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 West Virginia 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 West Virginia.

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 West Virginia, 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 West Virginia that are presented:

- For people with and without disabilities:
    - The **range** of total people across West Virginia counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people across West Virginia counties, was **183,200**.
        - The county with the greatest number of total people was **Kanawha** (189,041 people).
        - The county with the least number of total people was **Wirt** (5,841 people).
    - The **average** number of total people across all counties was **33,135**.
    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of total people across West Virginia counties was **23,473**.

- For people with disabilities:
    - The **range** of people with disabilities across West Virginia counties, also known as the difference between the largest and smallest counts of people with disabilities across West Virginia counties, was **35,648**.
        - The county with the greatest number of people with disabilities was **Kanawha** (36,895 people).
        - The county with the least number of people with disabilities was **Wirt** (1,247 people).
    - The **average** number of people with disabilities across all counties was **6,430**.
    - The **median**, also known as the middle-most number, of people with disabilities across West Virginia counties was **5,233**

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

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
West Virginia	1,822,400	353,649	19.4	1,468,751	80.6
Barbour	16,574	3,406	20.6	13,168	79.4
Berkeley	108,065	15,172	14.0	92,893	86.0
Boone	23,884	7,053	29.5	16,831	70.5
Braxton	14,109	2,883	20.4	11,226	79.6
Brooke	23,473	3,698	15.8	19,775	84.2
Cabell	95,396	19,128	20.1	76,268	79.9
Calhoun	7,534	1,672	22.2	5,862	77.8
Clay	9,082	2,106	23.2	6,976	76.8
Doddridge	7,616	1,292	17.0	6,324	83.0
Fayette	44,209	11,586	26.2	32,623	73.8
Gilmer	7,064	1,321	18.7	5,743	81.3
Grant	11,705	1,933	16.5	9,772	83.5
Greenbrier	35,035	6,700	19.1	28,335	80.9
Hampshire	23,011	5,448	23.7	17,563	76.3
Hancock	29,973	5,794	19.3	24,179	80.7
Hardy	13,878	2,465	17.8	11,413	82.2
Harrison	68,409	12,669	18.5	55,740	81.5
Jackson	29,080	5,100	17.5	23,980	82.5
Jefferson	54,948	6,987	12.7	47,961	87.3
Kanawha	189,041	36,895	19.5	152,146	80.5
Lewis	16,348	3,314	20.3	13,034	79.7
Lincoln	21,500	6,332	29.5	15,168	70.5
Logan	35,188	10,192	29.0	24,996	71.0
Marion	56,423	8,299	14.7	48,124	85.3
Marshall	32,081	4,702	14.7	27,379	85.3

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Mason	26,500	5,728	21.6	20,772	78.4
McDowell	19,600	6,316	32.2	13,284	67.8
Mercer	61,459	15,639	25.4	45,820	74.6
Mineral	27,549	5,895	21.4	21,654	78.6
Mingo	25,847	7,665	29.7	18,182	70.3
Monongalia	100,051	10,824	10.8	89,227	89.2
Monroe	13,407	3,473	25.9	9,934	74.1
Morgan	17,309	3,044	17.6	14,265	82.4
Nicholas	25,786	5,378	20.9	20,408	79.1
Ohio	43,077	6,648	15.4	36,429	84.6
Pendleton	7,229	1,486	20.6	5,743	79.4
Pleasants	7,016	1,342	19.1	5,674	80.9
Pocahontas	8,392	1,921	22.9	6,471	77.1
Preston	31,484	6,220	19.8	25,264	80.2
Putnam	56,261	6,980	12.4	49,281	87.6
Raleigh	75,498	16,481	21.8	59,017	78.2
Randolph	27,548	5,233	19.0	22,315	81.0
Ritchie	10,073	1,966	19.5	8,107	80.5
Roane	14,542	3,108	21.4	11,434	78.6
Summers	12,443	3,413	27.4	9,030	72.6
Taylor	16,532	3,249	19.7	13,283	80.3
Tucker	6,800	1,338	19.7	5,462	80.3
Tyler	8,959	1,731	19.3	7,228	80.7
Upshur	24,403	4,043	16.6	20,360	83.4
Wayne	41,381	9,297	22.5	32,084	77.5
Webster	8,869	2,051	23.1	6,818	76.9

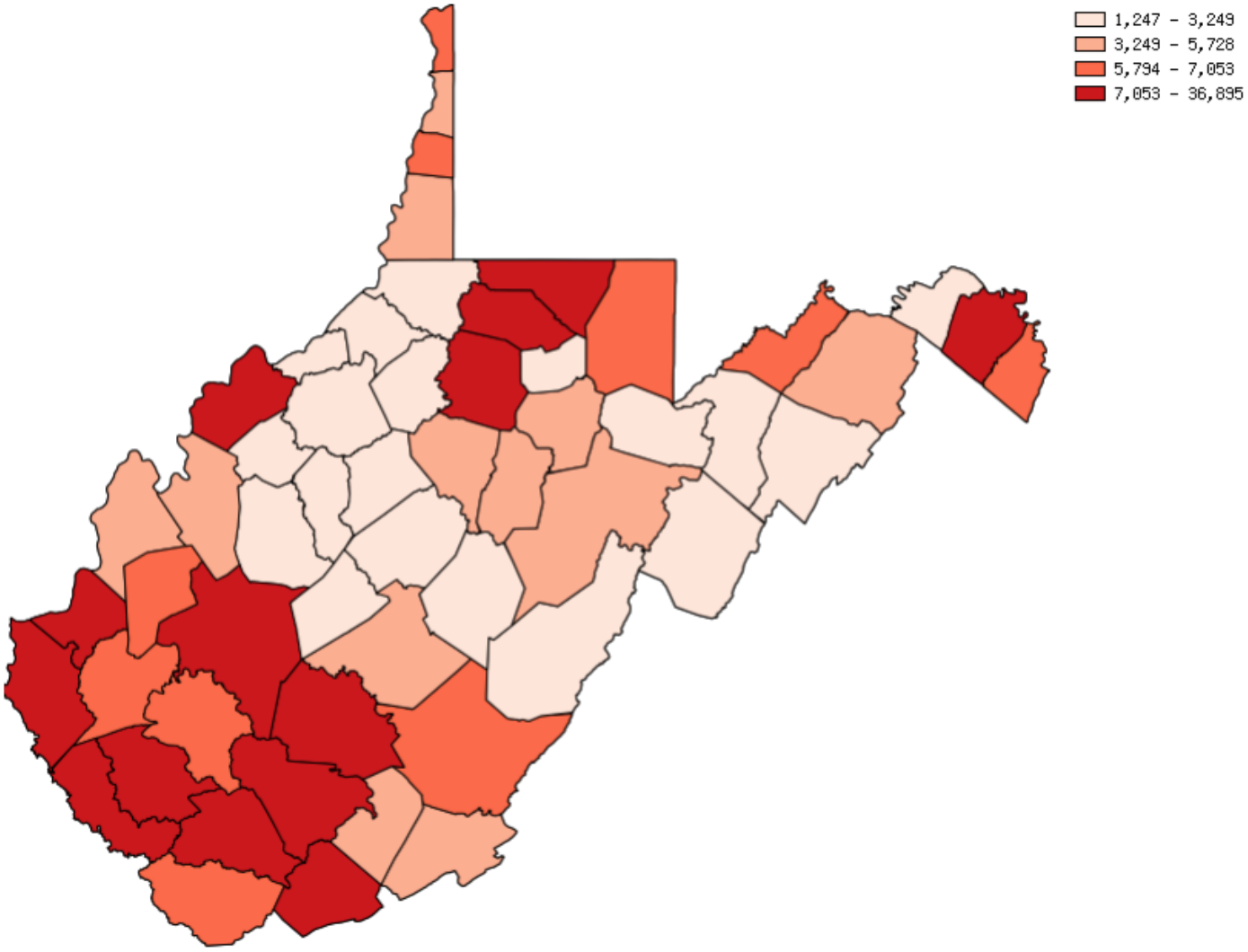
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.
Data represents the civilian, noninstitutional population. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
Wetzel	16,059	2,715	16.9	13,344	83.1
Wirt	5,841	1,247	21.3	4,594	78.7
Wood	86,071	15,481	18.0	70,590	82.0
Wyoming	22,788	7,590	33.3	15,198	66.7

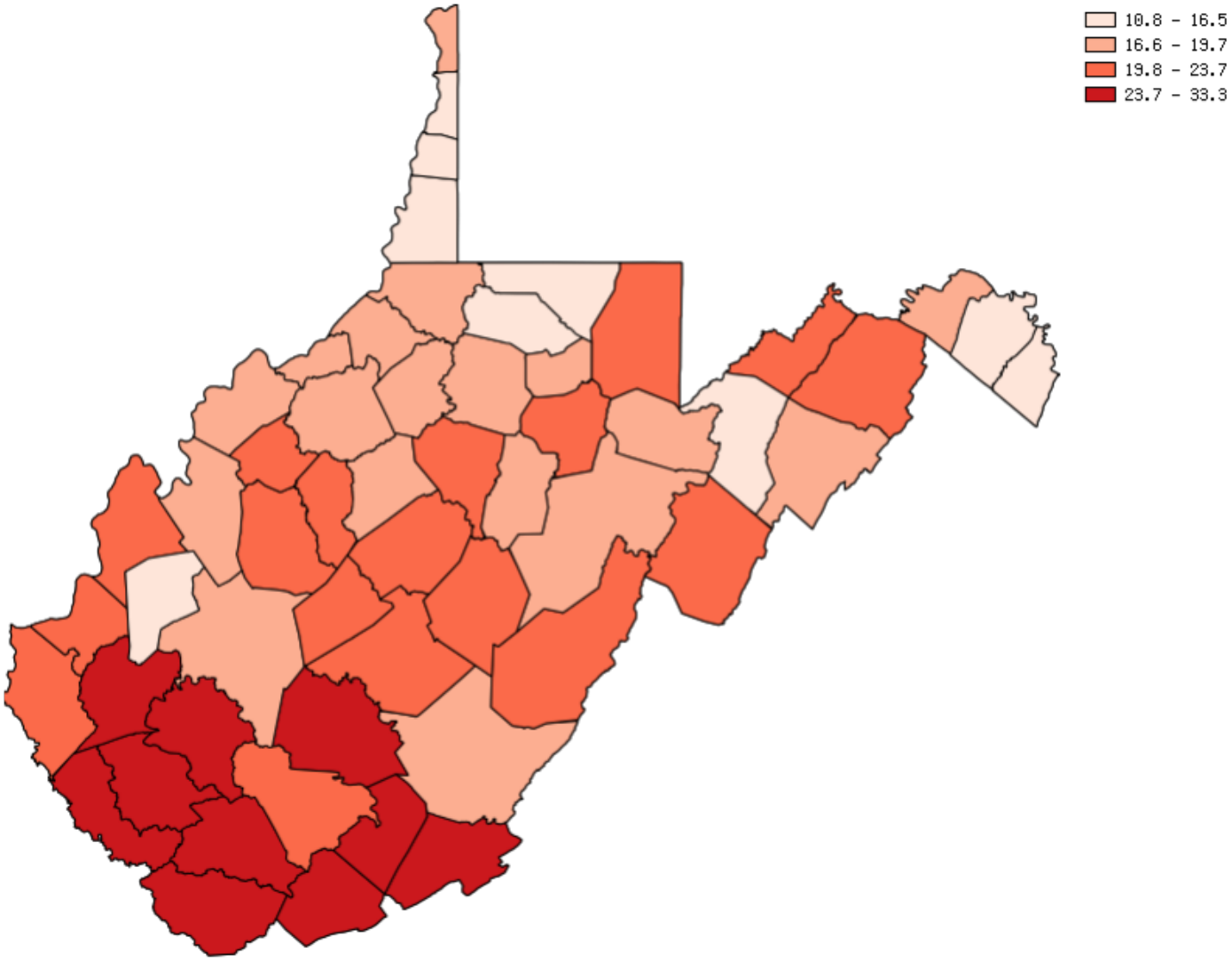
County	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%

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 West Virginia, by County: 2015



Percentage of People with Disabilities for West Virginia, 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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