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New York Regional Disability Population Report #3

A Disability Population Overview of the Downstate N.Y. WIPA Office Area

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MBI-WPD Outreach Brief

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The Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD) program is an important health insurance option, and ensuring that all New Yorkers with disabilities have knowledge of it is critical to its success. Toward that end, this brief describes the population with disabilities that could be potentially eligible for participation in the MBI-WPD. The analysis provided is configured regionally by the counties in each of the seven primary Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) regions established by the Social Security Administration.

About the Downstate N.Y. WIPA Office Area

There are approximately 1,626,700 persons ages 16-64 living in the Downstate N.Y.. Of this population, approximately 9.6% or 155,400 have a disability. The Downstate N.Y. accounts for approximately 11.6% of the total New York state disability population ages 16-64.

The American Community Survey

The data used to identify this group came from the American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing annual Census Bureau survey designed to collect the same information as the Decennial Census long form on an annual basis. The ACS provides the most accurate, up to date data about America’s communities for community leaders and policy makers.

In the ACS, disability is defined as “a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering (*question asked of persons ages 5 years old and older*). This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business (*asked of persons ages 15 years old and older*).” The ACS asks questions to differentiate between six types of disability. Of persons with a disability, 54.8% (85,100) report more than one of disability type.

Downstate N.Y. Population with Disabilities, Ages 16-64 (ACS 2005-2007)			
Type	Definition (Question asked on ACS to Determine Disability)	% of area pop.	# of people
Sensory Disability	“Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment...”	2.0%	31,900
Physical Disability	“Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying”.	5.5%	88,900
Mental Disability	“Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities: (a) learning, remembering, or concentrating ...”	3.5%	56,600
Self-Care Disability	“Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities: (b) dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home...”	1.4%	23,400
Go-Outside Home disability	“Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities: (a.) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office?”	2.3%	38,000
Employment Disability	“Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities: (b.) Working at a job or business?”	5.4%	88,300

Identifying the Potential Eligible MDI-WPD

This brief focuses on the population with a disability who may be eligible for the Medicaid Buy-In Working Persons with a Disability (MBI-WPD) program. We determined this using the information available in the US Census Bureau's American Population Survey (ACS 2005-2007). The MBI-WPD population is limited to the following: persons ages 16-64 with a disability who are U.S. citizens, are not SSI beneficiaries, and live in households at 250% or less of the poverty level.

Of the 155,400 persons ages 16-64 with a disability living in the Downstate N.Y.:

- 95.0% are US citizens
- 85.3% do not receive SSI
- 42.3% live at 250% of poverty level or less

Altogether, 29.9% of persons ages 16-64 with disabilities living in Downstate N.Y. (about 46,400 people) fulfill all three criteria above.

The 46,400 potential MBI-WPD account for 9.8% of New York State's total potential MBI-WPD population.

Characteristics of the potential Medicaid Buy-In population with disabilities

The following are the characteristics of the potential Medicaid Buy-In population identified above. Note that as 61.4% (28,500) reported more than one disability type, the total will add up to more than 100%.

Disability Type	Percent	Number
Sensory	15.5	7,200
Physical	59.9	27,800
Mental	41.2	19,100
Self-care	15.9	7,400
Go-outside-home	25.4	11,800
Employment Disability	65.3	30,300

Gender	Percent	Number
Women	56.0	26,000
Men	44.0	20,400

Age Category	Percent	Number
16-20	6.7	3,100
21-35	17.9	8,300
36-50	34.5	16,000
51-64	40.7	18,900

Minority (non-white and/or of Hispanic/Latino origin)

Of the potential MBI-WPD population living in Downstate N.Y., 31.9% (14,800) are minorities. This accounts for about 7.4% of the total New York state potential MBI-WPD minority population.

Race Category	Percent	Number
White	73.3	34,000
Black/African American	15.5	7,200
Native American	1.9	900
Asian	2.4	1,100
Other race(s)	7.1	3,300

Minority (non-white and/or of Hispanic/Latino origin) (continued)

Hispanic/Latino origin	Percent	Number
Hispanic	10.1	4,700
Non-Hispanic	89.9	41,700

Language Spoken at Home	Percent	Number
English	84.5	39,200
Spanish	9.9	4,600
Some other language	5.4	2,500

Educational Attainment	Percent	Number
Less than High School	28.7	13,300
High School/GED	33.4	15,500
Some college or Associates degree	27.2	12,600
BA/BS degree or higher	10.6	4,900

Employment Status	Percent	Number
Employed	31.3	14,500
Full Time (35+ hrs/week)	60.0	8,700
Part Time	40.0	5,800
Self Employed (part time or full time)	2.8	400
Not Employed	68.8	31,900
Looking for work	13.8	4,400
Not looking for work	86.2	27,500

When last worked:	Percent	Number
Currently working	31.3	14,500
Worked in past year	13.4	6,200
1-5 years ago	20.9	9,700
5 or more years ago or never worked	34.5	16,000

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Partnering Organizations

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Employment and Disability Institute (Cornell University)
Burton Blatt Institute (Syracuse University)

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