

DRC

Annual Research Meeting

PROJECT ABSTRACTS: **DISABILITY-RELATED SUPPORTS AND PROGRAM INTERACTIONS**

Programmatic Interactions Among Federal Benefits for Veterans with Disabilities Seeking and Entering Employment

John Kregel, David Cifu, and Susan O'Mara, Virginia Commonwealth University

Military veterans represent a small but important subset of the overall population of individuals receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits. Many veterans with disabilities are eligible for SSA disability benefits, and the number receiving benefits from more than one program has increased over the past decade. The financial benefit programs administered by the Department of Defense (DoD), the Veterans Administration (VA), and Social Security vary significantly in their definitions of disability, application processes, eligibility requirements, benefits, and earnings rules. Program interactions and employment disincentives inherent in the DoD and VA programs have created major challenges for veterans attempting to pursue employment and economic self-sufficiency. This project addresses these challenges and identifies opportunities for administrative or program modifications that will promote employment.

Employment-Related Health Insurance and Service Delivery Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Alexis Henry and Jack Gettens, University of Massachusetts

The health insurance and service delivery reforms underway in the U.S. will benefit persons with disabilities; however, the reforms may not fully support the employment-related needs of persons with disabilities. Secondary health insurance to wrap around primary coverage may be a viable policy solution to meet these needs. This study identifies and examines the employment-related health insurance, health care service, and service delivery needs of employed and potentially employed persons with disabilities to provide information to support policy making for wrap-around coverage.

Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance in the Great Recession

Andreas Mueller, Columbia University

Till von Wachter, University of California, Los Angeles and NBER

Jesse Rothstein, University of California, Berkeley and NBER

Disability insurance (DI) applications and awards are countercyclical. One potential explanation is that unemployed individuals who exhaust their unemployment insurance (UI) benefits use DI as a form of extended benefits. The authors exploit the haphazard pattern of UI benefit extensions in the Great Recession to identify the effect of UI exhaustion on DI application, using both aggregate data at the state-month and state-week levels and microdata on unemployed individuals in the Current Population Survey. The authors find no indication that expiration of UI benefits causes DI applications. Their estimates are sufficiently precise to rule out effects of meaningful magnitude.

Note: Individual research projects are at varying stages of completion; not all findings are final.