

National Beneficiary Survey Fact Sheet

Interesting Facts from SSA's National Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

How do work-oriented Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income disability beneficiaries differ from other beneficiaries?

We define work-oriented beneficiaries as those who report that their personal goals include getting a job, moving up in a job, or learning new job skills or who see themselves working for pay in the next year or in the next five years. In the 2015 NBS, 45 percent of respondents were work-oriented. Compared to others, work-oriented beneficiaries: (1) are younger; (2) are more likely to be black; (3) have higher educational attainment; and (4) are more likely to have never been married.

Sociodemographic Characteristics of SSDI and SSI Beneficiaries by Work Orientation

Characteristic	All Beneficiaries	Work-Oriented	Not Work-Oriented
Age (%)			
18 to 24	4.7	7.8*	2.2
25 to 39	15.1	22.3*	9.2
40 to 54	30.8	33.0*	28.9
55 or older	49.4	36.9*	59.6
Male (%)	50.0	52.3	48.1
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (%)	9.8	10.1	9.6
Race (%)			
White only	69.0	63.8*	73.2
Black or African-American only	23.8	28.6*	19.9
Other	7.2	7.6*	6.8
Education (%)			
Did not complete high school or GED	28.3	23.1*	32.6
High school diploma, GED, or certificate	42.6	44.8*	40.8
More than high school	29.1	32.1*	26.6
Marital Status (%)			
Never married	35.0	44.3*	27.4
Divorced, widowed, or separated	35.4	33.2*	37.4
Married	29.5	22.5*	35.3
Sample size (unweighted number)	4,062	2,363	1,699
Estimated population (weighted number)	12,896,735	5,828,872	7,067,863

Source: 2015 National Beneficiary Survey.

*Distribution is statistically different from that of not work-oriented beneficiaries at the 5% level, chi-square test.

If you have comments or ideas for future Fact Sheets, please contact us at NBS.Fact.Sheets@ssa.gov.
For more information about the NBS, please visit <http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/nbs.html>.