In the US, nearly 3.5 million African American adults have a disability. 

African Americans with disabilities face many social inequities that prevent them from realizing their full potential. Policies to promote equity are needed to improve social determinants like education, employment, and more among African Americans with disabilities.

### Education

Compared to all races, African American students with disabilities are...

- 15.4% more likely to spend time outside a regular classroom.  
  African American 40.4%  
  All races 35%

- 160% more likely to be placed in a correctional facility.  
  African American 0.39%  
  All races 0.15%

- 2.5% less likely to have completed high school.  
  American 79%  
  All races 81%

### Employment

Compared to all races, African American adults with disabilities are...

- 20% less likely to be employed.  
  African American 30%  
  All races 37.5%

### Poverty

- 33% more likely to experience poverty.  
  African American 32%  
  All races 24%

### Inadequate Housing

- 49% more likely to lack adequate housing.  
  African Americans 12.5%  
  All races 8.4%

Sources: Authors’ calculations using data from  

- "2019 American Community Survey, ages 18-64 from IPUMS (www.ipums.org),  
- "2019-20 IDEA Part B, ages 6 to 21,  
- "2019 American Housing Survey, ages 16+.  

Disability Statistics & Demographics
Rehabilitation Research & Training Center
DisabilityCompendium.org