



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.

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 Tennessee 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 Tennessee.

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 Tennessee, 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 Tennessee that are presented:

- For people with and without disabilities:
 - The **range** of total people across Tennessee counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people across Tennessee counties, was **920,446**.
 - The county with the greatest number of total people was **Shelby** (925,427 people).
 - The county with the least number of total people was **Lake** (4,981 people).
 - The **average** number of total people across all counties was **67,341**.
 - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of total people across Tennessee counties was **30,836**.

- For people with disabilities:
 - The **range** of people with disabilities across Tennessee counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people with disabilities across Tennessee counties, was **115,083**.
 - The county with the greatest number of people with disabilities was **Shelby** (116,065 people).
 - The county with the least number of people with disabilities was **Moore** (982 people).
 - The **average** number of people with disabilities across all counties was **10,308**.
 - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of people with disabilities across Tennessee counties was **5,835**

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

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Tennessee	6,397,431	979,250	15.3	5,418,181	84.7
Anderson	74,596	13,870	18.6	60,726	81.4
Bedford	45,593	7,246	15.9	38,347	84.1
Benton	16,100	3,725	23.1	12,375	76.9
Bledsoe	12,463	3,135	25.2	9,328	74.8
Blount	124,016	19,475	15.7	104,541	84.3
Bradley	101,133	18,243	18.0	82,890	82.0
Campbell	39,650	9,149	23.1	30,501	76.9
Cannon	13,619	2,857	21.0	10,762	79.0
Carroll	27,872	5,835	20.9	22,037	79.1
Carter	55,874	12,063	21.6	43,811	78.4
Cheatham	39,103	5,737	14.7	33,366	85.3
Chester	17,248	2,296	13.3	14,952	86.7
Claiborne	31,218	6,697	21.5	24,521	78.5
Clay	7,687	1,718	22.3	5,969	77.7
Cocke	35,031	7,772	22.2	27,259	77.8
Coffee	52,868	10,342	19.6	42,526	80.4
Crockett	14,387	2,940	20.4	11,447	79.6
Cumberland	56,807	13,087	23.0	43,720	77.0
Davidson	650,581	75,152	11.6	575,429	88.4
DeKalb	18,791	3,665	19.5	15,126	80.5
Decatur	11,459	2,428	21.2	9,031	78.8
Dickson	49,955	8,402	16.8	41,553	83.2
Dyer	37,515	6,964	18.6	30,551	81.4
Fayette	38,379	6,108	15.9	32,271	84.1
Fentress	17,696	4,421	25.0	13,275	75.0

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Franklin	40,788	7,586	18.6	33,202	81.4
Gibson	48,521	8,431	17.4	40,090	82.6
Giles	28,560	4,874	17.1	23,686	82.9
Grainger	22,590	4,654	20.6	17,936	79.4
Greene	67,397	14,991	22.2	52,406	77.8
Grundy	13,338	3,452	25.9	9,886	74.1
Hamblen	62,258	11,736	18.9	50,522	81.1
Hamilton	344,364	48,896	14.2	295,468	85.8
Hancock	6,479	1,730	26.7	4,749	73.3
Hardeman	22,802	4,100	18.0	18,702	82.0
Hardin	25,508	5,104	20.0	20,404	80.0
Hawkins	56,027	12,448	22.2	43,579	77.8
Haywood	18,015	3,198	17.8	14,817	82.2
Henderson	27,739	5,053	18.2	22,686	81.8
Henry	31,727	6,540	20.6	25,187	79.4
Hickman	22,813	5,157	22.6	17,656	77.4
Houston	8,097	1,723	21.3	6,374	78.7
Humphreys	18,027	3,448	19.1	14,579	80.9
Jackson	11,318	2,532	22.4	8,786	77.6
Jefferson	51,725	10,157	19.6	41,568	80.4
Johnson	16,192	3,992	24.7	12,200	75.3
Knox	440,820	56,140	12.7	384,680	87.3
Lake	4,981	1,301	26.1	3,680	73.9
Lauderdale	24,557	5,636	23.0	18,921	77.0
Lawrence	41,783	7,304	17.5	34,479	82.5
Lewis	11,710	2,142	18.3	9,568	81.7

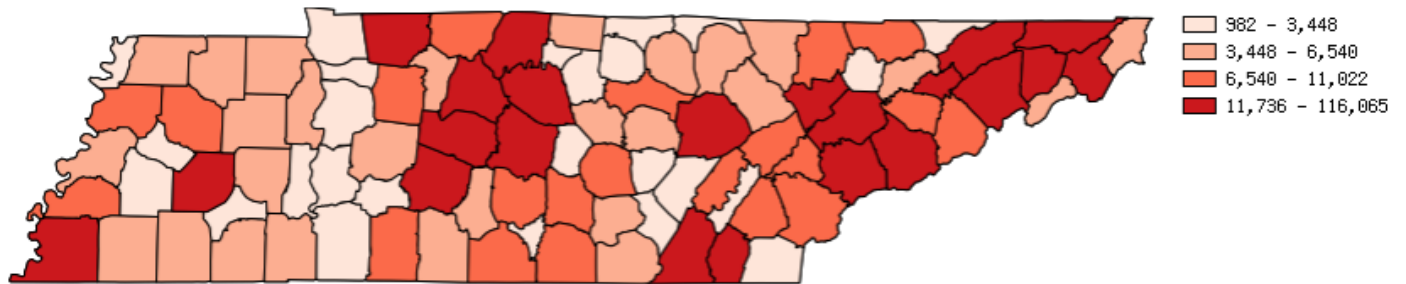
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Lincoln	33,176	6,727	20.3	26,449	79.7
Loudon	49,828	8,536	17.1	41,292	82.9
Macon	22,441	4,321	19.3	18,120	80.7
Madison	97,034	14,974	15.4	82,060	84.6
Marion	27,991	5,995	21.4	21,996	78.6
Marshall	30,836	4,840	15.7	25,996	84.3
Maury	82,911	12,237	14.8	70,674	85.2
McMinn	51,683	9,353	18.1	42,330	81.9
McNairy	25,751	5,140	20.0	20,611	80.0
Meigs	11,575	2,845	24.6	8,730	75.4
Monroe	44,782	8,517	19.0	36,265	81.0
Montgomery	172,586	23,778	13.8	148,808	86.2
Moore	6,257	982	15.7	5,275	84.3
Morgan	18,563	4,168	22.5	14,395	77.5
Obion	30,710	5,899	19.2	24,811	80.8
Overton	21,805	3,690	16.9	18,115	83.1
Perry	7,731	1,491	19.3	6,240	80.7
Pickett	5,005	1,007	20.1	3,998	79.9
Polk	16,450	3,176	19.3	13,274	80.7
Putnam	73,034	10,538	14.4	62,496	85.6
Rhea	32,021	7,835	24.5	24,186	75.5
Roane	52,611	11,022	20.9	41,589	79.1
Robertson	66,647	9,364	14.1	57,283	85.9
Rutherford	280,190	26,845	9.6	253,345	90.4
Scott	21,736	5,146	23.7	16,590	76.3
Sequatchie	14,371	3,227	22.5	11,144	77.5

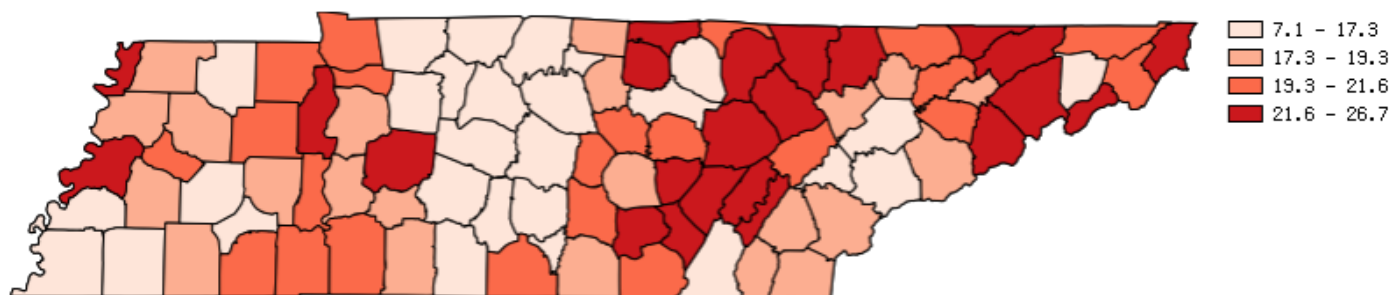
County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Sevier	92,740	16,234	17.5	76,506	82.5
Shelby	925,427	116,065	12.5	809,362	87.5
Smith	18,891	3,442	18.2	15,449	81.8
Stewart	13,096	2,641	20.2	10,455	79.8
Sullivan	155,057	30,903	19.9	124,154	80.1
Sumner	168,087	21,179	12.6	146,908	87.4
Tipton	60,770	8,741	14.4	52,029	85.6
Trousdale	7,742	1,339	17.3	6,403	82.7
Unicoi	17,734	4,434	25.0	13,300	75.0
Union	18,935	3,448	18.2	15,487	81.8
Van Buren	5,495	1,235	22.5	4,260	77.5
Warren	39,483	7,611	19.3	31,872	80.7
Washington	123,533	21,316	17.3	102,217	82.7
Wayne	14,789	3,103	21.0	11,686	79.0
Weakley	33,955	5,657	16.7	28,298	83.3
White	25,845	5,113	19.8	20,732	80.2
Williamson	198,893	14,199	7.1	184,694	92.9
Wilson	121,457	15,285	12.6	106,172	87.4

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 Tennessee, by County: 2015



Percentage of People with Disabilities for Tennessee, 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

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