

# North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

VR Service Program Overview  
Governor's Working Group  
September 24, 2015



# NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

- \* A Division of the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
- \* Primary oversight from the Rehabilitation Services Administration under the US Department of Education, with funding ratio of 80% Federal & 20% State funding.
- \* Statewide coverage with 34 offices, including two regional training facilities; many have satellite offices and coverage in Joblink Career Centers.

# Eligibility Criteria

- \* Physical or mental impairment documented by an appropriate specialist, such as M.D., Psychologist, etc. Veterans can bring their VA diagnostic info to expedite eligibility process.
- \* Impairment must result in a substantial impediment to employment.
- \* Reasonably expected that the individual would be able to obtain and maintain employment as a result of VR services.

# Overview to VR Process

- \* Veteran referrals from the VA/VR program are channeled through myself to expedite assignment to an appropriate counselor; otherwise, call appropriate offices and schedule appointment. Or call me.
- \* Financial eligibility determination, does not result in denial of services but looking at resources available, e.g., VA benefits, medical, etc.
- \* What is the impact of disability upon the individual's work life?
- \* What VR services are available that would be the most appropriate to assist the individual in meeting their vocational goals?

# Impact of Individual Finances

- \* Net income of family unit.
- \* Allowed exemptions such as medical expenses, mortgage, etc.
- \* Excess financial resources results in contribution toward certain VR sponsored (cost) services.
- \* Examples of services subject to financial need include training (educational), vehicle mods, assistive technology, small business operations, etc.
- \* Services exempt from financial needs testing: any and all assessments, interpreters, supported employment, job development & placement, internships, brain injury support services, etc.

# Individual Plan for Employment (IPE)

## Following determination of eligibility: the IPE

- \* *Full participation and input by the individual.*
- \* *Informed & individual choice of service determination & selection.*
- \* *Comparable benefits: other resources, e.g., grants, insurance, mental health services, etc.*
- \* Responsibilities of the agency and of the individual to follow thru with the IPE.
- \* Estimated time frames.
- \* Plan can be amended at any time.
- \* Rights of the individual to appeal decisions throughout the process which the counselor will explain.
- \* Joint action plan between the individual & the VR Counselor.

# Sample Services Available thru VR Assistance

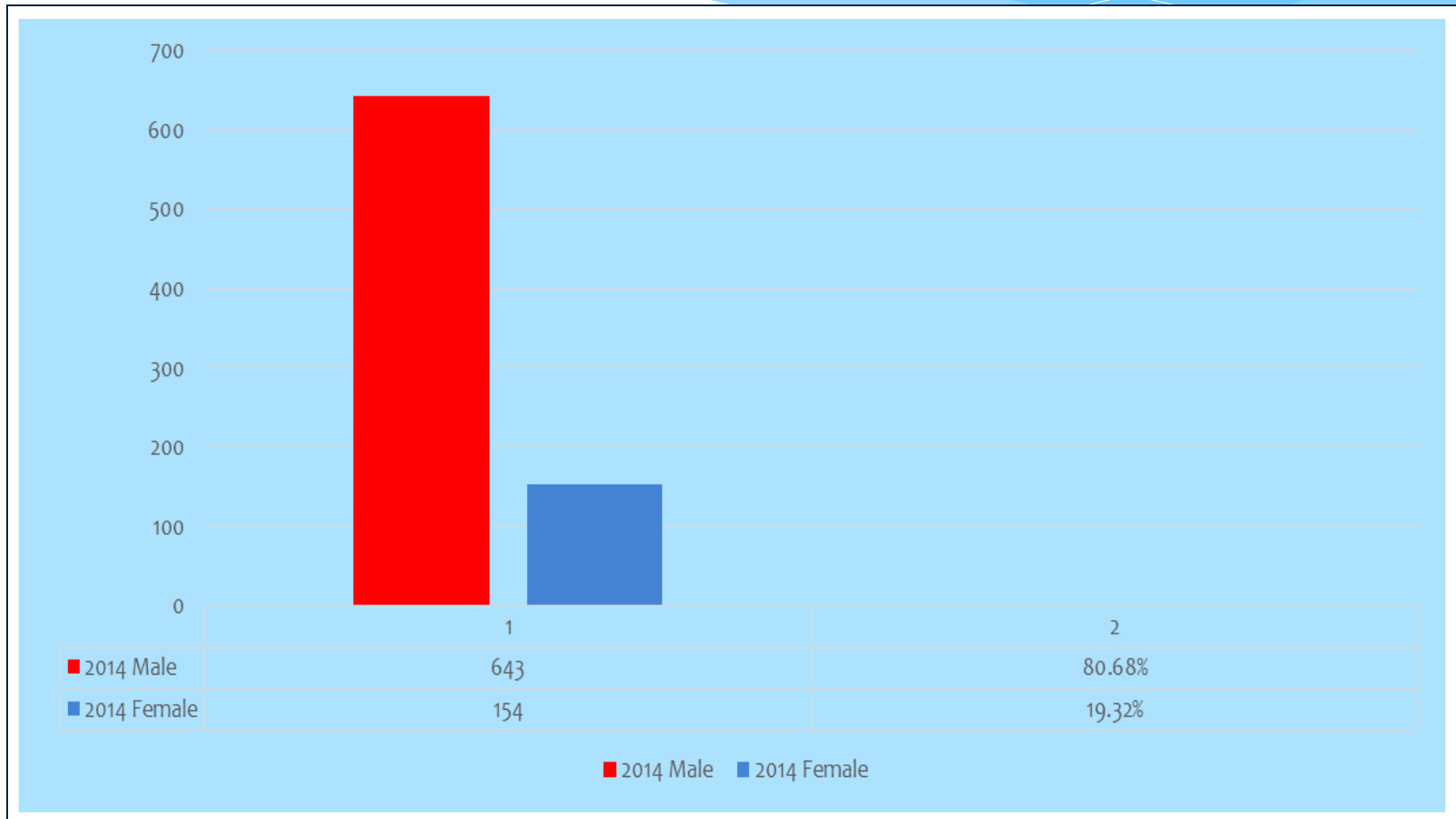
- \* Rehabilitation engineering
- \* Assistive technology.
- \* Home and vehicle modifications.
- \* Small business development assistance.
- \* Tools and equipment.
- \* Work clothes and uniforms.
- \* Vocational/college training.
- \* Brain Injury Support Services – Raleigh, Greenville, W-S, Charlotte & Wilmington.
- \* Supported employment (SE).
- \* Job Placement & Supports.

# Basic Veteran Numbers

- 1,147 – Average # of new veterans applicants annually.
- 2,285 – Average # of veterans cases active annually.
- 280 – Average # of veterans closed successfully annually.
- 2014 industries with highest percentage of veterans placed:
  - Transportation & Material Moving & Production,
  - Building Grounds & Maintenance,
  - Food Preparation & Serving Related,
  - Installation, Maintenance & Repair,
  - Office & Administrative.
- Veterans represent roughly 5% of all individuals served by VR

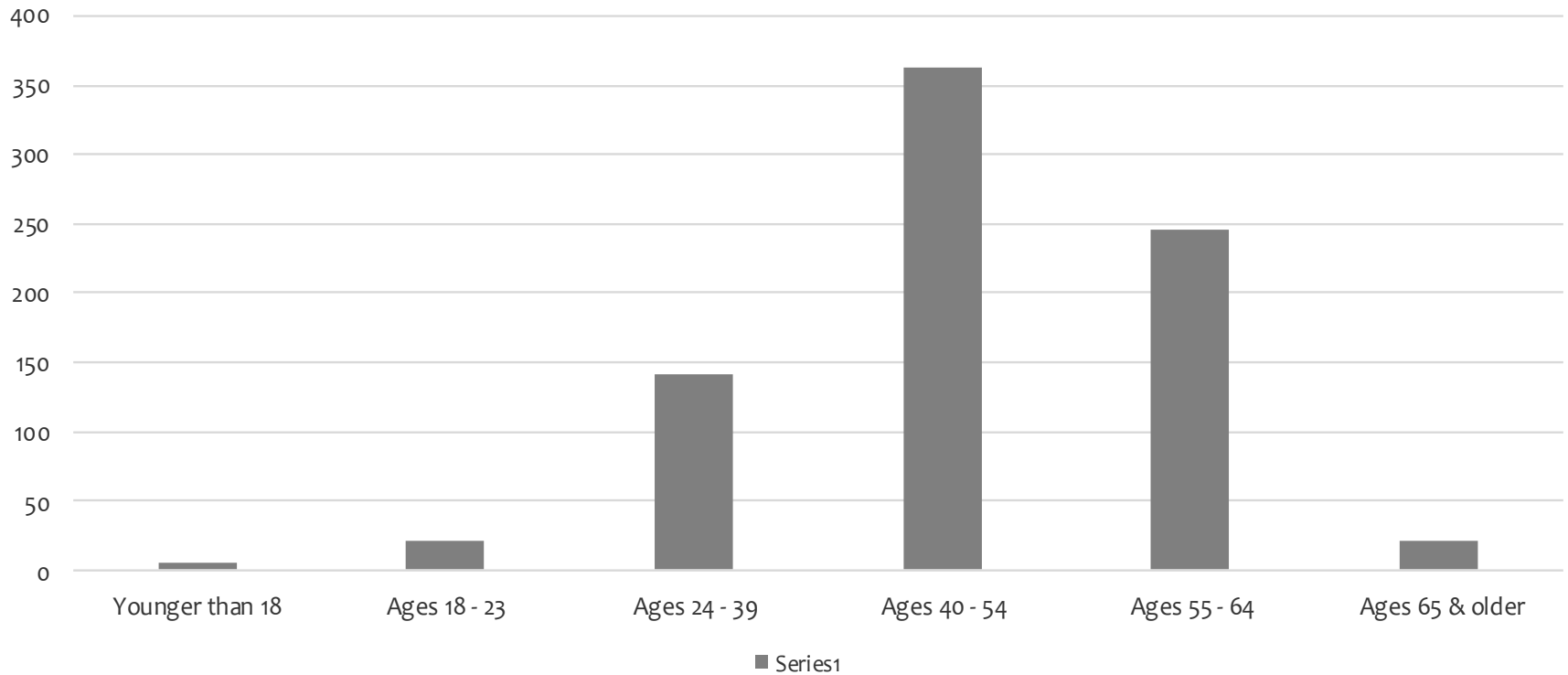


# Veteran Referrals by Sex



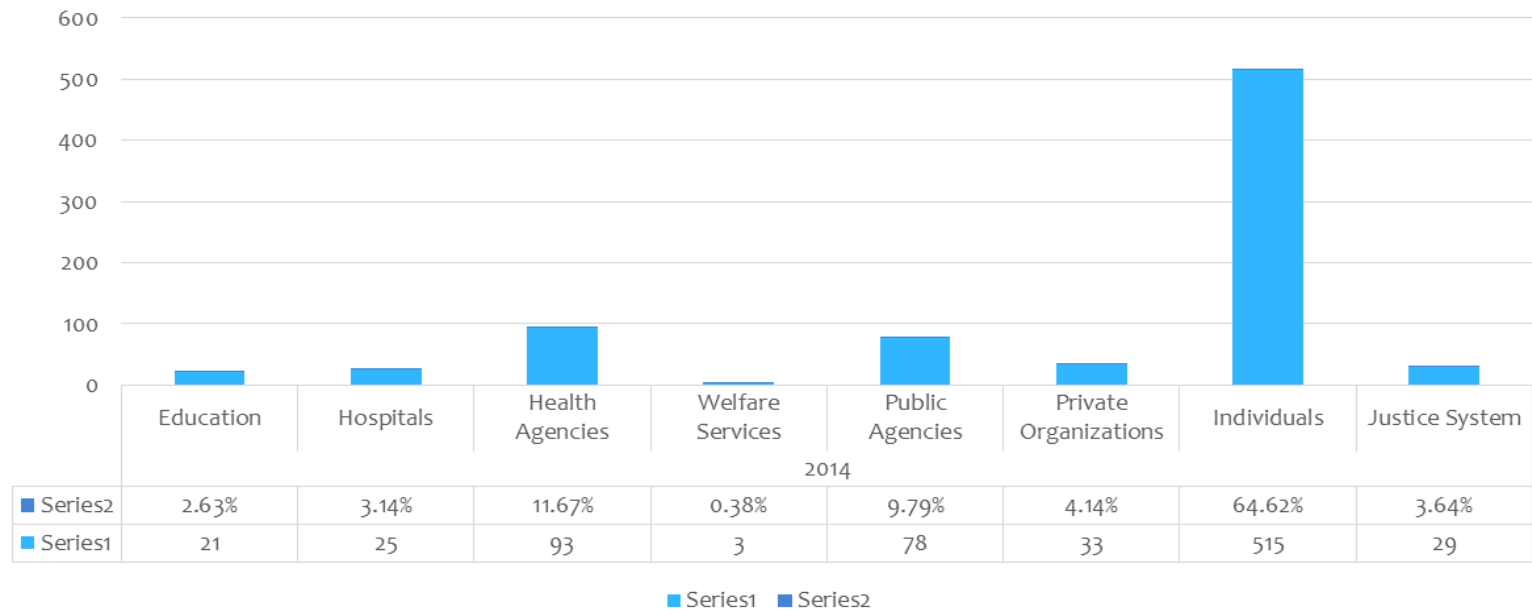
# Veteran Referrals by Age

Ages of Veterans Referred – FFY 2014



# Who Refers Veterans to VR

Veteran Referral Sources



# Challenges for NC DVRS in Serving Veterans

- Increasing the number of veterans served by NC DVRS.
- Getting veterans to come to NC DVRS for services and assistance.
  - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) established in Fall 2014 with VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program is helping some.
- Getting younger generation of veterans to come to NC DVRS.
- Being able to market NC DVRS to veterans and veterans groups, such as exhibiting at military events, etc.
- Get veterans with TBI to utilize brain injury support services funded through NC DVR.

# Contact Information

State Office located on Dorothea Dix Campus:

**Jim Swain**, MA.Ed., MS

Program Specialist

NC DVRS State Office

805 Ruggles Drive

Raleigh, NC 27603

[Jim.Swain@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Jim.Swain@dhhs.nc.gov)

Phone: 919-855-3500

Fax: 919-715-0616

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dvrs>