

Great expectations but poorer outcomes: Declining employment among a growing group of work-oriented beneficiaries

Gina Livermore, Purvi Sevak, and Marisa Shenk

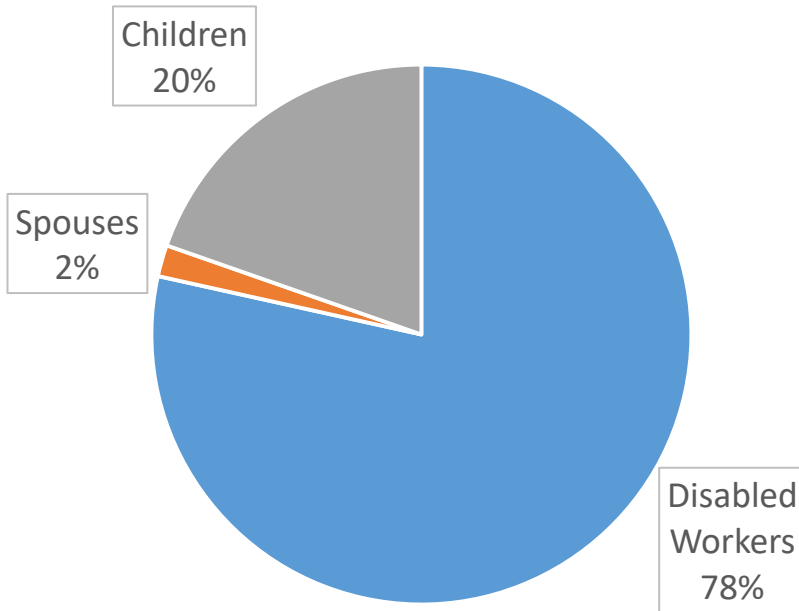
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Main Findings of Interest (SSDI only)

- Selected Findings
 - Health status did not change
 - Exception: Musculoskeletal conditions increased
 - Labor market experience decreased
 - Discouraged by previous work attempts
 - Not being able to find a job
 - Greater share of beneficiaries with work expectations

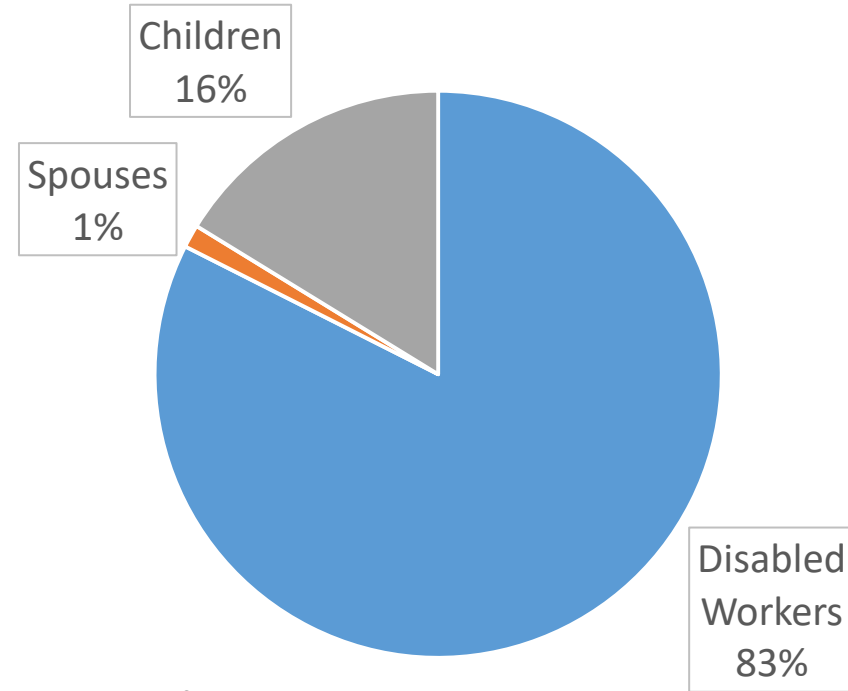
Composition of the DI Rolls 2005 & 2015

DI Rolls: 2005



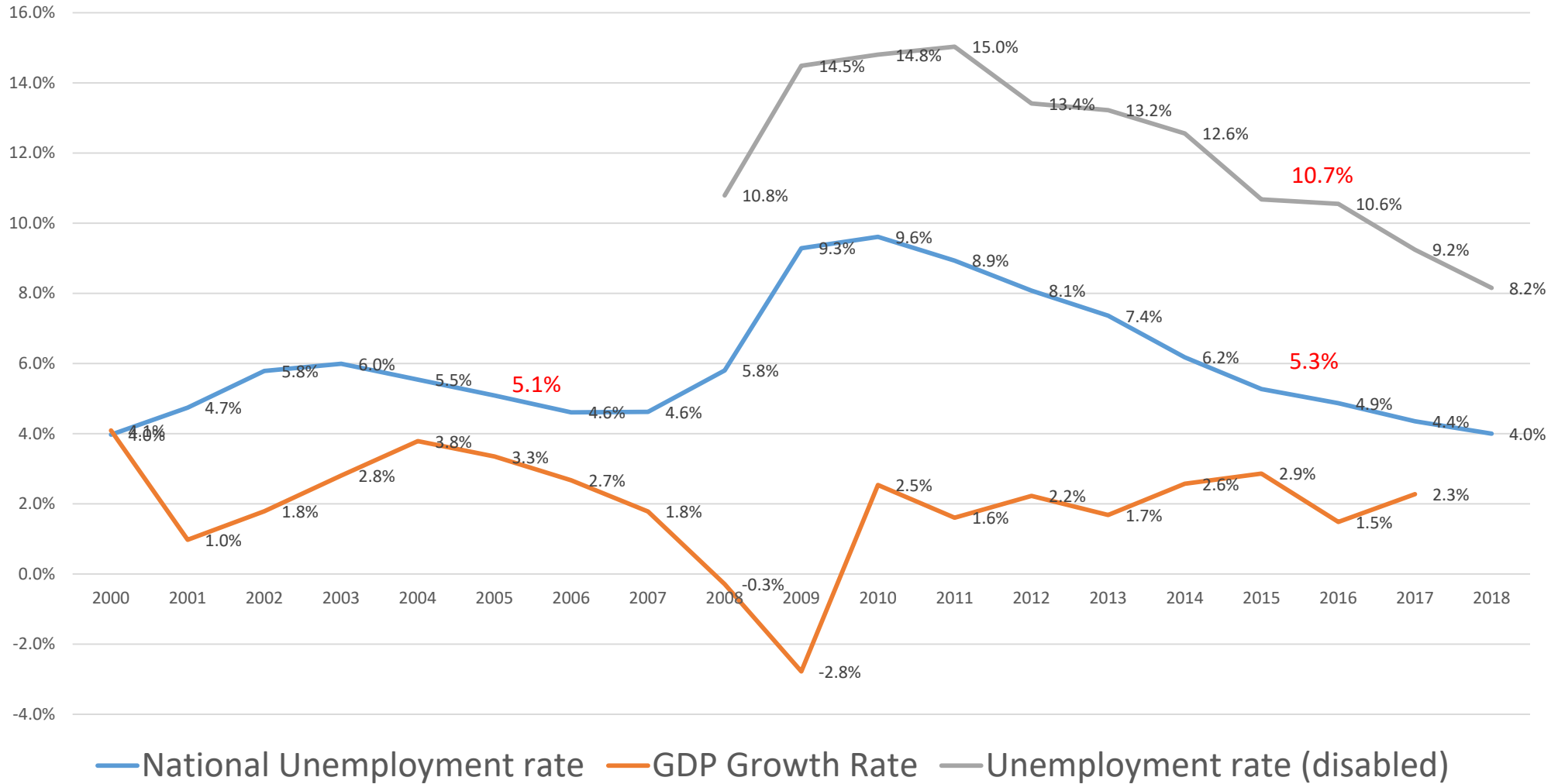
total beneficiaries = 8,314,314

DI Rolls: 2015

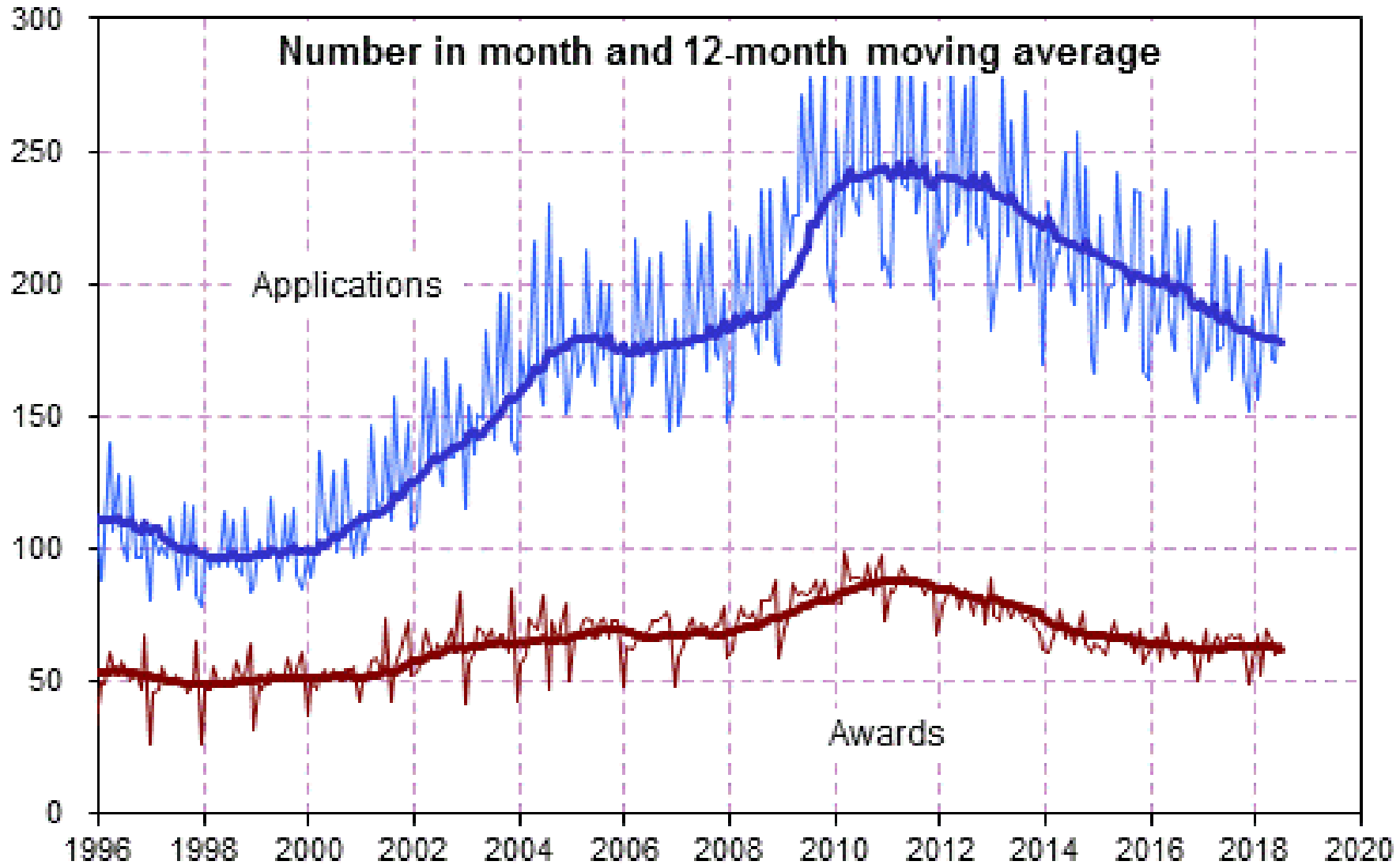


total beneficiaries = 10,806,466

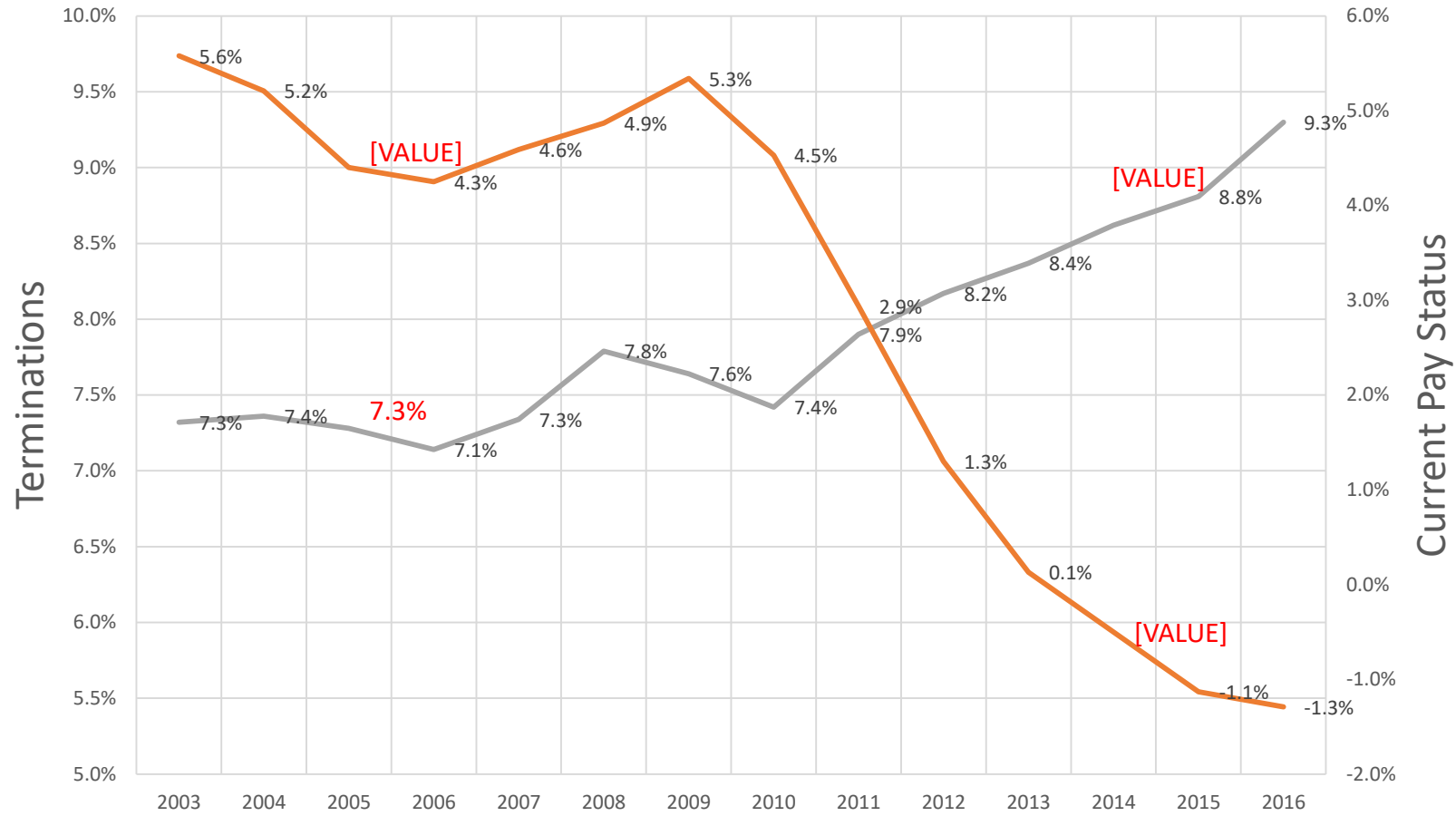
GDP Growth Rate & Unemployment Rate



DI Applications & Awards (in thousands)



Current Pay Status vs. Terminations



— Termination rate — current payment status: increase over prior period

What have we learned?

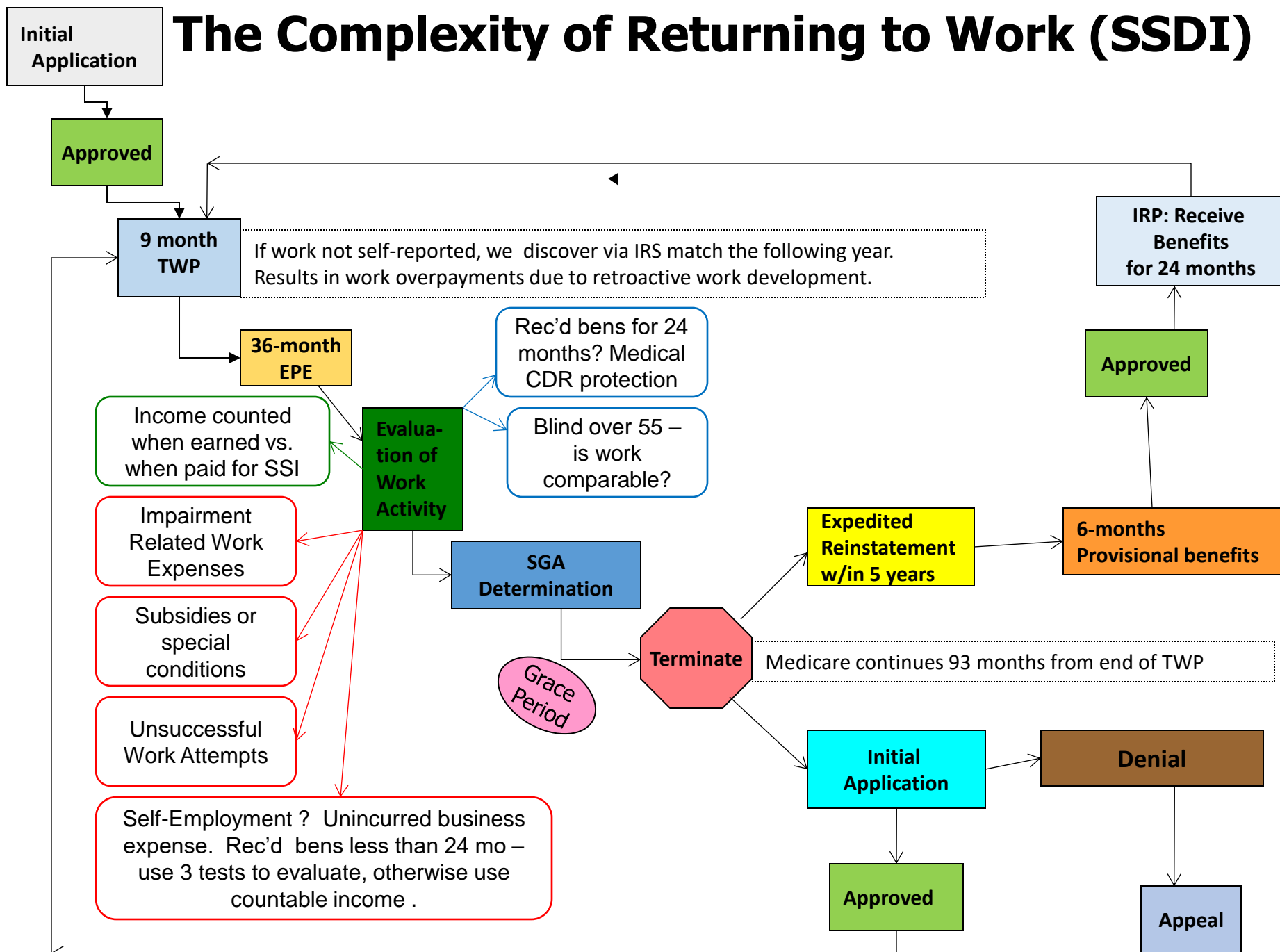
- Unemployment rates tracks closely with:
 - DI application rates
 - to a lesser degree award rates
- During periods of GDP certainty (2010-2017), we see:
 - reduced unemployment rates
 - nationally and
 - for persons with disabilities
 - For DI beneficiaries
 - current pay status rates decrease
 - and benefit terminations increase

Interesting proposition

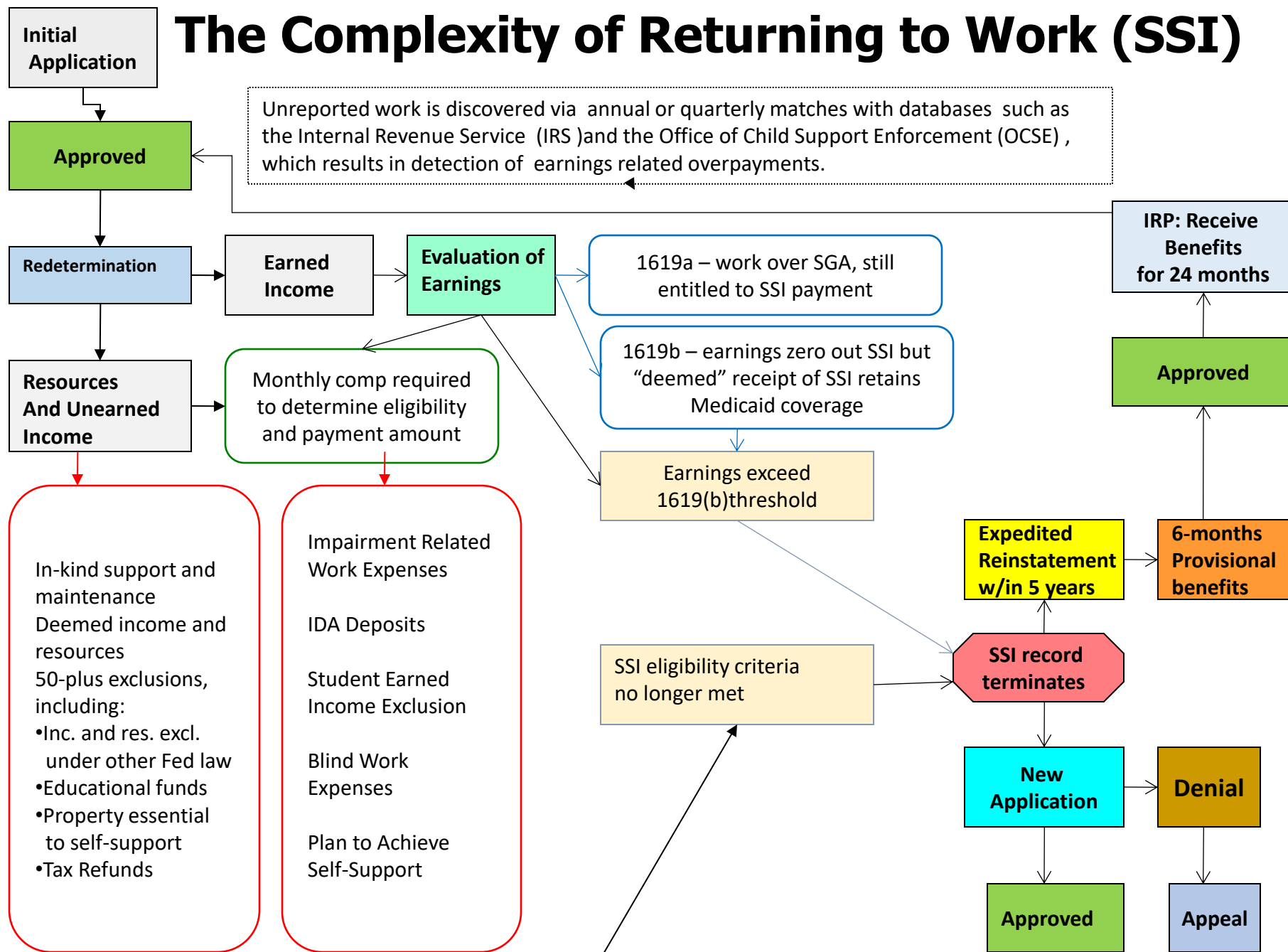
- Economic stability causes an increase labor force participation among persons with disabilities.
 - economic stability is not directly revealed in the NBS 2005 and 2015 analysis,
 - but would explain employment optimism in the 2015 survey

Does the DI program reduce
uncertainty?

The Complexity of Returning to Work (SSDI)



The Complexity of Returning to Work (SSI)



Conclusion

- Livermore, Sevak and Shenk (2018) “Great expectations but poor outcomes.”
 - Excellent work summarizing NBS 2005 and 2015
 - Excellent descriptive analysis
 - Excellent policy recommendations from the analysis:
 - Low rates of awareness → Educate beneficiaries about available work supports
 - Half work-oriented beneficiaries cannot find a job → targets for work-support education
 - Caution: Without more information, exercise caution when making further policy recommendations