

Using Administrative Data to Explore the Employment and Benefit Receipt Outcomes of Vocational Rehabilitation Applicants Years after Program Exit

David R. Mann, Todd Honeycutt,
Michelle Stegman Bailey, and John O'Neill

Presented at VR Summit
Richmond, VA

September 7, 2016

MATHEMATICA
— CENTER FOR —
STUDYING DISABILITY POLICY

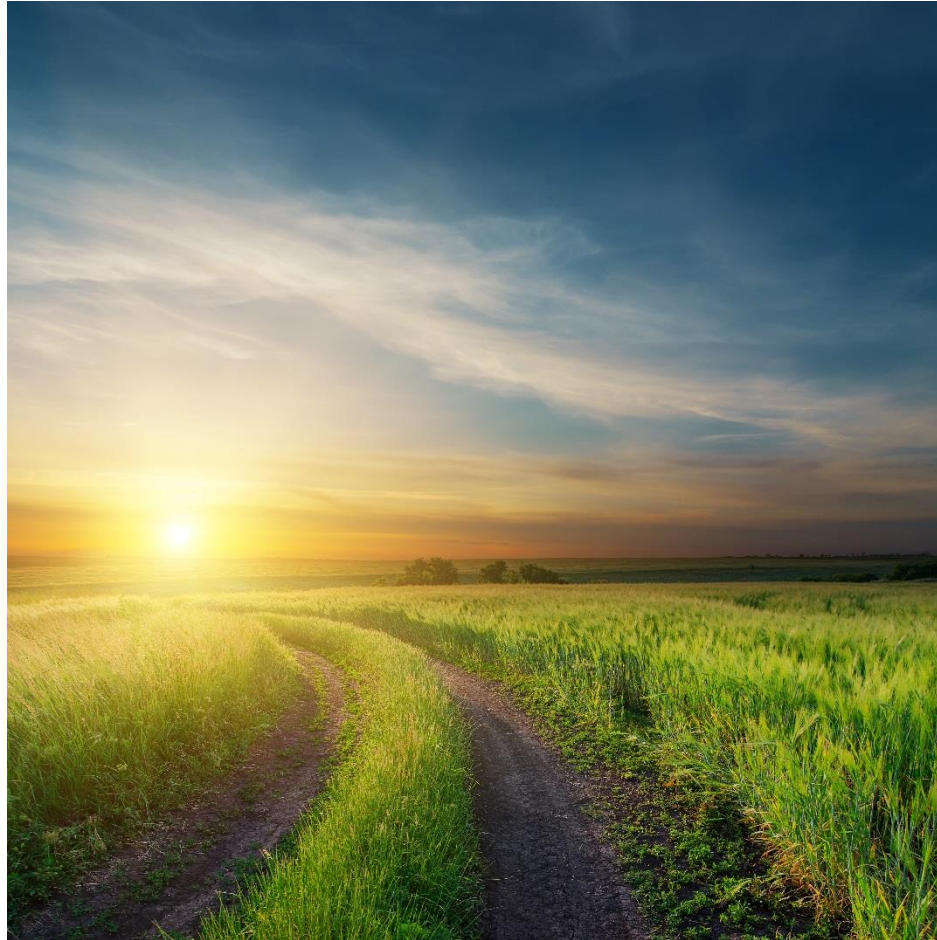
The RSA-911 is a great source of information on VR applicants

- The RSA-911 files contain case report data on all closed VR cases
- The files contain information on
 - Applicant characteristics
 - VR services received
 - Status at closure
- Some key limitations
 - Data collection currently ends at program exit
 - Limited information for those who didn't receive services

VR data do not provide information on outcomes after program exit



Linked administrative data enable us to look at longer-term outcomes!



Study overview

- **Used linked data to examine applicant outcomes up to 7 years after program exit**
 - Earnings
 - SSI and SSDI benefit suspension/termination
 - New SSI and SSDI benefit receipt
- **Estimated regression-adjusted models**
- **Outcomes varied by status at closure (relative to those not receiving services)**
 - Poorer for those who closed without employment
 - Better for those who closed with employment

We linked RSA data to SSA data

- **Data sources**
 - RSA-911 files
 - SSA data files
 - Disability Analysis File
 - Master Earnings File
- **All records closed in 2004-2006**
 - 1,779,204 records
- **Age restrictions for SSA outcome analyses**
- **Records linked by Social Security number**
- **SSA collaborator accessed the data**

Select descriptive statistics

Sample characteristics by SSI and SSDI benefit status
at VR program exit

	Total	No SSI or SSDI	SSI only	SSDI only	Both SSI and SSDI
N	1,779,204	1,153,252	206,108	299,581	120,263
Received VR services	58.2%	58.5%	55.2%	60.8%	54.4%
Employed at application	19.2%	24.2%	6.6%	12.9%	9.3%
Employed at closure	33.5%	38.8%	19.9%	29.1%	17.3%

Key earnings and benefit receipt outcomes up to 7 years after closure

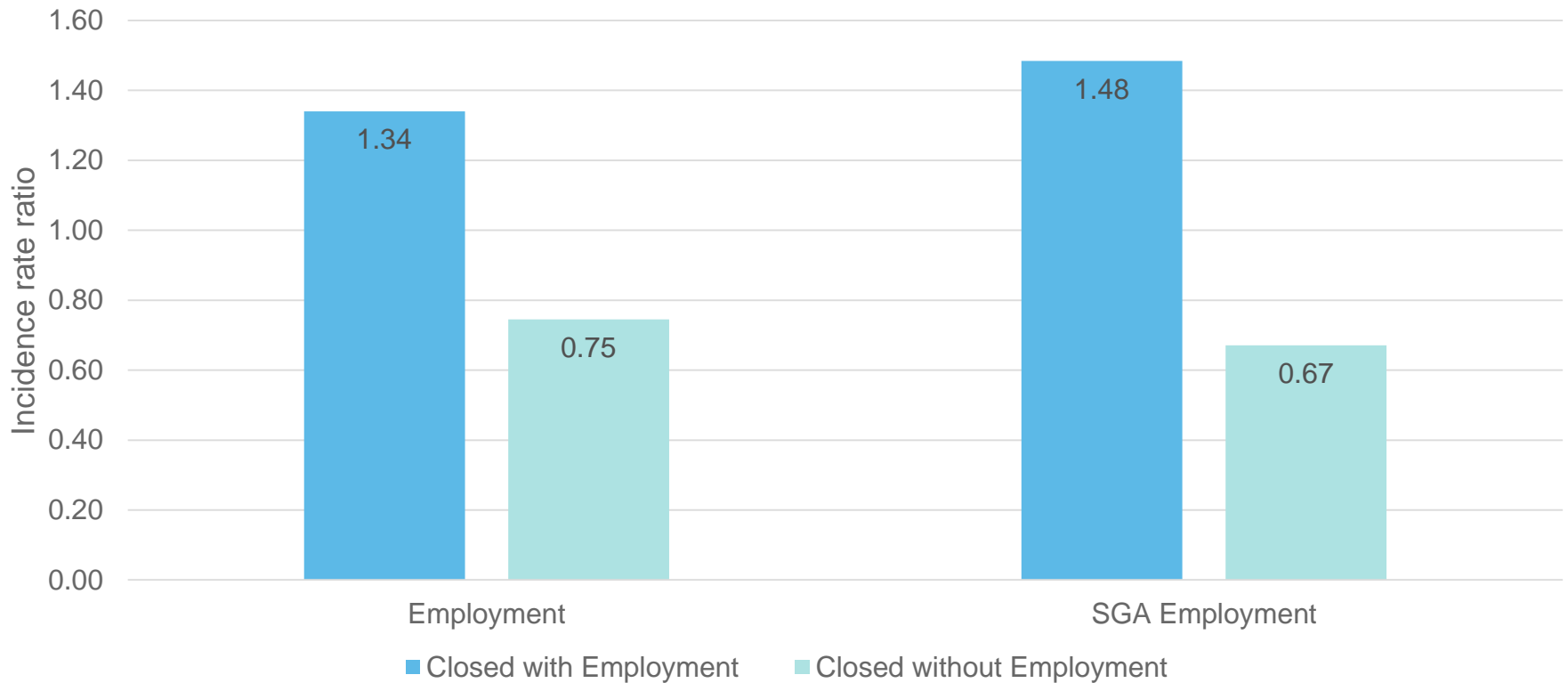
- **Earnings**
 - Employment: earned a quarter of coverage
 - SGA employment: earned annualized SGA amount
- **SSI and SSDI benefit suspension/termination**
 - Sample: beneficiaries at closure
 - Variables in SSA data
- **New SSI and SSDI benefit receipt**
 - Sample: non-beneficiaries at closure

Estimated regression-adjusted models

- **Basic descriptive statistics**
- **Estimated two types of models**
 - Logistic regression
 - Negative binomial regression
- **Present odds ratios and incidence rate ratios**
- **Estimated correlations, not causal effects**

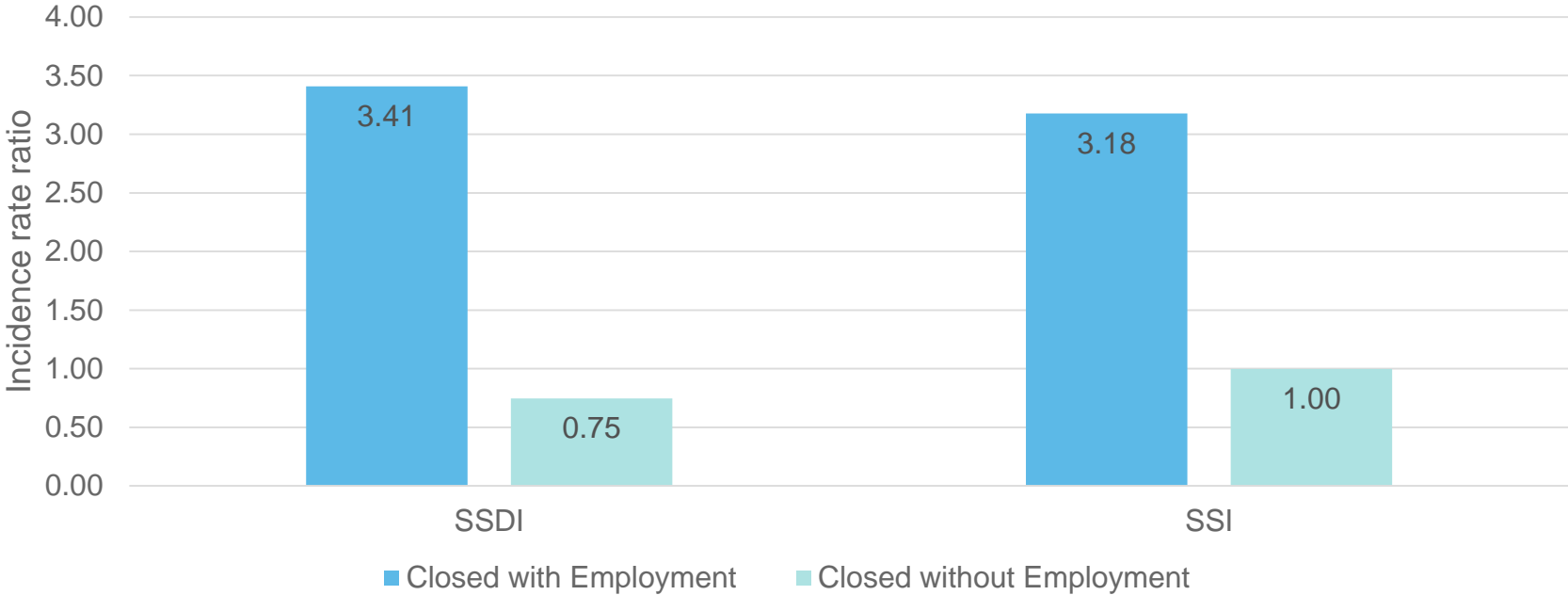
Earnings outcomes varied greatly by employment status at program exit

Incidence rate ratio for an additional year of employment
(during the first six full calendar years after closure)



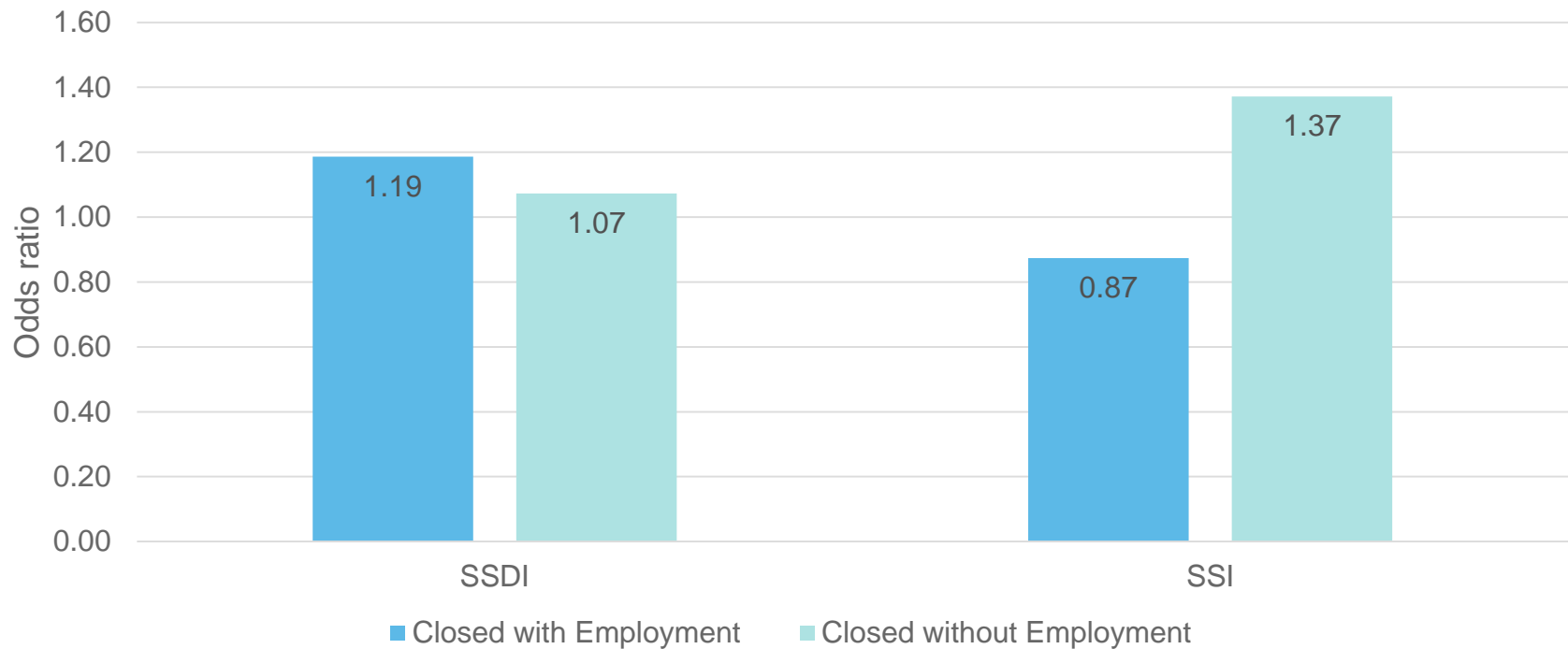
Being employed at program exit was a strong indicator of future benefit suspension

Incidence rate ratio for an additional month of benefit suspension/termination (during the first seven calendar years after closure)



Those who exit VR with employment were more likely to become SSDI beneficiaries

Odds ratio for new benefit receipt (within seven calendar years after closure)



Some general takeaway findings

- **Applicants who did not receive services are a relatively heterogeneous group**
 - Case closure status acts as a sorting mechanism
- **New benefit receipt varies by program**
 - Differences in program rules
 - Difference in beneficiary populations
 - Other factors

Additional earnings findings for those who received services

- **Women less likely than men to earn above the SGA amount for an additional year**
- **Additional employment most likely among those ages 19 to 24 (and declines with age)**
- **Those with substance abuse impairment least likely to obtain additional employment**
- **SSI and SSDI benefit receipt highly correlated with low earnings**

Additional new benefit receipt findings among recipients of services

- **Women more likely than men to be SSI recipients**
 - The converse true for SSDI benefits
- **SSI and SSDI benefit receipt increases with age**
- **Higher educational attainment negatively correlated with benefit receipt**
- **Those with developmental disabilities most likely eventual SSI and SSDI beneficiaries**

Implications for policy and practice

- **Opportunity to target further assistance to VR clients approaching program exit**
 - Those struggling to find employment may be candidates for other services and supports for people who are not economically independent
 - Those exiting with employment may benefit from additional employment services and supports to sustain employment
- **Findings suggest a possible benefit of VR service receipt via increased resources or in response to poor economic environments**

Citation

- **Mann, David R., Todd Honeycutt, Michelle Stegman Bailey, and John O’Neill. “Using Administrative Data to Explore the Employment and Benefit Receipt Outcomes of Vocational Rehabilitation Applicants Years after Program Exit.” *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, forthcoming.**

Contact information

David R. Mann, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher
Mathematica Policy Research

dmann@mathematica-mpr.com

 **@DavidRMann**

Acknowledgments

- **Funding for this study was provided by the Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics at the University of New Hampshire, which is funded by the National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), in the Administration for Community Living (ACL), at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Grant No: 90RT5022-02-00)**
- **The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policies of DHHS or of any other federal agency (EDGAR, 75.620 [b])**