M50

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Policy Research

PRESENTERS

Testing New Earnings Rules for Social Security Disability Insurance: **Findings from the Benefit Offset National Demonstration**

MODERATOR

David Wittenburg, Mathematica Policy Research

David Wittenburg is director of health research at Mathematica. He is an expert in interventions to promote employment for people with disabilities, particularly interventions that serve youth as they transition into adulthood. Wittenburg recently worked in senior leadership roles on three Social Security Administration (SSA) demonstration projects, helping to design and implement experimental and nonexperimental approaches to assess the efficacy of return-to-work interventions for people with disabilities. Wittenburg holds a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University.

OPENING REMARKS

Mark J. Warshawsky, Social Security Administration

Mark Warshawsky is deputy commissioner for retirement and disability policy at SSA. He was recently a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center of George Mason University, as well as a visiting scholar at the MIT Golub Center for Finance and Policy. Warshawsky is the author of over 150 published articles and four books. From 2006 to 2013, he was director of retirement research at Towers Watson, a global human capital consulting firm. Warshawsky was a member of the Social Security Advisory Board from 2006 through 2012 and was vice chairman of the Federal Commission on Long-Term Care in 2013. From 2004 to 2006, Warshawsky served as assistant secretary for economic policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, playing a key role in the development of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. He is the inventor of the life care annuity, a product integrating the immediate life annuity and long-term care insurance benefits, and a developer of planning software. Warshawsky received a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

PRESENTERS

Judy Geyer, Abt Associates

Judy Geyer is an associate at Abt Associates and has expertise in conducting policy and program evaluation. She focuses primarily on household economic behavior, as affected by a range of programs including disability insurance, subsidies, and rewards-focused programs. Her methodological expertise is econometrics, especially the design of randomized control trials, the design of quasi-experimental evaluations, the dynamics of social program participation, and market and behavioral responses to incentive mechanisms. Geyer designs evaluations, leads data analysis tasks, and authors reports. She also manages deliverable schedules, quality assurance reviews, the development of survey instruments, the creation of public use data sets, and communications activities. Geyer holds a Ph.D. in economics from Carnegie Mellon University.

DECEMBER 2018

Daniel Gubits, Abt Associates

Daniel Gubits is a principal associate at Abt Associates and conducts research in the areas of disability policy, housing, homelessness, and economic self-sufficiency. Gubits' expertise is in random assignment program evaluation, econometric modeling, and data analysis. He is currently directing impact analysis work on the Benefit Offset National Demonstration for the SSA and has served as lead author for several of the project's evaluation reports. In previous work, Gubits led impact analysis for an evaluation of interventions that address family homelessness for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and was the lead author of the study's impact reports. Gubits holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Johns Hopkins University, M.P.A. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, and an A.B. in anthropology from Brown University.

Denise Hoffman, Mathematica Policy Research

Denise Hoffman is a senior researcher at Mathematica. Hoffman's research focuses on the employment, program participation, health insurance, and housing of adults with disabilities. She has conducted several analyses as part of the SSA Disability Research Consortium, including an analysis of work-related overpayments to Disability Insurance beneficiaries and, separately, an assessment of the extent to which Medicare and private insurance meet the employment-related health care needs of people with disabilities. In addition, she evaluated several federally funded initiatives intended to help people with disabilities become self-sufficient, including the Demonstration to Maintain Independence and Employment, the Medicaid Buy-In program, the Benefit Offset National Demonstration, and the Independence at Home Demonstration. Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

David Stapleton, Mathematica Policy Research

David Stapleton, a senior fellow at Mathematica, is a nationally recognized expert on disability policy. Since 1991, Dr. Stapleton has analyzed how public policy affects the employment and well-being of people with disabilities. He was senior advisor and subject matter expert for the Department of Labor's Policy Collaborative, and he has played a similar role in studies of disability and employment programs funded by SSA, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education. Stapleton holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DISCUSSANT

John Jones, Social Security Administration

John Jones is an economist within the Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Support at SSA. Jones' research focuses on employment and program participation of Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries and Supplement Security Income recipients. He is the evaluation lead for the Benefit Offset National Demonstration and the contracting officer's representative for the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration evaluation. Before joining the SSA, Jones served as statistician and project manager for pharmaceutical research organizations and was a tenured professor of economics at Georgetown College in Kentucky. Jones holds Ph.D. in economics from the University of Kentucky.

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