

An Exploration of the **RSA-911 Data** Revised in FY 2014

2014 RSA-911 Data

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As one of the longest standing national data collection efforts addressing the employment of people with disabilities, the RSA-911 Case Service Report is composed of closed cases within a fiscal year. It contains a consumer's individual characteristics, process information in the state vocational rehabilitation (VR) system (e.g., types of services received, cost of services), and outcome related variables (e.g., type of closure, reason for closure, hourly wage, hours worked). Used by numerous researchers and agency staff both at the federal and state levels for monitoring and evaluation purposes, the dataset has undergone a number of changes since its inception.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services in the U.S. Department of Education was first proposed in 1984 and subsequently approved in 1986. Since 1986, the reporting system has been changed in the interests of data quality, measurement of program impact, and enhanced understanding of optimal service components.

For example, data elements for supported employment were added in 1988, and additional variables such as monthly public assistant dollars, availability of medical insurance, and date of eligibility were included between 1991 and 1995 (Walls, Misra, & Majumder, 2002¹). FY 2002 also saw other significant changes, including the classification of 22 types of services and the identification of multi-racial customers.

The purpose of this Brief is to report the major changes of the recently revised FY 2014 RSA-911 data. In this most recent revision, some variables and coding options were added or revised to allow for more specificity. In order to aid readers' understanding, this Brief first reviews the newly added variables, and then those modified in FY 2014. Areas of future research and strategies for using the new and modified variables are also discussed.

FY 2014 RSA-911 data provided by Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and the Policy Directive (*RSA-PD-14-01*) published by the RSA were used for the current Brief.

MRS 2014 Closures at a Glance

Of a total of 17,633 customers closed in FY 2014, 6,618 (37.5%) achieved an employment outcome.
[vs. 6,681 (33.9%) in FY 2013; 7,671 (33.8%) in FY 2012]

- Approximately 17% exited MRS before eligibility determination.
- Though determined eligible, 16% were closed without an IPE.
- The remaining 29.5% were those who received vocational services according to their IPE but closed without an employment outcome.

¹Walls, R. T., Misra, S., & Majumder, R. K. (2002). Trends in vocational rehabilitation: 1978, 1988, 1998. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 68(3), 4-10.

Part 1

Newly Added Variables in FY 2014

Geographic information (US Postal Service Zip Code and Name of County)

The 2014 RSA-911 dataset contains two new data elements, Zip Code & County name, which provide important geographic information previously unavailable in the RSA-911 data. Individual residence at application may now be ascertained.

Figure 1 displays geographic distribution of 2014 closures based on the county variable. Data indicate 26.4% (n=4,652) of the 2014 closures resided in Wayne, 9.3% (n=1,645) in Oakland, 6.7% (n=1,175) in Macomb, 5.4% (n=945) in Kent, 3.2% (n=572) in Ingham, 3.2% (n=561) in Genesee, and 2.3% (n=401) in Washtenaw County at the time of application. More than half of the customers (56.6%) were from these top 7 counties.

Using the urban-rural classifications² established by the Michigan Department of Community Health based on the US Census Bureau’s definitions, 21 out of a total of 83 Michigan counties were classified as urban counties³. Eighty percent of the 2014 closures were from those urban counties.

Figure 1: Distribution of MRS Customers Closed in FY 2014 by County

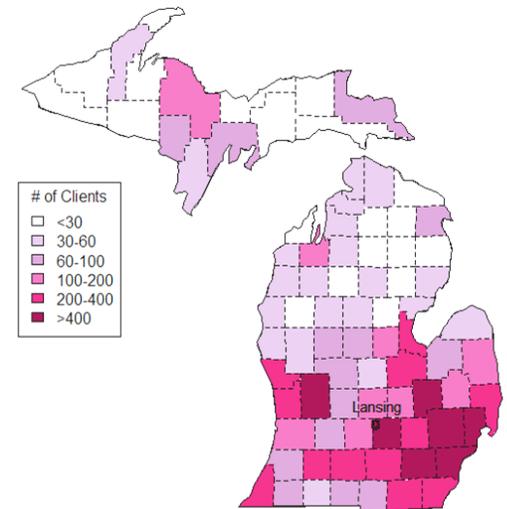


Table 1: CDC Classification and Distribution of FY 2014 Closures

	Population Size	N	%
Large Central Metro ⁴	More than 1 Million	5,597	31.7%
Large Fringe Metro		4,124	23.4%
Medium Fringe Metro	Between 250,000 and 999,999	2,369	13.4%
Small Metro	250,000 or less	2,488	14.1%
Micropolitan	Between 10,000 and 49,999	1,987	11.3%
Noncore	49,999 or less	1,063	6.0%

Oakland), 13% in a Medium Fringe Metro (e.g., Ingham), 14% in a Small Metro (e.g., Muskegon), 11% in a Micropolitan (e.g., Lenawee), and 6% in a Noncore (e.g., Sanilac) county.

Table 2 shows the proportions of 2014 closures residing in the rural or urban counties at application, based on MDCH and CDC classifications, for each MRS unit. For example, most (98%) of the 381 customers who received services from the Adrian unit reported living in a rural county at application.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)⁵ also classifies counties into six categories by the population size. As indicated in Table 1, 32% of the customers who exited MRS in FY 2014 resided in a larger central metro (e.g., Wayne), 23% in a Large Fringe Metro (e.g.,

² Rural and urban county groupings from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/6_Appendix_09.28.06_173954_7.pdf

³ A county is considered to be "Urban" if any county containing a city of greater than 50,000 people or an area that has at least 100,000 people and has a substantial commuting interchange with a city of greater than 50,000 people.

⁴ Large Central Metro counties have 1 million or more population that: 1) Contain the entire population of the largest principal city of the Metropolitan Statistics Area (MSA), or 2) Have their entire population contained in the largest principal city of the MSA, or 3) Contain at least 250,000 inhabitants of any principal city of the MSA

⁵ 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm

Table 2: Geographic Information of 2014 Closures by MRS Unit (Based on the MDCH & CDC Classifications)

	N of 2014 Closures	MDCH		CDC					
		Urban	Rural	Large Central Metro	Large Fringe Metro	Medium Fringe Metro	Small Metro	Micro-politan	Noncore
Adrian	381	2.4%	97.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%	97.4%	-
Alpena	208	1.9%	98.1%	1.0%	-	0.5%	0.5%	43.3%	54.8%
Ann Arbor	674	58.6%	41.4%	0.7%	41.5%	57.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Battle Creek	432	67.1%	32.9%	0.2%	16.2%	1.9%	65.0%	16.7%	-
Bay City	409	88.8%	11.2%	-	-	0.2%	88.5%	-	11.2%
Benton Harbor	424	81.8%	18.2%	-	-	18.4%	81.6%	-	-
Big Rapids	232	3.4%	96.6%	2.6%	25.0%	-	0.9%	41.8%	29.7%
Clinton Twnshp	1,121	99.9%	0.1%	2.1%	97.8%	-	-	0.1%	-
Det-Fort Street	476	100.0%	-	97.7%	2.1%	-	0.2%	-	-
Det-Grand River	643	100.0%	-	97.7%	2.3%	-	-	-	-
Det-Hamtramck	727	100.0%	-	96.0%	3.7%	0.3%	-	-	-
Det-Mack	554	100.0%	-	97.5%	2.3%	0.2%	-	-	-
Det-Porter	771	99.7%	0.3%	89.6%	9.6%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	-
Flint	568	99.3%	0.7%	0.5%	1.6%	96.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%
Gaylord	215	1.4%	98.6%	-	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	3.3%	95.3%
Grand Rapids	1,063	92.2%	7.8%	87.4%	4.0%	0.8%	0.4%	7.4%	0.1%
Holland	478	99.6%	0.4%	0.6%	72.6%	0.6%	0.4%	25.5%	0.2%
Jackson	263	99.2%	0.8%	-	-	1.9%	97.3%	0.8%	-
Kalamazoo	525	75.6%	24.4%	-	0.4%	86.5%	2.7%	10.3%	-
Lansing	1,027	83.3%	16.7%	0.1%	0.7%	82.6%	0.7%	16.0%	-
Livonia	593	100.0%	-	96.3%	3.2%	0.3%	0.2%	-	-
Marquette	529	0.2%	99.8%	-	-	-	0.2%	80.5%	19.3%
Midland	193	90.2%	9.8%	-	-	0.5%	89.6%	-	9.8%
Monroe	307	100.0%	-	2.0%	-	0.3%	97.7%	-	-
Mt. Pleasant	187	2.7%	97.3%	-	1.6%	0.5%	2.1%	72.7%	23.0%
Muskegon	523	74.0%	26.0%	0.4%	1.3%	-	72.3%	9.2%	16.8%
Oak Park	865	99.9%	0.1%	3.1%	96.8%	-	0.1%	-	-
Pontiac	723	100.0%	-	0.6%	99.2%	0.1%	0.1%	-	-
Port Huron	711	67.9%	32.1%	0.3%	66.8%	0.6%	0.3%	-	32.1%
Saginaw	343	99.4%	0.6%	0.3%	-	0.3%	98.8%	-	0.6%
Taylor	411	100.0%	-	98.8%	1.0%	-	0.2%	-	-
Traverse City	460	0.9%	99.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	-	68.3%	31.1%
Wayne	592	100.0%	-	98.0%	1.4%	0.7%	-	-	-

Upon examining the relationship between geographic location and VR outcomes, Table 3 indicates those residing in metropolitan areas were less likely to achieve employment outcomes, but no association was observed in terms of the Adj. Rehab Rate. Further investigation with other individual and service factors will be helpful to better understand the effects of geographic factors on the VR process.

Table 3: Employment and Adjusted Rehab Rates and Geographic Information

	MDCH		CDC					
	Urban	Rural	LCM	LFM	MFM	SM	MP	NC
Employment Rate	36.8%	40.4%	35.2%	39.5%	37.6%	36.6%	39.4%	40.9%
Adjusted Rehab Rate	56.4%	54.5%	55.0%	60.3%	56.1%	53.6%	53.5%	55.1%

Involvement with other agencies and services

This new variable accounts for whether an individual was provided with any services or funding from other public or private agencies at the time of application and identifies up to three service providers or funding sources. For example, the coding of "081924" indicates that the individual received a service or funding from an employer, the Veteran's Administration, and other sources at application. According to the 2014 data, 6,644 (37.7%) customers indicated they were receiving services or funding from other agencies when they applied for MRS; all provided only one agency. As depicted in Table 4, 19% of the 2014 closures were involved with elementary or secondary educational institutions and 11% with public or private mental health service providers at application.

Table 4: Involvement with Other Agencies and Services at Application

	N	%
Community Rehabilitation Programs	727	4.1%
Educational Institutions (elementary/secondary)	3,352	19.0%
Mental Health Provider (Public or Private)	1,895	10.7%
One-stop Employment/Training Centers	573	3.2%
State Department of Correction/Juvenile Justice	97	0.6%

VR Services

Table 5: VR Service Patterns and Cost of Services

	N	%	Cost of Services		
			Mean	Sum	% of Sum
Assessment	8,679	49.2%	\$986	\$8,398,087	21.8%
Job Placement	4,478	25.4%	\$1,729	\$7,640,428	19.8%
Maintenance	4,122	23.4%	\$424	\$1,739,776	4.5%
Transportation	2,946	16.7%	\$670	\$1,924,751	5.0%
Miscellaneous	2,236	12.7%	\$1,319	\$2,659,500	6.9%
Rehab Tech	2,213	12.6%	\$2,973	\$6,563,976	17.0%
Other Services	1,765	10.0%	\$944	\$1,665,645	4.3%
VR Counseling and Guidance	1,687	9.6%	\$778	\$653,211	1.7%
Occupational or Voc Trn	1,382	7.8%	\$1,914	\$1,127,448	2.9%
Diagnosis & Treatment	1,116	6.3%	\$1,092	\$1,098,843	2.9%
Job Readiness Trn	1,076	6.1%	\$848	\$845,808	2.2%
On-the-job Support (Short)	747	4.2%	\$1,507	\$1,126,091	2.9%
Job Search	566	3.2%	\$629	\$274,055	0.7%
Basic Acad. Remedial/Literacy	492	2.8%	\$1,131	\$144,758	0.4%
On-the-job Trn	467	2.6%	\$1,175	\$548,650	1.4%
Four-Year Col/Univ. Trn	273	1.5%	\$5,437	\$1,484,272	3.9%
Info & Referral	201	1.1%	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Interpreter	125	0.7%	\$2,572	\$306,111	0.8%
Technical Assistance	86	0.5%	\$1,854	\$153,870	0.4%
Disability-Related Skills Trn	66	0.4%	\$1,310	\$82,501	0.2%
Personal Attendance	18	0.1%	\$5,314	\$95,643	0.2%
Reader	5	0.0%	\$516	\$2,581	0.0%
Grad Col/Univ. Trn	0	0%	NA	NA	NA
Junior or Comm. College Trn	0	0%	NA	NA	NA
Apprenticeship	0	0%	NA	NA	NA
On-the-job Support (SE)	0	0%	NA	NA	NA
Benefits Counseling	0	0%	NA	NA	NA
Customized Emp	0	0%	NA	NA	NA

There were several notable changes in terms of VR services. This section reviews specific changes, including new insertions and major modifications, in detail. Overall, 77% of the 17,633 FY 2014 closures received at least one type of VR services. The amount of total expenditures spent was approximately 38.5M where the mean cost for purchased services was \$2,867.

a. Type of Services: Three new services were added: apprenticeship, customized employment services, and benefits counseling. In addition, two services were modified: college/university training (two-year, four-year and graduate level) and on-the-job support services (short term and supported employment). However, no MRS customers reported receiving those newly entered or modified services in FY 2014.

As illustrated in Table 5, a high proportion of customers received the following services: Assessment (49%); Job Placement (25%); Maintenance (23%); Transportation (17%); Miscellaneous (13%); Rehab Tech (13%); and Other Services (10%).

b. Cost of Services: While the previous dataset reported only the total cost of services, the new dataset captures the cost of purchased services for each service category. In addition, the amount of purchased services utilizing the VR grant (Title I) funds and Supported Employment State Grant (Title VI-B) was reported separately.

A total of \$38,536,005 was spent to assist 17,633 customers closed in FY 2014 to get employed, and \$449,607 (1.2%) used the Title VI-B fund. Approximately 22% of the total was used to provide assessment (8.4M), 20% for placement (7.6M), 17% for rehab tech (6.6M), and 7% for miscellaneous training services (2.7M).

As shown in Table 5, services with the highest average cost were: four-year college or university (N=273; Mean Cost = \$5,437); personal attendance (N=18; Mean Cost = \$5,314); rehab tech (N=2,213; Mean Cost = \$2,973); interpreter (N=125; Mean Cost = \$2,572); and occupational or vocational training (N=1,382; Mean Cost = \$1,914).

c. Service Providers: In addition to type of service, the new dataset specifies whether services in the category were purchased and/or provided by the VR agency and/or provided by comparable services and benefits providers for the individual. It also identifies the primary service provider type (e.g., community rehabilitation program) for services purchased by MRS.

Overall, a total of 34,746 services were provided to customers closed in FY 2014. The majority of these services (85%) were purchased by VR agencies. Specifically, 73% of basic academic remedial or literacy services were provided by MRS staff (see Table 6). Multiple agencies (i.e., MRS, other VR agency, comparable services and/or benefit provider) were more likely to provide the following services: info & referral (84%), VR counseling and guidance (61%), and occupational or vocational training services (55%).

With regard to the purchased services in total, 31% of services were provided by private community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) that are operated as not-for-profit organizations while 62% by other private not-for-profit organizations (other than CRPs) or proprietary businesses (e.g., private hospitals and mental health clinics, contracted service delivery staff).

Table 6: VR Service Provider and Primary Purchased Service Provider Type

	N of Services	Services Provider				Primary Purchased Service Provider Type			
		MRS Staff	Others	CSBPs	Multi-ple	Public CRPs	Priv. CRPs	Other Public	Other Priv.
Total	34,746	4.4%	84.5%	0.2%	10.9%	0.1%	31.4%	7.0%	61.6%
Assessment	8,679	1.0%	89.1%	0.2%	9.7%	0.1%	38.8%	2.4%	58.7%
Diagnosis & Treatment	1,116	0.4%	78.4%	2.1%	19.2%	0.0%	0.7%	9.9%	89.3%
VR Counseling and Guidance	1,687	21.4%	17.7%	0.0%	60.9%	0.0%	49.2%	4.0%	46.8%
Four-Year Col/Univ. Trn	273	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	56.0%	44.0%
Occupational or Voc. Trn	1,382	31.3%	13.6%	0.4%	54.7%	1.0%	18.7%	21.9%	58.4%
On-the-job Trn	467	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	58.2%	4.7%	37.0%
Basic Acad. Remedial/Literacy	492	72.6%	6.1%	0.4%	20.9%	3.8%	0.0%	57.9%	38.3%

Table 6: VR Service Provider and Primary Purchased Service Provider Type (Cont'd)

	N of Services	Services Provider				Primary Purchased Service Provider Type			
		MRS Staff	Others	CSBPs	Multi-ple	Public CRPs	Priv. CRPs	Other Public	Other Priv.
Job Readiness Trn	1,076	0.9%	90.9%	0.2%	8.0%	0.2%	44.9%	15.1%	39.8%
Disability-Related Skills Trn	66	0.0%	93.9%	1.5%	4.5%	0.0%	41.5%	3.1%	55.4%
Miscellaneous Trn	2,236	9.0%	88.7%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	43.3%	10.8%	45.8%
Job Search	566	3.2%	76.3%	0.2%	20.3%	0.2%	60.7%	12.9%	26.2%
Job Placement	4,478	0.2%	96.2%	0.1%	3.6%	0.0%	51.4%	8.0%	40.6%
On-the-job Support (Short)	747	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	53.8%	9.1%	37.1%
Transportation	2,946	0.8%	95.5%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	5.4%	6.1%	88.5%
Maintenance	4,122	0.1%	97.5%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	12.9%	2.3%	84.8%
Rehab Tech	2,213	0.0%	97.6%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.7%	8.2%	90.1%
Reader	5	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%
Interpreter	125	0.0%	92.8%	2.4%	4.8%	0.0%	20.5%	4.9%	74.6%
Personal Attendance	18	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Technical Assistance	86	0.0%	96.5%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	28.2%	15.3%	56.5%
Info & Referral	201	13.4%	0.0%	2.5%	84.1%	0.0%	20.0%	70.0%	10.0%
Other Services	1,765	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43.7%	8.8%	47.5%

Number of Jobs at Closure

This variable reports the number of separate jobs consistent with the employment goal on an individual's IPE and primary employment goal SOC codes that the individual held at the time of closure. Of 6,618 customers who exited MRS with an employment outcome in FY 2014, only one person reported having two jobs at closure.

New Date Variables

Seven new date variables were inserted in the FY 2014 data: start/end dates of trial work experience and extended evaluation; date of placement and exit from Order of Selection Services (OSS), and start date of employment in primary occupation at closure. Note that MRS currently is not adopting the OSS policy.

a. Trial Work Experience: Data indicate that 145 customers (0.8%) participated in trial work experiences. Approximately 63% (n=61) were younger than 26 years old at application, and 33% reported having mental illness (vs. 19.3% with specific learning disabilities and 14.5% with autism). Of the 145 customers, 41 (28.3%) achieved an employment outcome. The average duration of trial work experience was 186.5 days (SD = 119.2; Median = 152; Ranging from 0 to 548).

b. Extended Evaluation: Of the 2014 closures, 449 customers (2.5%) were served in extended evaluation. Approximately 30% (n=133) were younger than 26 years old at application, 40% reported having mental illness, and 17% reported other physical impairments. Of the 449 customers, 262 (58.4%) were closed before eligibility determination and only 13% achieved an employment outcome. The average duration of extended evaluation was 145.9 days (SD = 105.8; Median = 117; Ranging from 0 to 546).

c. Start Date of Employment: Start date of employment in primary occupation at closure should be

reported. For those who were employed at application and applied for VR services to maintain the same job, this date would be prior to the date of application. As presented in Table 7, it is assumed that at least 25 customers were working at application as their application and employment start dates were the same. However, only 13 customers (52%) reported working at application; further investigation is recommended for data integrity. In the meantime, the average duration between employment and closure was 114.2 days (SD=44.9; Median=99; Range 90 to 818), and it took 91 to 120 days for the majority of employed customers (66.4%) to exit MRS.

Table 7: Categories of Days from Application to Employment & Categories of Days from Employment to Closure

Days from Application to Employment	N	%	Days from Employment to Closure	N	%
0 days	25	0.4	90 days	753	11.4
1-30	520	7.9	91-120	4,392	66.4
31-90	1,236	18.7	121-150	794	12.0
91-180	1,256	19.0	151-180	302	4.6
181-365	1,320	19.9	181-365	338	5.1
365+	2,261	34.2	365+	39	0.6
Total	6,618	100.0	Total	6,618	100.0

Part 2

Modified Variables That Had Previously Existed

Source of Referral

Source of referral indicates the individual, agency, or other entity that first referred the customer to MRS. In addition to the original nine categories, 14 additional sources were added for more specifics. As illustrated in the table below, the new data system separates private or public mental health providers from the medical health provider category. Also, the community rehabilitation program and other categories were broken into several detailed agencies (e.g., CIL, other state agencies). Thus, the proportion of those referred by a medical health provider and other agency was decreased by 7% and 5.7%, respectively, between FY 2013 and FY 2014. Approximately 11% of 2014 closures were referred by agencies that were newly specified. The 2014 top four sources of referral were: other (22.4%), elementary or secondary educational institution (21.6%), customer oneself (20.1%), and medical health provider (14.8%).

Table 8: Changes in Referral Sources

	2013		→	2014		Values Newly Added in 2014		N	%
	N	%		N	%				
Elementary or Secondary Ed	4,295	21.8		3,809	21.6	American Indian VR Svc	1	0.0	
Post-secondary Ed	356	1.8		283	1.6	CIL	32	0.2	
Medical Health Provider	4,307	21.8		2,611	14.8	Consumer Org. or Adv.	24	0.1	
Welfare Agency	104	0.5		117	0.7	Employers	55	0.3	
Community Rehab Program	657	3.3		719	4.1	Faith Based Org.	18	0.1	
Social Security Administration	44	0.2		41	0.2	Family/Friends	265	1.5	
One Stop Emp./Training Centers	639	3.2		574	3.3	Intellect/DD Svc Providers	20	0.1	
Self-Referral	3,789	19.2		3,547	20.1	Mental Health Provider	988	5.6	
Other Sources	5,537	28.1		3,951	22.4	Public Housing Authority	6	0.0	
Total	19,728	100.0		15,652	88.8	State Dept of Correction/JJ	224	1.3	
						Veteran's Administration	41	0.2	
						Worker's Compensation	8	0.0	
						Other State Agencies	260	1.5	
						Other VR State Agencies	38	0.2	
						Missing	1	0.0	
						Total	1,981	11.2	

Level of Education

A couple of coding options have been revised or added to allow for more specificity in the highest level of education that a customer obtained both at the time of application and closure. The new data system divides the associate degree and vocational/technical certificate or license, as well as master’s degree and higher academic or professional degree, into two coding options. In addition, a category of occupational credential beyond undergraduate degree work was newly added (See Table 9).

Table 9: Changes in the Highest Level of Education Completed

FY 2013	N	%		FY 2014	N	%
No formal schooling	77	0.4		No formal schooling	78	0.4
Elementary Education grades 1 thru 8	173	0.9		Elementary Education grades 1 thru 8	161	0.9
Secondary Ed, no high school diploma	4,682	23.7		Secondary Ed, no high school diploma	4,533	25.7
Special Ed Student/Cert. of Completion*	1,558	7.9		Special Ed Student/Cert. of Completion*	999	5.7
High School Graduate Equivalency	8,933	45.3		High School Graduate Equivalency	7,974	45.2
Post-Secondary Education, no degree	1,441	7.3		Post-Secondary Education, no degree	1,178	6.7
Associate Degree or Voc Tech Certificate	1,497	7.6	→	Post-Sec Academic Degree (Associate)	1,151	6.5
				Voc/Technical Certificate or License	172	1.0
Bachelor’s Degree	1,004	5.1		Bachelor’s Degree	1,040	5.9
Masters degree or higher	363	1.8		Master’s Degree	334	1.9
				Above Master's Deg. (e.g., PhD, EdD., JD)	10	0.1
				Occupational Credential Beyond Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Work	2	0.0
Total	19,728	100.0		Total	17,633	100.0

Note: Special education certificate of completion/diploma or in attendance - (1) if the individual is currently a special education student, (2) if the individual received special ed and earned a certificate of completion or high school diploma, or (3) if the individual received special ed but did not receive a certificate/diploma (RSA-PD-14-01).

Table 10 compares the level of education completed at the time of application and closure among all FY 2014 closures. Half of customers who exited MRS in FY 2014 were high school graduates or obtained equivalent certificate at closure (45.2% at application). Compared to customers at application, 200 more received associate’s degrees and 148 more received bachelor’s degrees at closure.

Table 10: Comparison of Level of Education at Application and Closure

FY 2014	At Application		At Closure	
	N	%	N	%
No formal schooling	78	0.4	62	0.4
Elementary Education (grades 1 - 8)	161	0.9	146	0.8
Secondary Ed, no high school diploma (9 - 12)	4,533	25.7	2,705	15.3
Special Ed Student/Cert. of Completion	999	5.7	966	5.5
High School Graduate Equivalency	7,974	45.2	8,838	50.1
Post-Secondary Education, no degree	1,178	6.7	1,526	8.7
Post-Sec Academic Degree (Associate)	1,151	6.5	1,351	7.7
Voc/Technical Certificate or License	172	1.0	481	2.7
Bachelor’s Degree	1,040	5.9	1,188	6.7
Master’s Degree	334	1.9	350	2.0
Above Master's Deg. (e.g., PhD, EdD., JD)	10	0.1	12	0.1
Occupational Credential Beyond Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Work	2	0.0	8	0.0
Total	17,633	100.0	17,633	100.0

Student with disability in Secondary Ed

Extending the previous Individualized Education Program (IEP) variable, this element captures the

status of an individual with a disability in secondary education to include whether the student is receiving services under an IEP or with a 504 accommodation plan at application and closure. As presented in Table 11, 3,857 (21.9%) customers were identified as students in secondary education, and most of them had an IEP.

Table 11: Individualized Education Program to Student with Disability in Secondary Education

FY 2013	N	%		FY 2014	N	%
Did Not Have an IEP	13,061	66.2		Not a Student In Secondary Education	13,776	78.1
Have an IEP	6,667	33.8	→	Student With a 504 Plan	31	0.2
				Student Receiving Services under an IEP	3,673	20.8
				Student Who Is Neither Covered By a 504 Plan Nor Receiving Services under an IEP	153	0.9
Total	19,728	100.0		Total	17,633	100.0

This change is significant to MRS as it can identify students and youth with disabilities stipulated in the recently amended Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Using this student variable with age at application, the MT-21 team developed a new definition for students and youth with a disability. The following table presents the new definition, 911 data criteria and distributions. Based on the 2014 RSA-911 data criteria, 21.9% of customers who exited MRS in FY 2014 were students with a disability while 12.5% were youth with a disability. As shown in Table 12, the new definition still categorizes one-third of MRS customers as either students or youth with a disability.

Table 12: MRS Definitions for Student with a Disability and Youth with a Disability

	New Definition	911 Data Criteria	N	%
Student with a Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 14-26 at application and Enrolled in the K-12 education system including traditional public schools, intermediate school districts, private schools, charter schools (public school academies), alternative schools, schools for individuals with disabilities such as the Michigan School for the Deaf, 504 students, home-schooled students and students in education programs in correctional facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 14-26 at app and A Student in secondary education 	3,857	21.9
Youth with a Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 14-24 at application and Not enrolled in the K-12 education system... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 14-26 at app and Not a Student in secondary education 	2,200	12.5

Significance of Disability

The new data system reports three coding options in terms of significance of disability: most significant disability, significant disability and no significant disability. As indicated in Table 13, 58% of customers closed in FY 2014 were considered a person with a most significant disability and 21.1% with a significant disability. The rest (20.9%) were determined as having no significant disability (8.1%) or closed before eligibility determination (12.8%).

Table 13: Changes in Significance of Disability

FY 2013	N	%		FY 2014	N	%
No Significant	1,134	5.7		No Significant	1,427	8.1
Significant	16,413	83.2	→	Significant	3,724	21.1
Missing	2,181	11.1		Most Significant	10,221	58.0
Total	19,728	100.0		Missing	2,261	12.8
				Total	17,633	100.0

Monthly Public Support Amount

Public support means cash payments made by Federal, State and/or local governments for any reason, including an individual’s disability, age, or economic status. Although the previous dataset showed whether a customer was receiving seven types of public support, it reported the amount of money received by the individual beneficiary for SSI, SSDI, TANF and the sum amount of other public support. In addition to the four types, FY 2014 data reports the monthly amount of General Assistance (state or local government), Veterans' Disability Benefits, and Workers' Compensation. As Table 14 displays, 578 customers reported receiving general assistance at the time of application, and the average amount was \$237.99 (Median=\$850.50; SD=\$398.96).

Table 14: Individualized Ed Program to Student with Disability in Secondary Ed

FY 2013	N	Mean	FY 2014	N	Mean
SSDI	2,856	\$ 905.20	SSDI	2,530	\$ 911.26
SSI	2,648	\$ 544.07	SSI	2,413	\$ 571.33
TANF	370	\$ 355.78	TANF	389	\$ 317.99
All Other Public Support	5,320	\$ 413.52	General Assistance	578	\$ 237.99
			Veterans-Disability Benefits	91	\$ 650.85
			Worker’s Comp	35	\$ 929.20
			Other Public Support	4,020	\$ 453.20

Supported Employment Goals

While the previous dataset indicated whether a customer received supported employment (SE) services utilizing Title I or Title VI funds, FY 2014 data identify not only who had SE goals but also when the those goals were included in the IPE.

Of 663 customers (3.8% of all customers) who indicated SE as an employment option in their IPEs,

- 611 (92.2%) identified SE as the employment goal in all IPEs, from initial to final IPE;
- 31 (4.7%) had non-SE goals that were later amended to SE in the final IPE; and
- 21 (3.2%) had at least one SE goal, but no SE goals in the final IPE.

Table 15: Supported Employment (SE) Status to SE Goals

FY 2013	N	%	FY 2014	N	%
SE with some Title VI-B	343	1.7	All IPEs, including initial IPE, identified SE	611	3.5
SE without Title VI-B	472	2.4	The IPE was amended to SE	31	0.2
			The IPE was amended to another employment goal from SE	21	0.1
Not Supported Employment (SE)	12,167	61.7	The amended or final IPE identified SE as the employment goal only at closure	0	0.0
Missing (Not SE)	6,746	34.2	Missing (Not SE)	16,970	96.2
Total	19,728	100.0	Total	17,633	100.0

Note: The term "supported employment" means competitive work in integrated work settings, or employment in integrated work settings, in which individuals are working toward competitive employment, for individuals with the most significant disabilities who require intensive supported employment services in order to perform such work and extended employment supports to maintain such work (RSA-PD-14-01).

Of those 663 customers who identified SE as their employment goal at least one time, 256 (38.6%) received services utilizing the Title VI-B fund. Meanwhile, as depicted in Table 16, approximately

50% (n=341) achieved an employment outcome at closure.

Table 16 : Employment Outcomes of Customers with SE Goals in an IPE

FY 2014	N	Successful Closure	
		N	%
All IPEs, including initial IPE, identified SE	611	313	51.2%
The IPE was amended to SE	31	7	22.6%
The IPE was amended to another employment goal from SE	21	21	100.0
Total	663	341	48.6

Reason for Closure

Some reasons for closure have been combined while others have been expanded. The primary change is that four reasons have been identified as

"ineligible": disability too significant to benefit from VR services; no disabling condition; no impediment to employment; and does not require VR services. The top three reasons for closure among excluded cases with employment outcomes in FY 2014 were: unable to locate or contact, no longer interested in receiving services or further services, and all other reasons.

Table 17: Changes in Reason for Closure

FY 2013	N	%
Achieved Employment Outcome	6,681	33.9
Unable to Contact	5,311	26.9
Disability too Severe	457	2.3
Refused Services	2,102	10.7
Failure to Cooperate	1,298	6.6
Death	74	0.4
Transferred to Another Agency	138	0.7
No Disabling Condition	33	0.2
No Impediment to Employment	102	0.5
Transportation Not Feasible or Available	46	0.2
Extended Services Not Available	12	0.1
All Other Reasons	3,335	16.9
Individual in Institution	139	0.7
Total	19,728	100.0



FY 2014	N	%
Achieved Employment Outcome	6,618	37.5
Unable to Locate or Contact	4,473	25.4
Disability too Significant to Benefit from VR Services - <i>ineligible</i>	354	2.0
No longer Interested in Receiving Services or Further Services	3,580	20.3
Death	66	0.4
Transferred to Another Agency	95	0.5
No Disabling Condition - <i>ineligible</i>	15	0.1
No Impediment to Emp. - <i>ineligible</i>	92	0.5
Transportation Not Feasible or Available	35	0.2
Does Not Require VR Services - <i>ineligible</i>	197	1.1
Extended Services Not Available	8	0.0
All Other Reasons	1,949	11.1
Individual in Institution Other Than a Prison or Jail	37	0.2
Is Incarcerated In a Prison or Jail	114	0.6
Total	17,633	100.0

This Brief reviewed the major changes of the recently revised FY 2014 RSA-911 data. After careful consideration of both the modified and newly added variables, several areas for further investigation or research were discussed:

- Geographic impact on VR service delivery and employment outcomes;
- VR outcomes of customers receiving services or funding from other agencies at application;
- Effectiveness of new services (e.g., apprenticeship, benefits counseling);
- Relationships between cost for each category of services and VR outcomes;
- Data integrity study of the start date of employment;
- Exploration of outcomes and characteristics of customers with trial work, extended evaluation and supported employment goals.