



2015

State Report for County-level Data: Prevalence



Disability Statistics & Demographics
Rehabilitation Research & Training Center

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to the following individuals who have contributed to the success of this effort: Deb Brucker, Erin Dame, Adam Lavoie, Rachel Coleman, Kate Filanoski, and Karen Volle.

Funding for this publication is made possible by:

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC), funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), grant number 90RT5022-02-01; and the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement (EPM-RRTC), also funded by NIDILRR, grant number 90RT5037-01-00. The information developed by the StatsRRTC and EPM-RRTC does not necessarily represent the policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government (Edgar, 75.620 (b)).

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.

Institute on Disability / UCED

10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101

Durham, NH 03284

603.862.4320 | relay: 711 | contact.iod@unh.edu

www.iod.unh.edu

2015 North Carolina 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 [North Carolina](#).

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 North Carolina, 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 North Carolina that are presented:

- For people with and without disabilities:
 - The **range** of total people across North Carolina counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people across North Carolina counties, was **981,061**.
 - The county with the greatest number of total people was **Mecklenburg** (984,628 people).
 - The county with the least number of total people was **Tyrrell** (3,567 people).
 - The **average** number of total people across all counties was **96,496**.
 - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of total people across North Carolina counties was **53,864.5**.

- For people with disabilities:
 - The **range** of people with disabilities across North Carolina counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people with disabilities across North Carolina counties, was **87,311**.
 - The county with the greatest number of people with disabilities was **Mecklenburg** (88,016 people).
 - The county with the least number of people with disabilities was **Tyrrell** (705 people).
 - The **average** number of people with disabilities across all counties was **13,073**.
 - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of people with disabilities across North Carolina counties was **9,438.0**

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

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
North Carolina	9,649,606	1,307,306	13.5	8,342,300	86.5
Alamance	154,193	22,666	14.7	131,527	85.3
Alexander	36,026	6,101	16.9	29,925	83.1
Alleghany	10,783	2,125	19.7	8,658	80.3
Anson	24,351	4,826	19.8	19,525	80.2
Ashe	26,853	4,313	16.1	22,540	83.9
Avery	15,738	3,206	20.4	12,532	79.6
Beaufort	47,198	8,870	18.8	38,328	81.2
Bertie	19,281	4,062	21.1	15,219	78.9
Bladen	34,298	7,235	21.1	27,063	78.9
Brunswick	114,974	19,140	16.6	95,834	83.4
Buncombe	243,514	33,740	13.9	209,774	86.1
Burke	87,122	17,489	20.1	69,633	79.9
Cabarrus	187,015	19,674	10.5	167,341	89.5
Caldwell	80,896	15,265	18.9	65,631	81.1
Camden	9,987	1,228	12.3	8,759	87.7
Carteret	66,448	12,786	19.2	53,662	80.8
Caswell	22,247	4,689	21.1	17,558	78.9
Catawba	153,148	21,449	14.0	131,699	86.0
Chatham	66,686	9,064	13.6	57,622	86.4
Cherokee	26,810	5,366	20.0	21,444	80.0
Chowan	14,388	2,080	14.5	12,308	85.5
Clay	10,595	1,742	16.4	8,853	83.6
Cleveland	96,865	16,229	16.8	80,636	83.2
Columbus	54,532	10,707	19.6	43,825	80.4
Craven	96,957	16,697	17.2	80,260	82.8

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Cumberland	296,804	44,803	15.1	252,001	84.9
Currituck	24,191	3,069	12.7	21,122	87.3
Dare	34,706	5,064	14.6	29,642	85.4
Davidson	162,109	26,758	16.5	135,351	83.5
Davie	41,057	5,537	13.5	35,520	86.5
Duplin	58,825	10,096	17.2	48,729	82.8
Durham	283,358	28,063	9.9	255,295	90.1
Edgecombe	54,230	9,708	17.9	44,522	82.1
Forsyth	358,604	38,848	10.8	319,756	89.2
Franklin	61,238	9,050	14.8	52,188	85.2
Gaston	207,685	33,465	16.1	174,220	83.9
Gates	11,626	2,089	18.0	9,537	82.0
Graham	8,586	1,453	16.9	7,133	83.1
Granville	55,041	9,939	18.1	45,102	81.9
Greene	19,281	4,145	21.5	15,136	78.5
Guilford	502,863	53,659	10.7	449,204	89.3
Halifax	51,993	11,204	21.5	40,789	78.5
Harnett	118,095	15,793	13.4	102,302	86.6
Haywood	58,670	9,498	16.2	49,172	83.8
Henderson	108,640	17,631	16.2	91,009	83.8
Hertford	22,172	4,657	21.0	17,515	79.0
Hoke	46,879	6,853	14.6	40,026	85.4
Hyde	5,027	834	16.6	4,193	83.4
Iredell	163,879	20,748	12.7	143,131	87.3
Jackson	40,485	5,505	13.6	34,980	86.4
Johnston	176,726	23,669	13.4	153,057	86.6

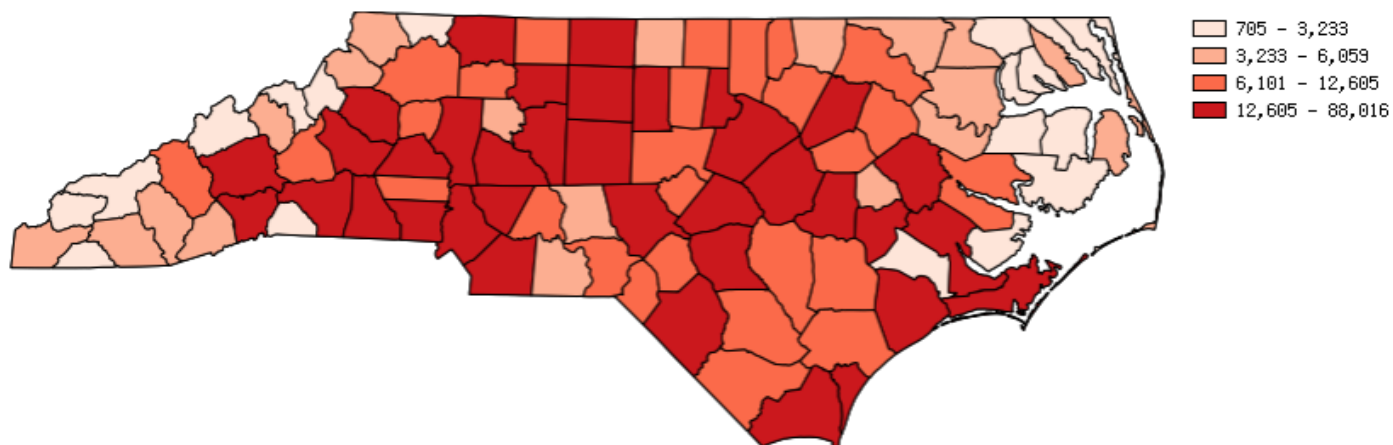
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Jones	10,063	2,504	24.9	7,559	75.1
Lee	58,185	8,445	14.5	49,740	85.5
Lenoir	57,788	13,247	22.9	44,541	77.1
Lincoln	79,010	11,838	15.0	67,172	85.0
Macon	33,691	5,748	17.1	27,943	82.9
Madison	20,794	3,219	15.5	17,575	84.5
Martin	23,591	4,443	18.8	19,148	81.2
McDowell	44,019	9,542	21.7	34,477	78.3
Mecklenburg	984,628	88,016	8.9	896,612	91.1
Mitchell	15,203	3,213	21.1	11,990	78.9
Montgomery	26,764	4,231	15.8	22,533	84.2
Moore	89,364	12,911	14.4	76,453	85.6
Nash	93,222	14,877	16.0	78,345	84.0
New Hanover	210,576	26,894	12.8	183,682	87.2
Northampton	20,251	4,676	23.1	15,575	76.9
Onslow	153,031	23,820	15.6	129,211	84.4
Orange	137,930	11,448	8.3	126,482	91.7
Pamlico	12,349	2,621	21.2	9,728	78.8
Pasquotank	38,645	6,059	15.7	32,586	84.3
Pender	53,499	9,378	17.5	44,121	82.5
Perquimans	13,381	2,486	18.6	10,895	81.4
Person	38,833	7,142	18.4	31,691	81.6
Pitt	172,537	20,803	12.1	151,734	87.9
Polk	20,057	3,233	16.1	16,824	83.9
Randolph	141,201	19,285	13.7	121,916	86.3
Richmond	44,736	8,539	19.1	36,197	80.9

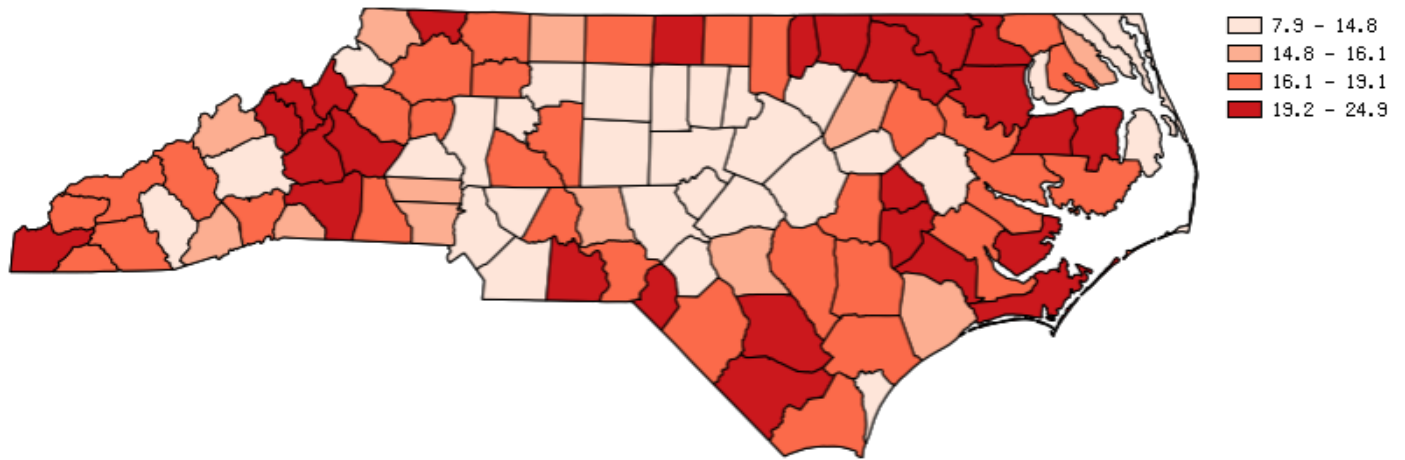
County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Robeson	132,645	23,056	17.4	109,589	82.6
Rockingham	91,303	16,154	17.7	75,149	82.3
Rowan	135,832	21,999	16.2	113,833	83.8
Rutherford	65,969	14,132	21.4	51,837	78.6
Sampson	63,251	11,962	18.9	51,289	81.1
Scotland	34,137	6,897	20.2	27,240	79.8
Stanly	59,190	9,883	16.7	49,307	83.3
Stokes	46,221	7,037	15.2	39,184	84.8
Surry	72,423	13,391	18.5	59,032	81.5
Swain	13,974	2,292	16.4	11,682	83.6
Transylvania	32,447	5,216	16.1	27,231	83.9
Tyrrell	3,567	705	19.8	2,862	80.2
Union	212,475	19,498	9.2	192,977	90.8
Vance	44,375	10,183	22.9	34,192	77.1
Wake	967,390	76,501	7.9	890,889	92.1
Warren	19,452	4,657	23.9	14,795	76.1
Washington	12,530	2,919	23.3	9,611	76.7
Watauga	51,957	5,431	10.5	46,526	89.5
Wayne	119,784	19,726	16.5	100,058	83.5
Wilkes	68,086	12,605	18.5	55,481	81.5
Wilson	80,444	11,778	14.6	68,666	85.4
Yadkin	37,705	6,385	16.9	31,320	83.1
Yancey	17,426	3,394	19.5	14,032	80.5

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 North Carolina, by County: 2015



Percentage of People with Disabilities for North Carolina, 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.



Institute on Disability / UCED
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101
Durham, NH 03824
603.862.4320 | relay: 711
contact.iod@unh.edu

iod.unh.edu

© January 2018. Institute on Disability.
University of New Hampshire.