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Institute for Community Inclusion

University of Massachusetts Boston

NCRE Fall Conference 2014

# Presentation Outline

- What is ExploreVR?
- Features of ExploreVR
- ExploreVR as a Knowledge Translation Tool
- Open, Accessible Data
- Call to Action

# What is ExploreVR?

- [www.explorevr.org](http://www.explorevr.org) is a public web application that provides accessible Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and related data
- Our goal is to offer a compendium for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers and create a base of knowledge that provides a foundation for future research and evaluation efforts.
- ExploreVR is being used as a knowledge translation (KT) tool and currently houses findings from multiple research centers



# Explore VR

Data. Analysis. Knowledge.

## VR Spotlight

### Exploring Transition Age Youth



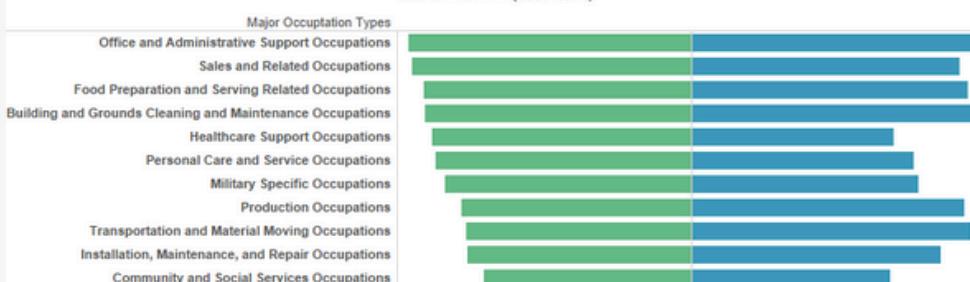
**Expert's Corner: Bob Burns gives you seven key factors to providing VR services to transition age youth**

## The Data Lab

**Check out what raw data and analysis we have available for you.**

Successful Employment Outcomes by Gender - 2012

Source: RSA 911 (2008-2012)



New Publications

Trainings

News

Trending

### Review VR Brief Series on Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Patterns: Occupation Types and Trends (2008–2012)

Review VR issue No. 4, 2014

### Funding Health-Related Vocational Rehabilitation Services: the Potential Impact of the Affordable Care Act

Review VR issue No. 3, 2013

This issue of ReviewVR explores the policy level impact of the Affordable Care Act on funding health-related vocational rehabilitation services.

### Demand Side Strategies: Prevalence of Business Employment Representatives in Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

Review VR Issue 1, 2012

#### Current VR Projects



© ExploreVR.org 2014— ExploreVR is part of the Vocational Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (VR-RRTC). The VR-RRTC is a national center that builds the capacity of the public vocational rehabilitation (VR) program to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. The VR-RRTC is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the US Department of Education. Visit the VR-RRTC website ([www.vr-rrtc.org](http://www.vr-rrtc.org)) for more information about the center's policy research, training, and technical assistance efforts.

# The Open Data Initiative

ExploreVR is committed to the "open data" initiative that is being embraced by the U.S. government and around the nation.

- allow decision-makers, researchers and web builders access to all of the VR data that we collect.
- release the data in its most raw form, as well as build useful applications to view the data.
- encourage others will build and expand off of the work that we put forth.

For more information: [www.whitehouse.gov/open](http://www.whitehouse.gov/open)

# The ExploreVR Data Lab

## ExploreVR

### The Lab

This will be special section which will be geared towards the researchers who are working in the field of disability or VR. This section will house mainly two types of content:

- Data Repository: Download link and description of multiple datasets related to disability or VR
- Data Analysis: Code used for data analysis and visualization will be provided under this section

## RSA-911 Data

The RSA-911 is an administrative dataset that captures a variety of demographic and other data for each individual whose case is closed during the fiscal year. It includes data such as: type of disability, services provided through the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Supported Employment (SE) Programs, providers and costs of services, and employment outcomes.

[Downloadable RSA 911 Data Sets](#)

## Data Analyses

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) has generated a number of data analyses to increase knowledge about the public VR program and its role within the larger employment and disability service system within and across states and territories.

[Serving Transition-Age Youth: How much money are states spending?](#)

[Percentage of dollar value spent on purchasing services for transition age youth clients \(2012\)](#)

[Cost or purchased services for transitioning and other clients \(2012\)](#)

[Average time spent in VR \(2008-2011\)](#)

# Features of ExploreVR Data Lab

## **Interactive Data Analyses**

- These analyses serve as a starting point to introduce the user to the capacity of Explore VR. These analyses can be manipulated by the user to meet data needs.

## **Explore It Yourself**

- All data used in Explore VR is publicly available for download in .xls and .csv format. Datasets will be accompanied by a data guide to improve ease of use.

## **Monthly Featured Reports**

- Each month, Explore VR will release a featured report using its data.

## **Data Requests**

- All users may submit data analysis requests through Explore VR. Research staff at ICI will use Explore VR to answer your questions.

# Customized Data Analysis Request

Level of Aggregation:

National  
State  
Agency

Data Sources:

RSA 911  
RSA 2  
RSA 113  
VR-RRTC Survey  
2011  
ICI Surveys

Population Characteristics:

Gender  
Race/Ethnicity  
Age  
Education  
Type of Disability  
Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Interpreting Data| Informing Research, Policy, & Practice

- ExploreVR is a knowledge translation tool to incorporate data into VR research and education, as well as policy and practice decisions.



# RESEARCH

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# Research Projects on ExploreVR

- Vocational Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (VR-RRTC)
- Vocational Rehabilitation RRTC on Demand Side Strategies
- Substantial Gainful Activity Project (SGA)
- Rehabilitation Training Center on VR Program Management (RTAC)
- Job Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center (JDVRTAC)

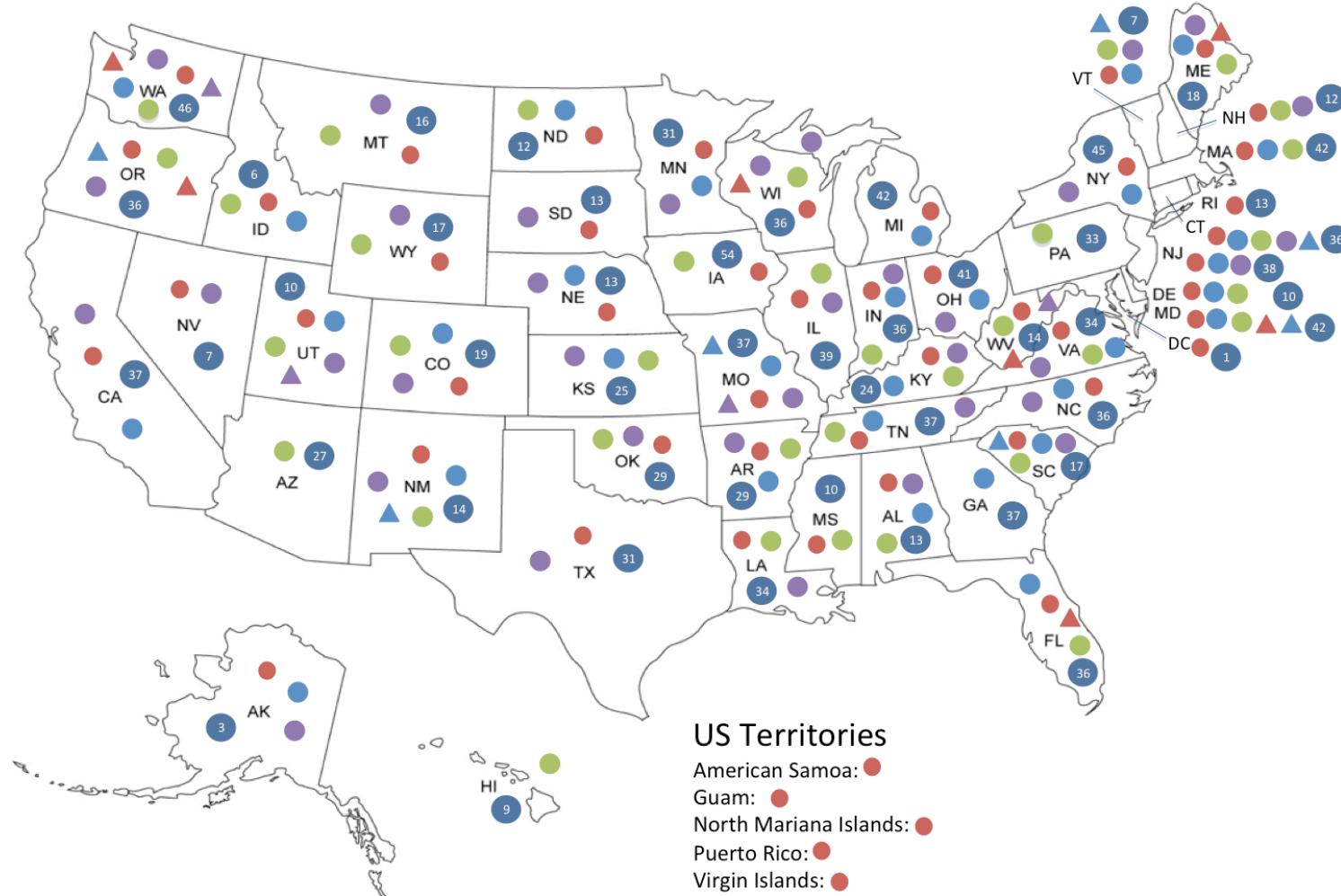


# Knowledge Translation

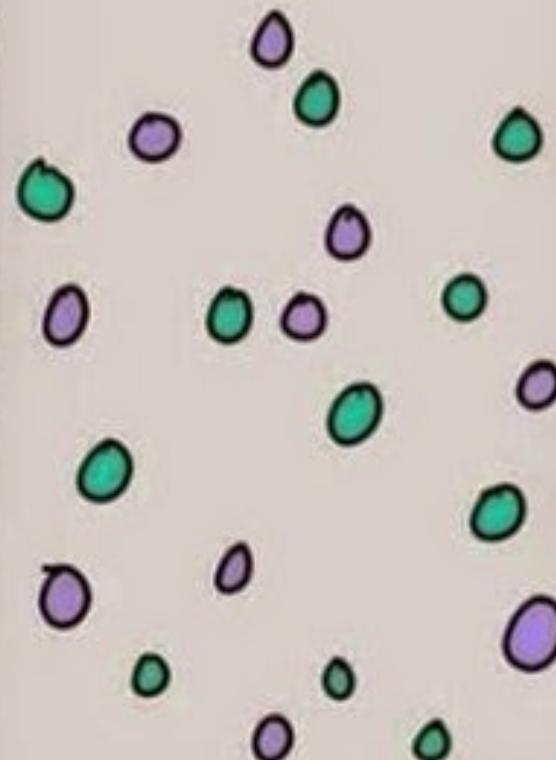
- Infrastructure supports collaboration, technical assistance and knowledge transfer
  - Research unit, Sr. Policy unit, KT unit
- ExploreVR is one tool to facilitate access to research and data

# The Scope of our Research Projects

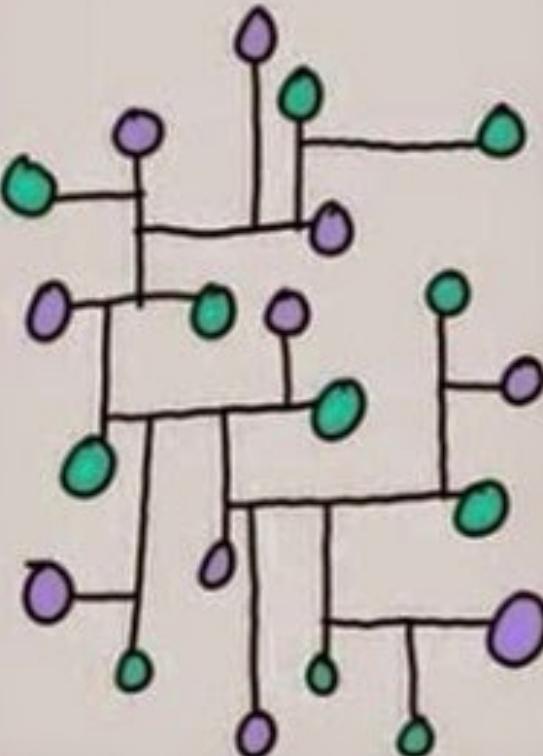
● VR Survey ● MH Survey ● Welfare Survey ● IDD Survey ● CRP Survey ● MSD Case Study ▲ MH Case Study ▲ DD Case Study



information:



knowledge :



@gapingsvoid

# Content Organization: Topical Areas of ExploreVR

- Procedures
- Populations
- Outcomes
- Organization Structure
- Funding

## Procedures

- Affordable Care Act
- Order of Selection
- Technology
- Program Management
- Americans with Disabilities Act

## Populations

- Developmental Disabilities
- Mental Health
- Transition

## Outcomes

## Organization Structure

## Funding

# Research Dissemination

## REVIEW VR BRIEFS

### Rehabilitation Employment Patterns: Occupation Types and Trends (2008–2012)

Review VR issue No. 4, 2014

#### Introduction

The Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston is conducting a series of analyses linking occupational closure data from the Rehabilitation Services Administration's Case Service Report (RSA-911) to labor market trends and needs, as reflected in labor market information (LMI). This effort is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research as part of the VR-RRTC on Demand-Side Strategies in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

Our research agenda on LMI and occupation trends consists of three phases. In Phase I, we present descriptive reports on the types of occupations at closure, at both national and state levels. During Phase II, we will compare VR's occupational closure patterns to state-level labor market needs. In Phase III, we will answer the question: What factors influence VR closure by occupation? The Review VR Brief Series on VR Employment Patterns presents selected findings from Phase I, exploring the occupation types in which VR clients are most typically employed. This is the first brief in our series, and it describes employment closures according to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

measures (SOC) national-level prevalence  
at the national level, including data on bus drivers, who are the largest group of workers in the U.S. Beyond this, there is limited information available about the types of occupations in which VR clients are most typically employed. This brief provides an overview of the types of occupations in which VR clients are most typically employed. It also includes a summary of the types of occupations in which VR clients are most typically employed.

## WEBINARS

### Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Patterns: Occupation Types and Trends (2008–2012)



**Host:** DeBrittany Mitchell  
**Presenters:** Libin Zhang, May-Lorie Saint Laurent

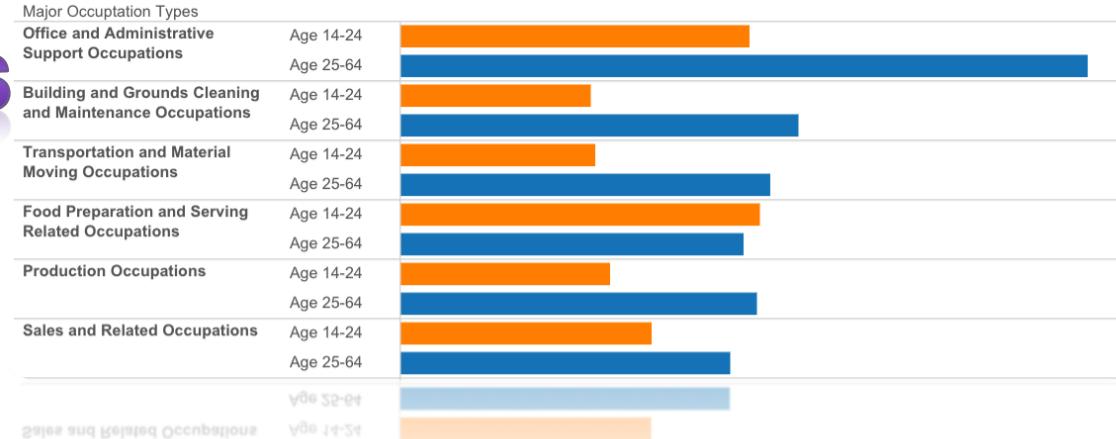
Sep 12, 2014

Explore VR



Successful Employment Outcomes by Age  
2008

Source: RSA 911 (2008-2012)



## DATA ANALYSES

# POLICY & PRACTICE

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ExploreVR is seeking to find the best mechanism to feed data back into policy and practice decisions that enable the federal-state VR system and ultimately public employment systems to effectively and efficiently deliver employment services.

# Platform for Collaboration

## Public VR: The Go-To Organization for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities

Robert Burns  
Senior Policy Fellow



Providing effective services to transition-age youth with disabilities has been, and will continue to be, a mainstay of the national public vocational rehabilitation program. In my experience, there is no better organization positioned to serve this population. By "positioned" I mean having the staff expertise, the community partnerships, the linkages with the business community, and the correct service delivery philosophy (individualized services based on the consumer's strengths, interests, abilities, capabilities and informed choice.)

The Rehabilitation Act (Section 7(37)) and federal regulation §361.5(b)(55) which define "transition services" speaks to these services as "a coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation." [§361.5\(b\)\(55\)](#)

## EXPERT'S CORNER

## COMMENTS

 Comments

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**DISQUS**

[Current VR Projects](#)

# Coming Soon to ExploreVR

- Business Relations Survey Results
- Index of Business Relations Strategies
- Interactive Toolkits
- More interactions with social media
- More upcoming training & technical assistance opportunities
- More data



# The Road Ahead

- Accessibility
- Responsiveness on all devices
- Collaboration researchers, VR agency personnel, and the VR community as a whole





# Who are you?

**DO**





# ExploreVR is a work in Process

It will never be finished.

Open Accessible Data

# Data



You want data?  
We got data

<http://www.ExploreVR.org/lab/>

google fusion tables  
Socrata(open) and Tableau(public)

# Coming Soon:

Inclusion in the [data.gov](#) project

Open Accessible Data

# Open

Follows a model developed by OFA and NPR ( <http://blog.apps.npr.org/2013/02/14/app-template-redux.html>)

Requires not database, no server, and no CMS ( <http://www.developmentseed.org/blog/2012/07/27/build-cms-free-websites/>)

Built using git/github technology ( <https://github.com/communityinclusion/explorevr.org>)

Open Accessible Data

# Our Model for Accessibility

Accessible, Responsive Container

Visuals that work on all devices

Summarize Data

Provide sortable, tabular data\*

# Visuals

Based on our experiences, Adobe Flash is hot garbage.

We us services that output in SVG (currently  
OpenSocrata, Tableau Public, and R  
use sortable tables (incoming))

# Next Steps

Continue the migration and rollout of 4 grants  
worth of resources

Better organization of content

More accessible visuals

# Open Data Lab

Aggressively Sharing Data



TAKE OUR MONEY DATA



# Sharing is Caring

ExploreVR Loves You

# Explore VR

Data. Analysis. Knowledge.



You Get to Drink from  
The Data Firehose!

# Data Lab v2.0 Goals

Provide raw data for download

Allow you to explore and chart live data

Explore more accessible ways to visualize data

Allow you to alert us about your datasets/  
visualizations

Ask us for customized data

# The Call to Action

Grab our raw data and see if it informs your work/  
research

Explore the live data from your perspective

If you make anything cool, let us know

If you want any specific data, or need our help, let  
us know



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