Safety-Net Program Participation for Working-Age Persons with Disabilities

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Introduction

• **Purpose of Presentation**: To explore safety-net program participation for persons with disabilities

• **Sponsor**: Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at University of New Hampshire

• **Funding**: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
Research Questions

1) Program composition: What percentage of safety-net program participants of working age are persons with disabilities?

2) Participation differences: Do working-age persons with disabilities participate in safety-net programs at different rates than working-age persons who do not have disabilities?
Safety-Net Programs Defined to Include

Workers’ compensation
Social Security Disability Insurance
Supplemental Security Income
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Unemployment insurance
Income benefits for veterans
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Public housing
Rent subsidies
Energy assistance
Health insurance programs
Evidence of program participation under-reporting in household surveys, including the CPS, is an obvious concern.

However—

- Program-level administrative data often do not include information on numbers of persons with disabilities.

- Surveys provide the best method of examining participation across multiple programs.
Data/Methods (cont’d.)

- Select civilians age 25-61

- Identify persons who report either a work disability or the presence of a difficulty

- Program level: Estimate percentage of total working-age program participants who report a disability

- Individual level: Estimate prevalence of participation among working-age persons with and without disabilities
**Disability Definition**

Work disability

or

Affirmative answer to any one of the following:

1. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
2. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
4. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
5. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
6. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?
• Civilians age 25-61 = 152,114,500
• Civilians age 25-61 with a disability = 17,548,100 (11.5%)
• Other definitions of disability provide lower estimates for this population:
  • Work disability only: 8.3%
  • Six-question disability sequence: 7.9%
Research Questions

1) Program composition: What percentage of safety-net program participants of working age are persons with disabilities?

2) Participation differences: Do working-age persons with disabilities participate in safety-net programs at different rates than working-age persons who do not have disabilities?
# Percentage of 2010 Income-Assistance Program Participants, Age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent with Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ compensation</td>
<td>945,200</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSDI—disabled worker</td>
<td>4,753,000</td>
<td>92.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI—disabled</td>
<td>3,122,200</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>972,600</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td>11,100,100</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans income—disabled</td>
<td>1,045,000</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC
No disability (N=134,566,400)   Disability (N=17,548,100)
### Percentage of 2010 Health-Insurance Program Participants, Age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent with Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>5,357,400</td>
<td>83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>13,526,400</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Health</td>
<td>3,397,300</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Health</td>
<td>374,300</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Health</td>
<td>1,697,200</td>
<td>40.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC
No disability (N=134,566,400) Disability (N=17,548,100)
## Percentage of Other Program Participants in 2010, Age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent with Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>14,153,900</td>
<td>31.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public housing</td>
<td>2,669,700</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent subsidy</td>
<td>1,468,100</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy assistance</td>
<td>4,166,500</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC
No disability (N=134,566,400)  Disability (N=17,548,100)
Research Questions

1) Program composition: What percentage of safety-net program participants of working age are persons with disabilities?

2) Participation differences: Do working-age persons with disabilities participate in safety-net programs at different rates than working-age persons who do not have disabilities?
## Results: Income Assistance

Participation in disability programs among persons age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>No Disability (%)</th>
<th>Disability (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ compensation</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSDI–disabled worker</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI–disabled</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC
No disability (N=134,566,400) Disability (N=17,548,100)
Results: Income Assistance (cont’d.)

Participation in general-population programs among persons age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Disability (%)</th>
<th>Disability (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans income–disabled</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC
No disability (N=134,566,400)  Disability (N=17,548,100)
# Results: Public Health Insurance

Program participation among persons age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Disability (%)</th>
<th>Disability (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Health Service</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC

No disability (N=134,566,400)  Disability (N=17,548,100)
# Results: Other Assistance

Program participation among persons age 25-61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance</th>
<th>No Disability (%)</th>
<th>Disability (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public housing</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent subsidy</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy assistance</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 CPS-ASEC

No disability (N=134,566,400)  Disability (N=17,548,100)
Percentage of Working-Age Persons Participating in Safety-Net Programs, 2010

Persons without disabilities
- Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, or SSI: 6.5%
- Other programs: 15.6%
- No programs: 77.9%

Persons with disabilities
- Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, or SSI: 51.9%
- Other programs: 31.5%
- No programs: 16.6%
Summary

- 69 percent of working-age persons with disabilities participate in at least one safety-net program, compared to 22 percent of working-age persons without disabilities
  - Top five general-population programs with a large share of persons with disabilities:
    - Medicare (84%)
    - Medicaid (42%)
    - Rent subsidy (42%)
    - Energy assistance (39%)
    - Public housing (39%)
Summary (cont’d.)

– Top six general-population programs with a large share of working-age persons with disabilities:
  • Medicaid (33%)
  • Medicare (27%)
  • SNAP (25%)
  • Energy assistance (9%)
  • Public housing (6%)
  • Unemployment benefits (6%)
Future Work

- Address measurement error by comparing to program administrative data
- Examine state variation using American Community Survey
- Compare for different types of disabilities using the Survey of Income and Program Participation
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