

Keeping Up with Employment: Perspective of Recent Post- secondary Graduates with Disabilities

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In collaboration with

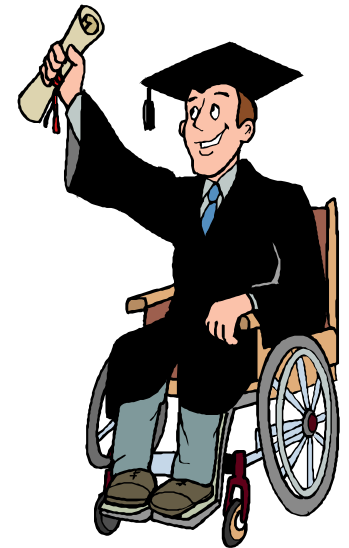
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Background

- Key concern of students with disabilities: to find employment after graduation (Martiniello et al., 2011)
- Pilot study to identify factors and strategies leading to employment after graduation



Method

- 16 postsecondary graduates (3 males, 13 females) with disabilities who currently have a job
- Most recent level of studies:
 - 7 Bachelor's degree
 - 6 Graduate degree
 - 3 Other



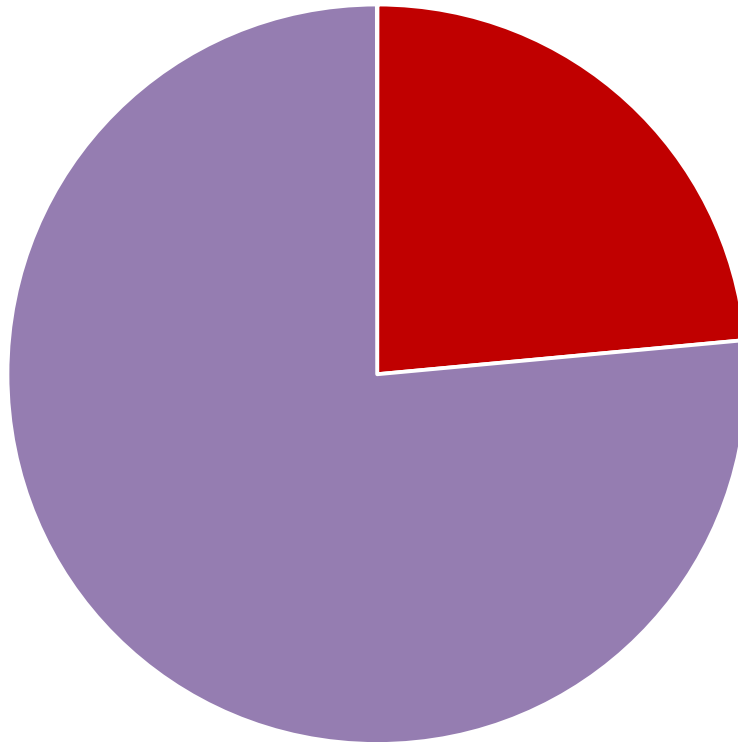
Method

- Brief telephone interview
 - How did you find out about your job?
 - How long did it take to find your job?
 - What helped you get your job? (strategies)
 - What advice would you give to recent graduates with disabilities looking for a job?



Results

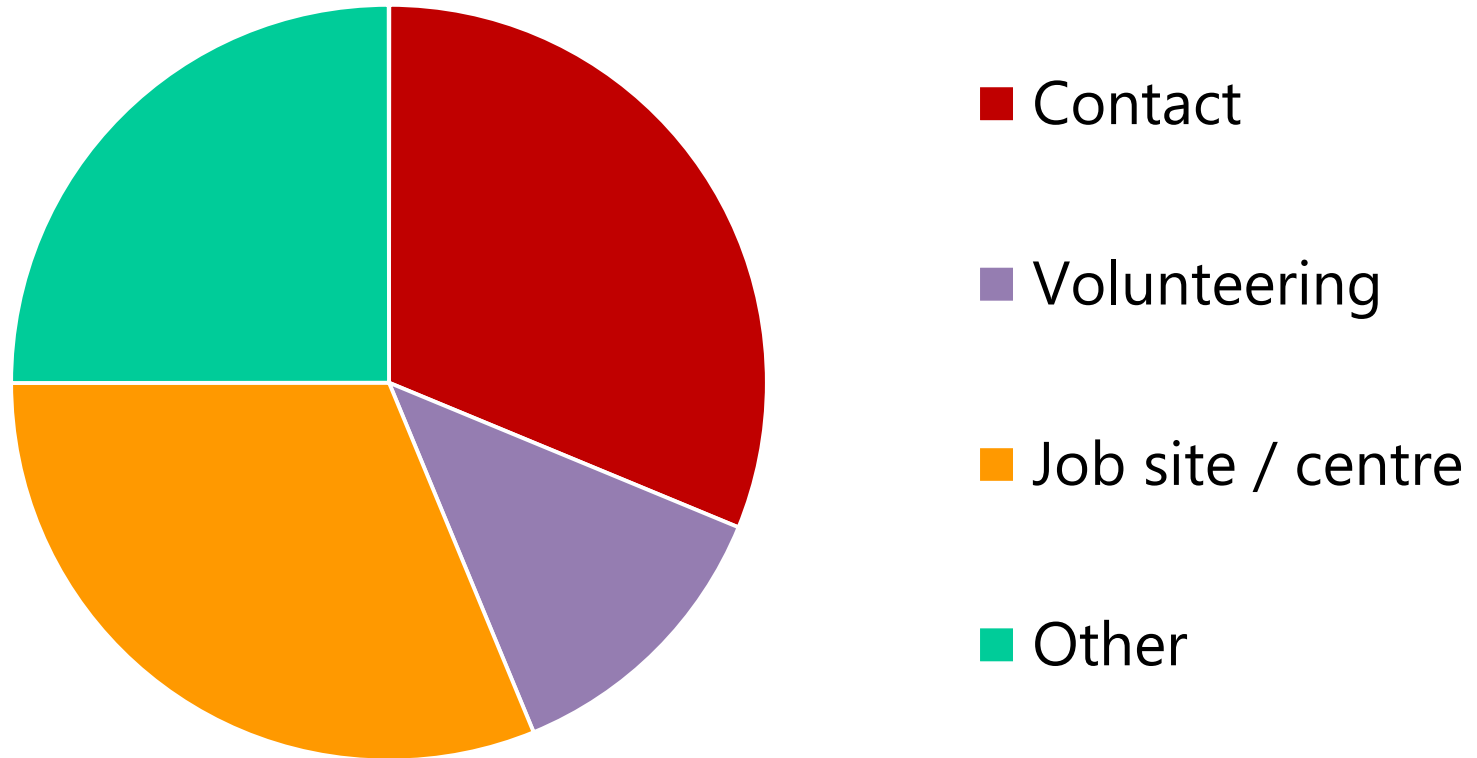
Type of employment



- Part time (< 32 hours/week)
- Full time (> 32 hours/week)

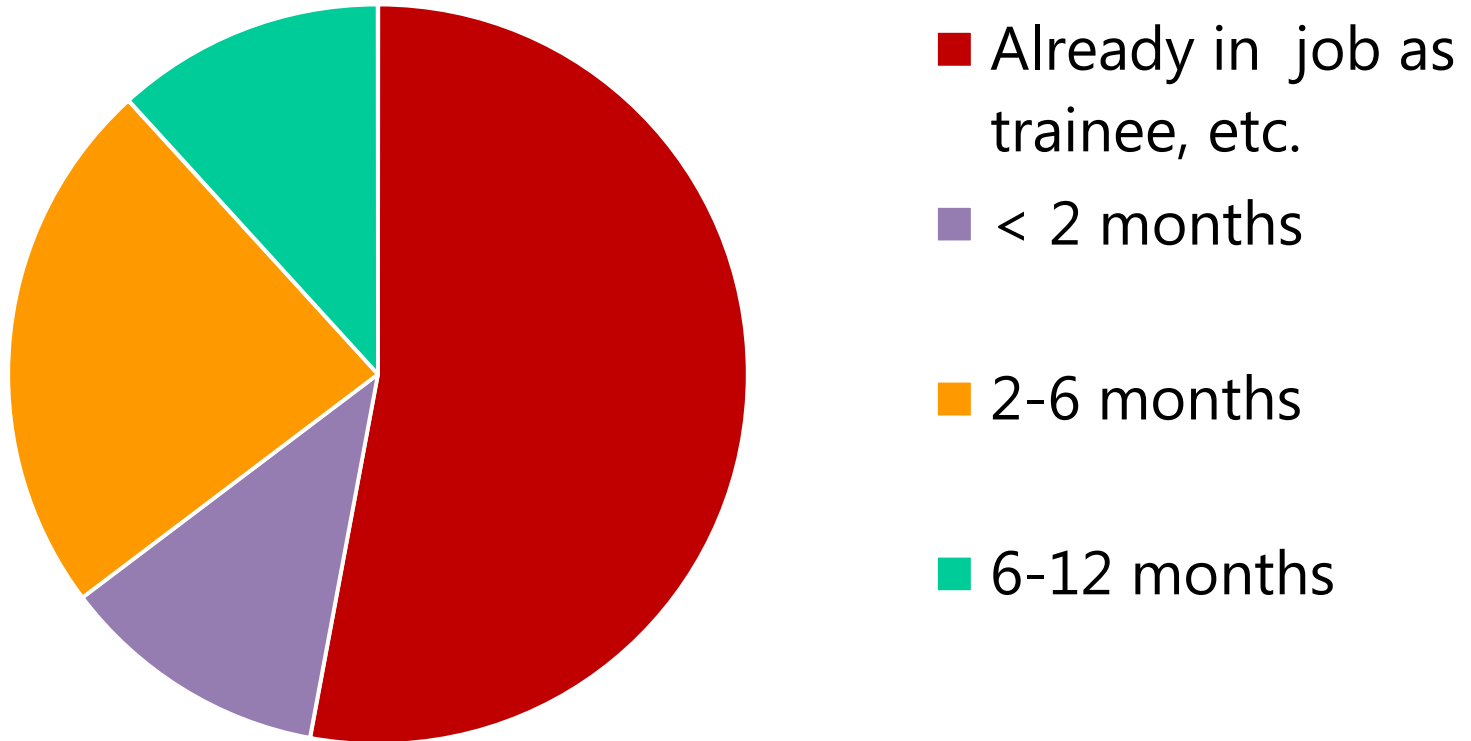
Results

How they found out about their job



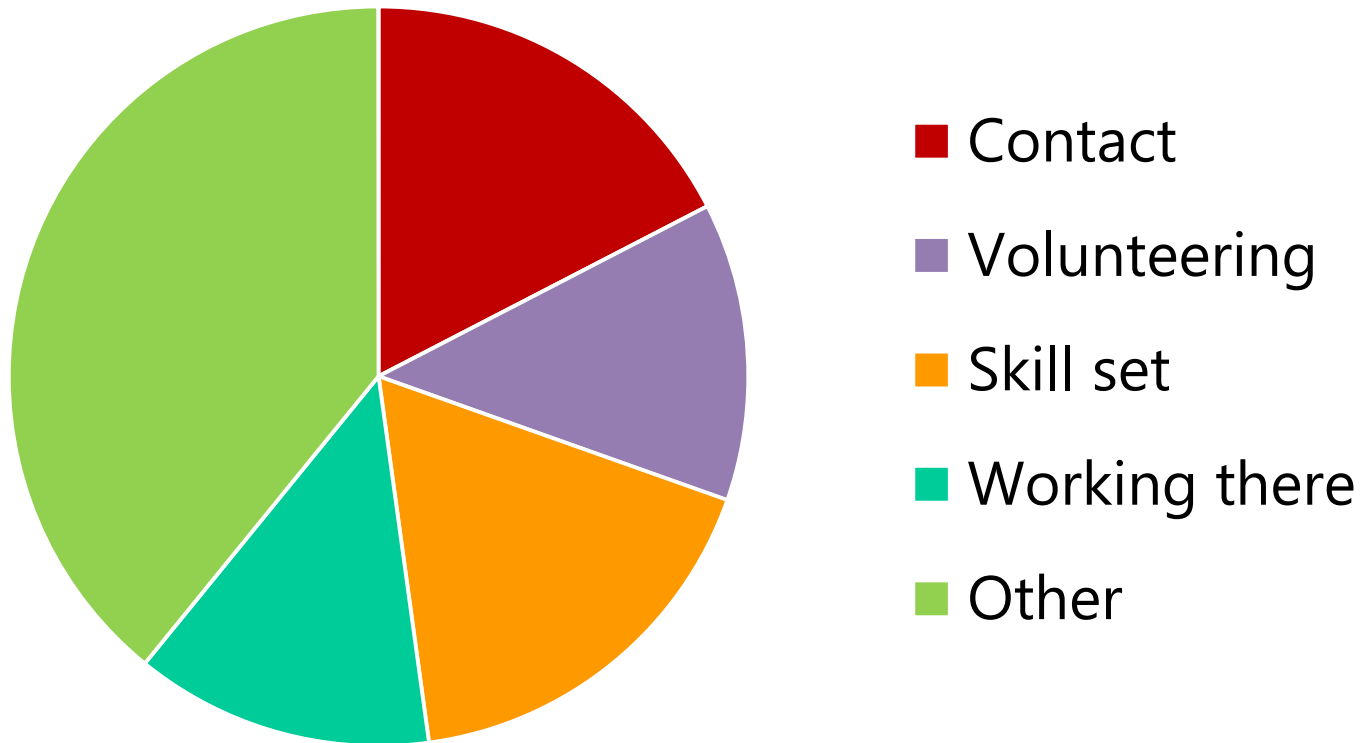
Results

How long it took to find their job



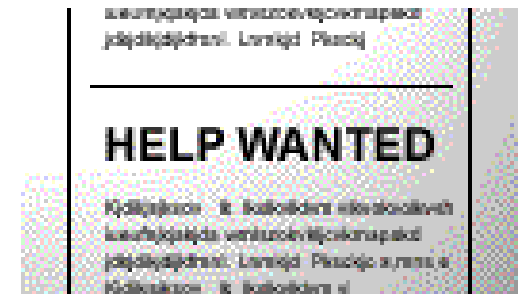
Results

What helped them get their job



Conclusions

- Most graduates worked full time
- Learned about their job through personal contacts or job site / centre
- All found their job in less than 12 months; most in less than 2 months



Conclusions

- Advice for recent graduates with disabilities looking for a job include:
 - Work on CV
 - Network to get contacts
 - Volunteer (employers will see what you can do)



Conclusions

- Advice (continued):
 - Apply to many places, even if out of comfort zone
 - Be resilient
 - Apply to multiple fields / occupations to increase your chances



Thank You!

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