

Commonwealth of Kentucky

EDUCATIONAL BULLETIN

THE PROGRAM
OF
CIVILIAN REHABILITATION
IN
KENTUCKY



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BOSWELL B. HODGKIN
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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FOREWORD

A very significant educational service is rendered by the Kentucky Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; however, the public knows very little about its activities. This service is designed to meet the needs of disabled civilians, and hundreds of handicapped people are restored and trained to enter useful and profitable occupations each year.

Through disease, accidents on highways, in the mines and in the mills, the number of disabled persons is increasing in our state each day to a marked degree.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a good investment from an economic point of view. It costs less to rehabilitate the average person than it does to support him one year on a relief basis. It must be borne in mind that rehabilitation is a non-recurring expense. It is a service which merits the whole hearted support of all Kentuckians when one takes into consideration the social and educational gains, and the change which occurs in the disabled individual from a state of dependence to an independent status.

BOSWELL B. HODGKIN
Superintendent Public Instruction

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INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents in a very brief way Vocational Rehabilitation in the state. The charts and graphs indicate certain trends and accomplishments during the past year. Since the program of services for the blind is in this division, appropriate consideration is given to its activities.

As our state becomes more industrialized we shall be confronted more and more, not only with problems of safety education, but an intensive program of Vocational Rehabilitation services to the handicapped.

W. HICKMAN BALDREE
Director

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DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Scope and Function

The State Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in cooperation with the United States Government, provides Vocational Rehabilitation services for mentally and physically impaired individuals. Such services include vocational and college training, physical restoration, psychological and psychiatric services, fitting of prosthetic appliances, aptitude and intelligence testing, counselling, guidance and placement. All services are performed in order to prepare individuals for more remunerative employment in the occupation which they are best fitted to earn a living.

During the fiscal year 1948-49, this division, through its local district offices, was able to rehabilitate 859 persons in the state. These persons are now employed in remunerative work. This number is slightly more than the number rehabilitated in the last year. For purposes of better administration, the state is divided into nine districts. The district offices are located in the following cities: Paducah, Harlan, Madisonville, Bowling Green, Louisville, Lexington, Somerset, Ashland and Covington. As a result of the district arrangement, every county and community in the state is reached.

Cooperative Agreements

It is one of the policies of this division to have a number of cooperative agreements with local, state and federal agencies whereby they make referrals of clients to Vocational Rehabilitation for services available through this division. These cooperative agreements have proven to be an excellent plan since many more handicapped persons are found than would be otherwise.

Expenditures and Needs

During the fiscal year 1948-49 the state and federal government spent \$151,544.12 for Vocational Rehabilitation services to the handicapped in Kentucky.

The federal share of expenditures is considerably more than the state share for the program of Vocational Rehabilitation in the state. Kentucky receives considerably less money from her legislature than any bordering state for the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The added services of physical restoration and services for the blind amply justify an increase in appropriation to carry out the total program of Vocational Rehabilitation. Hospital costs are considerably more than they were during the last year.

Tables and charts shown on the following pages represent a breakdown of the 859 cases rehabilitated last year according to various categories as indicated on each table shown. It is the opinion of the writer that a graphic presentation on various activities would tell the facts about rehabilitation more effectively than descriptive detail.

State Organization for Providing Rehabilitation Services.

In order to better facilitate the administration of the program of Vocational Rehabilitation, the state has been divided into nine (9) areas as shown on page 1026 with the map and vocational district boundaries. Each district is staffed with a secretary, a supervisor and a case worker with the exception of two (2) districts that are temporarily without supervisors at the present time. The advantage of having district areas is that local offices come closer to disabled people out in the state wanting rehabilitation service. These district offices are very closely connected with the central office at Frankfort in the various procedures and techniques used in processing cases for services.

Each district is responsible for the rehabilitation of the disabled in the counties comprising that area. At the beginning of each fiscal year districts are assigned quotas for the year and every effort is made to reach the quota of rehabilitation cases assigned. Weekly and monthly itineraries are sent in to the Frankfort office of the activities in each district. Under this arrangement the disabled are provided services more quickly and adequately.

Purpose and Justification for Rehabilitation Service

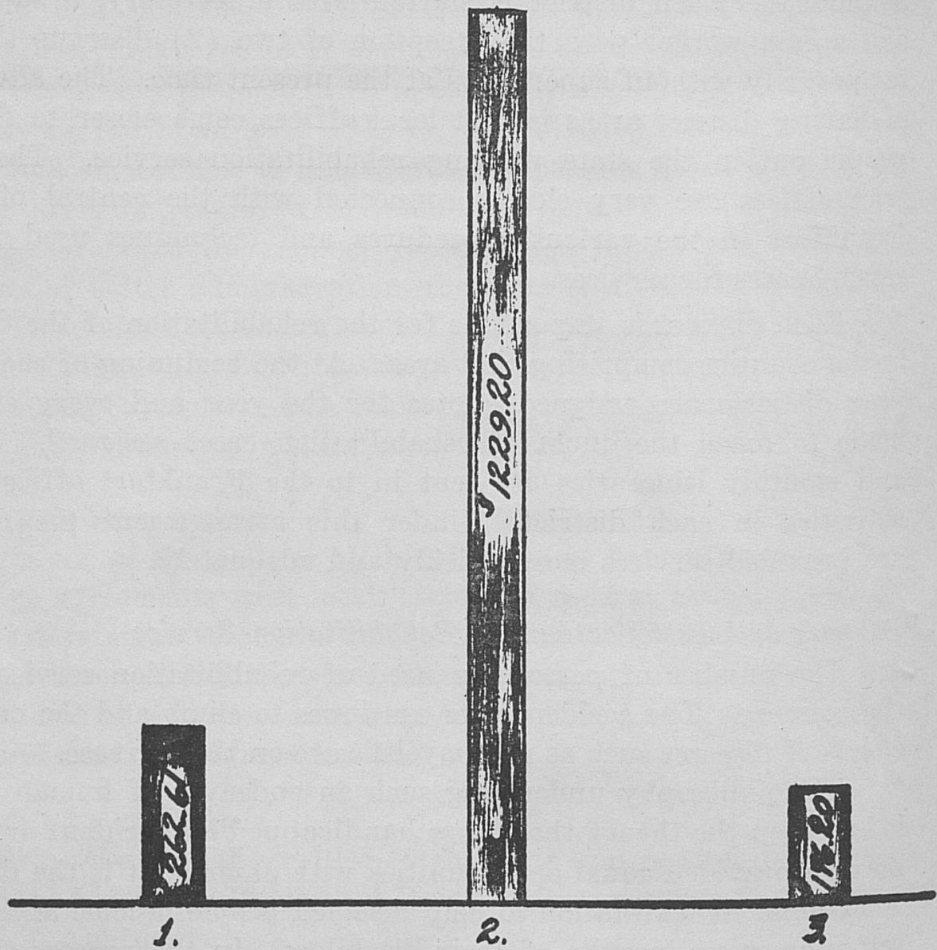
The number of persons in need of rehabilitation services is on the increase. The accident rate continues to climb and the crippling effects of diseases such as poliomyelitis are on the increase.

The philosophy underlying such an endeavor of human welfare is based on the theory that those handicapped by accident or disease may be provided equal opportunities with others. It is the desire of Vocational Rehabilitation to help disabled people become and remain self-supporting in spite of their disability. In the process of doing this rehabilitation uses many ways to accomplish its purpose.

Counsel and Guidance

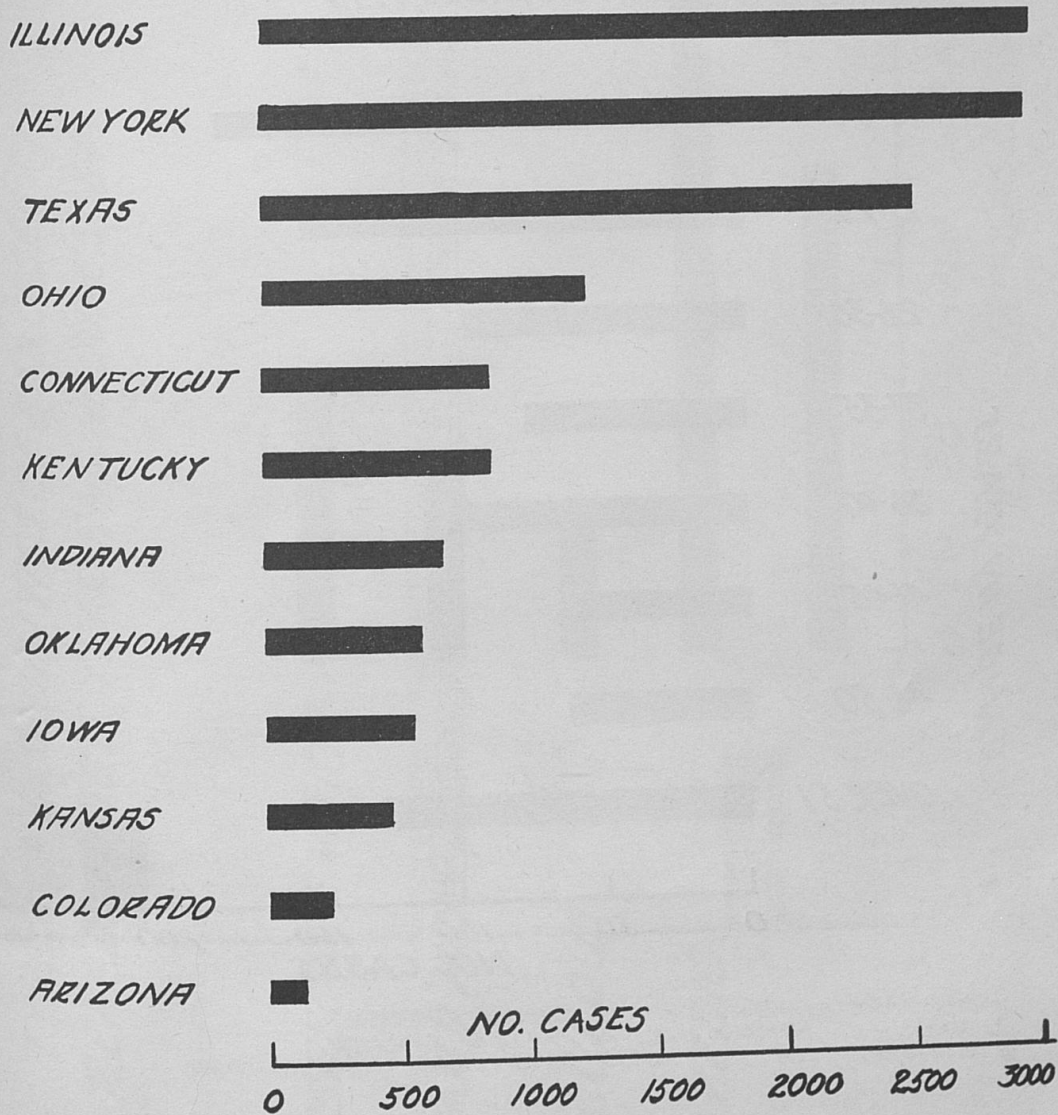
The work of the vocational counselor is a highly specialized field, requiring a great deal of training and experience. He should know the industrial opportunities of his area as well as keeping abreast of employment trends. He must be successful in obtaining the cooperation of handicapped persons, training facilities and the employer if

DOES REHABILITATION PAY?

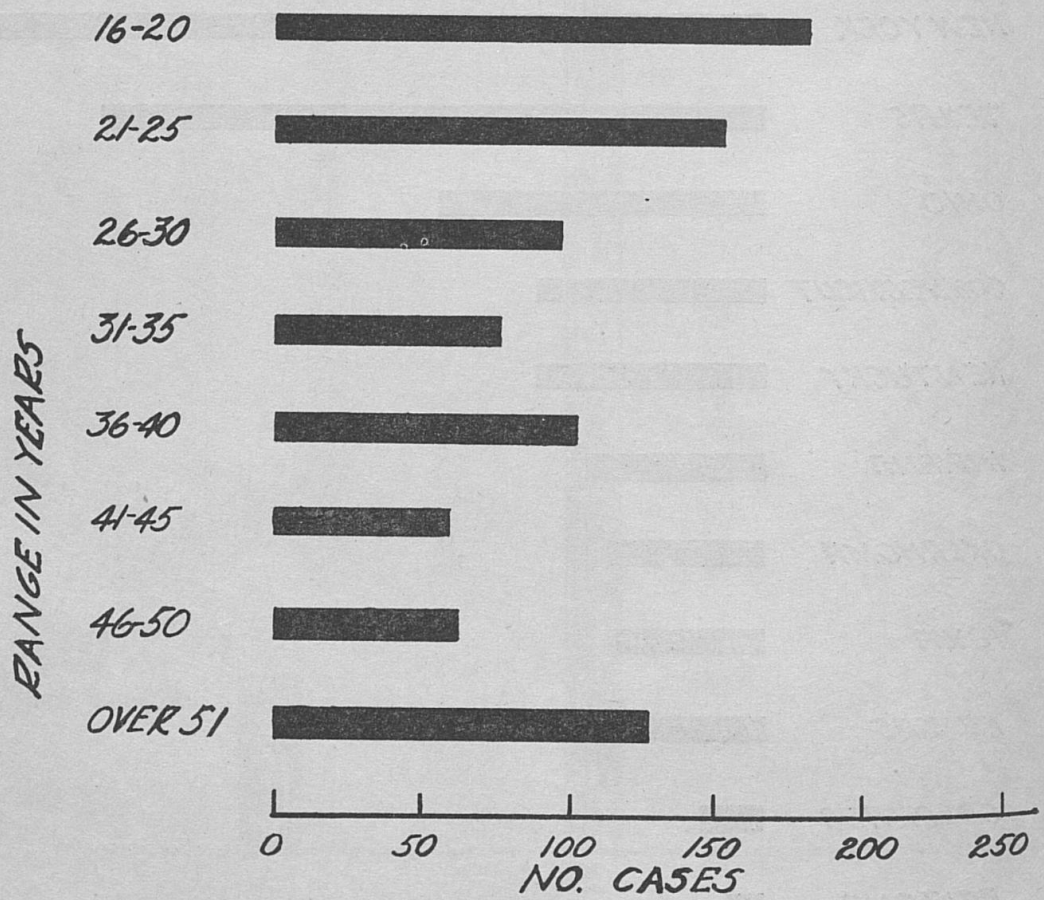


1 AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME BEFORE SERVICE
2. AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME AFTER SERVICE
3 AVERAGE COST PER CASE JULY 1, 1948, JUNE 30, 1949.

*NUMBER CASES REHABILITATED
IN SELECTED STATES 1947-48
(1949 FIGURES NOT AVAILABLE)*



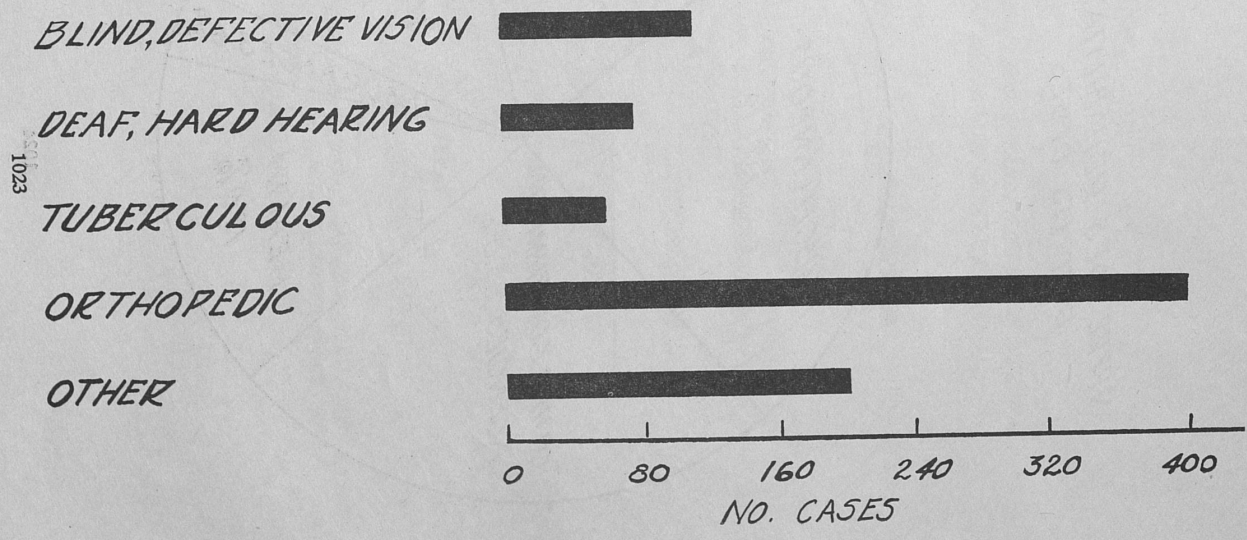
AGE GROUP OF 859 CASES REHABILITATED
JULY, 1948 TO JUNE 30, 1949



TYPES OF DISABILITIES OF 859 CASES

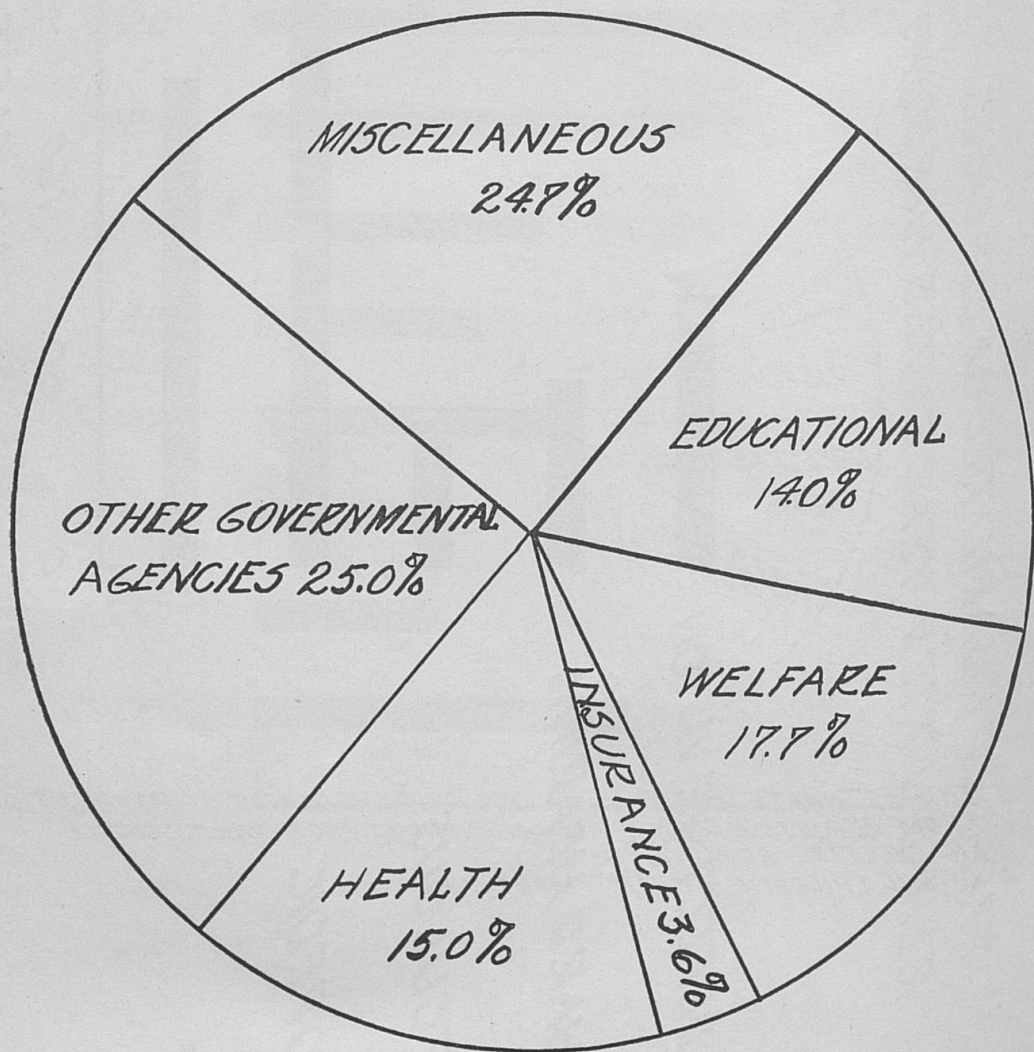
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TYPES OF DISABILITIES OF 859 CASES
REHABILITATED YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1949



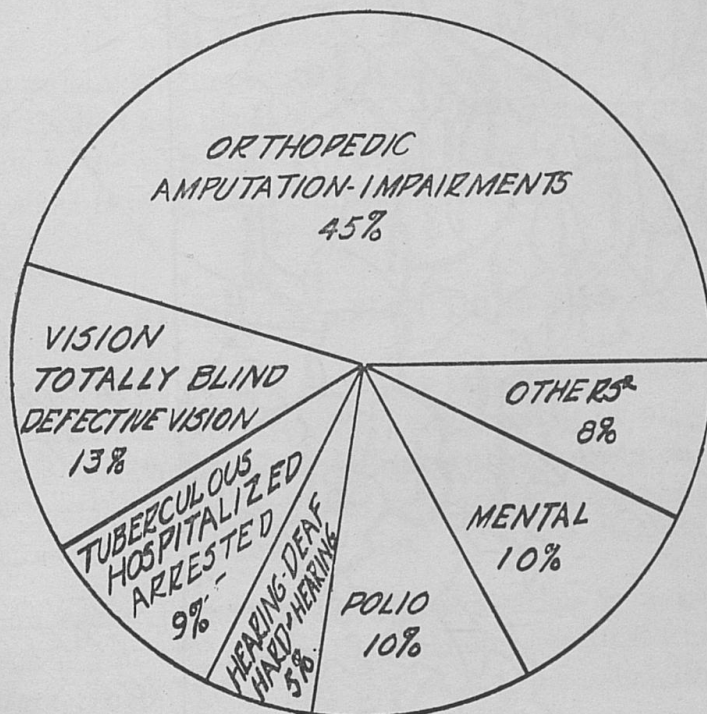
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WHERE DOES REHABILITATION
GET ITS CASES



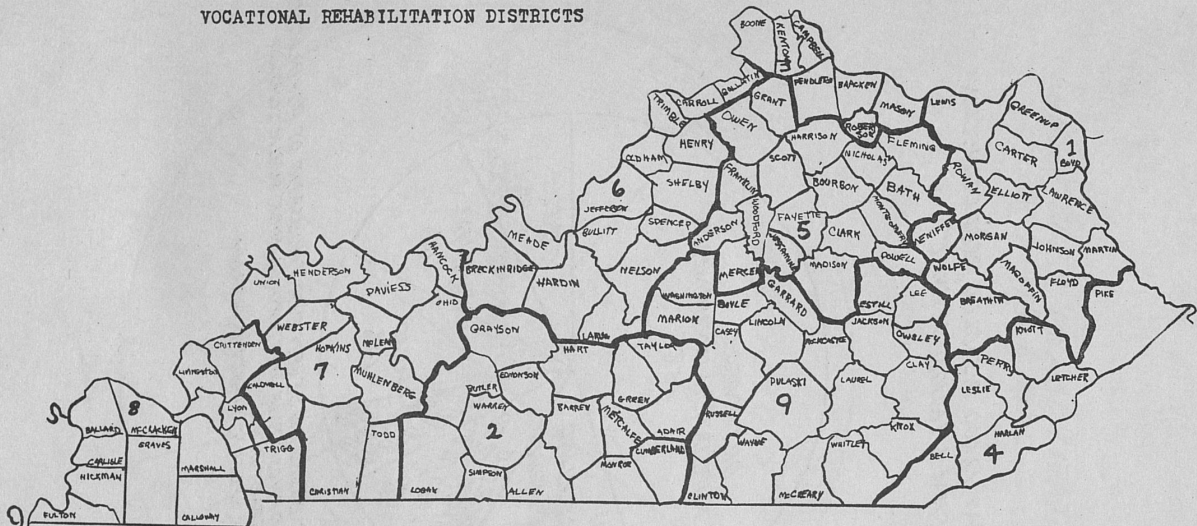
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KENTUCKY HAS 19,600 DISABLED PEOPLE NEEDING
REHABILITATION SERVICE¹



1. THIS ESTIMATE BASED ON SEVEN PER THOUSAND OF POPULATION FROM REPORTS OF HOSPITALS, SANITORIA, CLINICS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND WELFARE DEPARTMENTS.
2. CARDIAC, EPILEPTIC, SPEECH, DIABETIC, HERNIA

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DISTRICTS



1. Ashland
2. Bowling Green
3. Covington
4. Harlan
5. Lexington
6. Louisville
7. Madisonville
8. Paducah
9. Somerset

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the rehabilitation plan for the individual is to succeed. It is his responsibility to interpret rehabilitation to the community in order to maintain good working arrangements with other agencies.

Handicapped people have varying degrees of disabilities. Some require more time and effort on the part of the counselor than others. This, of course, means each case must be served individually with special consideration always to his disability, work history, personality traits, economic resources, social and educational background. If the disabled person is guided into the right job, he is no longer handicapped and is able to compete with normal individuals.

It is the opinion of many persons in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation that the service of guidance as it applies to rehabilitation clients is the most significant of all rehabilitation benefits. No one will minimize the importance of proper counseling and especially when it is applied to a disabled person. Being able to properly direct individuals to the right job or training situation is one of the crowning achievements of any rehabilitation process.

REHABILITATION DOES PAY

The majority of persons served by rehabilitation are unemployed and many are recipients of charity, either public or private. Recent studies have been made which indicates that it costs on the average of approximately eight (8) times as much to maintain a person on charity as it does to rehabilitate him.

It can easily be shown that rehabilitation is a good business proposition if you will observe the table on page 1020 which gives the wage before rehabilitation and the wage after rehabilitation, along with the cost of the service.

Of the 859 cases served last year by this division, the average annual income before rehabilitation was \$262.61 and after rehabilitation was \$1,229.20. After service clients were earning almost five times as much as before.

The average cost as shown is \$176.20, which in majority of cases is a non-recurring item.

If figures were assembled for several years, the total amounts, of course, would run much higher.

COMPARISONS

In order that the reader may have the proper appreciation of the work of this year, it is well to submit past years for comparative study.

Years	Number Rehabilitated
1941	300
1942	494
1943	2106
1944	2131
1945	2418
1946	1510
1947	894
1948	858
1949	859

We are not reaching all the handicapped of the state in spite of the fact our program of service is almost twice what it was in 1942. The war years caused us to accelerate our methods and abbreviate procedures whereby many of those people who had placement service only in temporary war jobs are coming back for a more thorough type of rehabilitation service.

Most of the services provided during the years 1943, 1944, and 1945 were placement in war industries or jobs indirectly affected as a result of the war. The service at present is more intensive and detailed which accounts for the decrease in the total annual number of cases served.

STATE-FEDERAL SUPPORT

The entire cost of administration including salaries and travel of personnel is paid by the federal government. Certain other costs such as transportation for diagnosis to determine eligibility are borne by the federal government. The service to war disabled persons is paid from federal funds. All other expenditures to disabled persons are paid on a 50-50 basis by state and federal government.

In Kentucky funds expended for rehabilitation purposes are approximately thirty (30) percent state and seventy (70) percent federal.

There is probably no more liberal matching arrangement found in any of the grant-in-aid programs now in operation.

REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

One section of the division is devoted to rehabilitation services to the blind. During the biennium 1947-49 this section rehabilitated 107 blind persons.

Services Rendered The 107 Blind Rehabilitants:

Physical Restoration

Twenty-five of the 107 persons were provided one or more physical restoration services which include treatment, surgery, hospitalization and artificial appliances, including glasses.

Of this number, the services attempted to improve the sight of twenty with the following success: nine had improvement to the point that they are no longer considered blind and now have vision ranging from 20/20 to 20/180; nine had substantial improvement which enabled them to accept employment; and two did not have any improvement. Of the remaining five, three were hard of hearing and received hearing aids, and two had surgery resulting in physical improvement permitting them to be employed.

Training

Forty-three of the 107 persons received training either in school, on-the-job or in the shop.

Maintenance

Fourteen of the 43 trainees were provided room and board while undergoing training.

Training Supplies

Five of the 43 trainees were provided training supplies.

Placement Equipment

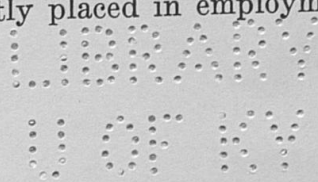
Fourteen of the 107 were provided the necessary occupational tools and equipment.

Business Enterprises Equipment

Six of the 107 were provided equipment and set up in small supervised businesses.

Placement

Forty-four of the 107 were directly placed in employment by personnel of the agency.



Other Data Concerning the 107 Blind Rehabilitants for the Biennium:

The average weekly earnings per person before rehabilitation services—\$3.67.

The average weekly earnings per person after rehabilitation services—\$27.72.

Annual earnings of the group after rehabilitation services—\$149,916.00.

Cost of rehabilitation provided the 107 rehabilitants—\$19,196.00 (a non-recurring expenditure). Average cost per person—\$179.00.

Thirteen of the 107 were, before rehabilitation, recipients of public assistance in the amount of \$3,666.00, a recurring expenditure.

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