



Counting the Disabled: Using Survey Self-Reports to Estimate Medical Eligibility for Social Security's Disability Programs: ORES Working Paper Series Number 90

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Counting the Disabled: Using Survey Self-Reports to Estimate Medical Eligibility for Social Security's Disability Programs: ORES Working Paper

By Jianting Hu

Bibliogov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 62 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. This paper develops an approach for tracking medical eligibility for the Social Security Administrations (SSAs) disability programs on the basis of self-reports from an ongoing survey. Using a structural model of the disability determination process estimated on a sample of applicants, we make out-of-sample predictions of eligibility for nonbeneficiaries in the general population. This work is based on the 1990 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation. We use alternative methods of estimating the number of people who would be found eligible if they applied, considering the effects of sample selection adjustments, sample restrictions, and several methods of estimating eligibility/ineligibility from a set of continuous probabilities. The estimates cover a wide range, suggesting the importance of addressing methodological issues. In terms of classification rates for applicants, our preferred measure outperforms the conventional single variable model based on the preferred measure. Under our preferred estimate, 4.4 million people—2.9 percent of the nonbeneficiary population aged 18–64—would meet SSAs medical criteria for disability. Of that group, about one-third have average earnings above the substantial gainful activity limit. Those we classify...



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