



FACT SHEET

How Do Vocational Rehabilitation Outcomes Vary Among Different Types of Living Arrangements?

Vocational rehabilitation (VR) for people with disabilities provides them with access to employment, playing a vital role in maintaining an individual's independence and participation in the community.

Study Purpose

Current evidence on how effective VR services are for people in various types of living arrangements does not exist. This study examined the relationship between employment outcomes for people with disabilities and their type of living arrangement.

With this new data, we may find ways to improve the outcomes of VR for people living in all types of arrangements.

Where We Looked: The Data

The data were extracted from the virtual case management dataset of a Midwestern state (Illinois) VR agency that included 50,729 clients referred to the agency between January 2004 and June 2010. Of these clients, 46,456 had information appropriate for the analysis. We considered these categories of living arrangement for people with disabilities in VR:

1. Private residence
2. Community group home
3. Facility/institution: Including rehabilitation facility, mental health facility, substance abuse treatment facility and nursing home
4. Other: Including adult correctional facility, halfway house, homeless shelter and other

What We Learned

The findings indicated that types of living arrangements are associated with rehabilitation status, hourly wage and hours worked per week. (See Figures 1-3 on reverse for more information.)

- As compared to clients living in a private residence, clients living in **community group homes** tend to have a lower chance of getting an hourly wage at an average rate or higher. They also have a lower chance of working during the week for a number of hours considered average or higher among all clients. The clients in community group homes, however, are not significantly different from those in private residences in terms of rehabilitation status.

- Clients who reside in a **facility/institution** are less likely to get vocationally rehabilitated (to be successfully employed) compared to clients in a private residence. In addition, the former group is less likely to work each week for an average number of hours or higher.

- Clients who come from **correctional/homeless shelters and any other type of living arrangement** have a higher likelihood of vocational rehabilitation and are more likely to have worked at average hours or higher per week when they are contrasted to those from a private residence. Yet these clients are less likely to receive an hourly wage that falls within the average rate or higher as compared to the clients in the private residence group.

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Notes on the graphs:

- The vertical dashed line helps indicate which situation is desirable (right side) and which one is not (left side). If the interval line of one group's estimate crosses over this dashed line, the result is considered not conclusive or not significant. That is, we cannot conclusively say that this group is better off or worse off.
- The odds value represents the chance of having a desirable outcome (rehabilitation, higher hourly wage and more working hours per week). The odds ratio compares the chance of having the outcome against not having it. Adjusted odds ratio is an odds ratio calculated after taking into account other factors, such as age, gender, race and so on.
- An adjusted odds ratio of more than one indicates a tendency toward a better situation. In contrast, an adjusted odds ratio of less than one indicates a tendency for worse situation.
- The "whiskers" on either side of the dot show the spread of odds ratio values in the majority of clients. If the whiskers do not cross the dashed vertical line of value one, then the odds ratio value is considered significant.

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Figure 1

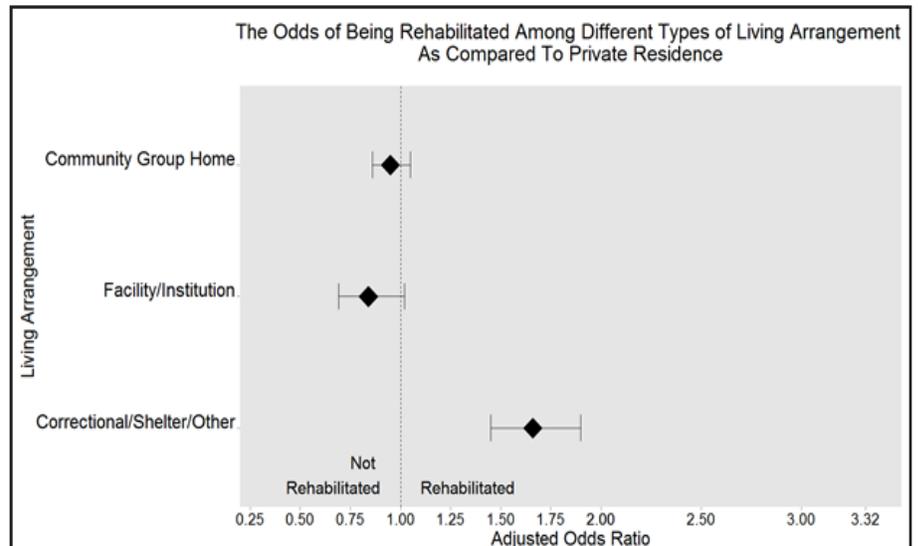


Figure 2

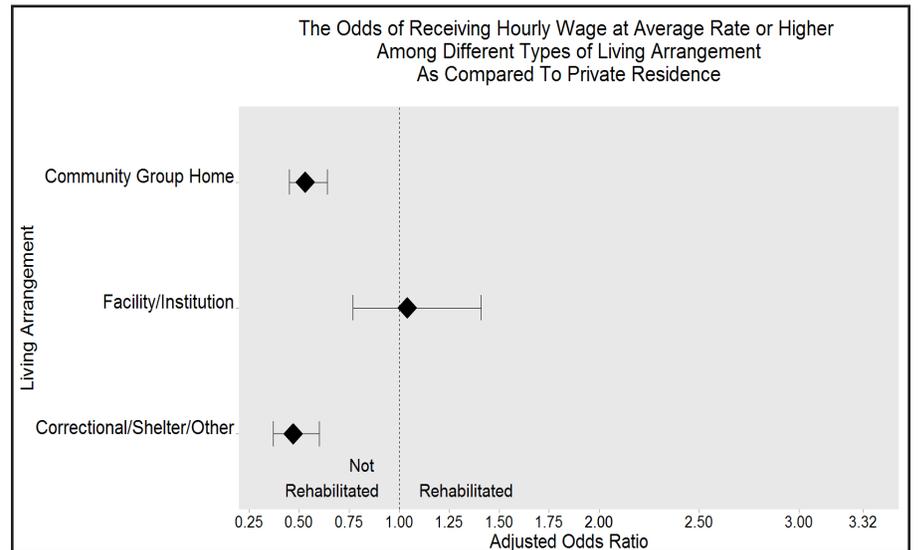


Figure 3

