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Data Note: VR Outcomes for People with Spinal Cord Injury

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Data Note

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Data set: RSA (VR)

VR Outcomes for People with Spinal Cord Injury

An estimated 250,000 people are living with a spinal cord injury (SCI). Since 2000, the average age of injury has been 38, with almost 80% of new injuries affecting men¹. Approximately 7,154 persons with SCI entered the VR service system in 2004. In 2004, 2382 individuals with SCI achieved successful rehabilitation with the support of state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

The average age at application for VR customers with SCI is 37 years, compared with 35 years for other applicants. Individuals with SCI are more likely to have a postsecondary degree or certificate at application than other VR customers. People with SCI show varying results compared to the general VR population. Fewer people with SCI are successfully rehabilitated (status 26). However, customers with SCI who enter integrated and supported employment earn more than customers without SCI. While equal rates close into integrated employment, people with SCI are less likely to be in supported employment (2% versus 9%) and more likely to run their own businesses (6% versus 2%).

Rehabilitation Rate (%)

	Rehabilitated	Not rehabilitated
SCI	47	53
Not SCI	56	44

Work Status at Closure (%)

	SCI	Not SCI
Integrated employment	86	85
Supported employment	2	9
Self-employment	6	2

Hours and Earnings at Closure

	Integrated employment		Supported employment		Self-employment	
	Hours	Weekly earnings	Hours	Weekly earnings	Hours	Weekly earnings
SCI	33	\$414.21	28	\$286.10	26	\$284.35
Not SCI	34	\$337.43	24	\$172.10	28	\$322.18

Source: RSA-911 database for FY2004

References

¹Spinal Cord Information Network (June 2005). Facts and figures at a glance.

Retrieved from www.spinalcord.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=21446

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