





**TO:** Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES) Committee

**FROM:** Kevin G. Smith 

**SUBJECT:** ACCES-VR Data

**DATE:** May 23, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

To provide the Board of Regents with an update on data collected by Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR).

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Review of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) data that state vocational rehabilitation agencies are required to collect.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This item will come before the Board of Regents ACCES Committee at its June 2019 meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

On July 22, 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law. The law supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### **Background Information**

New York's vocational rehabilitation program is federally funded (approximately 80% Federal – 20% State required match) to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. Title I of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is the current basis of the program,

although the legislative history dates back to 1920. In 1998, the Rehabilitation Act was incorporated in its entirety as Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act. Individuals who are legally blind obtain VR services from the NYS Commission for the Blind (NYSCB). The Rehabilitation Act, Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), was significantly amended in the 2014 reauthorization.

WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy through a nationwide system for workforce development. This is known as the American Job Center network. WIOA establishes performance accountability indicators and performance reporting requirements to assess the effectiveness of States in achieving positive outcomes for individuals served by the workforce development system.

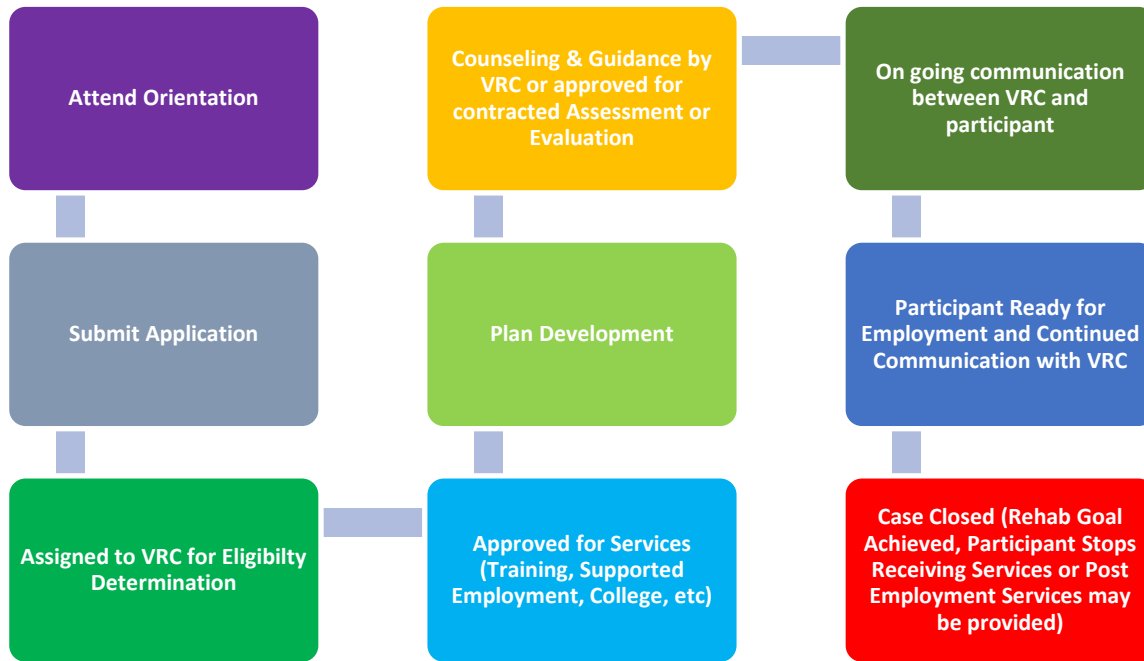
WIOA compliance requires the reporting of over forty data elements (per individual receiving VR services), including the following:

State Agency Code	Date of Application	Primary Disability	Primary Source of Support at Application	Occupation at Closure	Type of Closure
Social Security #	Date of Eligibility Determination	Secondary Disability	Type of Public Support at Application	Employment Status at Closure	Reason for Closure
Date of Birth	Date of Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE)	Living Arrangement at Application	Monthly Public Support Amount at Application	Competitive Employment	Date of Closure
Gender	Source of Referral	Employment Status at Application	Cost of Purchased Services	Weekly Earnings at Closure	Veteran Status
Race and Ethnicity	Level of Education Attained at Application	Weekly Earnings at Application	Services Provided	Hours Worked in a Week at Closure	Significant Disability
Individualized Educational Program (IEP)	Medical Insurance Coverage at Application	Hours Worked in a Week at Application	Level of Education Attained at Closure	Supported Employment Status	Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker

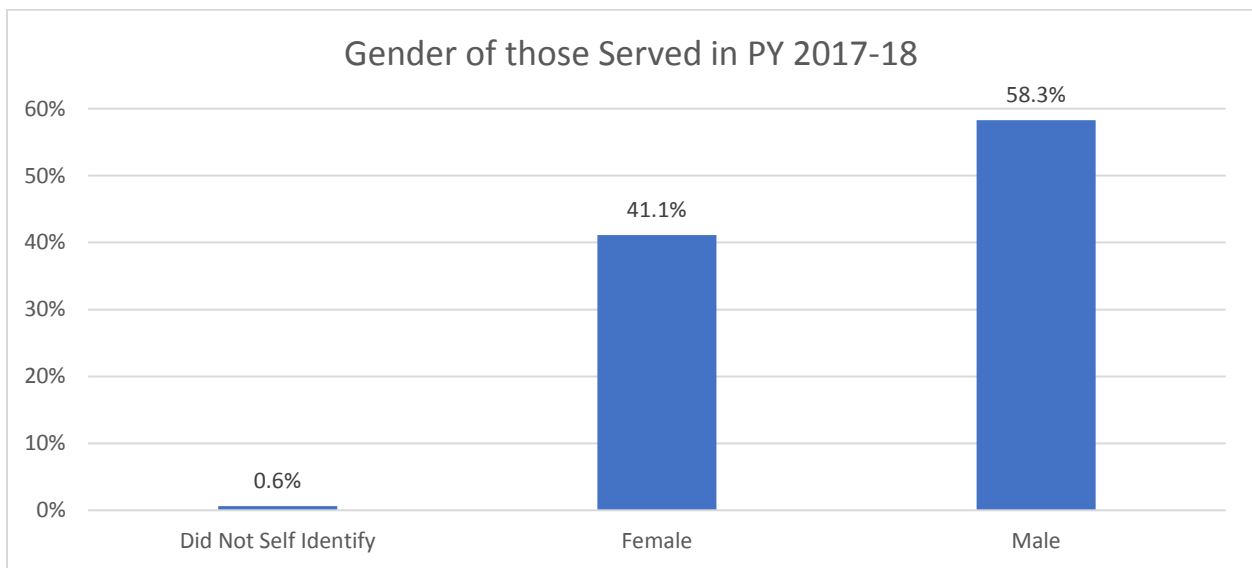
ACCES-VR has 651 staff which includes 350 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor across twenty-five offices (15 district and 10 satellite offices) who provide services to approximately 93,000 New Yorkers a year (at any given time there are usually 50,000 active cases). District Offices have 60 days to determine an applicant's eligibility for services and 90 days to develop an Individual Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE is designed to assist and support each participant to find and retain employment. ACCES-

VR District Office Managers monitor monthly performance reports for each of their offices on the entire VR process (application, eligibility, employment plan development, plan implementation, job placement and closure). ACCES-VR has put an increased focus on timeliness and direct VR counselor engagement with participants to improve the quality of services.

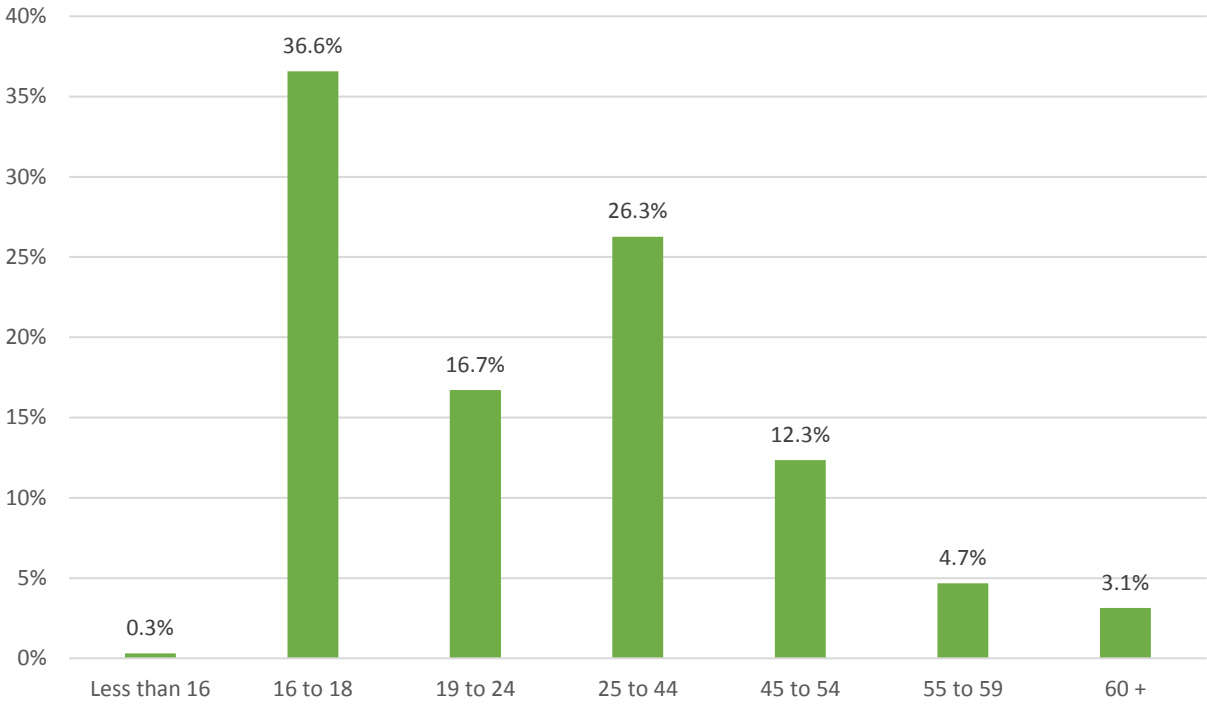
### VR Process



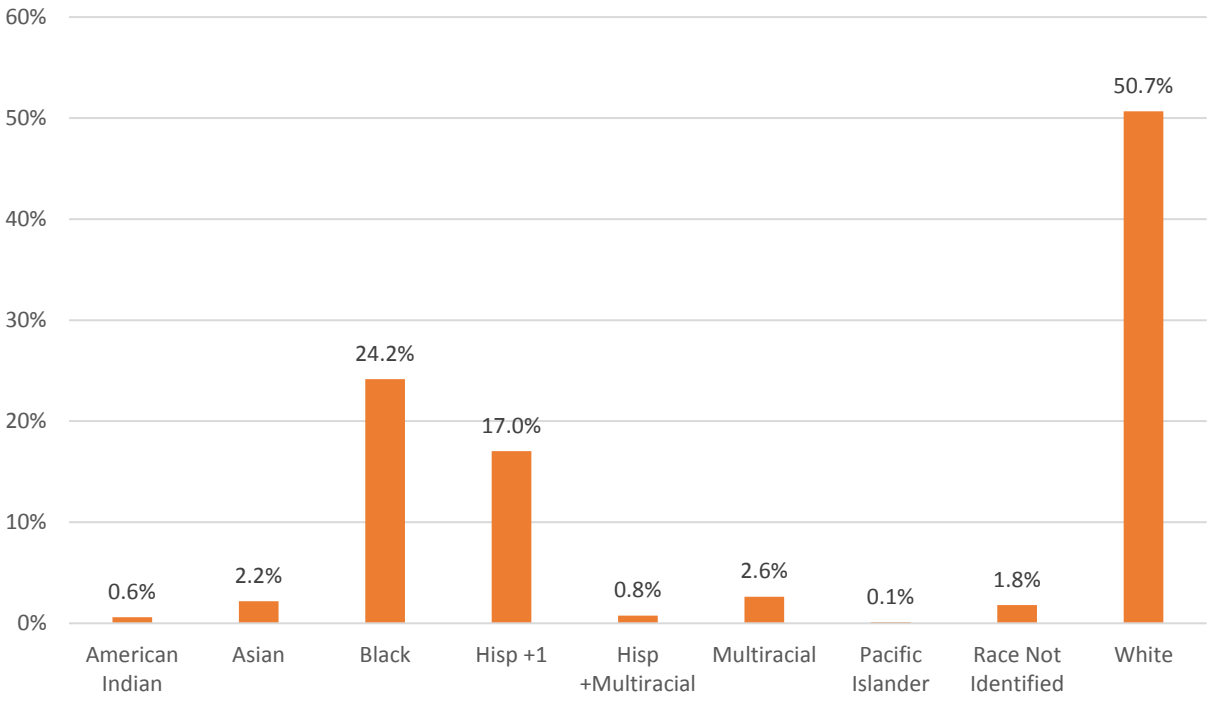
### Participant Demographics

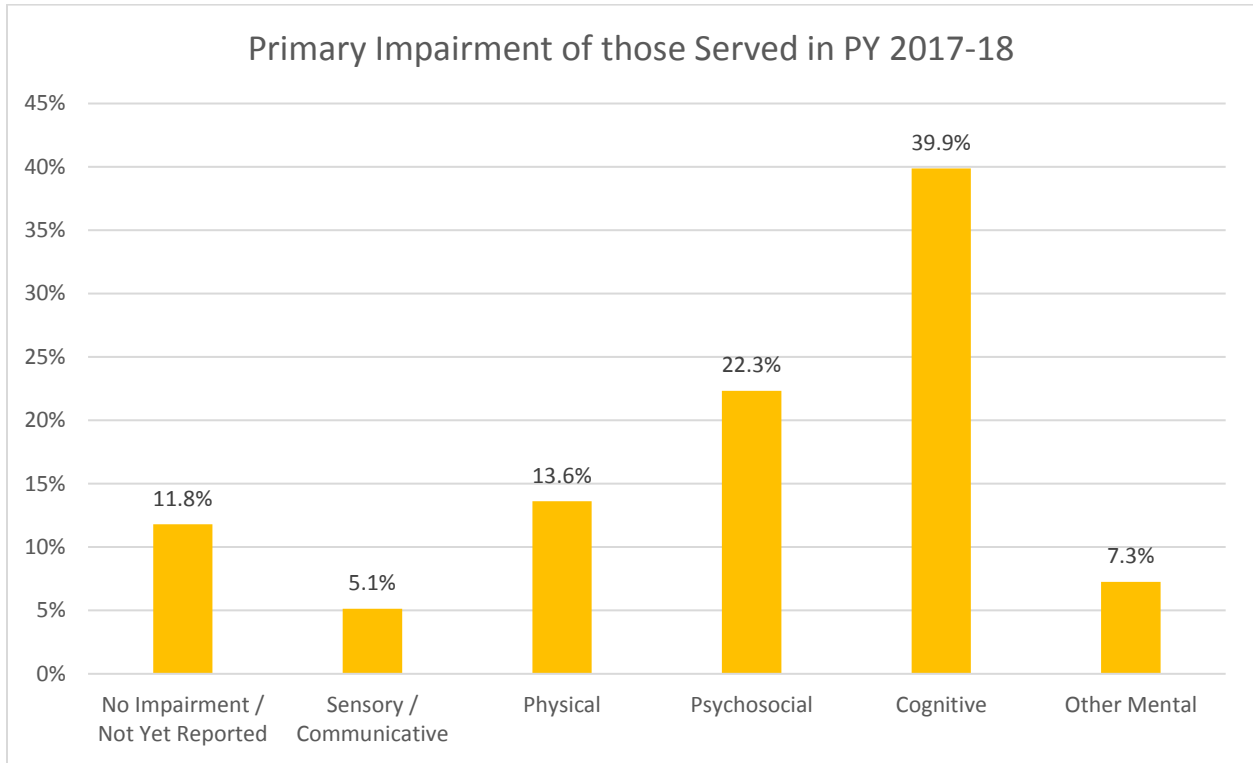


Age at Application of those Served in PY 2017-18



Race/Ethnicity of those Served in PY 2017-18





ACCES-VR also tracks the outcomes of participants receiving services.

<b>Performance Category</b>	<b>2016 Number</b>	<b>2016 Percentage</b>	<b>2017 Number</b>	<b>2017 Percentage</b>
Exit as applicants	7,996	21.8%	6,567	20.3%
Exit with employment	11,272	30.7%	7,995	24.8%
Exit without employment	8,322	22.6%	10,908	33.8%
Competitive Employment Outcome	10,626	94.3%	7,793	97.5%
Average weekly hours worked	29.5		29.2	
Average hourly wage	\$12.10		\$12.64	

Federal regulations require eligibility to be determined within 60 days of apply for services and that an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE) be developed within 90 days of establishing eligibility.

**60 Day Eligibility Determination**

<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Present</b>
0-60 days	78.3%	80.1%	89.9%
More than 60 days	21.7%	19.9%	10.1%

**90 Day IPE Development**

<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Present</b>
0-90 days	66.4%	37.9%	70.9%
More than 90 days	33.6%	62.1%	29.1%

**Related Regent’s Items**

[Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act March 2017](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/417accesd1.pdf)  
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**Timetable for Implementation**

With support of the Board of Regents, the Department will continue to implement efforts to improve delivery of vocational rehabilitation services.