### **Economic Policy Institute**

Research and ideas for Shared Prosperity

# Have job opportunities improved for older workers in poor health?

**National Disability Forum** November 20, 2015 Ross Eisenbrey

Vice President, Economic Policy Institute



### Population in poor or fair health, by age, 1999-2013

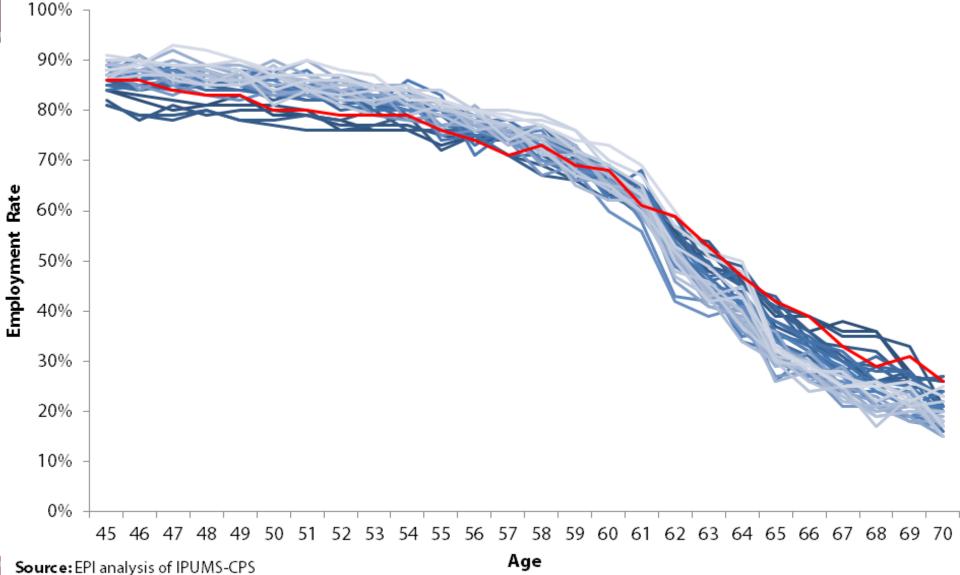
	45-54	55-64
1999-2001	11.7%	18.5%
2002-2004	12.3%	18.3%
2005-2007	12.6%	18.3%
2008-2010	13.196	19.1%
2011-2013	14.1%	19.2%

Source: EPI analysis of NHIS

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## Male employment rates by age, 1979–2014

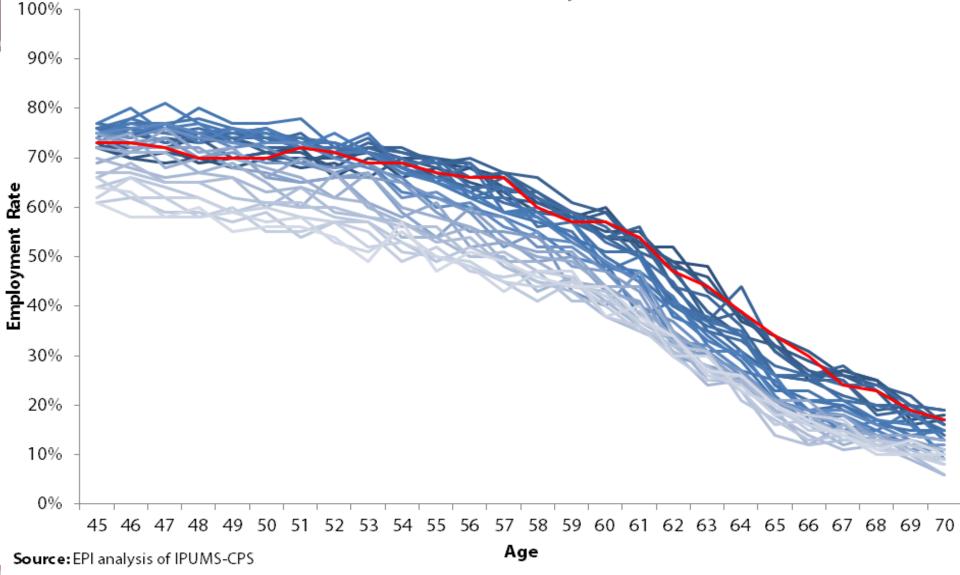
(Darker blue lines show more recent years; red line is 2014)





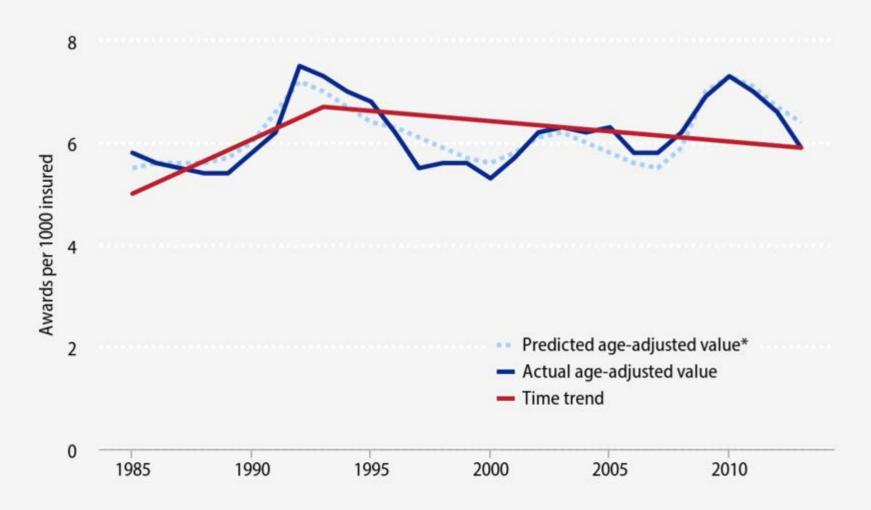
### Female employment rates by age, 1979–2014

(Darker blue lines show more recent years; red line is 2014)





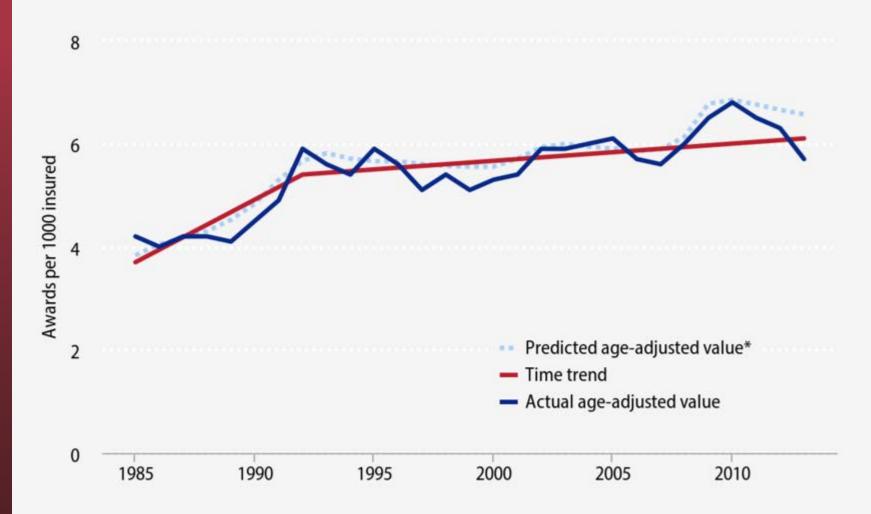
#### Age-adjusted disability incidence, men, 1985-2013



<sup>\*</sup>Based on unemployment and time trend

**Source:** EPI analysis based on Liebman (2015). Age-adjusted values based on 2013 age distribution using Social Security Administration data for insured workers by age (http://www.ssa.gov/oact/STATS/table4c2DI.html) and awards by age (http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/6c.html#table6.c2)

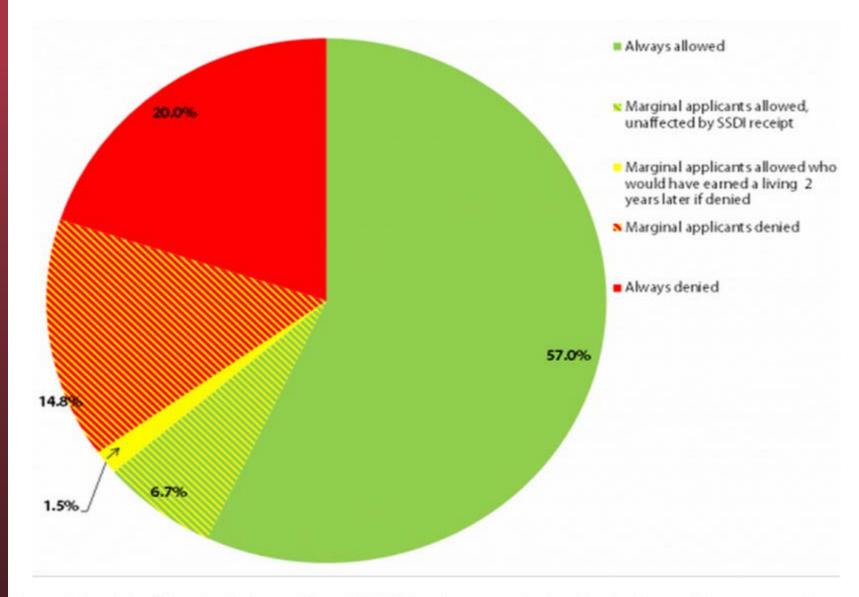
#### Age-adjusted disability incidence, women, 1985-2013



<sup>\*</sup>Based on unemployment and time trend

**Source:** EPI analysis based on Liebman (2015). Age-adjusted values based on 2013 age distribution using Social Security Administration data for insured workers by age (http://www.ssa.gov/oact/STATS/table4c2DI.html) and awards by age (http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2014/6c.html#table6.c2)

#### Disability receipt has a negligible impact on work effort



**Source:** EPI analysis of Maestes, Mullen and Strand (2013), focusing on marginal applicants who would have engaged in substantial gainful activity. Disemployment effect averaged between 2005 and 2006 panels.