

Job Seekers with Disabilities at One-Stop Career Centers: An Overview of Registration for Wagner-Peyser Funded Employment Services

The Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 established a nationwide system of public employment services, known as the Employment Service. Via the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Employment Service was made part of the One-Stop service delivery system. Wagner-Peyser funds are a primary source of funding for the core and other services of One-Stop Career Centers that provide employment services available to all people, including people with disabilities. There are currently 1,700+ comprehensive, One-Stop Career Centers throughout the United States as well as satellite centers.

Wagner-Peyser data provide a significant source of data regarding the performance of the One-Stop Career Center system; since One-Stop partners are encouraged to register everyone (including people with disabilities) they serve in the Labor Exchange Services funded by Wagner-Peyser. These data should be interpreted as a reflection but not an absolute measure of One-Stop performance, as there are variations from state-to-state in the One-Stop integration and registration procedures.

This data note explores how states vary in the number and percentage of job seekers with disabilities who register for services and identify as having a disability. In 2005, across all states and the District of Columbia, 3.1% of all job seekers were people who reported having a disability at registration (*see table*). The percentage of registered job seekers with a disability ranged from 0% in Washington D.C. to 8.3% in Delaware. The percentage of individuals identifying they have a disability has shown a steady increase over time, from 2.3% in 2002 to the 3.1% 2005 figure. In examining and interpreting this data, it is important to note that this data may not fully reflect the use of these services by people with disabilities, as it does not include individuals with non-apparent disabilities who have declined to identify that they have a disability.

The variability among states in terms of the percentage of persons with disabilities from state-to-state is significant, and indicates an issue that bears further investigation by policymakers and researchers. Key to such an investigation is whether this variability is due to variations in data collection methods, or is a true indicator of major differences among states in terms of the percentage of people with disabilities being served.

One limitation of this data is that it only looks at the percentage of individuals with disabilities accessing Wagner-Peyser funded services, and does not look at placement outcomes. The availability of placement outcome data for people with disabilities would strengthen the ability to examine the performance of the generic workforce system in meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Source

Annual Report for Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities Program Year 2005 (United States Department of Labor)

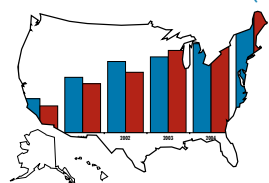
Suggested Citation

Hoff, D. and Bhattarai, S., 2008. *Job Seekers with Disabilities at One-Stop Career Centers: An Overview of Registration for Wagner-Peyser Funded Employment Services*. DataNote Series, Data Note XV. Boston, MA: Institute for Community Inclusion.

Table: Job Seekers Registered for Wagner-Peyser Act Employment Services in 2005

State	Number of Registered Job Seekers	Number of Registered Job Seekers with a Disability	Percentage of job seekers with a disability	State	Number of Registered Job Seekers	Number of Registered Job Seekers with a Disability	Percentage of job seekers with a disability
AK	79,351	3,237	4.1%	MT	101,268	1,464	1.4%
AL	327,231	5,829	1.8%	NC	741,395	56,656	7.6%
AR	116,639	2,314	2.0%	ND	43,680	1,940	4.4%
AZ	156,036	4,719	3.0%	NE	82,887	2,467	3.0%
CA	1,319,214	41,966	3.2%	NH	51,147	1,988	3.9%
CO	336,892	16,290	4.8%	NJ	269,277	5,588	2.1%
CT	113,948	1,304	1.1%	NM	83,264	2,021	2.4%
DC	20,157	0	0.0%	NV	77,608	2,321	3.0%
DE	32,990	2,753	8.3%	NY	451,436	20,768	4.6%
FL	763,516	20,587	2.7%	OH	334,295	6,178	1.8%
GA	564,908	5,107	0.9%	OK	134,849	5,394	4.0%
HI	34,320	591	1.7%	OR	317,110	11,460	3.6%
IA	209,178	3,222	1.5%	PA	194,546	1,376	0.7%
ID	125,296	8,721	7.0%	RI	28,369	869	3.1%
IL	527,739	16,315	3.1%	SC	397,056	16,528	4.2%
IN	372,734	14,607	3.9%	SD	86,087	2,751	3.2%
KS	99,335	3,988	4.0%	TN	384,693	7,587	2.0%
KY	267,363	6,359	2.4%	TX	1,761,269	24,103	1.4%
LA	124,284	3,578	2.9%	UT	158,742	5,591	3.5%
MA	208,673	11,861	5.7%	VA	261,766	9,775	3.7%
MD	98,456	6,856	7.0%	VT	14,057	669	4.8%
ME	37,323	2,711	7.3%	WA	335,333	11,348	3.4%
MI	421,714	14,328	3.4%	WI	125,742	8,815	7.0%
MN	78,408	3,023	3.9%	WV	100,153	3,113	3.1%
MO	204,407	3,599	1.8%	WY	61,046	2,763	4.5%
MS	323,503	1,842	0.6%	U.S. Total	13,560,690	419,240	3.1%

This is a publication of StateData.info, funded in part by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (#90DN0216). This Data Note was written by David Hoff and Samita Bhattacharai.



StateData.info
 A project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston

