

# Disability, Earnings, Income and Consumption

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**Abstract:** Using longitudinal data for the period 1968-2005 for a sample of male household heads, we determine the prevalence of disability during the working years and examine how the extent of disability affects a range of outcomes, including earnings, income, and consumption. We have seven main findings. First, disability rates are high. We divide the disabled along two dimensions based on the persistence and severity of their work-limiting condition. We estimate that a person reaching age 56 has a 53 percent chance of having been disabled at least once during his working years, and a 19 percent chance that he has begun a chronic and severe disability. Second, the economic consequences of disability are frequently profound. Ten years after disability onset, a person with a chronic and severe disability on average experiences a 68 percent decline in earnings, a 32 percent decline in after-tax income, a 22 percent decline in food and housing consumption and a 21 percent decline in food consumption. Third, the various economic consequences differ sharply across disability groups. The outcome declines for those with a chronic and severe disability are often more than twice as large as those for the average disabled. Fourth, our findings show the partial and incomplete roles that individual savings, family support and social insurance play in reducing the consumption drop that follows disability. Only about half of this most disabled group reports receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income. Fifth, we find a noticeable fall in earnings and income prior to the onset of a reported disability. Consumption also falls somewhat, suggesting that future disability is partially but incompletely predictable in the short run. Sixth, time use and detailed consumption data further indicate that disability is associated with a decline in well-being. Seventh, the quantities we have estimated, combined with elasticities from the literature, allow us to examine the optimality of current compensation for the disabled. We find that the current compensation for our most disabled group appears to be lower than is optimal.

**KEYWORDS:** Disability, Disability Insurance, Optimal Benefits, Earnings, Income, Consumption.

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# 1. Introduction

This paper examines the lifetime prevalence of disability and how the disabled fare before and after the onset of disability. Disability is one of the main risks individuals face during their lifetime. The Social Security Administration (SSA) estimates that a twenty year old worker has nearly a 30 percent chance of becoming disabled before reaching age 65.<sup>1</sup> A recent report by the Institute of Medicine concludes that the number of people in the U.S. with disabilities currently exceeds 40 million.<sup>2</sup> Census of Population data from the year 2000 indicate that 20.9 million families (28.9 percent of all American families) have at least one disabled member, and 12.8 percent of these families are living in poverty; the corresponding poverty rate for families without disabled members is only 7.7 percent.<sup>3</sup>

Disability is one of the primary reasons for public insurance spending. In 2006, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments equaled \$92 billion and the share of Supplementary Security Income (SSI) for the blind and the disabled was \$36 billion.<sup>4</sup> Private spending on the disabled was also high, with \$55 billion spent on Workers' Compensation in 2005.<sup>5</sup> These expenditures are high even compared to some other social insurance or welfare programs, such as Unemployment Insurance benefits (\$40 billion in 2004) and Food Stamps (\$30 billion in 2006).<sup>6</sup> Looking forward, Autor and Duggan (2006) predict that the SSDI receipt rate will rise 71 percent before reaching a steady state rate of approximately 7 percent of non-elderly adults.

Despite high disability rates and high costs, there are major gaps in our understanding of the economic consequences of disability. The dynamic nature of disability calls for longitudinal measures that reflect its persistence and prevalence over an individual's lifetime.

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<sup>1</sup> See Baldwin and Chu (2006) who also estimate that the probability of receiving Social Security Disability Insurance by age 67 is 38 percent for men and 31 percent for women.

<sup>2</sup> See Institute of Medicine (2007). The conclusion is based on reviewing a selection of survey results, including the National Health Interview Survey, Survey of Income Program Participation, Census of Population, American Community Survey. The results from many studies are also reviewed, including Wang (2005), Steinmetz (2006) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2006).

<sup>3</sup> See Wang (2005).

<sup>4</sup> Specifically, the federal government spent \$33 billion on SSI for the blind and the disabled (age 0-64), while another \$3 billion was spent in state supplementation (U.S. Social Security Administration 2007).

<sup>5</sup> See Sengupta et al. (2007). The \$55 billion includes payments for medical treatment and cash benefits.

<sup>6</sup> For Unemployment Insurance, see Council of Economic Advisers (2006). For Food Stamps, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service Program Data (2007). In addition, spending on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families in 2004 was \$9 billion (U.S. Social Security Administration 2005).

To date, however, few studies examine the long-term economic circumstances of the disabled.<sup>7</sup> Our study aims to bridge this gap in the literature.

Certain information is important to design and evaluate disability policies. To determine the life-cycle consequences of disability (Chandra and Samwick 2005, Low and Pistaferri 2008), it is especially helpful to have information on the prevalence of disability and the consumption fall that comes with disability onset. Similarly, the calculation of optimal disability benefits (Chetty 2006) depends on the fall in consumption with disability, the frequency of disability, and the moral hazard effects of disability benefits (as well as utility function parameters). While there is an extensive literature on the moral hazard effects of disability,<sup>8</sup> we have less information on lifetime disability rates and the fall in consumption with disability.

In this study, we look at the economic situation of the disabled from many angles. First, we examine disability rates by the extent of disability, which we characterize along the two dimensions: persistence and severity. Second, we examine how important outcomes such as earnings, income and consumption change during the five years prior to disability onset and the subsequent ten years. Third, we show how these outcomes differ by the extent of disability. We examine the overall pattern of transfer receipt, as well as the role it plays for various disabled subgroups. Finally, using our estimates, we examine the optimality of current compensation programs for the disabled.

We use data over a 38-year period from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). The longitudinal structure of these data allows us to examine changes in the variables of interest before and after individuals suffer disability onset. Of necessity, our analyses rely on a self-reported measure of disability. Self-reports are the only feasible option, given that a large share of disabilities, even those compensated by SSDI, cannot be determined by an explicit physical marker (because they are psychological or involve pain).<sup>9</sup> In addition, program-based definitions miss non-recipients and non-reporting recipients. Past studies also

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<sup>7</sup> Important past work on this topic includes Haveman and Wolfe (1990) who study the difference between the incomes and earnings of the disabled and non-disabled using the Current Population Survey. Bound and Burkhauser (1999) also compare earnings of the disabled and the non-disabled. Bound and Waidman (2002) look at employment rates among the disabled. Charles (2003) examines earnings, hours and wages after disability. Stephens (2001) analyzes some of these outcomes as well as food consumption. There is also related work by Rupp and Davies (2004) and others.

<sup>8</sup> See for example, Parsons (1984, 1991), Haveman and Wolfe (1984a, b), Bound (1989, 1991), Gruber (2001), Black et al. (2002), and Autor and Duggan (2003).

<sup>9</sup> Autor and Duggan (2006) report that more than half of SSDI awards in 2003 were for either mental disorders or musculoskeletal disorders (e.g. back pain).

indicate that self-reported disability has many desirable features (Stern 1989; Benitez-Silva et al. 2004), though this view is not universally held.

Our study differs from the literature in several ways. First, we analyze a comprehensive range of variables that capture the economic circumstances of the disabled: earnings, work hours, employment, income, public transfer receipt, poverty rates, food consumption, housing consumption, and leisure time. In taking this wider view, we obtain a better picture of the general well-being of the disabled. Second, we make use of the most recent data. Third, we confront the issue of public transfer under-reporting, which can lead researchers to overestimate income declines as well as the poverty rate of the disabled. Fourth, we go beyond a uniform characterization of the disabled by dividing the population based on a disability's duration (persistence) and severity. To our knowledge, almost all previous economic studies have examined the disabled as a single homogeneous group or only along a single disability dimension – persistence or severity.

This paper makes several key findings. First, disability rates are high. We estimate that by age 50, about 11 percent of male household heads have begun an enduring and severe disability. By age 56, that number rises to 19 percent. An even larger share of men have experienced some type of disability. A man reaching age 56 has a 53 percent chance of having been disabled at least once during his working years and about a 37 percent chance of experiencing a chronic disability that lasted at least four years.

Second, disability is associated with worsened economic outcomes. Ten years after disability onset, those with a chronic and severe disability condition have experienced a 68 percent decline in earnings, a 32 percent decline in after-tax income, a 22 percent decline in food and housing consumption and a 21 percent decline in consumption of food alone. In addition, about two-thirds of these most disabled individuals never return to work in the long run.

Third, there are sharp outcome differences across disability groups; the outcome declines for those with chronic and severe disabilities are often more than twice those for the average disabled.

Fourth, our findings indicate the partial but incomplete roles that individual savings, family support, and government and private insurance play in reducing the consumption drop that follows disability. Despite the various government programs available, the incomes of about one-sixth of families with a chronically and severely disabled head drop below the

poverty line in the long term – even after accounting for in-kind transfers and the under-reporting of benefits.

Fifth, we find a noticeable fall in earnings and income prior to the onset of a reported disability. Consumption also falls somewhat prior to reported onset, indicating that future disability is partially but incompletely predictable in the short run.

Sixth, since consumption is the outcome of a home production function that uses time as an input (Becker 1965), we have also explored the disabled's time-use patterns. Evidence from time-use surveys does not suggest that the disabled do more shopping, which might enable them to enjoy lower prices through greater search effort. We also find that instead of working more on home and food production, the disabled spend more time watching television, relaxing, sleeping and using medical services. Together these findings indicate a real decline in material well-being after the onset of disability, especially for those who are more disabled. To further substantiate our claim that consumption declines following disability, we examine food surveys and find that the diet of the disabled is worse than that of the non-disabled in many dimensions.

Seventh, based on our estimates, others from the literature, and reasonable assumptions on parameter values, we find that the current compensation for the most disabled appears to be lower than is optimal.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the conceptual framework for interpreting disability and its consequences. Section 3 describes our dataset and sample, and how we define and categorize the disabled. This section also discusses lifetime prevalence of disability, and outlines the empirical strategy for the rest of the paper. Section 4 examines the change in earnings and employment following disability onset. Section 5 examines the fall in income following disability onset, the rise in poverty and public transfer receipt. Section 6 summarizes the changes in consumption of food and housing. Section 7 discusses a series of robustness checks. We also revisit the change in food consumption and consider the time use of the disabled. Section 8 examines the optimality of current provisions for the disabled, and Section 9 concludes. The appendices include additional results concerning the impact of disability on food quantity and quality, as well as the usage of time.

## 2. Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Disability and its Consequences

The canonical model for examining income shocks and consumption patterns and their welfare implications over the lifetime of an individual is the life-cycle model.

### A. *The Life-Cycle Model and Consumption*

The life-cycle framework models individuals as maximizing the present discounted value of expected utility, subject to an inter-temporal budget constraint. The life-cycle model has clear predictions that in the absence of uninsured shocks to income, the pattern of the marginal utility of consumption should move slowly over time. Absent other changes, this result implies that consumption has a roughly constant or slowly trending time pattern. Following Dynan (1993) and Bernheim, Skinner and Weinberg (2001) we can write the expected proportional change in consumption from one period to the next as

$$(1) \quad \frac{E_t(C_{t+1}) - C_t}{C_t} \approx \frac{1}{\gamma} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha_t} \right) + \frac{\rho}{2} \sigma_{t+1}^2.$$

where  $\gamma$  is  $-U''C_t/U'$ , the coefficient of relative risk aversion,  $\rho$  is  $-U'''C_t/U''$ , the coefficient of relative prudence, where  $U$  is a standard utility function.  $\alpha$  is the ratio of one plus the interest rate to one plus the discount rate, adjusted for the survival rate, while  $\sigma^2$  is the variance of  $\ln(\text{consumption})$ . If the individual has full insurance we expect the right hand side of the above equation to be small, implying that consumption change should be small following disability. If consumption falls noticeably with disability, then we have evidence that insurance is incomplete.

### B. *Optimal Disability Insurance*

While a fall in consumption with disability suggests that insurance is not complete, whether insurance is less than optimal depends on other factors, especially the degree of moral hazard. Chetty (2006) provides a very useful optimal social insurance benefit formula

that illustrates the importance of measuring changes in consumption in assessing whether current disability benefits are optimal. This result also highlights the importance of the degree of moral hazard in any optimal benefit calculations. His Proposition 2 states that the optimal benefit rate  $b^*$  is approximately defined by

$$(2) \quad \frac{\Delta \bar{c}}{\bar{c}}(b^*) \gamma \left[ 1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \frac{\Delta \bar{c}}{\bar{c}}(b^*) \right] \approx \frac{\varepsilon_{D,b}}{1-D}$$

where  $-\frac{\Delta \bar{c}}{\bar{c}}(b^*)$  is the drop in mean consumption with disability as a function of the benefit level,  $\gamma$  and  $\rho$  are as above,  $D$  is the fraction of a lifetime spent disabled, and  $\varepsilon_{D,b}$  is the elasticity of  $D$  with respect to  $b$ . This formula provides a way of checking whether current benefits are optimal. If the left hand side is greater than the right hand side, benefits are too low; if the reverse is true, benefits are too high. This equation highlights the importance of knowing the consumption fall with disability in designing disability policy. The details of applying this formula to existing disability programs are discussed in Section 8.

One last factor or caveat should be emphasized. The previous equations relied on the assumption that the marginal utility of consumption (at a given consumption level) does not change over time, in particular with disability. A concern with directly applying the above results is that the additional non-market time available to the disabled may allow the marginal utility of consumption to remain unchanged even if consumption falls, if time and money are substitutes. For example, it may be that the disabled are able to substitute cooking for prepared foods, and careful shopping may allow them to purchase goods at lower prices. We examine the extent of this substitution below. Disability may also directly affect the marginal utility of consumption by making individuals less able to enjoy certain activities (vacations), but shifting out the demand for other goods (ranch homes). Alternatively, one might argue that the disabled are purposely taking more leisure (and less income), because the marginal utility of income (at a given consumption level) has fallen. This alternative version is hard to address directly, but we note that the average disabled head does spend a large share of his time visiting the doctor. Given that the most severely disabled in our analyzes are much worse off than average disabled, this pattern may be even more true for the group on which we focus.

### *C. The Time Pattern of Disability and its Consequences*

A conceptual framework to understand disability must also recognize that disability is a dynamic process. In many cases, disability is a process that unfolds over many years and that the disabled person cannot predict accurately. To help think about the evolution of disability over time, we consider the following simple model. Let  $D$  be an indicator variable for a self-reported disability, and  $S$  be an indicator variable for a self-reported severe disability, when an individual reports that he can do little or no work. We have in mind that a person states he is disabled if  $D^*(W, P, T, F) > K_D$ . Similarly, a person states he is severely disabled if  $S^*(W, P, T, F) > K_S$ . Here  $D^*$  and  $S^*$  are latent continuous disability indicators that are functions of  $W$  (productivity in the labor market),  $P$  (the pain or disutility of work),  $T$  (transfers available for the disabled) and  $F$  (support from family).  $K_D$  and  $K_S$  are individual specific tolerance thresholds for declaring disability and severe disability respectively. We have in mind that  $W$  and  $P$  are in many (probably most) cases not fully observable to a researcher, doctor or caseworker. This situation is most likely in cases where the disability is due to chronic pain or a mental illness.

That disability is not defined wholly by a physical condition affects its observability. Disability is defined by mental functioning and pain tolerance, and it is a function of work and workplace accommodations that are available to the impaired.  $W$  is an interaction of a person's physical and mental condition with his skills and training. Finally, the declaration of disability is a function of available insurance mechanisms, whether family, SSDI or other means of support. A substantial literature examines the behavioral response of people to the availability of jobs and alternative means of support such as social insurance (for example, see Parsons 1984; Black et al. 2002; Autor and Duggan 2003). We expect that  $dS/dW$ ,  $dS/dT$ ,  $dD/dW$  and  $dD/dT$  are substantial.

Our focus here is on the fall in income and consumption over time in the presence of a disability. We should also note that declaration of disability and severe disability are correlated with the receipt of transfers such as SSDI, but they are not the same as many severely disabled people work, and some who receive SSDI indicate that they are not severely disabled.

There is likely to be some feedback from the poor outcomes we observe that lead someone to call himself disabled. From a welfare perspective, disability does not need to be



exogenous. In fact, the optimal benefit formula above recognizes that it is endogenous. Nevertheless, we refer to the outcomes we examine as the consequences of disability. Consistent with this characterization, we provide evidence that health clearly worsens prior to a person's first declaration that he is disabled; we find less evidence of increased frequency of unemployment just prior to disability onset. We also note that prior to disability, the disabled look fairly similar to the non-disabled and work only slightly fewer hours. Consequently, we also find that the disabled do not seem to have had a very different taste for leisure.

Thus, we describe what we examine as the consequences of disability, subject to the caveat that this is likely only mostly true. Offering additional support for our interpretation, we show that the most disabled have fairly undesirable economic circumstances. We also report substantial evidence that self-reported disability is associated with higher rates of physical and mental limitation, and a higher frequency of specific limiting health conditions diagnosed by doctors.

### **3. Data, Categorizing the Disabled and the Prevalence of Disability**

#### *A. Data*

We use the PSID, a longitudinal dataset begun in 1968 with an initial sample of about 4,800 U.S. households and 18,000 individuals. The initial sample had two components, both of which we use: a nationally representative sample (Survey Research Center sample) and a national sample of low-income families (Survey of Economic Opportunity sample). The latter group included about 1,800 households.

Households were interviewed annually between 1968 and 1997, and biannually since then.<sup>10</sup> Children in sample households are followed as they leave and form their own families. Since the survey's initial focus was the dynamics of poverty, questions are asked about benefits received, work hours, earnings, income, health, and other outcomes. A particularly attractive feature of the PSID is that it collects information on housing and

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<sup>10</sup> Some data are available for intervening years. For example, the 1999 survey asked about both 1998 and 1997 earnings.

family food expenditures, variables that are available in few other microeconomic surveys. Many authors have used this particular feature to measure the material well-being of individuals. As of 2005, the PSID has collected information on 67,271 individuals.

In this study, we use the entire PSID panel, beginning with 1968 and continuing through the 2005 wave. Most of our analysis focuses on male household heads who are 22-61 years old in the survey year.<sup>11</sup> We focus on those 22 and older because those below this age are unlikely to be household heads. The choice to focus on male household heads is necessary because the PSID did not ask disability questions of spouses until 1981 (see Burkhauser et al. 2006). The PSID defines the household head in a married couple family to be the male, except when he is so severely disabled that he is unable to respond to the survey. In order to assure sufficient information about the variables of interest, we select male household heads who are interviewed for at least six years and who are 22-61 years old for at least four interviews, three of which are consecutive.

### *B. Disability Questions, Limitations and Severity*

The main disability question in the PSID is, “*Do you have any physical or nervous condition that limits the type or amount of work you can do?*” This question is asked of household heads consistently throughout the life of the survey.<sup>12</sup> After determining the presence of a work-limiting condition, a severity question asks the extent that this condition limits the work capability of the head. We group the responses to this question into two categories: “Severely Disabled” and “Not Severely Disabled.” We define **Not Severely Disabled in Year t** to be those who respond “Just A little,” “Somewhat,” “Not Limiting,” or “Not at all” to the severity question in the year t survey. **Severely Disabled in Year t** are those who respond “Can do nothing,” “Completely,” “A lot,” or “Severely.”

Table 1 tabulates the unweighted and weighted disability rates for male household heads aged 22-61 during the 1968-2005 period. These rates are usually between 11-15

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<sup>11</sup> We retain any data on disability for people outside this age range because it may be useful in determining the persistence or severity of an individual’s disabling condition. As we will explain later, the degree of persistence is determined based on the frequency of positive limitation reports after disability onset. Thus, ignoring information after the age of 61 may lead to an individual being misclassified, especially if his age of disability onset is close to 61. Similarly, the onset age cannot be correctly determined if we exclude all data outside the age range. For example, a person whose disability began at age 18 could have his onset age mistakenly set to 22 if we disregard the responses to the disability question outside the age range.

<sup>12</sup> In the period 1973-1975, this disability question was asked only of new entrants to the survey. We assume the disability status of these new entrants has not changed until the 1976 survey.

percent and are comparable to those found by Burkhauser et al. (2006). The table also reports the share of the disabled with a severe disability. The fraction of the disabled classified as severe is usually about one-third. However, during the 1977-1985 period the possible responses to the severity question in the survey were more limited, apparently leading to a higher fraction of respondents indicating that their condition limited their work capability “A lot.”<sup>13</sup> We have investigated the sensitivity of our disability rates and outcomes to reduced reliance on these years, and have found only small impacts given the averaging over time and classification system we use, as discussed below.

### *C. Validation of Self-Reported Disability*

#### 1) Self-Reported Disability Status

Several authors question the validity of self-reported disability status and choose to focus instead on those who receive benefits such as SSDI or SSI.<sup>14</sup> Such an approach is not without its limitations, however. First, some disabled individuals may not file for SSDI or SSI because of the paperwork and the requirement that the disabling condition is expected to last for at least 12 months. Second, not all disabled individuals will meet these programs’ qualifications. For example, SSDI requires the applicant to have worked sufficiently during the years prior to disability,<sup>15</sup> and SSI has a stringent asset limit. Third, the denial of an SSDI or SSI application does not necessarily imply that an individual is not disabled (Nagi 1969; Bound 1989), as indicated by the high acceptance rates for those who appeal denials (Benitez-Silva et al. 1999 report that in 1993, of the 48 percent of denied SSDI claimants who requested reconsideration, 50 percent were accepted).<sup>16</sup> Fourth, SSDI and SSI benefits are unavailable to those who earn above certain amounts despite their disabilities. In 2006, an SSDI recipient could not earn more than \$860 after a trial period, and SSI recipients had

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<sup>13</sup> See the data appendix (Appendix 3) for the exact wording of the question in different periods. No severity question was asked during 1969-1971.

<sup>14</sup> See Bound et al. (2007), Kreider and Pepper (2007), and Kreider (1999) for discussions of the limitations of self-reported disability.

<sup>15</sup> Only about 80 percent of working age individuals are insured by SSDI (Autor and Duggan, 2006).

<sup>16</sup> Bound (1989) suggests that many rejected SSIDI applicants are in fact incapable of work. Citing the study by Nagi (1969), Bound states: “Of the population denied benefits, 35.6 percent were found incapable of any work, and another 12.3 percent were only capable of work at home or in sheltered environments.” In addition, Bound cites the study of Treitel (1976), which suggests that many rejected applicants did not work despite the SSDI denials. Using administrative follow-up records, he shows that 13.8 percent of those denied benefits in 1967 died within the next six years.

their monthly benefits reduced by 50 percent of the amount of any monthly earnings above \$85 (U.S. Social Security Administration 2006).

Past researches, however, have also pointed out the merits of self-reported disability measures. Benitez-Silva et al. (2004) suggest that self-reported disability responses are an unbiased indicator of SSDI eligibility decisions. Stern (1989) finds that a self-reported disability question is close to exogenous. To the extent self-reported disability was endogenous, the relationship was the opposite of what had been hypothesized in the literature (i.e. health tended to deteriorate when working rather than disability being used to justify not working). In their comparison of the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), Burkhauser et al. (2002) argue that the self-reported work-limitation-based definition of disability may even underestimate disability rates. Given that alternative definitions have their own endogeneity problems or are often too narrow, we believe that self-reported disability status responses, while not perfect, offer the best available method of measurement.

## 2) Self-Reported Severity

The main difficulty in using self-reported disability severity responses is that they are necessarily subjective. One may argue that more objective measures, such as the number of everyday tasks the individual has difficulty with, should be used instead (see Bound 1989). For example, the Census Bureau partly bases its definition of *severely disabled* on how many Activities of Daily Living (ADL), Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) and functional activities an individual cannot perform.<sup>17</sup> Surveys such as the PSID or the CPS, however, do not ask these questions on a regular basis.

The PSID asked questions about physical limitations and specific medical conditions diagnosed by a health professional in 1986, and the 1999-2005 surveys. In Appendix 1, we provide extensive comparisons of our disability measures to these measures of health limitations. We show that the severely disabled group in our sample has on average much

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<sup>17</sup> Specifically, using the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), the Census Bureau (McNeil 2001) defines severe disability using the following criteria: 1) The person used a wheelchair, a cane, crutches or a walker, 2) The person had any other mental or emotional condition that seriously interfered with everyday activities, 3) The person received federal benefits based on an inability to work, 4) The person had Alzheimer's disease, 5) The person had developmental disability or mental retardation, 6) The person was unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more of the functional activities, ADLs or IADLs, 7) The person was unable to do housework, 8) The person was in the age range 16-67 and had a condition that made it difficult to work at a job or business. A person who falls in any one of the above criteria is considered to be severely disabled.

greater numbers of physical and health limiting conditions, as well as more serious forms of these conditions, relative to the non-severe group and the non-disabled. For example, the average number of activity limitations (difficulty walking, bending, driving, etc.) is 2.74 for the Severe group, 1.21 for the Not-Severe group and 0.11 for the non-disabled. The average number of doctor diagnosed severe health conditions (high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, etc.) is 1.1 for the Severely disabled, 0.1 for the Not-Severely disabled and 0.01 for the Non-Disabled. These results strongly indicate that self-reported disability severity captures important features of the true severity of individual disabilities.

#### *D. Sample Construction*

We divide our sample of male household heads into disabled and non-disabled individuals. The non-disabled sample consists of those who never report that they have a physical or nervous limitation during the survey years. Members of the disabled sample report a limitation in at least one year.

Determining the year of limitation onset for the disabled requires combining information from multiple years of data. A valuable feature of the PSID is a retrospective question on when a work limitation began that is available for the 1969-1978 waves (except 1976 and 1977). For those disabled on or before 1978, we use the responses to this question to determine their year of onset.<sup>18</sup>

Determining the year of onset for the disabled who have no work limitations between 1968 and 1978 is more difficult because the survey asks no questions about when the condition began. We also need to account for interviewees who enter the survey after 1978. Such individuals will have data missing for 1968-1978, so we cannot simply take the first year that they report a disability as the onset year. Thus, for those who first report having a disability after 1978, we additionally require that such individuals report no limitations in the two consecutive survey years immediately prior to the year in which they first report having a work limitation.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Some individuals may have more than one response due to the panel nature of the data. Because the possible responses to these questions were coded in intervals (except in the 1978 survey, when the exact number of years is given), we determine the intersection of the intervals given by these questions and take the earliest year within the intersection as the year of disability onset.

<sup>19</sup> For example, if an individual first reports having a limitation in 1980, then the year of onset would be 1980 if he has no limitations in 1978 and 1979. Since there is only one survey per year, we also adjust the year of onset by determining the midpoint in time of adjacent interviews. See the data appendix.

Our focus is on disabilities that begin during the working years; accordingly, we exclude those whose onset age is under 18. In order to have sufficient information after onset, we require that a disabled individual in our sample be in the survey for a minimum of three years during the ten years after onset. This restriction is important to determine the disability persistence and severity groups (which we introduce in Section E below). Due to the restrictions that we impose in selecting our sample, we slightly understate the extent of work limitations, as discussed further below. We replace missing demographic information (age, marital status, years of education, number of family members, number of children and state of residence) by the non-missing value in the nearest wave.<sup>20</sup> We exclude, however, individuals who are missing key demographic variables (education, age and marital status).<sup>21</sup> The application of these restrictions results in a primary sample of 6,301 male household heads, 1,819 (29 percent) of whom are classified as ever disabled.

#### *E. Categorizing the Disabled*

Besides determining how the disabled fare around disability onset, we are interested in examining how various economic outcomes evolve for different types of disabilities. We find that following the onset of disability, different groups differ sharply in their earnings, income, public transfer receipts and consumption. We exploit the data's panel nature, coupled with limitation and severity questions, to divide the extent of disability along two dimensions: persistence and severity.

Our notion of persistence is a modification of the notion of *chronicity* in Charles (2003) and is based on the disabled person's number of positive post-onset limitation reports during the ten years after disability onset. Our notion of disability severity divides disabilities into those that are severe and those that are not severe based on the self-reported severity assessments described above. Finally, we combine our persistence and severity measures into a single disability measure by dividing the chronically disabled into those with chronic and severe disabilities and those with chronic and not severe disabilities.<sup>22</sup> These divisions allow us to compare the outcomes of those with differing degrees of disability.

We divide the disabled into three persistence groups. The **One-Time Disabled** are those who report a disability once, but do not report a disability again during the next ten years. The **Temporarily Disabled** are those who have one or two positive limitation reports

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<sup>20</sup> Approximately 400 people have missing data substituted in this way.

<sup>21</sup> We exclude 75 individuals (1.2 percent of the sample) because key demographic information is unavailable.

<sup>22</sup> We do not subdivide the non-chronically disabled.

within the ten years after disability onset. Thus, including the onset report, a temporarily disabled individual will have at most three positive limitation reports through the tenth year after onset. The **Chronically Disabled** are those who have three or more positive limitation reports during the ten years after disability onset.

To reduce the dependence of the definition on time in survey, we use all the survey waves and require that a disabled individual be in the survey for at least three years within the ten years after onset.<sup>23</sup>

Given that the severity questions are asked nearly every year of reported disability, we need to determine which of the many possible responses to use. Two natural choices are the average severity over the course of the disability and the initial severity (at the onset of disability). We choose to rely on average severity throughout the paper, because it captures a more complete picture of the disabling condition.<sup>24</sup>

We define the **severity ratio** as the fraction of the time the individual reports he is severely disabled in the year of onset and the subsequent ten years after onset.<sup>25</sup> We then define the **Severely Disabled** to be those whose severity ratio is greater than 0.5. That is, starting from the year of onset to the tenth year after onset, more than 50 percent of the observed severity reports consist of the following responses: “Can do nothing,” “Completely,” “A lot” or “Severely.” The **Not Severely Disabled** are the disabled whose severity ratio is less than 0.5. In the case where exactly half of the responses indicate severe disability (that is, a severity ratio of 0.5), we classify the disabled individual based on the first observed severity report.<sup>26</sup>

We combine the two disability dimensions in our main analyses by splitting the Chronically Disabled into two groups. The **Chronic-Not Severe** are chronically disabled, but not severely disabled under the severity classification. The **Chronic-Severe** are chronically disabled and severely disabled. Hence, this classification yields four groups of

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<sup>23</sup> If we require more than three (four to six) post-onset positive limitation reports to be in the chronic group, the results are very similar. Our disability persistence classification differs from that of Charles (2003), who defines his most chronically disabled group to be those who report a positive limitation in every year after onset (as long as they are in the survey). Thus, in his classification system, whether an individual is chronic partly depends on the number of years an individual is in the survey, and his use of a shorter panel (1968-1993) increases this dependence. Thus, a disabled person is more likely to be in the most chronic group the closer his year of onset is to 1993.

<sup>24</sup> The results are similar if we use only the initial severity report.

<sup>25</sup> 25 individuals in the main analyses are dropped who never respond to the severity question in this 11-year period (year of onset and the subsequent 10 years).

<sup>26</sup> Of the 1,819 disabled, 100 have a severity ratio of 0.5. Of the 846 chronically disabled individuals, only 43 have a severity ratio of 0.5.

interest – **One-time, Temporary, Chronic-Not Severe and Chronic-Severe**, which we collectively call the **Extent of Disability groups**.<sup>27</sup>

Table 2 reports the descriptive statistics for the extent of disability groups, where individuals are classified by their first observed disability. Of the 1,819 disabled individuals, 418 (23 percent) are One-Time disabled, 555 (31 percent) are Temporary disabled, 531 (29 percent) are Chronic-Not Severe and 315 (17 percent) are Chronic-Severe. The average age at disability onset is highest for the Chronic-Severe group (41.6 years), followed in descending order by the Chronic-Not Severe group (36.7 years), the Temporary group (35.2 years) and the One-Time group (35 years). The Chronic-Severe group is also the least educated group – only 18 percent have ever attended college; by comparison, 46 percent of the One-Time group have attended college.

Members of each of the four disabled groups have participated on average in the survey for at least 10 years after disability onset, though the Chronic-Not Severe participated on average 6.2 more years than the One-Time group. It is also encouraging to see that all four disabled groups have participated in a similar number of surveys, at least 17 on average. This similarity in years in the survey, especially after onset, should reduce any concerns that the One-Time group members are categorized as such because they are more likely to have exited the survey after disability.

Members of the Chronic-Severe group have more persistent disabilities on average than the Chronic-Not Severe group. The Chronic-Severe group reports a mean of 6.3 positive limitation reports within ten years after disability, while the Chronic-Not Severe group reports a mean of 5.4. The average severity ratio of the Chronic-Severe group (0.84) is more than six times that of the Chronic-Not Severe group (0.12).

To summarize the dynamic nature of disability status, Table 3 reports a modified second-order Markov transition matrix. A given row conditions on disability status (non-disabled, Currently Not Severely Disabled, Currently Severely Disabled) during the previous two years. The probability of the various outcomes over the next two years are then reported. We see that there is very strong persistence over time in disability status, especially for those who are non-disabled or Severely Disabled. There is a 0.97 probability that someone non-disabled for the past two years will be non-disabled this year, and the probability is 0.96 next year. However, someone Severely Disabled the past two years has a 0.77 probability of

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<sup>27</sup> In principle, these four groups are not fully ordered. We cannot say, a priori, that the Chronic-Not Severe group is “more disabled” than the Temporary group. In practice, though, the Chronic-Not Severe group fares much worse than the non-chronic groups, as we see in our analyses.



being disabled this year and a 0.71 probability of being disabled next year. Among those moving into disability from the non-disabled, a transition to Severely Disabled tends to be long-lived. Such individuals have only a 0.32 probability of being non-disabled the following year, and a 0.38 probability the year after. Despite the overall tendency for change, the persistence of severe disabilities that are present for more than one year is indicated by these results.

#### *F. Disability Rates and Lifetime Prevalence*

We saw in Table 1 that roughly one in seven male household heads experiences a work limitation in a given year. Comparing disability rates among surveys, Burkhauser et al. (2006) find that PSID disability rates are higher than those in the March CPS, but are generally lower than those found using the Survey of Income Program Participation (SIPP) or the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).<sup>28</sup> These differences may be due to the range of disabling conditions covered, question wording, or the definition of disability itself. The PSID focuses on conditions that limit work, but disability definitions used in the NHIS and SIPP include conditions that limit other activities besides work. Using the NHIS, Burkhauser et al. (2006) find that about 16.7 percent of people aged 25-61 have a disability in the year 2002 when non-work limitations are included. Using the SIPP, this rate in the year 2002 is 18.7 percent. These examples illustrate that other disability rates in the U.S. may be much higher than those found using definitions of disability that focus exclusively on work limitations.

A statistic that more naturally feeds into calculations of the insurance value of disability insurance is the probability that a person becomes disabled some time during his working life.<sup>29</sup> With data currently spanning 38 years, the PSID is ideally suited for this calculation. We define the **working lifetime prevalence of disability** as the probability of

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<sup>28</sup> The CPS disability screening question is worded as follows: “Do you/Does anyone in this household have a health problem or disability which prevents (you/them) from working or which limits the kind or amount of work (you/they) can do?” Although this question asks about health problems, the lack of any probing regarding specific health problems seems to cause respondents to give fewer positive responses (Hale 2001). Second, it is also not clear whether interviewees regard mental or nervous problems as a “health problem.” Third, the word “disability” is used without any qualification of what it means, and the disability question is asked after questions about Social Security and SSI. It is plausible that interviewees may take the SSA’s definition of disability into consideration when answering.

<sup>29</sup> The information relevant in a full life-cycle model of insurance might be more extensive, including probabilities of disability at each age, the duration of the disability or the probability of recovery, the change in consumption, and any effects on the mortality rate.

an individual becomes disabled during his working life by a given age. We calculate this measure for all ages 28-64. For this purpose we use the information on disability reports and severity in a rolling ten-year-ahead window to classify an individual's current disability for each survey year. Accordingly, this measure fully accounts for the potential worsening of a condition over time. We then classify individuals by the most serious form of disability ever experienced and rank the disability types in increasing order of seriousness, as follows: One-Time, Temporary, Chronic-Not Severe and Chronic-Severe.

In these analyses, we use sample weights to better approximate U.S. averages.<sup>30</sup> As the number of years after 1968 increases, so does the number of years of past information in the PSID. In addition, we use up to ten years of future information on persistence and severity to classify a person's current condition. Thus, in order to have the best data to summarize disability histories, we focus on those individuals in the survey's middle years (1980-1990) who have been in the survey for at least ten prior years. Using the survey's initial waves would understate the prevalence rate because we do not have information about the individual prior to 1968 and many will have had a disabling condition well before the PSID began.<sup>31</sup> By contrast, using the most recent years would not give us the full ten years of data after onset to classify a given disability.

We first report the chance of experiencing disability by the time an individual reaches a given age. Table 4 shows the lifetime prevalence rates for the 1980-1990 subsample, sorted by age.<sup>32</sup> Not surprisingly, the chance of experiencing disability rises with age. By the time a person reaches age 56, there is a 53 percent chance that he has experienced some kind of disability during his working years. In particular, there is a 19 percent chance that an individual has ever experienced a Chronic-Severe disability by that age. The corresponding rates for One-Time, Temporary and Chronic-Not Severe disabling conditions are 8 percent, 8 percent and 18 percent. The rise in the prevalence of Chronic-Severe disability with age is steep. The chance of ever experiencing a Chronic-Severe disability by age 50 is almost five times that of experiencing one by age 40. Similarly, the probability by age 60 is about twice that by age 50.

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<sup>30</sup> We use the current year weights in these analyses. Using the initial year weights (the first observed weight in the 1980-90 window) yields almost identical percentages.

<sup>31</sup> Recall that the retrospective question was asked only if an individual was disabled at the time.

<sup>32</sup> These prevalence rates may still be understated because of sample attrition and because the PSID does not interview the head if he is totally incapacitated. We have examined the reasons for attrition and find that the main causes are refusal and death, with total incapacitation accounting for less than 5 percent of all attrition.

In Appendix Table 3 we also report working lifetime disability rates over time for two different age groups: 40-49 and 50-59. Generally, we see a rise in disability prevalence over the 1980-1990 period – the probability of experiencing a disability at least once before reaching age 50 rises from 28 percent to 34 percent over this period. Most of the rise comes from an increase in One-Time disability, which more than doubles over this period. By the time an individual is in his 50s, the probability of his experiencing disability is close to 50 percent in the 1980s. There is little time trend in disability rates shown in this age group. More extensive analyses (not shown here), which account for definitional and sample changes, suggest a modest decline in disability rates over time.

There are a number of possible biases in these disability rates, most of which lead to an understatement of the rate, and most are small. If the head becomes totally incapacitated or dies before providing the minimum number of responses after disability onset, he is no longer in our sample. The mortality rate is noticeably higher for the disabled, about 1.25 percentage points higher annually, for those 31-50 (mortality rates seem to be somewhat understated in the PSID, so this is likely an understatement). Rates of total incapacitation are low and similar for the disabled and nondisabled. The other main source of attrition, refusal to answer the questionnaire, is substantial, but similar for the disabled and nondisabled. We also exclude those disabled before age 18 and those disabled before the start of the survey, if the age of onset is not reported retrospectively. This exclusion removes disabled individuals from both the numerator and denominator, decreasing the calculated rate.

### *G. Changes in the Severity Questions and Resulting Prevalence Rates*

In the 1977-1985 surveys, the possible responses to the severity question are more limited with only three possibilities: “A lot,” “Somewhat,” or “Just a little.” In the other survey years, however, the range of possible responses to the severity question is wider, with options such as “Can do nothing,” “Completely,” “Severely,” and “Not at all” also available. An individual’s self-assessment of disability severity may be affected by the number of response options he faces and we do see that relatively more disabled are classified as severely disabled during 1977-1985 (see Column 4 of Table 1). This questionnaire change likely means that there is some change over time in the interpretation of severe disability. To examine how this questionnaire change affects our lifetime prevalence rates, we re-compute the severity ratio of each disabled individual without using their 1977-1985 responses to the

severity questions, and re-estimate the prevalence rates. Thus, the severity ratio of each disabled individual is determined using a more consistent and broad set of response categories.<sup>33</sup> In general, this restriction turns out to have a relatively small impact on our results, reducing the chance of having a Chronic-Severe disability by age 40 from 2.4 percent to 2.3 percent, by age 50 from 11.1 percent to 10.9 percent, and by age 60 from 23.1 percent to 21.3 percent.<sup>34</sup> In our main analyzes, we will use the 1977-1985 severity data to not unnecessarily reduce the sample size.

#### *H. Empirical Methodology*

To measure the change in economic outcomes before and after the onset of disability, we estimate the following fixed effect model for person  $i$  in year  $t$ :

$$(3) \quad y_{it} = \alpha_i + \gamma_t + X_{it}\beta + \sum_g \sum_k \delta_k^g A_{kit}^g + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where  $y_{it}$  is the outcome of interest (such as labor earnings) for person  $i$  in year  $t$ ,  $\alpha_i$  is an individual fixed effect and  $\gamma_t$  is an indicator variable for year  $t$ .  $X_{it}$  is a set of time-varying explanatory variables including marital status, state of residence, age and age-squared, education, and number of children. Additional controls are included, depending on the dependent variable.<sup>35</sup>  $A_{kit}^g$  is an indicator variable that equals one if in year  $t$ , individual  $i$  belongs to disability group  $g$  and he is  $k$  years from the year of onset, and  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is a potentially serially correlated error term.

The sample for our analyses consists of the nondisabled and the disabled during all years prior to disability onset through the ten years after onset. Throughout this study, we focus on a set of outcomes five years before and ten years after the year of disability onset, thus  $k \in \{-5, 10\}$ . Given the inclusion of individual fixed effects,  $\delta_k^g$  measures the change in

<sup>33</sup>This restriction reduces the number of disabled to 1,739 individuals, with 16 percent of them classified as Chronic Severe. Recall that we drop those chronically disabled who are unclassified under the severity dimension. When we ignore the 1977-1985 severity data, the number of Chronic-Not Severe individuals falls from 531 to 490 individuals. For the Chronic-Severe group, the sample size falls from 315 to 216 individuals.

<sup>34</sup> For the 1980 disability prevalence estimates, the chance of experiencing a Chronic-Severe disability is 6.4 percent for a 40-49 and 17.8 percent for a 50-59 year old, which is very similar to the original results in Appendix Table 3. For the 1990 estimates, they rates are 4.4 percent for those 40-49 and 14.8 percent for those 50-59 years old.

<sup>35</sup> The number of members in the family is included in the income regressions. For earnings, hours, hourly earnings and income, we also include interactions of education with age, age-squared and time since 1968. For the food and housing consumption regressions, variables for the numbers of family members of different genders and ages are also included. For more details, see the data appendix (Appendix 3).

the dependent variable  $k$  years away from the year of onset for those in disability group  $g$  relative to the value of their dependent variable more than five years prior to disability. The non-disabled are included to improve the precision of the estimated effects of age, education and the other control variables. This way of modeling the time pattern of economic outcomes is similar to the approach of Jacobson, LaLonde and Sullivan (1993), Stephens (2001) and Charles (2003).<sup>36</sup>

## 4. Employment and Earnings Following Disability

We first focus on labor supply and investigate the changes in annual earnings, annual hours worked, probability of work and hourly wage during the five years before and ten years after disability onset. For earnings, we begin by looking at the level changes and their corresponding percentage changes. It might seem more natural to estimate equation (3) with the dependent variable in logarithms in some cases in order to analyze percentage changes directly. As we will show, however, many disabled people have zero earnings and zero hours of work following disability, and taking the log of zero is not possible. Defining a lower cutoff (that is,  $\log(y) = \log(a)$  for  $y < a$ ) is also not ideal, as the estimates are sensitive to this cutoff due to the large percentage of disabled who have zero earnings and the differences in this fraction across groups and over time.<sup>37</sup> All monetary variables are reported in 2005 dollars, adjusting for inflation using the Consumer Price Index Research Series using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS).<sup>38</sup>

### A. Earnings

Table 5 shows the results of estimating equation (3) with annual earnings as the dependent variable. Column 1 shows the results for the disabled as a whole. We see that earnings decline rapidly around the year of disability onset, falling about \$4,000 by the year prior to onset and \$6,400 by the year of onset, relative to the years more than five years prior

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<sup>36</sup> The analysis of Charles (2003) includes individual-specific time trends, which is one of the approaches in the Jacobson, LaLonde and Sullivan (1993) analysis of earnings of the displaced. We suspect that disabling conditions have effects prior to disability onset, however, and we have found that the results tend to be sensitive to the period over which such trends are estimated.

<sup>37</sup> Charles (2003) analyzes outcomes in logarithms, omitting observations with zero values and includes a selection correction term (inverse Mill's ratio).

<sup>38</sup> See the data appendix (Appendix 3).

to onset (that is,  $k < -5$ , where  $k = 0$  in the year of disability onset). Annual earnings fall further throughout the years after disability onset. The average long-term (six to ten years after disability onset) decline in yearly earnings is about \$10,000.

We obtain the implied percentage changes by dividing these coefficient estimates by the average earnings of the disabled more than five years prior to disability (\$43,309). Column 2 shows these estimates, which are displayed in Figure 1. Earnings fall 15 percent on average by the year of disability onset; this decline continues over the next two years, reaching about 21 percent. The earnings drop remains at around this level through the ten years after onset. These results are very similar to those of Stephens (2001).<sup>39</sup>

Changes in average earnings for all disabled hide great heterogeneity across the Extent of Disability groups. In columns 3 through 10, we report each disability group's estimated average dollar change followed by its implied percentage change (Figure 1 shows these implied percentage changes). Not surprisingly, earnings drop the least after disability for the One-Time and Temporary groups. For the One-Time group, they fall \$4,300 (10 percent) by the year of onset. By the fifth year after onset, the decline reaches about \$7,100 (16 percent). In the second five year period (six to ten years after disability onset), annual earnings drop about \$5,500.<sup>40</sup> While many of the single-year changes in earnings for the One-Time group are substantial and statistically significant, by years 9 and 10 the effects are much smaller and not statistical significant. As one might expect, a short-lived disability does not greatly affect an individual's earning ability in the long run.

A slightly different pattern emerges for the Temporary group. Earnings drop 9 percent by the year of onset and 12 percent by the year after onset. By the third year after onset, the earnings drop shrinks to about 6 percent. The estimated yearly changes from this time on are mostly small and statistically not different from zero.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Stephens (2001) finds that disabled individuals experience a decline in annual earnings of about 10 percent during the year of onset and experience a long-term loss in annual earnings of about 22 percent. Both our results and those of Stephens's are not comparable with those of Charles (2003) because the analyses in Charles exclude those with zero earnings. As we summarize in Mok, Meyer, Charles and Achen (2008), we are unable to reproduce results in Charles (2003).

<sup>40</sup> These estimates are obtained by estimating equation (1) with four time groups instead of the 16 years from onset indicator variables. The four time groups are  $k = -5$  to  $k = -2$ ,  $k = -1$  to  $k = 1$ ,  $k = 2$  to  $k = 5$  and  $k = 6$  to  $k = 10$ , where  $k$  is the year from onset.

<sup>41</sup> An F-test of the null hypothesis that all estimates after  $k = 5$  are zero has a p-value of 0.32; it thus fails to reject the null hypothesis.

For the Chronic-Not Severe group, earnings drop about 17 percent by the year of disability onset. This decline in earnings continues through the following ten years; by the tenth year after disability onset, it reaches about 32 percent.

The decline in the earnings of the Chronic-Severe group is especially large. By the year of onset, earnings fall 32 percent. In the following year, they fall an additional 18 percentage points, resulting in a cumulative loss of about 50 percent. This downward trend continues, and by the tenth year after onset, earnings have dropped by almost 69 percent. Such a drop is almost triple that of the average disabled. As we will see, this pronounced drop is due to the large number of people who work zero hours after disability.

A closer examination of the two chronic groups suggests that they both experience a decline in earnings prior to disability onset. By the year before onset, earnings of the Chronic-Not Severe group and the Chronic-Severe group drop 12 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Our conceptual framework provides an explanation for this observation. We argued that the willingness to state that one is disabled is a function of several factors and current productivity (as opposed to the expectation of future productivity) is just one of them. Thus, a slight decline in productivity may not be enough to prompt a person to say he is disabled. This decline in productivity will decrease his earnings, however, as our results indicate. We would expect that the productivity decline would be larger for the more disabled groups, and our results concur; the chronic groups experience a larger pre-onset decline in earnings than the One-Time and Temporary groups.

### *B. Hours of Work and Employment*

In this subsection, we examine how annual hours of work and employment change with disability. Column 1 of Table 6 shows the changes in annual hours of work of the average disabled, and Figure 2 depicts these changes. Similarly, column 2 reports the percentage of the average disabled working zero hours; these results are displayed in Figure 3. By the year of onset, annual hours of work are estimated to decline about 240 hours for the average disabled, with about 6 percent of this population not working during this year. By the following year, the drop increases to 355 hours with 13 percent of the disabled not working. From then on, the change in annual hours of work remains roughly flat, but the percentage of the disabled who work zero hours continues to rise. In the long term (six to ten

years after disability onset), almost one-fifth of the average disabled do not work at all during the year.

Columns 3 through 10 of Table 6 report the hours and employment changes for the Extent of Disability groups. We see relatively small changes in annual work hours for the One-Time group; they are estimated to drop by only about 100 hours during disability onset and by an additional 15 hours by the following year. From then on, the fall diminishes. An F-test that all estimates of the change in hours after  $k = 5$  are zero fails to reject the null hypothesis ( $p$ -value = 0.22) for our One-Time group. We observe a similar pattern for the Temporary group. By the tenth year after onset, about 7 or 8 percent of people in the One-Time and Temporary groups work zero hours.

Changes in yearly hours of work are much larger for the Chronic-Not Severe group, with an estimated decline of almost 200 hours by the year of onset. By the fifth year after onset, this group's work hours are estimated to decline by about 300 with about 10 percent of these individuals not working at all. In the long run (six to ten years after disability onset), yearly work hours are estimated to decline by more than 260 with about 10 percent of these household heads not doing any work during the year.<sup>42</sup> Although these declines are large, they are much smaller than those of the Chronic-Severe group, whose annual hours of work are estimated to plummet by almost 690 by the year of onset. By the following year, annual hours are estimated to decline by about 1,100, and about 40 percent of this group is doing no work during the year. In the long run (six to ten years after onset), annual hours of work for the Chronic-Severe group are estimated to decline by about 1,400. We also see that only about 30 percent of this group will do any work in a year during this period. Note, however, that the rise in this zero-work percentage is not instantaneous; it rises gradually from about 40 percent in the year after onset to about 65 percent by the tenth year after onset. An explanation might be that these people's disabilities worsen over time, and eventually they find themselves incapable of doing any work.

### *C. Hourly Earnings Following Disability*

The above results suggest a rise in non-work following disability onset. We now examine what happens to hourly earnings conditional on working. It is unlikely that those who are working are a random sample of the disabled population. Instead, we expect disabled

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<sup>42</sup> See footnote 38 for how we estimate average changes for years six to ten.



individuals who are working to be experiencing disproportionately lower hourly earnings losses. We measure hourly earnings as annual earnings divided by hours of work, and classify as working those who work 500 hours or more during the year. Figure 4 displays the change in log hourly earnings before and after disability onset for all disabled and by extent of disability groups.<sup>43</sup> For the One-time and Temporary groups, there is no evidence that their hourly earnings decline at all throughout the first ten years of disability, as all estimates are small (almost all are below 4 percent) and imprecisely measured. The Chronic-Not Severe and Chronic-Severe groups, however, experience drastic declines in hourly earnings following disability even among those who are working. By the fifth year after disability onset, hourly earnings drop 13 percent for the Chronic-Not Severe group and 18 percent for the Chronic-Severe group. In the long-run (six to ten years after disability onset), hourly earnings decline an estimated 19 percent for the Chronic-Not Severe group and about 22 percent for the Chronic-Severe group. These findings contrast sharply with those in Charles (2003), who finds very small changes in hourly earnings (no more than 3.2 percent and most of the changes found are statistically insignificant).

## **5. Changes in Income, Poverty and Transfers with Disability**

### *A. After-Tax Income*

Our results in the previous section suggest that earnings decline after disability, especially for the Chronic-Severe group. It would be premature to conclude, however, that these large declines translate into large reductions in economic well-being. The effects of lowered earnings may be cushioned by many factors, including 1) public benefits, 2) intra-family risk-sharing through earnings of a spouse or children, 3) inter-family transfers such as support from friends and relatives and 4) reductions in taxes or increases in tax credits from programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit that supplement income for the working-poor. In this section, we examine changes in family income after disability.

Using the summary family income variable provided by the PSID, which is the sum of labor, asset and transfer income, may be unsatisfactory even after we account for federal

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<sup>43</sup> The estimates for the change in log hourly earnings are reported in Appendix Table 4.

income tax liabilities.<sup>44</sup> First, this measure does not include in-kind transfers such as Food Stamps and subsidized housing. Second, public transfer income is generally under-reported in household surveys, and transfers to the disabled in the PSID are no exception.<sup>45</sup>

We formulate two income measures that are useful when examining the material well-being of the disabled. First, we define “After-Tax Pre-Public Transfer Income” as family income less federal taxes and benefits from the main types of public benefit programs.<sup>46</sup> This income measure enables us to see how much non-labor earnings, and intra- and inter-family transfers mitigate the income loss due to the lowered earnings of the head that result from disability.

Second, we define “After-Tax Post-Transfer Income” as the sum of after-tax family income, Food Stamps and the amount of any housing subsidy received.<sup>47</sup> In addition, we account for under-reporting in the main public benefit programs by scaling the benefits received using the program-specific reporting rates as reported in Meyer, Mok and Sullivan (2006). These reporting rates are calculated by comparing the weighted sum of the benefits received by the entire PSID sample with those reported to have been paid out by government agencies. By scaling up benefits in this way, we implicitly assume that non-reporting recipients share the same characteristics as reporting recipients. The difference between our two income measures will enable us to see how the receipt of benefits from various public programs affects the drop in income after disability.

Table 7 reports the estimated changes in the dollar amount of after-tax pre-public transfer income received, as well as the corresponding percentage changes. The percentage changes are also displayed in Figure 5. For the disabled as a whole (Column 2), after-tax pre-public transfer income drops about 11 percent by the year of disability onset. The declining trend continues and the drop by the tenth year after onset is about 18 percent.

Before examining the changes for the other disability groups, let us consider how public transfers mitigate the income drop for the average disabled. Table 8 reports the estimated changes in after-tax post-transfer income, which are also displayed in Figure 6.

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<sup>44</sup> We use TAXSIM to generate tax liability estimates. See the Data Appendix (Appendix 3) for details. A technical appendix discussing how we deal with the family issues in estimating federal tax liabilities via TAXSIM is available upon request.

<sup>45</sup> See Meyer, Mok and Sullivan (2008) for evidence of under-reporting of public transfers in several datasets including the PSID.

<sup>46</sup> The public benefit programs are Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, Aid to Families with Dependent Children/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Veterans (VA) pensions and other welfare.

<sup>47</sup> See the Data Appendix (Appendix 3) for how we estimate the value of housing subsidies.

Including public transfers almost halves the income drop for the average disabled, to about 6 percent by the year of onset and about 11 percent by the tenth year after onset.<sup>48</sup>

It is also evident that changes in family income vary considerably among the disabled groups. For the Chronic-Not Severe group, pre-public transfer income drops an estimated 9 percent by the year of onset. Public transfers reduce this drop to 4 percent (but this is imprecisely estimated). Income continues to fall through the ten years after disability. By the tenth year after onset, pre-public transfer income has fallen by almost 20 percent. With public transfers, the income drop is reduced to about 12 percent. For the One-Time and Temporary groups, post-transfer income changes by the tenth year after disability onset are generally small and statistically insignificant.

For the Chronic-Severe group, there is significant evidence of a pre-onset fall of about 11 percent in both income measures. As we saw earlier, this drop is primarily due to a fall in earnings prior to disability. We will later see some evidence that suggests that there is worsening of health prior to onset. By the year of onset, the drop in after-tax pre-public transfer income is about 25 percent, but only 15 percent when public transfers are included. The role of public transfers in alleviating the post-onset income drop is evident throughout the Chronic-Severe group's disability history. By the tenth year after onset, pre-public transfer income drops about 56 percent; when public transfers are included, the income drop is reduced to 32 percent.

### *B. Poverty*

A standard indicator of well-being is the percentage of a group with income below the poverty line. Figure 7 shows the percentage of the different disabled groups living below poverty in the years before and after disability onset. Here we deviate from the official poverty measure and incorporate some of the improvements that are commonly suggested. In particular, we account for taxes and in-kind transfers (food stamps and the value of subsidized housing). We compare this after-tax post-public transfer income to the official poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Census Bureau which depend on the number of family members and children.

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<sup>48</sup> Stephens (2001) finds that family income falls about 7.4 percent by the year of onset and 15.5 percent by the fifth year after onset. He does not, however, account for benefit under-reporting.

Not surprisingly, the Chronic-Severe group has the highest poverty rates. Over 17 percent of the Chronic-Severe disabled group lives below poverty during the year of disability onset; the number reaches almost 23 percent by the following year. The poverty rate for this group remains at roughly this level until the ninth year after onset when it starts to decline. By the tenth year after onset, about 18 percent of the Chronic-Severe group has income below the poverty threshold. In contrast, there is little change in the poverty rate for the One-Time disabled group over time. Poverty among the Temporary group rises to a peak of around 15 percent in the second year after onset, and then declines steadily.

### *C. Public Transfer Income and Dissaving*

Our estimates above reveal that the Chronic-Severe group suffers the largest average decline in earnings and income. A comparison of the changes in our two income measures also suggests that the Chronic-Severe group receives substantial public transfers. To see this result, we estimate equation (3) with public transfers received as the dependent variable (adjusted for benefit under-reporting, including Food Stamps and subsidized housing). Figure 8 shows these estimates for various disabled groups. The Chronic-Severe group receives by far the largest amount of public transfers; total benefits increase \$6,000 by the year of onset. Benefits received continue to rise steadily through the next ten years. By the tenth year after onset, members of this group receive on average about \$12,000 per year in public transfer income. In contrast, members of the Chronic-Not Severe group receive only about \$2,300.

Given the significant public transfer income the disabled receive in the long run (six-ten years after disability onset), it is useful to examine their participation in various social insurance programs. In Appendix Table 5 we report receipt rates for disabled individuals who are in their sixth to tenth year after disability onset. Not surprisingly, most of the disabled in the Chronic-Severe group receive benefits – 48 percent receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits (42 percent receive SSDI),<sup>49</sup> 9 percent receive SSI (and that about 50 percent receive SSDI or SSI), and 24 percent receive food stamps. These rates are considerably higher than those of the Chronic-Not Severe and Temporary groups. In the case of SSDI, the receipt rate of the Chronic-Severe group is about ten times that of the Chronic-

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<sup>49</sup> The SSDI receipt rate is based on 1984-1992 surveys, as these are the only years when the type of Social Security payments received was recorded for the household head.

Not Severe group. But as we will see in our next section, those in the Chronic-Severe group still suffer on average from a large drop in living standards despite these relatively high benefit receipt rates.

Appendix Table 5 also reports the share of each disability group that neither receives benefits nor works. This fraction is especially high for the Chronic Severe group of which 13 percent does not have an obvious means of nonpublic support besides family member earnings or asset returns. The last two rows of Appendix Table 5 report pre-onset and post-onset median net wealth. We see that for the Chronic-Severe group there is a substantial decline in assets over time from 39 thousand dollars to 23 thousand dollars. On the other hand, median assets rise sharply for the other less disabled groups. This difference suggests that a substantial part of the resources that prevent an even larger consumption fall for the Chronic-Severe disabled come from dissaving.

The calculations in the previous paragraph are medians for different individuals over time. We have further explored the extent of dissaving by calculating the annual change in wealth when possible. Here we examine true changes using the five-year apart wealth measures beginning in 1984 and the two-year apart measures which begin in 1997. These numbers also indicate a sharp difference in the saving/dissaving of the Chronic-Severe group compared to the other disabled groups and the nondisabled. While the median annual change in wealth is about two thousand dollars for all other groups, for the Chronic-Severe group it is essentially zero (though the point estimate is positive). Again, the estimates suggest that the Chronic-Severe group only maintains consumption by drawing upon wealth, though the estimates are imprecise given that we have just under 200 observations on wealth changes.<sup>50</sup>

We have also studied the degree of spousal risk sharing by estimating the changes in the annual hours of work of wives of disabled heads.<sup>51</sup> Appendix Table 6 shows these results. The general pattern suggests a decline in hours worked by the wife, particularly for those

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<sup>50</sup> We have also investigated how annual wealth falls for the Chronic-Severe disabled during their later years of disability. First, we define annual change in wealth to be the difference in reported wealth in two adjacent surveys (when wealth data are available), divided by the number of years between these surveys. We then run a regression of annual change in wealth (per adult) on age, age-squared, individual fixed effects, indicator variables for years of education (12, 13-15, 16, 17 and above), indicator variables for years, number of family members, number of children, and time from onset indicator variables for each disability group (-5 to -2, -1 to 5, 6-10). We find that for the Chronic-Severe group in the 6-10 years after disability, wealth is estimated to fall by about \$4,500 per year, relative to their pre-disability years. However, this estimate is very imprecise due to the small sample.

<sup>51</sup> A priori, there is no reason to believe that the wife of a disabled husband will unequivocally work more, as she may prefer to spend less time working and instead care for her husband. While we find little evidence of increased spousal work, as we also later indicate, we also find little evidence of increased spousal time caring for other adults in the family.

with a chronically and severely disabled husband; the evidence is not conclusive, however.<sup>52</sup> Although not reported, we have also examined changes in marital status of the disabled over time. We find that the share of disabled male heads that report their marital status as “Divorced” or “Separated from Spouse” rises sharply over time relative to the nondisabled, after accounting for age, education, children and other characteristics. The rise is especially sharp for the more disabled groups.<sup>53</sup> On the surface, these findings suggest that badly disabled men often lose support from their wives as well.

This part of the paper illustrates the economic hardship of the disabled and their reliance on public transfer programs. This pattern is particularly true for the Chronic-Severe group, which suffers large earnings losses and has a high receipt rate of public transfer income. Despite the various public transfers they receive, about one-fifth of this group has incomes below the poverty line in the long term.

## **6. Consumption Changes Surrounding Disability**

Economic theory suggests that material well-being is more directly tied to current consumption than to current income. Conceptually, income is subject to transitory fluctuations caused by events such as job or family composition changes. Living standard may remain unaffected despite large income changes, however, if savings can be drawn upon (Poterba 1991, Cutler and Katz 1991). Consumption may also lend itself to more accurate reporting than income for those who are disadvantaged. There is substantial evidence suggesting that income is under-reported. For example, Meyer, Mok and Sullivan (2008) find that major household surveys sharply under-report many types of government transfer income, and this under-reporting is rising. Meyer and Sullivan (2003) argue that income is badly measured for those who are at the bottom of the resource distribution, likely because this group has many small irregular sources of income. Measuring disposable income entails the further complication of accounting for taxes. By contrast, analyzing consumption may reduce or even eliminate many of these problems. Furthermore, consumption is more closely

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<sup>52</sup> Although not reported, we have also studied the degree of intra-family risk sharing by examining the changes in earnings of other family members during the head’s period of disability; we find that they are generally small and insignificant, consistent with the findings of Nagi and Hadley (1972).

<sup>53</sup> A study by Charles and Stephens (2004) finds no change in the divorce hazard after disability.

associated with other measures of well-being for the disadvantaged (Meyer and Sullivan 2003, 2007).

The life-cycle model briefly summarized in Section 2 indicates that consumption should be relatively smooth following disability onset. A few comments on the assumptions and applicability of the model to the disabled are in order. First of all, the model only implies small consumption changes if the interest rate is not too far from the discount rate adjusted for mortality and if precautionary saving motives are small. In general, we expect these conditions to hold for most households. Second, the marginal utility of consumption must not fall sharply with disability onset. In principle, the marginal utility of consumption could rise or fall. Marginal utility might rise if disability sufficiently increases demand for uncovered medical or nursing care, wheelchairs, scooters, elevator buildings, and ranch houses. It might fall if travel, eating out, and recreation demand fall.<sup>54</sup> Third, and probably most importantly, the model is most suitable for a representative individual. We find, however, that disabled households on average have about 4 members, falling to about 3.5 ten years after onset. Thus, disabled households are not that different from nondisabled households in terms of the applicability of the usual prediction of smooth life-cycle consumption.

#### *A. Food and Housing Consumption*

We focus on the two components of consumption that can be measured well in the PSID: food and housing.<sup>55</sup> Food consumption is defined as the sum of family food consumption expenditure at home, family food consumption expenditure outside the home and the face value of Food Stamps received.<sup>56</sup> We define housing consumption as the sum of owned dwelling service flows calculated as 6 percent of current housing value, rent payments

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<sup>54</sup> For recent empirical evidence on the effect of bad health on the marginal utility of consumption see Finkelstein, Luttmer and Notowidigdo (2008) and the discussion and references there.

<sup>55</sup> Many authors have used the food and housing variables in the PSID to impute total consumption expenditures (Skinner 1987; Meyer and Sullivan 2003; Blundell et al. 2005) via the use of the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE Survey). A potential problem in predicting consumption for the disabled is that the relationship between characteristics and consumption differs between the disabled and non-disabled, and the CE Survey question on disability is very different from the PSID question. In the CE Survey the question is only asked of those who have not worked in the past 12 months, and includes disability along with other reasons for not working.

<sup>56</sup> The PSID food-spending question is “How much do you (family) spend on food in an average week?” We assume that the question refers to the time of interview rather than the previous year.

and the rental subsidy for those with free or subsidized housing.<sup>57</sup> Note, that both consumption outcomes are measured at the household level, so in most cases a fall in these variables reflects a decline in consumption for more than the disabled head.

Table 9 reports the estimated changes in food consumption and food plus housing consumption for our disabled groups; these estimates are also shown in Figure 9 (food) and Figure 10 (food plus housing). For the disabled as a whole, food consumption (Column 1) falls 2 percent by the year of onset while food plus housing (Column 2) drops about 3 percent.<sup>58</sup> By the tenth year after onset, food consumption drops 8 percent on average while food plus housing drops 9 percent. These estimates are very similar to those in Stephens (2001). Overall, our estimates imply that by the tenth year after disability onset, the average disabled man faces a decline in earnings of 25 percent, in after-tax post-transfers income of 11 percent, in food plus housing consumption of 9 percent and in food consumption of 8 percent. The smaller decline found for disposable income than for earnings and the even smaller decline in consumption is plausible given other sources of income and the drawing down of savings by some households.

Across the Extent of Disability groups, we again see that the decline in consumption is most dramatic for the Chronic-Severe group. By the year before onset, food consumption has fallen an estimated 12 percent and food plus housing consumption has fallen by a similar magnitude. Consumption continues to decline through the next ten years – by the tenth year after disability onset, food consumption has fallen by about 21 percent and food plus housing by about 22 percent. These large declines are more than triple those of the Temporary and Chronic-Not Severe groups, for whom food consumption drops 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively. Compared with our previous estimates for the Chronic-Severe group, earnings fall 68 percent, after-tax post-transfers income falls 32 percent, food plus housing falls 22 percent and food falls 21 percent. These declines are close to triple those of the average disabled. The pattern also reflects the incomplete roles that savings, family support and social insurance play in reducing the consumption drop following disability for the Chronic-Severe group.

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<sup>57</sup> The PSID does not ask questions about the amount of any rental subsidy received, especially for those whose dwelling is partially publicly subsidized. We thus construct a rental subsidy for a head by predicting the rent he would pay if he lived in market housing and then subtracting the actual rent paid from this predicted rent. Details on how we construct the rental subsidy are included in the data appendix (Appendix 3).

<sup>58</sup> Note that these are logarithmic regressions – we obtain the percentage change by taking the exponent of the coefficient and subtracting one.



We also note that food consumption has fallen by about 12 percent the year before onset for the Chronic-Severe disabled. According to our conceptual framework, a person may not immediately report he has a disability even when his productivity has fallen. During this period of decreased productivity, however, he might expect that his future income will be permanently lowered. Consequently, such a person may immediately adjust his consumption downwards as suggested by the Permanent Income Hypothesis.

### *B. Food Eaten at Home and Outside Home*

The above estimates suggest that food consumption falls after disability. It is important to remember that our food consumption variable primarily consists of food eaten at home and food eaten outside, and the latter is more expensive. If the observed fall in food consumption were due purely to a switch from meals eaten outside home to meals eaten at home, then it would be premature to conclude that a fall in food consumption translates to a fall in actual material well-being. To clarify this issue, we look at the change in food eaten at home and outside the home separately. The results are depicted in Figure 11 (food at home) and Figure 12 (food outside home).<sup>59</sup>

Focusing on the Chronic-Severe group, it is evident that they suffer the greatest drop in expenditure on food eaten at home and outside the home. Although the estimates suggest a pre-onset fall in both measures, these changes are imprecisely measured.<sup>60</sup> The decline in consumption of food at home (12 percent) is first apparent in the second year after disability onset. From this point on, consumption fluctuates around this level. By the tenth year after onset, food at home and food outside the home have fallen about 13 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

That both food eaten at home and food eaten outside fall substantially after disability suggests that the drop in overall food consumption for the Chronic-Severe disabled is not mostly due to a shift towards more meals eaten at home.

### *C. Exploring the Source of Changes in Housing Consumption*

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<sup>59</sup> Appendix Table 7 reports the underlying estimates.

<sup>60</sup> An F-test that all pre-onset estimates are zero has the p-value 0.15 for food at home and 0.39 for food outside the home.

We saw in Table 9 that food and housing consumption fall after disability. Exactly how the fall in housing consumption occurs is unclear because on the surface housing consumption seems hard to adjust. We examine the importance of post-disability housing adjustments, such as selling a house and becoming a renter, buying a smaller house or renting a smaller apartment. To analyze the sources of the decline, we decompose the changes in housing consumption into changes in housing type and consumption given the housing type. Let  $C_{it}$  be the housing consumption for person  $i$  in year  $t$ , defined as the sum over housing types of the product of an indicator for housing type  $j$ ,  $S_{it}^j$ , and the consumption of housing type  $j$ ,  $C_{it}^j$  where  $j \in \{\text{own, rent, public housing}\}$ . In other words

$$(4) \quad C_{it} = \sum_j S_{it}^j C_{it}^j .$$

We let the corresponding variables without the subscript  $i$  denote averages over  $i$ . By appropriately adding and subtracting terms, we can then write the change between two periods, denoted 1 and 2, as

$$(5) \quad C_2 - C_1 = \sum_j (S_2^j - S_1^j) C_2^j + \sum_j (C_2^j - C_1^j) S_1^j .$$

Equation (5) shows that the change in consumption between two periods depends on the change in shares ( $S^j$ ) and the changes in consumption, given type ( $C^j$ ). To estimate these terms, accounting for individual characteristics, we run a series of fixed effect regressions similar to equation (3) above. We focus on changes specifically after the fifth year of disability onset. First, we run a series of fixed effect linear probability models of the form

$$(6) \quad S_{it}^j = \alpha_i + \gamma_t + X_{it} \beta + \sum_g \sum_k \delta_k^g A_{kit}^g + \sum_g \theta^g B_{it}^g + \varepsilon_{it}$$

where  $S_{it}^j$  is a dichotomous variable that equals one if individual  $i$  consumes a particular housing type  $j$ ,  $\alpha_i$  is a fixed effect,  $\gamma_t$  is a set of time indicator variables, and  $X_{it}$  is a set of time-varying explanatory variables (including marital status, state of residence, age and age-squared, education, and the number of children).  $A_{kit}^g$  is a dichotomous variable that equals one if individual  $i$  is in disability group  $g$  and is  $k$  years after disability onset, where  $k \in \{-5, -4, \dots, 4, 5\}$ .  $B_{it}^g$  is a dichotomous variable that equals one if the individual  $i$  is in disability group  $g$  and is in year six through ten after disability onset.  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is a potentially serially correlated error term, as before. We run the fixed effect linear probability model three times, once for each housing type. We again focus on our four disability groups, so  $g \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . The coefficients of interest are the  $\theta^g$ , which represent the estimated change in the

probability of consuming a housing type  $j$  in the long run (six to ten years following disability).

Panel A of Table 10 shows the results. For the Chronic-Not Severe and the Chronic-Severe group, the likelihood of living in public housing increases in the long run by 1.8 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively, with the change for the Chronic-Severe group statistically significant. The likelihood of these groups renting or owning a home, however, does not change significantly in the long run.

Next, we examine the change in housing consumption within each type of housing. We estimate models similar to equation (6), but the amount of consumption of a particular type of housing becomes the dependent variable. We split the sample into three parts according to the type of housing chosen and estimate the fixed effect regressions in each subsample.<sup>61</sup> Again, the coefficients of interest are the  $\theta^g$ , which represent the estimated long-term change in the amount of housing consumption, conditional on the individual being in Extent of Disability group  $g$  and consuming a particular housing type  $j$ .

Panel B of Table 10 shows the results. The Chronic-Severe group again displays some pronounced patterns. The estimated decline in homeowners' housing consumption in the long run is more than \$2,600 a year; this corresponds to a drop in home value of more than \$43,900. For those who rent private housing units, estimated annual rent paid declines about \$1,220 (\$101 per month) in the long run. Both results suggest that members of the Chronic-Severe group who do not receive public housing decrease their housing consumption to accommodate an overall decline in resources by moving to less costly dwelling units.

#### *D. Consumption After Social Security Eligibility*

Up to now, we have investigated how the working age disabled fare after their disability onset. However, after a disabled person becomes eligible for social security retirement benefits, his income and consequently consumption may rise. To examine this issue, we regress consumption on age indicator variables. Specifically, we regress consumption (food plus housing) on a set of age indicator variables (62-64, 65-69, 70-74), year indicator variables, individual fixed effects and a set of non-age demographic variables

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<sup>61</sup> We do not report expenditures for publicly subsidized housing since the sample sizes are extremely small.

(indicator for being married, number of family members, number of children in the family and years of education of the head). We estimate these regressions using only members of the Chronic-Severe group. The coefficients of interest are those on the age indicator variables that measure changes in consumption for the average Chronic-Severe disabled as he reaches 62-64, 65-69 and 70-74 relative to his pre-retirement consumption. We find that food and housing consumption for the average Chronic-Severe disabled is not significantly different during all periods after social security eligibility, though the point estimates suggest that consumption falls slightly relative to the pre-retirement years.<sup>62</sup> We do not find a significant difference in this change with age between those who receive SSDI prior to age 62, and those who do not.

## 7. Robustness Checks, Detailed Consumption, and Time Use

In this section we examine alternative explanations for our results, and the effects of accounting for unobserved differences between the disabled and the nondisabled through fixed effects. We examine results for subsamples defined by program receipt and cohort. We further examine changes in well-being using detailed consumption data. We also examine the time-use of the disabled both because it is another indicator of well-being and because time can potentially offset the lower incomes of the disabled. The details of these analyses are in Appendix 2 Additional Results, but we summarize the main findings here.

### *A. Differences in Unemployment, Illness and Health Prior to the Onset of Disability*

One might wonder if a period of unemployment or other bad employment outcomes leads a person to say he is disabled. While conceptually it may be difficult to observe what leads to bad employment outcomes, i.e. whether it is bad health, a declining industry, or a string of bad luck, we can compare the pattern of unemployment and health prior to disability onset. Our conceptual framework suggests that an individual will decide when he is disabled as a function of his time-varying productivity, disutility of work, and other factors. Here we present suggestive evidence for our framework by looking at how unemployment, illness and

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<sup>62</sup> When we further control for time after disability onset (by including a set of 13 indicator variables  $A_{kit}$ , where  $k$  is the year from onset for individual  $i$  in year  $t$  for  $k=\{0,1,\dots,10, 11-20, 21 \text{ and above}\}$ ), we obtain very similar estimates, that are not significantly different from zero, that again suggest small declines in consumption after the earliest eligibility age for social security retirement benefits.

health change prior to when an individual reports a condition that limits work. We examine the number of working days lost due to unemployment in each of the five years before disability onset (Appendix Figure 1 shows the results). For the average disabled, there is virtually no change over time. For the chronic groups, however, there is a dip in days of unemployment during the third and fourth years before onset, compared to earlier or later years.

Next, we examine the number of workdays lost due to illness (Appendix Figure 2). The results suggest that the number of workdays lost due to illness rises as we approach the year of onset; the changes are similar for all disabled groups. Finally, we examine health status (Appendix Figure 3 reports estimates of equation (3) with a dependent variable that equals one if an individual is in fair or poor health). Again, we see suggestive evidence that a decline in health is an important reason for reporting a disability. This change is particularly noticeable for our Chronic-Severe group; the fraction of those reporting fair or poor health increases about 9 percentage points just prior to disability onset. Overall, the results suggest that declining health, but not unemployment, is a key reason for reporting a disability.

### *B. Underlying Permanent Differences Between the Disabled and Non-Disabled*

We compare the estimated effect of disability on various outcomes with and without fixed effects to examine how the disabled differ in terms of unobservable permanent characteristics. These estimates indicate whether it is important to estimate fixed effects models, which account for these unobserved differences, rather than OLS models of disability outcomes. In both sets of specifications we include the non-disabled. When we include fixed effects, the estimates for outcomes are relative to those for the disabled more than five years before onset. When we do not include fixed effects, the estimates for outcomes are relative to the disabled more than five years before onset *and the non-disabled* with similar age, education, etc. Thus, a comparison of the estimates with and without fixed effects tells us how the unobserved characteristics of the disabled that affect the outcome in question compare to those of the non-disabled with similar observed characteristics.

In the case of the Chronic-Severe group, we notice a number of patterns. The most striking pattern is a lack of difference between the estimates with and without fixed effects after onset. After-onset earnings, hours, after-tax post-transfer income, and food consumption are all very similar with and without fixed effects. This result suggests that

those in the most disabled group are not different from the non-disabled (after accounting for observed characteristics) in terms of unobserved attributes that affect these outcomes. There is a noticeable difference for food plus housing consumption, with the estimates without fixed effects being about five percentage points higher than those with fixed effects after onset. This result implies that the Chronic-Severe disabled consumed more pre-onset than their characteristics imply. In terms of pre-disability estimates, the disabled have unobserved characteristics that lead to lower hours (about 75 hours per year) and lower earnings (about 6 percent) in the five years before disability onset, but these differences disappear after onset. This pattern is also true for post-tax, post-transfer income. Thus, there appears to be little pronounced difference between Chronic-Severe and non-disabled groups. What differences exist initially between the groups appears to be overwhelmed by the changes in sample composition during the years after onset.

For all disabled men combined, the patterns are mostly similar. The differences after onset tend to be fairly small, with almost no differences for consumption. Before onset, the estimates with fixed effects are slightly higher for most outcomes, indicating that the disabled in the sample for those years have worse unobserved characteristics than the non-disabled.

### *C. Later Disabilities*

We base our disability classification throughout the paper only on the first observed disability. Here, we examine whether those non-Chronic-Severe disabled individuals whose disability classification subsequently changes to Chronic-Severe over time (using a rolling ten-year-ahead window) exhibit outcomes similar to those of the original Chronic-Severe group. We find that the long-term changes in outcomes during these later Chronic-Severe disability spells are quantitatively similar to those of the original Chronic-Severe group presented above.

### *D. Social Security and Outcomes*

Since Social Security DI or SSI payments are the main safety net for the permanently disabled, it is natural to ask how recipients fare relative to non-recipients. We split the Chronic-Severe group into those who receive DI or SSI benefits more than half of the time within the ten years after disability onset (SSA recipients) and those who do not (SSA non-recipients). We find that those who receive Social Security payments stop working

earlier than those who do not. Nonetheless, the fall in income and consumption is very similar for the two groups (Appendix Figures 4 through 7).

### *E. Cohort Differences*

We examine whether the material consequences of disability have changed over time. To do so, we split the disabled into two samples: those who are first disabled before 1985, and those disabled later. We estimate the outcome regressions on these two samples separately and find that the two sets of results for the Chronic-Severe group are very similar.

### *F. Detailed Consumption and Time-use Data*

The results in Section 6 suggest that the disabled suffer from a sizable drop in food consumption, particularly the Chronic-Severe group. We should interpret these estimates with care, however, because the PSID records only food and housing expenditures. As Becker (1965) notes, consumption is the result of home production that uses both expenditure and time as ingredients. Individuals with a lower relative price of time may substitute time in home production for expenditures. Thus, the fall in food consumption we observe for the disabled may be a result of the disabled: 1) spending more time shopping and searching for lower prices for the goods they purchase and/or 2) spending more time on food preparation, which may turn cheaper ingredients into better food.

Our findings do not support these effects being important, as we find further evidence that the drop in consumption reflects a lower living standard. Using data from the 1989-1991 Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals (CSFII) we find a decline in the nutrition of the disabled individual, with about a 10-15 percent drop in intake of Vitamin A, Vitamin C and Vitamin E. To examine time use, we employ the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and find that currently disabled male heads spend 0.66 hours per week (5.7 minutes per day) more on food preparation. Relative to the mean for the non-disabled, this represents a 34 percent increase in the time spent on food preparation, but the amount of time is small. In fact, this increase takes up only a small fraction of their extra 24.3 hours of leisure hours per week. Most of this extra leisure time is spent watching TV – 10.6 hours per week, obtaining medical care – 7.2 hours per week, sleeping – 6.8 hours per week, and “relaxing” – 3.2 hours per week. We also investigate the time use of wives of the disabled. On average, wives of the disabled do not spend more time working than those whose husbands are not disabled; this is consistent with the PSID results discussed earlier. Wives of disabled men also do not

spend more time on food preparation. Maybe surprisingly, there is also no conclusive evidence that wives of disabled husbands spend more time on caring for adult family members. Taken together, these results do consistently suggest that the disabled suffer from a real decline in material well-being.

## 8. Optimal Disability Benefits

In this paper we have calculated some of the key quantities to determine if current disability benefits are optimal. Returning to the optimal benefit formula from Section 2, we first simplify the formula by assuming that the coefficient of relative prudence is zero.<sup>63</sup> The formula can now be written as

$$(7) \quad \frac{\Delta \bar{c}}{\bar{c}} (b^*) \gamma (1 - D) \approx \varepsilon_{D,b}.$$

We take the proportional drop in consumption to be 0.22, which was our estimate of the percentage change in food plus housing consumption for the Chronic-Severe group ten years after disability onset, as reported in Section 6. We assume that this estimate is a reasonable average for the entire post-onset period, including the period more than ten years after onset. Given our finding that the consumption drop for the Chronic-Severe group continues until at least age 75, this approach seems reasonable. In Section 3, we estimated the probability of having had a disability by various ages. We found that by age 56, there was about a 0.19 probability of having experienced a Chronic-Severe disability, with the median age of onset just under 50. If we take the adult lifetime to run from age 20 to age 80, then  $D$ , the fraction of the life disabled is approximately 0.19 times 0.5 or 0.095. There are some conflicting refinements we could make to this estimate. Given that some disabilities occur after age 56, our estimate of  $D$  should be adjusted upward. On the other hand, since mortality among the disabled is higher than average, our estimate of  $D$  should be adjusted downward. For the remaining calculations, we stick with  $D=0.095$ .

We report the optimal benefit calculation in Table 11. This table reports the elasticity of  $D$  with respect to benefits that would be consistent with benefits being optimal. We assume that the marginal utility of consumption (at a given consumption level) is the same before and after disability, though as discussed earlier, the direction of any change is

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<sup>63</sup> If the coefficient of relative prudence is not zero, benefits should be higher than suggested by the formula. Simulations in Chetty (2006) suggest that the upward adjustment in benefits can be substantial.



uncertain. We should emphasize that what is relevant is the marginal utility of consumption at the family level, and the disabled head is only one of over 3.5 family members on average during the first ten years after onset. Thus, any effect of disability on marginal utility is generally muted by the presence of other family members. We report estimates for several possible values of the coefficient of relative risk aversion,  $\gamma$ , since a wide range of estimates is found in the literature. As  $\gamma$  ranges from 1 to 5, the elasticity consistent with optimality ranges from 0.20 to 1.00. If we focus on an estimate of  $\gamma$  of 3, since it is a commonly assumed value,<sup>64</sup> benefits are optimal if the true elasticity of time spent disabled is 0.60.

It is a simplification to summarize policy as a single benefit and a single elasticity, since compensation for disability comes from many programs: SSDI, workers' compensation, SSI and private disability insurance. Thus, the average benefit and elasticity should be thought of as averages across programs. We focus on SSDI and workers' compensation, as they are the largest programs available to the disabled, and because little is known about benefit elasticities for the other programs.

To determine the elasticity of  $D$  with respect to the disability insurance benefit, we turn to estimates in the literature for SSDI. The literature has tended to focus on the elasticity of the non-participation probability with respect to the benefit. Bound and Burkhauser (1999) report estimates that range from 0.21 to 0.93 in their survey, with a median estimate of 0.49. They argue that most of the estimates are likely to be biased upward. The question still remains as to how to convert elasticities of non-participation into elasticities of self-reported disability. To convert one to the other, we need to know the relative levels of non-participation and self-reported disability, and how the derivatives of the two states with respect to benefits compare. The former comparison can be directly obtained from our PSID data. We find that in the prime years for work disability (ages 35 to 55), the nonparticipation rate is only about ten percent higher than the fraction of men who are currently severely disabled, and slightly lower than the fraction of those who have experienced a Chronic-Severe disability by that age. To examine the latter comparison, we note that an individual induced by higher disability benefits to not participate in the labor market is extremely likely to indicate that he is disabled. It also seems unlikely that a large number of individuals would be induced to call themselves disabled because of higher benefits, but still work. Thus,

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<sup>64</sup> See Chandra and Samwick (2005) who also take  $\gamma$  to be 3, or Cohen and Einav (2007) who suggest that a widely used estimate is "a low single-digit coefficient".

we take the two derivatives to be equal. The combination of these numbers, suggests that current compensation for disability is below the optimal amount suggested by equation (7).

One can also examine the elasticity of non-work with respect to workers' compensation (WC) benefits. Meyer (2002) reports a wide range of claim incidence and duration elasticities. The elasticity of time receiving benefits is the sum of these two elasticities.<sup>65</sup> The sum of the median estimates for these two elasticities in the literature is under 0.6. Given that the WC claim elasticity certainly understates the nonwork elasticity, the evidence again suggests that our compensation for disability may be lower than optimal, if we believe that the coefficient of relative risk aversion is three or higher.

## 9. Discussion and Conclusions

This paper studies the prevalence of disability prior to retirement, changes in household material well-being surrounding disability onset, and the optimality of current benefits for the disabled. Using longitudinal data for the period 1968-2005 from a sample of male household heads, we determine the prevalence of disability and examine how it affects a range of outcomes, including earnings, income, and consumption. This paper makes several key findings. First, disability rates are high. We estimate that by age 50, about 11 percent of male household heads have begun an enduring and severe disability. By age 56, that number rises to 19 percent. An even larger share of men have experienced some type of disability. A man reaching age 56 has a 53 percent chance of having been disabled at least once during his working years and about a 37 percent chance of experiencing a chronic disability that lasted at least four years.

Second, disability is associated with worsened economic outcomes. Ten years after disability onset, those with a chronic and severe disability condition have experienced a 68 percent decline in earnings, a 32 percent decline in after-tax income, a 22 percent decline in food and housing consumption and a 21 percent decline in consumption of food alone. In addition, about two-thirds of these most disabled individuals never return to work in the long run.

Third, there are sharp outcome differences across disability groups; the outcome declines for those with chronic and severe disabilities are often more than twice those for the

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<sup>65</sup> To see this, consider average benefit duration as the product of claim incidence and disability duration. Then log differentiate this product.

average disabled. Fourth, our findings indicate the partial but incomplete roles that individual savings, family support, and government and private insurance play in reducing the consumption drop that follows disability. Despite the various government programs available, the incomes of about one-sixth of families with a chronically and severely disabled head drop below the poverty line in the long term – even after accounting for in-kind transfers and the under-reporting of benefits.

Fifth, we find a noticeable fall in earnings and income prior to the onset of a reported disability. Consumption also falls somewhat prior to reported onset, indicating that future disability is partially but incompletely predictable in the short run. Sixth, evidence from time-use surveys does not suggest that the disabled do more shopping, which might enable them to enjoy lower prices through greater search effort. We also find that instead of working more on home and food production, the disabled spend more time watching television, relaxing, sleeping and using medical services. Together these findings indicate a real decline in material well-being after the onset of disability, especially for those who are more disabled. To further substantiate our claim that consumption declines following disability, we examine food surveys and find that the diet of the disabled is worse than that of the non-disabled in many dimensions.

Seventh, based on our estimates, others from the literature, and reasonable assumptions on parameter values, we find that the current compensation for the most disabled appears to be lower than is optimal. This calculation accounts for the moral hazard effects of disability, but assumes that the marginal utility of consumption at the household level does not change with disability of the head. We believe these findings will be useful for future research on the disabled as well as policy discussions.

There are unanswered questions raised by our research. We are unable to examine disabled women given the lack of information on disability for women in the early years of the PSID. Recent evidence from other sources suggests that disability during the working years is rising for women (Baldwin and Chu 2006). Furthermore, we only focus on disability during the working years. We find that consumption does not rebound once a disabled head reaches the Social Security eligibility age. However, we do not examine disabilities that begin at later ages. Finally, we would like to supplement the rich economic data we use with detailed health information, which would allow us to refine our disability definition and potentially focus on specific health conditions. However, small samples and lack of generality might limit such an approach.

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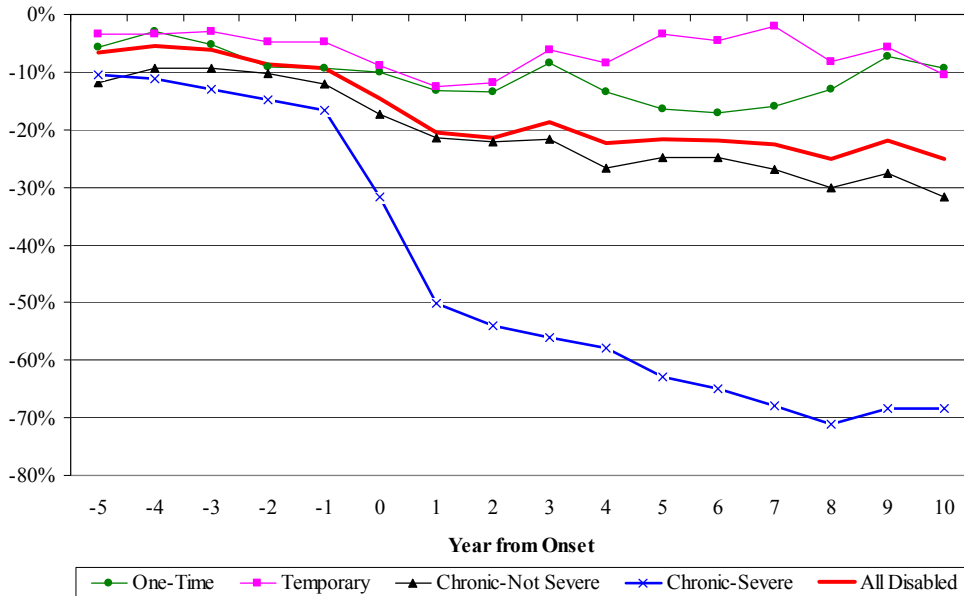
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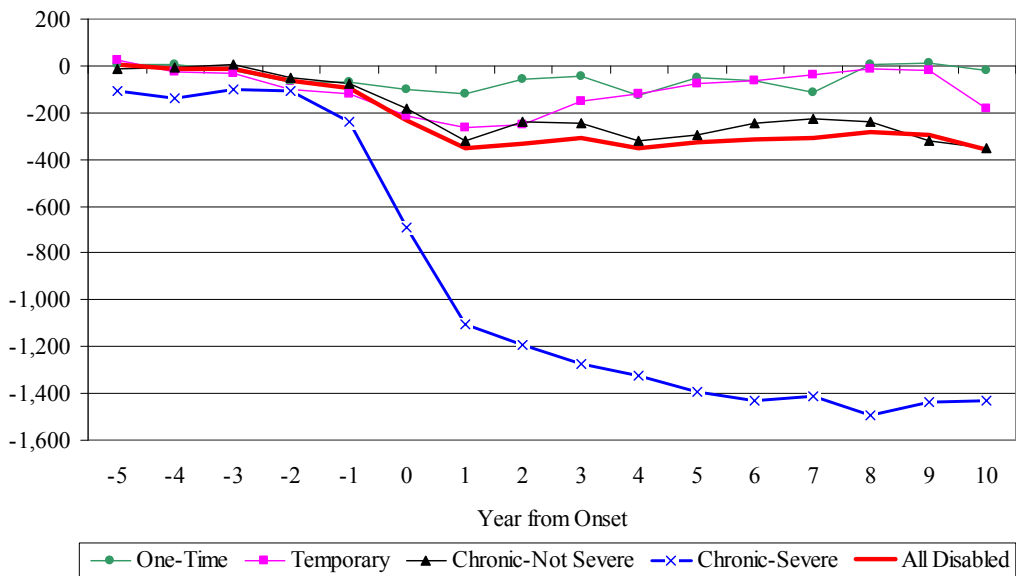


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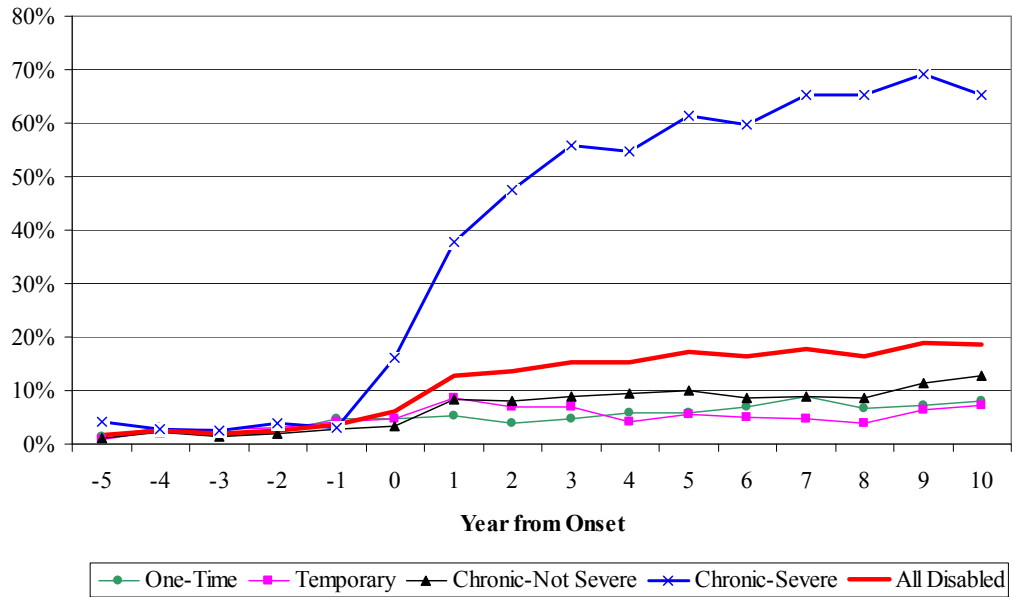
**Figure 1**  
**Percent Change in Annual Earnings Before and After Disability Onset, Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



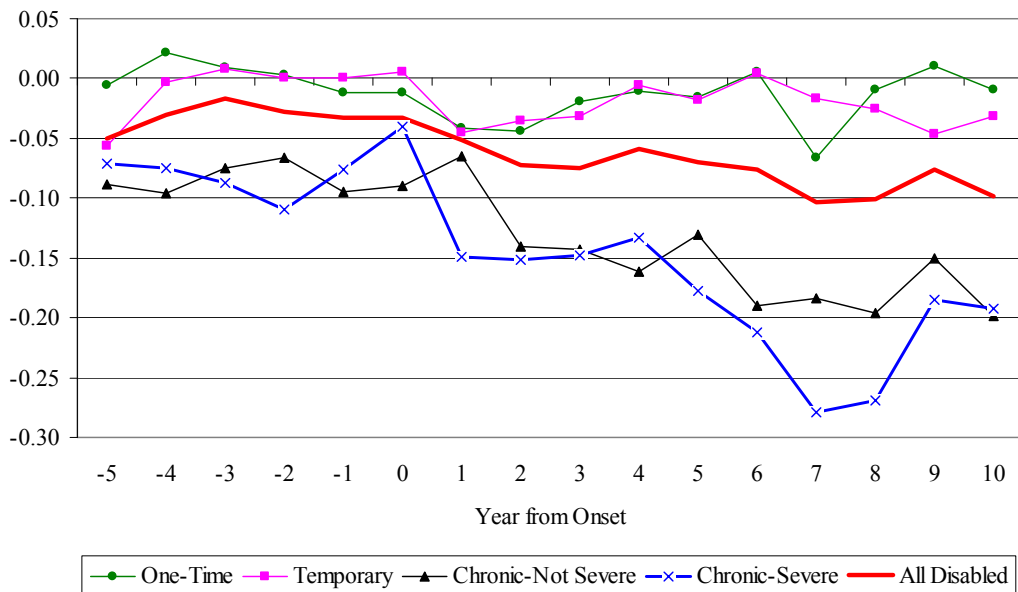
**Figure 2**  
**Change in Annual Hours of Work Before and After Disability Onset, Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



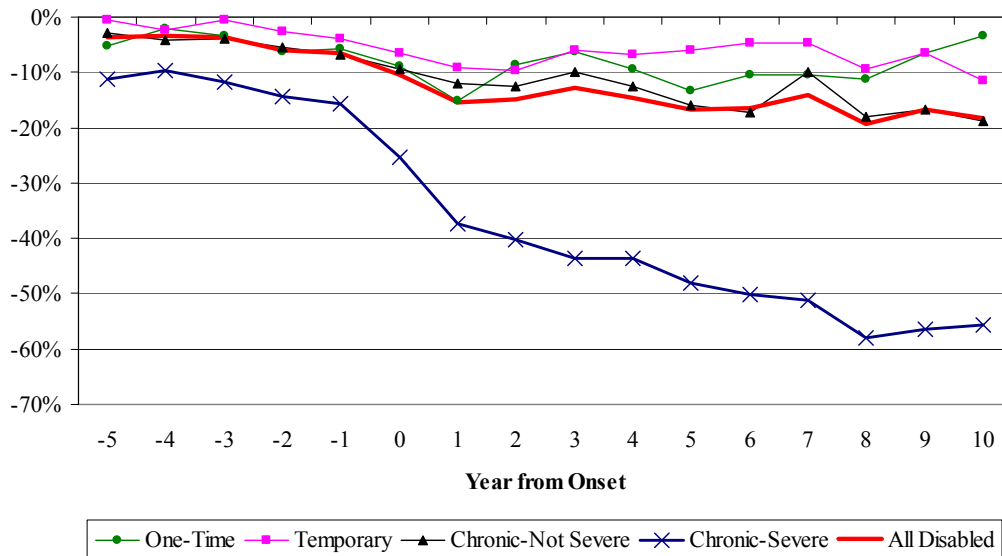
**Figure 3**  
**Percentage of Disabled with Zero Hours of Work**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



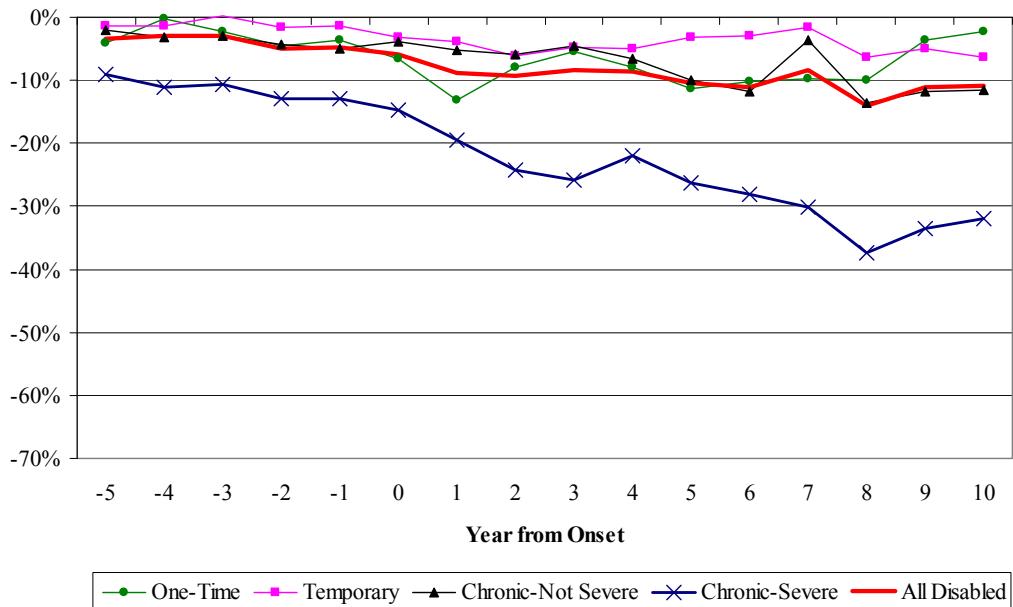
**Figure 4**  
**Change in Log Hourly Earnings Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



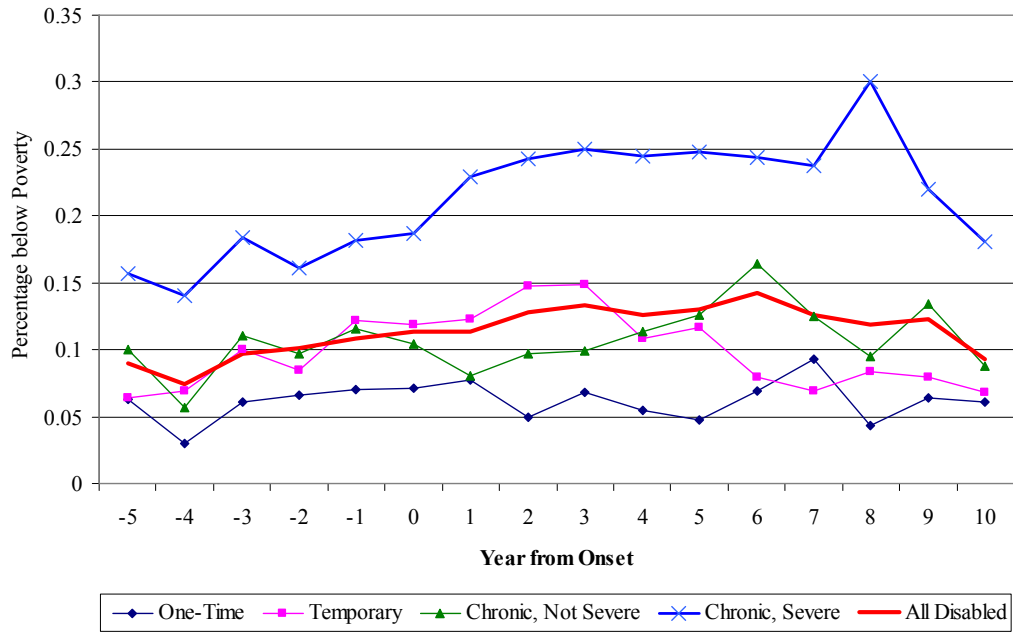
**Figure 5**  
**Change in After-Tax Pre-Public Transfer Income**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



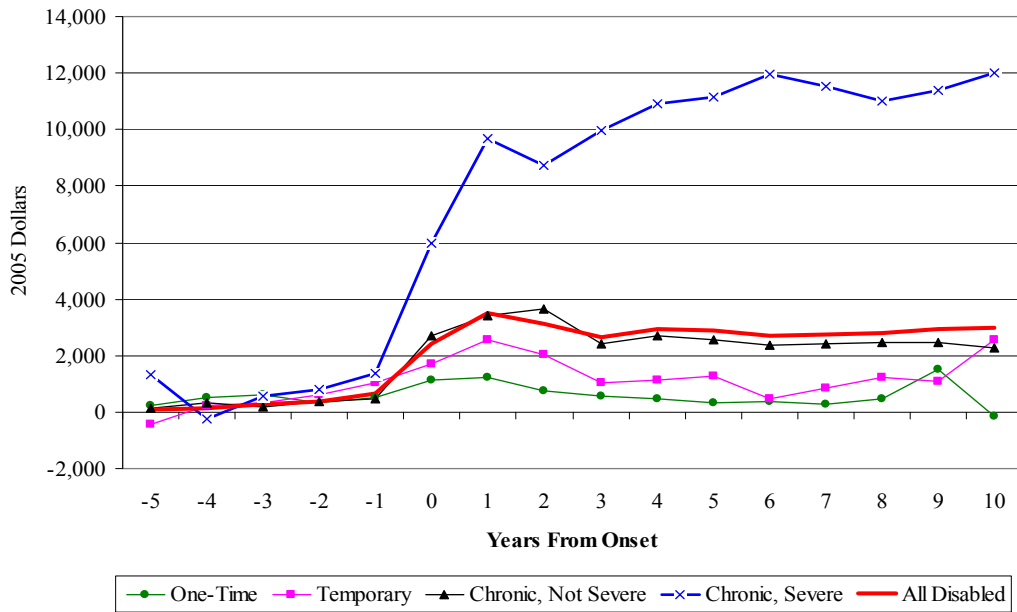
**Figure 6**  
**Change in After-Tax Post-Transfer Income**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



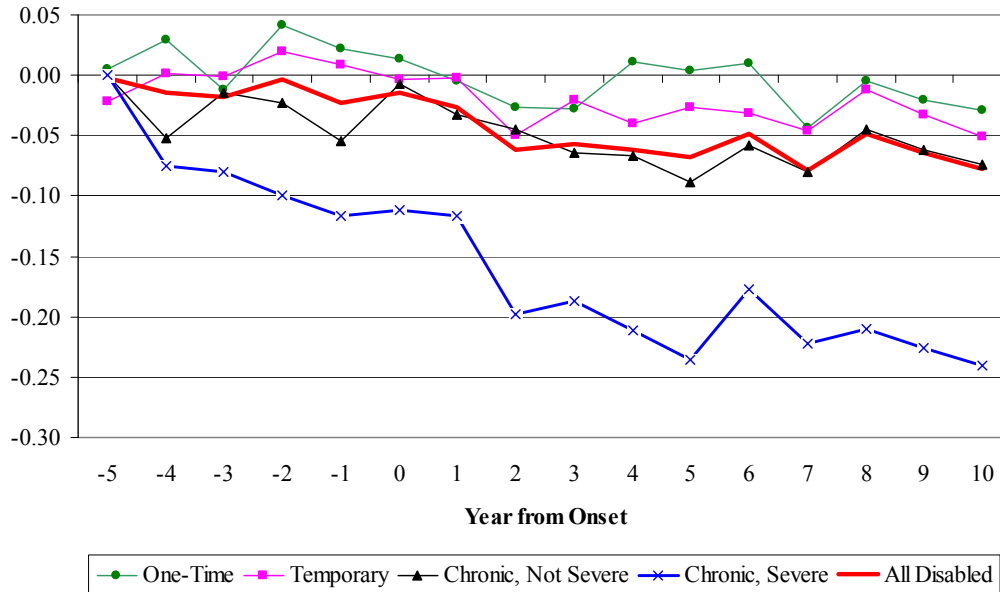
**Figure 7**  
**Fraction of Families with After-Tax Post-Transfer Income**  
**Below the Poverty Line,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



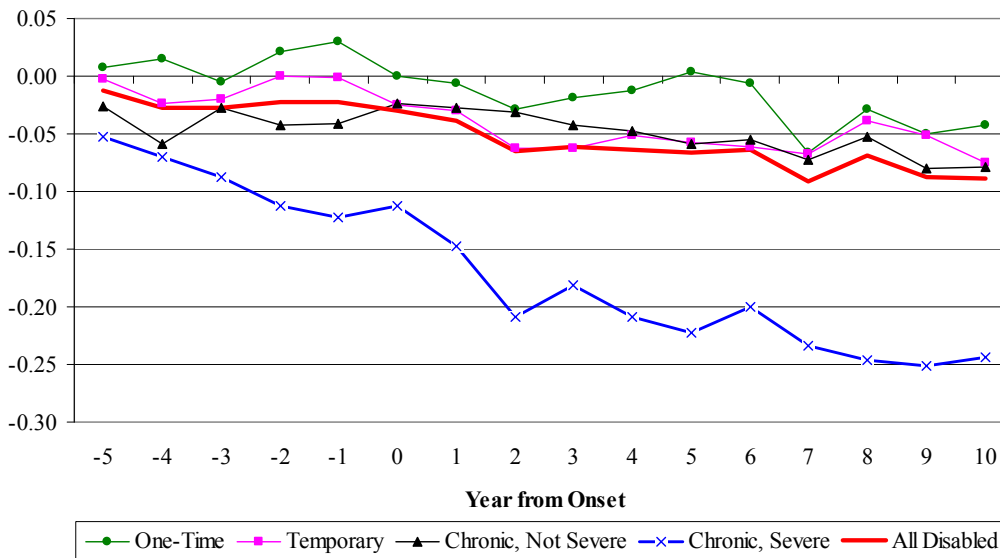
**Figure 8**  
**Change in Under-reporting Adjusted Public Transfer Income**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



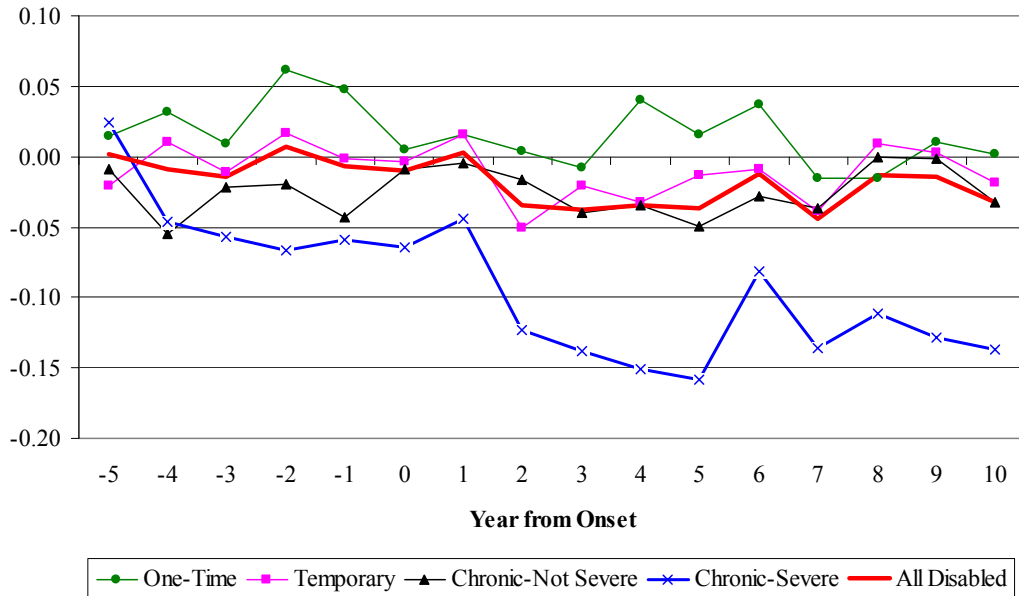
**Figure 9**  
**Change in Log Food Consumption Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



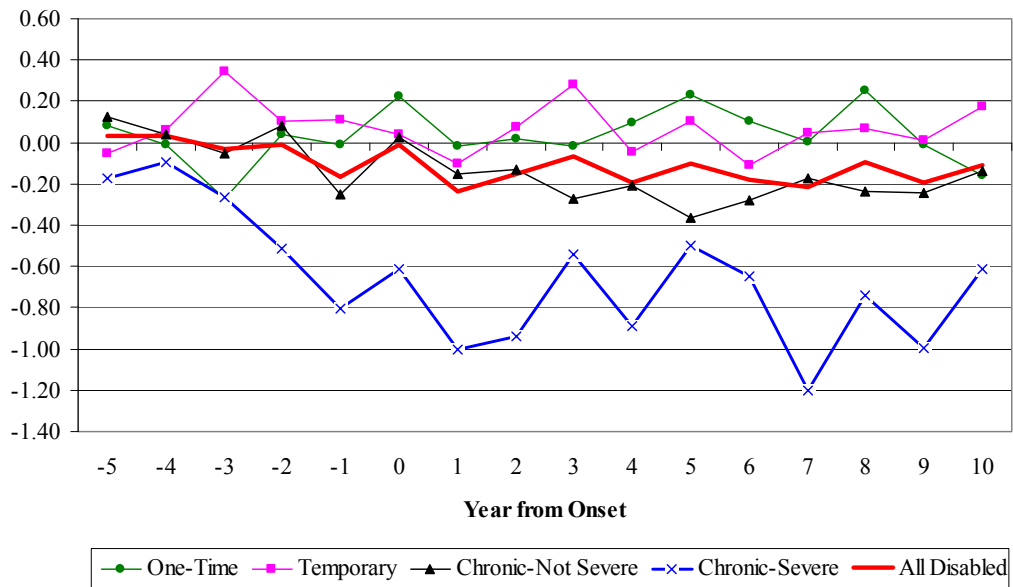
**Figure 10**  
**Change in Log of Food plus Housing Consumption**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



**Figure 11**  
**Change in Log of Food Eaten at Home Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



**Figure 12**  
**Change in Log of Food Eaten Outside Home Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



**Table 1**  
**Working Age Male Household Head Disability Rates, and Shares Severely Disabled**  
**1968-2005**

Year	N (1)	Disability Rate (Unweighted) (2)	Disability Rate (Weighted) (3)	Share of Disabled that are Severely Disabled (Weighted) (4)
1968	2,865	15.01	13.94	0.31
1969	2,659	17.79	16.50	
1970	2,730	16.37	15.11	
1971	2,809	16.84	16.39	
1972	2,901	14.03	13.38	0.34
1973	3,039	12.57	12.38	0.30
1974	3,164	11.73	11.63	0.28
1975	3,307	10.73	10.73	0.28
1976	3,418	10.83	10.66	0.35
1977	3,542	11.86	11.19	0.48
1978	3,664	12.15	11.64	0.45
1979	3,799	13.21	12.97	0.45
1980	3,905	14.06	13.79	0.43
1981	3,931	12.44	12.58	0.47
1982	3,970	11.71	12.04	0.45
1983	4,046	11.44	11.16	0.48
1984	4,093	12.36	12.68	0.37
1985	4,177	11.95	12.36	0.42
1986	4,193	10.54	11.18	0.26
1987	4,221	12.60	13.67	0.31
1988	4,262	12.86	13.59	0.29
1989	4,266	12.89	13.41	0.32
1990	5,485	13.64	14.71	0.33
1991	5,451	13.45	14.15	0.32
1992	5,716	13.45	13.91	0.29
1993	5,712	13.20	13.61	0.31
1994	6,224	13.43	13.54	0.32
1995	5,966	13.01	13.35	0.33
1996	4,946	12.72	13.29	0.35
1997	4,028	11.27	11.64	0.29
1999	4,175	12.02	11.59	0.35
2001	4,475	12.27	12.86	0.31
2003	4,718	12.04	12.16	0.32
2005	4,745	11.55	11.97	0.37

Notes: The sample is male household heads ages 22-61 years in the PSID full sample. The disabled in a survey year are those who answer yes to the question: "Do you have a physical or nervous limitation that limits the amount or type of work you can do?" Severely disabled family heads are those who report "Can do nothing," "Completely," "A Lot" or "Severely" in response to the follow-up severity question.



**Table 2**  
**Sample Means and Standard Deviations,**  
**Non-disabled and the Extent of Disability Groups**

	Extent of Disability Groups					
	Non-Disabled (1)	All Disabled (2)	One-Time (3)	Temporary (4)	Chronic Not Severe (5)	Chronic Severe (6)
Age at Disability Onset		36.7 (10.3)	35.0 (8.9)	35.2 (10.4)	36.7 (10.3)	41.6 (10.3)
Age	35.4 (7.9)	40.4 (8.9)	36.3 (6.7)	39.3 (8.7)	41.9 (8.8)	45.1 (9.4)
White	0.669 (0.471)	0.669 (0.471)	0.718 (0.451)	0.652 (0.477)	0.751 (0.433)	0.495 (0.501)
Married	0.806 (0.315)	0.806 (0.308)	0.795 (0.318)	0.799 (0.305)	0.822 (0.295)	0.805 (0.321)
Number of Years In Survey	14.1 (7.8)	19.1 (7.9)	19.2 (7.8)	18.9 (8.1)	20.2 (7.6)	17.3 (7.8)
Highest Level of Educ- High School	0.356 (0.479)	0.314 (0.464)	0.356 (0.479)	0.323 (0.468)	0.337 (0.473)	0.260 (0.440)
Highest Level of Educ- College	0.456 (0.498)	0.344 (0.475)	0.455 (0.499)	0.348 (0.477)	0.352 (0.478)	0.175 (0.380)
Years in Survey after Onset		13.7 (8.3)	10.0 (6.3)	13.8 (9.0)	16.2 (8.1)	14.0 (8.0)
Number of Consecutive Positive Limitation Reports		2.043 (4.331)		0.476 (0.642)	3.446 (5.240)	5.152 (6.212)
Number of Non-missing Reports of Disability Status from Onset to the 10th Year after Onset		7.666 (2.444)	7.050 (2.609)	7.420 (2.507)	8.324 (2.134)	7.806 (2.322)
Number of Positive Limitation Reports from Onset to the 10th Year after Onset		3.090 (2.952)		1.393 (0.489)	5.418 (2.121)	6.254 (2.332)
Severity Ratio		0.280 (0.373)	0.137 (0.344)	0.202 (0.307)	0.121 (0.164)	0.840 (0.168)
Age in the Last Interview	44.3 (11.4)	53.6 (13.3)	48.4 (11.3)	52.4 (13.5)	56.3 (12.9)	58.0 (13.3)
Number of Observations	4,482	1,819	418	555	531	315

Notes: Standard deviations are in parentheses. The variables Age and Married are averages over the sample years during which the individual is the head and ages 22-61. See data appendix or text for sample restrictions and the text for group definitions.

**Table 3****Disability Transition Matrix**

t-1	t	t+1			t+2		
		Non-disabled	Not Severe	Severe	Non-disabled	Not Severe	Severe
Non-disabled	Non-disabled	0.969	0.023	0.007	0.960	0.029	0.011
Non-disabled	Not Severe	0.591	0.332	0.077	0.640	0.289	0.071
Non-disabled	Severe	0.316	0.250	0.434	0.378	0.245	0.376
Not Severe	Non-disabled	0.754	0.204	0.042	0.741	0.195	0.065
Not Severe	Not Severe	0.301	0.595	0.105	0.360	0.526	0.113
Not Severe	Severe	0.136	0.314	0.550	0.213	0.296	0.492
Severe	Non-disabled	0.650	0.204	0.146	0.637	0.204	0.159
Severe	Not Severe	0.190	0.468	0.343	0.248	0.381	0.371
Severe	Severe	0.089	0.144	0.767	0.132	0.157	0.711

Notes: The sample is male household heads ages 22-61. See the text for further details.

**Table 4**  
**Prevalence of Disability by Age**

Age	N	Any disability (1)	Currently Disabled (2)	One-Time (3)	Temporary (4)	Chronic Not Severe (5)	Chronic Severe (6)
30	532	0.2156 (0.0217)	0.0879 (0.0163)	0.0396 (0.0087)	0.0627 (0.0124)	0.0773 (0.0140)	0.0360 (0.0115)
32	879	0.2245 (0.0169)	0.0793 (0.0110)	0.0441 (0.0086)	0.0673 (0.0100)	0.0798 (0.0110)	0.0334 (0.0073)
34	1052	0.2380 (0.0161)	0.0872 (0.0109)	0.0533 (0.0084)	0.0591 (0.0084)	0.0853 (0.0101)	0.0402 (0.0089)
36	1009	0.2309 (0.0158)	0.0872 (0.0104)	0.0515 (0.0080)	0.0492 (0.0078)	0.1004 (0.0117)	0.0297 (0.0061)
38	891	0.2444 (0.0175)	0.0739 (0.0102)	0.0520 (0.0086)	0.0643 (0.0099)	0.1018 (0.0129)	0.0264 (0.0061)
40	815	0.2628 (0.0183)	0.0849 (0.0111)	0.0501 (0.0087)	0.0683 (0.0104)	0.1201 (0.0138)	0.0243 (0.0058)
42	702	0.2660 (0.0199)	0.1095 (0.0145)	0.0493 (0.0094)	0.0771 (0.0116)	0.1129 (0.0147)	0.0266 (0.0071)
44	541	0.3149 (0.0237)	0.1307 (0.0173)	0.0459 (0.0103)	0.1099 (0.0162)	0.1277 (0.0172)	0.0314 (0.0078)
46	461	0.3026 (0.0256)	0.1032 (0.0170)	0.0419 (0.0111)	0.1113 (0.0178)	0.0952 (0.0158)	0.0543 (0.0127)
48	442	0.3383 (0.0267)	0.1339 (0.0192)	0.0439 (0.0113)	0.0822 (0.0152)	0.1482 (0.0204)	0.0640 (0.0130)
50	406	0.3704 (0.0290)	0.1653 (0.0226)	0.0727 (0.0158)	0.0756 (0.0150)	0.1116 (0.0180)	0.1105 (0.0194)
52	417	0.4133 (0.0287)	0.1987 (0.0236)	0.0729 (0.0152)	0.0770 (0.0148)	0.1490 (0.0211)	0.1144 (0.0184)
54	392	0.4457 (0.0298)	0.2392 (0.0257)	0.0581 (0.0140)	0.0782 (0.0157)	0.1489 (0.0205)	0.1606 (0.0224)
56	384	0.5306 (0.0303)	0.2814 (0.0275)	0.0782 (0.0176)	0.0835 (0.0161)	0.1792 (0.0231)	0.1897 (0.0236)
58	329	0.5831 (0.0327)	0.2817 (0.0297)	0.0854 (0.0187)	0.1065 (0.0191)	0.1995 (0.0265)	0.1917 (0.0254)
60	299	0.5904 (0.0335)	0.2853 (0.0301)	0.0792 (0.0193)	0.0968 (0.0186)	0.1838 (0.0268)	0.2306 (0.0277)

Notes: This table reports for each age the fraction of the sample members who have had a disability by the specified age, the fraction of individuals who are currently disabled, and the fraction for whom a given disability type is their most severe disability to date. The fractions are weighted. Standard errors are in parentheses. We restrict the sample to individuals with at least 10 years of data prior to the specified age. See text for details.

**Table 5**  
**Changes in Annual Earnings Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	A. All Disabled		B. Extent of Disability Groups							
	Annual Earning	Implied % change	One-Time	Implied % Change	Temporary	Implied % Change	Chronic Not Severe	Implied % Change	Chronic Severe	Implied % Change
-5	-2,906** (777)	-6.71	-2,498* (1,191)	-5.77	-1,466 (1,261)	-3.38	-5,105** (1,514)	-11.79	-4,492** (1,490)	-10.37
-4	-2,342* (948)	-5.41	-1,281 (1,377)	-2.96	-1,519 (1,470)	-3.51	-4,037 (2,133)	-9.32	-4,857** (1,387)	-11.21
-3	-2,714** (942)	-6.27	-2,231 (1,352)	-5.15	-1,328 (1,606)	-3.07	-4,033* (1,650)	-9.31	-5,581** (1,566)	-12.89
-2	-3,735** (1,081)	-8.62	-3,986** (1,508)	-9.20	-2,108 (1,890)	-4.87	-4,489* (1,833)	-10.36	-6,460** (1,705)	-14.92
-1	-4,054** (1,118)	-9.36	-4,092** (1,555)	-9.45	-2,073 (1,988)	-4.79	-5,256** (1,858)	-12.14	-7,233** (1,696)	-16.70
0	-6,356** (1,228)	-14.68	-4,322** (1,546)	-9.98	-3,830 (2,246)	-8.84	-7,542** (1,983)	-17.41	-13,751** (1,947)	-31.75
1	-8,921** (1,343)	-20.60	-5,755** (1,794)	-13.29	-5,405* (2,522)	-12.48	-9,265** (2,032)	-21.39	-21,699** (1,998)	-50.10
2	-9,280** (1,403)	-21.43	-5,809** (1,944)	-13.41	-5,125* (2,551)	-11.83	-9,605** (2,072)	-22.18	-23,368** (2,040)	-53.96
3	-8,051** (1,609)	-18.59	-3,629 (2,373)	-8.38	-2,661 (3,160)	-6.14	-9,343** (2,171)	-21.57	-24,266** (2,019)	-56.03
4	-9,679** (1,546)	-22.35	-5,846* (2,456)	-13.50	-3,682 (2,709)	-8.50	-11,566** (2,117)	-26.71	-25,103** (2,044)	-57.96
5	-9,367** (1,853)	-21.63	-7,112** (2,008)	-16.42	-1,452 (4,036)	-3.35	-10,789** (2,315)	-24.91	-27,215** (2,067)	-62.84
6	-9,523** (1,753)	-21.99	-7,361** (2,218)	-17.00	-1,993 (3,185)	-4.60	-10,802** (2,470)	-24.94	-28,127** (2,173)	-64.94
7	-9,760** (2,044)	-22.54	-6,908** (2,301)	-15.95	-853 (4,334)	-1.97	-11,668** (2,635)	-26.94	-29,389** (2,184)	-67.86
8	-10,881** (1,874)	-25.12	-5,601* (2,449)	-12.93	-3,566 (3,277)	-8.23	-13,038** (2,571)	-30.10	-30,835** (2,365)	-71.20
9	-9,504** (2,197)	-21.94	-3,129 (3,015)	-7.22	-2,461 (4,417)	-5.68	-11,911** (2,868)	-27.50	-29,595** (2,320)	-68.33
10	-10,825** (2,150)	-24.99	-4,071 (4,286)	-9.40	-4,568 (3,453)	-10.55	-13,701** (2,837)	-31.64	-29,652** (2,502)	-68.47

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regressions. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. The implied percentage changes are obtained by dividing the estimated coefficient by the average earnings of the disabled before the fifth year before disability onset (\$43,309). Columns 1 and 2 report these estimates for the disabled as a whole, while columns 3-10 report these estimates for the extent of disability groups. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See text for details.

**Table 6**  
**Changes in Annual Hours of Work, and Percentage Working Zero Hours Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	A. All Disabled		B. Extent of Disability Groups							
	Hours (1)	% working zero hours (2)	One-Time (3)	% working zero hours (4)	Temporary (5)	% working zero hours (6)	Chronic Not Severe (7)	% working zero hours (8)	Chronic Severe (9)	% working zero hours (10)
-5	6 (22)	1.69	4 (35)	1.46	26 (36)	0.81	-13 (44)	1.14	-105 (64)	4.27
-4	-11 (24)	2.61	8 (42)	3.00	-26 (47)	2.55	-8 (46)	2.10	-136* (57)	2.86
-3	-14 (24)	2.01	-19 (38)	1.49	-34 (45)	2.72	3 (47)	1.52	-103 (60)	2.53
-2	-64* (26)	2.62	-69 (39)	2.24	-100* (50)	3.01	-54 (46)	1.92	-108 (69)	3.77
-1	-95** (26)	3.70	-72 (42)	4.59	-118* (47)	4.09	-78 (50)	2.81	-238** (63)	2.99
0	-235** (28)	6.21	-102* (43)	4.70	-215** (51)	4.73	-182** (51)	3.35	-688** (75)	16.18
1	-355** (30)	12.65	-117* (48)	5.41	-263** (53)	8.60	-319** (52)	8.35	-1,104** (74)	37.74
2	-333** (31)	13.51	-60 (51)	3.93	-251** (51)	6.90	-239** (53)	8.07	-1,194** (76)	47.49
3	-310** (31)	15.28	-45 (51)	4.75	-149** (51)	6.82	-245** (53)	8.80	-1,274** (72)	55.85
4	-351** (32)	15.23	-128* (51)	5.81	-121* (51)	4.12	-319** (52)	9.36	-1,322** (73)	54.81
5	-326** (33)	17.09	-48 (56)	5.83	-79 (53)	5.63	-298** (57)	10.06	-1,395** (71)	61.40
6	-315** (34)	16.32	-63 (54)	6.81	-63 (55)	5.11	-245** (57)	8.71	-1,428** (75)	59.68
7	-305** (35)	17.67	-114* (58)	8.90	-40 (55)	4.72	-228** (59)	8.92	-1,411** (80)	65.33
8	-282** (36)	16.52	8 (57)	6.78	-12 (55)	3.98	-240** (58)	8.61	-1,491** (78)	65.37
9	-298** (38)	18.77	9 (66)	7.29	-20 (58)	6.34	-321** (62)	11.49	-1,435** (91)	69.06
10	-357** (39)	18.57	-22 (69)	7.98	-181** (59)	7.29	-350** (64)	12.91	-1,432** (88)	65.38

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regressions, followed by the percentage of the disabled reported working zero hours. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. Columns 1 and 2 report these estimates for the disabled as a whole, while columns 3-10 report these estimates for the extent of disability groups. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See text for details.

Table 7

## Changes in After-Tax Pre-Public Transfer Income Before and After Disability Onset, All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups

Year from onset	A. All Disabled		B. Extent of Disability Groups							
	All Disabled (1)	Percentage Change (2)	One-Time (3)	Percentage Change (4)	Temporary (5)	Percentage Change (6)	Chronic Not Severe (7)	Percentage Change (8)	Chronic Severe (9)	Percentage Change (10)
-5	-2,076** (758)	-3.78	-2,932** (1,113)	-5.34	-253 (1,340)	-0.46	-1,562 (1,351)	-2.84	-6,100** (1,681)	-11.11
-4	-1,901* (881)	-3.46	-1,125 (1,441)	-2.05	-1,279 (1,411)	-2.33	-2,334 (1,670)	-4.25	-5,265** (1,697)	-9.58
-3	-2,019* (977)	-3.68	-1,875 (1,561)	-3.41	-303 (1,661)	-0.55	-2,122 (1,729)	-3.86	-6,477** (1,836)	-11.79
-2	-3,251** (1,023)	-5.92	-3,421* (1,468)	-6.23	-1,471 (1,757)	-2.68	-2,998 (1,748)	-5.46	-7,851** (1,863)	-14.29
-1	-3,650** (1,074)	-6.64	-3,128 (1,621)	-5.69	-2,149 (1,775)	-3.91	-3,770* (1,809)	-6.86	-8,565** (1,854)	-15.59
0	-5,808** (1,146)	-10.57	-4,821** (1,583)	-8.78	-3,559 (1,932)	-6.48	-5,154** (1,887)	-9.38	-13,918** (2,084)	-25.34
1	-8,505** (1,270)	-15.48	-8,269** (2,244)	-15.05	-4,998* (2,164)	-9.10	-6,635** (1,874)	-12.08	-20,483** (2,015)	-37.29
2	-8,116** (1,289)	-14.78	-4,754* (1,897)	-8.65	-5,274* (2,082)	-9.60	-6,958** (2,009)	-12.67	-22,031** (2,124)	-40.11
3	-7,074** (1,510)	-12.88	-3,439 (2,123)	-6.26	-3,293 (2,514)	-5.99	-5,385* (2,669)	-9.80	-24,008** (2,199)	-43.71
4	-7,986** (1,612)	-14.54	-5,159* (2,251)	-9.39	-3,747 (2,475)	-6.82	-6,888* (2,917)	-12.54	-23,889** (2,853)	-43.49
5	-9,163** (1,623)	-16.68	-7,317** (2,135)	-13.32	-3,322 (3,172)	-6.05	-8,749** (2,100)	-15.93	-26,383** (2,296)	-48.03
6	-9,005** (1,633)	-16.39	-5,779* (2,601)	-10.52	-2,580 (2,801)	-4.70	-9,402** (2,163)	-17.12	-27,527** (2,396)	-50.11
7	-7,755** (2,187)	-14.12	-5,721* (2,839)	-10.42	-2,534 (3,431)	-4.61	-5,433 (4,334)	-9.89	-28,107** (2,381)	-51.17
8	-10,638** (1,775)	-19.37	-6,113* (2,674)	-11.13	-5,137 (2,985)	-9.35	-9,838** (2,441)	-17.91	-31,835** (2,418)	-57.96
9	-9,186** (1,971)	-16.72	-3,542 (3,011)	-6.45	-3,527 (3,462)	-6.42	-9,168** (2,767)	-16.69	-30,993** (2,459)	-56.42
10	-10,014** (2,008)	-18.23	-1,812 (4,061)	-3.30	-6,353* (2,957)	-11.57	-10,368** (2,698)	-18.87	-30,507** (2,709)	-55.54

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regression. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. The implied percentage changes are obtained by dividing the estimated coefficient by the average after-tax pre-public transfer income of the disabled before the fifth year before disability onset (\$54,930). Columns 3-10 show these estimates and implied percentage changes for the extent of disability groups. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See the data appendix for variable definitions and the text for further details.

**Table 8**  
**Changes in After-Tax Post-Transfer Income Before and After Disability Onset, All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	A. All Disabled		B. Extent of Disability Groups							
	All Disabled (1)	Percentage Change (2)	One-Time (3)	Percentage Change (4)	Temporary (5)	Percentage Change (6)	Chronic Not Severe (7)	Percentage Change (8)	Chronic Severe (9)	Percentage Change (10)
-5	-1,898* (738)	-3.35	-2,348* (1,058)	-4.14	-772 (1,302)	-1.36	-1,184 (1,392)	-2.09	-5,081** (1,641)	-8.96
-4	-1,632 (890)	-2.88	-97 (1,464)	-0.17	-724 (1,459)	-1.28	-1,840 (1,773)	-3.25	-6,281** (1,634)	-11.08
-3	-1,719 (943)	-3.03	-1,322 (1,483)	-2.33	121 (1,674)	0.21	-1,729 (1,700)	-3.05	-5,985** (1,774)	-10.56
-2	-2,816** (1,002)	-4.97	-2,605 (1,471)	-4.60	-944 (1,763)	-1.67	-2,462 (1,751)	-4.34	-7,371** (1,800)	-13.00
-1	-2,669* (1,070)	-4.71	-2,104 (1,660)	-3.71	-715 (1,792)	-1.26	-2,844 (1,847)	-5.02	-7,359** (1,807)	-12.98
0	-3,364** (1,150)	-5.93	-3,670* (1,627)	-6.47	-1,806 (1,984)	-3.19	-2,202 (1,947)	-3.88	-8,377** (2,013)	-14.78
1	-5,017** (1,289)	-8.85	-7,510** (2,432)	-13.25	-2,228 (2,168)	-3.93	-2,893 (2,007)	-5.10	-11,096** (2,085)	-19.58
2	-5,265** (1,297)	-9.29	-4,473* (1,924)	-7.89	-3,408 (2,128)	-6.01	-3,334 (2,174)	-5.88	-13,710** (2,048)	-24.19
3	-4,693** (1,515)	-8.28	-3,041 (2,124)	-5.36	-2,694 (2,509)	-4.75	-2,610 (2,863)	-4.60	-14,642** (2,105)	-25.83
4	-4,913** (1,635)	-8.67	-4,435 (2,263)	-7.82	-2,768 (2,494)	-4.88	-3,770 (3,132)	-6.65	-12,422** (2,865)	-21.91
5	-5,943** (1,623)	-10.48	-6,431** (2,164)	-11.35	-1,753 (3,235)	-3.09	-5,676** (2,198)	-10.01	-14,941** (2,228)	-26.36
6	-6,290** (1,650)	-11.10	-5,824* (2,689)	-10.27	-1,687 (2,890)	-2.98	-6,672** (2,262)	-11.77	-15,910** (2,477)	-28.07
7	-4,730* (2,277)	-8.34	-5,535 (2,945)	-9.76	-941 (3,517)	-1.66	-2,044 (4,727)	-3.61	-17,087** (2,464)	-30.14
8	-8,002** (1,750)	-14.12	-5,705* (2,570)	-10.06	-3,572 (3,039)	-6.30	-7,677** (2,365)	-13.54	-21,246** (2,495)	-37.48
9	-6,346** (1,992)	-11.20	-2,000 (3,241)	-3.53	-2,863 (3,498)	-5.05	-6,735* (2,843)	-11.88	-19,029** (2,468)	-33.57
10	-6,153** (2,066)	-10.85	-1,247 (4,279)	-2.20	-3,543 (3,054)	-6.25	-6,568* (2,840)	-11.59	-18,144** (2,783)	-32.01

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regression. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. The implied percentage changes are obtained by dividing the estimated coefficient by the average after-tax post-transfer income of the disabled before the fifth year before disability onset (\$56,684). Columns 3-10 show these estimates and implied percentage changes for the extent of disability groups. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See the data appendix for variable definitions and the text for further details.

**Table 9**  
**Changes in Log Food and Food plus Housing Consumption Before and After Disability Onset, All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	A. Log Food Consumption					B. Log Food plus Housing Consumption				
	All Disabled (1)	One-Time (2)	Temporary (3)	Chronic Not Severe (4)	Chronic Severe (5)	All Disabled (6)	One-Time (7)	Temporary (8)	Chronic Not Severe (9)	Chronic Severe (10)
-5	-0.002 (0.014)	0.005 (0.026)	-0.022 (0.033)	0.000 (0.023)	0.000 (0.031)	-0.013 (0.012)	0.007 (0.020)	-0.002 (0.026)	-0.026 (0.020)	-0.053* (0.024)
-4	-0.015 (0.014)	0.029 (0.026)	0.001 (0.026)	-0.052* (0.026)	-0.075* (0.035)	-0.027* (0.013)	0.015 (0.022)	-0.024 (0.024)	-0.059* (0.024)	-0.070* (0.029)
-3	-0.018 (0.015)	-0.012 (0.025)	-0.001 (0.028)	-0.015 (0.029)	-0.080* (0.037)	-0.027* (0.013)	-0.005 (0.022)	-0.020 (0.025)	-0.028 (0.024)	-0.087** (0.032)
-2	-0.003 (0.015)	0.041 (0.025)	0.020 (0.029)	-0.023 (0.029)	-0.099** (0.038)	-0.023 (0.014)	0.021 (0.022)	0.000 (0.026)	-0.043 (0.026)	-0.113** (0.036)
-1	-0.023 (0.015)	0.022 (0.024)	0.009 (0.026)	-0.054 (0.030)	-0.116** (0.039)	-0.022 (0.013)	0.030 (0.022)	-0.001 (0.023)	-0.041 (0.027)	-0.123** (0.033)
0	-0.015 (0.014)	0.014 (0.024)	-0.004 (0.026)	-0.007 (0.026)	-0.112** (0.038)	-0.030* (0.013)	0.000 (0.022)	-0.025 (0.024)	-0.024 (0.025)	-0.112** (0.033)
1	-0.027 (0.015)	-0.005 (0.027)	-0.002 (0.027)	-0.033 (0.029)	-0.117** (0.039)	-0.039** (0.014)	-0.006 (0.024)	-0.030 (0.025)	-0.028 (0.026)	-0.147** (0.033)
2	-0.062** (0.015)	-0.027 (0.027)	-0.050 (0.028)	-0.045 (0.027)	-0.198** (0.038)	-0.065** (0.014)	-0.029 (0.024)	-0.062* (0.025)	-0.031 (0.026)	-0.209** (0.033)
3	-0.057** (0.016)	-0.028 (0.027)	-0.020 (0.028)	-0.064* (0.028)	-0.187** (0.043)	-0.061** (0.015)	-0.019 (0.024)	-0.063* (0.027)	-0.043 (0.027)	-0.181** (0.035)
4	-0.062** (0.016)	0.011 (0.030)	-0.040 (0.029)	-0.067* (0.028)	-0.211** (0.037)	-0.064** (0.015)	-0.012 (0.024)	-0.051 (0.027)	-0.047 (0.028)	-0.209** (0.033)
5	-0.068** (0.017)	0.004 (0.027)	-0.026 (0.031)	-0.089** (0.031)	-0.236** (0.040)	-0.066** (0.016)	0.004 (0.024)	-0.057* (0.028)	-0.059 (0.031)	-0.222** (0.034)
6	-0.049** (0.016)	0.010 (0.027)	-0.032 (0.030)	-0.058 (0.030)	-0.177** (0.039)	-0.064** (0.016)	-0.006 (0.027)	-0.061* (0.027)	-0.055 (0.029)	-0.200** (0.036)
7	-0.079** (0.017)	-0.044 (0.028)	-0.046 (0.029)	-0.080** (0.030)	-0.222** (0.040)	-0.091** (0.016)	-0.066* (0.028)	-0.068* (0.028)	-0.072* (0.029)	-0.234** (0.035)
8	-0.048** (0.017)	-0.005 (0.028)	-0.012 (0.030)	-0.045 (0.030)	-0.210** (0.041)	-0.069** (0.017)	-0.029 (0.028)	-0.039 (0.028)	-0.053 (0.031)	-0.246** (0.035)
9	-0.064** (0.017)	-0.021 (0.029)	-0.033 (0.030)	-0.062* (0.031)	-0.226** (0.040)	-0.087** (0.017)	-0.050 (0.029)	-0.051 (0.029)	-0.080** (0.031)	-0.251** (0.038)
10	-0.078** (0.019)	-0.029 (0.034)	-0.051 (0.033)	-0.074* (0.032)	-0.241** (0.051)	-0.089** (0.019)	-0.042 (0.034)	-0.075* (0.031)	-0.079* (0.032)	-0.244** (0.041)

Notes: The numbers reported are, for each variable of interest, the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regressions, for the disabled as a whole and for the extent of disability groups. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See the data appendix for variable definitions and the text for further details.



**Table 10**  
**Decomposition of Change in Housing Consumption**

	<b>One-Time</b> (1)	<b>Temporary</b> (2)	<b>Chronic Not Severe</b> (3)	<b>Chronic Severe</b> (4)
<b>A. Housing Type</b>				
Homeowner	-0.023 (0.028)	-0.074* (0.029)	-0.004 (0.028)	-0.075 (0.039)
Publicly Subsidized	0.025* (0.010)	0.016 (0.009)	0.018 (0.011)	0.057* (0.024)
Rental	-0.002 (0.028)	0.058* (0.029)	-0.014 (0.028)	0.018 (0.044)
<b>B. Housing Consumption Given Type</b>				
Homeowner	-878.15 (527.49)	-703.35 (650.19)	-331.3 (686.39)	-2,635.54** (540.94)
Rental	-1032.89** (368.07)	-1083.06** (367.90)	-540.82 (433.44)	-1224.87** (382.18)

Notes: The table reports the coefficient estimates on the interaction of each disability group with being after the 6<sup>th</sup> year after onset ( $t \in \{6,10\}$ ). Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. For the upper panel, the dependent variable is a dichotomous variable that equals one if the specified housing type is chosen. For the bottom panel, the dependent variable is the amount of housing consumption, conditional on the housing type chosen. See the text for details.

**Table 11**  
**Estimates of  $\varepsilon_{D,b}$  for Current Disability Compensation Programs to be Optimal**

	Coefficient of Relative Risk Aversion, $\gamma$				
	1	2	3	4	5
$\varepsilon_{D,b}$ such that current compensation for the Chronic-Severe group is optimal	0.1991	0.3982	0.5973	0.7964	0.9955

Notes: This table shows, for a given value of  $\gamma$  (coefficient of relative risk aversion), what  $\varepsilon_{D,b}$  (elasticity of the fraction of a lifetime spent disabled with respect to the disability benefit level) would be if the current compensation programs for the disabled are optimal. Optimality condition is based on Chetty (2007) when we assume that the coefficient of relative prudence is zero.

**Appendices to**  
**Disability, Earnings, Income and Consumption**

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## Appendix 1

### Validation of the Severity Question

In this appendix we examine the association between the responses to the PSID severity question and other indicators of health and disability. The PSID includes three sets of questions that allow us to validate the use of these severity questions as summary indicators of disability severity: 1) the 1986 Health Supplement, 2) the activity limitation questions in the 2003 and 2005 PSID questionnaire, and 3) the condition questions in the 1999-2005 questionnaires. The first two sets of questions allow us to examine the tasks that can be performed by the severely disabled compared to the not severely disabled or the non-disabled. The third set of questions gives us reports of the health conditions that the three groups of individuals have, as diagnosed by a doctor or other health professional.

#### 1A. 1986 Health Supplement

A special health supplement to the 1986 survey asked six questions related to daily activities:

- 1) Do you have any trouble either walking several blocks or climbing a few flights of stairs, because of your health?
- 2) Do you have trouble bending, lifting or stooping because of your health?
- 3) Would your health keep you from driving a car?
- 4) When you travel around your community, does someone have to assist you because of your health?
- 5) Do you have to stay indoors most or all of the day because of your health?
- 6) Does your health confine you to a bed or a chair for most or all of the day?

The respondent is asked to state simply *yes* or *no* to each question. We compare the activity limitations for those reported as severely disabled and those not-severely disabled in 1986. Columns 1 to 3 of Appendix Table 1 show for each severity group the percentage of household heads who report having trouble performing each of the six activities, the percentage having trouble performing at least one of these activities and the average total number of activity limitations. For all six activities, the percentage is higher for the severe group than the not-severe group. We see that 79 percent of the severe group have trouble walking or climbing stairs, while only 41 percent of the not-severe group have such a

problem. Similarly, 82 percent of the severe group has trouble stooping, bending or lifting, while only 53 percent of the not-severe group has such difficulty. The rates for the non-disabled for these two types of limitations are 0.04 and 0.06, respectively. The average total number of activity limitations for the severe group was 2.74, compared to only 1.15 for the not severe group and 0.11 for the non-disabled group.

## **1B. Activity Limitation Questions in the 2003 and 2005 PSID Questionnaires**

After asking each individual about the presence and severity of a work limitation, the 2003 and 2005 surveys ask a series of activity limitation questions. The questions begin with the following statement: “The next questions are about [your/Head’s] ability to do certain activities – by [your/him]self and without special equipment. Because of a health or physical problem, [do you/does he] have any difficulty (performing a specific activity).”

The specific activities include 1) Bathing or showering, 2) Dressing, 3) Eating, 4) Getting in or out of a bed and chair, 5) Walking, 6) Getting outside, 7) Using the bathroom, 8) Preparing own meals, 9) Shopping for personal items or medicines, 10) Managing money, 11) Using telephone, 12) Doing heavy housework (scrubbing floors, washing windows) and 13) Doing light housework (washing dishes, light house cleaning). Generally, each respondent is again asked to state simply *yes* or *no* to each question.<sup>1</sup> These questions are similar to those of the 1986 Health Supplement.

Columns 4 to 6 of Appendix Table 1 report the activity limitation rates of the disability severity groups from the 2003 PSID survey and columns 7 to 9 report these rates from the 2005 PSID survey. For each activity, the severe group once again has a higher propensity to report having a limitation. Specifically, 59 percent of the severely disabled in 2003, and 65 percent in 2005, report difficulty in performing heavy housework. Of the not-severely disabled, only 22 percent (2003) and 25 percent (2005) report such a difficulty. On average, a severely disabled person has approximately 3 activity limitations, while the not-severely disabled have about 0.8, and the non-disabled only 0.05.

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<sup>1</sup> There is a follow-up question after each activity. For the first seven activities, respondents who state “yes,” are then asked: “Does someone usually help [you/him] with that activity?” For the last six activities, the possible answers are “yes,” “no,” or “does not do.” Those who state “Does not do” (i.e. they do not currently perform that activity) are then asked: “Is this because of a health or physical problem?” We classify the respondent as having one of these activity limitations if he says yes also to the follow-up question.

## 1C. Health Limitation Questions in the 1999-2005 PSID Questionnaires

The 1999-2005 surveys also ask questions about the presence of health conditions. Each respondent is first asked, “Has a doctor (or medical professional) ever told you that you have or had (a particular health condition)?” For those who answer yes, the date of onset is recorded and the respondent is then asked, “How much does this condition limit your normal daily activity?” The possible answers are: “A lot,” “Somewhat,” “Just a little,” or “Not at all.”

We are again interested in the shares of the current not severely and severely disabled who report a health condition. The results for all (1999-2005) surveys are very similar; we, therefore, report the average across these survey years. Columns 1 to 3 of Appendix Table 2 present for the currently non-disabled, not-severely disabled and the severely disabled groups, respectively, the fraction that reports having or having had a particular health condition as told by a doctor. In all cases, the frequency for the severe group is considerably higher than the other two groups. Nonetheless, individuals who answered affirmatively to this health condition question may have had the condition many years ago and have since recovered.

We are more interested in how a condition affects activities currently rather than in the past. Thus, we use the follow-up question regarding how much the condition limits the head and consider only those who answered, “A lot,” “Somewhat,” or “Just a little” as having a limitation currently. Columns 4 to 6 report these percentages. It is again evident that the severe group reports a much higher share of people with a health condition that currently limits their activities.

Finally, we consider the seriousness of a health condition itself by looking at the percentage of people who report that a particular health condition currently limits them “A lot.” Columns 7 to 9 report these results, which display the now familiar pattern – the severe group has the highest rate of serious health conditions. The severe group averages 1.13 serious health limitations, compared to 0.15 for the not-severe group, and less than 0.01 for the non-disabled group. Thus, the severely disabled group not only has more types of limiting conditions, but also has them in more serious forms.

Taken together, the consistent response patterns in these surveys support the view that the self-reported severity questions are good indicators of the true severity of disabling conditions.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ideally, we would like to have certified medical professionals to verify these self-reported activity limitations. To our knowledge, however, there is no survey that asks both about self-reported severity and includes information about activity limitations that are externally assessed.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Additional Results**

#### **2A. Chronic-Severe Disability Spells after an Initially Milder Disability**

Our results suggest that on average members of the Chronic-Severe group experience a large long-term drop in their material well-being. Our disability classification, however, is based only on the first observed disability and the subsequent ten years. We would like to determine if it is appropriate to combine our results on the decline in material well-being for initial Chronic-Severe disabilities with our lifetime frequencies that are reported in Table 4 and Appendix Table 3. Specifically, we ask whether those non-Chronic-Severe disabled individuals whose disability classification subsequently changes to Chronic-Severe over time (using a rolling ten-year-ahead window) exhibit outcomes similar to those in the original Chronic-Severe group. To do so, we re-run our fixed effect regressions using only these new Chronic-Severe disability spells. We determine the year of onset as the year when their disability classification switches to Chronic-Severe, but we still use the period before their first observed disability as the years before onset. We find that the long-term changes in various outcomes based on these Chronic-Severe disability spells that begin after other spells are qualitatively similar to those of the original Chronic-Severe group presented above.

#### **2B. Social Security Reciprocity**

The evidence we presented in the paper suggests that the Chronic-Severe group fares particularly badly relative to the other groups. We also see that in the long run (six to ten years after disability onset), about 48 percent of these men receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits. A natural question to ask then is how those Chronic-Severe disabled who receive Social Security fare relative to their non-receiving counterparts. To examine this issue, we split the Chronic-Severe group into those who receive Social Security benefits more than half of the time within the ten years after disability onset (SSA recipients) and those who do not (SSA non-recipients). Appendix Figure 4 illustrates the fixed effects regression results for annual earnings.

The drop in earnings for the SSA recipient Chronic-Severe group is much larger than that for the SSA non-recipient Chronic-Severe group. This difference is not surprising given that SSDI recipients cannot have earnings above a certain level and maintain eligibility. Next, we look at the changes in hours of work, which are shown in Appendix Figure 5. These results suggest that on average the annual hours worked of the SSA recipient Chronic-Severe group falls sharply relative to the SSA non-recipient Chronic-Severe group.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, we study how income and consumption differ between social security recipients and non-recipients. Appendix Figure 6 displays the results for income, and Appendix Figure 7 for food and housing consumption. These figures suggest that the fall in material well being is very similar for the two Chronic-Severe groups. In the sixth through tenth years after onset, average after-tax post-transfer income is similar for the two groups, but food consumption drops a bit more for the nonrecipients of social security benefits. When combined with the changes in earnings and hours, this result suggests that those who receive Social Security payments stop working earlier than those who do not. Nonetheless, the fall in material well-being is very similar for the two groups.

## **2C. Additional Specifications: Changes over Time and Differences by Wealth**

We have also examined whether the material consequences of disability have changed over time. To do so, we split the disabled into two samples: those who are first disabled before 1985, and those disabled later. We estimate the regressions on these two samples separately and find that the two sets of results for the Chronic-Severe group are very similar.

We have also studied the changes in economic outcomes for those with high (above median) and low (below median) net wealth. The results suggest that the consumption decline for those Chronic-Severe disabled with high net wealth is in general smaller than that for their less wealthy counterparts over the first seven years after disability onset. Beginning in the eighth year after onset, the consumption decline for these two Chronic-Severe groups is quite similar. This evidence is consistent with our finding that the Chronic-Severe disabled smooth their consumption somewhat by running down their wealth, but the estimates are noisy due to small sample sizes.

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<sup>3</sup> In theory, the net effect of the availability of SSDI benefits on a disabled person's work hours decision is ambiguous because the income effect of the benefit can induce him to work more or less (or no change), depending on his taste for leisure.



## 2D. Food Consumption vs. Food Expenditures

The results in Section 6 suggest that the disabled suffer from a sizable drop in food consumption, particularly so for the Chronic-Severe group. We should interpret these estimates with care, however, because the PSID records only food expenditure. As Becker (1965) notes, consumption is the output of home production that uses both expenditure and time as ingredients. Individuals with a lower relative price of time may substitute expenditure with more time spent in home production. Becker's ideas have strong implications for our conclusions because the fall in food consumption we observe for the disabled may be a result of: 1) the disabled spending more time shopping and searching for bargains, thus getting lower prices for the same quantity of goods and/or 2) the disabled spending more time on food preparation, which may turn cheaper ingredients into better food.<sup>4</sup> In this section, we investigate these two possibilities in turn.

We use data from the 1989-1991 Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals (CSFII) to examine the food quantity that the disabled consume. To study whether the disabled spend more time shopping and preparing food, we mainly use the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). For clarity of exposition, we include descriptions of the surveys in the subsections below. As before, we focus on male household heads ages 22-61. To determine the effect of disability, we estimate:

$$(A1) \quad Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 D + X\beta + u$$

where  $Y$  is the dependent variable of interest,  $D$  is an indicator variable that equals one if the individual is disabled,  $\beta_1$  is the coefficient of interest,  $X$  is a vector of demographic controls including age, age-squared of the male head, year, month of survey, geographical regions, family composition, education and race.

Other than the question about whether an individual has a disability, CSFII and ATUS ask no other disability-related questions.<sup>5</sup> Thus, we can only study the disabled as a whole for the remainder of this section.

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<sup>4</sup> Aguiar and Hurst (2005) highlight this distinction by explaining that the fall in food expenditure after retirement that is observed in many studies is due to retirees shopping for food more frequently and spending more time on food preparation (which affects quality of the food eaten).

<sup>5</sup> See the data appendix (Appendix 3) on how we define disability in the ATUS using matched information from the ASEC.

## Food Consumption

We first study the quantity of food consumption at the household level using the CSFII. CSFII is a repeated cross-sectional survey which collects detailed information on the type and quantity of food consumed by the non-institutionalized population in the 48 coterminous states. CSFII was implemented annually in 1989-1991 and 1994-1996 and 1998. The survey begins with a general household questionnaire followed by three one-day food diaries. We use only the 1989-1991 surveys because the question about the presence of disability was not asked in the 1994-1997 surveys. The 1989-1991 surveys also interviewed a low income sample; we present results with and without this low income sample. Our sample includes 3,253 male household heads ages 22-61 of whom 362 (11.1 percent) are disabled. There are 2,214 male household heads who completed all three one-day diaries, of whom 266 (12 percent) are disabled.<sup>6</sup>

Columns 1 and 2 in Appendix Table 8 show the descriptive statistics by current disability status. On average, disabled households spend less on food than their non-disabled counterparts, both for food eaten at home and for food eaten outside. Column 3 reports the estimates of  $\beta_1$  in equation (6) for the full sample and column 4 reports these results for the main sample only (that is, excluding the low-income sample). The results suggest that conditional on the observables, a family with a disabled head expends on average 16 percent less on food than its non-disabled counterpart in the full sample (and 11 percent less in the main sample).

For comparison, we have also estimated similar regressions using the PSID data with and without individual fixed effects; the results are tabulated in columns 5 and 6. The PSID estimates without fixed effects are very similar to the CSFII results in column 4, which excludes the low-income sample. When fixed effects are included, however, the fall in food consumption is smaller. For total and home food expenditures, the fixed effects estimates are about half as big as those without fixed effects, but remain statistically significant at the 1 percent level.

To see whether the disabled suffer from a change in the quantity of food consumed, we examine the change in their log consumption index developed by Aguiar and Hurst (2005). The consumption index is constructed by studying how permanent income can be predicted based on what food the

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<sup>6</sup> If we exclude the low-income sample, the sample size falls to 2,431 male household heads, of whom 215 (8.8 percent) are disabled. Selecting only those who completed the three one-day diaries, gives us 1,676 male household heads, of whom 164 (9.8 percent) are disabled.

household head eats. The data appendix (Appendix 3) includes details of its construction but we include a simplified description here. We first predict permanent income of the non-disabled household heads using education, industry, occupation and demographic controls. We then regress predicted permanent income on the household's food expenses, household composition and the head's food consumption quantities. Using only the resulting estimated coefficients pertaining to consumption (food quantities and food expenses), we obtain the log consumption index. A one percent decline in the log consumption index implies that households are consuming as though their permanent income has fallen by one percent. By comparing the log consumption indexes of the disabled and the non-disabled heads, we can see how disability affects consumption.

The regression results (shown in the fifth row of Appendix Table 8) suggest that the disabled experience a decline in consumption equal to 3 percent of their permanent income in the full sample and 2% in the main sample. Since the CSFII disabled sample includes the disabled with all degrees of persistence and severity, it is reasonable to surmise that the actual drop in the log consumption index for our Chronic-Severe group is likely to be much higher than this estimate.

We also observe a decline in the nutrition of the disabled individual himself, with about a 10-15 percent drop in intake of Vitamin A, Vitamin C and Vitamin E, as Appendix Table 8 reports.<sup>7</sup> Finally, we looked at the change in the frequency of eating out. The results indicate that households with a disabled head are less likely to eat out (8 percentage points lower). This difference mostly comes from fewer meals in fast-food outlets (7.8 percentage points lower) and restaurants with table service (5.4 percentage points lower).

### **Food Preparation/Shopping**

To consider whether the disabled also spend more time on food preparation and shopping, we make use of the 2003-2006 ATUS, a large cross-sectional survey of time use by the non-institutionalized population of the United States. Households that have completed the last round of their monthly CPS are randomly selected, and one member of each selected household is interviewed. Like the monthly CPS, the ATUS does not have a disability question that is asked of everyone. The Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS (ASEC) does ask a disability question of everyone, regardless of their

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<sup>7</sup> There is no evidence, however, of a decline in the intake of calcium, cholesterol, saturated fat or protein.

employment status. Respondents whose final CPS interview takes place between March and June of the year are potentially also selected to participate in the ATUS. Using this link, we can obtain the disability status of a subset of ATUS respondents.

For our analysis, we again look at male household heads who are 22-61 years of age. Linking the ASEC with the ATUS yields a sample of 4,650 male household heads, with 6.8 percent of them classified as disabled. We study their time spent (in hours per week) on food preparation, food shopping and all kinds shopping. The upper section of Appendix Table 9 reports the results for these male household heads. Columns 1 and 2 report the weighted average number of hours spent per week on each of these three activities for the non-disabled and disabled male household heads, respectively. Column 3 reports the results of estimating equation (6) with time use as the dependent variable in each category.<sup>8</sup>

Currently disabled male heads are estimated to spend 0.66 hours per week (5.7 minutes per day) more on food preparation.<sup>9</sup> Relative to the mean for the non-disabled, this represents a 34 percent increase in the time spent on food preparation, but the amount of time is small. The disabled spend more time improving food quality, but this increase takes up only a small fraction of their extra 24.3 hours of leisure hours per week (see section 2E of this appendix). There is no evidence that the disabled spend more time shopping. It is possible that the disabled spend more time on food preparation simply because they have much more extra time to spend or that their disability makes their time less productive and they compensate by using more time to prepare meals than their non-disabled counterparts.

It is important to recognize, however, that these food preparation and shopping activities may be done by the spouse instead of the head. The lower section of Appendix Table 9 reports the results for a sample of 3,658 wives of household heads, 132 (4 percent) of whom have disabled husbands. The sample means show that married females spend more time on food preparation and shopping activities than the average male household heads do. We estimate equation (6), but with time spent by the wife as the dependent variable; we also include her disability status as an extra control. Column 3 reports the

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<sup>8</sup> These regressions control for the age and age-squared of the head, education, region, urbanicity, year, marital status, race, number of children, number of adults, and the month of the ATUS interview.

<sup>9</sup> If we identify the disabled via the Basic CPS monthly labor status recode, which likely heavily weights the more severely disabled people due to their being out of the labor force completely, the results suggest that the disabled spend 1.07 hours per week (9.2 minutes per day) more on food preparation than the non-disabled. This small difference suggests that the severely disabled also do not spend much additional time on food preparation.

estimated coefficient on the head's disability indicator variable. These results suggest that the average wife of a disabled husband does not spend more time on food preparation and shopping given the small, negative, and statistically insignificant estimates. Overall, these findings are inconsistent with the fall in food expenditure among the disabled being purely due to more time spent on food preparation and shopping.

## **2E. Disability, Time Use and Leisure**

The discussion so far points to the conclusion that there is a decline in the material well-being of the disabled. A related question is whether there is a corresponding increase in leisure. This is important for two reasons. First, leisure is an input in an individual's utility function. Second, we saw previously in our analysis that working hours decline following disability; due to the presence of non-market work, however, it remains premature to conclude that leisure increases following disability. In this section, we look at the differences in the leisure patterns of the disabled and the non-disabled.

We again make use of the ATUS. The battery of time-use information in the ATUS allows us to look at time use for many specific activities. In theory, all non-work activities can be defined as leisure, but we prefer to investigate activities that directly affect personal enjoyment. We define Leisure (Narrow) to include all time spent on socializing and communicating, pet care, social events, relaxing, television watching, radio listening, playing games, computer use for leisure, hobbies, reading and writing for personal interest, sports and recreation, traveling for leisure, and telephone use and mailing. Our Leisure (Broad) includes all of the activities above and adds eating, personal care and sleeping.<sup>10</sup>

We again estimate equation (6) with time spent on each category as the dependent variable. Column 3 of Appendix Table 10 reports the results of these regressions. These regression estimates confirm the patterns in the sample means (Columns 1 and 2). Measuring leisure narrowly, the disabled enjoy 18.2 hours per week more than their non-disabled counterparts. Most of this extra leisure time is spent watching TV – 10.6 hours per week, with an additional 3.2 hours spent “relaxing.” There are increases in other time-use categories as well, but they are small in general.

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<sup>10</sup> Our Narrow and Broad leisure measures are the same as “Leisure 1” and “Leisure 2” in Aguiar and Hurst (2007).

Measuring leisure broadly, the disabled enjoy 24.3 hours per week of leisure more than the non-disabled do. The six-hour increase (relative to measuring leisure narrowly) is due almost entirely to increased time spent sleeping – the disabled spend 6.8 hours more per week sleeping than the non-disabled. We also do not see any evidence that the disabled spend more time on vacation, despite enjoying almost an extra day of leisure per week than the non-disabled.

Finally, we examine the time spent using medical services (for example, visiting doctors). The results indicate that the disabled on average spend 7.2 hours per week more on this activity than their non-disabled counterparts.

Although not reported, we have also investigated the time use of wives of the disabled. On average, wives of the disabled do not spend more time working than those whose husbands are not disabled; this is consistent with the PSID results discussed earlier. Maybe surprisingly, there is also no conclusive evidence that wives of disabled husbands spend more time on caring for adult family members.

## Appendix 3

### Data Appendix

This appendix provides details of the surveys and the construction of the various variables. Section 1 is devoted to the PSID; it explains the construction of the sample, how year of disability is determined, the severity questions, and the construction of key variables. Section 2 explains these details for CSFII. Section 3 explains these details for ATUS. Section 4 describes the independent variables we include in our regression models.

#### 1. Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)

##### *A. The PSID Sample*

Our sample consists of the male household heads in the 22-61 age range during the survey years 1968-2005. We retain all disability information outside this age range. We require the person to be in the survey for at least six years, to be 22-61 years old for at least four interviews, three of which must be consecutive. We also require that disabled respondents whose positive limitation report came after 1978 to have two consecutive years of non-disability immediately before the first positive limitation report. All disabled persons must have at least three years of data in the subsequent ten years after the determined year of disability onset. This last requirement eliminates those who are first observed to be disabled in 2001, 2003 or 2005.

We replace missing demographic variables with those from the nearest survey year, if available. The number of individuals in the primary sample is 6,301, of whom 1,819 (29 percent) indicate the presence of a limitation during the survey years.

##### *B. Determining the Year of Disability Onset*

For those who are first observed to be disabled before 1979, the year of disability onset is determined by the responses to the retrospective question of when the work limitation began. The wording of the retrospective question is, “*How long have you been limited in this way by your health?*”

The PSID codes the responses into four categories: 0-18 months, 2-4 years, 5-7 years, 8 or more years. For the 1978 survey, the exact number of years the individual has been limited is recorded. The retrospective question is unavailable for the 1976 and 1977 waves.

We use the response to the retrospective question in each year to determine the interval into which the onset year must fall. Given the panel nature of the data, we may have more than one interval for some disabled. Accordingly, we determine the intersection of these intervals, taking the onset year to be the earliest year within this intersection. If the individual's first observed disability is prior to the earliest year given in responses to the retrospective questions, we take the year of first observed disability as the year of onset. We drop from the sample those who in every year answer "8 or more years," as the onset of their condition might precede their working years.

For the disabled who do not answer these retrospective questions, we require two consecutive years of non-disability immediately prior to the first observed positive limitation. Note also that first reports of disability may come as much as a year later than the condition's actual onset. An individual who first reports disability in the 1990 wave, for example, may in fact have had his condition since soon after his previous interview in 1989. We therefore adjust his year of onset to the midpoint of the interview date in which he reported a positive limitation and the interview date in the previous year, if available. Should this midpoint fall in year  $t-1$  for an individual who first reported disability in year  $t$ , his year of onset would be year  $t-1$ . This adjustment is made only for those who do not answer the retrospective disability questions.

### *C. PSID Severity Questions and Possible Responses*

The following table shows the PSID questions regarding the severity of limiting conditions over time. We use only the severity reports up to the tenth year after onset.



### Severity Questions and Possible Responses

<b>Screening question:</b> * Do you have any physical or nervous condition that limits the type or amount of work you can do? (In the 1969-1971 surveys, this question is divided into two parts.)	
<b>Survey Years</b>	<b>Question and the possible responses</b>
1968, and 1972-1976	How much does it limit your work? 1) Completely: “I can’t work,” 2) Severely: “It limits me a lot,” 3) “Some,” “Not much,” can only work a few hours at a time, “must rest,” mentions part-time work; can’t lift heavy objects; reports periods of pain, 4) Limitation, but not on work
1977-1985	Does it limit your work a lot, somewhat, or just a little? 1) A lot, 2) Somewhat, 3) Just a little
1986-2005	A) Does this condition keep you from doing some type of work? 1) Yes, 2) No (that is, Not limiting), 3) Can do nothing  If respondent’s answer to A) is “Yes”:  B) For work you can do, how much does it limit the amount of work you can do – a lot, somewhat or just a little? 1) A lot, 2) Somewhat, 3) Just a little, 4) Not at all, 5) Answered “Can do nothing” or “Not limiting” in the preceding question

\*Both the screening and the severity questions asked only of new entrants in 1973-1975.

Those who respond “A little,” “Somewhat,” “Not limiting” or “Not at all” to the severity question are defined as “Currently Not Severely” disabled. Otherwise, those who report “Can do nothing,” “Completely,” “A lot” or “Severely” are defined as “Currently Severely” disabled.

#### *D. Sources of Demographic Variables*

The PSID includes family level data and individual level data. While the same variable can appear in both files, it need not be identical. Based on the assessment of PSID staff, we select our variables as follows: age of head (individual level), marital status of head (family level), education of head (family level).

#### *E. Sources of Public Transfer Variables*

We construct measures of different types of transfers and total transfers received at the family level. The PSID does not always record all benefits that family members receive. In some cases, it reports only those transfers received by the head. We use whatever information is available and scale

the receipt by the (inverse of the) reporting rates given in Meyer, Mok and Sullivan (2006): AFDC/TANF (0.588), unemployment insurance (0.662), workers' compensation (0.345), all Social Security benefits (1.010), SSI (0.601) and Food Stamps (0.779). We do not scale the receipt of Veterans' benefits and other welfare received. We use the SSDI reporting rate to scale up all Social Security receipts because we focus on the age range 22-61, and about 87 percent of the Social Security recipients in the Chronic-Severe group receive SSDI rather than retirement or survivors' benefits in the six to ten years after disability.

Beginning in the survey year 1994 (1993 benefits), the public data release gives all benefit variables except Social Security in the following format: 1) Amount received, 2) Whether the amount specified is per year, per month, per two weeks, per week, or other, 3) In which months of the year such benefits were received. If the respondent specified that the amount received was on a per year basis, we take the reported amount as the annual amount. Otherwise, we convert the reported amount to a monthly basis and multiply the result by the number of months such benefits were received.

During 1969-1974 and 1994-2003 all public benefits for other family members (non-head, non-spouse) are reported in a variable that combines public and private transfers. We take 85 percent of the reported public plus private transfers as the amount of public transfers such family members received. This percentage is the average public share of public plus private transfers received by other family members in the earlier years of the PSID.

The source of each benefit variable is as follows:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Workers' Compensation (WC) – Data on UI and WC receipts come from the PSID family file. These benefits are reported categorically in 1968-1969, and we take the midpoint in each category as the amount received. UI and WC are reported for the head only in 1968-1974 surveys. UI and WC are combined in 1968-1975 surveys, and we divide them equally. The benefits are reported only for the head and spouse in 1994-2005 surveys (except for the amount received in 2003, which is elicited in the 2005 survey).
- Social Security (SS) – These benefits are reported only of the head in 1968-1970 surveys, and reported of the head and the spouse in 1971-1974 surveys. SS is reported for the whole family beginning in the 1975 survey. These benefits are reported categorically in 1968-1969, and we take the midpoint in each category as the amount received.

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – These benefits are reported for the whole family in 1975-1993, 1999 (for amount received in 1997), 2001 (for amount received in 1999) and 2005 (for amount received in 2003). Otherwise, these benefits are reported only for the head and spouse.
- Food Stamps – These are reported in every survey year except 1972. As a result, we set Food Stamps in 1972 to missing.
- Other Welfare – These benefits are reported categorically in 1968-1969, and we take the midpoint in each category as the amount received. These benefits are reported only for the head and wife (combined) in 1968-1974 surveys.
- Veterans’ Benefits – These benefits are not separately reported in the 1968-1970 surveys and they are part of “other retirement pay” in 1971-1983 surveys. These benefits are reported only for the head in 1971-1974.
- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – These benefits are reported only for the head in the 1969-1970 surveys and only for the head and wife (combined) in the 1971-1974 and 1993-2005 surveys (except for receipt in 2003 asked in the 2005 survey).
- More detail on the reporting of public transfers in the PSID can be found in Appendix Table 1 of Meyer, Mok and Sullivan (2006).

#### *F. Sources of Labor, Income and Food Variables*

Annual earnings, annual hours worked and family income come from the PSID family file. Hourly earnings are obtained by dividing annual earnings by annual hours worked. In the pre-1994 data, we convert PSID measures of work hours lost due to illness and unemployment into days lost, assuming an eight hour working day.

All food variables come from the PSID family files. Total amount of food consumed at home is the sum of reported expenses for food at home, food delivered to home and food purchased with Food Stamps. The amount of money spent on food consumed outside the home is reported on a categorical basis in 1968; we take the midpoint of the specified range as the actual amount.

There are instances when some families' food expense variables have zero values. If food consumed at home is reported as zero, we treat it as missing. Food consumed outside the home is treated as missing if expenditures on food consumed at home is also zero for the family. The logarithms of these food variables are set to zero if these variables are equal to or below one.

### *G. Poverty Thresholds*

We use the official poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Census Bureau annually from 1980 to present. For poverty thresholds prior to 1980, we use the CPI-U-RS to index the 1980 thresholds backwards.

### *H. Estimating Federal Income Tax Liabilities*

We estimate a family's federal income tax liability using TAXSIM.<sup>11</sup> We determine the number of dependents, the amount of asset income, dividend income and earnings for up to two tax units: 1) The head and spouse (if present), and 2) Other family unit members. We are forced to consider all other family unit members together as the income of all such members is reported together in the post 1993 surveys. Family federal income tax liabilities is the sum of the taxes estimated for these two tax units. A detailed technical appendix is available from the authors upon request.

### *I. Housing Type*

To analyze the sources of changes in housing consumption, we divide families' housing consumption into three types of housing: home ownership, private rental, and publicly subsidized housing. Each year, the PSID asks each family in what form of dwelling unit the family resides, with the possible responses: "Own Home," "Renting," and "Not Owning and Not Renting." Questions about whether the family is living in a public housing project and whether the state paid the family's rent are asked in the 1968-1972 and 1986-2005 waves, but not 1973-1985. A family that gives an affirmative answer to either of these public housing question is regarded as a publicly subsidized housing resident.

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<sup>11</sup> The PSID provides estimated taxes only for 1968-1991. To maintain consistency, we use our TAXSIM generated taxes for all years.

To determine whether a family is living in a publicly subsidized housing unit during 1973-1985, we interpolate from the available years if possible. Specifically, we start from the most recent housing response in 1968-1972 waves and assign a family to publicly subsidized housing in the following year if all of the following conditions hold:

- a) The head lived in a publicly subsidized housing unit in the previous year;
- b) The family did not move in the previous year;
- c) The head does not own a home; and
- d) If there is a switch from “Renting” to “Not Owning and Not Renting,” the reason for not paying rent must be: 1) Paid for by someone else, 2) Part of compensation or 3) Other. Based on the 1986-1992 surveys, these are the main responses given among those who also indicate that they are in publicly subsidized housing.

We repeat this procedure going forward from 1973 wave, and follow the analogous procedure going backward from 1985. When the two directions given conflicting answers we base our decision on whether the particular year is closer to 1973 or 1985.

We then use the response of the PSID housing choice question (Owning, Renting, Not Owning and Not Renting) together with these public housing reciprocity indicators to determine the housing type. If a family is renting in a particular year but is receiving public housing, the family is treated as a public housing recipient (partially subsidized). If the family is neither renting nor owning in a year but is receiving public housing, the family is treated as a public housing recipient (fully subsidized). If a family is “Renting” or “Not Owning and Not Renting” but is not receiving public housing, it is treated as renting privately.

#### *J. Housing Expenses and Private/Public Housing Subsidies*

Based on each housing type (as detailed in preceding section) we calculate housing consumption, and any private or public housing subsidy. The method is summarized in the table below. The first entry says, for example, that for those who own their home, their housing consumption during the year is 6 percent of their current home value, and they receive zero private and public housing subsidies.

**Housing Consumption, Private and Public Housing Subsidies**  
**for Each Type of Housing Choice**

<b>Housing Type</b>	<b>Housing Consumption</b>	<b>Private Housing Subsidy</b>	<b>Public Housing Subsidy</b>
<b>Home Ownership</b>	6 percent of home value	Zero	Zero
<b>Private Rental</b>	Rent or the rental equivalent (if he neither rents or owns)	Rental equivalent (if neither rents or owns)	Zero
<b>Publicly Subsidized Housing (Fully subsidized)</b>	Reported rental equivalent	Zero	Reported rental equivalent.
<b>Publicly Subsidized Housing (Partially subsidized)</b>	Housing consumption is the maximum of the estimated rental equivalent and rent paid.	Zero	The amount of rental subsidy is the estimated rental equivalent minus rent paid (set to zero if the difference is negative).

For a family that lives in partially subsidized public housing, the amount of any public housing subsidy received is not reported, and the rent reported is likely to be net rent after any subsidies. To estimate the rental equivalent for those who rent but receive housing subsidies, we do the following:

1. We use the 1986-2005 waves to estimate a rent regression, using the sample of families who rent but do not receive public housing subsidies. The dependent variable is rent paid, and the explanatory variables include state indicator variables, year since 1968, year since 1968 squared, number of rooms, type of unit (two-family house, apartment, trailer, row house and other) and an urbanicity indicator (equal to one if the largest city in the county of residence has a population of 50,000 or more).
2. Using these regression results, we estimate the rental equivalent for those whose housing is partially publicly subsidized as 0.775 times the predicted rent. 0.775 is the mean of the ratio of the reported rental equivalent for those whose housing is fully publicly subsidized to the predictions from the above equation. Because the housing quality for those who receive public housing would generally be lower, we use this factor to scale down the estimated rent for those who receive partial subsidies.

## 2. Continuing Survey of Food Intake of Individuals (CSFII)

### A. Survey Description

The CSFII is a food consumption survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture. Cross-sectional in design, it was implemented annually in 1989-1991 (known as CSFII\_89), 1994-1996 (CSFII\_94) and 1998 (CSFII\_98). The survey begins with a household-level questionnaire (conducted via personal interview) which collects information such as the basic demographic characteristics of household members, household food expenditures and current employment status. Three one-day food diaries (per individual in household) then follow.<sup>12</sup> These diaries record the total food intake of the individual in a particular 24-hour period. The surveys are only representative of individuals who live in the 48 coterminous states; in addition, those who are institutionalized, living away at school or traveling during the survey period are excluded. After the food diaries, there is an optional follow-up survey regarding health perceptions, health status and dietary awareness.

We use only the CSFII\_89 in our analyses because the key disability question is not asked in the other years. The CSFII\_89 included 15,192 individuals in about 6,700 households. It is also important to note that the CSFII\_89 also includes a low-income sample.

### B. Sample Selection

To be consistent with the PSID, we select male household heads who are 22-61 years old during the survey year. In selecting the disabled, we first use the response to the disability question from the first food diary: “Do you have any disability or handicap that limits your activities?” For those household heads who do not answer this disability question, we look at their response to the employment status question: “Which of these activities best describes what you were doing most during the last week?” Individuals who did not answer the disability question, but answered “Disabled, unable to work (combined category)” are regarded as disabled. These restrictions result in a sample of 3,253 male household heads (822 belong to the low-income sample). The disability rate in the full sample is

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<sup>12</sup> For CSFII\_94, interviewees received only two one-day diaries.

11.1 percent.<sup>13</sup> The number of male household heads in the overall sample who completed all three one-day diaries is 2,214.

### *C. Derivation of Food Expenditure, Shopping frequency*

Information regarding how much money was spent on food comes from the household questionnaire. Four questions are asked:

- (1) How much money has this household spent per week or per month during the last three months at the grocery store? Include purchases made with food stamps.*
- (2) About how much of this amount (as in the question above), if any, was for non-food items, such as cleaning or paper products, food bought for feeding a pet or cigarettes?*
- (3) How much has this household spent per week or per month during the last three months at specialty stores – such as bakeries, liquor stores, meat markets, vegetable stands, health food stores and other similar places? Include any expenditures from carryout places when the food was brought into your home.*
- (4) What has been this household's usual amount of money spent per week or per month during the last three months for food bought and eaten away from home? Include food and beverages that never entered your home, that is, eaten at restaurants, fast-food eating places, cafeterias at work or at school, purchased from vending machines, or received from day-care centers, for all household members.*

We define Food At Home expenditure as the sum of the responses to questions (1) and (3) minus the response to (2). Food Away From Home expenditure is the response to question (4). Total food expenditure is the sum of Food At Home and Food Away From Home expenditures. All variables are annualized and defined in 2005 dollars using the CPI-U-RS for all items published in 2007.<sup>14</sup> We define the logarithm of these food expenditure variables similar to the way we do in the PSID. For further details, see the corresponding section in the PSID.

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<sup>13</sup> If we exclude the low-income sample, the disability rate is 8.8 percent.

<sup>14</sup> These CPI-U-RS price indices were downloaded from the US Census Bureau website (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income06/cpiurs.html>) in June 2008.



The shopping frequency variable also comes from the household questionnaire, which asked, “How often does someone do a major food shopping for the household?” The possible responses were: more than once a week, once a week, once every two weeks, and once a month or less.

### C. Derivation of Consumption Index

The consumption index is a measure of permanent income reflected by food consumption. A 1 percent decline in the consumption index implies that households are consuming as though their permanent income had fallen by 1 percent (Aguiar and Hurst, 2005). Specific details about how the consumption index is derived can be found at pages 935-936 in Aguiar and Hurst (2005). A summary description follows.

Aguiar and Hurst (2005) suggest the existence of a relationship between a household’s permanent income and the composition of its diet. To apply their approach to our study, we first obtain permanent income by estimating a regression of income on race, industry and occupation controls (interacted with education) from CSFII data on a sample of non-disabled household heads who were 25-55 years of age and who reported working full time and normally work one to eighty hours per week. Permanent income is then predicted by using the resultant coefficients, giving  $y^{\text{perm},i}$ .

We then estimate a regression of permanent income on the head’s diet:

$$(A2) \quad \ln(y^{\text{perm},i}) = \beta_0 + \alpha_1 c_{1,t}^i + \dots + \alpha_J c_{J,t}^i + \beta_X \ln(x_t^i) + \beta_\theta \theta_t^i + \beta_{age} age_t^i + \beta_{age^2} (age_t^i)^2 + \varepsilon_t^i$$

where  $y^{\text{perm}}$  is the predicted permanent income as described above,  $c_1, \dots, c_J$  are quantity of food consumed by the household head (20 food groups and eight nutritional measures, obtained from the CSFII food diaries<sup>15</sup>),  $x$  is the food expenditure,  $\theta$  is a vector including the household head’s race, sex, size of household, health status, and region of residence.

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<sup>15</sup> The 20 food groups include Dairy Products, Cheese, Beef, Pork, Poultry, Other Meat Products, Eggs, Nut Products, Bread, Biscuits and Related Products, Other Sweets, Staples and Cereals, Fruits, Potatoes, Dark Green Vegetables, Other Vegetables, Tomato Sauce, Fats, Salad Dressings, and Alcoholic Substances. The eight nutritional measures are the logarithms of calories, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, calcium, cholesterol, saturated fat, and protein.

After estimating this regression, the log of the consumption index  $C^{\text{index}}$  is obtained by taking the estimated coefficients pertaining to consumption, that is,

$$(A3) \quad \ln(C^{\text{index}}) = \hat{\alpha}_1 c_1 + \dots + \hat{\alpha}_J c_J + \hat{\beta}_X \ln(x)$$

Note that the expenditure on consumption is included to control for local price differences.

### 3. The American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

#### A. Description of Survey

The ATUS is a large-scale cross-sectional annual survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau since 2003. The primary purpose of the survey is to study how people divide their time among various activities (Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, 2007). Upon completing the eighth and final Basic-CPS interview, a subset of these households is selected and one person (age 15 and above) from each of these households is interviewed (done mostly by Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) approximately three months later.<sup>16</sup> The first ATUS survey included some 40,500 individuals, and the 2004-2006 surveys collected information from 26,328 individuals.

Selected respondents are first asked about basic household characteristics, his/her employment status and to recall the activities and the time spent on each activity done between 4 a.m. of the previous day to 4 a.m. of the interview day.

#### B. Sample Selection

We use the 2003-2006 ATUS surveys. ATUS does not have a usable disability question, so we first match the ATUS data with the corresponding Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the CPS (ASEC) of that year. We keep only those whose ATUS interviews are classified as “Complete” by

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<sup>16</sup> Since the ATUS sample is drawn from the CPS, the universe is essentially the same as that of the CPS (that is, civilian non-institutional population).

ATUS. Upon matching, we have a sample of individuals who participated in both surveys. Two subsamples are derived:

- *The Male Household Head sample:* We select those who were male household heads and aged 22-61 at the time of their ASEC interview. The disabled are those who gave affirmative answers to the disability question, “Does...have a health problem or a disability which prevents work or which limits the kind or amount of work?”
- *The Female Spouse sample:* We select all female spouses who were aged 22-61 and whose husbands were also in this age range. A husband of a spouse is disabled if his response to the ASEC disability question is affirmative.

### *C. Leisure*

Our narrow measure of leisure includes the following time-use categories: Gardening and Pets (care), Socializing, Communicating and Social Events; Arts and Non-Home Entertainment; Relaxation and Smoking; Music and Radio; Games and Hobbies; Reading and Writing; Watching TV, Sports and Recreation; Telephone Calls, Mails and E-Mails; and Travel for Recreation. Our broader measure of leisure includes Eating, Sleeping, and Personal Care; in addition to the categories in the aforementioned narrow leisure measure. A six-digit classification number is given to each activity; a list of the classification numbers we include for each time-use category is available from the authors upon request.

### *D. Vacation*

Data on vacation comes from the 2005-2006 ATUS trip files. These files contain information on the number of trips, the purpose of each trip and the duration of the trip in a reference month. We consider only those trips that are for vacation and visiting friends and families. Unlike results for leisure hours, results for vacation are not weighted because ATUS does not recommend using weights on these vacation data (see Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, 2007, page 23).

## 4. Independent Variables in Regressions

In this section, we list the regressors we have included in our main regression models.

### *A. PSID Fixed Effects Regressions*

*In all regressions we include:*

1) Year indicator variables, 2) State indicator variables, 3) Indicator variable for being married, 4) Four education indicators (high school, some college, completed college education and some graduate studies), 5) Age and age-squared, 6) Time dummies for the year since onset, 21 in total (representing the ten years before and after the year of disability). A separate set of time dummies for each different disability group is also included (except in Table 10 and Appendix Table 5, where we include an indicator variable that equals one if the observation is from the 6-10 years after disability).

*When the dependent variable is earnings, hours, hourly earnings, income or public transfers we additionally include:*

1) Age and education interactions, 2) Age-squared and education interactions, 3) Education and year minus 1968 interactions, 4) Education and year minus 1968 squared interactions, 5) Number of members in the family (for income and public transfer regressions only).

*In the food and food plus housing regressions we additionally include:*

1) Number of men and its square, 2) Number of women and its square, 3) Number of Young adults (11-17 years old) and its square, 4) Number of children (0-10 years old) and its square.

### *B. Regressions using CSFII include:*

1) Year indicator variables, 2) Geographic region indicator variables, 3) Education indicator variables, 4) Race indicator variables, 5) Age of head and its square, 6) Number of adults, 7) Number of children under 18 years of age, 8) An indicator variable for residence in a central city, 9) An indicator variable for disability.

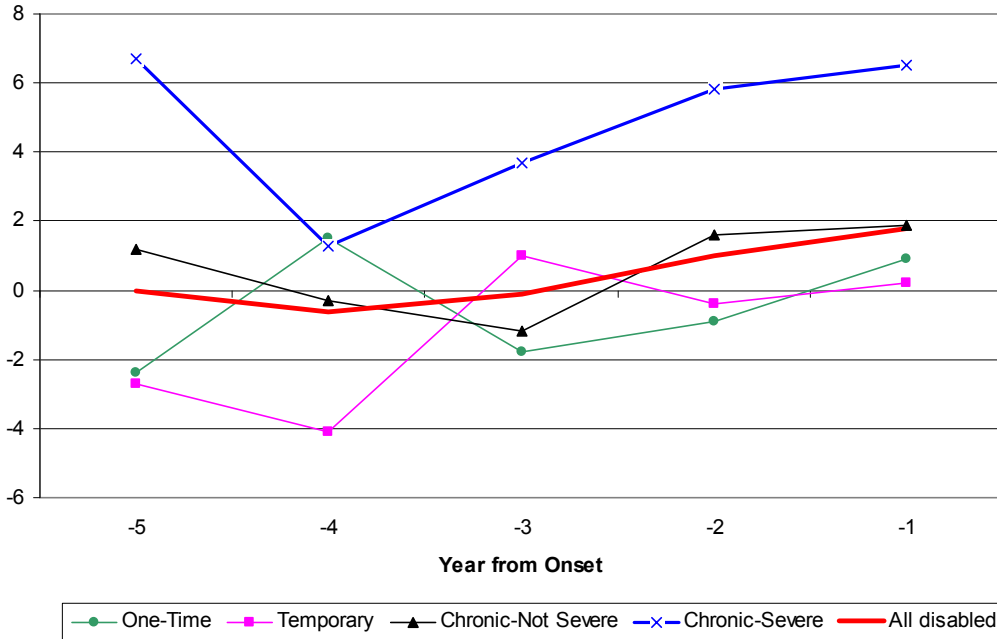
*C. Regressions using ATUS include:*

1) Age and age-squared, 2) Education indicator variables, 3) Region indicator variables, 4) Year indicator variables, 5) Number of adults, 6) Number of children under 18 years of age, 7) Race indicator variables, 8) A married indicator variable, 9) Month of ATUS survey indicator variables, 10) A disability indicator variable for the household head.

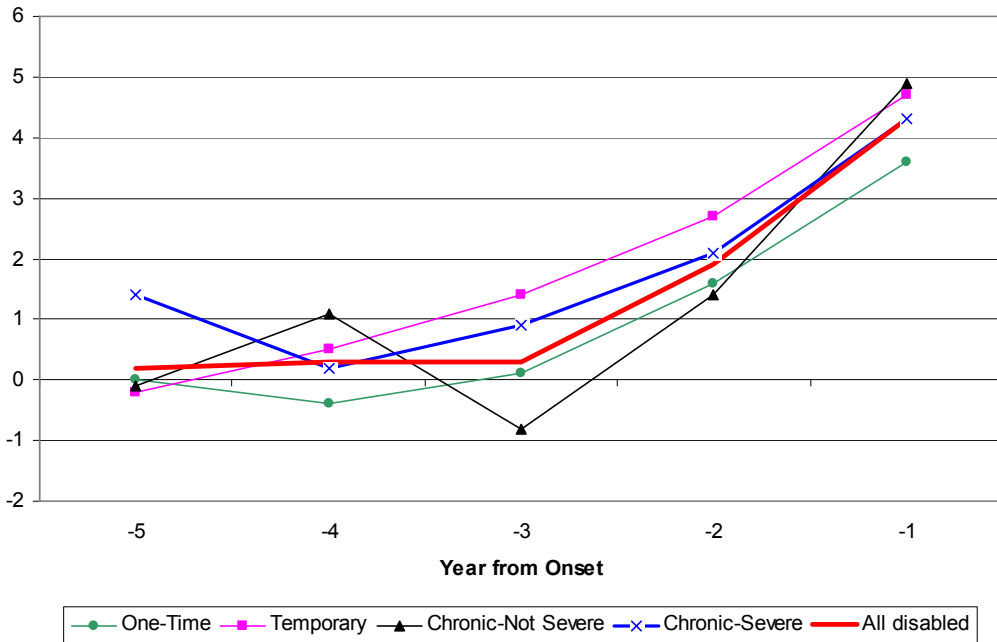
*For the female spouse sample we additionally include:*

1) A disability indicator variable for the husband, 2) Age of husband.

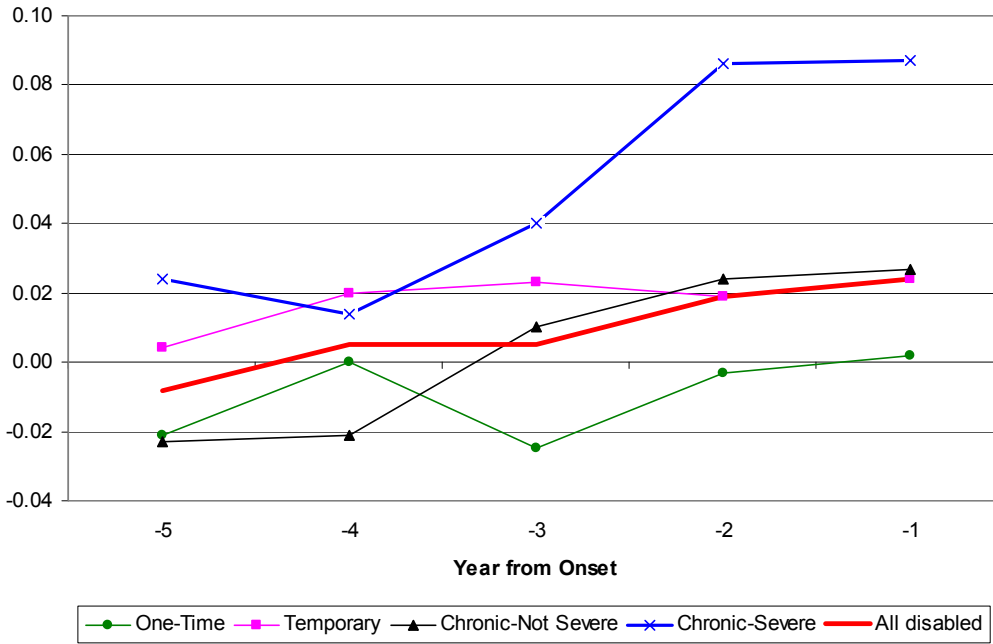
**Appendix Figure 1**  
**Work Days Lost due to Unemployment Before Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



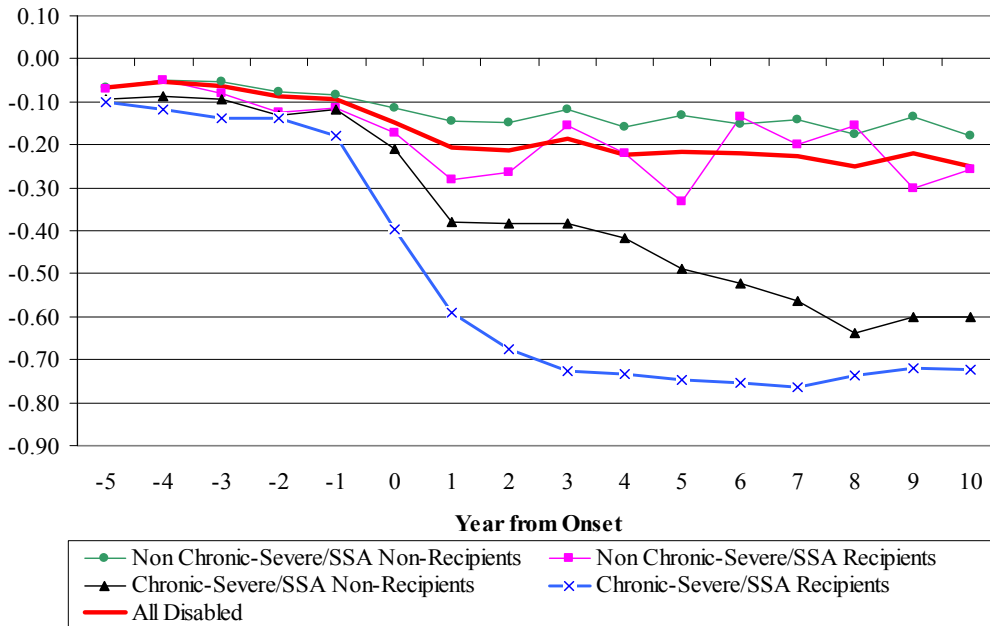
**Appendix Figure 2**  
**Work Days Lost due to Illness Before Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



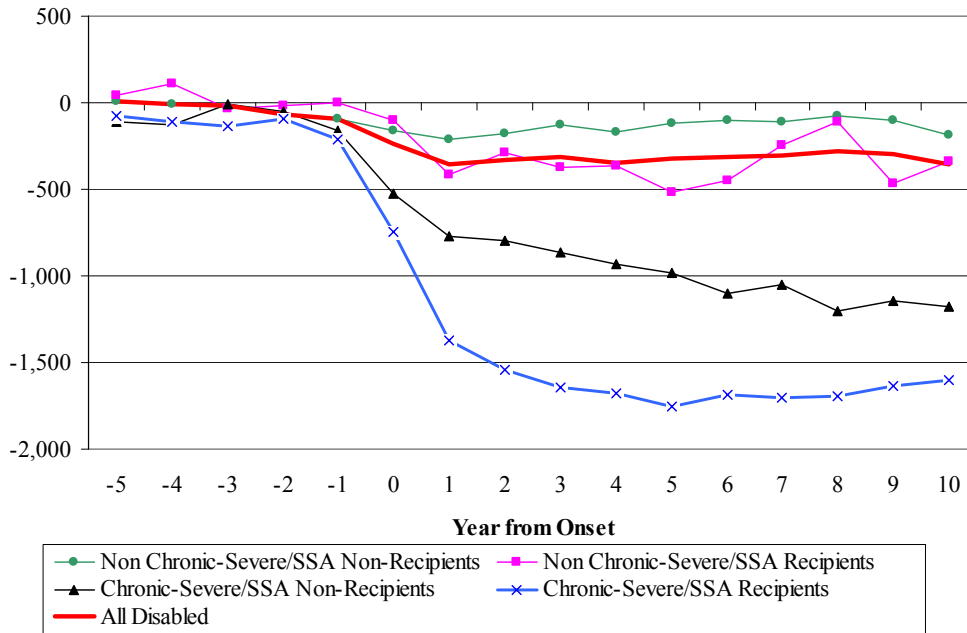
**Appendix Figure 3**  
**Probability of Fair or Poor Health Before Disability Onset,**  
**Extent of Disability Groups and All Disabled**



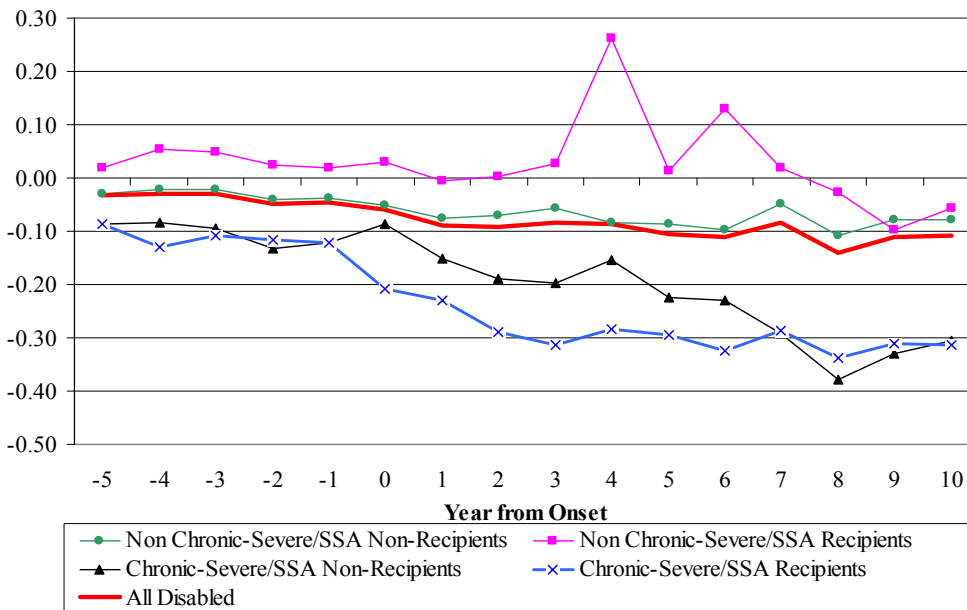
**Appendix Figure 4**  
**Change in Annual Earnings Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Groups Defined by SSA Benefit Receipt and Disability**



**Appendix Figure 5**  
**Change in Annual Hours of Work Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Groups Defined by SSA Benefit Receipt and Disability**



**Appendix Figure 6**  
**Change in After-Tax Post-Transfer Income**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Groups Defined by SSA Benefit Receipt and Disability**





**Appendix Figure 7**  
**Change in Log Food plus Housing Consumption**  
**Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**Groups Defined by SSA Benefit Receipt and Disability**



**Appendix Table 1**  
**Severity and Activity Limitations of PSID Male Household Heads**

A. 1986 Health Supplement				B. 2003 and 2005 PSID						
	Non- disabled (1)	Not Severe (2)	Severe (3)		2003			2005		
					Non- disabled (4)	Not Severe (5)	Severe (6)	Non- disabled (7)	Not Severe (8)	Severe (9)
Walking/Stairs	0.04	0.41	0.79	Bathing/Showering	0.00	0.04	0.16	0.00	0.03	0.19
Bending/Lifting	0.06	0.53	0.82	Dressing	0.00	0.05	0.17	0.00	0.03	0.23
Driving	0.00	0.09	0.35	Eating	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.07
Assistance for Travel	0.00	0.03	0.23	Getting in/out of a Bed/Chair	0.00	0.10	0.29	0.01	0.11	0.30
Stay Indoors	0.00	0.04	0.30	Walking	0.01	0.18	0.44	0.01	0.21	0.50
Bed/Chair Confinement	0.00	0.04	0.25	Getting Outside	0.00	0.03	0.13	0.00	0.05	0.15
				Using Toilet	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.00	0.01	0.07
				Preparing Own Meals	0.00	0.03	0.12	0.00	0.02	0.18
				Shopping for Personal Items	0.00	0.04	0.17	0.00	0.04	0.22
				Managing Money	0.01	0.05	0.18	0.01	0.06	0.17
				Using Telephones	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.07
				Heavy Housework	0.01	0.22	0.59	0.01	0.25	0.65
				Light Housework	0.00	0.03	0.20	0.00	0.05	0.24
Any Limitation	0.08	0.63	0.92	Any Limitation	0.03	0.36	0.76	0.03	0.40	0.82
Total Number of Limitations	0.11	1.15	2.74	Total Number of Limitations	0.04	0.80	2.58	0.05	0.87	3.00
N	3,823	319	131	N	4,261	393	199	4,357	347	223

Notes: The sample consists of male household heads 22-61 years of age in the 1986, 2003 and 2005 PSID. This table shows the percentage of currently non-disabled, not severely and severely disabled male household heads 22-61 years of age reported having the specified activity limitation, the percentage having trouble performing at least one of these activities, the average total number of activity limitations, and the sample size. In 1986, the six activity questions are: 1) Do you have any trouble either walking several blocks or climbing a few flights of stairs, because of your health? 2) Do you have trouble bending, lifting or stooping because of your health? 3) Would your health keep you from driving a car? 4) When you travel around your community, does someone have to assist you because of your health? 5) Do you have to stay indoors most or all of the day because of your health? 6) Does your health confine you to a bed or a chair for most or all of the day? The possible answers to these activity questions are "yes" or "no." For the 2003 and 2005 surveys, the head is asked "Because of a health or physical problem, do you have any difficulty in 1) Bathing or showering, 2) Dressing, 3) Eating, 4) Getting in or out of a bed or chair, 5) Walking, 6) Getting Outside, 7) Using the bathroom, 8) Preparing own meals, 9) Shopping for personal items or medicines, 10) Managing money, 11) Using Telephone, 12) Doing heavy housework (Scrubbing Floor, washing windows), 13) Doing light housework (washing dishes, light house cleaning). The possible answers to these activity questions are generally "yes" or "no."

**Appendix Table 2**  
**Severity and Health Limitations of PSID Male Household Heads– Average of 1999-2005 Surveys**

Health Limitation	Percentage with Condition								
	A. Doctor Diagnosed the Condition			B. Currently Limiting Daily Activities			C. Currently Limiting Daily Activities A Lot		
	Non-disabled (1)	Not Severe (2)	Severe (3)	Non-disabled (4)	Not Severe (5)	Severe (6)	Non-disabled (7)	Not Severe (8)	Severe (9)
Stroke	0.006	0.042	0.089	0.002	0.027	0.083	0.000	0.005	0.059
High Blood Pressure or Hypertension	0.164	0.344	0.445	0.021	0.159	0.295	0.001	0.011	0.111
Diabetes or High Blood Sugar	0.047	0.123	0.187	0.013	0.081	0.143	0.001	0.013	0.073
Cancer, Malignant Tumor, Skin Cancer	0.012	0.026	0.060	0.002	0.017	0.047	0.001	0.006	0.032
Lung Disease	0.014	0.062	0.133	0.005	0.045	0.119	0.001	0.008	0.083
Heart Attack	0.014	0.072	0.131	0.004	0.048	0.114	0.000	0.003	0.071
Heart Disease	0.024	0.103	0.177	0.007	0.077	0.151	0.001	0.010	0.093
Emotional, Nervous or Psychiatric	0.026	0.131	0.274	0.010	0.099	0.244	0.001	0.020	0.133
Arthritis	0.063	0.300	0.407	0.033	0.261	0.386	0.002	0.034	0.222
Asthma	0.057	0.128	0.148	0.014	0.084	0.117	0.000	0.011	0.033
Loss of Memory or Mental Ability	0.002	0.038	0.132	0.001	0.033	0.124	0.000	0.009	0.079
Learning disorder	0.017	0.060	0.115	0.007	0.033	0.103	0.000	0.005	0.055
Other Serious or Chronic conditions	0.023	0.081	0.119	0.008	0.056	0.110	0.001	0.012	0.083
Any of the Above	0.334	0.731	0.858	0.099	0.576	0.796	0.008	0.103	0.585
Total Number of Conditions	0.469	1.508	2.410	0.126	1.017	2.030	0.009	0.146	1.125

Notes: Data comes from the 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 waves of the PSID. We restrict to male household heads ages 22-61 during the time of the survey. Columns 1-3 of the table display the percentages of the currently non-disabled, non-severe and severely disabled that are informed by doctors to have or have had the specified health condition. Columns 4-6 show the percentages of the currently non-disabled, non-severe and severely disabled that have a particular health condition which currently limits their normal daily activities “A lot,” “Somewhat” or “Just a little.” Columns 7-9 show the percentages of the currently non-disabled, non-severe and severely disabled that have a particular health condition which currently limits their normal daily activities “A lot.” Results shown are the averages of the 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 results. For the “Other Serious or Chronic Conditions,” the results displayed come from the 2005 survey.

**Appendix Table 3  
Prevalence of Disability by Year**

<b>Age 40-49</b>							
<b>Year</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Any disability</b>	<b>Currently Disabled</b>	<b>One-Time</b>	<b>Temporary</b>	<b>Chronic Not Severe</b>	<b>Chronic Severe</b>
1980	411	0.2816 (0.0266)	0.1335 (0.0199)	0.0274 (0.0093)	0.0793 (0.0162)	0.1077 (0.0184)	0.0672 (0.0145)
1982	432	0.2826 (0.0257)	0.1146 (0.0180)	0.0256 (0.0087)	0.0982 (0.0172)	0.1069 (0.0177)	0.0518 (0.0122)
1984	452	0.2484 (0.0236)	0.1064 (0.0168)	0.0300 (0.0091)	0.0880 (0.0153)	0.0835 (0.0149)	0.0469 (0.0114)
1986	506	0.3035 (0.0240)	0.0971 (0.0156)	0.0523 (0.0110)	0.0948 (0.0149)	0.1214 (0.0173)	0.0351 (0.0092)
1988	613	0.3148 (0.0223)	0.1295 (0.0162)	0.0531 (0.0106)	0.0940 (0.0139)	0.1261 (0.0161)	0.0415 (0.0096)
1990	736	0.3423 (0.0211)	0.1459 (0.0158)	0.0602 (0.0103)	0.0880 (0.0129)	0.1482 (0.0160)	0.0459 (0.0090)

<b>Age 50-59</b>							
<b>Year</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Any disability</b>	<b>Currently Disabled</b>	<b>One-Time</b>	<b>Temporary</b>	<b>Chronic Not Severe</b>	<b>Chronic Severe</b>
1980	326	0.5038 (0.0318)	0.2975 (0.0288)	0.0548 (0.0147)	0.0774 (0.0157)	0.1750 (0.0245)	0.1966 (0.0246)
1982	351	0.4956 (0.0310)	0.2496 (0.0269)	0.0614 (0.0152)	0.0751 (0.0153)	0.1736 (0.0235)	0.1854 (0.0239)
1984	364	0.4887 (0.0309)	0.2436 (0.0263)	0.0656 (0.0152)	0.0831 (0.0164)	0.1968 (0.0247)	0.1432 (0.0212)
1986	363	0.4775 (0.0307)	0.2127 (0.0252)	0.0808 (0.0171)	0.0813 (0.0161)	0.1551 (0.0224)	0.1604 (0.0226)
1988	352	0.4756 (0.0315)	0.2187 (0.0257)	0.1063 (0.0199)	0.0947 (0.0177)	0.1497 (0.0221)	0.1248 (0.0207)
1990	334	0.4798 (0.0333)	0.2430 (0.0292)	0.0780 (0.0176)	0.1052 (0.0200)	0.1433 (0.0233)	0.1533 (0.0242)

Notes: This table reports for each year the fraction of the sample that has had a disability by the specified year, the fraction of individuals who are currently disabled, and the fraction for whom a given disability type is their most severe disability to date. These fractions are weighted as are the standard errors, which are in parentheses. We restrict this sample to individuals with at least 10 years of data prior to the specified year. See text for details.

**Appendix Table 4**  
**Changes in Log Hourly Earnings Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	All Disabled (1)	Extent of Disability Groups			
		One-Time (2)	Temporary (3)	Chronic Not Severe (4)	Chronic Severe (5)
<b>-5</b>	-0.050** (0.018)	-0.006 (0.026)	-0.056 (0.047)	-0.089** (0.034)	-0.071* (0.036)
<b>-4</b>	-0.030 (0.017)	0.021 (0.031)	-0.003 (0.030)	-0.096** (0.031)	-0.075 (0.049)
<b>-3</b>	-0.017 (0.017)	0.009 (0.028)	0.008 (0.032)	-0.075* (0.034)	-0.087* (0.040)
<b>-2</b>	-0.028 (0.019)	0.003 (0.028)	0.001 (0.033)	-0.066 (0.035)	-0.110* (0.053)
<b>-1</b>	-0.033 (0.018)	-0.012 (0.030)	0.000 (0.032)	-0.095** (0.033)	-0.076 (0.047)
<b>0</b>	-0.033 (0.019)	-0.012 (0.032)	0.005 (0.034)	-0.090* (0.036)	-0.040 (0.048)
<b>1</b>	-0.052* (0.021)	-0.041 (0.039)	-0.045 (0.035)	-0.065 (0.036)	-0.149* (0.063)
<b>2</b>	-0.073** (0.022)	-0.044 (0.038)	-0.035 (0.037)	-0.140** (0.041)	-0.152* (0.065)
<b>3</b>	-0.075** (0.024)	-0.019 (0.047)	-0.032 (0.036)	-0.143** (0.044)	-0.148* (0.062)
<b>4</b>	-0.059** (0.022)	-0.011 (0.037)	-0.006 (0.037)	-0.162** (0.040)	-0.133 (0.073)
<b>5</b>	-0.070** (0.023)	-0.016 (0.039)	-0.018 (0.037)	-0.131** (0.044)	-0.177* (0.072)
<b>6</b>	-0.076** (0.024)	0.005 (0.038)	0.004 (0.037)	-0.190** (0.044)	-0.212* (0.092)
<b>7</b>	-0.103** (0.028)	-0.066 (0.065)	-0.017 (0.042)	-0.184** (0.042)	-0.279* (0.109)
<b>8</b>	-0.101** (0.025)	-0.009 (0.043)	-0.025 (0.039)	-0.196** (0.041)	-0.269** (0.104)
<b>9</b>	-0.076** (0.028)	0.010 (0.051)	-0.047 (0.050)	-0.150** (0.042)	-0.185* (0.090)
<b>10</b>	-0.098** (0.027)	-0.009 (0.044)	-0.032 (0.049)	-0.198** (0.044)	-0.192 (0.118)

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regressions. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. The sample is restricted to those who worked 500 or more hours in the year. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level.

**Appendix Table 5**

**Benefit Receipt Rates and Net Wealth of the Disabled**

	<b>All Disabled (1)</b>	<b>One-Time (2)</b>	<b>Temporary (3)</b>	<b>Chronic Not Severe (4)</b>	<b>Chronic Severe (5)</b>
<b>Benefit Receipt Rate</b>					
Social Security	0.137	0.034	0.053	0.104	0.481
Social Security Disability	0.086	0.003	0.002	0.037	0.419
Supplemental Security Income	0.025	0.009	0.014	0.015	0.085
Social Security or SSI	0.151	0.041	0.064	0.111	0.520
SSDI or SSI	0.118	0.025	0.031	0.057	0.486
Workers' Compensation	0.043	0.013	0.052	0.044	0.060
Unemployment Insurance	0.081	0.056	0.093	0.105	0.038
Food Stamps	0.111	0.051	0.088	0.108	0.238
Public Housing (Partial or Full)	0.027	0.027	0.022	0.022	0.041
Any one of the above	0.329	0.170	0.249	0.314	0.705
<b>Work and Wealth</b>					
Not receiving any benefit above and not working 6-10 years post-onset	0.089	0.108	0.065	0.080	0.129
Median Pre-onset Net Wealth	\$35,702	\$36,901	\$31,735	\$34,913	\$38,687
Median Net Wealth 6-10 years post-onset	\$57,362	\$78,500	\$51,581	\$60,806	\$23,168

Notes: Receipt rates reported for disabled individuals who are in their sixth to tenth year after disability onset. Working is defined as working at least 1000 hours. Asset data come from those who participated in the 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005 PSID surveys. Net wealth is defined as the sum of business and farm equity, savings instruments (checking, savings, and certificates of deposits), real estate, stocks, vehicles, other investments and home equity, less any non-mortgage and non-business debts. Social Security Disability (SSDI) reciprocity data come from the 1984-1992 PSID surveys and the fractions reported above represent individuals in this period only.

**Appendix Table 6**

**Hours of Work by Spouse Before and After Disability Onset of Head,  
All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	All Disabled (1)	Extent of Disability Groups			
		One-Time (2)	Temporary (3)	Chronic Not Severe (4)	Chronic Severe (5)
-5	37 (28)	14 (53)	65 (53)	24 (53)	71 (67)
-4	-26 (30)	-63 (58)	16 (54)	-54 (55)	33 (76)
-3	-11 (31)	-17 (54)	-45 (57)	7 (55)	31 (84)
-2	21 (31)	1 (61)	28 (56)	27 (55)	37 (72)
-1	-22 (32)	-68 (61)	9 (56)	-21 (57)	3 (82)
0	-8 (33)	-67 (64)	28 (59)	2 (57)	19 (80)
1	-18 (34)	-62 (63)	20 (60)	-4 (58)	-26 (83)
2	-54 (36)	-118 (67)	-53 (61)	-14 (64)	-32 (89)
3	-51 (36)	-81 (67)	-47 (64)	-5 (61)	-81 (84)
4	-55 (38)	-138 (72)	-24 (64)	-15 (64)	-44 (92)
5	-35 (38)	-70 (72)	-27 (64)	-18 (63)	-17 (88)
6	-60 (40)	-91 (74)	-65 (68)	4 (66)	-115 (93)
7	-69 (41)	-108 (76)	-64 (68)	5 (68)	-139 (97)
8	-63 (42)	-63 (73)	-104 (68)	19 (70)	-150 (99)
9	-63 (44)	-48 (82)	-141 (74)	72 (71)	-220* (103)
10	-43 (46)	-41 (81)	-100 (77)	68 (73)	-188 (116)

Notes: This table reports the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in the basic fixed effect regression model with annual hours worked by the spouse as the dependent variable. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. The sample is restricted to married male household heads aged 22-61. See the data appendix for variable definitions and the text for further details.

**Appendix Table 7**  
**Changes in Log of Food Eaten at Home, Log of Food Eaten Outside Home Before and After Disability Onset,**  
**All Disabled and Extent of Disability Groups**

Year from onset	A. Log Food Eaten at Home					B. Log Food Eaten Outside the Home				
	All Disabled	One-Time	Temporary	Chronic Not Severe	Chronic Severe	All Disabled	One-Time	Temporary	Chronic Not Severe	Chronic Severe
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
-5	0.002 (0.015)	0.015 (0.026)	-0.021 (0.036)	-0.009 (0.023)	0.024 (0.034)	0.032 (0.079)	0.081 (0.132)	-0.051 (0.155)	0.128 (0.142)	-0.170 (0.245)
-4	-0.009 (0.015)	0.032 (0.027)	0.010 (0.028)	-0.055 (0.028)	-0.046 (0.034)	0.033 (0.083)	-0.008 (0.135)	0.063 (0.148)	0.040 (0.158)	-0.098 (0.251)
-3	-0.014 (0.016)	0.009 (0.028)	-0.011 (0.029)	-0.022 (0.031)	-0.057 (0.038)	-0.031 (0.088)	-0.271 (0.153)	0.347* (0.152)	-0.056 (0.170)	-0.263 (0.254)
-2	0.007 (0.016)	0.062* (0.026)	0.017 (0.031)	-0.020 (0.030)	-0.067 (0.039)	-0.009 (0.086)	0.037 (0.152)	0.101 (0.151)	0.079 (0.152)	-0.510* (0.259)
-1	-0.007 (0.015)	0.048 (0.025)	-0.001 (0.028)	-0.043 (0.031)	-0.059 (0.038)	-0.168 (0.088)	-0.010 (0.150)	0.108 (0.151)	-0.254 (0.167)	-0.801** (0.254)
0	-0.01 (0.015)	0.005 (0.025)	-0.004 (0.029)	-0.009 (0.028)	-0.064 (0.037)	-0.01 (0.086)	0.221 (0.141)	0.037 (0.150)	0.024 (0.160)	-0.615* (0.252)
1	0.003 (0.016)	0.016 (0.028)	0.016 (0.027)	-0.005 (0.028)	-0.044 (0.039)	-0.239** (0.090)	-0.018 (0.148)	-0.100 (0.166)	-0.149 (0.166)	-1.001** (0.249)
2	-0.035* (0.016)	0.004 (0.028)	-0.051 (0.030)	-0.016 (0.028)	-0.123** (0.037)	-0.149 (0.086)	0.020 (0.142)	0.078 (0.146)	-0.131 (0.161)	-0.938** (0.251)
3	-0.038* (0.017)	-0.008 (0.029)	-0.021 (0.031)	-0.040 (0.028)	-0.138** (0.043)	-0.067 (0.088)	-0.014 (0.152)	0.279* (0.142)	-0.274 (0.173)	-0.543* (0.238)
4	-0.034* (0.017)	0.040 (0.031)	-0.032 (0.033)	-0.035 (0.029)	-0.151** (0.038)	-0.191* (0.089)	0.094 (0.148)	-0.048 (0.155)	-0.210 (0.162)	-0.887** (0.242)
5	-0.037* (0.017)	0.016 (0.030)	-0.013 (0.033)	-0.049 (0.031)	-0.158** (0.039)	-0.102 (0.091)	0.230 (0.143)	0.106 (0.164)	-0.362* (0.172)	-0.502* (0.245)
6	-0.012 (0.017)	0.037 (0.030)	-0.009 (0.031)	-0.028 (0.031)	-0.082* (0.040)	-0.183 (0.094)	0.103 (0.147)	-0.107 (0.164)	-0.278 (0.183)	-0.651* (0.255)
7	-0.044* (0.018)	-0.015 (0.030)	-0.039 (0.033)	-0.037 (0.033)	-0.136** (0.041)	-0.218* (0.093)	0.003 (0.149)	0.044 (0.167)	-0.172 (0.161)	-1.202** (0.252)
8	-0.013 (0.018)	-0.015 (0.032)	0.009 (0.032)	0.000 (0.032)	-0.111** (0.040)	-0.096 (0.095)	0.252 (0.163)	0.071 (0.176)	-0.234 (0.157)	-0.743** (0.263)
9	-0.014 (0.018)	0.010 (0.032)	0.003 (0.032)	-0.001 (0.032)	-0.129** (0.042)	-0.195* (0.097)	-0.010 (0.157)	0.013 (0.177)	-0.242 (0.171)	-0.999** (0.266)
10	-0.032 (0.020)	0.002 (0.033)	-0.019 (0.035)	-0.032 (0.033)	-0.137** (0.051)	-0.106 (0.104)	-0.160 (0.190)	0.176 (0.180)	-0.139 (0.186)	-0.610* (0.279)

Notes: The numbers reported are, for each variable of interest, the coefficient estimates of the time from onset indicator variables in fixed effect regressions, for the disabled as a whole and for the extent of disability groups. The omitted period is more than 5 years before onset. Standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. See the data appendix for variable definitions and the text for further details.



**Appendix Table 8**  
**Sample Means and Changes in Food Expenditure, Food Shopping Frequency and Consumption Index by Disability Status**

Dependent Variable	A. Full Sample: Sample Mean (standard deviation)		B. Regression Coefficient on the Disability Indicator Variable in CSFII		C. Regression Coefficient on the Disability Indicator Variable in PSID	
	Non-disabled (1)	Disabled (2)	Full Sample (3)	Exclude Low Income Sample (4)	OLS (5)	Fixed Effects (6)
Total food expenditure	3,747 (2,252)	3,304 (1,863)	-0.182** (0.031)	-0.123** (0.038)	-0.109** (0.010)	-0.056** (0.007)
Expenditure on Food eaten at Home	2,667 (1,419)	2,476 (1,277)	-0.116** (0.030)	-0.072 (0.037)	-0.074** (0.010)	-0.038** (0.008)
Expenditure on Food outside Home	1,080 (1,326)	828 (953)	-0.813** (0.145)	-0.504** (0.166)	-0.657** (0.056)	-0.193** (0.042)
Shop for food at least once a week	0.628 (0.483)	0.605 (0.489)	-0.01 (0.008)	-0.014 (0.010)		
Log Consumption Index			-0.028** (0.009)	-0.023* (0.012)		
Log calories			-0.049* (0.025)	-0.005 (0.030)		
Log Vitamin A			-0.145* (0.057)	-0.130 (0.074)		
Log Vitamin C			-0.156** (0.053)	-0.165* (0.065)		
Log Vitamin E			-0.107** (0.038)	-0.077 (0.047)		
N	2,891	362	3,253	2,431		
N Completing 3 diaries	1,948	266	2,214	1,676		

Notes: The sample is currently non-disabled and disabled male household heads aged 22-61 in the 1989-1991 CSFII. In columns 3-6, standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. All regressions control for geographical regions, education, race, year, age and age-squared of the head, number of adults, number of children and an indicator variable on whether the residence is located in central cities. Columns 5 and 6 reports the same coefficient estimates using the PSID data (keeping observations after the 10th year since onset), without and with individual fixed effects. See the text for a fuller description of the variables included and the data appendix on the construction of these variables and detail of sample construction. All food expenditure variables are in 2005 dollars.

**Appendix Table 9**  
**Time Spent on Food Preparation, Food Shopping and All Shopping Activities**  
**(in Hours per Week), by Male Household Heads and Wives**

	A. Sample Means (standard deviation)		B. Coefficient on Head Disabled Indicator Variable (3)
	Non-disabled Head (1)	Disabled Head (2)	
1. Male Household Heads:			
Food Preparation	1.93 (4.00)	2.53 (5.13)	0.66 (0.34)
Shopping for Food	0.83 (2.56)	0.96 (2.90)	0.14 (0.21)
All Shopping	4.23 (8.46)	4.38 (9.97)	0.31 (0.68)
N	4,334	316	
2. Wives:			
Food Preparation	6.41 (7.25)	6.96 (7.21)	0.12 (0.67)
Shopping for Food	1.59 (3.44)	1.16 (2.38)	-0.38 (0.25)
All Shopping	7.35 (11.09)	6.08 (8.86)	-0.96 (1.03)
N	3,526	132	

Notes: The data come from merging the 2003-2006 American Time Use Survey with the corresponding year's Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. For the top half of the table, the sample is restricted to male household heads 22-61 years of age. For the bottom half of the table, the sample is restricted to married females 22-61 years of age and whose husbands are also in this age range. In column 3, standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. The controls in these regressions include age, age-squared, education, region, year, number of adults and children, race, marital indicator, the month of the survey and the head's disability indicator variable. See text and data appendix for further details.

**Appendix Table 10**  
**Changes in Leisure and Time Use by Disability Status**

	A. Sample Means (standard deviation)		B. Regression Coefficient on the Disabled Indicator (3)
	Non-disabled (1)	Disabled (2)	
<b>Market Work</b>	42.49 (35.07)	12.54 (26.03)	-27.71** (2.36)
<b>Leisure (Narrow)</b>	36.20 (26.25)	58.37 (30.08)	18.23** (2.41)
Watching TV	14.84 (16.20)	29.03 (25.89)	10.64** (1.66)
Socializing, Social Events	6.01 (12.18)	7.55 (12.98)	1.89* (0.93)
Arts and Non-Home Entertainment	0.87 (5.12)	0.83 (7.42)	0.22 (0.66)
Relaxing	2.04 (6.20)	6.16 (15.96)	3.21* (1.46)
Music and Radio	0.30 (2.61)	1.22 (5.84)	0.84 (0.50)
Games and Computer	1.74 (6.42)	3.30 (9.21)	1.87* (0.75)
Hobbies	0.07 (1.33)	0.39 (5.04)	0.26 (0.22)
Reading and Writing	1.62 (4.59)	2.46 (6.83)	0.75 (0.52)
Sports	3.48 (9.81)	2.47 (7.51)	-0.48 (0.55)
<b>Leisure (Broad)</b>	105.75 (30.81)	134.34 (30.21)	24.28** (2.43)
Eating	9.05 (7.19)	8.62 (8.24)	-0.06 (0.66)
Sleeping	56.28 (14.47)	63.75 (16.82)	6.79** (1.31)
Personal Care	4.22 (4.23)	3.61 (5.15)	-0.67 (0.41)
<b>Vacation (Days per Month)</b>	1.33 (3.15)	0.83 (2.93)	-0.32 (0.21)
<b>Use of Medical Services</b>	2.04 (18.74)	8.76 (40.10)	7.15* (2.85)
<b>N</b>	4,334	316	

Notes: Data comes from merging the 2003-2006 American Time Use Survey with the corresponding year's Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. The sample consists of male household heads aged 22-61. In column 3, standard errors clustered by person are in parentheses. Statistical significance of each estimate is denoted as follows: \*\*Significant at 1 percent level, \*Significant at 5 percent level. The controls in these regressions include age, age-squared, education, region, year, number of adults and children, race, marital indicator, the month of the survey and the head's disability indicator variable. The results for vacation days are based on the 2005-2006 ATUS surveys only. See text and data appendix for further details.