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Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics

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Introduction

The 2016 Disability Statistics Annual Report presents statistics to address the following types of questions:

- How many people with disabilities live in the United States?
- What is the percentage of people with disabilities in different age groups?
- What is the percentage of people with disabilities for different types of disability?
- To what extent are people with disabilities employed?
- What are the earnings for people with and without disabilities?
- What is the poverty percentage for people with and without disabilities?
- Is disability status associated with percentages of smoking, obesity, and binge drinking?

The Annual Report highlights state and trend data from national sources. A specific listing of source data for each figure is included in Appendix B. There is a great deal of variability in rates of people with disabilities by state and the Annual Report includes maps to highlight this information. A glossary of terms is included in Appendix C.

The Annual Report charts complement the detailed tables of data which can be found in the 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium (www.disabilitycompendium.org).
Quick Facts

• The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the overall rate of people with disabilities in the US population in 2015 was 12.6%.

• The percent of people with disabilities varies greatly by state, as do levels of people with disabilities in employment, poverty, earnings, and health behaviors.

• The percentage of people with disabilities in the US population rose from 11.9% in 2010 to 12.6% in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

• The state with the lowest percentage of people with disabilities in 2015 was Utah at 9.9%; the state with the highest percentage of people with disabilities, West Virginia, was almost twice as high with a percentage of 19.4%

• Rates of disability increase with age. In the US in 2015, less than 1.0% of the under 5 years old population had a disability. For those ages 5-17, the rate was 5.4%. For ages 18-64, the rate was 10.5%. For people ages 65 and older, 35.4% had a disability.

• In 2015, of the US population with disabilities, over half (51.1%) were people in the working-ages of 18-64, while 41.2% were 65 and older. Disability in children and youth accounted for only 7.2% (ages 5-17) and 0.4% (under 5 years old).

• All disability types (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living) have increases in disability percentages with age; cognitive disabilities show the least change between age groups.

• In 2015, 34.9% of people with disabilities in the US ages 18-64 living in the community were employed compared to 76.0% for people without disabilities - a gap of 41.1 percentage points.

• The employment gap between those with a disability and those without has widened steadily over the past 8 years from 38.8 to 41.1 percentage points.

• There is state variation in the rates of employment for people with disabilities, from a high of 57.1% in Wyoming to a low of 25.4% in West Virginia; for people without disabilities, state employment rates ranged from a high of 83.8% in Minnesota to a low of 70.1% in Mississippi.

• In thirty states, the employment percentage gap between those with a disability and those without was 40 percentage points or greater; only three states showed an employment percentage gap less than 33.3 percentage points.

• Employment rates vary by type of disability. Employment rates are highest for people with hearing (51.0%) and vision disabilities (41.8%) and lowest for people with self-care (15.6%) and independent living disabilities (16.4%).
• According to 2015 data, the median earnings of US civilians with disabilities ages 16 and over was $21,572, about two-thirds of the median earnings of people without disabilities ($31,874).

• An earnings disparity of over $10,000 in median earnings between those with and without disabilities has existed since at least 2008. The disparity has increased in magnitude since 2013.

• States also varied widely in earnings gap in 2015 – from a low of $4,490 in Nevada to a high of $24,073 in the District of Columbia.

• More than one in five (21.2%) US civilians with disabilities of working-age in 2015 were living in poverty. For US civilians of working-age without disabilities, the national poverty rate was 13.8%.

• The poverty percentage gap, or the difference between the percentages of those with and without disabilities, has been between 7.4 and 8.3 percentage points over the past 7 years.

• In 2015, states show an increasing poverty percentage gap between those with and without disabilities at all age groups except for people ages 65 and over.

• The US rate of smoking for people with disabilities was 23.4% in 2015, much higher than the rate of 14.9% for people without disabilities. This gap of 8.5 percentage points was a drop over the prior three years, where the gap was 9.1 to 9.2 points.

• In 2015, the US obesity rate for people with disabilities was 39.9%. For people without disabilities, the obesity rate was 25.4%. 2015 showed the first year-to-year drop in obesity gap since 2009 between the percentages of obesity for people with and without disabilities.

• For states, the 2015 gap in binge drinking for those ages 18 and over ranged from 13 points less (thus more people without disabilities binge drinking than those with disabilities) in North Dakota to 1.9 points less in Delaware.
Disability in the United States

How many people with disabilities live in the United States?

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual survey conducted by the US Census Bureau, the overall percentage of people with disabilities in the US in 2015 was 12.6%. Disability is defined by the ACS as an affirmative response to one of six (6) questions. Appendix A provides detail on the definitions used in the ACS estimates.*

Over the past years, the consistency of the disability questions used in the survey allows for a look at the percentage of people with disabilities over time. Figure 1 shows that the percentage of those with a disability in the US civilian population ranged from 11.9% in 2010 to 12.6% in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

* Other surveys have publicized other rates of disability. These rates are affected by survey question, method, and other factors. Each survey has strengths and weaknesses. Comparing disability data between surveys is discouraged by all survey organizations. We have used the ACS due to its larger sampling, consistent year to year questions, and multitude of variables to examine.
The ACS provides estimates of people with disabilities in all states. This Annual Report shows data for states divided into four “quartiles” to show how states vary for different disability-related topics.

In 2015, the state with the lowest percentage of its population having a disability was Utah (9.9%). The state with the highest percentage of disability, West Virginia, was almost twice as high with a percentage of 19.4%. For the most part, higher percentages of disability were clustered in the southern US, around the lower Mississippi river region, with concentrations also high in the states of Maine and Oregon (Figure 2).

**FIG 2. People with Disabilities Living in the Community as a Percentage of the US Population, by State, 2015**
As the US population ages, the percentage of people with disabilities increases. Figure 3 shows that in the US in 2015, less than 1.0% of the under 5 years old population had a disability. For ages 5-17, the rate was 5.4%. For ages 18-64, the rate was 10.5%. For people ages 65 and older, 35.4% had a disability.

Figure 4 shows the composition of the population of people with disabilities in the US, by age. Of the US population in 2015 with disabilities, over half (51.1%) were people in the working-ages of 18-64, while 41.2% were 65 and older. Disability in children and youth accounted for only 7.2% (ages 5-17) and 0.4% (under 5 years old).
Figures 5 through 8 illustrate state variation in the percentage of people with disabilities by age, showing how disability increases with age.

The percentage of disability in those ages 5 and under was very low, about 0.8% nationally, and 2.1% or less in every state (Figure 5). The states with the highest percentages were Alaska and Nevada. Six states had percentages equal to or less than 0.5%.

For children ages 5-17, the percentages of those with a disability ranged from 3.2% in Hawaii to almost triple that percentage in Vermont at 9.0%. In general, percentages for this age group were lower in the states around the Rockies, the upper Great Plains, the Pacific Coast, and Hawaii, and more concentrated in the eastern and southern US (Figure 6).

For adults ages 18-64, the highest percentages of people with disabilities were in states in the southern US from Oklahoma to West Virginia, and also Maine and Oregon (Figure 7). The percentage was lowest in Hawaii and New Jersey (7.7%) and more than twice as high in West Virginia (16.9%).

The highest percentages of people with disabilities were in the US population ages 65 and over; more than one third of the civilian population for this age group (35.4%) had a disability. In ten states, primarily in the South, the percentage of people ages 65 and over with disabilities was 40% or over, or more than two in every five elderly people: West Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kentucky, New Mexico, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alaska (Figure 8).

The percentages of people with disabilities were generally lowest in the upper Midwest and Northeast; twelve states had disability percentages of less than one third (33.3%) of elderly: Connecticut, Delaware, Wisconsin, Maryland, Minnesota, South Dakota, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Colorado, Iowa, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Hawaii.
FIG 5. People with Disabilities *Ages Under 5 Years* Living in the Community, by State, 2015

FIG 6. People with Disabilities *Ages 5-17 Years* Living in the Community, by State, 2015
FIG 7. People with Disabilities Ages 18-64 Years Living in the Community, by State, 2015

FIG 8. People with Disabilities Ages 65 and Over Living in the Community, by State, 2015
Prevalence by Disability Type

What is the percentage of people with disabilities for different types of disability?

The American Community Survey (ACS) asks about six types of disability: vision, hearing, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living. From 2008 to 2015, the percentages of people with each type of disability have remained relatively unchanged (Figure 9).

The Percentage of people with ambulatory disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and independent living disabilities rose by 0.2 to 0.3 points over the period, while people with hearing, vision, and self-care disabilities rose 0.1 point or less.

FIG 9. People with Disabilities, by Type and Year, 2008-2015
**Hearing Disability**

For the US population, the six types of disabilities were prevalent at different levels for various age groups, but all showed an increase with age. In the US in 2015, an estimated 3.6% of the US population had a hearing disability. Hearing disability is connected strongly with age: there are very low percentages in the under 5 and 5-17 age groups (0.5% and 0.6% respectively), rising to 2.0% of 18-64 year olds, and to 14.8% of those ages 65 and over (Figure 10).

**Vision Disability**

Figure 11 shows that vision disability also is connected strongly with age. Only 0.4% of those ages 5 and under, 0.8% of the 5-17 age group, and 1.9% of 18-64 year olds had a vision disability. For those 65 and over, the percentage increases to 6.5%.
Cognitive Disability

The national prevalence percentage for civilians with cognitive disabilities increases with age, starting at 4.1% for those ages 5-17, rising to 4.5% for those 18-64, and doubling to 9.0% for those ages 65 and over (Figure 12). Data for those younger than age 5 is not collected.

**FIG 12. People with Cognitive Disability, by Age Group, 2015**

Ambulatory Disability

Figure 13 shows in 2015, the percentage of people with ambulatory disabilities increases rapidly with age. In those ages 5-17, the rate was a very low 0.6%. For those ages 18-64 the rate jumps to 5.1%. The rate then leaps to 22.6% for those ages 65 and over. Data for those younger than age 5 is not collected.

**FIG 13. People with Ambulatory Disability, by Age Group, 2015**
Self-Care Disability
As with the other disabilities, the national percentage of civilians with a self-care disability rises with age (Figure 14). The percentage was 0.9% for those ages 5-17, 1.9% for those ages 18-64, and 8.2% for those ages 65 and over. Data for those younger than age 5 is not collected.

![FIG 14. People with Self-Care Disability, by Age Group, 2015](image)

Independent Living Disability
The national percentage for people ages 18-64 with an independent living disability was 3.7%. However, the percentage increases more than four-fold to 14.9%. Data for those younger than age 18 is not collected.

![FIG 15. People with Independent Living Disability, by Age Group, 2015](image)
As Figure 16 shows, in the US in 2015, 34.9% of people with disabilities ages 18-64 living in the community were employed. The employment percentage was more than double for people without disabilities, 76.0%. Figure 16 also shows this continuing pattern of difference in employment between people with and without disabilities since 2008, spanning an economic downturn and recovery.
The employment gap is the difference between the respective employment percentages of people with and without disabilities. In the US in 2015, the difference between the employment percentage for people with disabilities (34.9%) and people without disabilities (76.0%) was 41.1 percentage points. Figure 17 shows this gap has widened steadily over the past 8 years from 38.8 to 41.1 percentage points.

**FIG 17. Employment Gap Among those with and without Disability, 2008-2015**
Figures 18 and 19 depict how rates of employment varied by state. For people with disabilities, employment rates ranged from a high of 57.1% (Wyoming) to a low of 25.4% (West Virginia). For those without disabilities, the employment ranged from 70.1% (Mississippi) to 83.8% (Minnesota).
Figure 20 shows the gap in percent employment between those with and without disabilities by state in 2015. States with the highest gap were concentrated from the Atlantic Coast to Missouri and Arkansas. In thirty (30) states, the employment percentage gap was 40 percentage points or greater. The highest gap was found in Maine (50.1%), Kentucky (47.4%), and the District of Columbia (46.1%). In only three states was the gap less than 33.3% - Wyoming (22.0%), South Dakota (30.9%), and Utah (32.5%).

Figure 21 shows how employment percentages varied by type of disability. Employment percentages were highest for people with hearing disabilities (51.0%) and vision disabilities (41.8%) and lowest for self-care (15.6%) and independent living (16.4%) disabilities.
Earnings

What are the earnings for people with and without disabilities?

In 2015, the median earnings of people with disabilities ages 16 and over in the US was $21,572, about two-thirds of the median earnings of people without disabilities, $31,874 (Figure 22). This disparity of over $10,000 in median earnings between those with and without disabilities continues a trend, seen in Figure 23, which has existed since at least 2008 and has increased in magnitude since 2013.
Figure 24 shows the range of median earnings in states for people with disabilities in 2015 was $15,938 in Idaho to $30,268 in Alaska. In six states (Alaska, Maryland, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, and District of Columbia), the median earnings for people with disabilities was over $25,000, while fourteen (14) states had median disability earnings lower than $20,000.

**FIG 24. State Median Earnings, Past 12 Months, Ages 16 and Over with Disability, 2015**

In comparison, the median earnings for people without disabilities ages 16 and over ranged from $25,680 in Idaho to $49,891 in the District of Columbia in 2015 (Figure 25).

**FIG 25. State Median Earnings, Past 12 Months, Ages 16 and Over without Disability, 2015**
States varied widely in earnings gap (the difference between the median earnings for those with and without disabilities) – from a low of $4,490 in Nevada to a high of $24,073 in the District of Columbia. Generally, states in the northern US had a higher earnings gap; states in the southern US had a lower earnings gap (Figure 26).
Poverty

What percentage of people with and without disabilities are in poverty?

As seen in Figure 27, poverty among people with and without disabilities rose from 2009 through 2011 and 2012 and then dropped through 2015. For people with disabilities, the percentage increased from 21.6% in 2009 to 23.0% in 2012, then dropped to 21.2% in 2015. For people without disabilities, the percentage increased from 13.4% in 2009 to 15.1% in 2011, then dropped to 13.8% in 2015.

The poverty percentage gap, or the difference between the percentages of those with and without disabilities, has been between 7.4 and 8.3 percentage points over the 7 years from 2009 to 2015 (Figure 28). The gap was over 8 percentage points in 2009 (8.3) and 2012 (8.1). The other years, the gap ranged from 7.4 (2010 and 2015) to 7.8 percentage points (2014).
Figure 29 shows the poverty gap between those with and without disabilities by state in 2015. The highest poverty gaps were seen mostly in the Northeast US, states bordering the Great Lakes, and those on the northern border with Canada. Gaps ranged from a high of 19.3 percentage points (District of Columbia) to a low of 1.7 percentage points in Wyoming.

**FIG 29. Poverty Percentage Gap Among People with and without Disabilities, by State, 2015**

Figures 30-33 show state variation in poverty gap by age group.

For children under age 5, the poverty gap was highest in District of Columbia (47.1 percentage points), Nebraska (36.8), and Utah (33.6). For children ages 5 and under, eight states had a negative poverty gap (a higher percentage of those without disabilities were in poverty than those with disabilities) – Maine (-19.5), Montana (-18.5), Vermont (-15.7), South Dakota (-9.9), Hawaii (-5.9), Louisiana (-1.1), Minnesota (-0.7), and Alaska (-0.3).

The poverty gap for those ages 5-17 with and without a disability ranged from a low of -2.4 percentage points in Wyoming to 19 points in Kentucky (Figure 31). Wyoming was the only state with a negative poverty gap in this age group. There are 8 states with a gap of at least 15 points, and 31 with a gap of at least 10 points, meaning that in 39 states the poverty rates were 10-15 or more percentage points higher for those with disabilities than for those without disabilities.

**FIG 31. Poverty Percentage Gap Among People Ages 5-17 with and without Disabilities, by State, 2015**

For people in the 18-64 year old working-age, the poverty gap between those with and without disabilities ranged from a low of 5.1 percentage points in Wyoming to a high of 27 points in District of Columbia (Figure 32). Nearly half of the states (24) had gaps of 15 points or more. All but 3 states had gaps over 10 points or more.

**FIG 32. Poverty Percentage Gap Among People Ages 18-64 with and without Disabilities, by State, 2015**
Poverty gaps for those age 65 and over with and without disabilities had a low of 1.8 percentage points (Alaska) to 11.7% (District of Columbia) in 2015 (Figure 33). DC was the only place to have a gap above 10 percentage points in this age group. Three states had gaps below 3 points (Alaska, Wyoming, and West Virginia).

Health

Is disability status associated with percentages of smoking, obesity, and binge drinking?

Smoking

The highest percentage of people with disabilities who smoke was 27.0% in 2009 but has been in annual decline since 2012 (from 26.0% to 23.4%). Over the same period, the highest percentage of people without disabilities smoking was 18.2% in 2011 and it has been in annual decline thereafter to 14.9% in 2015 (Figure 34).

The gap between the percentages for smokers with and without disabilities dropped in 2015 to 8.5 percentage points (Figure 35). The prior three years had a gap of 9.1 to 9.2 points. These gaps were higher than in 2010 and 2011 (7.6 and 7.3 points) but lower than in 2009 (10.3 points).

The gap between smokers with and without disabilities by state in 2015 ranged from a low of 4.8 percentage points in Mississippi to a high of 12.2 points in Missouri (Figure 36). Thirteen states had a gap of 10 percentage points or higher; eight states had a gap of 6 percentage points or lower.

FIG 34. Smoking Percentages, with and without Disabilities, 2009-2015

FIG 36. Smoking Percentages Gap Among People with and without Disabilities By State, 2015
Obesity

In 2015, 39.9% of people ages 18 and over with disabilities were obese. In comparison, only 25.4% of those without disabilities were obese.

Figure 37 shows that 2015 marked the first year since 2009 to show a year-to-year decline in the percentage of people with disabilities who were obese. Until 2015, the obesity percentage had increased for people with disabilities (from 36.9% in 2009 to 41.1% in 2014). For people without disabilities, the obesity percentage has continued to climb every year (from 23.5% in 2009 to 25.4% in 2015).

2015 also showed the first year-to-year drop in obesity gap (the difference in the percentages of obesity for people with and without disabilities) since 2009. The gap increased from 13.4 points in 2009 to 15.9 in 2014, then dropped back to 14.5 points in 2015 (Figure 38).

Figure 39 shows that the gap in obesity percentages for states ranged from a high of 21.2% in the District of Columbia to a low of 7.4% in Mississippi. Only two states had a gap under 10 percentage points (Mississippi and Idaho), while 18 states had a gap of 15 points or more.

Binge Drinking

In the years 2009 through 2015, the binge drinking percentage for people with disabilities varied from a low of 10.2% in 2010 to a high of 13.2% in 2009 (Figure 40). For people without disabilities the percentages were higher, varying from 16.0% in 2009 to 20.4% in 2011. 2015 had increases of 0.3% for both people with and without disabilities.

The binge drinking gap shows the degree to which people with disabilities have less binge drinking; the gap has been steady at 6.5 percentage points for three years now (from 2013 to 2015). The difference peaked at 7.8 percentage points in 2011, while the gap was lowest in 2009 at 2.8% (Figure 41).

Figure 42 shows gaps in binge drinking for people with and without disabilities by state in 2015. Gaps in binge drinking for those ages 18 and over ranged from 13 points less (thus more people without disabilities binge drinking than those with disabilities) in North Dakota to 1.9 points less in Delaware. District of Columbia joined North Dakota as the only states with a gap in excess of 10 points. Fifteen states had a gap of less than 5 points.

FIG 42. Binge Drinking Percentage Gap Among People with and without Disabilities, by State, 2015

Table 7.4a Binge Drinking Gap, 2015

-13.0% to -8.4%
-8.3% to -6.6%
-6.5% to -5.0%
-4.9% to -1.9%
0.0%
Appendix A: The Six Disability Questions in the American Community Survey

1. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
2. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
4. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
5. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
6. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?
Appendix B: Source Data


FIG 2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B1810; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.


FIG 5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B1810; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.


FIG 7. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B1810; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.


Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.


FIG 29. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B18130; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.


FIG 32. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B18130; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 33. U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, American FactFinder, Table B18130; http://factfinder.census.gov. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.
FIG 34. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 35. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 36. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 37. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 38. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 39. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 40. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 41. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2009-2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.

FIG 42. Authors’ calculations using data from the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey BRFSS. Based on a sample and subject to sampling variability.
Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

A

Ambulatory Disability (ACS): In the ACS, individuals five or more years old who responded "yes" when asked if they had "serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs."

American Community Survey (ACS): The American Community Survey is a large, continuous demographic survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that will provide accurate and up-to-date profiles of America's communities every year. Annual and multi-year estimates of population and housing data are generated for small areas, including tracts and population subgroups. This information is collected by mailing questionnaires to a sample of addresses.

B

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS): The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is a state-based system of health surveys that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury. BRFSS was established in 1984 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); currently data are collected monthly in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. More than 350,000 adults are interviewed each year, making the BRFSS the largest telephone health survey in the world. States use BRFSS data to identify emerging health problems, establish and track health objectives, and develop and evaluate public health policies and programs. Many states also use BRFSS data to support health-related legislative efforts.

Binge Drinking (BRFSS): Respondents were asked "[c]onsidering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have [5, if male respondent] [4, if female respondents] or more drinks on an occasion?" Respondents who reported doing so at least one time were considered to have engaged in binge drinking.

C

Civilian: A person not in active-duty military.

Cognitive Disability (ACS): In the ACS, individuals who indicated "yes" when asked if due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition, they had "serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions."

D

Disability Status (ACS): The U.S. Census Bureau used six questions to identify people with disabilities. A response of "yes" to any one of the questions indicates that the person in question has a disability—vision, hearing, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living. However, the questions related to cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living are not used to identify disability in individuals less than five years old, and the question related to independent living is not used to identify disability in individuals less than 18 years old.

Disability Status (BRFSS): An individual is classified as having a disability based on answers to the following questions: (1) Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems? and (2) Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone (include occasional use or use in certain circumstances)?

E
**Earnings (ACS):** Regularly received income from salaries/wages, self-employment or both, for people ages 16 or older before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc.

**Employment Status (ACS):** In the ACS, individuals were asked a series of questions designed to identify their status. Based on the answers, individuals were classified into one of five groups: (1) people who worked at any time during the reference week; (2) people on temporary layoff who were available for work; (3) people who did not work during the reference week but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent (excluding layoff); (4) people who did not work during the reference week, but who were looking for work during the last four weeks and were available for work during the reference week; and (5) people not in the labor force. The employment status data shown in American Community Survey tabulations relate to people ages 16 or older.

**G**

**Go-Outside-Home Disability (ACS):** An individual with difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting at least six months.

**H**

**Hearing Disability (ACS):** In the ACS, individuals who indicated "yes" when asked if they were "deaf or ... [had] serious difficulty hearing."

**Independent Living Disability (ACS):** In the ACS, individuals who indicated "yes" when asked if due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition, they had difficulty "doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping."

**O**

**Obese (BRFSS):** The condition where a person has a body mass index greater than 30.

**P**

**Poverty Rate:** Percent of the population who are determined to be in poverty. The Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14 sets the standards for which poverty is calculated. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family’s total income is less than the dollar value of the appropriate threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty.

**S**

**Smoking (BRFSS):** Respondents were asked about smoking: "Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?" and "Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?" Respondents who reported smoking at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and who, at the time of survey, smoked either every day or some days were defined as a current smoker.
Vision Disability: In the ACS, individuals who indicated "yes" when asked if they were "blind or ... [had] serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses."
About the StatsRRTC

The mission of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC) is to narrow and actively bridge the divide between the producers and end users of disability statistics, thereby supporting better data collection, more accurate information, better decision-making, more effective programs, and better lives for people with disabilities.

www.ResearchonDisability.org

About the Compendium

The Annual Disability Statistics Compendium is a web-based tool that pools disability statistics published by various federal agencies together in one place. When working on legislative and other matters relating to people with disabilities, the Compendium will make finding and using disability statistics easier.

www.DisabilityCompendium.org

Center Collaborators

- University of New Hampshire–Institute on Disability, a University Center of Excellence on Disability,
- Mathematica Policy Research, a world-class employee-owned survey and research firm,
- Kessler Foundation, a leading medical rehabilitation research organization,
- Center on Disability at the Public Health Institute, a national leader in disability policy, civil rights, disability law, employment, health issues, independent living, and assistive technology.
- American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the country's largest cross-disability membership association, and
- Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), a nationally-recognized association of disability services administrators

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