

Serious Mental Illness and Employment

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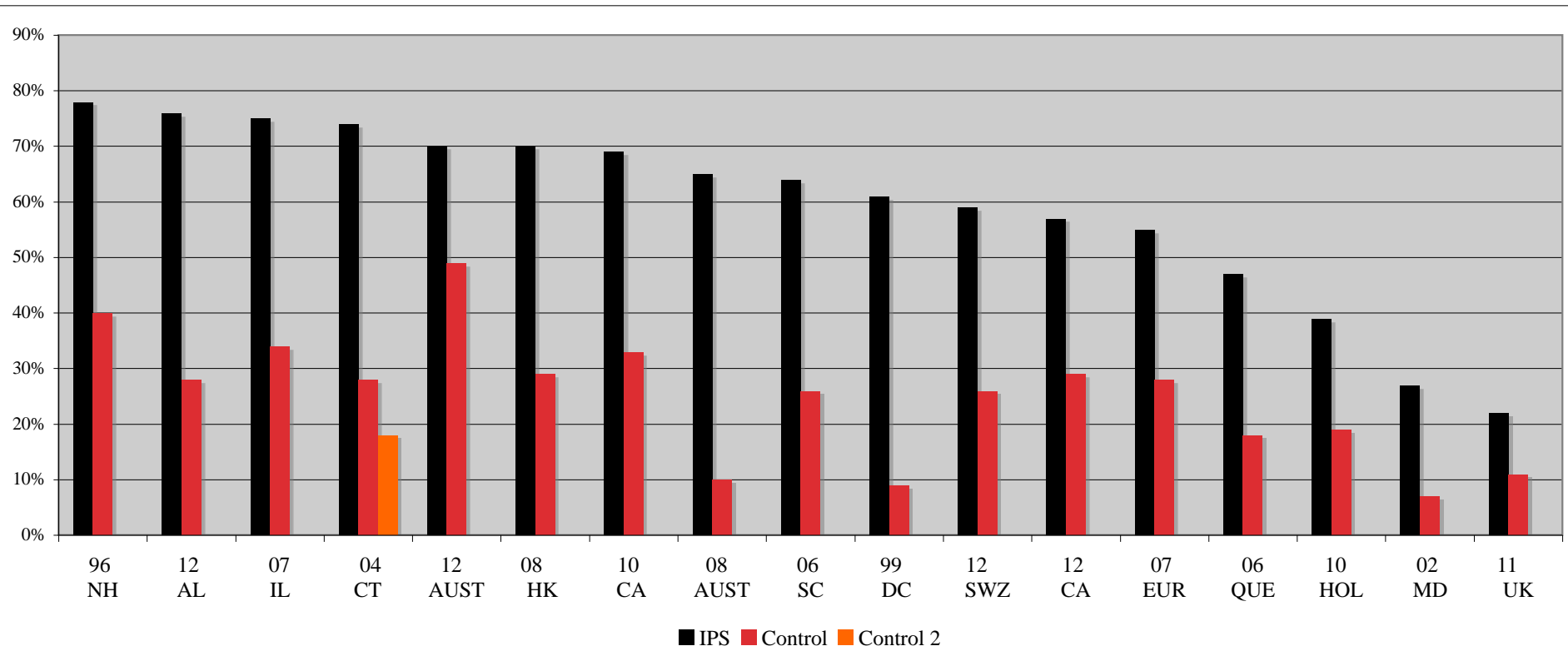
Four Points

- **People with serious mental illness want to work**
- **Supported employment increases competitive employment by three-fold, to 60-70%**
- **Employment enhances self-esteem, quality of life, management of illness, and decreasing involvement in the mental health system**
- **Barriers: lack of health insurance and lack of supported employment**



LIFE

Competitive Employment Rates in 17 Randomized Controlled Trials of Individual Placement and Support



Non-Employment Outcomes

- **Self-esteem**
- **Quality of life**
- **Symptom Control**
- **Decreased mental health service use**
- **No changes with sustained sheltered employment**

(Bond et al., 2001)

Barriers to Employment

- **Fears of losing insurance and benefits**
 - **Medicaid has been linked to SSI**
 - **ACA may change**
- **Lack of vocational services**
 - **1% Medicaid beneficiaries get supported employment**
 - **Misalignment between CMS, VR, and evidence base**