

A stylized map of New York State is positioned behind the title text. 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 on a dark green background.

# New York **Makes Work Pay**

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New York Regional Disability Population Report #8

## **A Disability Population Overview of the New York State WIPA Office Area**

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# MBI-WPD Outreach Brief

## A Disability Population Overview of the New York State 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 New York State WIPA Office Area

There are approximately 12,367,900 persons ages 16-64 living in New York State. Of this population, approximately 10.8% or 1,341,900 have a disability.

### 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, 57.6% (772,900) report more than one of disability type.

| <b>New York State 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...”  | 2.2%                  | 268,200            |
| 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”.                | 6.5%                  | 800,300            |
| 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 ...”                       | 3.9%                  | 484,800            |
| 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...”           | 1.8%                  | 223,400            |
| 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?” | 2.8%                  | 347,500            |
| 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?”                                    | 6.3%                  | 780,300            |

## 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. 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 1,341,900 persons ages 16-64 with a disability living in New York State:

- 91.8% are US citizens
- 80.5% do not receive SSI
- 55.1% live at 250% of poverty level or less

Altogether, 35.2% of persons ages 16-64 with disabilities living in New York State (about 472,700 people) fulfill all three criteria above.

## 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 59.2% (279,700) reported more than one disability type, the total will add up to more than 100%.

| Disability Type       | Percent | Number  |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Sensory               | 17.9    | 84,500  |
| Physical              | 61.3    | 289,900 |
| Mental                | 37.5    | 177,200 |
| Self-care             | 16.1    | 75,900  |
| Go-outside-home       | 25.1    | 118,600 |
| Employment Disability | 60.1    | 284,000 |

| Gender | Percent | Number  |
|--------|---------|---------|
| Women  | 54.0    | 255,200 |
| Men    | 46.0    | 217,500 |

| Age category | Percent | Number  |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| 16-20        | 7.6     | 36,100  |
| 21-35        | 18.0    | 85,000  |
| 36-50        | 34.9    | 164,800 |
| 51-64        | 39.5    | 186,800 |

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

Of the potential MBI-WPD population living in New York State, 42.5% (200,700) are minorities.

| Race category          | Percent | Number  |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| White                  | 64.3    | 304,000 |
| Black/African American | 18.9    | 89,500  |
| Native American        | 1.9     | 8,900   |
| Asian                  | 3.1     | 14,500  |
| Other race(s)          | 11.8    | 55,700  |

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

| Hispanic/Latino origin | Percent | Number  |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Hispanic               | 18.7    | 88,500  |
| Non-Hispanic           | 81.3    | 384,200 |

| Language Spoken at Home | Percent | Number  |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| English                 | 75.6    | 357,300 |
| Spanish                 | 16.7    | 78,900  |
| Some other language     | 7.7     | 36,600  |

| Educational Attainment            | Percent | Number  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Less than High School             | 30.8    | 145,600 |
| High School/GED                   | 35.4    | 167,500 |
| Some college or Associates degree | 24.5    | 116,000 |
| BA/BS degree or higher            | 9.2     | 43,600  |

| Employment Status                      | Percent | Number  |
|--|---------|---------|
| Employed                               | 28.4    | 134,200 |
| Full Time (35+ hrs/week)               | 62.2    | 83,500  |
| Part Time                              | 37.8    | 50,700  |
| Self Employed (part time or full time) | 2.4     | 3,200   |
| Not Employed                           | 71.6    | 338,400 |
| Looking for work                       | 11.9    | 40,200  |
| Not looking for work                   | 88.1    | 298,200 |

| When last worked:                   | Percent | Number  |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Currently working                   | 28.4    | 134,200 |
| Worked in past year                 | 11.7    | 55,100  |
| 1-5 years ago                       | 20.5    | 97,000  |
| 5 or more years ago or never worked | 39.4    | 186,400 |

*The New York Makes Work Pay Initiative is a Comprehensive Employment Services Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and its management partners the Blatt Institute at Syracuse University and the Employment and Disability Institute (EDI) at Cornell University. The New York Makes Work Pay Initiative is currently funded for calendar years 2009 and 2010 and will provide an array of services to individuals with disabilities and the agencies and advocates that serve them, helping to remove obstacles to work and pave the way to self-supporting employment. To learn more about the New York Makes Work Pay Initiative go to [www.NYMAKESWORKPAY.ORG](http://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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