

# PRESENTERS

## New Evidence of the ACA's Effect on People with Disabilities: **Health Insurance, Employment, and Benefits**

### MODERATOR



**Jody Schimmel Hyde, Mathematica**

Jody Schimmel Hyde is the deputy director of Mathematica's Center for Studying Disability Policy. She has extensive experience conducting quantitative analyses using administrative data from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and using those data linked to other data sources. Her work covers policies related to employment and health care. Currently, she directs Mathematica's research activities under the Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation and Research Training Center, including studies related to the implications of health reform on workers with disabilities. In the past, she directed studies through the SSA's Disability Research Consortium (DRC) and studied the impact of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansions on disability program applications, SSA's Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance programs, the Medicaid Buy-In, and Medicaid Infrastructure Grants. Schimmel Hyde holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

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**Anna Hill, Mathematica**

Anna Hill is a researcher at Mathematica. She has expertise in designing quasi-experimental studies and developing and testing health care quality measures. Currently, she is the research task lead on an evaluation, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, of the impact of taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages. She is also co-writing a paper on the impact of funding increases on vocational rehabilitation outcomes. She has led quantitative testing of electronic clinical quality measures and is a measure lead for a claims-based quality measure. Hill holds a Ph.D. in policy analysis and management from Cornell University.



**Michael Levere, Mathematica**

Michael Levere is a researcher at Mathematica. His expertise is in designing and implementing program evaluations. As part of his work on disability policy, Levere led several projects for the DRC, including an analysis of how Medicaid expansions in the late 1990s and early 2000s affected youth applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), an analysis using data from SSA to produce a compendium of statistics about suspensions and terminations of benefits because of work, and an analysis assessing how removal from their parents' health insurance coverage at age 26 affects young adults' SSI applications. He has also worked on study designs and impact analyses for studies such as the Promoting Opportunity Demonstration and Promoting Readiness of Minors in SSI. Levere holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, San Diego.



### **Purvi Sevak, Mathematica**

Purvi Sevak is a senior researcher at Mathematica. Her expertise includes quantitative research and using large survey databases to conduct public policy research related to health, disability program participation, employment, and retirement. Her work includes studies about the impacts of recession on SSI participation and workers with chronic health conditions as well as the effects of Medicaid policies on private savings. Currently, Sevak leads the Survey of Disability and Employment, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in the U.S. Department of Education. She also leads several research projects for NIDRR examining the role of individual and environmental characteristics in explaining disparities in employment outcomes among people with disabilities. Sevak holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

## **DISCUSSANT**

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### **Bonnie O'Day, Consultant**

Bonnie O'Day is a consultant and the interim director of research at the American Foundation for the Blind, and she was a senior researcher at Mathematica for almost 10 years. O'Day is skilled at using focus groups, in-depth interviews, site visits, and other methods to assess the implementation of innovative strategies for serving people with disabilities. Her experience as a person with legal blindness provides her insight into the issues that people with disabilities face when accessing government programs and public accommodations. O'Day has conducted evaluations for SSA and other projects, such as examining best practices in providing services and supports to people with mental health conditions and how these services could be funded under the ACA. She collaborated with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to explore the barriers people with physical, sensory, and psychiatric disabilities face in obtaining primary care. She also worked with the agency to educate medical providers about their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which culminated in a book—*More than Ramps: A Guide to Improving Healthcare Quality for People with Disabilities*. In 1994, O'Day was appointed by President Clinton to the National Council on Disability, which advises the president and Congress on disability policy. She has served on boards and commissions at the national, state, and local levels. O'Day holds a Ph.D. in social welfare policy from Brandeis University.

