2015 State Report for County-level Data: Prevalence

Disability Statistics & Demographics
Rehabilitation Research & Training Center

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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 California Report for County-level Data: Prevalence

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics
A NIDILRR-Funded Center

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 Section 1: Population and Prevalence 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 California.

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 California, 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 California that are presented:

- For people with and without disabilities:
    - The **range** of total people across California counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people across California counties, was **9,967,829**.
        - The county with the greatest number of total people was **Los Angeles** (9,968,960 people).
        - The county with the least number of total people was **Alpine** (1,131 people).
    - The **average** number of total people across all counties was **653,661**.
    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of total people across California counties was **179,286.0**.

- For people with disabilities:
    - The **range** of people with disabilities across California counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people with disabilities across California counties, was **967,321**.
        - The county with the greatest number of people with disabilities was **Los Angeles** (967,572 people).
        - The county with the least number of people with disabilities was **Alpine** (251 people).
    - The **average** number of people with disabilities across all counties was **68,058**.
    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of people with disabilities across California counties was **22,830.0**

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

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
California	37,912,312	3,947,390	10.4	33,964,922	89.6
Alameda	1,573,351	149,226	9.5	1,424,125	90.5
Alpine	1,131	251	22.2	880	77.8
Amador	32,880	5,936	18.1	26,944	81.9
Butte	220,313	37,596	17.1	182,717	82.9
Calaveras	44,382	8,548	19.3	35,834	80.7
Colusa	21,205	2,669	12.6	18,536	87.4
Contra Costa	1,090,556	118,603	10.9	971,953	89.1
Del Norte	24,021	5,400	22.5	18,621	77.5
El Dorado	181,005	22,666	12.5	158,339	87.5
Fresno	945,353	117,014	12.4	828,339	87.6
Glenn	27,732	4,769	17.2	22,963	82.8
Humboldt	133,962	22,426	16.7	111,536	83.3
Imperial	167,772	23,434	14.0	144,338	86.0
Inyo	17,934	2,320	12.9	15,614	87.1
Kern	836,745	93,190	11.1	743,555	88.9
Kings	130,496	14,742	11.3	115,754	88.7
Lake	63,470	13,465	21.2	50,005	78.8
Lassen	21,971	3,983	18.1	17,988	81.9
Los Angeles	9,968,960	967,572	9.7	9,001,388	90.3
Madera	144,677	18,909	13.1	125,768	86.9
Marin	253,123	22,994	9.1	230,129	90.9
Mariposa	17,616	3,135	17.8	14,481	82.2
Mendocino	86,622	14,632	16.9	71,990	83.1
Merced	260,892	40,971	15.7	219,921	84.3
Modoc	8,940	1,886	21.1	7,054	78.9

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Mono	14,072	1,199	8.5	12,873	91.5
Monterey	410,004	36,922	9.0	373,082	91.0
Napa	138,394	14,842	10.7	123,552	89.3
Nevada	97,618	13,870	14.2	83,748	85.8
Orange	3,098,794	258,350	8.3	2,840,444	91.7
Placer	363,472	39,456	10.9	324,016	89.1
Plumas	18,802	4,072	21.7	14,730	78.3
Riverside	2,275,526	251,316	11.0	2,024,210	89.0
Sacramento	1,449,885	185,210	12.8	1,264,675	87.2
San Benito	57,395	4,910	8.6	52,485	91.4
San Bernardino	2,050,107	222,039	10.8	1,828,068	89.2
San Diego	3,123,555	301,597	9.7	2,821,958	90.3
San Francisco	836,167	87,603	10.5	748,564	89.5
San Joaquin	699,892	82,703	11.8	617,189	88.2
San Luis Obispo	269,580	29,969	11.1	239,611	88.9
San Mateo	744,848	60,606	8.1	684,242	91.9
Santa Barbara	428,774	41,249	9.6	387,525	90.4
Santa Clara	1,859,170	144,096	7.8	1,715,074	92.2
Santa Cruz	268,005	24,791	9.3	243,214	90.7
Shasta	177,567	32,165	18.1	145,402	81.9
Sierra	2,991	540	18.1	2,451	81.9
Siskiyou	43,702	8,777	20.1	34,925	79.9
Solano	412,693	48,005	11.6	364,688	88.4
Sonoma	490,858	57,249	11.7	433,609	88.3
Stanislaus	524,038	70,303	13.4	453,735	86.6
Sutter	94,038	12,868	13.7	81,170	86.3

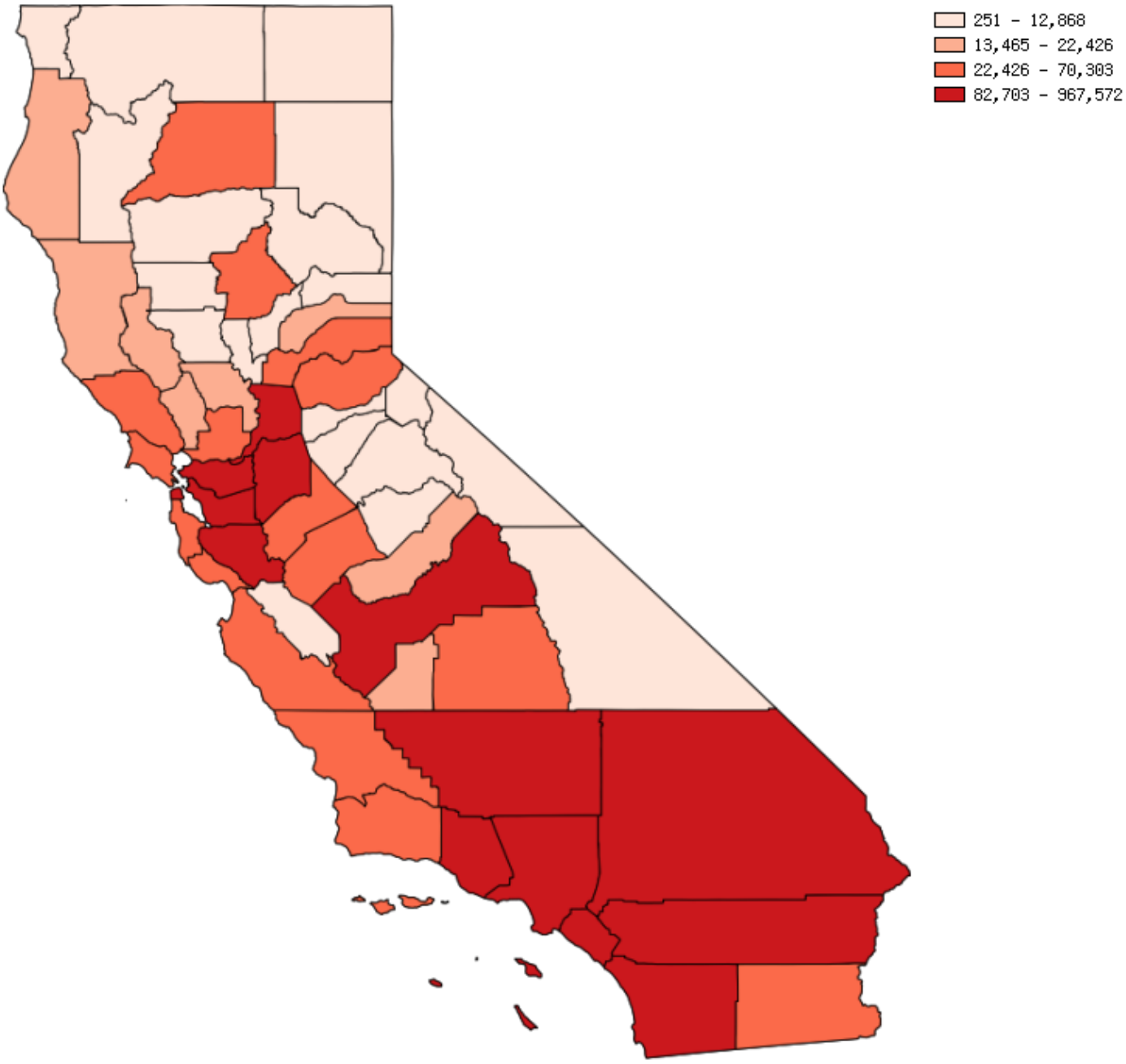
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Tehama	62,585	12,269	19.6	50,316	80.4
Trinity	13,160	3,142	23.9	10,018	76.1
Tulare	449,747	51,997	11.6	397,750	88.4
Tuolumne	50,840	9,920	19.5	40,920	80.5
Ventura	834,057	85,878	10.3	748,179	89.7
Yolo	205,756	20,820	10.1	184,936	89.9
Yuba	71,111	12,320	17.3	58,791	82.7

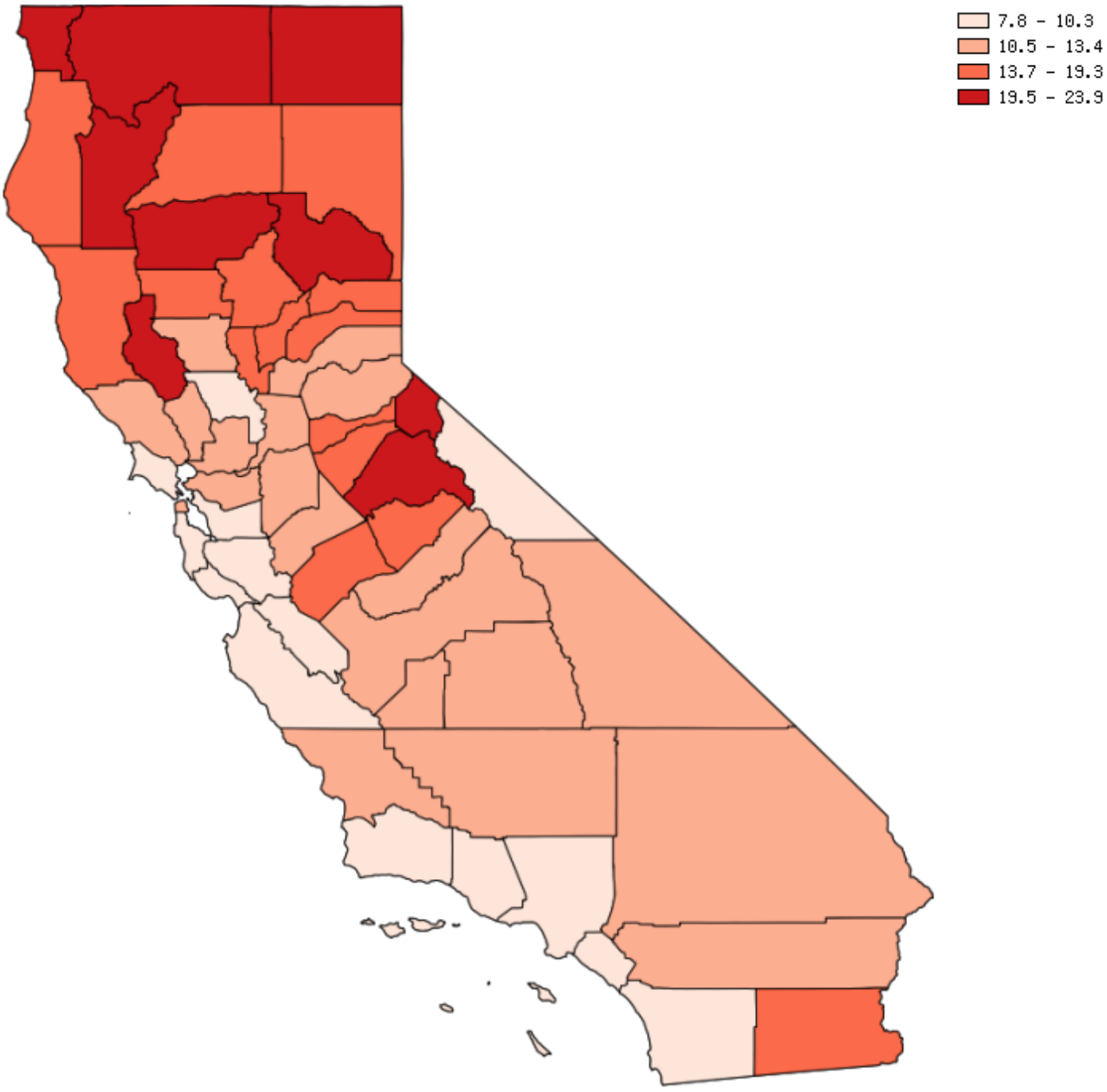
County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%

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 California, by County: 2015



Percentage of People with Disabilities for California, by County: 2015



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.



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