

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-2550

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

RSA-IM-91-28

RSM-1250 1/

DATE: July 23, 1991

TO: STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (GENERAL)
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
RSA DISCRETIONARY GRANTEEES
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report: Caseload Statistics, State Vocational Rehabilitation
Agencies, Fiscal Year 1990

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 1990. The source document for this report is the
Quarterly Cumulative Caseload Report, Form RSA-113.

At the National level, Fiscal Year 1990 was a year of mixed trends when
compared to Fiscal Year 1989 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
fourth time in five years and the number of both new applicants and clients
decreased slightly.

The caseload picture for persons with severe disabilities was more consistent
and positive. Record high numbers of persons with severe disabilities served and
newly accepted for services were attained and the proportion of the entire
caseload composed of persons with severe disabilities exceeded two-thirds for the
first time. Only for the number of those rehabilitated was there a very slight
decline.

1/ Under development.

More specifically, the total number of persons served in Fiscal Year 1990 was 937,951, a 1.0 percent increase over Fiscal Year 1989, the third consecutive rise after a long period of decline. Those rehabilitated fell to 216,109, a loss of 2.0 percent. Persons with severe disabilities in receipt of services in Fiscal Year 1990 reached 640,203, a 2.5 percent gain and those rehabilitated totalled 146,238, a 0.2 percent decline. The proportions of all persons served and rehabilitated who had severe disabilities were 68.3 percent and 67.7 percent, respectively. Finally, the unduplicated number of applicants and clients in State agency caseloads reached 1,494,774, a 0.9 percent gain from the previous year, and the sixth consecutive increase in this measurement of total agency workload.

For your further information, I wish to call attention to the caseload measurements arrayed from highest to lowest agency percentage, by type of agency, that appear 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 to see year-to-year changes for a given agency.

An addition to this year's Caseload Statistics is Report 9 showing the total number of case closures, by type of closure, for each State agency. These are the closure totals against which we are comparing submittals of Case Service Report (RSA-911) data for Fiscal Year 1990. Because of our continuing concern that closure totals from the RSA-113 and RSA-911 systems match up, Report 9 will be a permanent fixture in future Caseload Statistics reports.

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

Commissioner
Rehabilitation Services Administration