2015

State Report for County-level Data: Prevalence

Disability Statistics & Demographics
Rehabilitation Research & Training Center

Acknowledgement

The StatsRRTC and EPM-RRTC are part of the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. The Institute on Disability/UCED (IOD) was established in 1987 to provide a university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of people with disabilities and their families and is New Hampshire's University Center for Excellence in Disability (UCED). Located within the University of New Hampshire, the IOD is a federally designated center authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Act. Through innovative and interdisciplinary research, academic, service, and dissemination initiatives, the IOD builds local, state, and national capacities to respond to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

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2015 Alabama Report for County-level Data: Prevalence

Introduction

The *State Reports for County-Level Data on Prevalence* are designed to provide the users of disability statistics with the number of people with disabilities for any given state and county in the United States (U.S.). This report is intended to be an online compliment to <u>Section 1: Population and Prevalence</u> of the *Annual Disability Statistics Compendium* and *Annual Disability Statistics Supplement*, providing greater detail within each state. The *State Reports for County-Level Data on Prevalence* can be used to compare county-level statistics between counties in any given state or states. The following report provides county-level statistics for <u>Alabama</u>.

The proportions of people with disabilities, sometimes called prevalence, presented in the *State Reports for County-Level Data* is a useful tool for advocates, researchers, and policy-makers to plan and provide services and supports for people with disabilities. In this report, the prevalence of people with disabilities is presented as the number of people with disabilities in a given state and county per total state and county populations, respectively. Counts and percentages are provided in tables and maps.

The data for this report comes from the American Community Survey 5-year data. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a national survey developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to provide information on a number of topics about social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the U.S. population. ACS 5-year data is collected over a longer period of time than 1-year data, providing larger sample sizes and increased reliability for less populated areas and small population subgroups. All of the statistics in this report use the ACS 5-year data which includes data from the year of the report and data from the four previous years.

In the ACS, people are identified as having a disability based on responses to a series of six questions asking about having difficulties with vision, hearing, ambulation, cognition, self-care, and independent living. These questions are:

- Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?

- Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

- Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?

- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

A response of 'yes' to any one of these six questions identifies an individual as having a disability in the ACS. Specific to Alabama, the state chosen for this report, sentences providing interpretation and context for prevalence statistics are included below. A short glossary of terms is also provided at the end of the report explaining the statistics that are illustrated in each sentence.

Interpretation

The following statements are designed to help understand the 2015 county-level statistics from Alabama that are presented:

- For people with and without disabilities:

    - The **range** of total people across Alabama counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people across Alabama counties, was **642,951**.

        - The county with the greatest number of total people was **Jefferson** (651,597 people).

        - The county with the least number of total people was **Greene** (8,646 people).

    - The **average** number of total people across all counties was **70,892**.

    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of total people across Alabama counties was **33,733**.

- For people with disabilities:

    - The **range** of people with disabilities across Alabama counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people with disabilities across Alabama counties, was **93,801**.

        - The county with the greatest number of people with disabilities was **Jefferson** (95,686 people).

        - The county with the least number of people with disabilities was **Bullock** (1,885 people).

    - The **average** number of people with disabilities across all counties was **11,530**.

    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of people with disabilities across Alabama counties was **7,127**

Prevalence of People with and without Disabilities for Alabama, by County: 2015

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Alabama	4,749,786	772,482	16.3	3,977,304	83.7
Autauga	54,425	9,400	17.3	45,025	82.7
Baldwin	192,770	26,550	13.8	166,220	86.2
Barbour	24,060	5,526	23.0	18,534	77.0
Bibb	20,770	3,008	14.5	17,762	85.5
Blount	57,210	9,291	16.2	47,919	83.8
Bullock	10,107	1,885	18.7	8,222	81.3
Butler	20,070	4,099	20.4	15,971	79.6
Calhoun	115,195	23,041	20.0	92,154	80.0
Chambers	33,733	6,366	18.9	27,367	81.1
Cherokee	25,672	5,741	22.4	19,931	77.6
Chilton	43,499	7,342	16.9	36,157	83.1
Choctaw	13,266	3,296	24.8	9,970	75.2
Clarke	24,799	3,830	15.4	20,969	84.6
Clay	13,265	2,386	18.0	10,879	82.0
Cleburne	14,846	2,994	20.2	11,852	79.8
Coffee	48,929	8,588	17.6	40,341	82.4
Colbert	54,022	10,819	20.0	43,203	80.0
Conecuh	12,818	3,166	24.7	9,652	75.3
Coosa	10,750	2,378	22.1	8,372	77.9
Covington	37,370	8,025	21.5	29,345	78.5
Crenshaw	13,763	2,511	18.2	11,252	81.8
Cullman	80,200	12,641	15.8	67,559	84.2
Dale	47,170	9,458	20.1	37,712	79.9
Dallas	41,839	8,155	19.5	33,684	80.5
DeKalb	70,374	10,778	15.3	59,596	84.7

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Elmore	75,501	12,921	17.1	62,580	82.9
Escambia	35,607	7,132	20.0	28,475	80.0
Etowah	102,735	20,903	20.3	81,832	79.7
Fayette	16,708	4,332	25.9	12,376	74.1
Franklin	31,374	6,003	19.1	25,371	80.9
Geneva	26,476	5,742	21.7	20,734	78.3
Greene	8,646	2,413	27.9	6,233	72.1
Hale	14,998	3,060	20.4	11,938	79.6
Henry	17,026	3,347	19.7	13,679	80.3
Houston	102,646	18,173	17.7	84,473	82.3
Jackson	52,366	8,934	17.1	43,432	82.9
Jefferson	651,597	95,686	14.7	555,911	85.3
Lamar	13,989	3,376	24.1	10,613	75.9
Lauderdale	91,962	14,567	15.8	77,395	84.2
Lawrence	33,344	6,872	20.6	26,472	79.4
Lee	149,037	17,506	11.7	131,531	88.3
Limestone	84,805	11,832	14.0	72,973	86.0
Lowndes	10,604	2,159	20.4	8,445	79.6
Macon	19,809	3,528	17.8	16,281	82.2
Madison	342,206	43,509	12.7	298,697	87.3
Marengo	20,079	4,735	23.6	15,344	76.4
Marion	29,729	7,210	24.3	22,519	75.7
Marshall	93,431	16,438	17.6	76,993	82.4
Mobile	406,218	61,814	15.2	344,404	84.8
Monroe	22,002	3,112	14.1	18,890	85.9
Montgomery	222,787	36,125	16.2	186,662	83.8

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

County	Total	Disability		No Disability		County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%			Count	%	Count	%
Morgan	118,084	19,679	16.7	98,405	83.3						
Perry	9,888	2,499	25.3	7,389	74.7						
Pickens	19,254	4,680	24.3	14,574	75.7						
Pike	32,947	5,244	15.9	27,703	84.1						
Randolph	22,412	3,742	16.7	18,670	83.3						
Russell	56,373	10,179	18.1	46,194	81.9						
Shelby	201,820	22,274	11.0	179,546	89.0						
St. Clair	84,001	14,721	17.5	69,280	82.5						
Sumter	13,204	2,725	20.6	10,479	79.4						
Talladega	78,682	15,046	19.1	63,636	80.9						
Tallapoosa	40,616	7,127	17.5	33,489	82.5						
Tuscaloosa	199,008	23,353	11.7	175,655	88.3						
Walker	65,219	16,324	25.0	48,895	75.0						
Washington	16,869	4,095	24.3	12,774	75.7						
Wilcox	10,976	1,947	17.7	9,029	82.3						
Winston	23,829	6,144	25.8	17,685	74.2						

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.
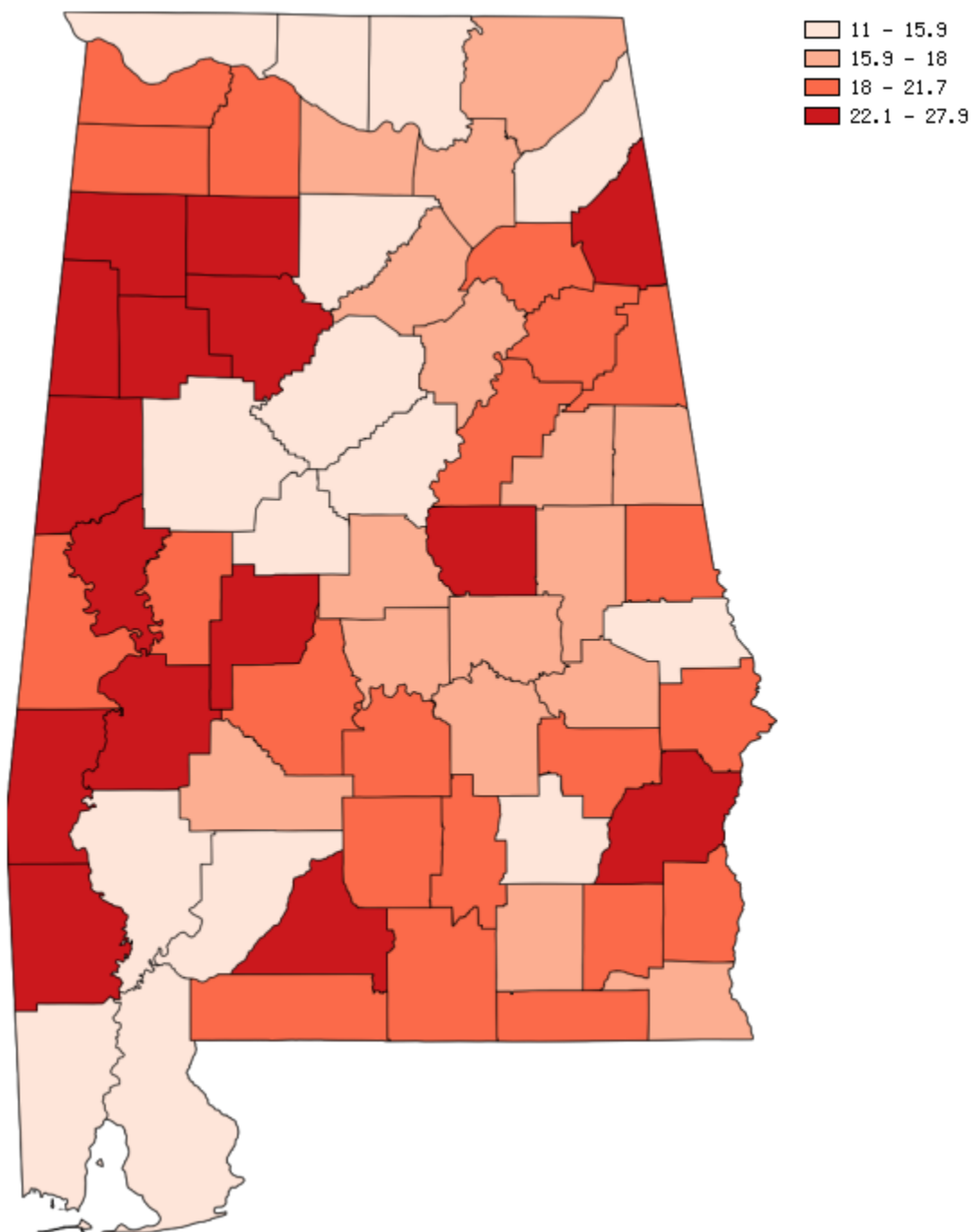
Count of People with Disabilities for Alabama, by County: 2015

☐	1,885 - 3,830
☐	3,830 - 6,872
☐	6,872 - 17,506
☐	17,506 - 95,686
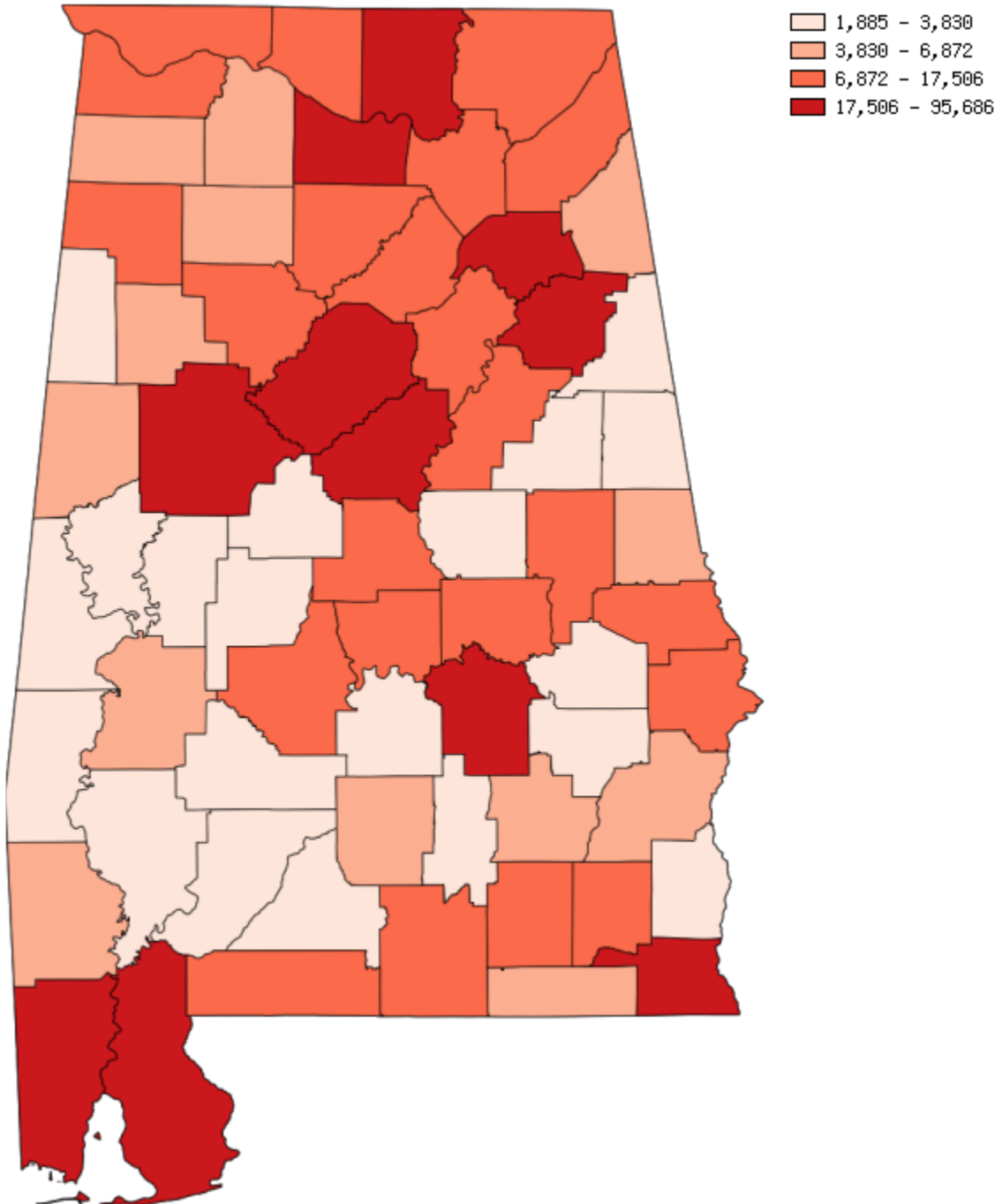
Percentage of People with Disabilities for Alabama, by County: 2015

☐	11 - 15.9
☐	15.9 - 18
☐	18 - 21.7
☐	22.1 - 27.9

Discussion

There are a number of concepts and factors which complicate the interpretation of the estimates presented in this report. These concerns affect all statistics from population-based surveys. The estimates included in this document should be interpreted the following limitations in mind and generalized with caution. In each point, a link to the U.S. Census Bureau website describing the limitation or concept in greater detail in the ACS has been provided (www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/).

- Statistics are based on a sample and subject to sample variation (a discussion of this topic can be found here).

- Statistics based on a sample may not fully represent the total U.S. population (a discussion of this topic can be found here).

- People responding to the ACS may be different than people not responding (a discussion of this topic can be found here).

- When people do not respond to all ACS questions their responses are created based on assignment or allocation (a discussion of this topic can be found here).

Additional resources for the ACS:

- Information on the disability questions can be found here.

- The ACS design and methodology can be found here.

- The ACS questionnaire and instructions can be found here.

Definitions

Average—The sum of all of the values in a sample divided by the number of values in the sample.
Median—The middlemost value of a sample that separates the upper half of the values from the lower half of the values.
Prevalence—The proportion of the population with a particular status or condition. Prevalence is usually expressed as a percentage or a number of people per unit of the population.
Population—The total number of inhabitants in a defined geographic area including all races, classes, and groups.
Range—The difference between the largest and smallest values in a sample. In a sample, when the smallest value is subtracted from the largest value the resulting value is called the range.

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics

Policymakers, program administrators, service providers, researchers, advocates for people with disabilities, and people with disabilities and their families need accessible, valid data/statistics to support their decisions related to policy improvements, program administration, service delivery, protection of civil rights, and major life activities. The StatsRRTC supports decision making through a variety of integrated research and outreach activities by (a) improving knowledge about and access to existing data, (b) generating the knowledge needed to improve future disability data collection, and (c) strengthening connections between the data from and regarding respondents, researchers, and decision makers. In this way, the Stats RRTC supports the improvement of service systems that advance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Led by the University of New Hampshire, the StatsRRTC is a collaborative effort involving the following partners: American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for Essential Management Services, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kessler Foundation, Mathematica Policy Research, and Public Health Institute. The StatsRRTC is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research under grant number 90RT502201, from 2013-2018.

Employment Policy and Measurement Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

The EPM-RRTC generates and translates new information about disability employment policy and ways to measure the labor market experiences of people with disabilities. By improving the quality of available information about program interactions, policy options, and employment outcomes, the EPM-RRTC increases evidence-based advocacy and policymaking.

Led by the University of New Hampshire, the EPM-RRTC is a collaborative effort involving the following partners: Association of University Centers on Disability, Hunter College, Kessler Foundation, Mathematica Policy Research, and the University of Chicago. The EPM-RRTC is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research under grant number 90RT503701, from 2015-2020.