Using Federal Data to Document Student Success and Improve Campus Programming: A Case Study

APLU CIMA
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SSA Study Overview

- Historically conducted research on the employment status of graduates

- First study initiated in the 1980s with the IRS – evolved into memoranda of agreement with the SSA

- Study lends evidence in support of ROI on NTID’s federal investment
Agreement with SSA

- Data sharing agreement established with Office of Research Evaluation & Statistics

- Memorandum of Agreement
  - NTID pays SSA for data linkage, tabulation, and analysis
  - Linked data stored at SSA
  - Unit-level data restricted to SSA employees and for research use

- Data used for research on federal disability programs and other post-secondary outcomes
Disclosure Authority

SSA makes disclosure of data to RIT under authority found in the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by U.S.C. Section 552a (b) (5);

Section 552a (b)(5) states that disclosures may be made to a recipient who has provided the agency with advance adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical and reporting record, and the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable.
NTID Data

- RIT/NTID deaf and hard-of-hearing student records forwarded to SSA, from 1968 to the present

- 16,611 unique records determined to have a valid SSN

- Highest level of academic achievement considered
SSA Merged Data

- **Master Beneficiary Record**: SSDI program participation
- **Supplemental Security Record**: SSI program participation
- **Numident Record**: date of birth, date of death
- **Summary Earnings Record**: earnings history for covered employment
RSA-911 Subset Data

- Case service data for individuals requesting vocational rehabilitation support

- Data from 1998 through 2011
  - Primary disability is deafness
  - Bachelor and associate degree graduates
  - Utilized support from VR to pursue higher education

- Resulting external population sizes ranging from 799 to 6,830 within age profiles, to be combined with 16,611 mutually exclusive population of deaf and hard-of-hearing students from RIT/NTID
Resulting Database

- Set of files linkable by unique identifier

- Event History File
  - RIT/NTID application date, last contact date
  - Annual employment
  - Annual income levels (represented in 2011 dollars)
  - SSI program participation dates
  - SSDI program participation dates
  - Vocational Rehabilitation case service report marker
  - Date of death
Percentage receiving SSI by age and Degree Level

- NTID Withdrawn
- NTID Associate
- NTID Bachelor
- Non-NTID D/HH Graduates
Percentage receiving SSDI by Age and Degree Level
Highlights

- An RIT/NTID education results in higher rates of employment for deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates, relative to deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates from other institutions of higher education.

- Across technical and non-technical fields, RIT/NTID deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates and non-graduates earn more money than deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates from other institutions of higher education.
Highlights

- RIT/NTID deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates have lesser dependency on SSI than deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates attending other institutions of higher education.

- RIT/NTID deaf and hard-of-hearing bachelor degree graduates have lesser dependency on SSDI than deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates attending other institutions of higher education.
Present and Future Considerations

- Overarching Purpose

- Communication Plan

- Program-Specific Outcomes (Pandora’s Box)