Disability Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau in 2015/2016

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This presentation is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.
Overview

Surveys
- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Research Projects
- Small Area Disability Estimates
- Describing ACS Disability with SIPP
American Community Survey (ACS): Six Disability Questions

17. a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
   - Yes
   - No

b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
   - Yes
   - No

- Answer question 18a – c if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 12.

18. a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
   - Yes
   - No

b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
   - Yes
   - No

c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
   - Yes
   - No

19. 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?
   - Yes
   - No
American Community Survey (ACS)

1-Year Data: Produces estimates for areas with a population of 65,000+

5-Year Data: All counties, places, and census tracts
American Community Survey (ACS)

Recent Releases in American FactFinder (AFF):

- 2014 1-year estimates (Sept. 2015)
- 2010-2014 5-year estimates (Dec. 2015)
American Community Survey (ACS): Census Business Builder

Provides selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau in a simple to access and use format

- Includes business data by geographic area, such as:
  - Number of doctors’ offices
  - Total employment by business type or industry

- Ability to map disability rates
American Community Survey (ACS): Census Business Builder
Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Panel 2014

- Redesigned SIPP Survey beginning Panel 2014
- Administered once a year, with Event History Calendar to facilitate full-year data collection
- Disability Questions
  - 6 ACS questions
  - Additional Questions
    - Developmental delays (age <5)
    - Difficulty playing with other children and limitations with school work (age 5-14)
    - Employment difficulties (age 15+)

- Release anticipated in Summer of 2016
SIPP SSA Supplement

- Social Security Administration Sponsored
- Telephone interview
- Includes:
  - Retirement plans
  - Employment
  - Pensions
  - Marital history
  - Disability
SSA Supplement: Disability

- Includes select content from prior SIPP topical modules:
  - Work disability history
  - Adult and child functional limitations
  - Improved capture of health conditions

- Release anticipated in Fall of 2016
Current Population Survey Basic (CPS)

- Asks the same 6 disability questions used in the ACS (and other government surveys)
- Includes civilian noninstitutionalized population ages 16 and older

This measure of disability is included in Census Bureau reports on health insurance, poverty, and income
Research Project: Small Area Disability Estimates

- The ACS and SIPP each offer different strengths:
  - ACS: Large Sample, Less Detail
  - SIPP: Smaller Sample, More Detail

- The Census Bureau is investigating methods for combining this survey data to produce state-level modeled disability estimates
Research Project: Disability Across SIPP & ACS

- The population with disabilities captured within a survey is dependent on the questions used:
  - SIPP has used a broad set of questions, and thus has produced a higher disability rate than the ACS
- What types of disabilities are captured by the ACS measure as per this richer SIPP data?
- Ongoing research to explore this question
Online Resources

Disability Webpage at Census.gov
http://www.census.gov/people/disability/

American Community Survey (ACS) Statistics
- American FactFinder (AFF)
  http://factfinder2.census.gov/
- Census Business Builder
  http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html

Current Population Survey (CPS) Disability Releases
- Annual News Release
- Latest Monthly Data Release
Thank You

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