

# Disability Employment by the Numbers



Although employment rates for the general public continue to improve along with a robust economy, people with disabilities are still substantially underrepresented in the American workforce. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only **20.5%** of adults with disabilities were engaged in the workforce while **68.3%** of their nondisabled peers were employed or seeking employment (January 2019).

Youth with disabilities face a number of additional barriers to securing positions of employment including:

## 1.

A lack of knowledge of where to find jobs

## 2.

A lack of a solid work history or a minimal work history

## 3.

A reliance on public benefits system (i.e., Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance) plus a fear of losing benefits if they become employed

## What does this mean?

Disengagement from employment often means disengagement from the rest of the community. The dignity and purpose that a job brings to an individual is critical to their overall sense of self-worth and quality of life. By offering a large variety of supportive, innovative, and effective employment programs, Triangle, Inc. has a proven track record of success in finding and placing individuals with disabilities into jobs that pay a competitive wage throughout eastern Massachusetts. Since 2012, Triangle, Inc. employment programs have increased the number of community-based job opportunities for its participants by more than **600% - 413 in 2019 alone.**



## Did you know?

Triangle operates Career Pathway programs for students and adults who are specifically targeting growth industries that often require credentialed training and professional certification. Triangle, Inc. has partnered with training providers in the fields of health care, culinary arts, property maintenance, and retail operations.

## For Adults:

The organization serves referrals from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through supported employment programs that allow individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to learn critical employment skills in a group work environment while being coached by a Triangle staff member. Once these individuals are ready, Triangle works alongside them to find the right opportunity for an individual job placement.

Triangle, Inc. also serves referrals from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Council (MRC) and Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Triangle, Inc. Employment Specialists work with job-seekers one-to-one and in small group settings to help each person identify and pursue their short-term and long-term career goals before supporting them on the job search and hiring process.



## For Students:

The organization is also one of the only providers that make its services available to students enrolled in high schools in partnership with special education programs and districts. Through the School to Career program and Pre-ETS offerings, Triangle, Inc. begins its employment training with students at an early age by instilling productive work habits and providing on-the-job training. Upon completion of high school, these students are well-prepared for their next step in life, including

## Did you know?

*Statistics show that state-funded individuals who work at least 20 hours/week for a standard career of 45 years can save local taxpayers as much as **\$560,000** during their working life.*

**we are all people with ability**

Triangle, Inc.