



Social Security

# NATIONAL BENEFICIARY SURVEY: DISABILITY STATISTICS, 2015

**Social Security Administration**  
Office of Retirement and Disability Policy  
Office of Research, Demonstration,  
and Employment Support  
500 E Street, SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20254

Released: March 2018  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense



## **Preface**

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*National Beneficiary Survey: Disability Statistics, 2015* provides key descriptive statistics from the 2015 National Beneficiary Survey (NBS), including beneficiary characteristics and health, program and service participation, employment interest and activity, job characteristics, and benefits and employment interaction.

The NBS, sponsored by the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, collects data on a wide range of variables not available in SSA's administrative systems. It provides SSA, Congress, researchers, and policymakers with information about key factors that contribute to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries' and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients' successful or unsuccessful employment efforts.

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Direct any questions, ideas, or comments about the publication to [ORDES.NBS@ssa.gov](mailto:ORDES.NBS@ssa.gov).

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March 2018

### **Errata Policy**

If there are any additions or corrections to the data published herein, they will be posted as errata on the web at <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/nbs/2015/index.html>.

## **Data Source**

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The 2015 NBS collected data from 4,062 SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients aged 18 to full retirement age. Respondents included SSDI workers, disabled adult children, and disabled widow(er)s as well as SSI blind and disabled recipients (throughout the publication we use the term “beneficiaries” to refer to both SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients). The survey included beneficiaries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia who were in current-pay status as of June 2014. Data collection began in February 2015 and ended in October 2015.

SSA through its NBS contractor, Mathematica Policy Research, conducts the NBS using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI), with computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) for beneficiaries who do not respond to the CATI survey or who request an in-person interview. Whenever possible, the beneficiary is interviewed. If the beneficiary is unable to respond due to his or her disability, a proxy respondent is used.

In addition to providing key information on a nationally representative sample of adult beneficiaries, each NBS round typically includes a topical module that focuses on a targeted sample of beneficiaries. The 2015 survey included in-depth, qualitative interviews with 91 SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients who have had successful work experiences. A report of those qualitative interviews is available at <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/documents/Final%20NBS%20Semi%20Structured%20Interview%20Report.pdf>. The 2015 NBS data are the latest currently available. We anticipate that data from the 2017 NBS will be available in fall of 2018.

More information on the NBS is available at <https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/nbs.html>. Documentation, survey questions, and public use data files for the 2015 NBS are available at [https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/nbs\\_round\\_5.html](https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/nbs_round_5.html).

## **Data Notes**

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Except where otherwise noted, all statistics are weighted to represent the national adult SSDI and SSI beneficiary population.

To avoid disclosing information about particular individuals, cells with one or two responses are suppressed. For percentage distributions, the two lowest values are suppressed.

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**Table 1.**  
**Sociodemographic characteristics, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
<b>Sex</b>					
Men	50.0	52.9	43.8	47.5	57.7
Women	50.0	47.1	56.2	52.5	42.3
<b>Age</b>					
18–24	4.7	0.6	4.9	13.1	9.9
25–29	4.7	1.5	6.9	9.8	9.6
30–34	4.9	2.9	8.8	6.8	7.1
35–39	5.6	4.4	7.9	6.7	7.5
40–44	6.2	5.6	9.2	5.8	5.7
45–49	9.5	9.1	11.8	9.1	9.9
50–54	15.0	16.0	13.3	14.0	15.0
55–59	20.3	21.4	17.9	19.4	14.0
60 or older	29.1	38.5	19.2	15.2	21.3
Average (years)	50.6	54.5	47.1	44.7	46.1
<b>Race</b>					
White only	69.0	75.6	62.6	59.0	72.4
Black or African American only	23.8	17.9	31.0	32.0	19.6
Other	7.2	6.5	6.4	9.0	8.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
Hispanic or Latino	9.8	7.6	11.8	13.4	9.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	90.2	92.4	88.2	86.6	91.0
<b>Education level</b>					
Did not complete high school or GED	28.3	19.8	36.6	41.1	16.7
High school	42.6	41.8	43.7	43.7	55.3
Diploma	30.8	32.1	28.6	29.5	41.0
GED	7.7	7.4	9.0	7.6	6.8
Special education certificate	4.1	2.3	6.2	6.6	7.5
Some college or postsecondary vocational	13.7	16.6	12.3	8.6	8.0
Associate's degree or vocational diploma	7.5	10.5	4.1	3.3	8.7
Bachelor's degree	4.9	7.1	2.5	1.9	6.7
Some graduate work or graduate or professional degree	2.9	4.2	0.7	1.5	4.6
<b>Marital status</b>					
Married	29.5	42.6	12.6	12.0	22.5
Divorced	24.2	24.3	27.2	22.3	20.2
Separated	5.1	3.9	5.3	7.6	4.0
Widowed	6.1	7.8	4.4	3.7	1.3
Never married	35.0	21.5	50.4	54.4	52.1
<b>Household income as a percentage of federal poverty level</b>					
Less than 100	47.6	29.4	68.0	73.6	39.9
100–299	39.7	52.0	29.5	20.0	45.6
300 or over	12.8	18.6	2.5	6.4	14.4

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

## Beneficiary Characteristics

**Table 2.**  
**Sociodemographic characteristics, by education level (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	Less than a high school education	High school diploma or GED	More than a high school education
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,131	1,937	994
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	3,649,387	5,497,885	3,749,463
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	28.3	42.6	29.1
<b>Sex</b>				
Men	50.0	51.1	50.9	47.6
Women	50.0	48.9	49.1	52.4
<b>Age</b>				
18–24	4.7	5.1	7.1	0.9
25–29	4.7	4.6	5.9	2.9
30–34	4.9	4.5	5.5	4.2
35–39	5.6	5.4	6.0	5.2
40–44	6.2	6.4	6.8	5.2
45–49	9.5	9.5	9.0	10.4
50–54	15.0	16.6	12.5	17.2
55–59	20.3	20.5	21.1	18.9
60 or older	29.1	27.4	26.1	35.0
Average (years)	50.6	50.4	49.2	53.1
<b>Race</b>				
White only	69.0	65.2	67.9	74.2
Black or African American only	23.8	26.4	25.4	19.2
Other	7.2	8.4	6.7	6.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Hispanic or Latino	9.8	16.7	7.4	6.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	90.2	83.3	92.6	93.4
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	29.5	24.4	26.9	38.3
Divorced	24.2	25.1	22.8	25.3
Separated	5.1	7.3	5.4	2.6
Widowed	6.1	5.8	6.8	5.4
Never married	35.0	37.4	38.0	28.4
<b>Household income as a percentage of federal poverty level</b>				
Less than 100	47.6	64.0	48.5	30.1
100–299	39.7	30.7	39.8	48.3
300 or over	12.8	5.3	11.7	21.6

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.



**Table 3.**  
**Living arrangements, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Living arrangement					
Lives alone	24.2	23.0	30.6	23.3	23.4
Lives with spouse, partner, or relatives	64.6	69.4	55.7	59.7	62.0
Lives with friends or roommates	5.4	3.9	5.1	8.5	4.0
Lives in group setting with nonrelatives	5.3	3.6	7.5	7.4	10.5
Other	0.6	0.2	1.1	1.1	0.0
Has children					
No	81.6	82.7	80.9	79.9	81.9
Yes	16.4	15.4	16.7	18.4	14.6
Under age 6	3.7	2.7	4.5	5.4	3.9
6 or older	12.7	12.7	12.2	13.0	10.7
Unknown	1.9	2.0	2.4	1.7	3.4
Lives with some or all of own children					
Yes	11.1	11.5	9.0	11.2	9.3
No	5.3	3.6	7.7	7.2	4.0
Not applicable (no children)	81.6	82.7	80.9	79.9	81.9
Unknown	2.1	2.2	2.4	1.7	4.7

## Health

**Table 4.**  
**Health status, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Self-reported reason for limitation <sup>a</sup>					
Musculoskeletal disorder	42.1	49.2	38.5	29.5	22.3
Psychiatric disorder	35.4	30.0	43.4	42.0	35.8
Disease of the circulatory system	20.6	24.1	17.1	15.4	10.1
Endocrine or nutritional disorder	15.8	15.8	18.3	14.7	14.7
Disease of the nervous system	17.0	19.1	16.3	13.0	17.1
Injury or poisoning	14.9	16.6	14.9	11.4	11.3
Disease of the respiratory system	11.1	10.6	10.5	12.7	6.4
Sensory disorder	8.1	7.9	9.0	8.1	4.9
Intellectual disability	5.2	2.6	10.7	7.5	11.3
Infectious or parasitic disease	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.9	5.3
HIV/AIDS	1.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	1.4
Neoplasm	5.2	6.6	4.0	3.2	8.3
Blood or blood-forming disease	1.4	1.2	2.3	1.4	0.9
Disease of the digestive system	6.3	6.3	7.1	6.0	6.2
Disease of the genitourinary system	3.1	2.8	4.8	2.8	2.1
Disease of the skin or subcutaneous tissue	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.4
Congenital anomaly	3.6	2.7	4.5	4.8	6.9
Other	16.8	14.5	20.6	19.3	16.1
Number of conditions causing limitation					
0	8.2	5.5	9.7	12.9	20.6
1	25.3	25.6	21.9	26.4	22.3
2	32.3	34.2	28.0	30.7	27.9
3	19.5	20.2	22.7	16.4	15.5
4 or more	14.8	14.6	17.6	13.7	13.6
Drug or alcohol abuse in the past 12 months					
	7.0	6.5	8.8	6.9	7.1
Age at disability onset					
Under 18	21.1	10.3	33.6	36.5	40.4
18–24	9.5	6.5	15.3	12.5	12.2
25–39	23.1	23.1	20.4	24.6	15.2
40–54	34.5	43.4	23.3	22.5	28.0
55 or older	11.7	16.6	7.3	4.0	4.3
General health					
Excellent	4.0	1.9	5.1	7.6	12.1
Very good	6.1	5.6	7.0	6.6	14.5
Good	17.7	15.6	21.3	20.2	30.0
Fair	31.8	32.9	29.3	30.9	26.0
Poor	28.6	31.0	28.4	23.8	14.5
Very poor	11.8	13.0	8.9	10.9	3.0
Current health compared to last year					
Much better	4.2	2.8	5.6	6.4	9.8
Somewhat better	11.5	10.6	12.3	12.8	16.4
About the same	43.4	41.7	44.5	46.3	53.2
Somewhat worse	28.2	31.2	25.9	23.4	16.1
Much worse	12.7	13.6	11.8	11.2	4.4

(Continued)

**Table 4.**  
**Health status, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Body mass index					
Less than 18.5 (underweight)	2.3	1.3	3.2	3.8	1.1
18.5–24.9 (normal weight)	21.8	20.0	22.4	25.4	22.9
25.0–29.9 (overweight)	27.8	29.6	24.4	26.0	31.8
30 or more (obese)	48.1	49.2	50.0	44.8	44.2

NOTE: HIV/AIDS = human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Health

**Table 5.**  
**Difficulty with specific activities, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Difficulty type	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Activities of daily living (ADL) <sup>a</sup>					
Getting into or out of bed	35.7	39.1	35.6	28.6	23.1
Bathing or dressing	28.0	27.2	28.7	29.3	16.0
Getting around inside the house	20.7	23.2	18.1	17.1	8.3
Eating	14.8	13.3	19.1	15.6	6.8
None of the above	46.4	44.3	48.7	49.5	64.7
Instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) <sup>a</sup>					
Getting around outside of the home	52.3	48.9	59.1	55.5	37.3
Shopping for personal items	33.0	30.3	33.5	38.1	28.0
Preparing meals	35.0	32.0	36.5	40.4	29.6
None of the above	39.2	42.1	34.1	36.1	53.9
Functional activities <sup>a</sup>					
Walking or climbing stairs, standing for one hour, stooping, crouching, and/or kneeling	83.7	89.4	79.6	74.3	66.3
Grasping, reaching, and/or lifting 10 pounds	71.4	75.6	66.9	65.4	54.9
Speaking, hearing, and/or seeing	45.6	42.4	48.0	50.7	34.2
Coping with stress	56.7	53.4	62.7	60.3	46.2
Concentrating	67.3	64.8	68.6	71.7	60.8
Getting along with others	29.3	24.2	39.8	33.8	28.3
Number of ADL or IADL difficulties					
0	24.5	24.2	22.7	26.1	37.0
1	21.1	23.2	18.9	18.1	21.4
2	16.2	17.3	16.9	13.7	16.9
3	12.3	10.8	14.1	14.2	12.9
4	11.0	9.1	12.6	13.9	6.4
5	6.4	6.8	6.6	5.6	2.8
6	6.0	6.4	4.6	5.7	2.6
7	2.5	2.1	3.5	2.7	0.0

a. Multiple responses possible.

**Table 6.**  
**Health insurance status and sources, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
<b>All beneficiaries</b>					
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Insured at interview					
Yes	96.4	97.9	95.7	93.7	95.7
No	2.4	1.1	2.9	4.9	2.6
Unknown	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.7
Health insurance source at interview <sup>a</sup>					
Medicaid or Medicare	90.9	90.7	95.0	89.2	84.6
Private	19.1	28.7	5.6	6.8	21.5
Other	6.4	9.3	2.5	2.5	3.6
<b>Beneficiaries with private insurance</b>					
Number (unweighted)	597	375	45	177	101
Number (weighted)	2,463,067	2,110,434	108,420	244,213	228,596
Percentage (weighted)	19.1	28.7	5.6	6.8	21.5
Private insurance source					
Through own employment	18.3	19.7	10.2	9.8	35.4
Through spouse	42.2	41.1	23.7	60.5	36.3
Self or family purchased	29.6	30.5	45.2	15.5	16.6
Other	9.2	8.5	16.6	11.4	11.7
Unknown	0.7	0.2	4.2	2.8	0.0

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Health

**Table 7.**  
**Health status, by impairment (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	Beneficiaries reporting—		
		Musculoskeletal impairments	Mental impairments	Intellectual disability
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,200	1,659	380
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	5,427,024	4,562,015	668,186
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	42.1	35.4	5.2
Self-reported reason for limitation <sup>a</sup>				
Musculoskeletal disorder	42.1	100.0	42.6	22.0
Psychiatric disorder	35.4	35.8	100.0	29.9
Disease of the circulatory system	20.6	20.2	16.0	7.7
Endocrine or nutritional disorder	15.8	16.1	16.4	10.7
Disease of the nervous system	17.0	16.7	12.9	16.1
Injury or poisoning	14.9	16.9	13.1	9.5
Disease of the respiratory system	11.1	11.8	10.8	4.7
Sensory disorder	8.1	6.6	5.2	9.4
Intellectual disability	5.2	2.7	4.4	100.0
Infectious or parasitic disease	5.8	6.7	4.1	7.9
HIV/AIDS	1.3	1.0	1.0	(X)
Neoplasm	5.2	5.6	3.2	3.6
Blood or blood-forming disease	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.0
Disease of the digestive system	6.3	7.1	6.9	3.6
Disease of the genitourinary system	3.1	2.8	1.8	4.0
Disease of the skin or subcutaneous tissue	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.6
Congenital anomaly	3.6	2.1	2.2	9.0
Other	16.8	18.6	18.0	20.3
Number of conditions causing limitation				
0	8.2	...	...	...
1	25.3	13.9	19.2	19.8
2	32.3	35.1	33.8	32.8
3	19.5	27.8	25.1	27.3
4 or more	14.8	23.3	21.9	20.1
Drug or alcohol abuse in the past 12 months	7.0	6.3	12.2	4.9
Age at disability onset				
Under 18	21.1	9.1	22.4	79.6
18–24	9.5	7.4	13.5	10.6
25–39	23.1	25.9	27.5	7.8
40–54	34.5	45.0	29.7	(X)
55 or older	11.7	12.7	7.0	(X)
General health				
Excellent	4.0	1.0	3.3	10.7
Very good	6.1	2.0	4.6	15.8
Good	17.7	12.0	16.7	26.9
Fair	31.8	34.1	31.3	25.7
Poor	28.6	35.2	29.7	18.9
Very poor	11.8	15.7	14.5	2.0

NOTES: HIV/AIDS = human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals; ... = not applicable.

a. Multiple responses possible.

**Table 8.**  
**Health status, by age (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,049	2,146	867
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	1,212,222	3,379,015	8,305,498
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	9.4	26.2	64.4
Self-reported reason for limitation <sup>a</sup>				
Musculoskeletal disorder	42.1	10.5	32.1	50.8
Psychiatric disorder	35.4	40.4	43.9	31.2
Disease of the circulatory system	20.6	3.4	13.9	25.9
Endocrine or nutritional disorder	15.8	4.4	13.2	18.6
Disease of the nervous system	17.0	15.1	20.7	15.7
Injury or poisoning	14.9	5.4	12.9	17.1
Disease of the respiratory system	11.1	3.8	8.0	13.5
Sensory disorder	8.1	8.2	7.6	8.3
Intellectual disability	5.2	15.4	8.6	2.3
Infectious or parasitic disease	5.8	3.9	4.5	6.6
HIV/AIDS	1.3	0.4	1.4	1.4
Neoplasm	5.2	1.8	3.5	6.5
Blood or blood-forming disease	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.5
Disease of the digestive system	6.3	1.8	4.6	7.7
Disease of the genitourinary system	3.1	1.8	2.9	3.3
Disease of the skin or subcutaneous tissue	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.9
Congenital anomaly	3.6	9.5	4.5	2.3
Other	16.8	18.4	18.3	15.9
Number of conditions causing limitation				
0	8.2	20.7	9.3	5.9
1	25.3	35.9	29.5	22.0
2	32.3	26.7	30.6	33.8
3	19.5	11.9	18.3	21.1
4 or more	14.8	4.7	12.4	17.2
Drug or alcohol abuse in the past 12 months	7.0	6.6	7.3	6.8
Age at disability onset				
Under 18	21.1	81.6	32.4	7.8
18–24	9.5	16.7	17.0	5.5
25–39	23.1	1.7	42.0	18.5
40–54	34.5	...	8.6	50.1
55 or older	11.7	...	...	18.1
General health				
Excellent	4.0	15.3	6.1	1.5
Very good	6.1	17.7	8.2	3.5
Good	17.7	32.9	19.7	14.7
Fair	31.8	22.9	32.5	32.8
Poor	28.6	7.8	24.0	33.5
Very poor	11.8	3.3	9.4	14.0

NOTES: HIV/AIDS = human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; ... = not applicable.

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Participation in Government Programs or Other Services

**Table 9.**  
**Program participation, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
SSA program at sampling					
DI-only beneficiaries	57.0	100.0	...	...	59.4
Concurrent program beneficiaries	15.1	...	100.0	...	16.2
SSI-only beneficiaries	28.0	...	...	100.0	24.4
Monthly SSA program benefit in month before interview					
Less than \$500	7.7	3.1	4.0	19.3	18.8
\$500–\$1,000	49.7	27.0	81.9	78.6	44.2
\$1,001 or more	42.6	70.0	14.1	2.1	36.9
Average (\$)	1,065.62	1,345.03	805.75	636.24	982.63
Source of income and assistance in month before interview <sup>a</sup>					
SSA program benefits	95.4	97.1	97.4	90.8	87.6
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	35.5	21.2	54.5	54.6	18.2
Earnings <sup>b</sup>	6.6	7.0	7.0	5.6	73.9
Pensions	7.4	11.9	2.3	1.0	4.4
Veterans' benefits	3.4	5.1	1.1	1.0	0.8
Private disability insurance	3.0	3.9	3.3	0.9	3.0
Public cash assistance or welfare	2.1	0.2	5.2	4.3	1.9
Workers' compensation	0.9	1.5	(X)	(X)	0.4
Unemployment Insurance	0.2	0.2	(X)	0.1	0.7
Other	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.9	4.0
Monthly non-SSA program benefit in month before interview					
None	57.0	65.0	44.9	47.2	74.2
\$1–\$199	25.1	17.6	33.9	35.5	12.8
\$200–\$499	6.9	4.6	10.8	9.7	4.7
\$500 or more	11.0	12.8	10.4	7.5	8.3
Average (\$)	210.94	264.53	156.98	130.80	223.27
Months since initial SSA award					
Fewer than 24	4.1	4.1	4.5	3.9	1.8
24–59	19.7	22.0	17.7	16.0	10.9
60–119	26.9	32.4	17.6	20.8	26.7
120 or more	49.0	41.3	60.1	58.7	60.4
Average	150.3	129.7	187.4	172.2	183.8

NOTES: ... = not applicable; (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. These percentages do not match those shown in other tables for beneficiaries working/employed at interview because the reference month differs.



Participation in Government Programs or Other Services

**Table 10.**  
**Service use, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Type or reason	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
<b>Beneficiaries who ever used services</b>					
Number (unweighted)	2,221	982	453	786	286
Number (weighted)	6,768,635	3,909,536	1,054,917	1,804,182	731,229
Percentage (weighted)	52.5	53.2	54.2	50.1	68.7
Service ever used <sup>a</sup>					
Mental health therapy or counseling	58.1	53.2	67.5	63.2	57.1
Medical services to improve functioning	57.3	65.1	51.3	44.0	44.6
Education or schooling	12.6	10.2	14.6	16.5	21.9
Training for new skills, job, or career	13.5	12.2	22.0	11.3	25.0
<b>Beneficiaries who used services in 2014</b>					
Number (unweighted)	1,485	678	305	502	197
Number (weighted)	4,362,173	2,530,677	676,028	1,155,468	473,626
Percentage (weighted)	33.8	34.4	34.8	32.1	44.5
Reason for using service in 2014 <sup>a</sup>					
To improve health or well-being	76.7	78.7	76.4	72.5	62.2
To improve ability to do daily activities	23.3	23.4	23.5	23.0	18.1
To find a job or get a better job	8.0	5.5	10.2	12.2	22.2
To access specific service	5.5	4.3	7.3	6.9	2.2
Pressured by someone to use	3.6	2.6	4.4	5.5	2.9
To increase income	1.7	1.0	3.6	2.1	2.2
To avoid a continuing disability review	0.5	0.5	(X)	0.6	(X)
Other	12.9	12.6	10.6	14.8	17.3
Unknown	1.3	1.0	3.2	0.9	1.9
Service used in 2014 <sup>a</sup>					
Medical services	71.9	74.6	68.4	68.1	57.5
Personal counseling or group therapy	64.1	62.4	70.8	63.8	63.7
Occupational, physical, or speech therapy	34.9	36.8	32.1	32.4	30.3
Special equipment or device	30.1	33.3	27.7	24.8	19.5
Training, job modification advice, or on-the-job training	18.6	15.0	32.2	18.3	47.9
Work assessment or help finding a job	18.8	16.0	29.0	18.9	34.6
Other	4.6	5.3	5.2	2.7	3.0

NOTES: Services include any employment services, job training, medical services, or mental health services.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Participation in Government Programs or Other Services

**Table 11.**  
**Service needed but not received, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Unmet need or reason	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
<b>All beneficiaries</b>					
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Service needed but not received, 2014					
Yes	10.8	9.7	14.4	11.3	5.3
No	87.1	88.4	81.9	87.1	92.9
Unknown	2.1	1.9	3.6	1.6	1.8
<b>Beneficiaries with unmet service needs</b>					
Number (unweighted)	497	205	104	188	41
Number (weighted)	1,397,213	711,062	280,543	405,608	56,463
Reason why service was not received					
Could not afford	22.8	32.6	6.4	16.8	20.4
Problems with service or agency	9.1	4.0	10.5	17.0	21.8
Wasn't eligible or request refused	12.6	11.7	16.7	11.5	5.6
Too difficult or confusing	3.8	5.9	(X)	2.3	(X)
Lack of information	17.9	12.3	22.1	24.9	14.5
Did not try to get service	1.3	(X)	(X)	2.3	(X)
Other	29.8	31.1	38.9	21.3	20.0
Unknown	2.7	(X)	3.2	3.9	7.2

NOTE: (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

Participation in Government Programs or Other Services

**Table 12.**  
**Service use, by impairment (in percent)**

Type or reason	All beneficiaries	Beneficiaries reporting—		
		Musculoskeletal impairments	Mental impairments	Intellectual disability
<b>Beneficiaries who ever used services</b>				
Number (unweighted)	2,221	691	1,144	175
Number (weighted)	6,768,635	2,870,003	3,169,270	293,648
Percentage (weighted)	52.5	52.9	69.5	44.0
Service ever used <sup>a</sup>				
Mental health therapy or counseling	58.1	55.6	83.4	47.7
Medical services to improve functioning	57.3	71.8	44.5	34.8
Education or schooling	12.6	11.0	15.8	15.7
Training for new skills, job, or career	13.5	8.6	13.1	26.7
<b>Beneficiaries who used services in 2014</b>				
Number (unweighted)	1,485	483	849	116
Number (weighted)	4,362,173	1,895,928	2,290,224	189,644
Percentage (weighted)	33.8	34.9	50.2	28.4
Reason for using service in 2014 <sup>a</sup>				
To improve health or well-being	76.7	83.8	79.0	57.9
To improve ability to do daily activities	23.3	24.0	24.0	23.8
To find a job or get a better job	8.0	4.3	6.5	11.8
To access specific service	5.5	6.4	5.9	5.0
Pressured by someone to use	3.6	2.7	4.2	4.5
To increase income	1.7	1.8	1.9	(X)
To avoid a continuing disability review	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.0
Other	12.9	8.7	12.6	18.7
Unknown	1.3	1.7	1.1	3.2
Service used in 2014 <sup>a</sup>				
Medical services	71.9	79.1	73.4	51.8
Personal counseling or group therapy	64.1	64.8	80.7	54.8
Occupational, physical, or speech therapy	34.9	38.1	26.8	32.5
Special equipment or device	30.1	37.8	22.8	18.7
Training, job modification advice, or on-the-job training	18.6	12.6	20.2	54.2
Work assessment or help finding a job	18.8	13.3	19.8	42.1
Other	4.6	3.7	5.4	4.1

NOTES: Services include any employment services, job training, medical services, or mental health services.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Participation in Government Programs or Other Services

**Table 13.**  
**Service use, by age (in percent)**

Type or reason	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
<b>Beneficiaries who ever used services</b>				
Number (unweighted)	2,221	546	1,234	441
Number (weighted)	6,768,635	626,081	1,943,837	4,198,717
Percentage (weighted)	52.5	51.7	57.5	50.6
Service ever used <sup>a</sup>				
Mental health therapy or counseling	58.1	57.1	64.6	55.2
Medical services to improve functioning	57.3	32.5	48.8	64.9
Education or schooling	12.6	30.2	17.1	7.9
Training for new skills, job, or career	13.5	22.2	15.9	11.0
<b>Beneficiaries who used services in 2014</b>				
Number (unweighted)	1,485	370	848	267
Number (weighted)	4,362,173	424,660	1,334,411	2,603,102
Percentage (weighted)	33.8	35.0	39.5	31.3
Reason for using service in 2014 <sup>a</sup>				
To improve health or well-being	76.7	59.6	76.3	79.7
To improve ability to do daily activities	23.3	24.6	25.8	21.8
To find a job or get a better job	8.0	24.5	11.1	3.8
To access specific service	5.5	4.4	5.6	5.6
Pressured by someone to use	3.6	6.4	3.6	3.2
To increase income	1.7	3.5	2.1	1.2
To avoid a continuing disability review	0.5	1.4	1.2	0.0
Other	12.9	14.0	11.0	13.7
Unknown	1.3	3.5	1.6	0.8
Service used in 2014 <sup>a</sup>				
Medical services	71.9	49.3	67.3	78.0
Personal counseling or group therapy	64.1	65.8	71.6	59.9
Occupational, physical, or speech therapy	34.9	29.8	31.0	37.8
Special equipment or device	30.1	12.9	21.9	37.2
Training, job modification advice, or on-the-job training	18.6	39.7	20.8	14.0
Work assessment or help finding a job	18.8	39.7	22.3	13.5
Other	4.6	4.7	5.2	4.3

NOTE: Services include any employment services, job training, medical services, or mental health services.

a. Multiple responses possible.

**Table 14.**  
**Employment expectations, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Expectation	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Goals include work or career advancement					
Yes	37.2	34.0	41.8	41.3	62.7
No	59.3	62.4	53.6	55.9	33.1
Unknown	3.5	3.6	4.5	2.8	4.2
Sees self working for pay—					
In the next 2 years <sup>a</sup>					
Agree or strongly agree	25.3	23.1	30.1	27.4	83.1
Disagree or strongly disagree	72.2	74.7	68.6	69.1	13.6
Unknown	2.5	2.3	1.2	3.5	3.3
In the next 5 years					
Agree or strongly agree	28.1	24.2	34.5	32.8	65.8
Disagree or strongly disagree	68.2	72.1	60.5	64.5	27.1
Unknown	3.6	3.7	5.0	2.7	7.0
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits—					
In the next 2 years <sup>b</sup>					
Agree or strongly agree	11.2	9.2	12.5	14.4	22.2
Disagree or strongly disagree	13.3	13.2	15.7	12.1	57.0
Unknown	0.9	0.6	1.9	0.9	4.0
Not applicable--does not see self working in next 2 years	74.7	76.9	69.9	72.6	16.9
In the next 5 years					
Agree or strongly agree	16.7	13.8	19.4	21.2	29.3
Disagree or strongly disagree	10.2	9.1	14.1	10.1	34.3
Unknown	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.2
Not applicable--does not see self working in next 5 years	71.9	75.8	65.5	67.2	34.2

a. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

## Employment Interest

**Table 15.**  
**Nonworking beneficiaries' reasons for not working, by program (in percent)**

Reason	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	3,617	1,487	728	1,402
Number (weighted)	11,832,671	6,715,366	1,772,753	3,344,553
Percentage (weighted)	91.7	91.4	91.2	92.8
Physical or mental condition prevents work	90.0	91.8	87.6	87.6
Discouraged by previous work attempts	26.0	24.7	27.2	28.1
Others do not think he or she can work	23.2	23.3	25.7	21.6
Workplace not accessible to people with his or her disability	26.3	24.5	26.3	30.1
Cannot find a job he or she is qualified for	23.3	22.5	26.3	23.3
Lacks reliable transportation to or from work	17.0	13.3	17.2	24.5
Does not want to lose cash or health insurance benefits	12.5	10.8	14.9	14.6
Employer will not give him or her a chance	16.0	15.5	17.3	16.1
Cannot find a job he or she wants	10.0	9.7	9.1	10.9
Is caring for someone else	7.5	6.8	6.6	9.3
Waiting to finish school or training program	3.1	1.5	4.1	5.7
Other	5.3	6.6	2.4	4.2

NOTE: Multiple responses possible.

**Table 16.**  
**Hourly reservation wage among nonworking beneficiaries seeking employment or reporting nonhealth reasons for not working, by program (in percent)**

Hourly reservation wage	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	1,988	876	388	724
Number (weighted)	6,420,532	3,695,607	945,183	1,779,743
Percentage (weighted)	49.8	50.3	48.6	49.4
Less than \$6.00	1.5	1.0	1.0	2.6
\$6.00–\$7.24	2.6	2.5	4.6	1.7
\$7.25–\$9.99	19.5	14.0	27.9	26.5
\$10.00–\$14.99	27.9	28.8	28.1	25.8
\$15.00 or more	22.1	27.5	12.4	16.1
Unknown	26.5	26.2	26.1	27.3
Median (\$)	10.50	12.00	10.00	10.00
Average (\$)	14.20	15.94	11.77	11.87

NOTE: The hourly reservation wage is the lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work. Only nonproxy respondents who were not working at interview and were either seeking work or indicated a nonhealth reason for not working were asked the hourly reservation wage question.

## Employment Interest

**Table 17.**  
**Nonworking beneficiaries' reasons for not working, by age (in percent)**

Reason	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	3,617	873	1,936	808
Number (weighted)	11,832,671	1,005,187	3,057,417	7,770,067
Percentage (weighted)	91.7	82.9	90.5	93.6
Physical or mental condition prevents work	90.0	69.4	86.3	94.1
Discouraged by previous work attempts	26.0	20.6	30.5	25.0
Others do not think he or she can work	23.2	17.8	24.2	23.5
Workplace not accessible to people with his or her disability	26.3	26.0	29.6	25.1
Cannot find a job he or she is qualified for	23.3	31.8	26.4	21.0
Lacks reliable transportation to or from work	17.0	19.1	19.1	16.0
Does not want to lose cash or health insurance benefits	12.5	12.9	16.0	11.0
Employer will not give him or her a chance	16.0	18.7	17.9	14.9
Cannot find a job he or she wants	10.0	14.3	10.1	9.4
Is caring for someone else	7.5	10.2	11.5	5.5
Waiting to finish school or training program	3.1	13.0	3.7	1.6
Other	5.3	6.5	3.9	5.7

NOTE: Multiple responses possible.



**Table 18.**  
**Hourly reservation wage among nonworking beneficiaries seeking employment or reporting nonhealth reasons for not working, by age (in percent)**

Hourly reservation wage	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	1,988	420	1,134	434
Number (weighted)	6,420,532	485,120	1,786,850	4,148,563
Percentage (weighted)	49.8	40.0	52.9	50.0
Less than \$6.00	1.5	2.6	1.6	1.3
\$6.00–\$7.24	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.2
\$7.25–\$9.99	19.5	41.4	23.6	15.1
\$10.00–\$14.99	27.9	22.2	27.0	28.9
\$15.00 or more	22.1	6.7	16.3	26.4
Unknown	26.5	24.0	28.2	26.1
Median (\$)	10.50	9.00	10.00	12.00
Average (\$)	14.20	10.76	12.57	15.30

NOTE: The hourly reservation wage is the lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work. Only nonproxy respondents who were not working at interview and were either seeking work or indicated a nonhealth reason for not working were asked the hourly reservation wage question.

## Employment Activity

**Table 19.**  
**Employment, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Activity	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,666	833	1,563	445
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	7,347,758	1,944,622	3,604,355	1,064,064
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	57.0	15.1	28.0	8.3
Has ever worked for pay					
Yes	83.2	93.5	75.3	66.5	100.0
No	16.8	6.5	24.7	33.4	...
Employed in 2014					
Yes	10.6	11.4	11.9	8.5	85.3
No or unknown	89.4	88.6	88.1	91.5	14.7
Employed at interview					
Yes	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2	100.0
No	91.7	91.4	91.2	92.8	...
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	86.0	87.0	82.5	85.8	...
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.4	8.6	7.0	...

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

**Table 20.**  
**Employment, by age (in percent)**

Activity	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30-49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	4,062	1,049	2,146	867
Number (weighted)	12,896,735	1,212,222	3,379,015	8,305,498
Percentage (weighted)	100.0	9.4	26.2	64.4
Has ever worked for pay				
Yes	83.2	49.0	76.6	90.9
No	16.8	50.9	23.4	9.1
Employed in 2014				
Yes	10.6	23.0	13.4	7.7
No or unknown	89.4	77.0	86.6	92.3
Employed at interview				
Yes	8.3	17.1	9.5	6.4
No	91.7	82.9	90.5	93.6
Did not seek work in past 4 weeks	86.0	66.0	81.9	90.6
Sought work in past 4 weeks	5.7	16.8	8.5	3.0

## Employment Activity

**Table 21.**  
**Employment rates, by program and beneficiary subgroup (in percent)**

Subgroup	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Total	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2
Age				
18–24	17.2	16.5	18.4	17.0
25–39	13.3	15.3	15.3	10.6
40–54	8.2	10.5	6.7	4.2
55 or older	5.9	6.6	5.5	3.7
General health				
Excellent or very good	21.8	21.6	29.7	18.4
Good or fair	9.3	10.0	8.5	8.3
Poor or very poor	3.6	4.8	2.5	1.0
Education level				
Less than high school	4.9	6.8	3.8	3.4
High school diploma or GED	10.7	10.9	11.3	10.0
More than high school	7.9	7.0	12.6	9.4
Self-reported condition causing limitation				
Intellectual disability	17.9	23.5	18.5	13.6
Sensory disorder	5.0	4.4	7.4	4.8
Mental illness	8.4	10.6	9.1	4.6
Musculoskeletal disorder	4.4	5.2	4.7	1.5
Circulatory system disorder	4.0	3.6	4.6	5.0
Age at disability onset				
Under 18	15.8	22.9	15.1	12.0
18–24	10.6	14.1	6.5	9.5
25–39	5.4	7.7	4.3	1.5
40–54	6.7	6.7	8.1	5.6
55 or older	3.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Difficulty with—				
Getting along with others	8.0	9.5	8.4	5.5
Concentrating	7.5	8.0	9.0	5.7
Coping with stress	6.7	7.7	8.4	4.0
Bathing or dressing	4.7	5.2	4.2	4.0
Getting around outside the home	5.9	6.3	7.0	4.4

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

**Table 22.**  
**Recently employed beneficiaries' employment activities, capacity, and supports, by program (in percent)**

Activity, capacity, or support	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	683	275	161	247
Number (weighted)	1,529,385	905,134	258,262	365,989
Percentage (weighted)	11.9	12.3	13.3	10.2
Worked fewer hours or earned less than was able				
Yes	29.2	32.4	27.6	22.3
No	56.7	53.6	54.6	66.0
Unknown	14.1	14.0	17.8	11.7
Reason for working fewer hours or earning less than able (among those who answered yes to the previous question) <sup>a</sup>				
Wanted to keep cash benefit	38.7	39.8	47.1	27.4
Wanted to keep Medicare or Medicaid	42.2	45.0	46.7	28.3
Health	27.4	29.6	31.6	16.0
Taking care of children or others	27.1	23.9	48.1	20.2
Didn't want to work more	13.9	15.1	11.9	11.3
Enrolled in school or training	8.3	4.6	6.9	22.8
Other	11.2	8.2	13.7	19.4
None indicated	13.6	13.6	3.8	22.3
Support that could boost earnings (among recently employed) <sup>a</sup>				
Better job skills	28.0	23.8	29.6	37.1
Help finding a better job	31.4	24.7	38.9	42.7
Flexible work schedule	25.3	22.4	31.9	28.0
Reliable transportation to or from work	21.9	18.3	29.4	25.5
Help with personal care	10.1	9.2	13.9	9.6
Help caring for children or others	8.8	6.5	14.6	10.5
Special equipment or devices	1.5	1.7	(X)	1.5
Other	8.8	10.5	8.0	5.0
None indicated	43.8	46.2	43.7	37.8

NOTES: Recently employed refers to beneficiaries employed at interview or in 2014.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

## Employment Activity

**Table 23.**

**Employment activities and expectations, by program and employment status (in percent)**

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
One or more of the below	48.8	46.4	54.1	50.8	100.0
Employment activity <sup>a</sup>					
One or more of the below	16.4	15.8	19.8	15.8	100.0
Working at interview	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2	100.0
Worked in 2014	10.6	11.4	11.9	8.5	85.3
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.4	8.6	7.0	...
Employment service and training activity <sup>a</sup>					
One or more of the below	11.4	9.1	16.2	13.3	24.1
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	1.4	3.8	5.3	...
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	7.7	13.3	8.4	23.0
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	2.0	4.4	4.1	10.3
Goal or expectation <sup>a</sup>					
One or more of the below	45.2	42.4	49.4	48.6	91.7
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	34.0	41.8	41.3	62.7
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years <sup>b</sup>	25.3	23.1	30.1	27.4	83.1
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years <sup>c</sup>	11.2	9.2	12.5	14.4	22.2
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	24.2	34.5	32.8	65.8
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	13.8	19.4	21.2	29.3

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

**Table 24.**  
**Employment activities and expectations, by impairment (in percent)**

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	Beneficiaries reporting—		
		Musculoskeletal impairments	Mental impairments	Intellectual disability
One or more of the below	48.8	39.8	53.4	50.8
Employment activity <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	16.4	11.1	18.1	24.2
Working at interview	8.3	4.4	8.4	17.9
Worked in 2014	10.6	6.6	11.7	20.1
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	4.3	7.0	3.7
Employment service and training activity <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	11.4	8.8	17.0	18.9
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	2.5	4.0	4.3
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	6.8	14.2	16.2
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	1.9	3.8	3.3
Goal or expectation <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	45.2	35.9	49.1	45.8
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	28.8	41.0	41.9
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years <sup>b</sup>	25.3	17.8	24.8	28.5
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years <sup>c</sup>	11.2	6.5	9.5	4.0
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	20.9	31.0	24.8
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	12.4	16.7	6.6

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

## Employment Activity

**Table 25.**  
**Employment activities and expectations, by age (in percent)**

Activity or expectation	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
One or more of the below	48.8	76.9	60.9	39.8
Employment activity <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	16.4	39.0	21.2	11.2
Working at interview	8.3	17.1	9.5	6.4
Worked in 2014	10.6	23.0	13.4	7.7
Looked for work in past 4 weeks	5.7	16.8	8.5	3.0
Employment service and training activity <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	11.4	26.6	15.0	7.7
Not working because waiting to finish school or training program	2.8	10.8	3.3	1.5
Used employment-specific service in 2014	8.8	17.1	11.5	6.4
Used employment or other service in 2014 to get a job or to increase income	2.9	9.2	4.7	1.3
Goal or expectation <sup>a</sup>				
One or more of the below	45.2	72.9	58.1	35.9
Goals include getting a job, new skills, or career advancement	37.2	65.6	49.5	28.1
Sees self working for pay in the next 2 years <sup>b</sup>	25.3	49.9	32.4	18.9
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 2 years <sup>c</sup>	11.2	24.1	15.4	7.5
Sees self working for pay in the next 5 years	28.1	57.5	37.9	19.9
Sees self working and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next 5 years	16.7	34.1	23.5	11.4

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.

c. Previous rounds of the NBS asked if the respondent saw himself or herself working for pay and earning enough to stop receiving disability benefits in the next year. The question was changed to the next 2 years in the 2015 NBS.



**Table 26.**  
**Employment-related characteristics of beneficiary subgroup (in percent)**

Characteristic	Work-oriented <sup>a</sup>	Used employment services in 2014	Ever worked for pay	Disability prevents work <sup>b</sup>	Median hourly reservation wage <sup>c</sup> (\$)
Total	45.2	8.8	83.2	90	10.50
Age					
18–24	74.5	18.8	40.9	66.0	8.50
25–39	66.6	15.5	64.6	78.1	9.95
40–54	48.5	9.1	83.7	91.2	11.00
55 or older	33.8	5.5	92.7	94.7	12.00
General health					
Excellent or very good	65.1	17.5	67.8	72.6	10.00
Good of fair	51.2	8.7	81.1	88.2	10.00
Poor or very poor	32.8	6.6	89.7	95.6	12.00
Education level					
Less than high school	36.8	5.0	75.6	92.3	10.00
High school diploma or GED	47.5	9.4	82.2	89.0	10.00
More than high school	49.9	11.5	92.1	89.2	12.02
Self-reported condition causing limitation					
Intellectual disability	45.8	16.2	46.8	92.6	9.00
Sensory disorder	37.8	10.9	78.3	88.6	10.00
Mental illness	49.1	14.2	81.9	90.7	10.50
Musculoskeletal disorder	35.9	6.8	91.6	94.1	11.50
Circulatory system disorder	37.3	7.3	90.1	96.6	13.00
Age at disability onset					
Under 18	56.8	13.5	46.8	80.2	9.00
18–24	59.1	13.4	83.2	83.5	10.00
25–39	43.1	7.9	91.7	90.7	10.00
40–54	39.0	5.6	95.0	94.2	12.00
55 or older	35.5	7.4	97.4	97.2	10.00
Difficulty with—					
Getting along with others	45.9	12.5	79.4	90.6	10.00
Concentrating	43.7	9.8	80.6	91.1	11.00
Coping with stress	44.4	10.6	81.6	91.5	10.34
Bathing or dressing	33.8	8.0	81.0	95.1	11.25
Getting around outside the home	39.1	9.9	79.1	92.4	11.00

NOTE: GED = General Educational Development certificate.

- Work-oriented beneficiaries are those who indicated that their personal goals included getting a job, moving up in a job, or learning new job skills or who saw themselves working for pay in the next 2 years or the next 5 years.
- Percentage among beneficiaries not working at time of interview.
- The hourly reservation wage is the lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work. Only nonproxy respondents who were not working at interview and were either seeking work or indicated a nonhealth reason for not working were asked the hourly reservation wage question.

## Job Characteristics of Employed Beneficiaries

**Table 27.**

**Job characteristics of beneficiaries employed at interview, by program (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	445	179	105	161
Number (weighted)	1,064,064	632,393	171,869	259,803
Percentage (weighted)	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2
Usual hours per week				
1–10	27.1	28.3	31.6	21.1
11–20	39.1	42.8	35.5	32.3
21–34	22.8	20.0	24.8	28.2
35 or more	11.1	8.9	8.2	18.4
Average (hours)	18.7	17.8	17.9	21.5
Hourly wage				
Less than \$5.00	11.8	8.0	21.7	14.3
\$5.00–\$7.24	5.0	5.7	4.0	3.8
\$7.25–\$9.99	37.1	36.5	42.4	35.1
\$10.00–\$14.99	34.5	36.4	25.5	35.9
\$15.00 or more	11.7	13.4	6.4	10.9
Average (\$)	10.08	10.58	8.63	9.83
Average monthly pay (\$)	819.25	833.20	624.21	914.29
Earning above substantial gainful activity level (\$1,090 or more per month)	18.0	14.1	17.2	28.2
Occupation				
Transportation and material moving	8.6	9.9	6.0	7.1
Production	2.9	1.1	3.6	6.9
Office and administrative support	20.8	25.0	11.1	16.8
Building and grounds cleaning or maintenance	11.8	8.7	14.1	17.8
Personal care and service	6.5	9.1	2.1	3.2
Sales	8.3	11.0	5.3	3.7
Food preparation or serving	9.9	6.1	13.1	16.9
Education, training, community, and social services	5.5	6.1	7.7	2.8
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	(X)	(X)	(X)
Health care practitioners, tech, and support	2.6	2.6	3.7	1.8
Protective service	0.9	(X)	(X)	1.4
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.3	0.8	8.0	2.0
Management, business, and legal	4.0	4.6	0.0	5.2
Professional scientific	0.5	(X)	(X)	0.0
Agriculture, forestry, construction, and extraction	2.1	2.2	3.3	(X)
Other	12.1	9.5	20.4	12.9
Industry				
Health care	6.8	7.3	4.9	7.0
Social assistance	34.3	32.3	37.8	36.8
Retail	15.5	20.3	10.0	7.5
Other services and public administration	8.2	6.8	9.6	(X)
Educational services	7.1	7.2	11.3	4.0
Accommodation and food services	5.0	2.7	8.5	8.1
Finance and insurance	4.2	6.8	(X)	(X)
Administration, support, and waste management/remediation services	2.4	2.4	(X)	3.4
Other	16.5	14.2	16.9	21.8

(Continued)

**Table 27.**  
**Job characteristics of beneficiaries employed at interview, by program (in percent)—Continued**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Self-employed	17.4	20.3	15.8	11.3
Working in sheltered employment				
Yes	24.8	21.3	34.5	26.9
No	61.3	59.5	60.2	66.3
Unknown	13.9	19.2	5.3	6.8
Months at current job				
Less than 1	2.6	1.6	6.1	2.9
1–6	15.7	10.0	23.5	24.7
7–12	12.6	14.9	7.0	10.7
13–24	15.7	16.7	11.8	15.8
25 or more	37.3	43.3	28.4	28.7
Unknown	16.0	13.6	23.3	17.1
Median (months)	20.0	25.0	15.0	15.0

NOTES: For beneficiaries who held multiple jobs at the time of the interview (5 percent), the characteristics reported are those of the main job, as designated by the respondent.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

## Job Characteristics of Employed Beneficiaries

**Table 28.**  
**Job characteristics of beneficiaries employed at interview, by age (in percent)**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
Number (unweighted)	445	176	210	59
Number (weighted)	1,064,064	207,036	321,598	535,431
Percentage (weighted)	8.3	17.1	9.5	6.5
Usual hours per week				
1–10	27.1	21.3	21.6	32.6
11–20	39.1	32.4	35.9	43.5
21–34	22.8	26.5	25.5	(X)
35 or more	11.1	19.7	17.0	(X)
Average (hours)	18.7	21.9	21.4	15.9
Hourly wage				
Less than \$5.00	11.8	14.0	12.2	(X)
\$5.00–\$7.24	5.0	4.7	6.1	(X)
\$7.25–\$9.99	37.1	48.9	44.0	28.4
\$10.00–\$14.99	34.5	28.6	26.9	41.4
\$15.00 or more	11.7	3.9	10.8	15.2
Average (\$)	10.08	8.60	10.24	10.57
Average monthly pay (\$)	819.25	861.13	980.80	706.02
Earning above substantial gainful activity level (\$1,090 or more per month)	18.0	28.5	24.4	10.2
Occupation				
Transportation and material moving	8.6	9.0	9.9	7.5
Production	2.9	9.2	2.7	(X)
Office and administrative support	20.8	14.7	16.8	25.4
Building and grounds cleaning or maintenance	11.8	13.9	14.5	9.4
Personal care and service	6.5	2.4	4.4	9.4
Sales	8.3	4.8	9.0	9.2
Food preparation or serving	9.9	18.8	12.3	5.0
Education, training, community, and social services	5.5	3.0	4.8	7.0
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	(X)	(X)	(X)
Health care practitioners, tech, and support	2.6	3.1	1.8	2.8
Protective service	0.9	1.7	2.0	0.0
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.3	2.6	2.2	(X)
Management, business, and legal	4.0	(X)	1.2	7.0
Professional scientific	0.5	(X)	(X)	0.0
Agriculture, forestry, construction, and extraction	2.1	2.0	2.1	(X)
Other	12.1	13.3	14.7	10.0
Industry				
Health care	6.8	(X)	4.4	9.9
Social assistance	34.3	36.2	40.7	29.7
Retail	15.5	12.7	12.8	18.2
Other services and public administration	8.2	4.9	5.1	11.4
Educational services	7.1	5.1	5.4	8.9
Accommodation and food services	5.0	12.9	8.1	(X)
Finance and insurance	4.2	(X)	(X)	7.6
Administration, support, and waste management/remediation services	2.4	4.1	(X)	(X)
Other	16.5	20.4	18.3	13.9

(Continued)

**Table 28.**  
**Job characteristics of beneficiaries employed at interview, by age (in percent)—Continued**

Characteristic	All beneficiaries	Under 30	30–49	50 or older
Self-employed	17.4	4.8	7.7	28.0
Working in sheltered employment				
Yes	24.8	30.3	32.3	18.1
No	61.3	59.9	59.9	62.7
Unknown	13.9	9.8	7.7	19.2
Months at current job				
Less than 1	2.6	4.3	3.2	(X)
1–6	15.7	33.8	19.2	(X)
7–12	12.6	16.4	14.3	10.1
13–24	15.7	12.4	12.1	19.1
25 or more	37.3	24.4	41.2	40.0
Unknown	16.0	8.8	10.0	22.4
Median (months)	20.0	9.0	19.0	27.0

NOTES: For beneficiaries who held multiple jobs at the time of the interview (5 percent), the characteristics reported are those of the main job, as designated by the respondent.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

## Job Characteristics of Employed Beneficiaries

**Table 29.**

**Employer-provided benefits for beneficiaries employed at interview, by program (in percent)**

Benefit	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	402	157	93	152
Number (weighted)	878,032	502,874	144,698	230,461
Percentage (weighted)	6.8	6.8	7.4	6.4
Health insurance	21.6	23.8	15.7	20.7
Dental insurance	16.2	18.3	11.1	14.7
Flexible health or dependent care spending account	5.5	6.4	4.9	3.8
Sick days with pay	18.5	17.7	22.0	17.9
Paid vacation	27.1	29.4	22.4	25.0
Long-term disability benefits	8.1	8.2	6.5	8.7
Pension or retirement benefits	23.1	28.3	18.7	14.6
Transportation allowance or discounts	13.7	8.2	25.2	18.5

NOTES: For beneficiaries who held multiple jobs at the time of the interview (5 percent), the characteristics reported are those of the main job, as designated by the respondent.

Multiple responses possible. Excludes self-employed beneficiaries.

**Table 30.**  
**Job accommodations and supports for beneficiaries employed at interview, by program (in percent)**

Accommodation or support	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
<b>All employed beneficiaries</b>				
Number (unweighted)	445	179	105	161
Number (weighted)	1,064,064	632,393	171,869	259,803
Percentage (weighted)	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2
Employer made at least one accommodation <sup>a</sup>	56.2	57.1	59.5	52.1
Uses special equipment	24.9	30.8	18.3	15.2
Uses personal assistance	18.5	15.6	23.2	22.5
Changes to workplace needed	4.1	4.4	3.3	3.9
<b>Employed beneficiaries who receive at least one accomodation <sup>a,b</sup></b>				
Assistance from co-worker or other person	72.9	66.5	88.9	76.7
Work schedule changes	49.8	55.4	53.4	33.6
Work task changes	50.1	54.8	53.2	36.7
Physical work environment alterations	37.1	38.2	46.4	28.0
Special equipment	11.8	14.2	8.7	8.3
Other accomodation	8.5	4.1	19.9	(X)
<b>Employed beneficiaries who report using special equipment <sup>b</sup></b>				
Cane, brace, wheelchair, or walker	77.4	77.1	83.6	73.9
Modified computer hardware or software	3.6	3.5	(X)	(X)
Other equipment	32.8	35.1	20.9	31.4
<b>Employed beneficiaries who report using personal assistance <sup>b</sup></b>				
Job coach	66.2	60.3	68.5	74.6
Personal care assistance	21.2	22.4	19.3	20.5
Sign-language interpreter or reader for blind	7.4	9.6	(X)	7.5
Other personal assistance	12.1	14.6	12.3	7.8

NOTE: (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Excludes self-employed beneficiaries.

b. Multiple responses possible.

## Job Characteristics of Employed Beneficiaries

**Table 31.**

**Job satisfaction among nonproxy respondents employed at interview, by program (in percent)**

Satisfaction measure	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	303	145	67	91
Number (weighted)	810,224	530,571	111,335	168,319
Percentage (weighted)	6.3	7.2	5.7	4.7
Satisfied or somewhat satisfied with job overall	85.2	86.3	76.2	87.9
Agree or strongly agree that—				
Pay is good	66.0	62.6	64.9	77.5
Benefits are good	35.2	33.9	32.8	41.0
Job security is good or work is steady	74.2	77.8	56.3	74.5
There are chances for promotion <sup>a</sup>	31.4	28.1	33.6	39.4
There are chances to develop abilities	60.2	57.9	75.4	57.8
Recognition or respect is received	88.7	90.6	88.2	82.8
Can work on own if desired	79.0	80.2	82.1	72.9
Can work with others or team if desired	66.7	61.5	63.7	85.1
Work is interesting or enjoyable	85.1	85.4	84.1	85.0
Work gives feeling of accomplishment	86.5	85.4	85.9	90.1
Supervisor is supportive <sup>a</sup>	81.0	87.0	64.2	74.0
Co-workers are friendly and supportive	77.4	77.3	75.4	79.1

NOTE: Over 60 percent of beneficiaries working in a sheltered workshop had proxies so responses may not fully reflect the job satisfaction of those in sheltered workshops.

a. Excludes self-employed beneficiaries.



**Table 32.**  
**Employed beneficiaries' job characteristics, by selected subgroup**

Characteristic	Average weekly hours	Average hourly earnings (\$)	Earning above substantial gainful activity level (%)	Working in sheltered employment (%)	Employer made one or more accommodations <sup>a</sup> (%)
All employed beneficiaries	18.7	10.08	18.0	24.8	56.2
General health					
Excellent or very good	20.0	8.77	17.3	42.0	63.8
Good or fair	18.6	10.19	19.7	24.1	50.9
Poor or very poor	17.0	11.76	14.0	(X)	60.4
Education level					
Less than high school	18.3	9.44	14.4	44.5	70.5
High school diploma or GED	18.6	9.00	15.5	30.2	54.3
More than high school	19.2	12.62	25.3	2.4	49.3
Self-reported condition causing limitation					
Intellectual disability	15.3	6.70	2.7	65.7	66.4
Sensory disorder	20.6	8.09	21.1	45.1	65.1
Mental illness	17.0	11.47	12.9	17.0	53.9
Musculoskeletal disorder	16.8	11.43	12.9	9.8	60.1
Circulatory system disorder	18.4	10.70	13.2	16.6	70.1
Age at disability onset					
Under 18	19.3	8.18	20.1	46.8	59.0
18–24	22.0	10.14	25.7	15.7	70.3
25–39	21.1	13.86	26.5	6.6	32.9
40–54	15.7	10.93	9.8	10.5	62.7
55 or older	14.9	9.14	0.0	0.0	(X)
Difficulty with—					
Getting along with others	15.9	10.30	11.3	28.9	65.5
Concentrating	17.4	10.17	16.0	28.0	64.8
Coping with stress	17.1	9.67	11.3	28.3	64.0
Bathing or dressing	15.9	9.06	2.6	20.8	69.8
Getting around outside the home	15.5	8.41	11.5	45.5	71.3

NOTES: GED = General Educational Development certificate; (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Excludes self-employed beneficiaries.

## Benefits and Employment Interactions

**Table 33.**  
**Work activity notification to SSA by beneficiaries employed at interview, by program (in percent)**

Notification	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	445	179	105	161
Number (weighted)	1,064,064	632,393	171,869	259,803
Percentage (weighted)	8.3	8.6	8.8	7.2
Notified SSA when started current job				
Yes	76.4	80.0	78.8	66.2
No	19.3	16.5	17.9	27.0
Unknown	4.3	3.5	3.4	6.8
How long after job start SSA was notified (among those who notified SSA)				
Less than 1 month	60.0	59.7	72.0	51.5
1–3 months	16.7	15.6	15.8	(X)
4 months or more	2.7	3.6	(X)	(X)
Unknown	20.5	21.0	(X)	26.4

NOTE: (X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

**Table 34.****Recently employed beneficiaries with benefit adjustments because of work activity, by program (in percent)**

Benefit adjustment	All beneficiaries	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries
Number (unweighted)	683	275	161	247
Number (weighted)	1,529,385	905,134	258,262	365,989
Percentage (weighted)	11.9	12.3	13.3	10.2
Social Security disability benefit changes needed because of work				
Yes	17.9	8.4	26.6	35.5
No	68.7	81.0	54.3	48.3
Unknown	13.4	10.7	19.1	16.2
Social Security paid wrong benefit amount (among those indicating changes needed)				
Yes	53.2	66.9	48.3	47.8
No or unknown	46.8	33.1	51.7	52.2
Beneficiary was asked to repay benefits because of overpayment (among those employed at interview or in 2014)				
Yes, overpayment because of work	13.3	7.0	20.0	24.2
Yes, overpayment because of other reason	7.5	3.4	11.4	15.0
No	66.8	79.8	49.9	46.6
Unknown	12.4	9.9	18.8	14.2
Disability-related benefits reduced or ended because of work (among those employed at interview or in 2014)				
Yes	14.0	6.9	17.4	29.3
No	60.6	68.2	54.2	46.4
Unknown	25.3	24.9	28.4	24.3
Benefit affected (among those indicating reductions or terminations) <sup>a</sup>				
Social Security disability	91.8	86.9	87.8	96.4
Medicare	4.6	13.7	0.0	(X)
Medicaid <sup>d</sup>	8.2	11.7	9.5	5.6
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	7.7	0.0	12.0	10.3
Other	12.1	27.2	7.9	4.9

NOTES: Recently employed refers to beneficiaries employed at interview or in 2014.

(X) = suppressed to avoid disclosing information about particular individuals.

a. Multiple responses possible.

b. Medicaid reductions or terminations among DI-only beneficiaries could be due to loss of SSI because of work or confusion between Medicare and Medicaid among respondents.

## Benefits and Employment Interactions

**Table 35.**  
**Eligible beneficiary awareness of Social Security work supports, by program and employment status**  
**(in percent)**

Program and support	All respondents eligible for support	DI-only beneficiaries	Concurrent program beneficiaries	SSI-only beneficiaries	All employed beneficiaries
SSI work incentive					
1619(b) continued Medicaid coverage	10.8	...	11.9	10.2	17.2
Earned income exclusion	12.4	...	13.0	12.0	14.9
Plan to achieve self-support	8.3	...	9.2	7.8	7.8
Property essential for self-support	6.2	...	4.3	7.1	5.0
Student earned income exclusion <sup>a</sup>	8.7	...	7.9	8.9	13.0
SSDI work incentive					
Trial work period	34.6	37.1	25.1	...	51.0
Extended period of medicare eligibility	16.2	16.8	13.8	...	30.2
SSI and SSDI work incentive					
Ticket to Work	26.8	30.2	26.6	20.0	45.8
Benefits specialist	17.8	21.5	14.4	12.0	31.2
Impairment-related or blind work expenses	9.5	11.6	8.5	5.9	17.3
Expedited reinstatement	13.9	16.2	12.5	9.9	21.6

NOTE: ... = not applicable.

a. Awareness rate was calculated as a percentage of SSI recipients aged 25 or younger who began receiving benefits before age 22.

## Glossary

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**1619(b) continued Medicaid coverage.** For Medicaid purposes, provides special status to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for SSI cash payments.

**benefits specialist.** An individual who works at a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program, which is a local organization that gives beneficiaries Ticket to Work and other program information to help them understand how work affects their Social Security benefits.

**computer-assisted personal interviewing—CAPI.** An interviewing technique in which the respondent or interviewer uses a computer to answer the questions. It is similar to computer-assisted telephone interviewing, except that the interview takes place in person.

**computer-assisted telephone interviewing—CATI.** A telephone surveying technique in which the interviewer follows a script provided by a software application.

**concurrent program beneficiaries.** Individuals receiving benefits under both the DI and SSI programs.

**continuing disability review.** A periodic review to determine if a disabled individual is still medically eligible to receive benefits.

**current-pay status.** Status of a beneficiary who is paid a benefit for a given month, with or without deductions, provided the deductions add to less than a full month's benefit.

**disabled adult child.** A disabled person aged 18 or older—a son, daughter, or eligible grandchild of a retired, deceased, or disabled worker—whose disability began before age 22.

**disabled widow(er).** A widow(er) or surviving divorced widow(er) of a worker fully insured at the time of death, if he or she is aged 50–59 and has been disabled throughout a waiting period of 5 consecutive calendar months that began no later than 7 years after the month in which the worker died or after the end of his or her entitlement to benefits as a widowed mother or father.

A surviving divorced widow(er)'s marriage to a worker must have lasted 10 years before the divorce became final. Benefits payable after December 1983 are continued for disabled widow(er)s and surviving divorced widow(er)s who remarry after the age of first eligibility for benefits.

**disabled worker.** A person who has earnings creditable for Social Security purposes on the basis of services for wages in covered employment or on the basis of income from covered self-employment.

**earned income exclusion.** The first \$65 (up to a maximum of \$85 if the individual has no income other than earnings) of any monthly earned income plus one-half of remaining earnings are excluded for SSI benefit computation purposes.

**employment-specific service.** Job training, job modification advice, on-the-job training, work assessments, or job search help.

**expedited reinstatement.** A provision of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act. Effective January 1, 2001, if a person's Social Security or SSI disability benefits have ended because of earnings from work and he or she becomes unable to work again within 60 months because of his or her impairment, he or she would be able to request reinstatement of benefits, including Medicare and Medicaid, without filing a new application.

**extended period of Medicare eligibility—EPE.** The 36-month period after the completion of a trial work period for beneficiaries who continue to have a disabling condition and work. Monthly benefits are continued for 3 months after the trial work period and are then suspended if earnings are above the substantial gainful activity level. If earnings drop below the substantial gainful activity level during the EPE, monthly benefits may be resumed without a new application and disability determination. Medicare coverage continues throughout the EPE. See also **trial work period** and **substantial gainful activity**.

**federal poverty level.** Percent of federal poverty threshold relative to number of people in the household for 2014. Based on U.S. Census Bureau 2014 definitions.

**full retirement age.** The age at which a person becomes entitled to unreduced retirement benefits.

**hourly reservation wage.** The lowest hourly wage for which the respondent would be willing to work.

**impairment-related or blind work expenses.** The costs of items or services that a disabled or blind person needs to work. The expenses, when paid by the beneficiary, are deducted from his or her gross earnings when determining if the work is considered substantial gainful activity.

**Medicaid.** A federal-state program that provides medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and limited resources.

**Medicare.** A federally administered health insurance program that covers the cost of hospitalization, medical care, and some related services for most persons aged 65 or older. It also covers persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance payments for 2 years, and persons with end-stage renal disease. Medicare consists of four separate but coordinated programs—Part A (Hospital Insurance), Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance), Part C (Medicare Advantage), and Part D (Prescription Drug Coverage).

**plan to achieve self-support—PASS.** A formal plan, requiring SSA approval, for attaining a specific work goal. With a PASS, an SSI recipient may set aside earned or unearned income and resources to pay for goods or services needed to reach the goal, such as education, vocational training, starting a business, or purchasing work-related equipment. Income and resources set aside are excluded from SSI income and resource tests, but they do not influence the determination of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity.

**property essential for self-support.** Property used for a business or personal property used for work as an employee that is excluded from resources when determining continuing eligibility for SSI.

**proxy.** An individual who answers survey questions on behalf of a sample member whose disabilities prevent him or her from responding.

**services.** Services include any employment services, job training, medical services, or mental health services.

**sheltered employment.** A program that provides employment with subsidized wages (or special wages that would not be available in a regular job) for people with disabilities.

**Social Security Disability Insurance—SSDI.** The program under the Social Security Act that pays monthly benefits to disabled workers and their spouses and children; and pays for rehabilitation services provided to the disabled.

**student earned income exclusion.** A provision that allows SSI recipients who are under age 22, regularly attending school, and receiving earned income to exclude some or all of their earned income from their countable income.

**substantial gainful activity.** Remunerative work that is substantial, as determined by the amount of money earned, the number of hours worked, and the nature of the work. For more information, see <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/sga.html>.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.** Formerly known as Food Stamps, a program that provides benefits through electronic benefit transfers to help individuals and families with little or no income to buy food.

**Supplemental Security Income—SSI.** A federal program for low-income aged, blind, and disabled individuals who meet income and resource requirements. Beginning in 1974, SSI replaced the former federal and state programs of Old-Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled. SSI is funded by general tax revenues, not Social Security taxes.

**Ticket to Work.** A program that helps SSDI and SSI beneficiaries return to work through employment services.

**trial work period.** A 9-month period during which monthly benefits continue for SSDI beneficiaries who are still disabled but return to work. If the disability ends after completion of the trial work period, benefits continue for an additional 3 months, and then entitlement is terminated. A disabled beneficiary would exhaust the trial work period only if services were performed in any 9 months within a period of 60 consecutive months. For a discussion of procedures when the disabling condition continues, see **extended period of Medicare eligibility**.

**unemployment insurance.** A federal-state coordinated program that provides partial income replacement to regularly employed members of the labor force who become involuntarily unemployed. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs.

**veterans' benefits.** A variety of benefits and services for veterans and their dependents and survivors that include, but are not limited to, disability compensation, benefits for survivors, health care benefits, and educational assistance and training.

**weighted statistics.** Statistics that have been adjusted using the sampling weights. Sampling weights are computed from the inverse selection probability that incorporates the stages of sampling in the survey, adjusted for nonresponse. The weighted statistics represent the national population of beneficiaries.

**workers' compensation.** A form of accident insurance paid by employers that covers medical expenses and lost wages of individuals injured on a job or who develop a work-related illness.

**work-oriented.** A category of beneficiaries who have indicated that their personal goals include getting a job, moving up in a job, or learning new job skills or who saw themselves working for pay in the next 2 years or in the next 5 years.