

A stylized map of New York State is positioned behind the main title. The map is filled with a gradient of green, matching the overall color scheme of the document. The background of the top section features a pattern of thin, white, curved lines on a dark green background.

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New York Regional Disability Population Report #5

A Disability Population Overview of the Long Island 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 Long Island WIPA Office Area

There are approximately 1,765,200 persons ages 16-64 living on Long Island. Of this population, approximately 8.4% or 148,000 have a disability. Long Island accounts for approximately 11.0% of the total New York state disability population ages 16-64.

The American Community Survey

The data used to identify this group were taken 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, 54.0% (79,900) report more than one of disability type.

Long Island 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..."	1.5%	26,000
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".	4.9%	86,800
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 ..."	2.7%	48,000
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..."	1.5%	26,000
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?"	2.2%	38,300
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?"	4.8%	84,900

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. Using the information available in the 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 148,000 persons ages 16-64 with a disability living on Long Island:

- 93.9% are US citizens
- 87.5% do not receive SSI
- 30.2% live at 250% of poverty level or less

Altogether, 21.4% of persons ages 16-64 with disabilities living on Long Island (about 31,600 people) fulfill all three criteria above.

The 31,600 potential MBI-WPD account for 6.7% 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 56.0% (17,700) reported more than one disability type, the total will add up to more than 100%.

Disability Type	Percent	Number
Sensory	15.5	4,900
Physical	57.6	18,200
Mental	35.8	11,300
Self-care	16.8	5,300
Go-outside-home	25.0	7,900
Employment Disability	64.2	20,300

Gender	Percent	Number
Women	50.3	15,900
Men	49.7	15,700

Age category	Percent	Number
16-20	8.2	2,600
21-35	12.7	4,000
36-50	37.0	11,700
51-64	42.1	13,300

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

Of the potential MBI-WPD population living on Long Island, 32.9% (10,400) are minorities. This accounts for about 5.2% of the total New York state potential MBI-WPD minority population.

Race category	Percent	Number
White	75.3	23,800
Black/African American	13.6	4,300
Native American	1.3	400
Asian	1.9	600
Other race(s)	7.9	2,500

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

Hispanic/Latino origin	Percent	Number
Hispanic	14.2	4,500
Non-Hispanic	85.8	27,100

Language Spoken at Home	Percent	Number
English	81.6	25,800
Spanish	11.4	3,600
Some other language	7.0	2,200

Educational Attainment	Percent	Number
Less than High School	23.4	7,400
High School/GED	38.3	12,100
Some college or Associates degree	24.7	7,800
BA/BS degree or higher	13.6	4,300

Employment Status	Percent	Number
Employed	28.5	9,000
Full Time (35+ hrs/week)	54.4	4,900
Part Time	45.6	4,100
Self Employed (part time or full time)	7.8	700
Not Employed	71.5	22,600
Looking for work	8.4	1,900
Not looking for work	91.6	20,700

When last worked:	Percent	Number
Currently working	28.5	9,000
Worked in past year	9.2	2,900
1-5 years ago	18.0	5,700
5 or more years ago or never worked	44.3	14,000

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www.NYMakesWorkPay.org

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Partnering Organizations

New York State Office Of Mental Health
Employment and Disability Institute (Cornell University)
Burton Blatt Institute (Syracuse University)

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