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Lifespan Development and  
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PREDICTORS OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH  
IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN THE STATE OF OHIO (pp.118)

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The purpose of this study was to descriptively explore transition-aged youth in state vocational rehabilitation (VR) and to determine if predictor variables could be identified for successful employment outcomes. In addition, public assistance and supported employment services were also analyzed for predictive value. The participants of this study included 3,215 vocational rehabilitation consumers who were referred prior to age 23 and were closed in fiscal year 2006 after a rehabilitation plan was initiated.

At closure, more than half the participants were closed successfully in competitive employment. The majority were working in service, clerical and sales, or professional/technical/managerial positions after receiving VR services focused on understanding the consumer's needs and creating appropriate plans (guidance and assessment), preparing for a job (college and miscellaneous training), obtaining a job (job search, placement, transportation) and then retaining employment (on the job supports). In addition, Supplemental Security Income recipients and consumers receiving non-Title IV funded supported employment services were less likely to be employed at case closure.

Implications for transition and rehabilitation practice include: the necessity of specific training for VR counselors working with the transition population; the higher rate of success through services such as diagnostics, vocational guidance, further training, and placement; and more attention to populations who are at risk or may be more effectively served in appropriate group settings such as those with cognitive or emotional disorders

