



# Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) Models and Strategies: Evaluation Design Options Report

## SUMMARY

In 2017, the Chief Evaluation Office and the Office of Disability Employment Policy partnered with independent contractor Abt Associates to conduct the [Stay at Work/Return to Work \(SAW/RTW\) Models and Strategies Study](#). The study aims to document and expand the knowledge base of SAW/RTW strategies and identify promising models and best practices. The final study also includes evaluation design options, which could be implemented to build on and add to the evidence produced.

SAW/RTW programs intend to help a worker who experiences an illness or injury to remain at work, or if the worker has left the labor force, to return as soon as medically possible. **Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW) Models and Strategies: Evaluation Design Options Report** presents five options for new research to build evidence about the target populations for SAW/RTW and to test the effects of interventions on employment outcomes.

This Department of Labor-funded study includes four reports and a summary of findings and was a result of the annual learning agenda process. It contributes to the labor evidence-base to inform employment and training programs and policies and addresses Department strategic goals and priorities.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Researchers developed five strategies to expand evidence on effective SAW/RTW interventions.
  - **Three strategies focus on providing targeted information to workers, employers, and medical professionals to help improve employment outcomes.** Each of these groups plays an integral role in the SAW/RTW process. However, these groups may lack critical information to make choices or policies that encourage continued work.
  - **One strategy tests the impact of financial incentives by providing temporary disability insurance partial benefits to workers who are unable to work due to a medical condition.** Partial payments may increase incentives to work, because workers can continue receiving part of their benefit while working part-time.
  - Identifying workers at risk of exiting employment or the labor force because of an injury or illness and determining when to intervene are major challenges for SAW/RTW programs. **One strategy developed by this project is to construct a new data source that would match nationally representative data to administrative records to support descriptive analyses of the target population.**

[SEE FULL REPORT](#)





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**TIMEFRAME:** 2017-2020

**SUBMITTED BY:** Abt Associates

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**PARTNER AGENCY:** Office of Disability Employment Policy

**SPONSOR:** DOL Chief Evaluation Office

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