

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

RSA-IM-92-21

RSM-1250

DATE: July 23, 1992

TO: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES
(GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS (RRCEPS)
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report: Caseload Statistics, State Vocational
Rehabilitation Agencies, Fiscal Year 1991

CONTENT: I am pleased to forward the annual report on caseload activity for
your information. As always, it contains a considerable amount of
historical data on caseload trends in the State-Federal rehabilitation
program as well as State agency caseload detail for Fiscal Year
1991. The source document for this report is the Quarterly
Cumulative Caseload Report, Form RSA-113.

At the National level, Fiscal Year 1991 was a year of mixed and
contrasting trends when compared to Fiscal Year 1990 and earlier
years. Caseloads continued to expand as measured by total agency
workload, persons served and the backlog of cases at the end of the
year. Yet, the number of persons rehabilitated declined for the fifth
time in six years and the number of both new applicants and clients
decreased for the second year in a row.

The caseload picture for persons with severe disabilities was also mixed. Record high numbers of persons with severe disabilities were served and their proportion of the total caseload edged close to seventy (70) percent for the first time. Nevertheless, declines from Fiscal Year 1990 counts occurred in the number of persons with severe disabilities who were rehabilitated and the number accepted for rehabilitation services.

More specifically, the total number of persons served by State rehabilitation agencies in Fiscal Year 1991 was 941,771, a 0.4 percent increase over Fiscal Year 1990 and the fourth consecutive rise after a long period of decline. Those rehabilitated decreased sharply, however, to 202,831, a loss of 13,281 persons, or 6.1 percent, to the lowest total since Fiscal Year 1990. This decline was associated with a notable drop in the rehabilitation rate to 59.9 percent from 62.2 percent in Fiscal Year 1990. This means that 60 of every 100 clients whose cases were closed in Fiscal Year 1991 were determined to be rehabilitated compared to 62 of 100 closures just one year earlier.

State agencies provided services to 654,038 persons with severe disabilities in Fiscal Year 1991, a 2.2 percent gain from the prior year and rehabilitated 139,794, a 4.6 percent decline. The proportions of all persons served and rehabilitated who had severe disabilities were 69.4 percent and 68.9 percent, respectively, both record high levels. Finally, the unduplicated number of applicants and clients in State agency caseloads reached 1,500,692, a 0.4 percent gain from the previous year, and the seventh consecutive increase in this measurement of total agency workload. This was the largest workload total in the State-Federal program in ten years.

For your further information, I wish to call attention to the caseload measurements arrayed from highest to lowest agency percentage, by type of agency, appearing each year in this report. They are: (a) the rehabilitation rates (Reports 3A and 4A), (b) the percent severely disabled (Reports 6A and 6B) and (c) the acceptance rates (Report 7A). These arrays make it easy to spot agency-to-agency differences and year-to-year changes. Please refer, too, to Report 9 showing the total number of case closures, by type of closure, for each State agency. These are the figures against which we compare closure counts submitted with the Case Service Report (RSA-911).

Your agency's cooperation in providing the RSA-113 data is very much appreciated.

Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration