

Department of Education and Social Security Administration Data Link



Hugh G. Berry
Leslie J. Caplan

U.S. Department of Education

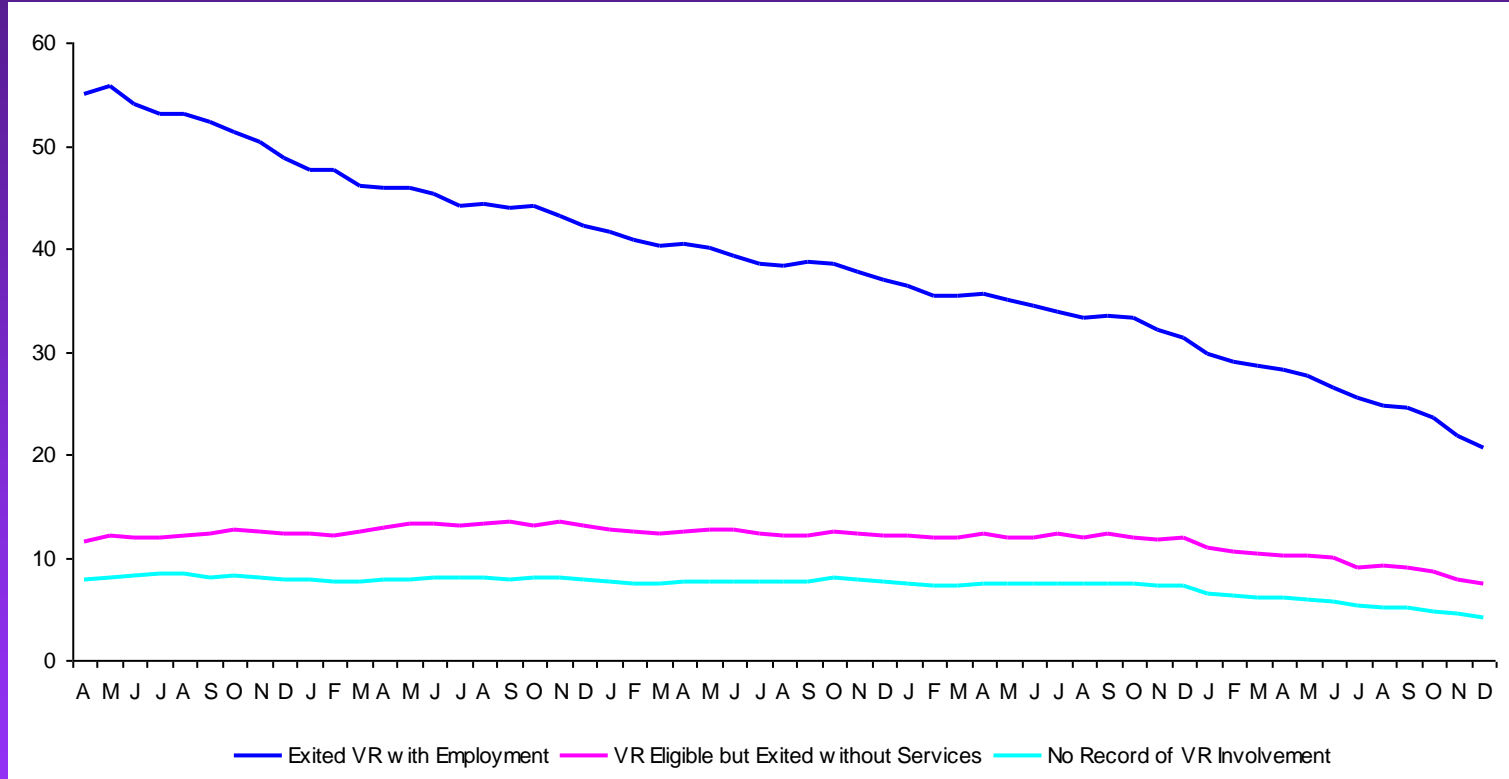
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
(OSERS)

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation
Research (NIDRR)

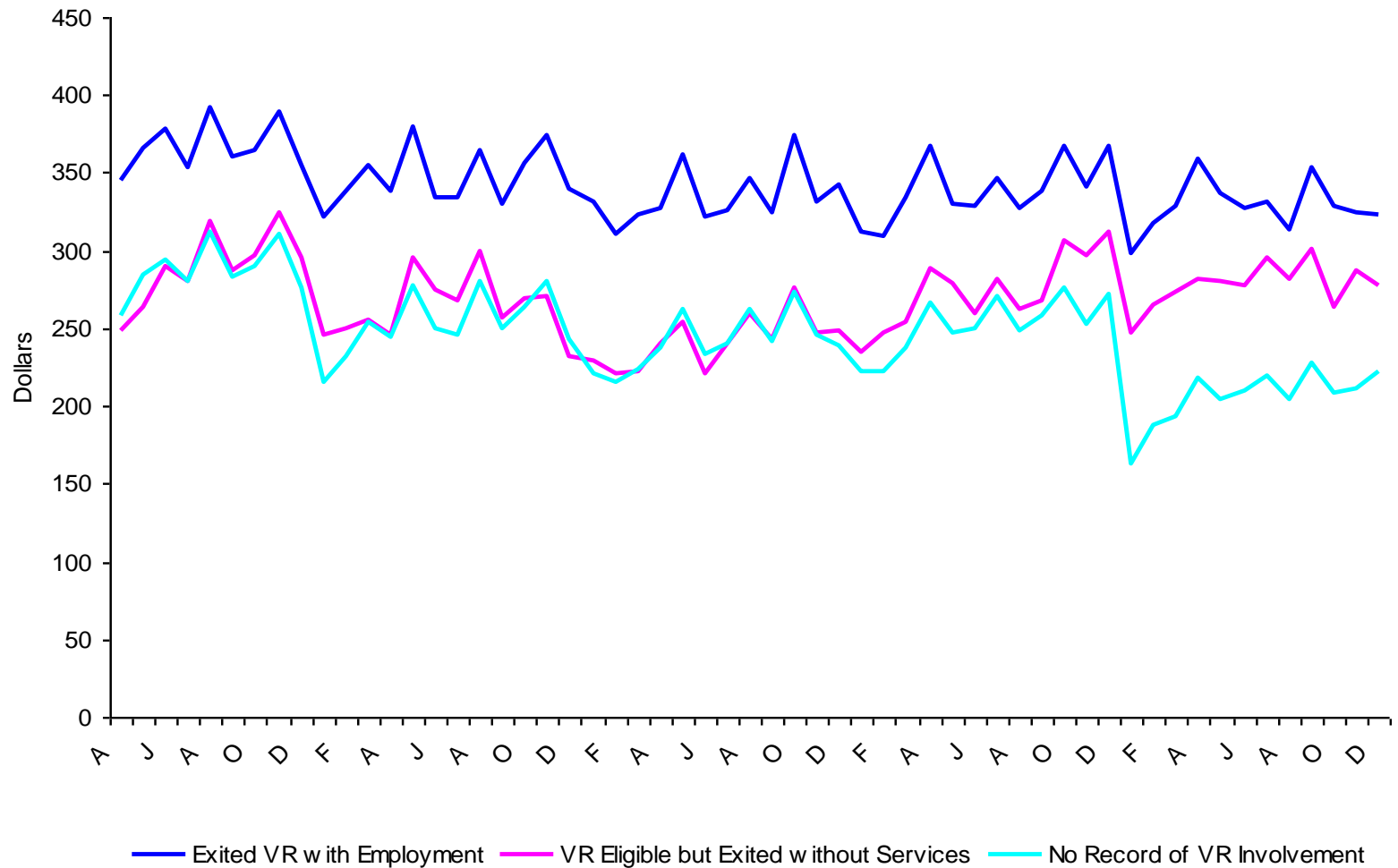
What is it?

- RSA 911 Case Service Report
- SSA Ticket Research File

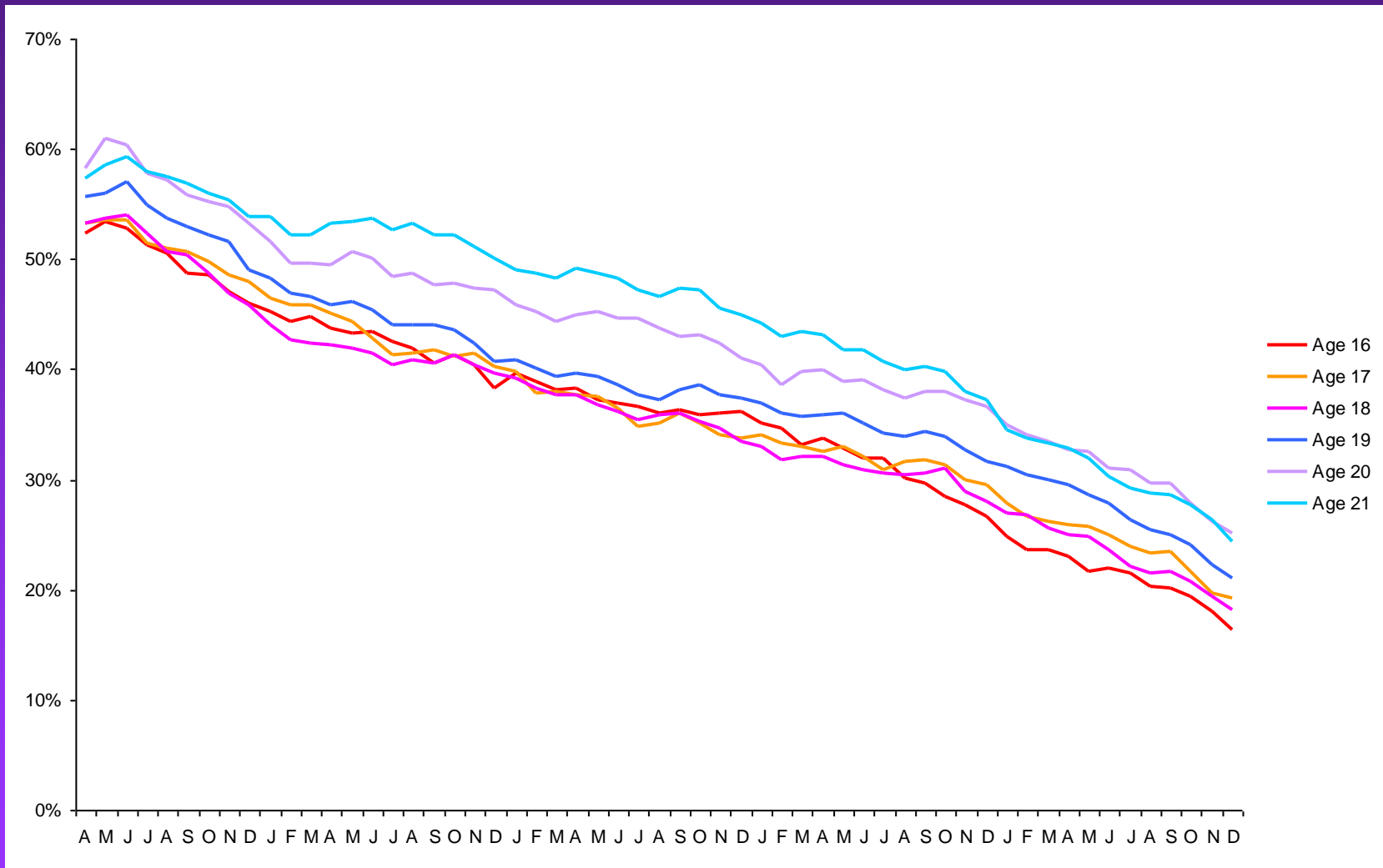
Percent of Transition-Age SSI Participants who Exited VR with an Employment Outcome by Month, 2001-2005.



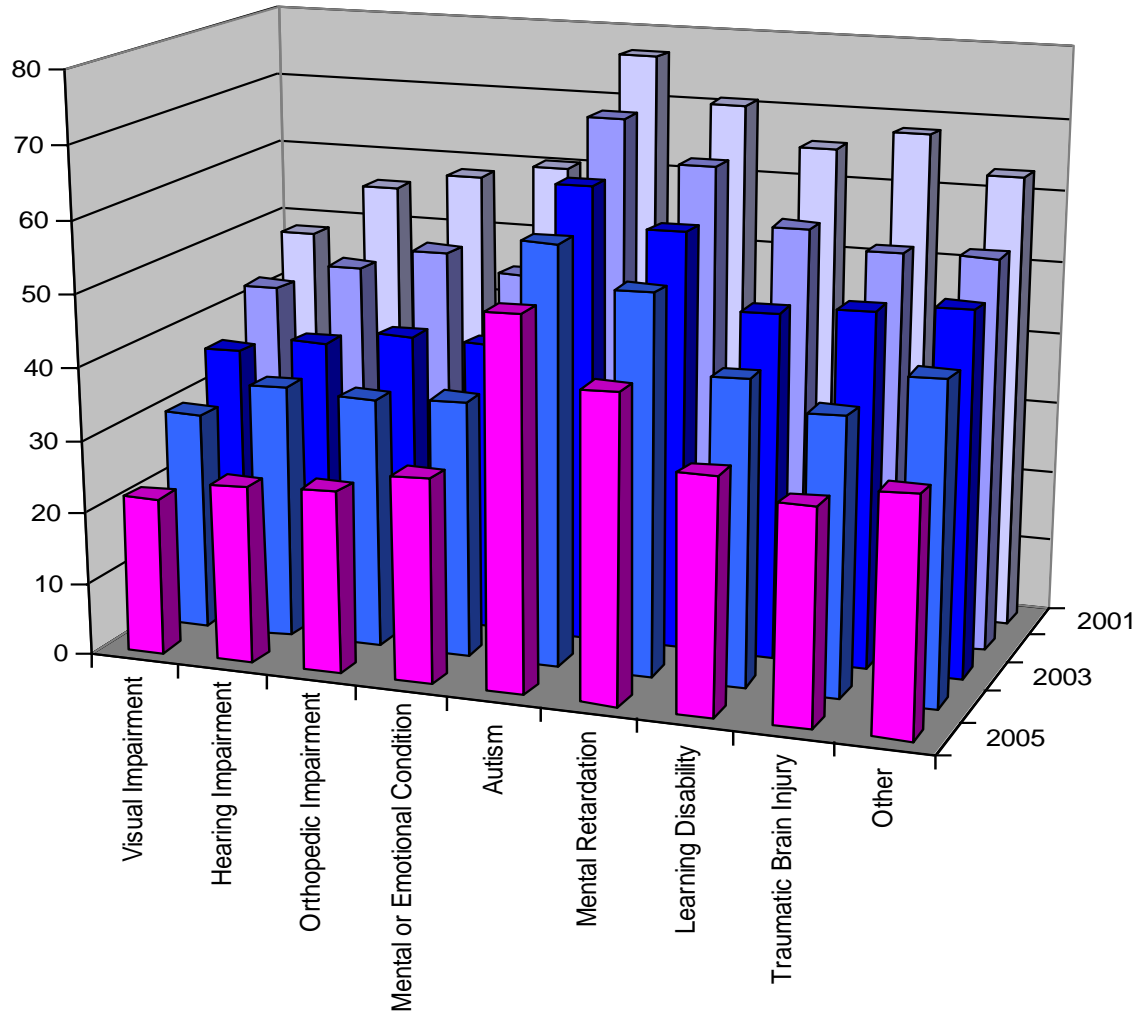
Median Earnings in Dollars of Transition-Age SSI Participants who Exited VR with an Employment Outcome by Month, 2001-2005.



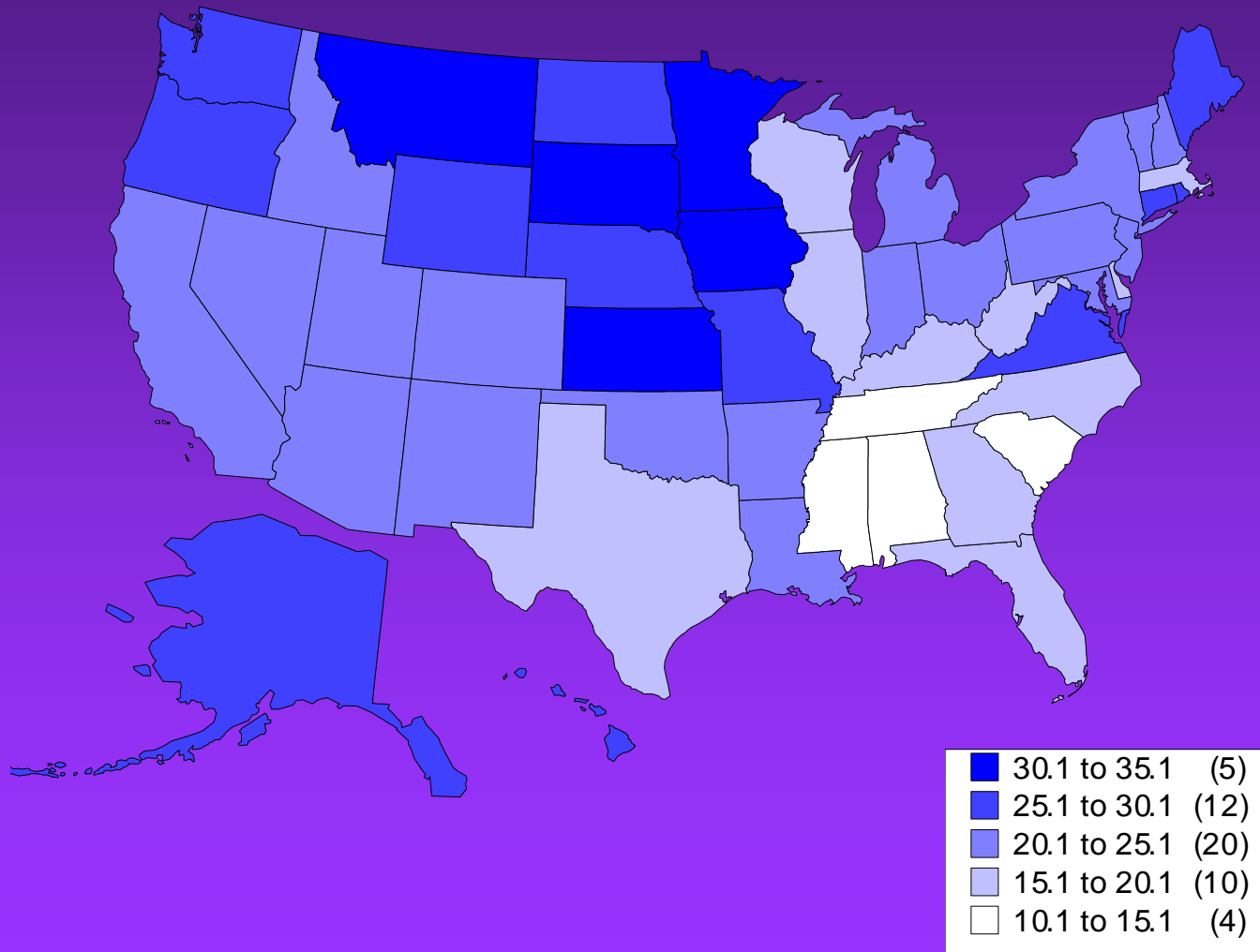
Percentage of Transition-Age SSI Participants who Exited VR with an Employment Outcome by Age, 2001-2005.



Percentage of Transition-Age SSI/VR Consumers with Earnings by Disability and Year



Mean Number of Months Worked 2001-2005 Among Transition-Age SSI/VR Consumers



What Makes a Difference?

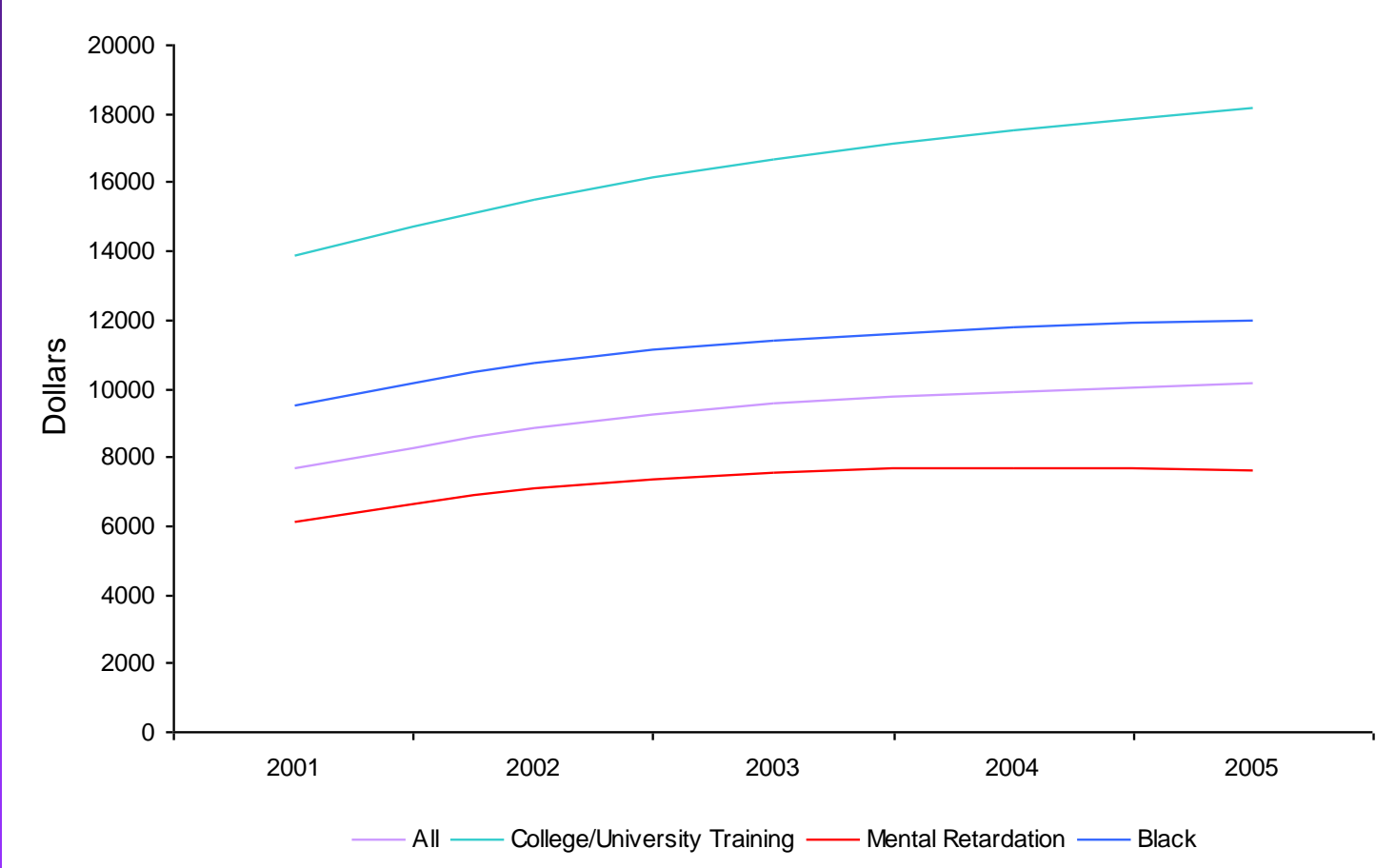


- What factors help sustain employment over time?
- What factors help earnings growth over time?

Logistic Regression – Employment Odds Two Years after 2001 VR Exit

- When controlling for demographic, disability, and service factors, the odds of employment in 2003 for transition-age SSI participants were 1.3 times greater than the odds of non-employment.
- SSI participants with mental retardation showed employment odds of 1.27 above those with other disability types.
- Employment odds for SSI participants with mental illness were nearly inverse those for persons with mental retardation (.79 versus 1.27 respectively).
- Receiving college/university training through VR decreased the 2003 employment odds of SSI participants by 29 percent ($OR = .71$). These odds were mitigated by state poverty levels.
- Job placement services provided through VR decreased the odds of employment two years later by 15 percent ($OR = .85$).
- Supported employment increased employment odds by 1.14 over the intercept when compared to those without supported employment. At the state level, these odds decreased as counselor/consumer ratios increased.

Earnings Growth among Transition-Age SSI Participants with Sustained Employment, 2001-2005.



Summary

- Transition-age SSI participants who exited VR with earnings were more than four times as likely to demonstrate paid employment in 2001 than those who disengaged from VR or who had no record of VR involvement and twice as likely in 2005.
- Nearly two thirds of those exiting with employment had an IEP at the time of VR application. The majority of transition-age SSI participants, particularly those with IEPs, had not attained a high school diploma at the time of VR closure.
- The employment rate of 2001 VR exiters with reported employment outcomes reduced to 21% by 2005.
- Median monthly earnings were \$338 across the five year study period.
- Among all disability groups, VR exiters with mental retardation or autism showed the highest employment rates across the study years.

Summary

- Analyses of employment status and earnings growth frequently yielded apparently contradictory results. The relations between VR variables and employment were also complex:
 - College/university training was negatively associated with employment two years after VR exit, but positively with earnings measures
 - Supported employment was positively associated with employment, although this advantage decreased for higher counselor/consumer ratios
 - People who were in VR for greater lengths of time, like those who applied for VR at later ages, were less likely to be employed, and earned less.
- State-level economic variables were not generally related to employment variables with one exception: The negative effect of college/university training on employment was less in states with higher poverty rates.