

Questions and Answers

Dr. James Krause answered questions asked by audiences.

Can you speak about age less than 50 and its affect please?

In both studies, being over the age of 50 at the time of the study was associated with a decreased likelihood of being employed. It was not associated with different conditional earnings, but was associated with lower unconditional earnings. What this means is that those over the age of 50 are less likely to be employed. However, if employed, their earnings are not significantly different than those of younger age groups. As a group, their unconditional earnings will be lower, but this is due to the lower employment rate and not the earnings among those who were employed.

Do these data take into consideration *when* education was acquired? In other words, was education obtained before, during or after injury? And what was the rationale for excluding students?

There was no differentiation between pre-injury and post-injury education in this study. However, in other studies, having completed their education prior to injury is associated with a faster return to work. Completing educational milestones after injury is associated with higher employment rates.

In terms of why we excluded students, we were concerned that that was artificially lower the employment rate and earnings. In other words, students would be less likely to be working since they were going to school. Similarly, those who were working would be likely to make lower earnings because they were only working part time or not necessarily a regular position. This study was interested in earnings among those who, at least in theory or principle, had the opportunity to work as a primary role.