Exploratory Data Analysis of Co-enrollment of VR participants in Ohio Workforce Programs

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**ACRONYMS**

ETA-9169: Annual report of agencies subject to WIOA regulations; DOL - Department of Labor; ODJFS - Ohio Department of Job & Family Services; OOD - Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; RSA - Rehabilitation Services Administration; VR - Vocational Rehabilitation; WIOA: Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act

**INTRODUCTION**

Agencies subject to WIOA regulations are required to report the rate at which participants of their program are co-enrolled in other WIOA program(s). Currently, OOD utilizes self-report of individuals to determine if a VR participant is co-enrolled. However, individuals may not always know the formal name of the programs in which they are participating and may also have other motives for incorrect self-report.

**METHODS**

- **Cross-Analysis:** Access a merged and de-identified data set consisting of ETA-9169 data elements reported by Ohio VR to RSA and by ODJFS to DOL for program years 2017-2020.
- **Calculate and analyze the association between categorical variables (data elements): Phi coefficient.

**RESULTS**

What is the most recent level of co-enrollment between OOD and ODJFS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sum of Adult</th>
<th>Sum of Dislocated Worker</th>
<th>Sum of Wagner-Peyser</th>
<th>Sum of Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7206</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>1044</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. Utilization of match between VR and ODJFS programs would likely result in higher reportable percentage of co-enrollment per year.
2. The percentage of co-enrollment by VR has decreased in the recent years.
3. Racially, most VR participants consider themselves to be White or Black/African American. There is a balance between the percentage of male and female participants served by VR program.
4. In comparison to overall demographics for the State of Ohio, VR is serving a higher proportion of black/African Americans, a smaller proportion of White, and is fairly proportional for other races.
5. There is a positive correlation for the variables:
   - Low income – Basic Skills Deficient
   - Cultural Barriers – English Language Learner
   - Foster Care – Low Income
6. Cases without barriers of employment had greater upper bound for average wages than individuals with barriers. However, around 58.8% of individuals with barriers are in competitive integrated employment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. This exploratory analysis has provided details about the levels of WIOA co-enrollment reported by Ohio VR and ODJFS in comparison to potential co-enrollment levels as measured by utilization of a cross-match file. It can be highlighted that both OOD and ODJFS currently have incomplete access to enrollment data for programs managed by the other agency, resulting in sub-optimal reporting levels of co-enrollment. Currently OOD has not access. Sharing of data between the two agencies (and potentially between all of Ohio’s WIOA agencies) could help to increase Ohio’s reported co-enrollment indicator.
2. Tracking people with the following barriers: Low income, Basic Skills Deficient, Cultural Barriers, Foster Care and English Language Learner would help to better understand the true relationship within these variables.