



Research Brief

Job retention among individuals with multiple sclerosis: Relationship with prediagnostic employment and education; demographic characteristics; and disease course, severity and complications

Introduction

The objective is to identify how pre-diagnosis employment, education, demographic statuses, and disease factors relate to job retention among people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Key Findings

- Pre-diagnostic educational attainment was predictive of job retention.
- Among several pre-diagnostic employment characteristics, only working in production, transportation, and materials moving was significantly related to a lower odds of job retention compared with those working in professional/managerial occupations.
- Aging factors were strongly related to job retention, with declines in job retention observed with increasing age and years since diagnosis.
- Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic participants reported lower odds of job retention compared with non-Hispanic whites, although there were no observed effects of sex.
- A significantly lower job retention rate was observed among those with progressive MS, compared with relapsing remitting.
- Job retention was also less likely among people with greater MS severity and fatigue.

What does this mean?

Job retention strategies and interventions should target people with greater MS complications and severity, as well as non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics, as these characteristics are more highly related to job retention than our pre-diagnostic employment and vocational history.

Full publication link: [Job retention among individuals with multiple sclerosis](#)