

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

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DEFINITIONS

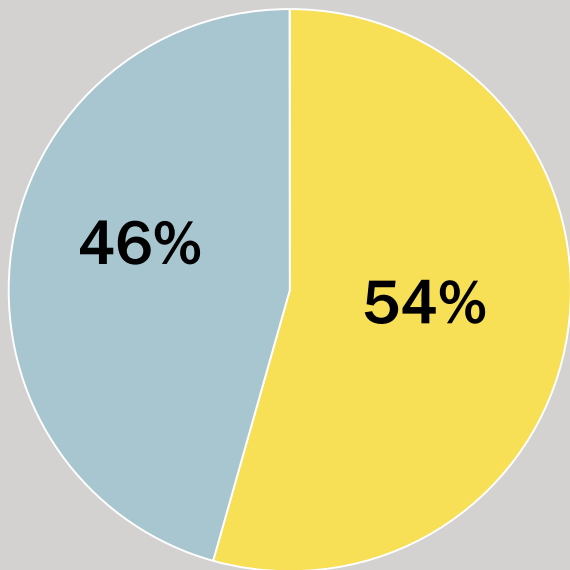
- **Youth with Disability**
 - Includes ages 14 to 24

- **Student with Disability**
 - On an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan
 - In secondary or postsecondary school
 - Includes ages 16 to 21

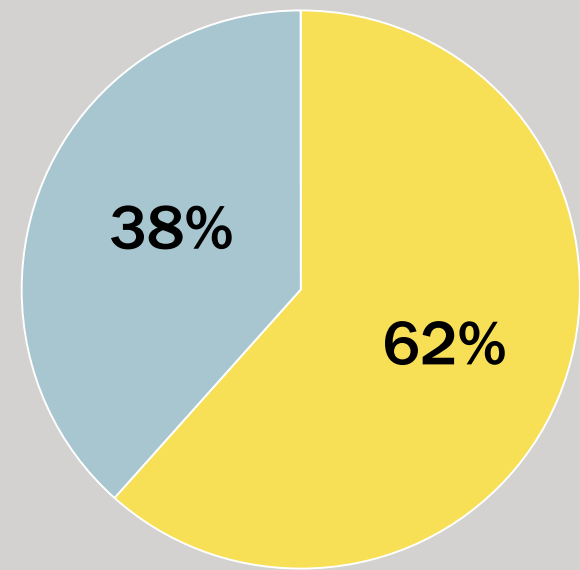
- **Adult with Disability**
 - Over the age of 24

DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER

Adults with Disabilities



Youth with Disabilities



■ Male
■ Female

DEMOGRAPHICS: LOCATION

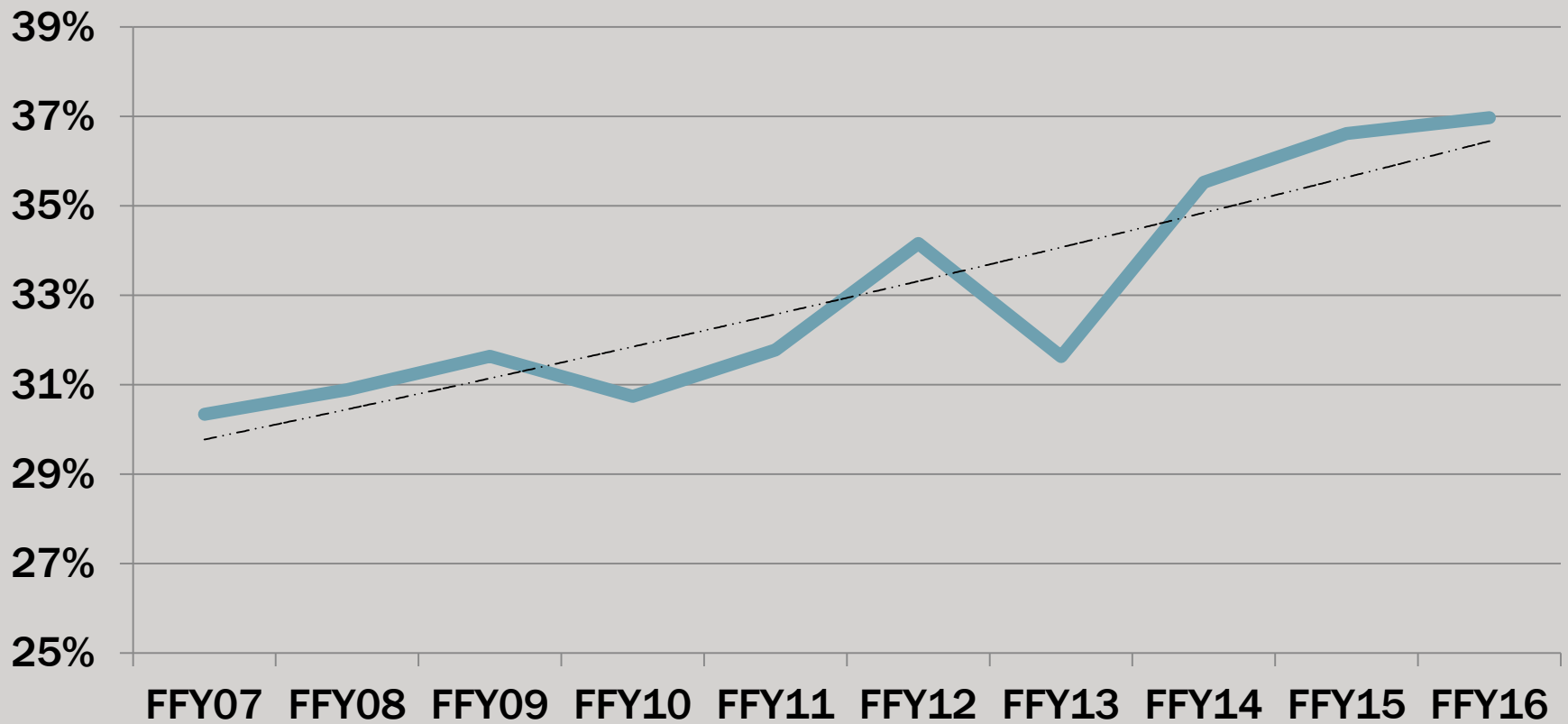
Location	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
Aberdeen District	18%	26%
Brookings District	16%	15%
Rapid City District	26%	20%
Sioux Falls District	29%	24%
Yankton District	11%	15%

DEMOGRAPHICS: PRIMARY IMPAIRMENT

- Youth with Disabilities had significantly more cognitive impairments – 64% versus 25% for adults
 - The most common causes were IQ ≤ 70 and Specific Learning Disabilities (together these accounted for 50% of all cognitive impairments)
- Adults with Disabilities had significantly more physical impairments – 31% versus 7% for youth
- Even larger differences for students with disabilities

APPLICANTS

Youth with Disabilities



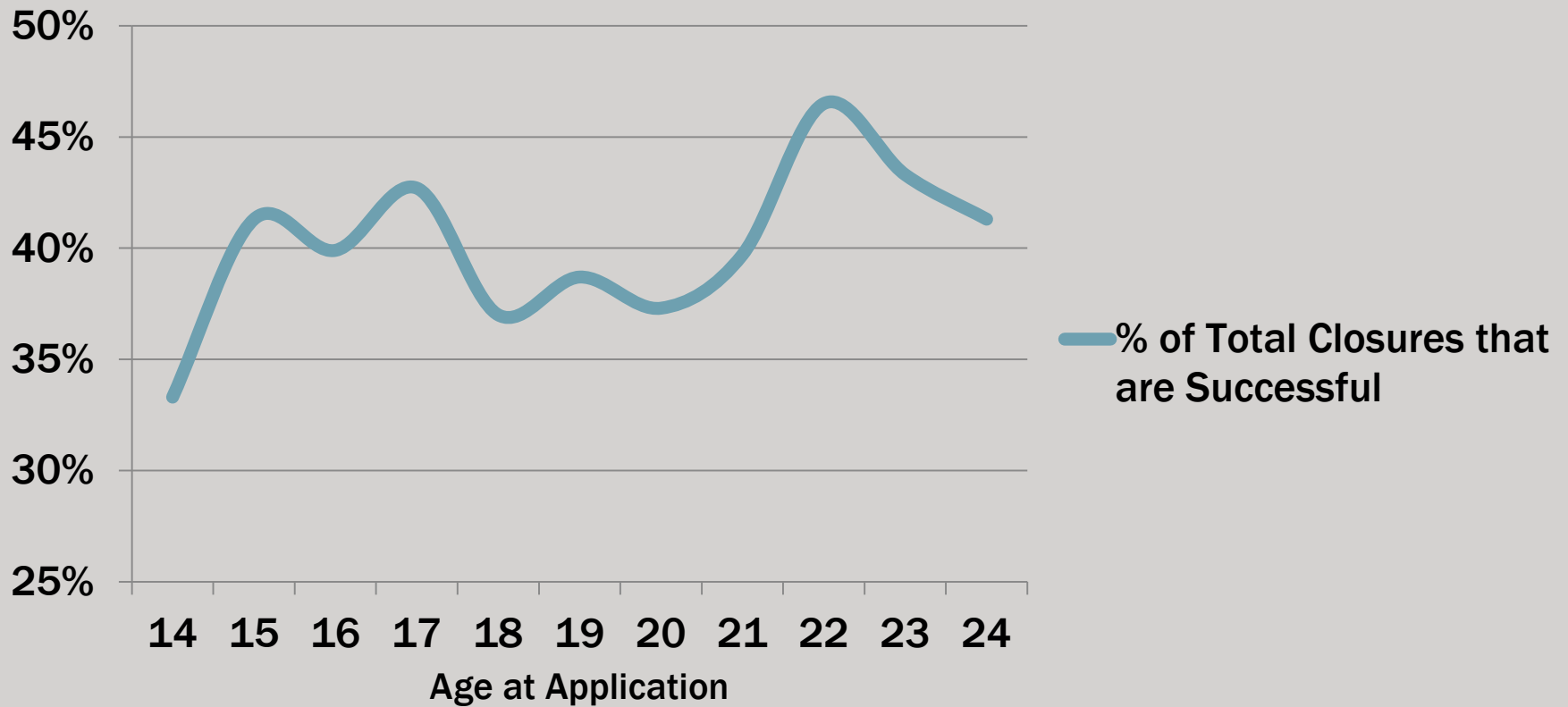
CLOSURES: BY TYPE & REASON

Closure Type	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
Ineligible (08)	15%	10%
Successful (26)	33%	36%
Unsuccessful – IPE with Paid Services (28)	19%	23%
Unsuccessful – Eligible without Paid Services (30)	34%	30%

Closure Reason	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
No longer interested in receiving services	52%	45%
Unable to locate or contact	32%	42%

CLOSURES: BY AGE AT APPLICATION

Youth with Disabilities



CLOSURES: CASE LENGTH

Type of Closure	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
All Closures	0.8 years	1.7 years
Closures with Eligibility	0.9 years	1.9 years
Closures with an IPE	1.1 years	2.3 years
Successful Closures	1.1 years	2.5 years

SERVICES PROVIDED

Service Provided	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
Job Placement Package	63%	51%
Follow Along Services	48%	43%
Project Skills or Employment Skills	2%	40%
Job Coaching	33%	33%
Evaluation (all types)	29%	23%
Benefits Specialist Services	29%	22%
Clothing	23%	11%
Assistive Technology Services	8%	20%
Assistive Technology Device	8%	17%
Tuition & Fees	5%	20%
Room and Board	3%	11%

EMPLOYMENT: BY CATEGORY

Employment Category	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing, and Related	1.4%	1.9%
Clerical and Administrative Support	9.0%	3.5%
Managerial and Administrative	1.0%	1.0%
Prod., Const., Operating, Main., & Material Handling	14.7%	20.4%
Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical	6.8%	6.9%
RSA Special Occupations and Miscellaneous	0.1%	0.0%
Sales and Related Occupations	13.7%	14.1%
Service Occupations	53.2%	52.2%

CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

	Survey Question	Adults with Disabilities	Youth with Disabilities
1	I am working in the field that I chose as my employment goal.	2.05	2.43
2	I am satisfied with the earnings I receive.	2.42	2.39
3	I am satisfied with the employment I obtained as a result of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.	1.87	2.32
4	I am satisfied with the level of benefits I receive through my job.	2.66	2.86
5	I like the people and environment where I am working.	1.78	1.71
6	I feel the services provided by VR were necessary to obtain my employment.	1.90	1.75

Rating scale: 1=Strong Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Neutral, 4=Disagree, 5=Strongly Disagree

COUNSELOR FEEDBACK

- We surveyed VR counselors in the state on their experiences working with youth with disabilities
- 34 counselors participated in the survey
- Three questions
 - What particular barriers or challenges do you observe when working with youth with disabilities seeking employment?
 - What assets do youth with disabilities have that other age groups may not?
 - Do you have any other comments regarding youth with disabilities that you've noticed during your work with them?
- The following slides present the most common responses for each question

COUNSELOR FEEDBACK

What particular barriers or challenges do you observe when working with youth with disabilities seeking employment?

- **Most common responses from VR counselors:**
 - **Lack of soft skills and employment experience**
 - **Lack of motivation – to work; with IEP meetings**
 - **Schools**
 - **Not providing guidance to students on realistic careers**
 - **Not providing training on job searching/writing résumés**
 - **Not coordinating with counselors for IEP meetings**
 - **Not willing to be creative or don't have resources (teacher time/funding)**
 - **Difficulty with working with parents/guardians (not supportive or don't think youth have the ability to do the work)**
 - **Transportation and schedule issues (busy with school & activities)**
 - **Places to work in small towns (especially for Project Skills)**
 - **Employers (discrimination, wariness due to lack of experience with working with youth with disabilities)**

COUNSELOR FEEDBACK

What assets do youth with disabilities have that other age groups may not?

- **Most common responses from VR counselors:**
 - **Willingness to learn new skills**
 - **More open to assistive technology and are generally very familiar with technology (computers)**
 - **Outside support: teachers, case managers, transition services**
 - **Once they find a job they like, they are dedicated/loyal**
 - **Positive outlook on employment future (they have their whole working lives ahead of them, more open to trying new things)**
 - **Ability to adapt, cope, and overcome barriers (have had their disabilities early on and are accustomed to dealing with related challenges)**
 - **Willingness to accept help**

COUNSELOR FEEDBACK

Do you have any other comments regarding youth with disabilities that you've noticed during your work with them?

- **Most common responses from VR counselors:**
 - Parents shouldn't be afraid to push youth to try new things rather than be overprotective
 - Importance of advocating for students and getting them involved in IEPs (parents talk over them or meetings/planning don't involve the youth)
 - Support systems are critical for success (family, school, community)
 - People often underestimate them but they are very capable
 - Often need extra guidance and counseling to keep them motivated or on task
 - Could benefit from more employment training (soft skills, workplace expectations) and more independent living training
 - Favorite group to work with

ANY QUESTIONS?