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**National Technical
Institute for the Deaf**

What Research Tells Us of Lifelong Learning and Its Impact on Earnings for Individuals with Hearing Loss

**National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Rochester Institute of Technology**

Presentation June 2009

Sara Schley

HLAA – Nashville



Sara Schley, RIT/NTID

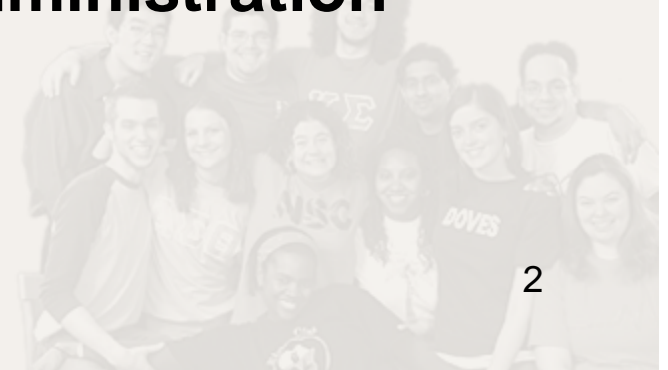
Richard V. Burkhauser, Cornell University

Robert R. Weathers II, Mathematica Policy Research

John Hennessey, Social Security Administration

Jeffrey Hemmeter, Social Security Administration

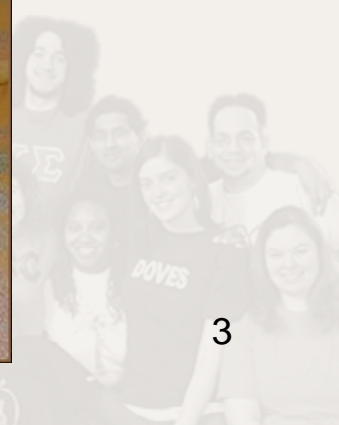
Nancy Early, Social Security Administration



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Reporting a 10-Year Collaborative Effort

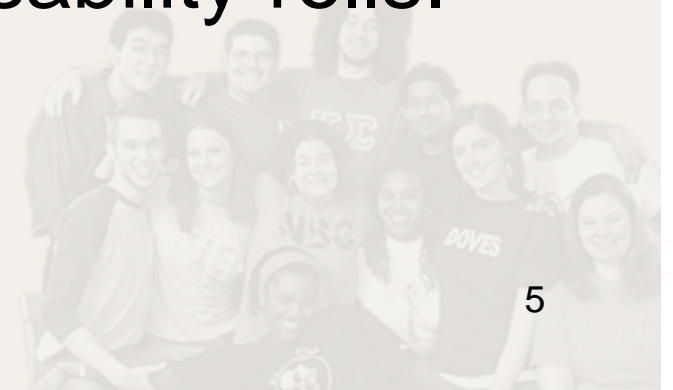
- National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT/NTID)
- Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute (EDI)
- Social Security Administration





Rich Burkhauser Comments

“We have the best records of our graduates of any college in the country ... We can do better evaluation on our students than any college in the country. We show the tremendous success of our NTID students [including] leaving the SSI disability rolls.”





Social Security Administration

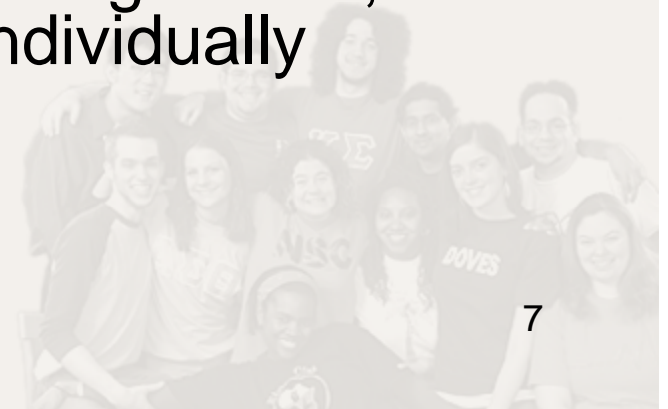
- Provides data matching/analysis for a fee
- Provided first NTID/SSA match mid-90s
- Analyzes data and ensures confidentiality
- Developed SSA 'event history research' files – vital measurements to study self-sufficiency of disabled



The Social Security Administration: Authority

SSA makes disclosure of summary data to RIT under authority found in the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by U.S.C. Section 552a (b) (5)

“... disclosures may be made ... with advance adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical and reporting record, and ... transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable.”



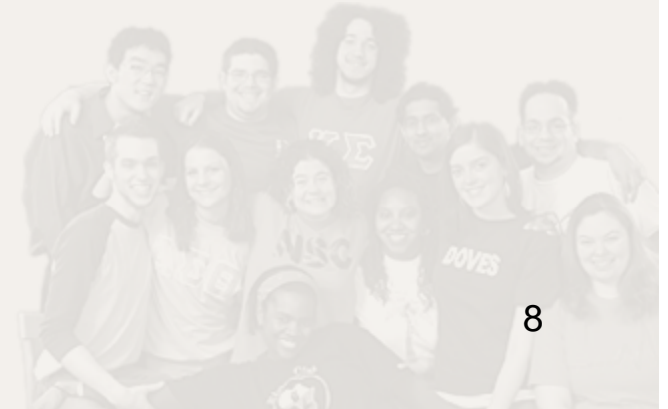


Presentation Outline

- Background
- Findings:
 - Employment
 - Earnings
 - SSI
 - SSDI
- RSA 911 Opportunities

If time:

- Research Process
- SSI Children



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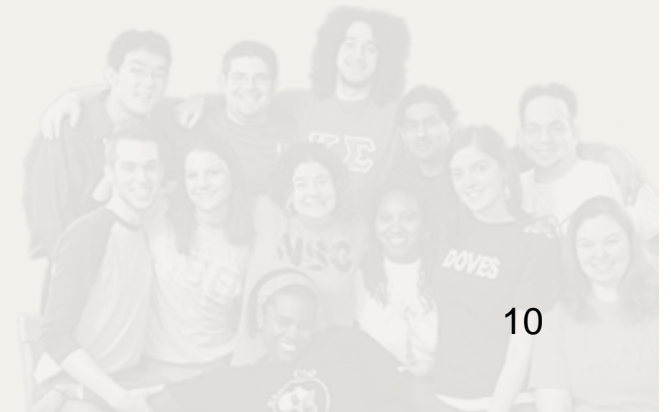
BACKGROUND





Work, Income and Disability (Since 1980)

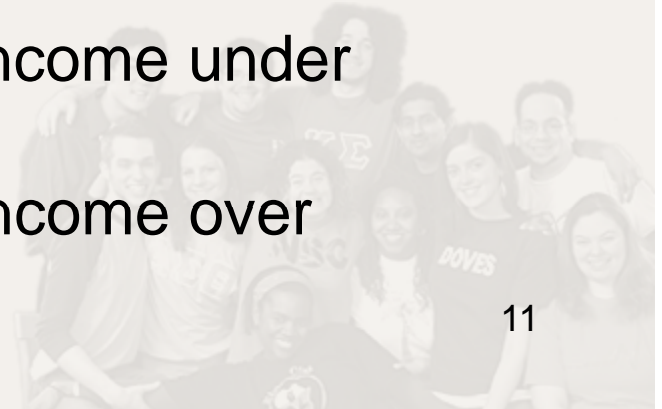
- Incomes of those *without* disabilities – risen
- Incomes of those *with* disabilities – flat
- Employment rate of those *without* disabilities – 82%
- Employment rate of those *with* disabilities – declined from 35% to 31%





Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing vs. General Population

- More deaf/hh are high school dropouts
- Fewer deaf/hh are high school or college graduates
- Fewer deaf/hh are working
- Deaf/hh employment rate dropped 10%
- General population employment rate dropped 1%
- Comparing in terms of family income
 - Most deaf/hh families have annual income under \$25,000/year
 - Most hearing families have annual income over \$25,000/year





Data Reported for 11,793 Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing

Groups Studied:

- Unit record analysis: ALL students included
- Deaf graduates of NTID/RIT
 - Associate
 - Baccalaureate
- Withdrew from NTID
- Denied Admission to NTID



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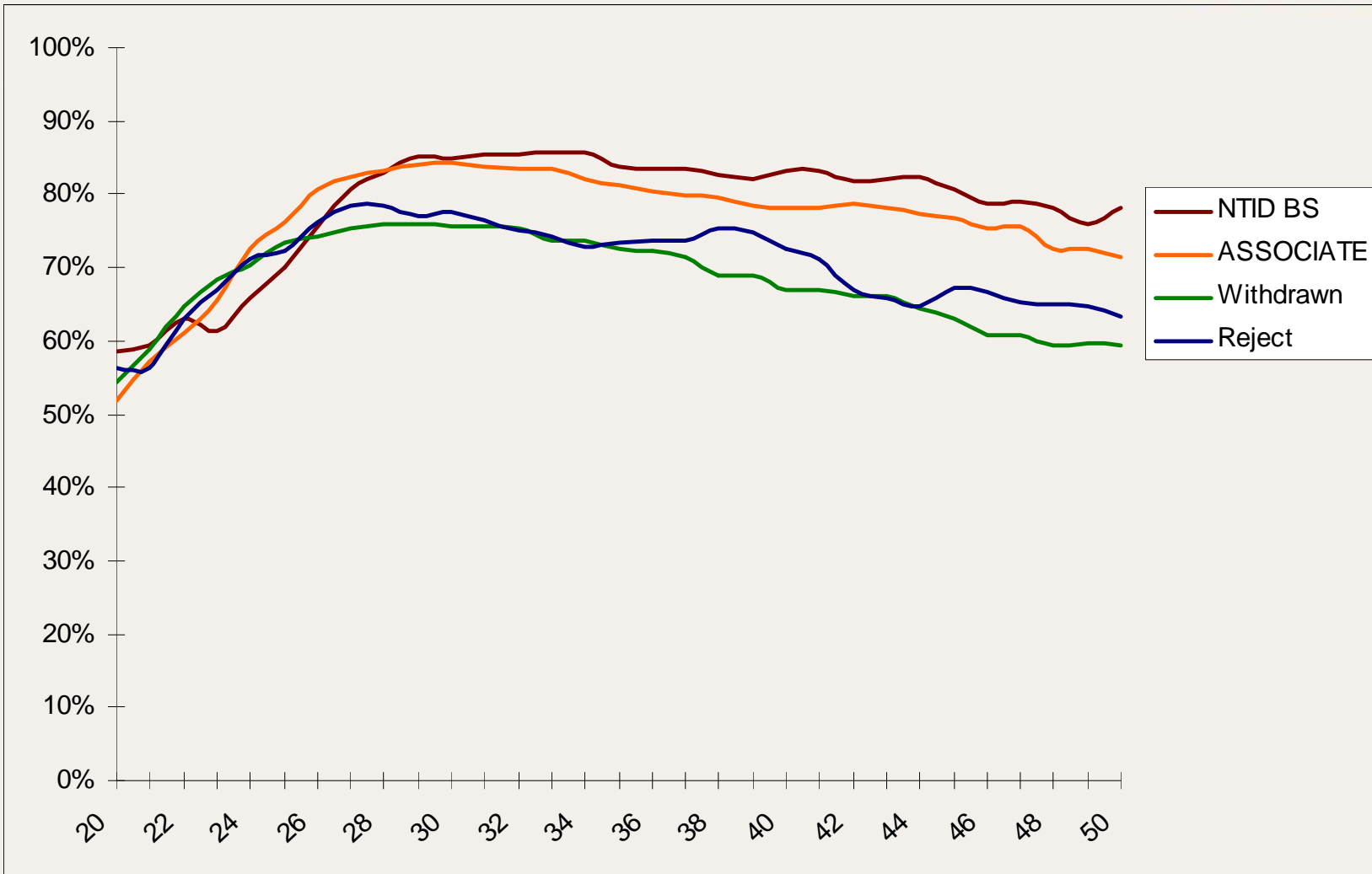


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FINDINGS: EMPLOYMENT



Impact: Employment (Earnings Reported)



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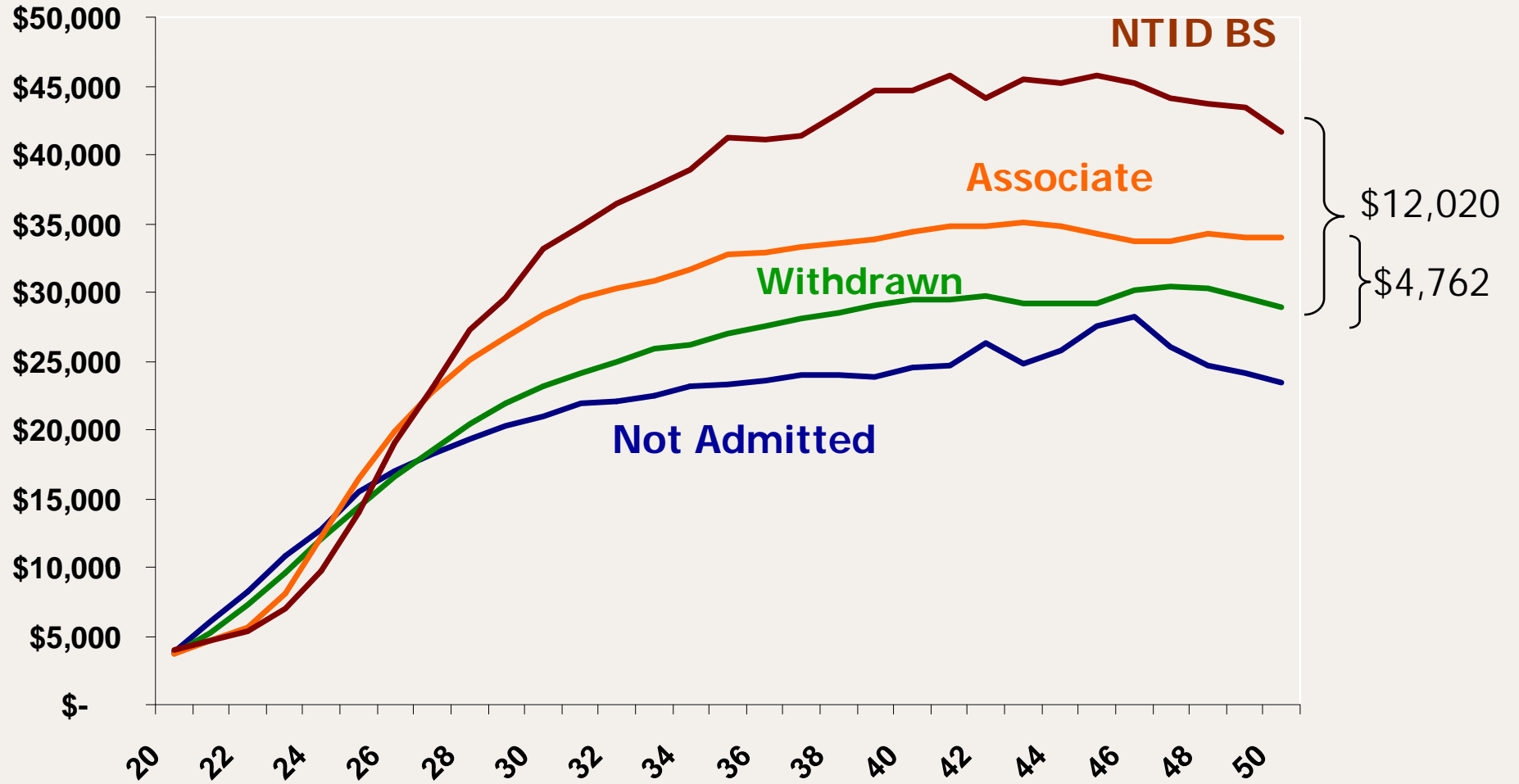
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FINDINGS: EARNINGS



Impact: Earnings (Median)



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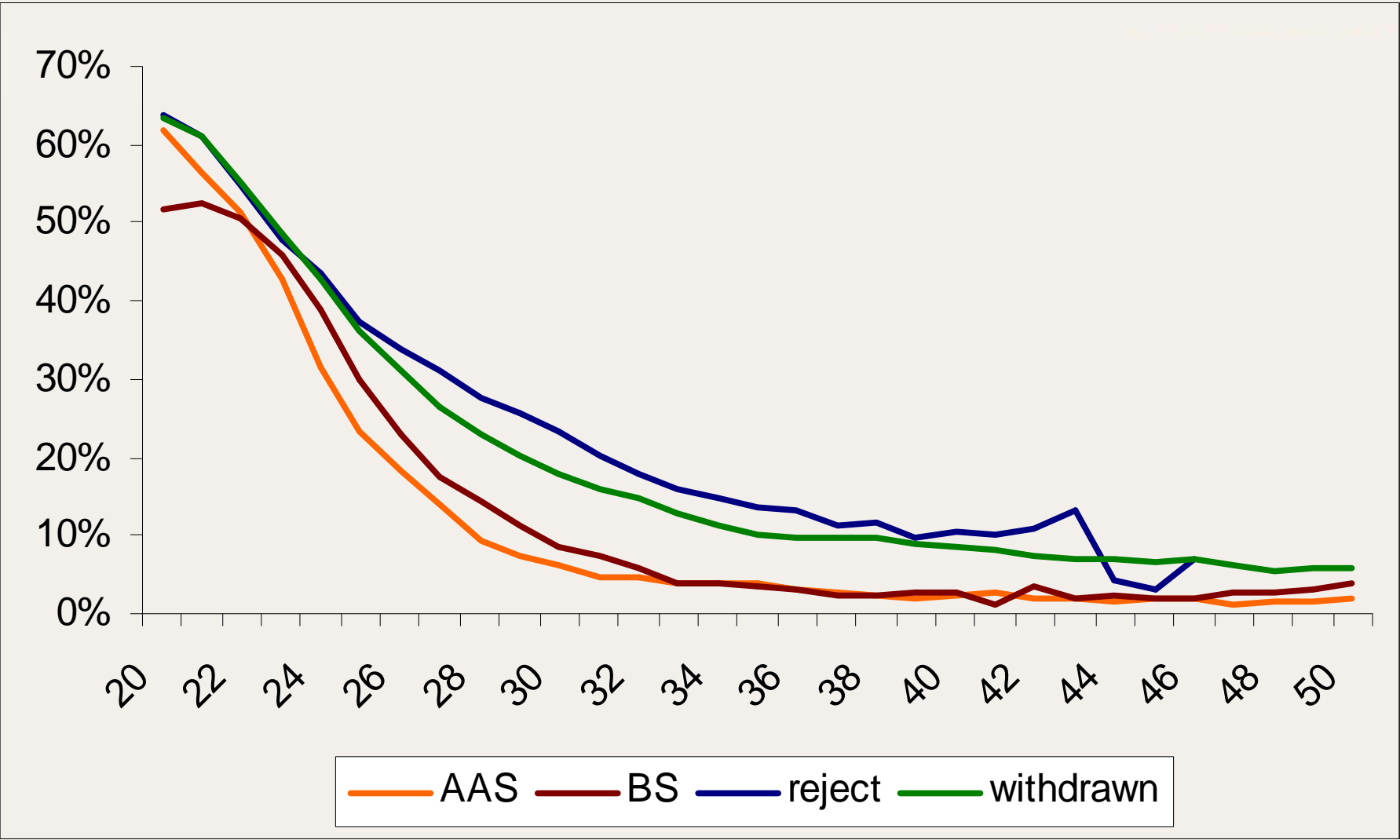
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FINDINGS: SSI PARTICIPATION



Impact: SSI Participation



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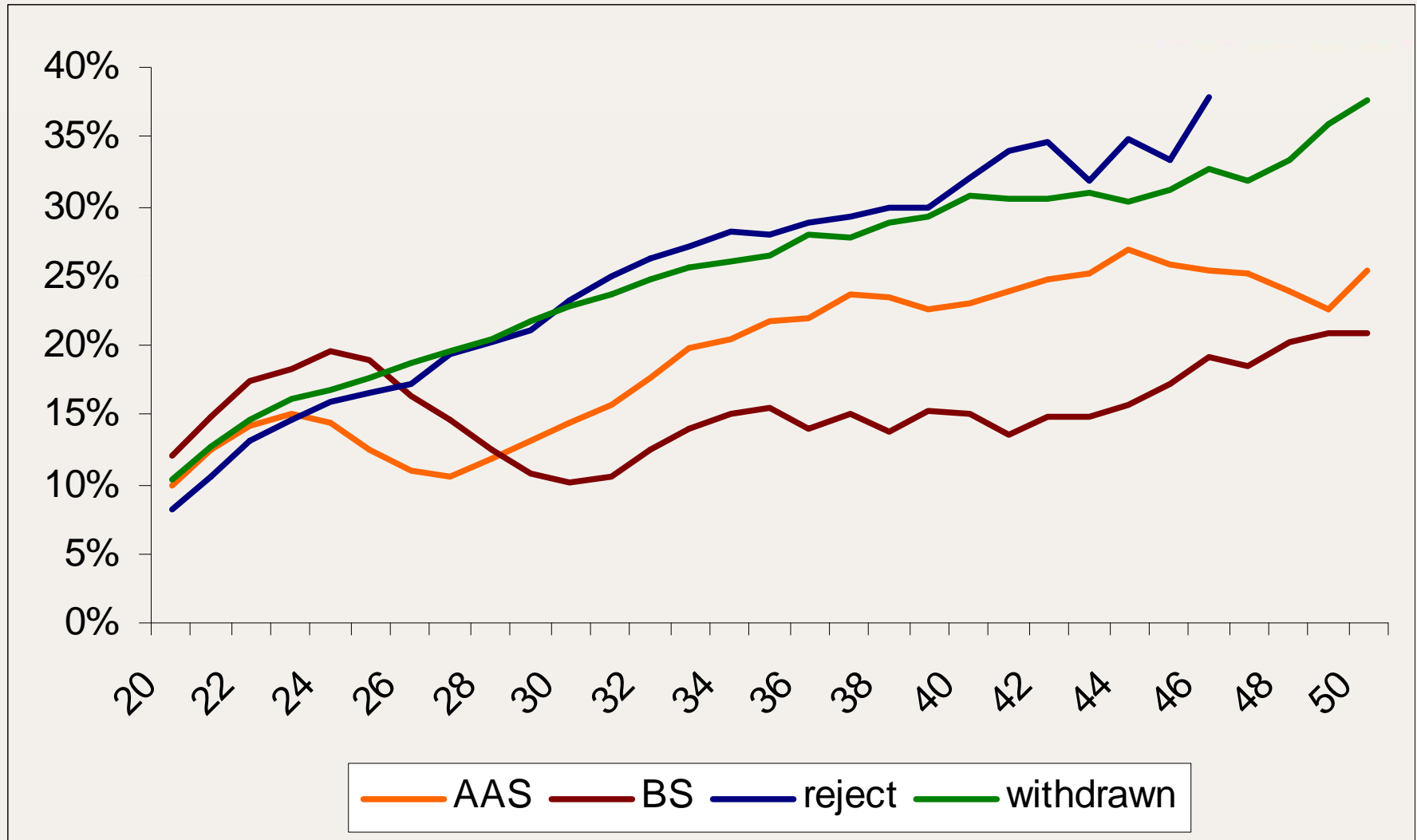


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FINDINGS: SSDI PARTICIPATION



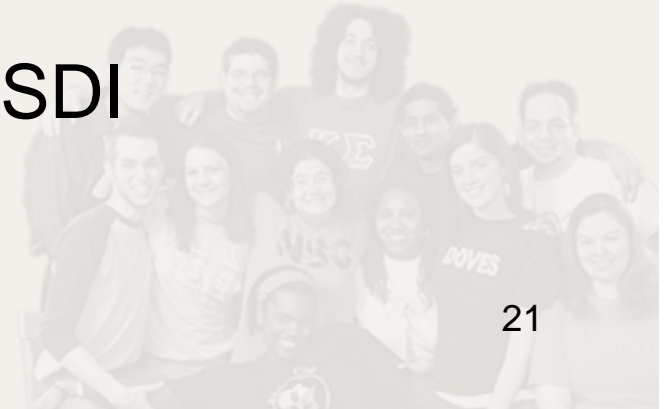
Impact: SSDI Participation





Summary: Graduates vs. Non-Graduates

- Higher employment rates
- Higher earnings
- Decreased dependence on SSI
- Decreased dependence on SSDI





Conclusions

1. NTID *has* impact data
2. Data are objectively produced (government data)
3. Data are comprehensive (include every student; population not sample)
4. Data are long-term
5. Results are *very* positive
6. NTID does extremely well with at-risk students
7. Without NTID “intervention” lesser results
8. Data are unique in measuring educational impact
9. Process with SSA is a model for others
10. Economical way to collect data

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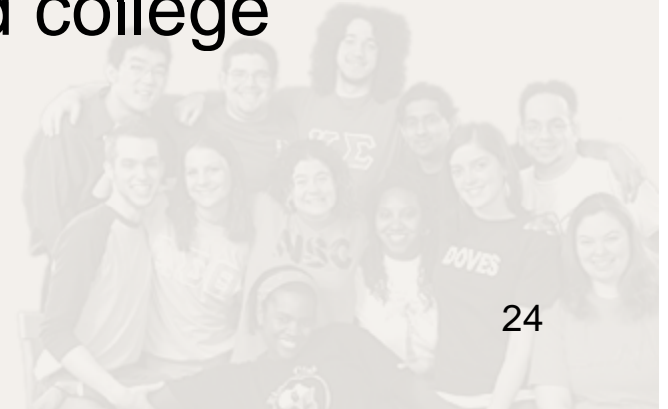
RSA 911 Opportunities





RSA 911 – VR Case Data

- NTID negotiated access with ED
- Linkage between RSA 911, SSA & NTID
- Linkage will provide new comparison opportunities
 - Now compare only to hearing RIT graduates
 - Could compare against general deaf/hard-of-hearing population who attend college



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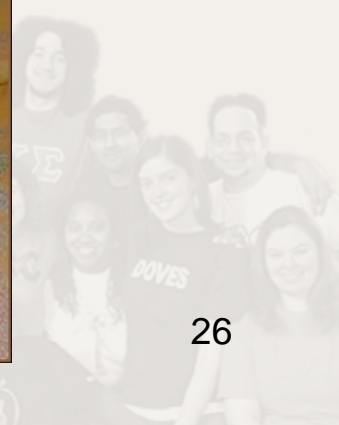
Questions



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Research Process





Current Research Process

1. Analysis of all cases since start of electronic record-keeping at NTID
2. NTID shares micro-level data (SSN, etc.) with SSA for 11,000+ students
3. SSA merges/matches NTID data with their data
4. SSA conducts micro-level analysis
5. Careful confidentiality and accuracy procedures
6. Memorandum of Understanding details agreement
7. SSA shares summary information with NTID and Cornell
8. NTID, Cornell and SSA plan jointly (e.g., conference phone calls, travel, discussion of publications)



Confidentiality and Accuracy

1. Federal Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a(i)
2. Strict guidelines, research only
3. Individual data remains only on secure SSA computer
4. Data shared at summary group level only
5. Validation process
6. Match to several SSA data files
7. Event-history file generated

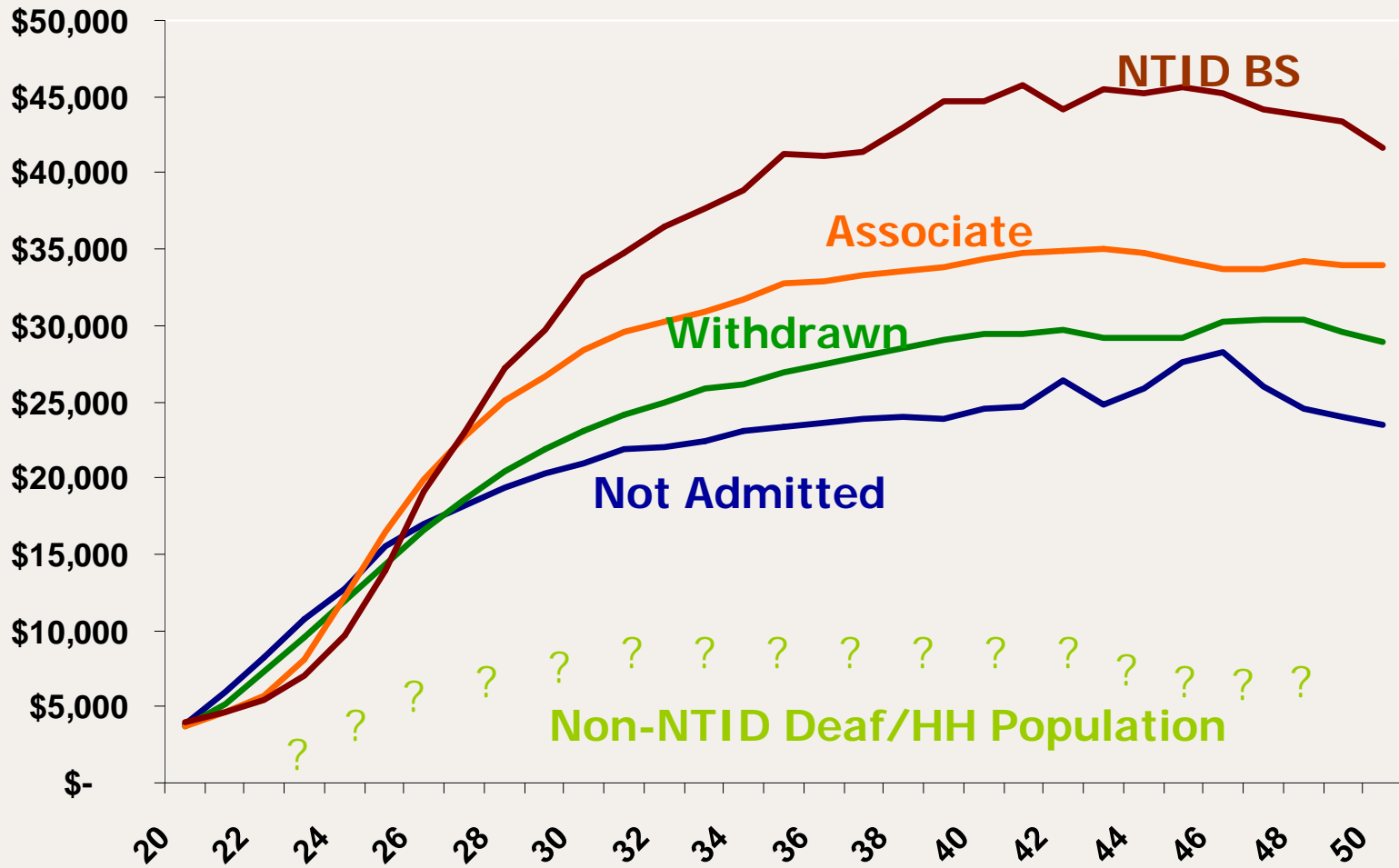




Comparison to Alternative Methods

- Using Alumni Surveys?
 - Expensive
 - Relies on self-reporting
 - Low response rates – affects validity
- Our Analysis:
 - Cheaper than a survey (\$5,000/year to SSA)
 - Uses actual program data
 - Match rate close to 100%

Median Earnings



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SSI Children





Questions: “SSI Children”

1. Who are “SSI children?”
2. Share of NTID applicants who collected SSI benefits as children
In 1983 **10%**, by 1999 **42%**
3. Share of NTID graduates who collected SSI benefits as children
In 1983, **8%** of graduates, by 1999 it was **28%**
4. These are at-risk students
5. Rapid growth in numbers is a policy concern
6. Is post-secondary education a path to a solution?



Summary: SSI Children

- Former SSI children are a large share of NTID applicants and graduates
- SSI children who graduate from NTID do better than non-graduates
 - Leave SSI 1.5 years sooner, risk of re-entry is half
 - By age 30 earnings are 68% higher than withdrawals
- SSI children are twice as likely to withdraw vs. non-SSI children
- Graduates leave SSI sooner
- Graduates enter into SSDI later

