



**The Committee For Persons  
With Disabilities**

Serving as the

**Disability Services Board**



**2003 –2006**

**Tri-Annual Needs Assessment Report**

**Prince William County, Virginia**

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## Committee for Persons With Disabilities

Prince William County's Disability Services Board

[www.pwcgov.org/dss/CFPD/cfpd\\_home.htm](http://www.pwcgov.org/dss/CFPD/cfpd_home.htm)

### PWC DSB Tri-Annual Needs Assessment Report

**2003-2006**

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### Committee for Persons with Disabilities Prince William County's Disability Services Board

## PWC DSB 2006 NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

The Committee for Persons with Disabilities, acting as Prince William County's Disability Services Board (DSB), serves the 364,263 population of Prince William County (PWC), which includes approximately 35,000 citizens with disabilities over the age of five. PWC is 348 square miles (18.8% of which is Federal land) located approximately 35 miles south west of Washington, D.C. The PWC DSB acts as an advisory group to the PW Board of County Supervisors to recommend ways and means by which the county may be more responsive to the needs of our disabled population. The Committee also promotes public awareness of the unique problems people with disabilities must face on a daily basis. Currently, the Committee/Board has been working diligently to raise the level of awareness of the existence of our group, as well as of the needs of citizens with disabilities. We are working with many local agencies to accomplish this and to coordinate services and activities, and to gain resource and referral information. \*\*Population data as of December 2005.

### PURPOSE

One of the mandated activities of our Board (see Appendix A) is to develop and update an assessment with projections of the local needs and priorities of persons with physical and sensory disabilities. Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services mandates needs assessments be updated every three years. The needs assessment report is the basis for recruiting applications for the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund (RSIF). These RSIF funds are awarded to programs that change or improve the quality of life for those with disabilities. This tri-annual update identifies areas of concern for people with disabilities in our expanding suburban community. It also gives ways to address those concerns, informs state and local agencies of unmet needs, and determines our goals and objectives (see Appendix B).

### DATA COLLECTION

This year, the PWC DSB distributed hundreds of surveys (see Appendix C) through human services agencies, libraries, medical facilities and newspaper announcements. The DSB accepted public comments at each of our monthly meetings as well as at our many public service/information events. This included the County Fair (Virginia's largest), conferences, public hearings, chamber of commerce luncheons, ceremonies, sub-meetings and public presentations. A total of 305 surveys were collected, however only 264 surveys were eligible for the study. Precluded from this report were surveys outside of PWC jurisdiction, those that reported no disability or incomplete surveys, and those with mental retardation, developmental disabilities or mental illness. Statistics and data analysis are presented in graph form (See appendix D and E).

## **1. TRANSPORTATION**

The first most identified need in Prince William County is transportation. PWC has a local public bus and train service, PRTC, which is accessible and offers reduced fare for the elderly and people with disabilities. However, it only services the high population areas of Manassas and Woodbridge. It does not cover all the outlying areas of the County. PRTC will only deviate  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile off the scheduled route and does not offer a door-to-door service. Although there are some private cab/van companies that offer transportation to riders with a disability, they are entirely too expensive for the average citizen much less those with restricted income and are not accessible to those needing wheelchair transportation. Some cab services offer discounted rides to Medicaid clients, but do not cover Medicare recipients. The only other option is non-profit volunteer agencies, which are unable to handle the number of citizens requiring this service. Lack of adequate transportation services in the county remains one of the major barriers for individuals with disabilities. Lack of transportation limits an individual's mobility and thus their ability to seek, find and maintain employment, and obtain the necessary medical and recreational activities.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB has used State Rehabilitative Services Incentive Funds (RSIF) to provide bus tokens for the local bus/train services and private cab fares to persons with physical and sensory disabilities. We also support PRTC in public hearings and to local government to expand current services and to improve marketing to people with disabilities. Committee members are represented on the Humans Services Coalition Transportation Committee (COAH), which advocates for a low cost curb-to-curb transport for persons with disabilities. However, current budget restrictions will delay planning and implementation of a user-side subsidy supplemental transportation program. The COAH Transportation Committee is supporting the expansion of Prince William Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Transportation Program through outreach efforts to recruit additional volunteers. There is a need for private para-transit providers for those that need ambulatory services.

Implications for state-level action: There is an urgent need for system development and service coordination of transportation for people with disabilities in Prince William County. There is a critical - life or death – unmet need for transportation for dialysis patients to and from their appointments. We know this need is not just specific to our area, so perhaps funding at the state level can be used to initiate such a service. The expansion of the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority could provide an opportunity for private small business or non-profits to apply for low interest rate loans to meet para-transit needs.

## **2. MEDICAL/THERAPEUTIC**

The second most identified need is medical/therapeutic services. These were listed as medical, dental services, physical therapy and medical/dental insurance. Specific comments targeted the need for affordable medical insurance, prescription coverage and most frequently requested the need for dental services. Lack of affordable dental care services for adult individuals with physical and sensory disabilities is an issue. Medicaid does not provide coverage for dental services for adults, often resulting with individuals not receiving any form of dental care.

Implications for DSB action: A new program called Pharmacy Central Program is being offered through Northern Virginia Family Services. This program offers assistance for those who are unable to afford needed medications. The other areas of concern were dental services, physical therapy and affordable medical insurance. A free dental clinic is offered by Prince William Health Department; however a great need still exists. Prince William Health Department is recruiting dentist for pro-bono services, however less than 10% of area dentists are currently participating. Physical and therapeutic

programs are available at the George Mason Freedom Center; however there is no public transportation to the Center, prohibiting many from utilizing these programs. The PWC DSB advocates for therapeutic programs offered through the PWC Park Authority.

Implications for state-level action: In many cases, citizens with disabilities simply ‘fall through the cracks’, making just over the Medicaid limits, are not old enough for Medicare, or cannot work because of their disability etc. These individuals urgently need help meeting their medical and therapeutic needs. Inclusion of prescription coverage for Medicare is essential to the growing senior population. State level action is needed to fill the gaps.

### **3. HOUSING**

The third most identified need is housing. However housing was also identified as the number one category for those receiving services and identified as number one for services that are important. Out of 266 surveys, 66 responded as needing housing and 41 responded that they were receiving services. As the housing market has soared, the available and affordable rental units have declined. The fair market rent for a one-bedroom unit is \$1,080, while an SSI recipient receives \$846 monthly. The Section 8 housing list in Prince William has a waiting list of 2,571 of which 428 are disabled. Other subsidized housing in the county is minimal. Likewise, while home ownership is at an all time high, almost 38% in PWC, national statistics home ownership for those with disabilities remains under 10%. While it is difficult to find housing that is available and affordable it is often impossible to find housing that is accessible. RSIF funds were awarded to Project Mend A House to provide accessibility ramps and home modifications. This grant was frozen in October 2002, with only limited funds spent. In addition to accessible housing, many individuals need personal assistance in order to maintain independent living. A new issue is that some accessible housing is reverting to the general housing market and accessibility improvements are being removed. Sidewalk accessibility and adequate spaces remain problematic for individuals.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB has worked closely with the Office on Housing and Community Development (OHCD) to coordinate efforts and outreach, and to raise public awareness. We have supported the OHCD in efforts to obtain more “Mainstream” (disabled use only) rental assistance vouchers and Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) for our area. The PWC DSB was also very successful in advocating for the creation and implementation of a new system of “local preferences” for rental assistance to give priority to applicants for rental assistance with disabilities. PWC DSB advocates for contractors and developers to utilize universal designs in building new homes.

Implications for state-level action: There is an urgent need for affordable, accessible housing in our county, and all over the state. Efforts must be made at the state level to provide and/or subsidize such housing quickly. Additional programs are needed that assist those with disabilities in obtaining home ownership without penalty loss of benefits; i.e. savings accounts needed for down payments impacting eligibility for food stamps, Medicaid, TANF or SSI. Nationally, there is a growing awareness for universal home designs that give Americans a home in which they can grow old. This would be encouraged through building codes for single residential housing that would shadow multifamily housing units, such as wider door ways, accessible ground level entrances, and at least one large accessible bathroom. In addition, education programs should be created to encourage builders and developers to produce accessible and affordable housing units based on the concepts of universal design for the physically and sensory impaired population; and develop incentives for contractors to build such housing.

#### **4. FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

Family Support Services moved from the tenth most identified need in 2003 to the fourth most identified need in 2006. Family support services were listed as assistance to family members, support groups and respite services. The local hospitals, AAA and other organizations host a variety of support groups. However, the closest support group for amputees is located in Alexandria and currently there is no support group for those with epilepsy. The ARC, Greater Insight, Inc, offers a volunteer relief respite care program

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB continues to offer resource and referral information pertaining to local support groups. In addition, IEC has an advocacy specialist on staff that coordinates an advocacy support group. May 2004 Bylaws declared Accessibility and Advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AADHH). Respite care for family members continues to be a missing service for many in Prince William County. Churches and volunteer organizations are unable to meet the high demand.

Implications for state-level action: Funding for respite care is desperately needed. Funding for PAS services needs to be increased and services expanded.

#### **5. CASE MANAGEMENT/COUNSELING/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

The fifth most identified needs were case management, counseling and employment services. Many survey participants requested simplicity in finding services. There is difficulty in finding appropriate and available services and programs. The Community Services Board (CSB) offers case management to persons with mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse and prevention issues. The local Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) helps coordinate activities and services for people with disabilities that are able to work. The Independence Empowerment Center (IEC), Center for Independent Living (CIL), offers case management to those with physical and sensory disabilities. The Agency on Aging (AAA) has increased case management to include adults with disabilities as well as the elderly. For the fiscal year 2002, AAA served 295 people in case management. In a 10 year span from 1990 to 2000 the over 60 population in Prince William County increased by 95.5%. The Virginia Department of the Aging predicts over the next ten years the jurisdictions of Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park will have an increase of 125.9% in the population over 60. This is the largest increase in the state.

Implications for DSB action: We will encourage and support IEC, CSB and AAA in their efforts to provide case management to people with disabilities who desire it and do not currently have it available to them. PWC DSB continues to provide resource and referral information. The Committee/Board has created a special 'Referral List' of resources, which target specific areas of disability and/or need (see Appendix F).

Implications for state-level action: As AAA includes those with disabilities to those who receive case management and services; additional budget requirements will be needed to serve this growing clientele.

**6. COUNSELING** is also identified as a fifth need. Counseling moved from the sixth most identified need in 2002 to fifth in 2006. Counseling was defined as professional help with vocational and personal problems and/or developing coping skills. Depression was frequently identified among those with disabilities.

Implications for DSB action: Several area agencies including CSB, ACTS, SERVE and Northern Virginia Family Services offer counseling services as well as churches and other agencies.

Implications for state-level action: State budget cuts severely impacted direct services to clients. Funding to Brain Injury Services (BIS) and CSB is essential to a healthy community.

## **7. EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Employment ranked fifth as well in our survey. This category is difficult to evaluate because our survey did not readily identify those who were unable to work versus those able to work but unable to find employment. A number of our respondents, 17% are retired. Our survey showed a 37% unemployment rate, however only 3% of those stated they were looking for a job. PWC unemployment rate is 3.0%, well below the national average. The median family income for PWC is **\$77,678**. It would be interesting and helpful to obtain family income data for those with disabilities. PWC has three locations for One Stop Centers. All three centers were evaluated by a team from DRS to assure accessibility.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB participates in the Virginia Disability Friendly Business Awards. This program encourages employers to hire persons with disabilities, retain workers who become disabled or assist employees with disabilities with career advancement opportunities. This program also encourages businesses to be creative in making reasonable accommodations to those with disabilities, focusing on the skills of the employee rather than the disability. The One Stop Centers offer a variety of services, including representatives from DRS, Social Services and Employment Commission at one location.

Implications for state-level action: Provide further opportunities for people with disabilities who are able and willing to work. People with disabilities are a largely untapped source of skilled and reliable workers. Proper training and education are needed to provide the opportunity to obtain employment with decent wages.

## **8. INDEPENDENT LIVING**

The sixth most identified need was for training and services to allow maximum self-sufficiency. The local Center for Independent Living (CIL), the Independence Empowerment Center (IEC) addresses these needs. Executive Director, Mary Lopez, her staff and Board continue to use peer counseling to teach independent living skills to people with life-changing disabilities. National and state legislators are encouraged to pass bills that provide the least restrictive living environments.

Implications for DSB action: RSIF grant was awarded to IEC to provide one-time grants that would assist those with a disability achieve independent living. This grant was frozen by DRS in October 2002, thus directly impacting services. PWC DSB advocates for reinstatement of RSIF to IEC for fiscal year 2004.

Implications for state-level action: Current proposed bill for "Medicaid assistance consumer directed care" would increase the opportunities for independent living for those with disabilities.

## **9. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Assistive Technology moved from the fifth most identified need in 2002 to the seventh most identified need in 2006. Several agencies have worked to meet those needs and efforts were taken to inform the disabled community. The most identified requests were for computers and motorized wheelchairs. The DSB has a RSIF award with IEC for assistive technology, including a technology fair. This grant was frozen by DRS in October with only minimal funds spent. There are also loan closets, private donations, and service groups such as the Lions Club, which are good resources.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB needs to continue to make public awareness of County resources a priority. There seems to be a very high incidence of meeting these assistive technology needs, if they are known. We will continue to publicize our referral list and other flyers announcing public resources.

Implications for state-level action: The PWC DSB strongly supports legislature mandating insurance coverage for hearing aids.

## **10. PERSONAL ASSISTANCE**

Personal Assistance ranked eighth. Personal Assistance was identified as activities of daily living, bathing, communicating, cooking, dressing, eating, housekeeping, shopping and toileting. Personal assistants are often provided by family members or friends and often paid by the individual or family. Medicaid and DRS are sources of payment for personal assistance (PAS). There is a need for more hours of service and higher salaries for assistants.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB continues to offer resource and referral information pertaining to local support groups. In addition, IEC has an advocacy specialist on staff that coordinates an advocacy support group. May 2004 Bylaws declared Accessibility and Advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AADHH). Respite care for family members continues to be a missing service for many in Prince William County. Churches and volunteer organizations are unable to meet the high demand.

Implications for state-level action: Funding for respite care is desperately needed. Funding for PAS services needs to be increased and services expanded.

## **11. TRAINING**

Training was ranked ninth. Training was defined as qualified service providers: interpreters, in-home caregivers and medical practitioners and ranked ninth in the survey. The deaf community noted the need for qualified interpreters in the medical field, and the need of education regarding TTY's and the Virginia Relay System. Others with physical disabilities stated that the salary level of personal assistance often makes finding excellent and trustworthy in-home caregivers a difficult task.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB continues to educate the community regarding ADA laws, specifically in the area of providing communication. Informational and accessibility training is offered to local chambers and businesses. The DSB has responded to citizen concerns regarding TTY in hospital and malls with positive results.

Implications for state-level action: There is a shortage of qualified sign language interpreters and limited opportunities to receive ASL in Northern Virginia. Including sign language as an option for language studies in public schools and higher education is vital and in Northern Virginia has proven to be popular with students.

## **12. EDUCATION**

Although education was last on our needs assessment survey, the PWC DSB did not obtain a high number of surveys for those with disabilities under the age of 18. Surveys were distributed at the Circle of Support Conference and through the Parent Resource Center. Over half of participants noted this category did not apply to them and only 14% respondents stated they needed additional educational services. Through inquiries the DSB has observed a lack of continuing education for adults with disabilities, especially those with autism, brain trauma or developmental delays. Of the adult respondents, 48 adults with a physical or sensory disability indicated they had not completed high

school. Of these, 9 had only an elementary education and 11 reached a junior high school level. In addition 18 participants did not identify their education level. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, one out of every five adults with a disability has not graduated from high school.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB has a close working relationship with the Parent Resource Center, Prince William County Public Schools. The Parent Resource Center initiated in 1983 provides support, training and information to parents and teachers of children with special needs. PWC Special Education served 7,341 students in 2001. However, this does not include all students with disabilities, as a student with a physical disability may not need special education. PWC DSB refers parents to PEATC as well as the Parent Resource Center.

Implications for state-level action: Funding for education for adults with disabilities is urgently needed. While Virginia strives to ensure that “no child is left behind” let’s strive to even greater heights, providing the opportunities for every child to reach their highest potential.

### **13. ACCESSIBILITY**

The PWC DSB received numerous complaints regarding local business that are not accessible. The business community and the general public remain ignorant of the needs of those with disabilities. PWC DSB assisted the Electoral Board to make polling places accessible.

Implications for DSB action: The PWC DSB offers awareness and sensitivity training. DSB responds to concerns with letter to businesses, educating them on ADA and accessibility. Participation in Virginia Disability Friendly Award has increased awareness for accessibility in public arena. Nonetheless, accessibility in retail stores remains very limited.

Implications for state-level action: Continued public awareness is needed through Department of Rehabilitative Services and Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy.

### **14. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Since September 11, 2001 there is a nation wide concern for emergency preparedness. Several organizations have addressed emergency preparedness for those with disabilities including National Organization on Disability (NOD), FEMA and American Red Cross. According to the survey done by NOD, 58% of people with disabilities say do not know whom to contact about emergency plans for their community and 61% say they have not made plans to quickly and safely evacuate their homes. Among those with a disability who are employed, 50% say no plans have been made to safely evacuate their workplace.

Implications for DSB action: PWC Risk Management in coordination with several agencies has drafted an Emergency Preparedness Program, including a section on consideration for individuals with disabilities. It is important to educate the public and county employees regarding the program.

Implications for state-level action: NOD, FEMA and American Red Cross encourage all local and state governments to develop an emergency preparedness program.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Committee is very active and on the forefront of local disability issues and legislation. We have seen an increase in citizen involvement at our monthly meetings. It is often frustrating to see Prince William County citizens with disabilities who cannot find services to meet their needs. In 2002 census over 11% of PWC population reported a disability. It is predicted over the next decade with the increase

in the senior citizen population the percentage of citizens in PWC with a disability will reach the national average of 20% or one out of every five persons. **There remains a large unmet need in Prince William County for services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities in the areas of medical and dental services, housing, transportation, case management, employment opportunities and family support services.**

The Committee for Persons with Disabilities has formed a partnership with Woodbridge High School Performing Arts to bring the *Kids On The Block* troupe back to life. The mission of *Kids On The Block* is to promote understanding and acceptance of all children and adults regardless of their differences. Through this program, sensitivity training to local businesses and community events the PWC DSB encourages our society to appreciate and value those with disabilities.

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**Prince William County Disability Services Board Needs Assessment**  
**Summary Sheet 2006**

<b>Disability Commission Core Areas</b>	<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Identified Needs</b>	<b>Barriers to meeting the needs</b>	<b>Outcomes/Future Efforts</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	1	Lack of sufficient accessible transportation, door-to-door services and para-transit.	Additional funding for public bus & train service, no funding for door-to-door service. Private para-transit services are needed.	CIL (local IEC) awarded RSIF grant to meet transportation needs. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY07. Advocate missing services to local officials. Support Human Services Transportation Committee in efforts to increase services provided by Prince William Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers.
<b>Medical and Therapeutic Services</b>	2	Dental Services, prescription coverage, physical & vocational therapy and affordable medical insurances	Prescription not covered under Medicaid, Medicare, SSD, Dental services beyond extractions are desperately needed. Physical therapy for stroke victims and those with disabling illnesses.	Advocate state level action for those unable to obtain medical, dental and therapeutic services. Support and refer to local services such as county free health clinic, dental services and prescription programs. Advocate for expansion of public transportation system (PRTC) to George Mason Freedom Center where therapeutic programs are offered.
<b>Housing</b>	3	Affordable, subsidized and accessible housing.	Housing in the area is expensive and rental assistance voucher has a list of over 2,500. Wheelchair ramps and home modifications are needed, especially bathroom grab bars, ramps etc. Project Mend A House waiting list continues to grow.	DSB supports the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) in efforts to obtain more mainstream vouchers. DSB was successful in advocating for the creation and implementation of a new system of local preferences for rental assistance applicants with disabilities. Support CIL in efforts of case management in finding affordable, accessible housing. RSIF grant to Project Mend A House for wheelchair ramps and home modifications to provide accessibility. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY07.
<b>Family Support</b>	4	Respite care for family members. Need for more hours of service, need for administering medications, help getting out of house.	Limited resources through Medicaid and DRS. Many respondents pay for their own personal assistants, or rely on family and friends.	ARC, Greater Insight offers a volunteer relief respite care program. Provide resource/referral information of agencies, churches etc. that provides services. Advocate on the state level to increase funding and expanding services for PAS.

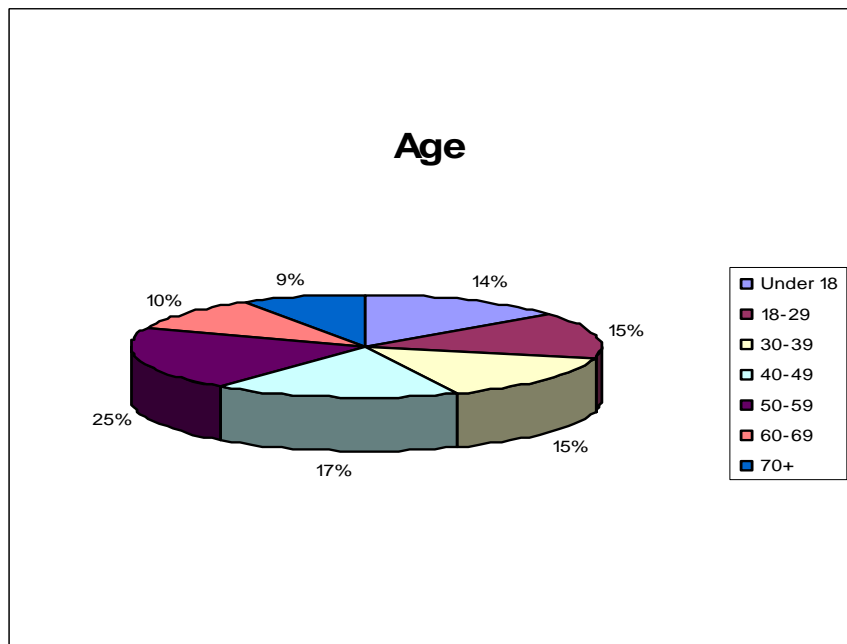
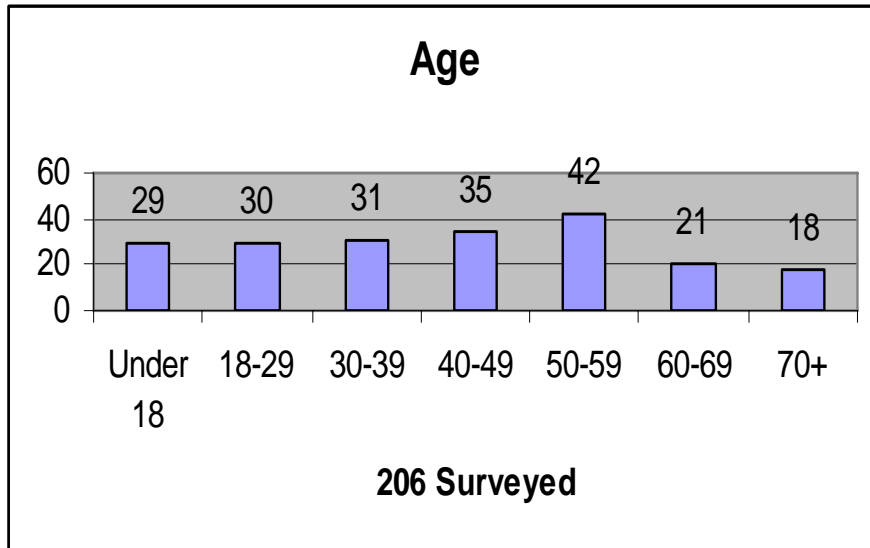
<b>Case Management</b>	5	Computers, hearing aids, wheelchairs, TTY, Braille materials, etc.	DRS offers services for those who are able to return to work. Community Services Board (CSB) and Area on Aging (AAA) offers case management. Some with multi-disabilities are covered under these agencies. CIL, (local IEC) is offering case management.	Continue to Support IEC, CSB and AAA through referral and resource information.
<b>Counseling</b>	5	Professional help with personal and vocational problems.	State budget cuts to CSB and Brain Injury Services directly impacted services. Case Management available to those who are elderly or through CSB, mental health. Missing services for those with physical and sensory disabilities. Several participants noted they needed counseling for depression.	Services are available through CSB, ACTS, SERVE, Northern Virginia Family Services and other agencies and local churches.
<b>Employment</b>	5	30% of respondents are employed (part-time/full-time). 37% unemployed and 17% are retired	Health conditions, loss of benefits – i.e.: SSD, SSI, proper training and education	DRS, One Stop Centers and several local agencies provide vocational training and employment services. Public awareness campaign for potential employers through the Disability Friendly Business Program. This program acknowledges those employers promoting accessibility and accommodations in the workplace.
<b>Independent Living Services</b>	6	Training & Services to achieve Independent Living	Funding for Personal Assistants, Public Awareness of CIL	RSIF grant awarded to local CIL (IEC) for peer counseling/ training for independent living. This grant was frozen in Oct. 2002; advocate reinstating this grant for FY07.
<b>Assistive Technology</b>	7	Computers, hearing aids, wheelchairs, TTY, Braille materials, etc.	Several agencies are working to meet tangible need, and population is becoming increasingly aware of these resources as Assistive Technology dropped from Number 2 in the 1999 survey to Number 5 in 2002 survey	Disability Services Board distributes a “Referral & Resource List”. Computers have been offered through various organizations and grants to those with disabilities. Continue to advocate State legislation to pass insurance coverage of hearing aids.
<b>Personal Assistance Services/Training</b>	8	Qualified service providers, interpreters, and in-home caregivers.	Salary level of personal assistants affects quality of caregivers, shortage of ASL interpreters.	List of ASL Interpreters, both freelance and agencies compiled and distributed. Advocate sign language classes offered in local schools and colleges

<b>Training</b>	9	Qualified service providers, interpreters, and in-home caregivers.	Salary level of personal assistants affects quality of caregivers, shortage of ASL interpreters.	List of ASL interpreters both freelance and agencies compiled and distributed. Advocate sign language classes offered in local schools and colleges.
<b>Education</b>	10	Continuing education after high school, especially for those with multiple disabilities.	Limited opportunities.	George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College do offer programs for those with disabilities. Advertise scholarship opportunities. There is still missing services –seek RSIF grant for education.
<b>Accessibility (not a core area)</b>		DSB office receives complaints about local businesses that are not accessible, including Mall stores	Awareness and sensitivity training are needed.	DSB responds to concerns with letter to business, educating them on ADA and accessibility. Participate in Virginia Disability Friendly Awards.
<b>Emergency Preparedness (not a core area)</b>		Emergency preparedness for those with a disability in event of crisis.	61% of those with a disability report no plans in place to safely evacuate work or home.	PWC drafted an Emergency Preparedness Plan, DSB will seek to distribute information to those with disabilities in the community.

# PWC DSB TRI-ANNUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT CHARTS

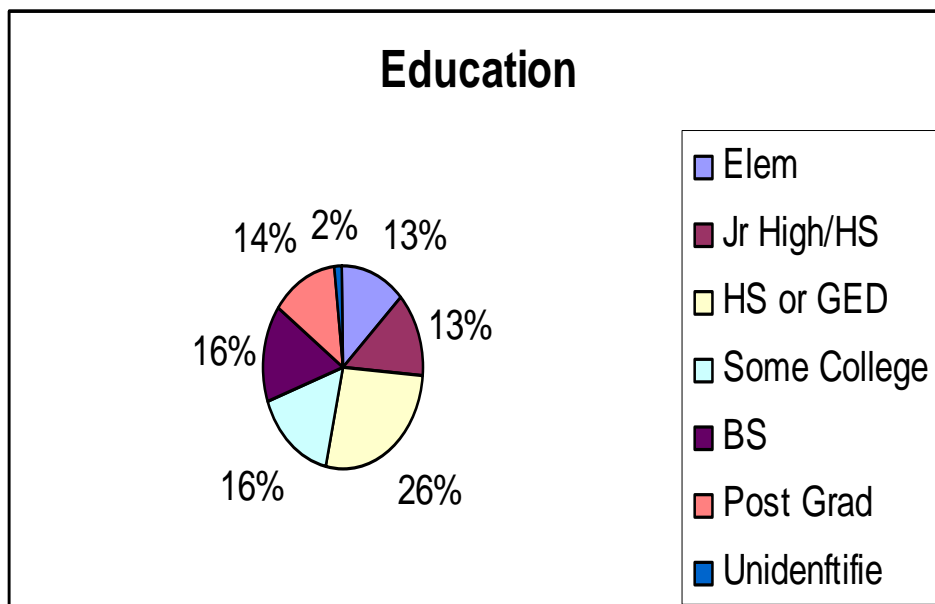
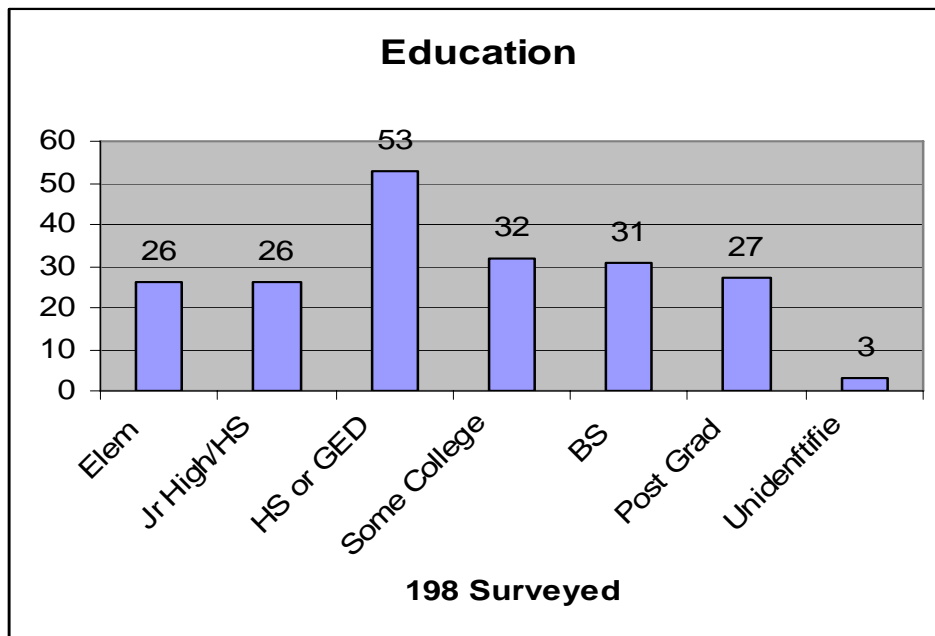
## AGE OF RESPONDANTS

The PWC DSB received 206 survey responses from citizens with physical and/or sensory disabilities. This is the age chart for those responses. Fifty-eight percent (119 surveys) of responses were from females and 42% males (87 surveys).



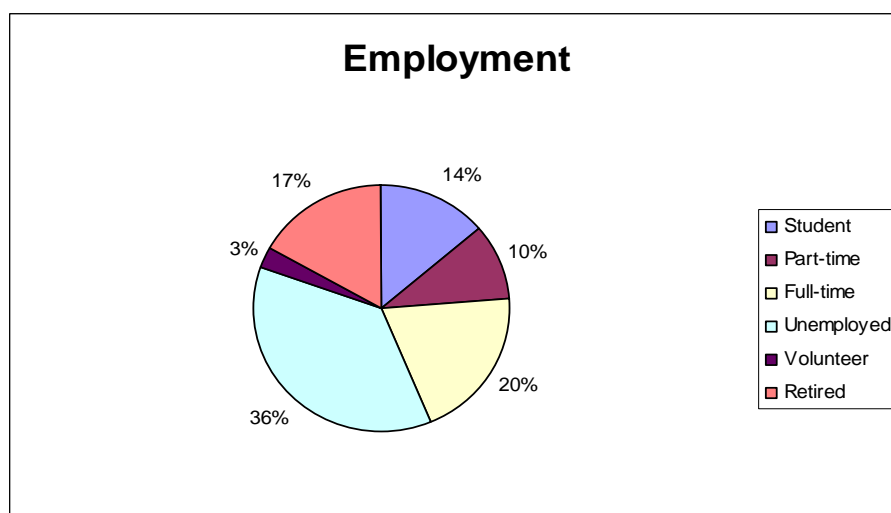
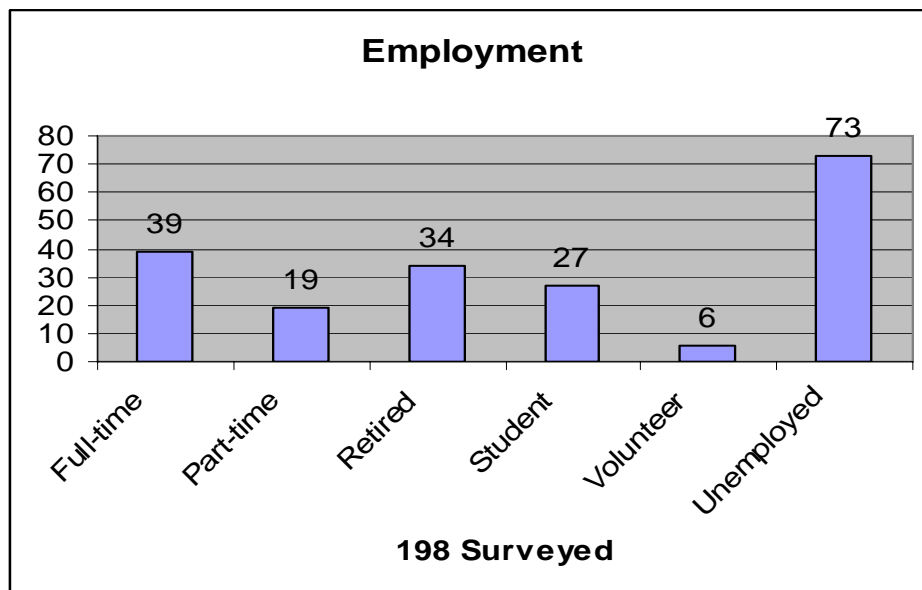
## EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The US Department of Labor reports that one out of five adults with a disability have not graduated from high school. From our survey it was noted that 26% of our adult respondents have graduated from high school. Approximately 16% of respondents have some college or graduate degrees. College level still remains most highly found among the deaf and hard of hearing community or those that acquire a disability later in adulthood, such as multiple sclerosis and other auto immune diseases. It is expected and hoped with the philosophy of “no child left behind” the level of education for those with disabilities will be raised. Some surveys were returned with little information and some of these were thought to be from those who are illiterate or those with language barriers.



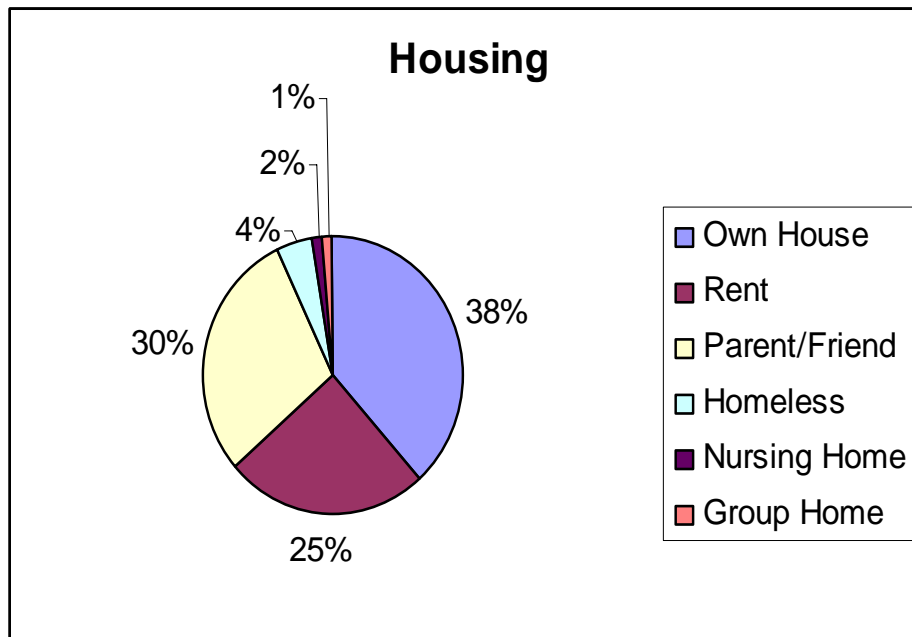
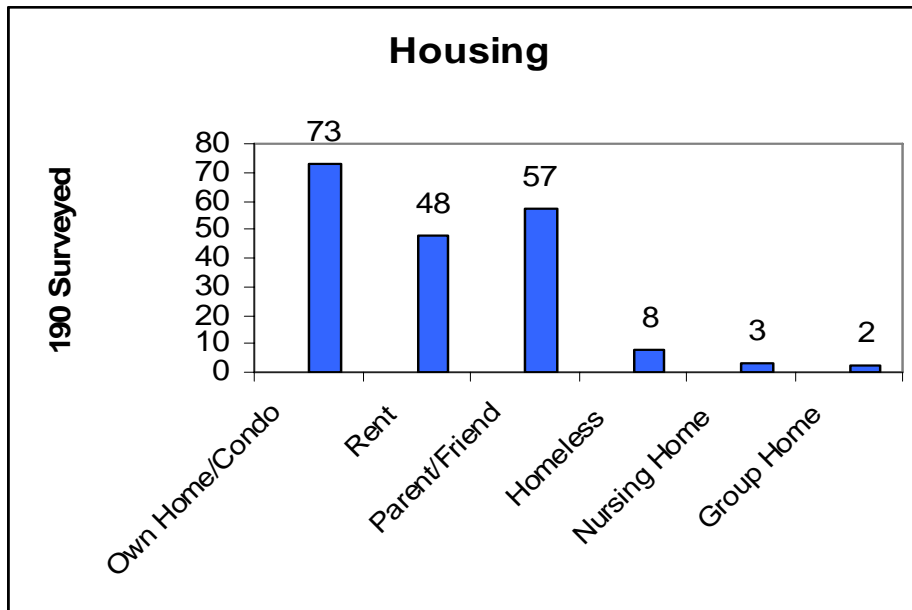
## EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rates for those with disabilities are reported anywhere between 55 and 70 percent. What is difficult to determine is those with a disability who are seeking employment. Other who are considered unemployed are perhaps physically unable to work, primarily due to health issues or are retired. Ten years after the ADA there are discussions and debates over “reasonable job accommodations”. Our surveyed found a 37% unemployment rate among those with disabilities compared to Prince William County unemployment rate of 3.5 for the general population. All three locations of the One Stop Resource Centers were evaluated for accessibility for those with disabilities. This accessibility is essential in assisting those with disabilities achieve their career goals. Nonetheless, one comprehensive study found that only 18% of the most trafficked job recruiting web sites are accessible for those with disabilities. This remains a barrier to employment.



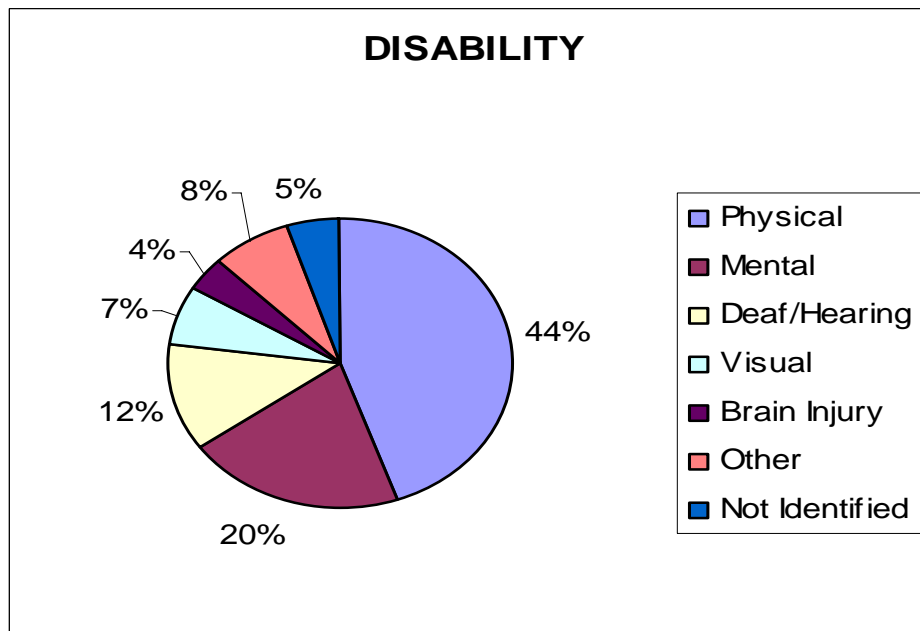
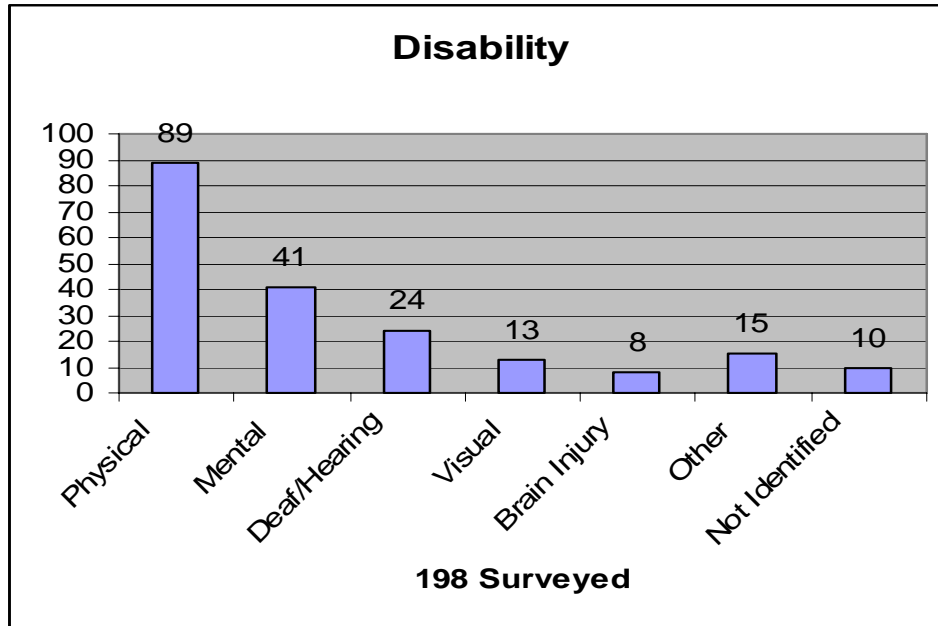
## HOUSING STATUS

Although, housing ranked third again, on our needs assessment, it still ranked number one when asked if this service is important. Our 190 responses, 177 reported receiving housing assistance, 52 reported needing housing assistance. The Office of Housing and Community Services serves a total of 1,907 households with Housing Choice Vouchers of which 484 or 26% are disabled. Nationally, home ownership for those with disabilities is under 10%. Our survey showed a 38% homeownership, however, if we were able to expand our responses to reach the 31,000 persons with disabilities, it is believed the home ownership in PWC would be closer to the national average.



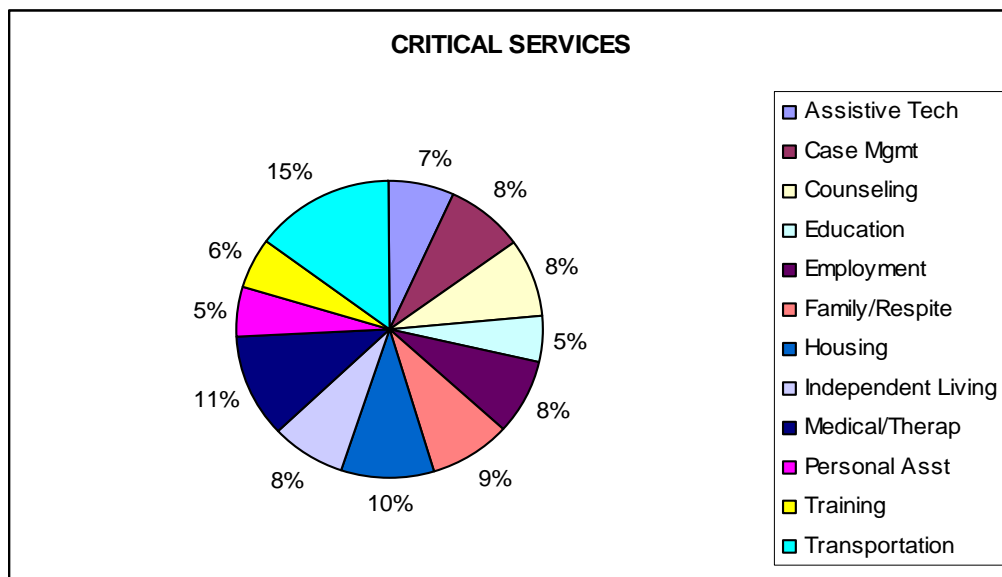
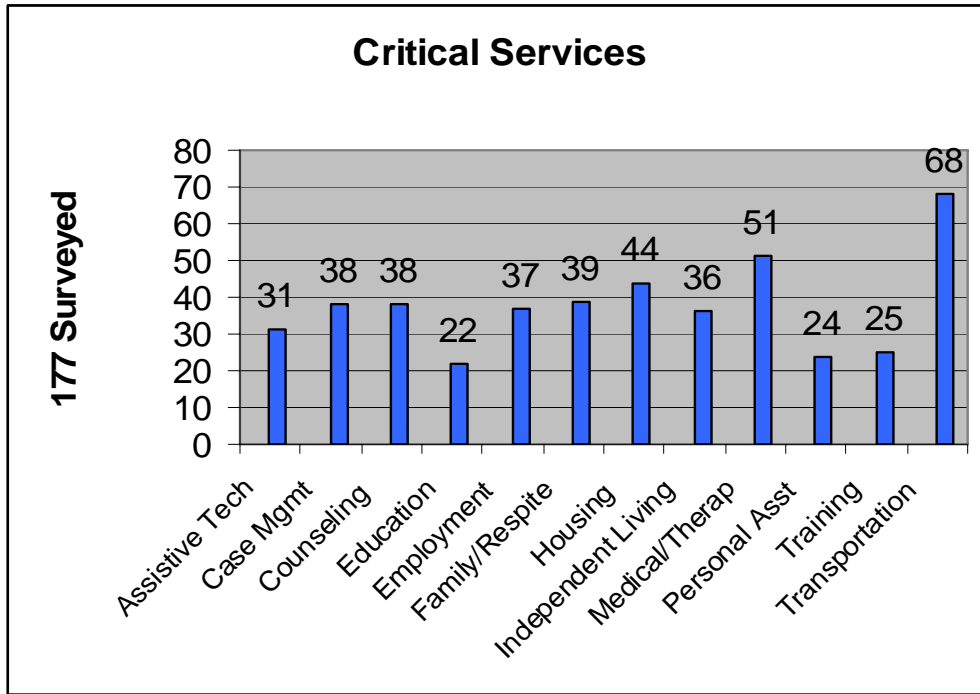
## DISABILITY STATUS

The Disability Services Board represents those with physical, mental and sensory disabilities. Although as often noted on the survey, there are those with physical/sensory disabilities that also have mental illness, mental health or developmental delays. Often noted on the surveys was the need of counseling for depression.

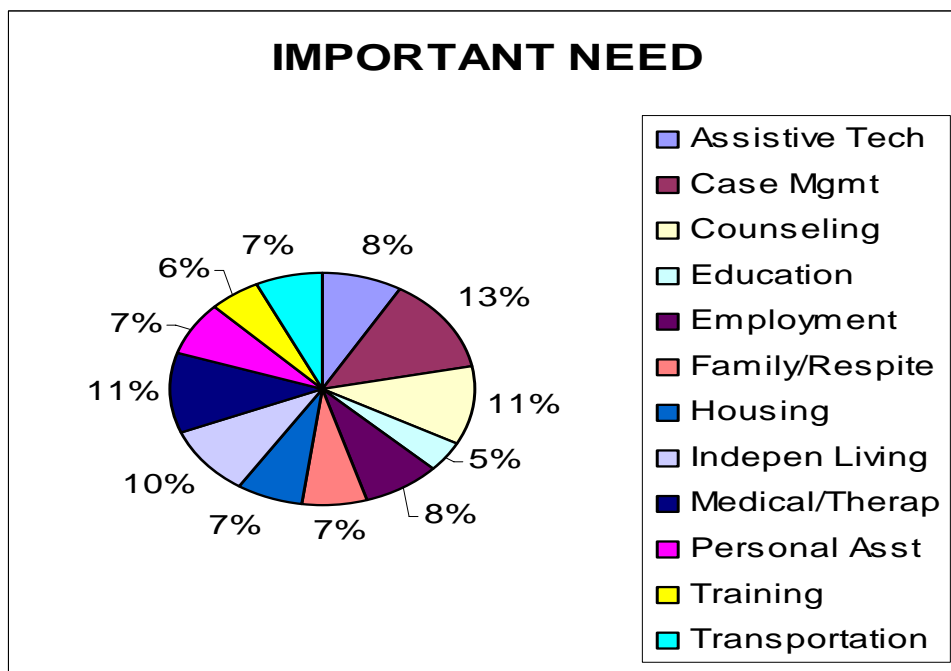
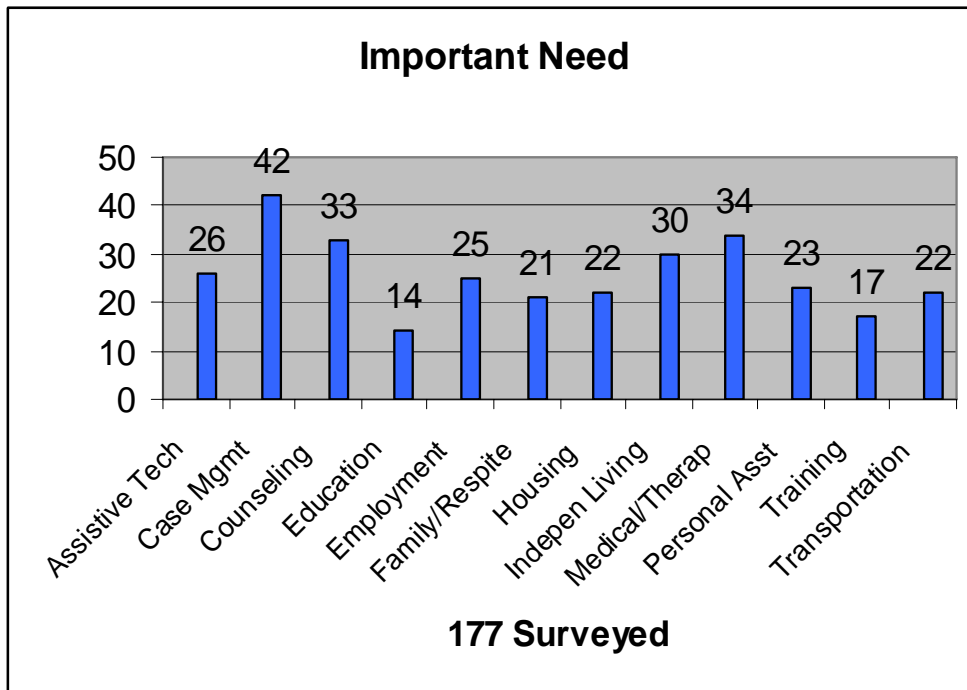


## DATA ANALYSIS

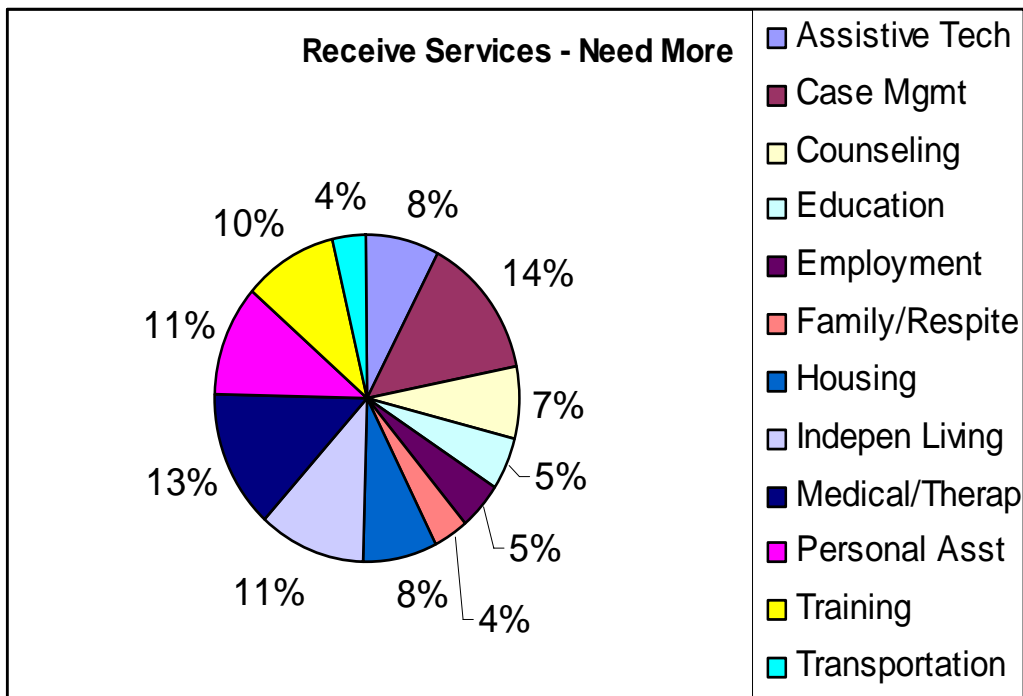
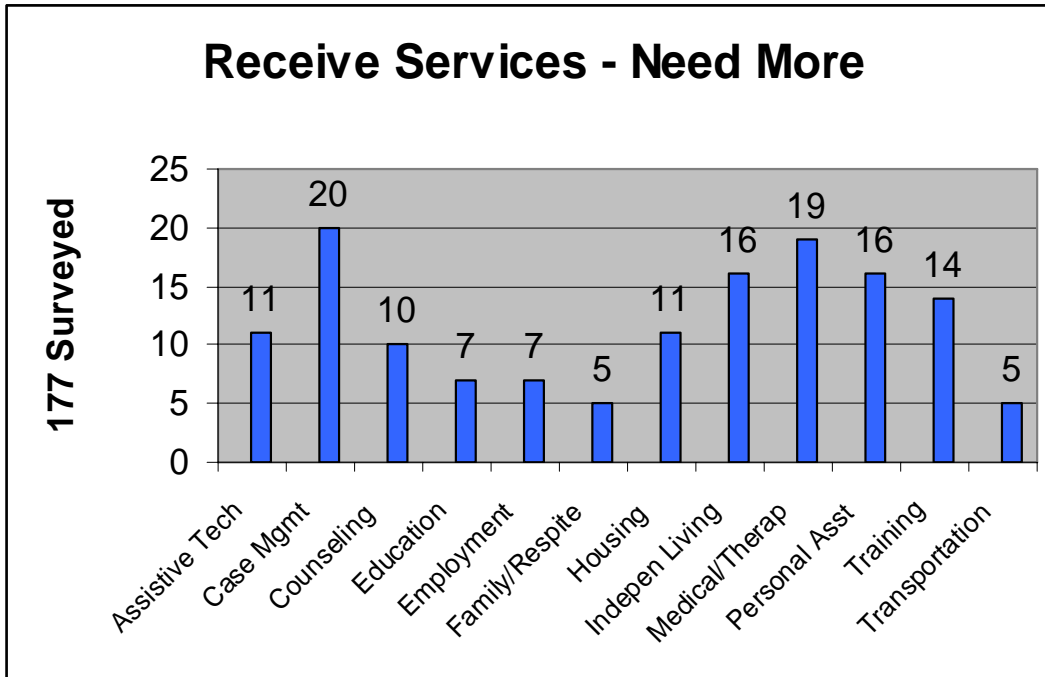
Surveys collected responses in 12 areas defined by Department of Rehabilitative Services. In our surveys we asked participants to identify these by five responses. I feel these services are critical, I feel these services are important, I am receiving these services now, I received adequate services already and these services do not apply to me. This data is presented in 2 chart forms. The first chart displays the actual number of responses out of the 266 participants with physical and sensory disabilities. The second chart shows percentages.



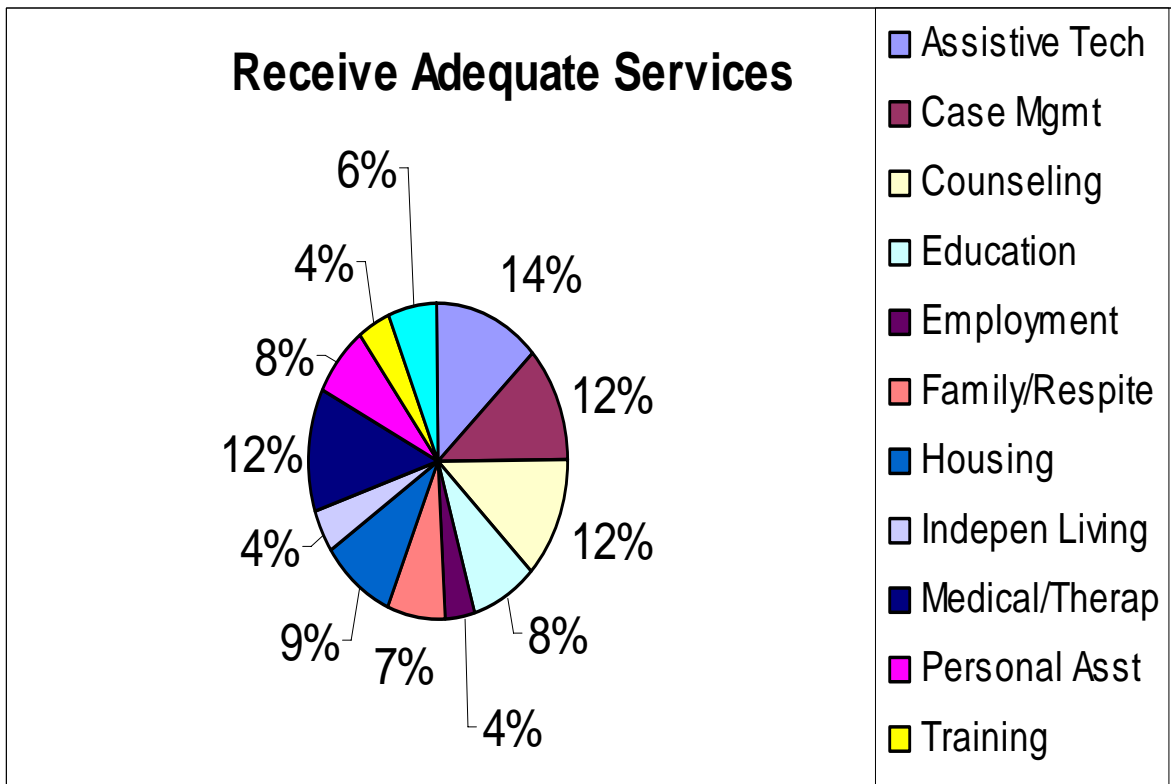
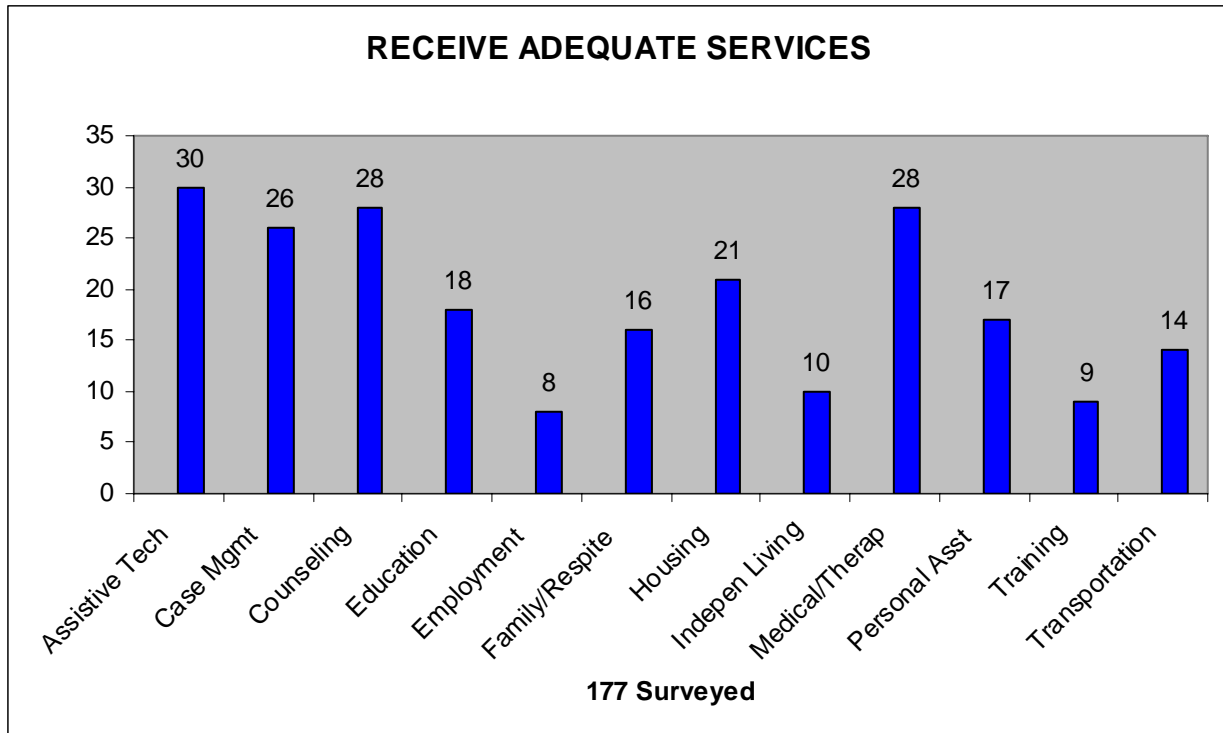
The next two charts refer to data collection for those that responded. "These services are important".



The next two charts refer to data collection for those that responded. "Receive these services already but need more".



The next two charts refer to data collection for those that responded. "Receive adequate services already."



The next two charts refer to data collection for those that responded. “These services do not apply”.

