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Tracking Employment and Day Support Participation and Outcomes in State Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disability Agencies

Data Note No. 20

By Samita Bhattarai & Jean E. Winsor

Data set: The 2007 National Survey of Day and Employment Programs Institute for Community Inclusion, State Data Project¹

As a part of the FY2007 National Survey of Day and Employment Programs data was requested from state Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) agencies regarding the sources of information used to report the total number of individuals served in the following services categories: integrated employment, facility-based work, community-based non work, and facility-based non work. Data on sources is an important factor to note when comparing each state's service outcomes over time. Collecting information on the source of the data can help to explain unexpected trends in state service distribution when the state has not implemented changes in policy or practice. Ensuring that the source of the data used by each state is consistent over time is one strategy to improve the reliability of longitudinal data. States were given the six choices listed in the table below and asked to identify whether they had used each source to complete the service category data and which choice was the primary source of their data. Thirty-seven states responded to the first question. Sixteen of those states used more than one source. However when asked which source was the primary source of data, the majority of states reported that service funding records were their primary source.

Table 1. Sources of data used for reporting individual outcomes

| Data Source | Number of states who reported that they used this source (n=37) | Number of states who reported using this as their primary source (n=37) |
|--|---|---|
| Service funding records (e.g. number receiving funding by service) | 26 | 19 |
| Data collected at the provider level on services provided | 17 | 12 |
| Other sources | 8 | 3 |
| Data collected at the individual level on employment outcomes | 7 | 3 |
| Case management records | 6 | 0 |

¹ Data for this Data Note is from the National Survey of Day and Employment Programs. Since FY1988 the Institute for Community Inclusion has administered the survey to state Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities Agencies. The work is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and is designed to describe the nature of day and employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| The number of individuals designated for service in provider contracts | 4 | 0 |
|--|---|---|

States were also asked about the collection of data on individual employment outcomes. Twenty states reported they collect data at the individual level on employment outcomes. Those states were asked a series of follow-up questions related to data collection on individual integrated employment placements that can be used to assess the quality of the employment outcomes. Of these 20 states, 18 reported the type of data they collect. The most commonly collected data elements were type of job, wages earned, and hours worked (See table below). While there was no correlation between the percentage of individuals a state supported in integrated employment and the specific type of outcome data they collect, 75% of states who supported a high percentage (more than 40%) of individuals in integrated employment reported collecting information on at least three of the data types. Only 33% of states that supported a moderate percentage (between 20% and 40%) of individuals in integrated employment reported collecting this same number of data types; and for states supporting a low percentage (less than 20%) of individuals in integrated employment only 28.5% of states collected data on at least three of the data types. This finding is consistent with that of Hall, Butterworth, Winsor, Gilmore, and Metzel (2007) that concluded that ID/DD agencies that consistently produce high rates of integrated employment have implemented statewide outcome data systems to assess the quality of their employment outcomes.

Table 2. Employment outcomes data elements collected at the individual level

| Data Type | No. of states collecting this data n=18 |
|--|--|
| Types of jobs (e.g. individual, group supported employment) | 16 |
| Wages | 16 |
| Hours worked | 16 |
| Benefits received from employer | 8 |
| Source of wages (e.g. employer or provider) | 9 |
| Job Tenure/ Longevity | 10 |
| Occupation or Industry a person is employed in | 10 |

References

Hall, A.C., Butterworth, J., Winsor, J., Gilmore, D.S., & Metzel, D. (2007). Pushing the employment agenda: Case study research of high performing states in integrated employment. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

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