

Webcast 4- How Can I Effectively Use Disability Data to Plan and Make More Informed Decisions?

First Slide:

Laura: Good Morning David.

David: Good Morning Laura.

Laura: As you know David, I'm not really a data type of person, but I recognize its value and importance. So my coffee chat discussion is the following: "How Can I Effectively Use Disability Data to Plan and Make More Informed Decisions?"

Second Slide:

David: Your question is a really good and an important one. The significance of your question reminds me of a quote I recently heard: "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it". This quote is especially poignant today as the states currently prepare to undergo another four-year workforce planning cycle with State Plan submissions this year.

Laura, as background, WIOA emphasizes the importance of collecting and having good data to simply improve. As it relates to the disability population we serve, information collected is now more granular to help us better understand the individuals we serve each day in the American Job Center.

Laura: It does put a spotlight on how individuals with disabilities can meet performance outcomes if they are able to access and benefit from workforce services. So tell me more - I'm curious what resources you recommend?

Third Slide: [WorkforceGPS Disability Statistics and Data](#)

David: There are several. ETA curated disability data information into one WorkforceGPS page titled Disability Statistics and Data. This page can help state officials gain insights on current and historical labor force participation at the national, state, and county levels. This page, which I encourage you to click on and explore further, incorporates terrific resources from the university and federal sector. In having access to this data, it can really help states establish a baseline of need when describing existing challenges in local or state in their State Planning Process as just one example.

Laura: It is pretty cool, David that university resources were incorporated as they have a lot of talented researchers making sure the data is both valid and reliable. They also do a great job to visually portray the data in charts and graphs.

Fourth Slide: [WorkforceGPS WIOA Title I Snapshot- Interactive Infographic](#)

David: I agree Laura. Within ETA, we have sought to model the work of universities to visually portray the data we collected and learned so far. For example, as you see here, we developed an infographic using WIOA Title I Data in document titled *Integrating Accessibility to Maximize Inclusion for All Customers*. This infographic creatively breaks it out by highlighting two populations: Individuals with Disabilities and Individuals with Barriers to Employment.

Laura: You know, David, it is often said a picture is worth a thousand words and I now see how this was one creative way to help effectively communicate WIOA Title I data for so many busy workforce professionals.

David: I agree and our team at ETA had fun putting it together and we are very happy it was recently highlighted as one of the top 10 WorkforceGPS resources in 2019.

Fifth Slide: [Data and Resources to Inspire A Vision of Employment \(DRIVE\)](#)

David: Laura, a final resource to highlight is funded through our partners in ODEP. It is simply referred to as the DRIVE website which stands for Data and Resources to Inspire a Vision of Employment. What I like about this site is that it provides a visual map of the states as you see here and when you click on one, you can learn a lot of useful disability facts about a state through state profiles. The site also allows states to compare itself against fellow peer states and this can be one good way to benchmark performance.

Laura: Wow, you shared a lot of different ways today that we not only share but can use disability sites, David. I do see the value of how disability data websites can be useful for the state plan process to gauge its needs. I can't believe that I'm going to say this but I feel like I might become a data whiz like you after I visit these sites.

David: You are so funny Laura!

Sixth Slide:

Laura: This slide lists the resources referenced earlier. Please check them out when you have a moment today.

Seventh Slide:

David: And for those listening in, thanks for joining our coffee chat. On behalf of the Employment and Training Administration, we hope these resources help people with disabilities rise and shine in the labor market.