability available. The DVR data used in this section was for all cases

closed between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2011 where eligibility for services had been determined.

Strengths and Limitations of Data Sources

The ACS, SSA, IDEA, and DVR case service data utilized in this report were not originally collected to identify the rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities in Washington; as such, the analysis based upon secondary data is speculative and the conclusions drawn are tentative. The data from these sources are often presented as estimates. Many of these estimates have been drawn from small sample sizes and may have substantial margins of error. In addition, the definitions of disability vary across data sources. Some of the approaches used to define disability by these data sources included diagnosis based, function based, and service based. Readers are encouraged to consider their knowledge of state and systematic factors impacting the vocational rehabilitation of people with disabilities in Washington when interpreting the findings presented in this report. The results of this study should also be viewed within the context of the additional activities (surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews) that comprised the CSNA.

Prevalence of Disability in Washington and the U.S.

This section examines the population estimates and the demographic characteristics for individuals with disabilities in Washington and provides a comparison with national data. According to 2011 ACS estimates, 12.4%[1] of the population reported a disability in Washington compared to 12.1%[2] in the U.S. (see Table 1.1). Table 1.1 also compares the prevalence of disability for Washington and the U.S. by age and sex.

[1] Prevalence of disability in Washington regardless of age or sex.
[2] Prevalence of disability in the U.S. regardless of age or sex.

The prevalence of disability by age and sex in Washington was higher than in the U.S. except for women 65 and older (37.6% and 37.9% respectively). ACS estimates also indicated that the prevalence of disability increased for individuals in Washington and the U.S. across the lifespan. In addition, disability was more prevalent for men 64 and under in Washington and the U.S. than for women. In contrast, disability prevalence was higher for women 64 and older in Washington (37.6%) and the U.S. (37.9%) than for men (36.5% and 35.2% respectively).

Table 1.1

Prevalence of Disability by Age and Sex for Washington and the U.S. in 2011

	Washington		U.S.	
	Percent of population w/disability	Total	Percent of population w/disability	Total
Male	12.3	415,300	11.9	17,845,600
15 and under	5.0	35,942	4.7	1,573,371
16-64 years	10.6	240,500	10.1	10,099,900
65+ years	36.5	138,800	35.2	6,167,100
Female	12.4	421,200	12.4	19,480,500
15 and under	2.9	19,882	2.8	909,257
16-64 years	10.1	227,900	9.8	10,003,900
65+ years	37.6	173,600	37.9	8,567,400
Total	12.4	836,500	12.1	37,326,100

Note. Adapted from Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI).

Table 1.2 illustrates the prevalence of disability by race or ethnicity[3] in Washington and the U.S. based on 2011 ACS estimates. The prevalence of disability for Washingtonians who are White (15.1%), Native American or Alaska Native (20.6%), Asian (7.1%), and Other (9.0%) was higher than the U.S. estimates for these groups (12.5%, 16.5%, 6.3%, and 8.6% respectively). However, the prevalence of disability for Washingtonians who are Black/African American (12.3%) and Hispanic (7.3%) was lower than the U.S. estimates for these groups (13.9% and 8.3% respectively).

Table 1.2

Prevalence of Disability by Race or Ethnicity for Washington and the U.S. in 2011

	Washington		U.S.	
	Percent of population w/disability	Number	Percent of population w/disability	Number
White	15.1	697,600	12.5	28,654,000
Black/African American	12.3	28,300	13.9	5,278,200
Native Am. or Alaskan Native	20.6	18,900	16.5	405,800
Asian	7.1	35,500	6.3	947,500
Other	9.0	56,200	8.6	2,040,500
Hispanic	7.3	57,500	8.3	4,286,500

Note. Adapted from Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI).

The prevalence of disability by type for individuals[4] in Washington and the U.S. using 2011 ACS estimates was also compared (see Table 1.3). The prevalence of hearing disability (3.9%) and cognitive disability (5.4%) in Washington was higher than U.S.

[3] Prevalence of disability by race or ethnicity regardless of age or sex in Washington and the U.S.
[4] Prevalence of disability by type regardless of age or sex in Washington and the U.S.

estimates (3.4% and 4.9% respectively). Yet, the prevalence of visual disability (1.9%), ambulatory disability (6.4%), self-care disability (2.6%), and independent living disability (5.3%) was lower in Washington than in the U.S. (2.2%, 6.9%, 2.7%, and 5.6% respectively).

Table 1.3

Prevalence of Disability by Type for Washington and the U.S. in 2011

	Washington		**U.S.**	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Visual disability	1.9	128,900	2.2	6,636,900
Hearing disability	3.9	263,100	3.4	10,556,600
Ambulatory disability	6.4	406,200	6.9	19,937,600
Cognitive disability	5.4	344,600	4.9	14,144,300
Self-care disability	2.6	164,400	2.7	7,697,500
Independent living disability	5.3	291,300	5.6	13,733,900

Note. Adapted from Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI). Copyright 2010 by Cornell University.

Table 1.4 compares the employment rates for individuals 16-64 years by disability status for Washington and the U.S. based on 2011 ACS estimates. As expected, the employment rate for people with disabilities in both Washington and the U.S. is lower than that of people without disabilities. However, the employment rate for Washingtonians with a disability is higher than the U.S. estimates for that group (34.8% and 32.6% respectively).

According to the 2011 ACS estimates, the employment rate for Washingtonians with a disability is 34.8% while the employment rate for Washingtonians without a

disability is 71.0%. Based upon a total population estimate for individuals 16-64 years of 3,053,700, an additional 59,242 individuals would need to become employed in order to close the employment gap between those with a disability and those without a disability in Washington. While these individuals might be considered a DVR target population, some caution is warranted. These figures may illustrate the high end of the range of the DVR target population as some individuals with disabilities may not wish to utilize the services of DVR, may have disabilities that are not sufficiently severe to warrant DVR services, or may voluntarily be out of the work force.

Table 1.4

Employment rates for individuals 16-64 years by disability status for Washington and the U.S. in 2011

	Washington		U.S.	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
With a disability	34.8	163,200	32.6	6,546,000
Without a disability	71.0	2,890,500	70.7	128,752,600

Note. Adapted from Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI). Copyright 2010 by Cornell University.

Comparison of Needs to Washington DVR Service Provision

This section examines the demographic characteristics of Washington DVR case service data for FY 2011 and compares it to population estimates and demographic characteristics of individuals with disabilities in Washington. The DVR data used in this section was for all cases closed between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2011 where eligibility for services had been determined. When interpreting the data for people with disabilities in Washington it is important to keep in mind that while these individuals might be

considered a DVR target population these figures may illustrate the high end of the range of that population. Some of these individuals with disabilities may not wish to utilize the services of DVR, may have disabilities that are not sufficiently severe to warrant DVR services, or may voluntarily be out of the work force. Furthermore, significant differences between the characteristics of the DVR population of clients (whose cases were closed in FY 2011) and the characteristics of the population of people with disabilities in the state indicate that more information than what is presented in this report is needed in order to determine the reason for these differences.

According to 2011 ACS estimates for individuals age 16-64 with any disability, 468,400 individuals in the state reported a disability (see Table 2.1). That same year, DVR closed cases for 9,744 individuals. This constitutes 2.1% of the population of people with disabilities in Washington. Data from Table 2.1 also indicate that the proportion of men with disabilities is higher than the proportion of women with disabilities in both the state (51.3% and 48.7%) and the DVR caseload (57.4% and 42.6%). However data suggest, that in 2011 more DVR cases were closed for men than for women.

Table 2.1

DVR Clients Compared to People with Disabilities in WA by Sex in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of population w/disability	Number
Male	57.4	5,592	51.3	240,500
Female	42.6	4,152	48.7	227,900
Total	100.0	9,744	100.0	468,400

Note. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI). Copyright 2010 by Cornell University.

Table 2.2 provides data on the racial and ethnic characteristics of Washington DVR clients and individuals with disabilities age 16-64 years with any disability in the state. Individuals who identified as White comprise the highest proportion of both the DVR caseload (75.1%) and people with disabilities in the state (81.4%). Individuals who identify as Asian constitute the smallest proportion of the DVR caseload (4.6%) while according to ACS estimates, individuals who identify as Native American or Alaskan Native constitute the smallest proportion of people with disabilities in the state (2.8%).

Table 2.2

DVR Clients Compared to People with Disabilities in WA by Race or Ethnicity in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of population w/disability	Number
White	75.1	7,320	81.4	381,200
Black/African American	10.9	1,061	4.1	19,400
Native Am. or Alaskan Native	5.6	547	2.8	13,100
Asian	4.6	449	3.7	17,100
Hispanic	8.9	870	7.5	37,600
Other[a]			8.0	35,000
Did not Provide[b]	2.6	251		

Note. The race and ethnicity categories in this table are adapted from the ACS. WA DVR offers individuals a more expansive list of categories from which to choose. The race and ethnicity categories offered by DVR were collapsed in order to make comparisons between the two data sets. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI). Copyright 2010 by Cornell University.
[a]DVR case data was not provided for this category. [b]ACS 1-Year Estimates does not include a "Did not Provide" category.

Table 2.3 compares DVR closed cases with ACS estimates for people in the state who reported a disability in 2011 by county[5]. Data suggest that a quarter of the DVR cases closed were in King County (24.8%). The county that represented the smallest proportion of cases closed in relation to the entire DVR caseload was Island (.38%). According to ACS data, Cowlitz County has the highest percentage of people reporting a

[5] Estimates for DVR clients and people with disabilities age 18-64 regardless of sex.

disability relative to the entire population (20.8%) whereas Franklin had the lowest percentage of people reporting a disability (5.6%).

The table is not representative of all the counties in Washington. The ACS has a cut off for publishing 1-year estimates for small subpopulations by geographic area. Therefore, there are no ACS data about the number of people reporting a disability for the following Washington counties: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Garfield, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman. With no ACS data for a specific county, there could be no comparison to DVR case closure data. DVR data do indicate that cases were closed in all of the counties except for Garfield.

Table 2.3

DVR Clients Compared to People with Disabilities in WA by County in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of population w/disability	Number
Benton	2.9	278	11.1	12,256
Chelan	1.7	165	8.5	3,711
Clallam	1.7	156	16.3	6,574
Clark	4.6	447	11.3	30,240
Cowlitz	3.1	295	20.8	12,635
Franklin	.80	77	5.6	2,647
Grays Harbor	1.1	105	18.3	7,819
Island	.38	37	12.4	5,416
King	24.8	2,400	7.8	103,398
Kitsap	6.7	644	13.0	19,466
Lewis	1.2	113	18.0	8,122
Pierce	9.9	954	12.6	62,738
Skagit	1.9	180	12.2	8,477
Snohomish	9.1	881	10.2	47,142
Spokane	8.3	805	12.0	35,394
Thurston	3.5	338	10.7	17,076
Whatcom	4.9	470	10.0	13,394
Yakima	5.3	509	10.7	15,144

Note. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, "Selected Population Profile in the United States 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates."

Estimating the population of youth in transition is a challenge since there is not one definitive source for this data. State VR agencies tend to have different age parameters for youth in transition. Washington DVR defines transition-age youth as individuals 16-21 years. There are neither national data sets that use this same age criterion for estimating disability prevalence for youth nor service systems that use this criterion for service eligibility.

Using 2011 ACS 1-Year Estimates for individuals with any disability, 5.7% of people with disabilities in the state were age 16-20 years (see Table 2.4). In comparison, 14.7% of DVR's closed cases were for individuals 16-20 years. Additionally, Washington reported serving 6,843 students 18-21 under IDEA, Part B where as DVR closed 1,423 cases for individuals 18-21 years.

Table 2.4

DVR Clients Compared to ACS Individuals 16 –20 Years with Any Disability in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of population w/disability	Number
16-20 years	11.8	1,147	5.7	26,539

Note. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and Erickson, W., Lee, C., von Schrader, S. (2013). Disability Statistics from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI). Copyright 2010 by Cornell University.

Estimates for individuals 18-64 years who received Social Security disability benefits in Washington and in the DVR caseload were compared. In 2011, 2.1% of the resident population in Washington received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) where as 18.5% of DVR clients, whose cases were closed, received SSI (see Table 2.6).

Table 2.5

DVR Clients Compared to SSI Beneficiaries in WA in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of population receiving SSI	Number
18-64 years	18.5	1,785	2.1	93,806

Note. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and U.S. Social Security Administration Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics *SSI Recipients by State and County, 2011*.

Additionally, 4.1% of individuals living in Washington received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) whereas 38.5% of DVR clients, whose cases were closed, received SSDI (see Table 2.6).

Table 2.6

DVR Clients Compared to SSDI Beneficiaries in WA in 2011

	DVR		WA	
	Percent of cases closed	Number	Percent of SSDI recipients	Number
18-64 years	38.5	3,722	4.1	179,595

Note. Adapted from WA DVR FY2011 case service data and U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics *Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program, 2011*.

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