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Social Security Administration Data Show a Record Low Level of PASS Usage Among SSI Recipients

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Data Note

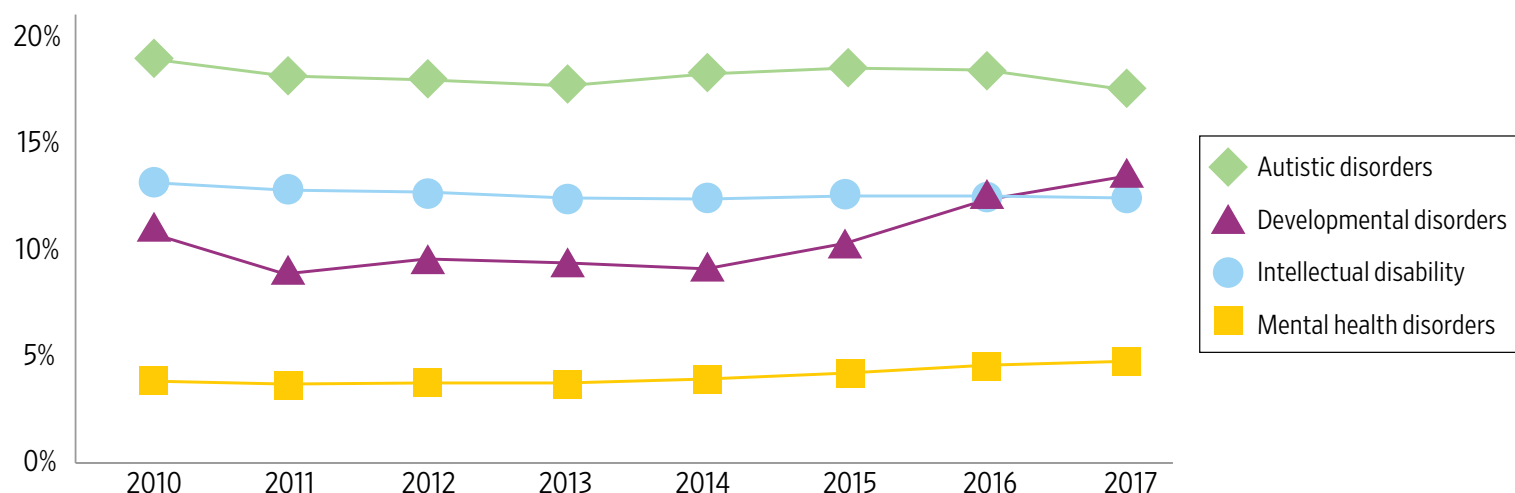
Data Source: Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics: SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2018

Employment Rates Among Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients by Diagnostic Group (2010–2017)

By Daria Domin and Jaimie Timmons

Beginning in 2010, the Social Security Administration (SSA) further categorized its mental disorders diagnostic category into nine sub-categories. This Data Note explores the rate of employment among SSI recipients ages 18–64 using the expanded mental disorders diagnostic groups for intellectual disability (ID), developmental disorders (DD), and autistic disorders. In addition, mood disorders, organic mental disorders, and schizophrenic and other psychotic disorders were grouped together to represent mental health disorders. These data were set against trends in SSI participation rates for context.

Figure 1: Employment rates of SSI recipients by diagnostic group, 2010–2017



The rate of employment among SSI recipients with ID, as well as this group's proportion of total SSI recipients, have both been trending in the same slightly negative direction. In contrast, the DD subgroup has seen an overall increase in both its proportion of total SSI recipients ages 18–64 and the rate of employment in the last seven years.

Furthermore, the rate of individuals with autism ages 18–64 who received SSI has increased significantly during this time period, almost doubling between 2013 and 2017. Yet the rate of employment has decreased. This increase in overall participation in the SSA system by individuals with autism could be attributed to an increase in proper diagnoses, as has been observed in other datasets.



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Finally, the rate of employment among SSI recipients with mental health disorders has only minimally increased since 2010, while this group's proportion of total SSI recipients has been trending down. Compared to individuals with ID, DD, and autism, people with mental health disorders have much lower rates of employment.

While the differences in employment rates by subgroup underscore the challenges faced by specific groups, these data also illustrate the minimal progress in improving employment rates across the four groups of SSI recipients between 2010 and 2017. Improving the rates of all disability subgroups receiving SSI should be a critical goal for policy and practice, leveraging options such as SSA's Work Incentives and Ticket to Work programs.

Table 1: Total SSI Recipients and Rate of Employment Among SSI Recipients by Diagnostic Group, 2010–2017

Diagnostic Groups	% of SSI Recipients	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Autism disorder	% Employed	19.1%	18.3%	18.0%	17.7%	18.3%	18.6%	18.5%	17.6%
	Total SSI Recipients %	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%	3.0%
Developmental disability	% Employed	10.9%	8.9%	9.6%	9.5%	9.2%	10.4%	12.4%	13.5%
	Total SSI Recipients %	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Intellectual disability	% Employed	13.2%	12.8%	12.8%	12.5%	12.4%	12.6%	12.6%	12.4%
	Total SSI Recipients %	20.2%	19.8%	19.1%	18.9%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%
Mental health disorders	% Employed	3.9%	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%	4.8%
	Total SSI Recipients %	30.2%	30.0%	29.4%	29.2%	29.0%	28.7%	28.4%	27.8%

To learn more, please refer to the Social Security Administration (2000–2017) chapter on page 33 of StateData: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes Through 2017:

www.statedata.info/bluebook2019.pdf

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