

Further Analysis of a Survey of
Maine's Medicaid "Buy-In" Program for
Workers with Disabilities

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CHOICES Statewide Advisory Council

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by

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Introduction

This presentation will:

- provide information about earnings, hours, and disabilities, as requested at the last advisory group meeting
- present additional analyses of the surveys based on grouping the respondents into categories

Information about the analysis

- Data are from 163 mail surveys collected from November 2000 through February 2001
- The additional analysis sought to *group together people with certain characteristics*, and look at whether they answered certain survey questions differently from people with different characteristics.
- We performed some *statistical testing* to find out whether any observed differences between the groups were merely because of random chance or whether they indicate real differences between people in those groups.

Earnings

- Hourly
 - 107 persons provided hourly earnings information
 - their average hourly wage was \$7.29
 - hourly wages ranged from \$4.75 to \$12.15
- Weekly
 - 40 persons provided weekly earnings information
 - their average weekly wage was \$164.09
 - weekly wages ranged from \$35 to \$477 (Note: 1 response of \$4.25 was excluded from analysis)

Types of Disabilities

Disability	# of responses*
Mental disorders	58
Physical disorders	104
Mental retardation	6
Learning/cognitive disabilities	9
Visual and hearing disorders	6
Other	3

*Specific responses are described in the handout. Many respondents indicated more than one disability; some respondents did not indicate any disability.

Limitations of the data

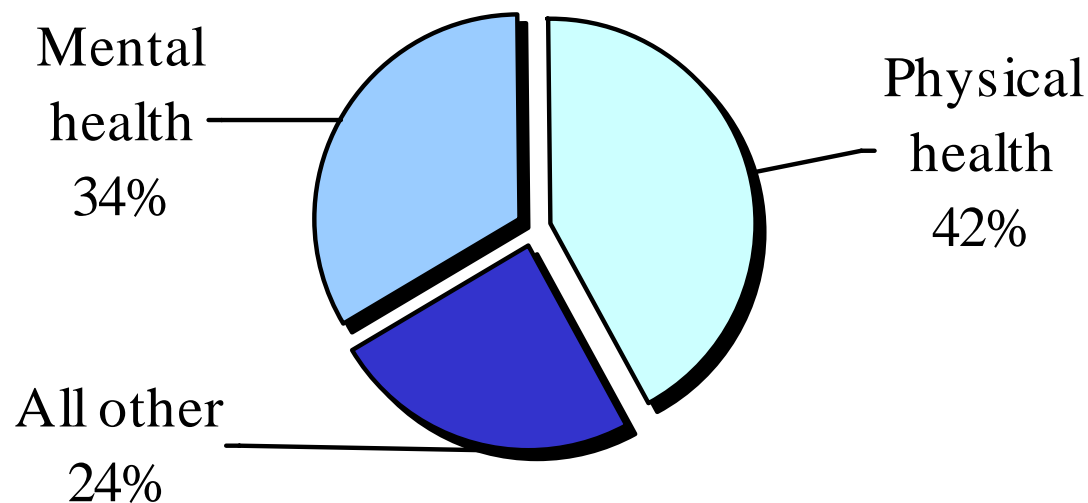
- The analysis is limited because of the number of surveys received and the limited information available from a mail survey format
 - with a small number of surveys we *cannot over-generalize about differences between groups* - the smaller the number of surveys, the more likely differences are due to chance
 - mail surveys *do not get respondents' full story*, such as detailed work history
- Grouping respondents into categories allows us to overcome some of the limitations related to the small number of surveys
 - but categories are sometimes based on the analyst's own interpretations of answers given by a respondent, rather than the group the respondent might prefer

Categories used in the analysis

- Categories or groupings are useful to look for *general patterns or trends* in survey responses
 - categories allow statistical analysis of the data, but are not intended to imply that everyone in the category is alike in every respect
 - *categories are flexible* and can be adjusted as certain features of the data become better understood
- For this analysis, we grouped people in three ways:
 - by general type of disability
 - by number of hours worked per week
 - by marital status

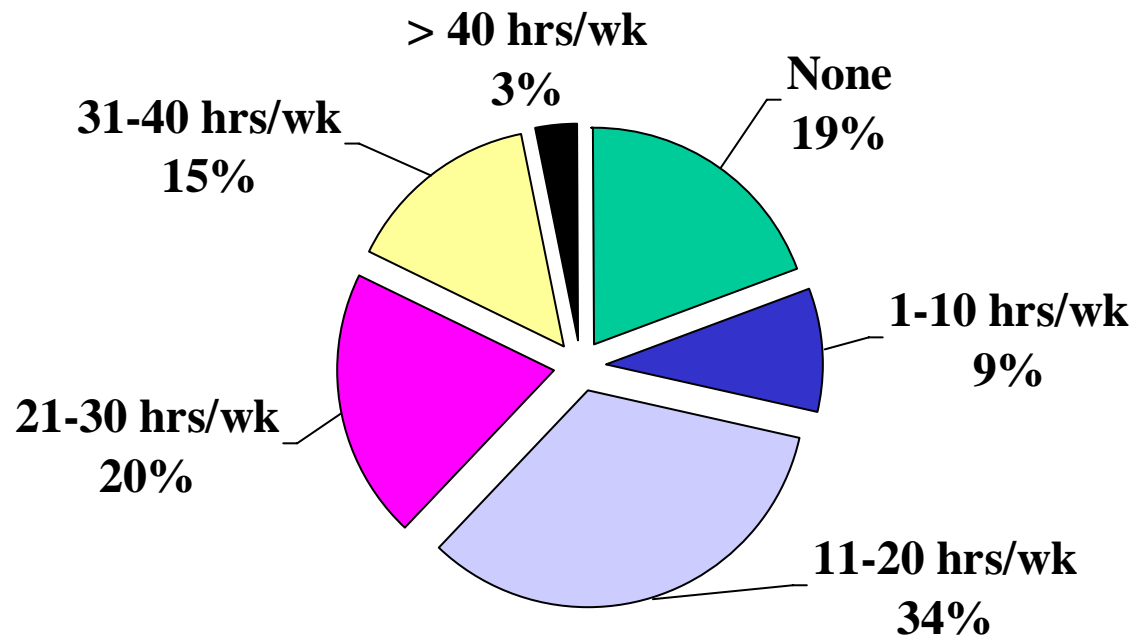
Disability type categories:

- **Disabilities related to mental health (55 respondents who stated “mental illness” or identified a specific mental health diagnoses)**
- **Disabilities related to physical health (68 respondents who identified specific medical diagnoses or mobility difficulties, but not a mental health related disability)**
- **All other respondents (40 individuals including 27 who did not indicate any disability)**
- **Note: Percents on some slides may not add up to 100% due to rounding**



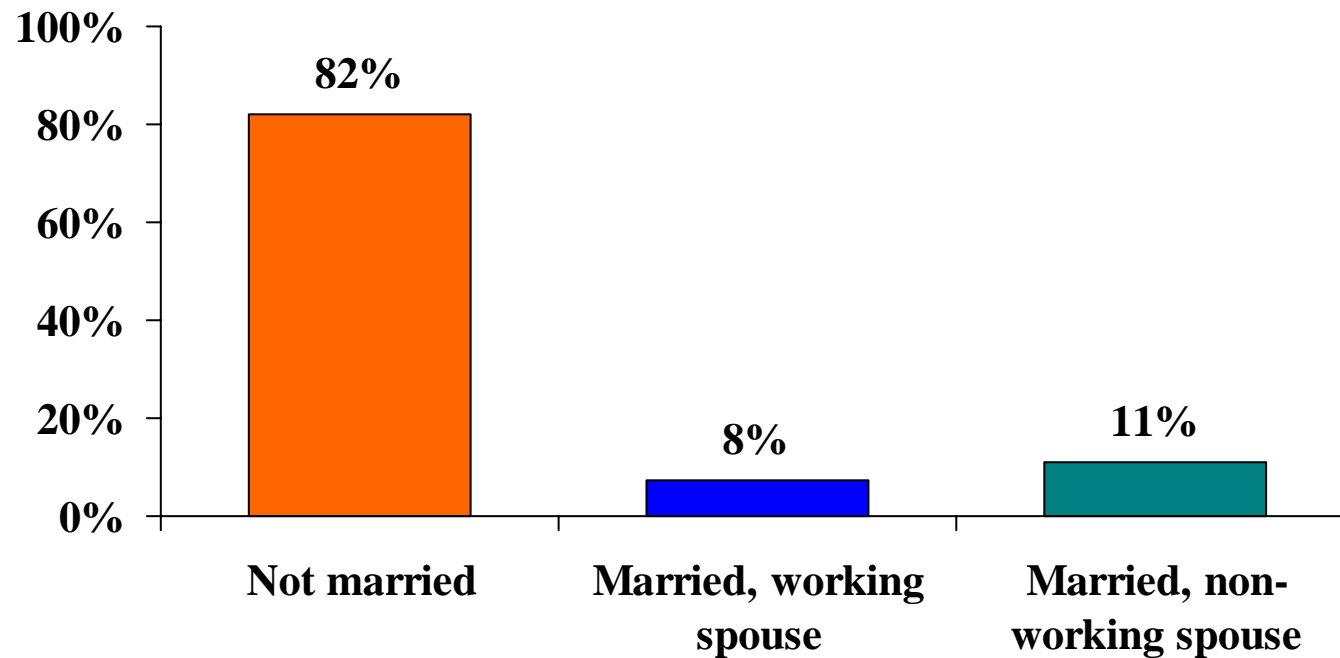
Work hours categories:

- 1 to 20 hours per week (69 respondents)
- 21 or more hours per week (62 respondents)
- No hours indicated (32 respondents, either zero hours or blank)
- Of those who indicated some work hours, the average hours worked was 23 hours per week

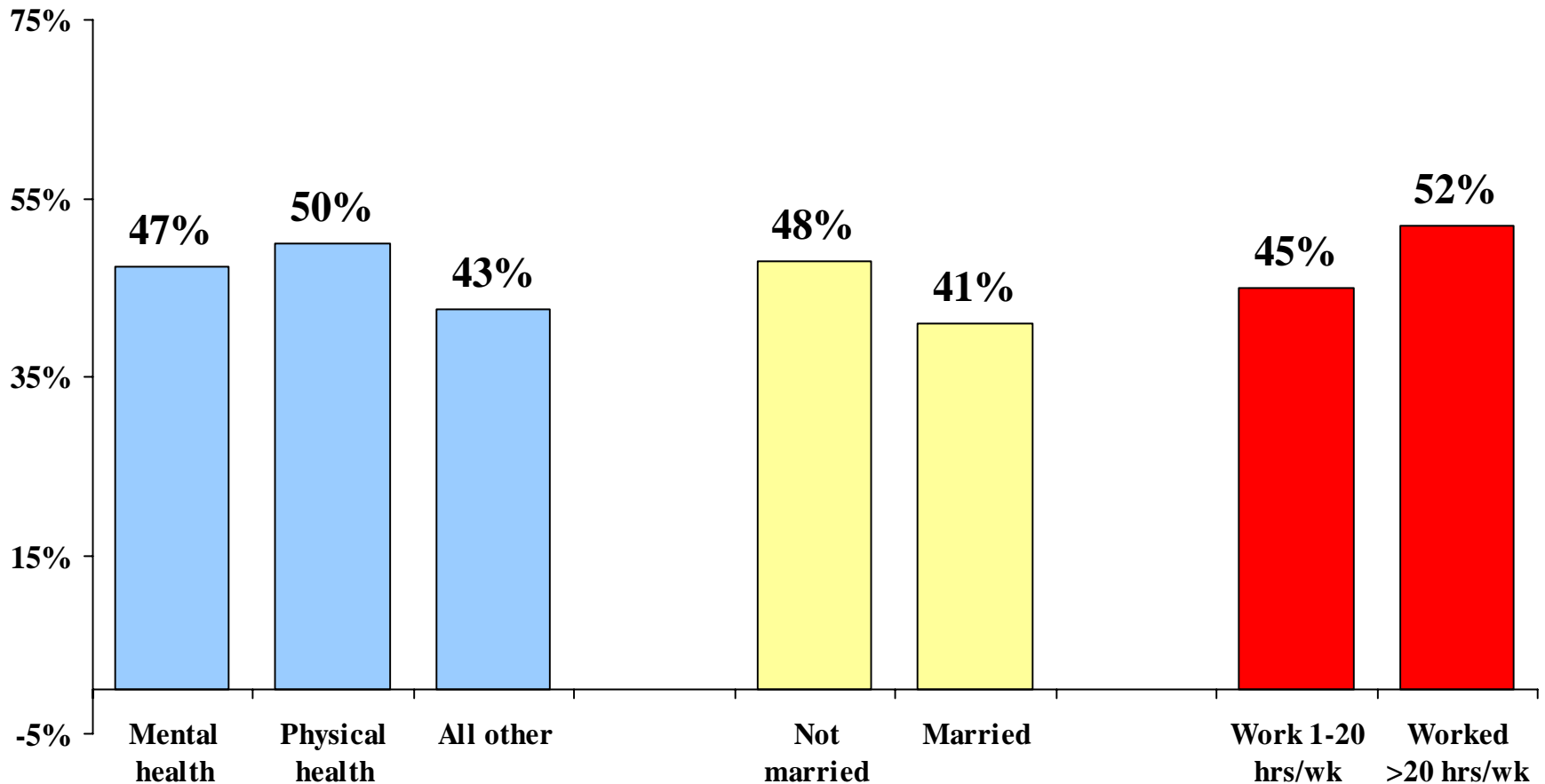


Marital status categories:

- Not married (130 respondents)
- Married (29 respondents, 17 with working spouse and 12 with non-working spouse)
- 4 respondents did not answer

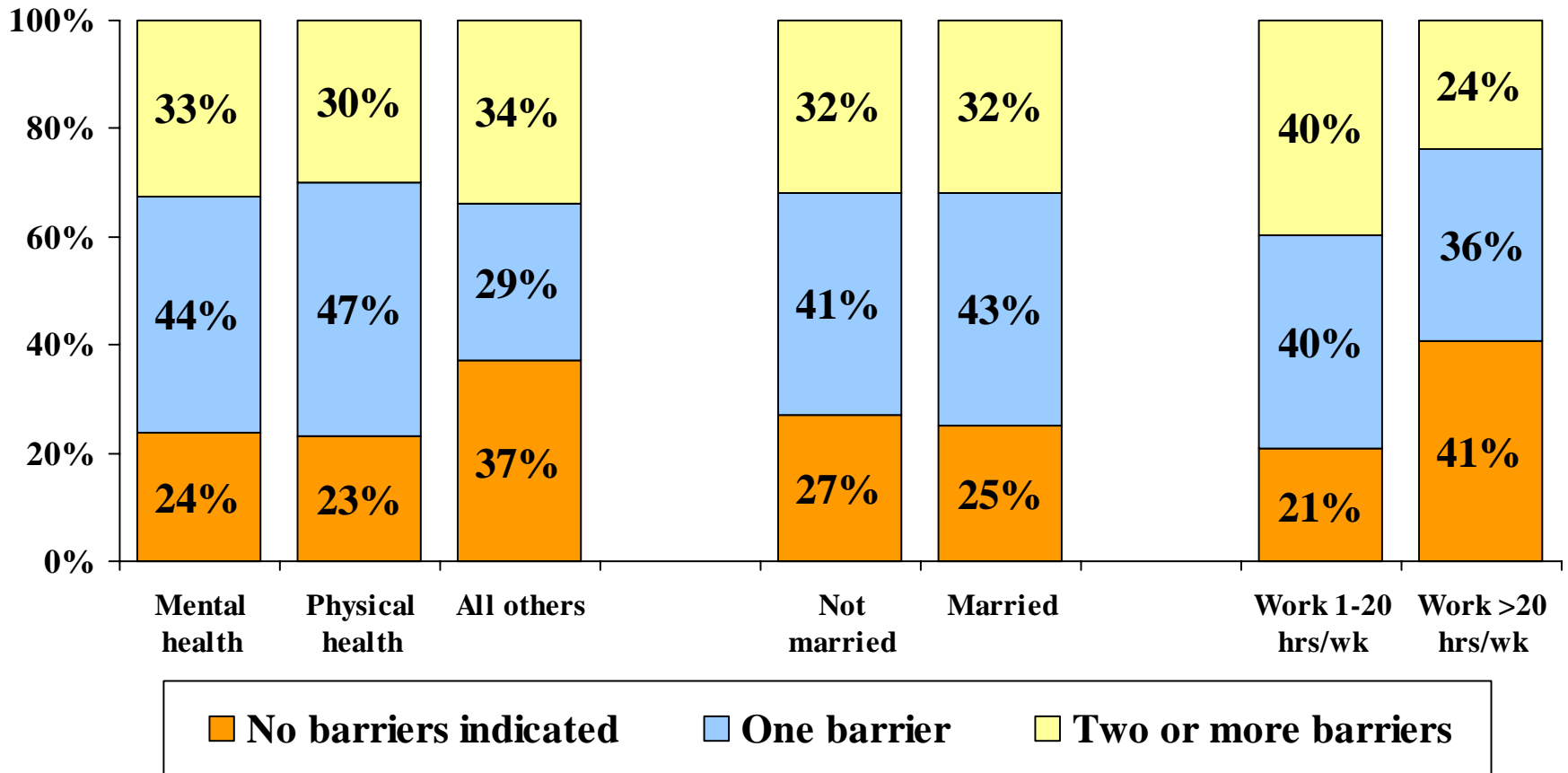


Percent of Respondents with Knowledge of Change in Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities



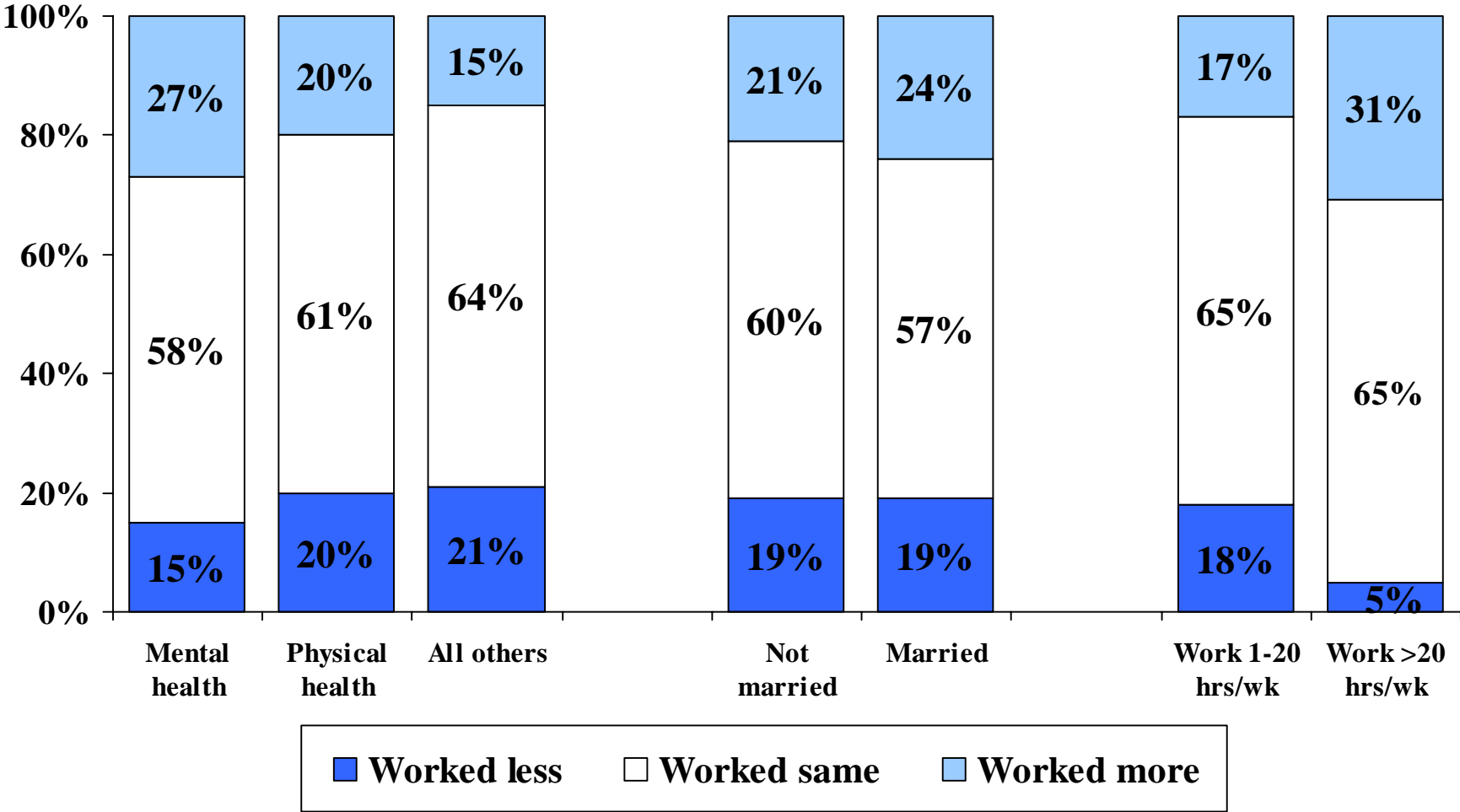
Number of Barriers to Employment

(8 possible choices -transportation, childcare, job training, problems related to disability, personal care assistance, adaptive equipment/job modification, finding the right job, other)



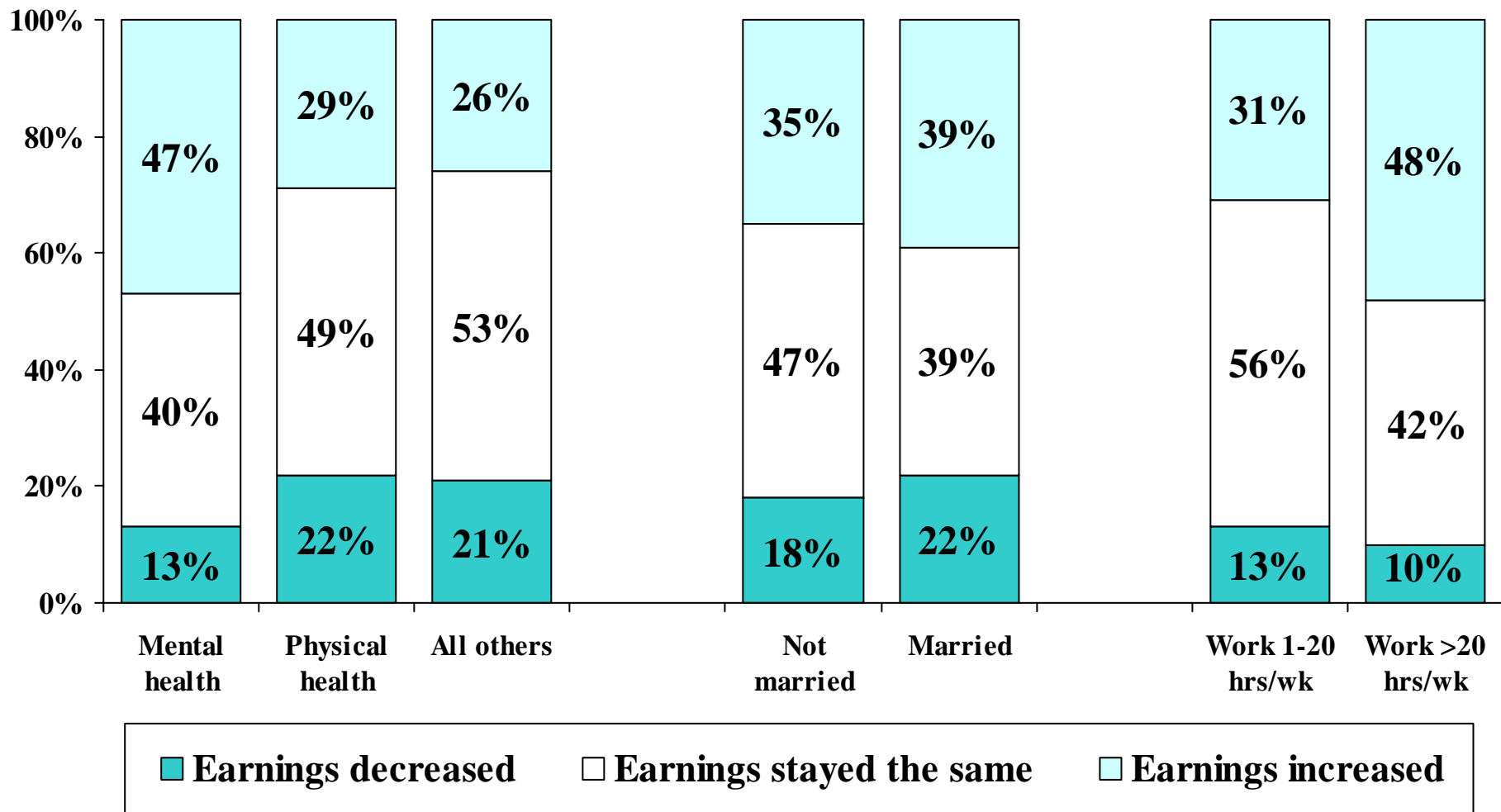
Change in Hours Worked During Past Year

(22 respondents did not answer)



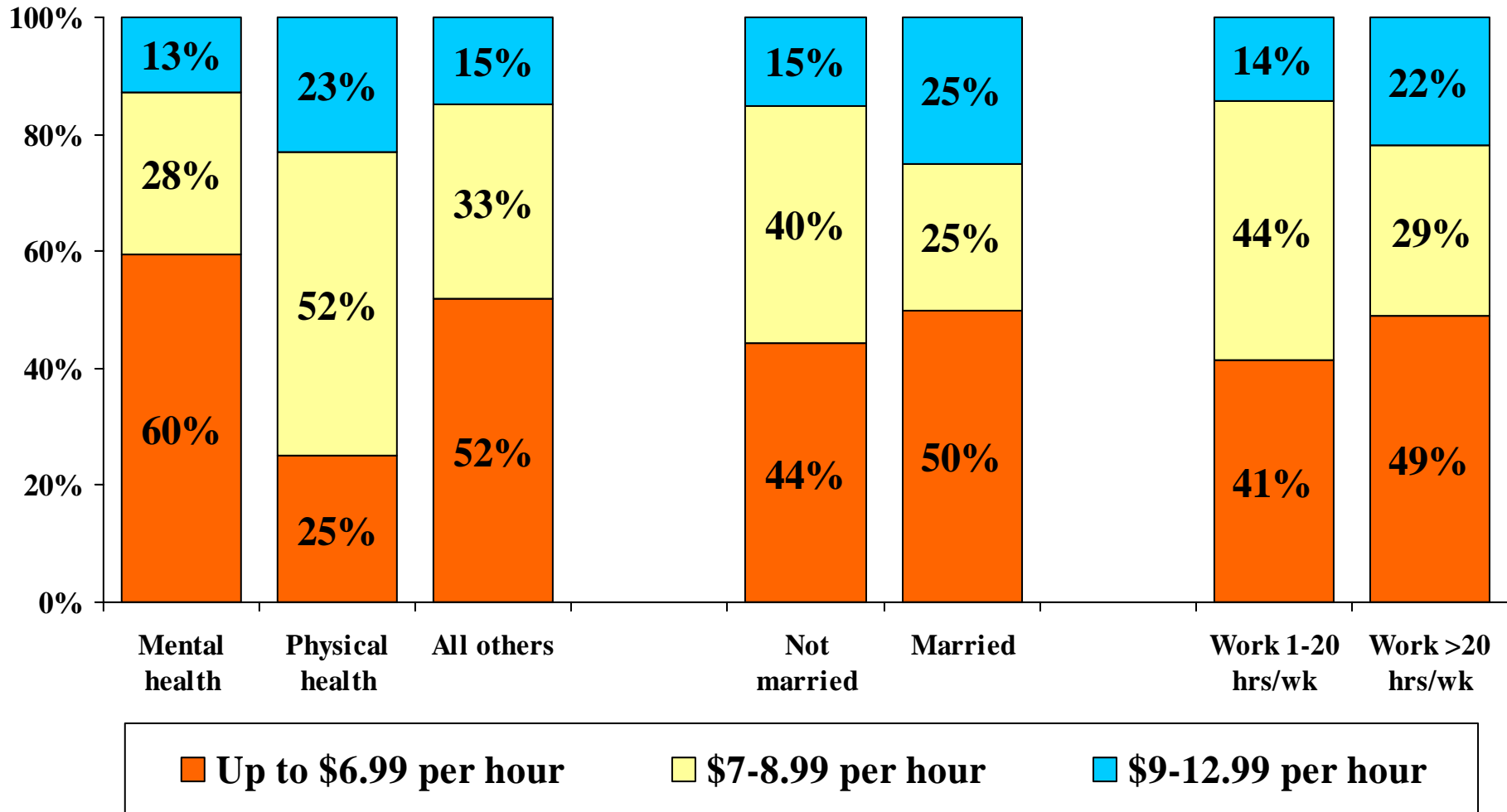
Change in Earnings During Past Year

(17 respondents did not answer)



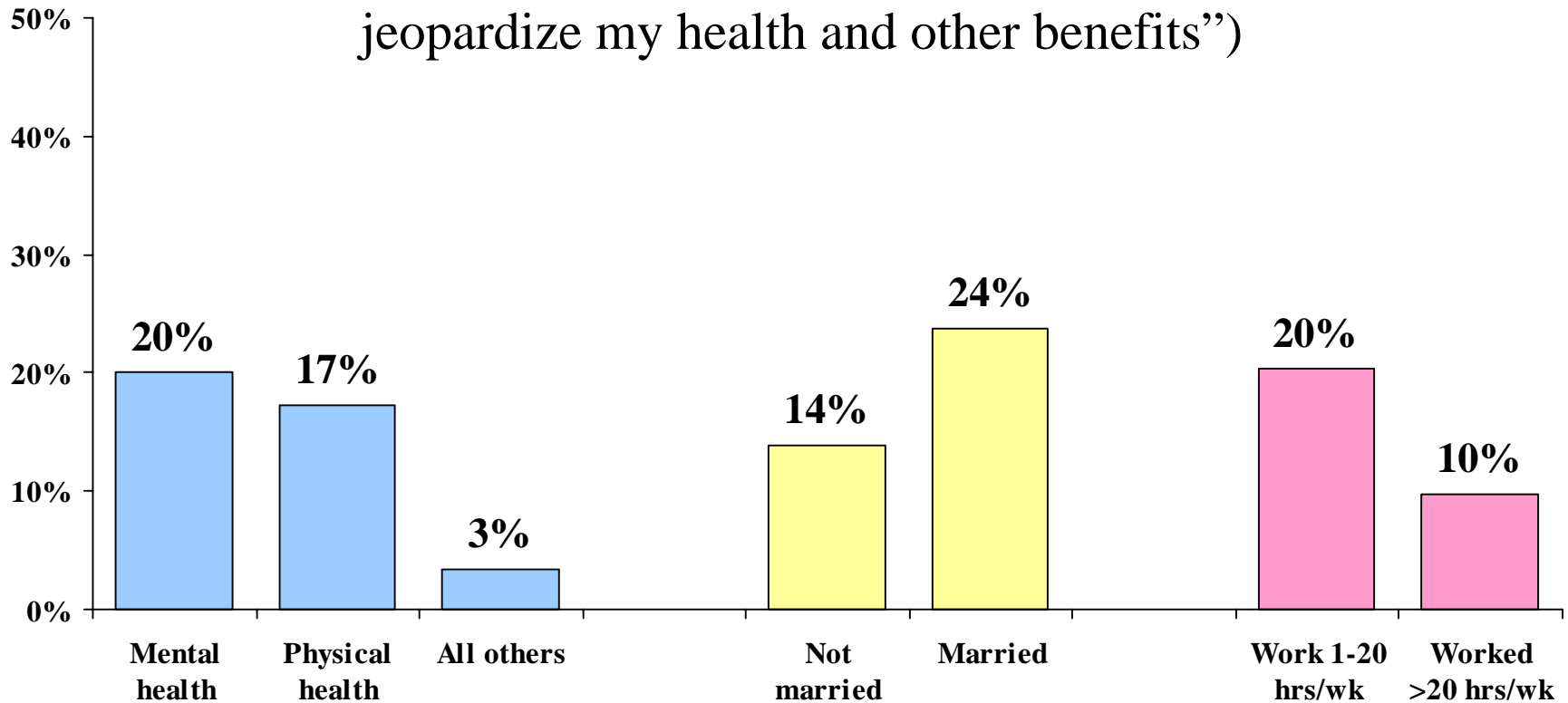
Hourly Earnings

(44 respondents did not answer)



Percent of Respondents Who Want to Earn More But Are Concerned About Benefits

(respondents who answered yes to BOTH questions, “I’d like to earn more money” and “I’m concerned earning more would jeopardize my health and other benefits”)



Next steps . . .

- Using the findings to help design a telephone survey of participants in the Medicaid option for workers with disabilities
 - what did respondents mean when they checked the answer “problem related to my disability” when asked what made it hard to work?
 - what disability categories should be used?
 - *volunteers are needed to review the survey questions*
- Testing the survey findings against Medicaid eligibility and claims data to look at patterns in eligibility cycles and costs