

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 theme of the document. The background of the top section features a pattern of thin, white, curved lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

# New York Makes Work Pay

Developing a path to employment for New Yorkers with disabilities

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New York Regional Disability Population Report #7

## **A Disability Population Overview of the Western N.Y. WIPA Office Area**

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# MBI-WPD Outreach Brief

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

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 Western N.Y. WIPA Office Area

There are approximately 1,759,600 persons ages 16-64 living in Western N.Y. Of this population, approximately 13.2% or 232,400 have a disability. Western N.Y. accounts for approximately 17.3% 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, 59.9% (139,100) report more than one of disability type.

<b>Western N.Y. Population with Disabilities, Ages 16-64 (ACS 2005-2007)</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Definition (Question asked on ACS to Determine Disability)</b>	<b>% of area pop.</b>	<b># of people</b>
Sensory Disability	"Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions (a) blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment..."	2.4%	42,800
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".	8.0%	140,000
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 ..."	5.0%	87,200
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..."	2.1%	37,400
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?"	3.1%	55,200
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?"	8.0%	141,500

## 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 232,400 persons ages 16-64 with a disability living in Western N.Y.:

- 98.7% are US citizens
- 80.7% do not receive SSI
- 58.8% live at 250% of poverty level or less

Altogether, 42.9% of persons ages 16-64 with disabilities living in Western N.Y. (about 99,600 people) fulfill all three criteria above.

The 99,600 potential MBI-WPD account for 21.1% 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% (61,200) reported more than one disability type, the total will add up to more than 100%.

Disability Type	Percent	Number
Sensory	15.6	15,500
Physical	63.4	63,100
Mental	39.3	39,100
Self-care	16.1	16,000
Go-outside-home	23.7	23,600
Employment Disability	61.7	61,500

Gender	Percent	Number
Women	53.2	53,000
Men	46.8	46,600

Age category	Percent	Number
16-20	7.6	7,600
21-35	21.7	21,600
36-50	34.9	34,800
51-64	35.7	35,600

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

Of the potential MBI-WPD population living in Western N.Y., 24.2% (24,100) are minorities. This accounts for about 12.0% of the total New York state potential MBI-WPD minority population.

Race category	Percent	Number
White	77.9	77,600
Black/African American	15.3	15,200
Native American	2.1	2,100
Asian	.8	800
Other race(s)	3.9	3,900

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

<b>Hispanic/Latino origin</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Hispanic	6.1	6,100
Non-Hispanic	93.8	93,400

<b>Language Spoken at Home</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
English	90.9	90,500
Spanish	5.9	5,900
Some other language	3.1	3,100

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Less than High School	25.8	25,700
High School/GED	41.2	41,000
Some college or Associates degree	26.1	26,000
BA/BS degree or higher	6.7	6,700

<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Employed	29.3	29,200
Full Time (35+ hrs/week)	60.6	17,700
Part Time	39.4	11,500
Self Employed (part time or full time)	1.0	300
Not Employed	70.6	70,300
Looking for work	11.9	8,400
Not looking for work	88.1	61,900

<b>When last worked:</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Currently working	29.3	29,200
Worked in past year	12.6	12,500
1-5 years ago	23.6	23,500
5 or more years ago or never worked	34.4	34,300

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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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