

# Missouri MFP



**MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON**

*My Life. My Way. My Community.*

## Information Brief No. 1: Employment

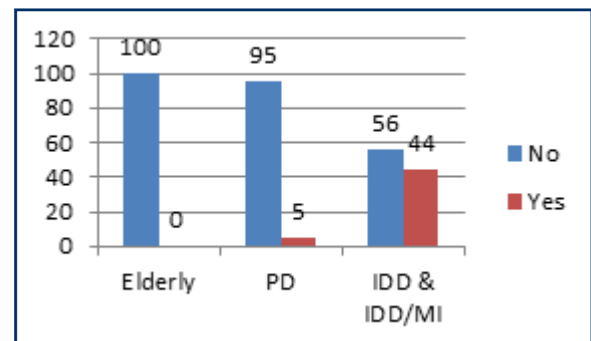
*This is the first in a series of Missouri MFP Information Briefs designed to share information and data pertaining to the participants and outcomes of the project. These Briefs will focus on a broad range of topics and issues designed to engage interested stakeholders in efforts to promote ongoing improvements in the program.*

### Work Related Issues Reported on the MFP Quality of Life Survey (Data through December 2011)

The federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration project has provided funding to states in an effort to help Medicaid recipients who are elderly or have disabilities leave long-term care institutions and return to their communities. In this brief, we examine some vocational and work issues that were addressed on the Quality of Life Survey (QLS) that was administered to MFP participants 12 and 24 months after returning to the community.

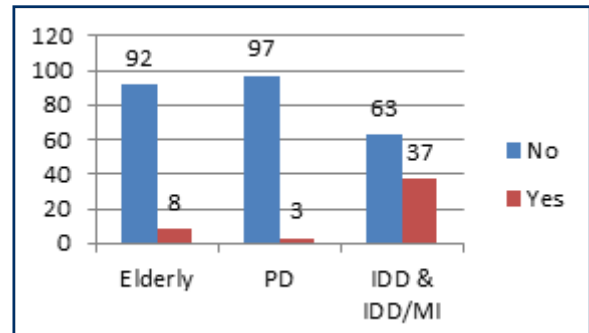
Employment continues to be an important aspect of our lives. It is often one of the first questions we ask when we meet strangers, as most adults are defined by the contributions they provide society through their jobs. In addition, work provides a path to self-sufficiency and social interactions. Recognizing the importance that work plays in a person's quality of life, the MFP survey asks participants about their work status and their desire to work if unemployed. Overall, after living in the community for 12 months, nearly 26% of MFP participants reported that they were working for pay. This ranged from 0% in the Elderly to 44% in the Intellectual/Developmental Disability & Mental Illness group. Results for each program target group can be seen in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Working for Pay: 12 Mo.**



Program participants were again asked the same question after being in their community for 24 months. Overall, 27% of respondents indicated that they were working for pay. Results for each program target group can be seen in Figure 2.

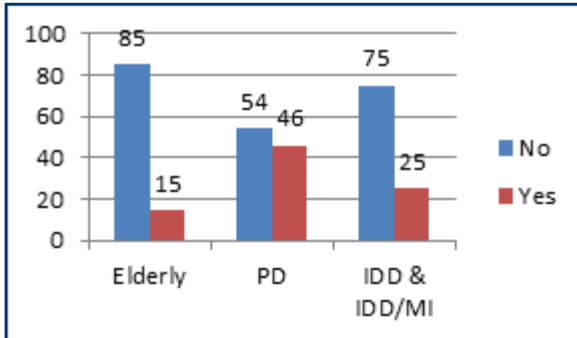
**Figure 2. Working for Pay: 24 Mo.**



These results are fairly consistent over the 24 month period covered by this data.

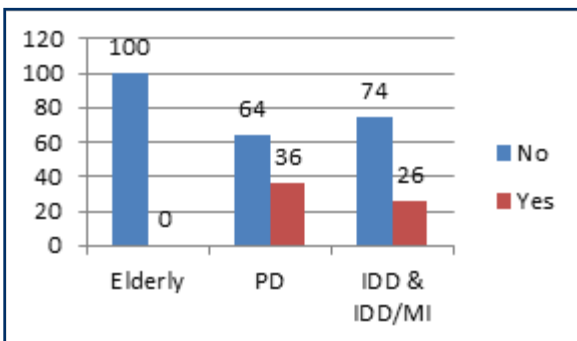
MFP participants who were not working for pay were asked if they would like to obtain a paying job. After living in the community for 12 months, 33% of participants reported that they would like to work for pay. This ranged from 15% in the Elderly to 36% in the Physical Disability group. Results for each program target group can be seen in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Would Like to Work for Pay: 12 Mo.**



Program participants were again asked the same question after being in their community for 24 months. Overall, 27% of respondents indicated that they would like to work for pay. Results for each program target group can be seen in Figure 4.

**Figure 4. Would Like to Work for Pay: 24 Mo.**



## Conclusion

Information obtained on the QLS found that on average 26-27% of Missouri MFP participants were working for pay. This rate is slightly higher than the national employment rate reported by the US Dept. of Labor in Jan. 2012. Nationally, it was reported that only 20% of people with disabilities were working a paid job as compared to 69% of the general population.

This reported higher than national average for paid employment should be interpreted with caution. The majority of those working for pay in the Missouri MFP program were in the IDD group and likely working in a facility-based setting. According to the 2011 National Report on Employment Services & Outcomes, only 7% of persons with IDD in Missouri were employed in an integrated employment setting. In the PD group, few were employed although 36% to 46% indicated a desire for paying employment.

Community employment should be one of the first options given to persons with disabilities, e.g. the Employment First Model. Given the employment numbers reported on the MFP QLS, we need to ask:

- What community employment opportunities are being explored at the time of transition and ongoing?
- For those working, are they in integrated community or facility-based employment for what wages and how many hours?
- Why are individuals who desire to work not working?
- For individuals who are working, what has been the key to their success?
- Are individuals being referred to needed employment services and supports?



For more information about Missouri MFP, call 573-751-8021.

This document was submitted under grant CFDA 93.791 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the University of Missouri Kansas City, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.