Disability Statistics

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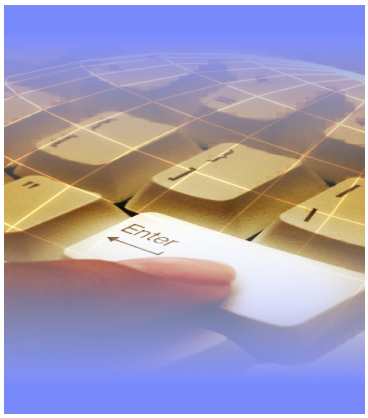
Disability Statistics

Understanding Disability Data



The definition of a disability varies and therefore the collection of disability statistics depends on the purpose for which it is being used and the survey collecting the information. The Census Bureau collects disability data from four surveys, however, other agencies also collect disability data. Depending on your needs, one survey may be more suitable than another. The following information contains a snap snot from the US Census Bureau.

U.S. CENSUS DATA

Population Distribution

37.5 million
Number of people age 5 and over in the civilian noninstitutionalized population with at least one disability, representing 14 percent. These individuals fit at least one of the following descriptions: they are 5 years old or older and have a sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability; they are 16 years old or older and have difficulty going outside the home; or they are 16 to 64 years old and have an employment disability.

By age and sex

- 8 percent of boys and 4 percent of girls ages 5 to 15 have disabilities.
- 12 percent of men and 11 percent of women ages 16 to 64 have disabilities. This apparent difference is not statistically significant.
- 42 percent of women and 38 percent of men 65 or older have disabilities.

42%
Percentage of working-age men (21 to 64) with disabilities who are employed. For women, the rate is 34 percent. Altogether, 4.0 million men and 3.5 million women with disabilities are employed.

847,000
Number of people ages 18 to 34 who have disabilities and are enrolled in school. They comprise 5 percent of all students in this age group. The majority of this group (567,000) attend college or graduate school.

For further information on "Population Distribution," see
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/2003acs.html

Specific Disabilities

10.8 million
The number of people age 5 or older with a sensory disability involving sight or hearing. This group accounts for 4.1 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

23.6 million
The number of people age 5 or older with a condition limiting basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying. This group accounts for 9.0 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

13.5 million
The number of people age 5 or older with a physical, mental or emotional condition causing difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating. This group accounts for 5.1 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

7.0 million
Number of people age 5 or older who have a physical, mental or emotional condition causing difficulty in dressing, bathing or moving around inside the home. This group accounts for 2.7 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

10.7 million
Number of people age 16 or older who have a condition that makes it difficult to go outside the home to shop or visit a doctor. This group accounts for 4.9 percent of civilian noninstitutionalized people who are of this age.

11.8 million
Number of people ages 16 to 64 who have a condition that affects their ability to work at a job or business. They account for 6.4 percent of civilian noninstitutionalized people in this age group.

For further information on "Specific Disabilities," http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/2003acs.html.

Serving Our Nation

2.5 million
Number of veterans who received compensation for service-related disabilities as of 2003. Of these vets, 414,000 served in World War II; 164,000 in Korea; 848,000 in Vietnam; and 476,000 in the Persian Gulf (the data cover service from Aug. 2, 1990 to Sept. 30, 2003). See Table 515 at http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html

Other Statistics and Surveys

US CENSUS BUREAU — HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

The American Community Survey (ACS)
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/acs.html
The Decennial Census of Population and Housing
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/decennial.html
The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/decennial.html
The Current Population Survey (CPS)
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/cps.html