STATE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE:

WHAT DRIVES PARTICIPATION?

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American Public Health Association Conference
Philadelphia, PA
November 12, 2002
Methodology

- Use SSA administrative data
- Replicate state eligibility criteria
- Calculate participation rate:
  - The percentage of eligible people who enroll
Iowa (SSA) State Project Intervention

- Benefits planning
- Variety of systems change activities
- Statewide Medicaid Buy-In
- Broad target population
  - SSI/DI beneficiaries
  - Age 18-64
  - Mason City, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids
- Extensive outreach
Iowa’s Participation Rates Are Comparable to Those of Previous SSA Demonstrations

- Iowa (SSA)*: 3.3%
- New York*: 3.1%
- Three Other State Projects*: 1.5%
- Project NetWork: 4.5%
- Transitional Employment Training Demonstration: 5.0%

*Preliminary Data for SPI Projects

Earlier SSA Demonstrations
People Who Live in Counties With Better Labor Markets Are More Likely to Participate

- 1 percentage point lower unemployment rate in the county is associated with 1 percentage point higher participation rate
Individual Characteristics: Recent Employment Promotes Participation

3.8% Overall Participation Rate (Among SSI Recipients and Concurrent Beneficiaries)

7.3% Employed

2.7% Not Employed

Source: SSA administrative data.
People with Concurrent Status Are More Likely to Participate

- Concurrent Status: 5.7%
- SSDI Only: 2.8%
- SSI Only: 2.5%

Overall Participation Rate: 3.3%

Source: SSA administrative data.
Participation Is Higher Among People with Mental Illness

- Mental Illness: 5.2%
- Nervous System/Sense Organs: 3.9%
- Developmental: 3.2%
- Musculoskeletal: 2.2%
- Cancer: 0.3%

3.3% Overall Participation Rate

Source: SSA administrative data.
Younger Beneficiaries Are More Likely to Participate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 39</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 54</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3% Overall Participation Rate

Source: SSA administrative data.
People With Post-Secondary Education Are More Likely to Participate

Source: SSA administrative data.
Caveats

1. Preliminary work

2. Cannot measure
   - Severity of illness
   - Personal attitudes and outlook
   - Household income and resources
Summary: What Drives Participation?

- **Labor Market**: Live in county with low unemployment

- **Individual Characteristics**:  
  - Are recently employed  
  - Are concurrent beneficiaries  
  - Report diagnosis of mental illness  
  - Are younger  
  - Completed some post-secondary education
Implications

- Participation is low...
- But there are many barriers to work
- How can we:
  - Make work pay
  - Help people understand program rules
  - Provide needed services
  - Change perceptions about abilities
- This important work will take time.