

# Data Used by the Social Security Administration to Inform Policy Decisions

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# Outline

- Background on Social Security Programs
- Sources of research data
- Selected examples of how SSA uses administrative and survey data for research purposes



# SSA Programs

- The Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Program (OASDI)
  - Monthly benefits to about 47.7 million people
  - The only source of income for 21 percent of the beneficiaries
  - Contributes 90 percent or more of income for one-third of the beneficiaries.
- The Supplemental Security Income or SSI Program
  - Needs based program providing financial support for aged, blind, and disabled individuals
  - Provides monthly income to about 7.1 million people



# Sources of Research Data

- Administrative Records
  - Numident
  - Master Earnings File
  - Master Beneficiary Record
  - Supplemental Security Record
- Survey Data
  - Data sharing agreements
  - Contributing funding to on-going federal surveys
  - Special purpose surveys



# Examples

- Multivariate statistical studies
- Micro simulation modeling
  - Modeling in the Near Term (MINT)
  - Financial Eligibility Model (FEM)
- Data dissemination

