

Cornell University

2017

US

United States

# 2017 Disability Status Report United States



[www.disabilitystatistics.org](http://www.disabilitystatistics.org)

Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at the Cornell University ILR School

# Contents

## Introduction

2017 Annual Disability Status Report	2
ACS Disability Questions	3
Notes	4

## Summary

United States Summary	5
Prevalence by State: Ages 21 to 64	7
Employment by State: Ages 21 to 64	8

## Demographics

Prevalence: All Ages	9
Prevalence: Ages 4 and under	11
Prevalence: Ages 5 to 15	13
Prevalence: Ages 16 to 20	15
Prevalence: Ages 21 to 64 (Working-Age)	17
Prevalence: Ages 65 to 74	19
Prevalence: Ages 75 and Older	21
Prevalence: Gender and Age	23
Prevalence: Hispanic / Latino Origin and Age	26
Prevalence: Race	29

## Outcomes

Employment	29
Not Working but Actively Looking for Work	33
Full-Time / Full-Year Employment	35
Annual Earnings (Full-Time / Full-Year Workers)	37
Annual Household Income	39
Poverty	41
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	43
Education: High School Diploma / Equivalent	45
Education: Some College / Associate's Degree	47
Education: Bachelor's Degree or More	49
Veterans Service-Connected Disability	51
Health Insurance Coverage	53
Type of Health Insurance Coverage	55

## Glossary

## About the Disability Status Report

# The 2017 Annual Disability Status Report

The Annual Disability Status Reports provide policy makers, disability advocates, reporters, and the public with a summary of the most recent demographic and economic statistics on the non-institutionalized population with disabilities. They contain information on the population size and disability prevalence for various demographic subpopulations, as well as statistics related to employment, earnings, household income, veterans' service-connected disability and health insurance. Comparisons are made to people without disabilities and across disability types. Disability Status Reports and other statistics are available for the United States overall, each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico at [www.disabilitystatistics.org](http://www.disabilitystatistics.org).

The Status Reports primarily look at the working-age population because the employment gap between people with and without disabilities is a major focus of government programs and advocacy efforts. Employment is also a key factor in the social integration and economic self-sufficiency of working-age people with disabilities.

The information in this report is based on data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) - a survey sent each year to a random sample of over 3.5 million households. For more information see the Census Bureau's ACS website <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/> and our Guide to Disability Statistics from the American Community Survey (2008 Forward): <http://disabilitystatistics.org/sources.cfm>.

The estimates in these reports are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual population values because of sampling variability and other factors. Differences observed between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant.

## Suggested Citation

Erickson, W., Lee, C., & von Schrader, S. (2019). 2017 Disability Status Report: United States. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability (YTI).

We would like to thank Sara VanLooy, Jason Criss, and Joe Williams for their assistance with editing and production of this document.

# ACS Disability Questions

There is no single accepted definition of disability. Different definitions and disability questions may identify different populations with disabilities and result in larger or smaller estimates.

Below are the six questions used in the ACS to identify persons with disabilities. Note that the Census Bureau refers to each of the individual types as "difficulty" while in this report the term "disability" is used.

## **Hearing Disability** (asked of all ages):

- Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

## **Visual Disability** (asked of all ages):

- Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

## **Cognitive Disability** (asked of persons ages 5 or older):

- Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

## **Ambulatory Disability** (asked of persons ages 5 or older):

- Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

## **Self-Care Disability** (asked of persons ages 5 or older):

- Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

## **Independent Living Disability** (asked of persons ages 15 or older):

- 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?

## **Note:**

- The "Any Disability" category used in this report includes persons who reported one or more of the individual disability types.
- Respondents could report more than one disability type.
- Some disability questions were not asked of children.
- A separate set of survey questions identify veterans with service-connected disabilities. Based on a separate set of survey questions, this report includes estimates related to veterans' service-connected disability (see page 51).

# Notes

**Spanish Language Reports:** Spanish language versions of the Annual Disability Status Reports for the US, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington D.C. can be downloaded at the same location as the English Status Reports. The Spanish translation was made possible through funding from the Northeast ADA Center through a grant from NIDILRR National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

**Puerto Rico:** A Puerto Rico Disability Status Report, based on the parallel 2017 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS), is available again this year in English as well as Spanish. However, please note that the Puerto Rico sample is not included in any U.S. population estimates included in these reports.

**Group Quarters:** In 2006, the ACS began surveying the group quarters population. We include the non-institutionalized group quarters population, but due to small state level sample sizes exclude the institutionalized group quarters population (see glossary) in the Disability Status Reports.

**Margin of Error (MOE):** As in previous years' reports we provide the 90% MOE to better illustrate sampling variability. See the glossary entry for more information on this topic.

**Glossary:** As in previous years, we provide a comprehensive glossary at the back of this report defining the terms used in the Disability Status Report.

Note: According to the Census Bureau, estimates based on the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file such as those included in this report may differ slightly from the ACS summary tables produced by the Census Bureau, because they are subject to additional sampling error and further data processing operations. Please see <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/faq.cfm#Q4> for further information.

# United States Summary

These statistics indicate the social and economic status of non-institutionalized people with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS).

**Age:** In 2017, the prevalence of disability in the US was:

- 12.7 percent for persons of all ages
- 0.8 percent for persons ages 4 and under
- 5.4 percent for persons ages 5 to 15
- 6.2 percent for persons ages 16 to 20
- 10.6 percent for persons ages 21 to 64
- 25.1 percent for persons ages 65 to 74
- 48.7 percent for persons ages 75+

**Disability Type:** In 2017, the prevalence of the six disability types among persons of all ages in the US was:

- 2.3% reported a Visual Disability
- 3.6% reported a Hearing Disability
- 6.9% reported an Ambulatory Disability
- 5.1% reported a Cognitive Disability
- 2.6% reported a Self-Care Disability
- 5.6% reported an Independent Living Disability

**Gender:** In 2017, 12.8 percent of females of all ages and 12.5 percent of males of all ages in the US reported a disability.

**Hispanic/Latino:** In 2017, the prevalence of disability among persons of all ages of Hispanic or Latino origin in the US was 8.9 percent.

**Race:** In the US in 2017, the prevalence of disability for working-age people (ages 21 to 64) was:

- 10.6 percent among Whites
- 13.6 percent among Black / African Americans
- 4.4 percent among Asians
- 18.1 percent among Native Americans
- 9.5 percent among persons of some other race(s)

**Employment:** In 2017, the employment rate of working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the US was 37.3 percent.

**Looking for Work:** In the US in 2017, the percentage actively looking for work among people with disabilities who were not working was 7.4 percent.

**Full-Time/Full-Year Employment:** In the US in 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year was 23.9 percent.

**Annual Earnings:** In 2017, the median annual earnings of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was \$40,400.

**Annual Household Income:** In the US in 2017, the median annual income of households with working-age people with disabilities was \$45,500.

**Poverty:** In the US in 2017, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities was 26.1 percent.

**Supplemental Security Income:** In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments in the US was 18.9 percent.

**Educational Attainment:** In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities in the US:

- with only a high school diploma or equivalent was 34.4 percent
- with only some college or an associate degree was 31.7 percent
- with a bachelor's degree or more was 14.8 percent.

**Veterans Service-Connected Disability:** In 2017, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans with a VA determined Service-Connected Disability was 26.3 percent in the US.

**Health Insurance Coverage:** In 2017 in the US, 90.2 percent of working-age people with disabilities had health insurance.

# Prevalence: Ages 21 - 64

This summary lists percentages by state of non-institutionalized working-age (ages 21 to 64) people with disabilities using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). The US disability prevalence rate for this population was 10.6%

<b>Location</b>	<b>2017 (%)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>2017 (%)</b>
Alabama	<b>14.9</b>	Montana	<b>11.2</b>
Alaska	<b>12.4</b>	Nebraska	<b>10.4</b>
Arizona	<b>10.7</b>	Nevada	<b>10.5</b>
Arkansas	<b>16.5</b>	New Hampshire	<b>10.0</b>
California	<b>8.3</b>	New Jersey	<b>7.9</b>
Colorado	<b>9.0</b>	New Mexico	<b>14.7</b>
Connecticut	<b>8.4</b>	New York	<b>9.1</b>
Delaware	<b>8.8</b>	North Carolina	<b>11.3</b>
District of Columbia	<b>11.3</b>	North Dakota	<b>7.7</b>
Florida	<b>10.5</b>	Ohio	<b>12.3</b>
Georgia	<b>10.7</b>	Oklahoma	<b>15.3</b>
Hawaii	<b>7.4</b>	Oregon	<b>11.6</b>
Idaho	<b>13.0</b>	Pennsylvania	<b>11.8</b>
Illinois	<b>9.0</b>	Puerto Rico	<b>17.9</b>
Indiana	<b>12.1</b>	Rhode Island	<b>11.8</b>
Iowa	<b>9.0</b>	South Carolina	<b>13.0</b>
Kansas	<b>11.5</b>	South Dakota	<b>9.0</b>
Kentucky	<b>16.7</b>	Tennessee	<b>13.7</b>
Louisiana	<b>13.3</b>	Texas	<b>9.7</b>
Maine	<b>14.1</b>	Utah	<b>8.7</b>
Maryland	<b>9.0</b>	Vermont	<b>12.0</b>
Massachusetts	<b>9.4</b>	Virginia	<b>9.7</b>
Michigan	<b>12.3</b>	Washington	<b>10.6</b>
Minnesota	<b>9.2</b>	West Virginia	<b>19.0</b>
Mississippi	<b>15.7</b>	Wisconsin	<b>9.6</b>
Missouri	<b>13.1</b>	Wyoming	<b>12.3</b>



# Employment: Ages 21 - 64

This summary lists employment rates by state of non-institutionalized working-age (ages 21 to 64) people with disabilities using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). The employment rate in the US for this population was 37.3% for people with disabilities and 79.4% for people without disabilities.

Location	People with Disabilities 2017	People without Disabilities 2017	Location	People with Disabilities 2017	People without Disabilities 2017
Alabama	27.0	74.9	Montana	43.8	81.8
Alaska	40.3	79.5	Nebraska	51.8	86.4
Arizona	36.9	77.2	Nevada	41.1	78.6
Arkansas	31.8	78.3	New Hampshire	45.0	85.1
California	36.8	77.3	New Jersey	39.2	80.9
Colorado	45.7	82.4	New Mexico	33.1	73.6
Connecticut	40.4	80.4	New York	34.9	78.8
Delaware	37.0	76.5	North Carolina	34.6	79.2
District of Columbia	44.8	81.9	North Dakota	56.1	85.3
Florida	34.2	77.6	Ohio	37.0	80.7
Georgia	34.9	78.4	Oklahoma	36.6	78.3
Hawaii	41.3	81.4	Oregon	37.0	79.8
Idaho	43.5	78.7	Pennsylvania	37.1	80.4
Illinois	38.8	79.7	Puerto Rico	23.7	57.1
Indiana	38.3	80.6	Rhode Island	42.1	81.8
Iowa	46.0	85.0	South Carolina	33.0	78.5
Kansas	46.1	82.7	South Dakota	53.2	85.1
Kentucky	30.9	78.0	Tennessee	34.5	79.4
Louisiana	34.3	75.2	Texas	40.2	78.3
Maine	32.9	81.9	Utah	49.4	81.1
Maryland	42.6	82.4	Vermont	45.9	81.5
Massachusetts	37.6	82.7	Virginia	41.3	81.8
Michigan	33.5	78.5	Washington	41.7	80.2
Minnesota	49.0	85.7	West Virginia	25.0	73.1
Mississippi	28.8	75.3	Wisconsin	40.5	84.3
Missouri	35.9	81.7	Wyoming	51.3	82.3

# Prevalence

## All Ages

### Introduction

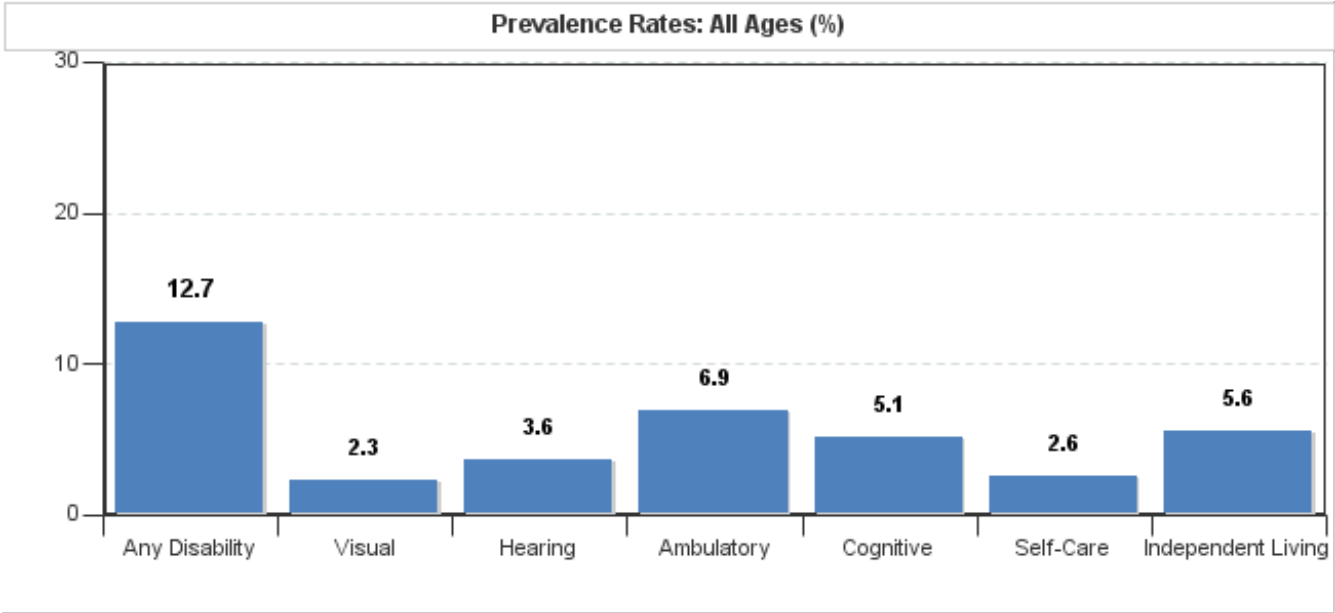
This section addresses the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people of all ages in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
All Ages  
**12.7%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability of all ages in the US was 12.7 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 40,714,800 of the 321,823,700 individuals of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 6.9 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 2.3 percent.

# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people of all ages in the United States in 2017\*



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	12.7	0.05	40,714,800	156,310	321,823,700	3,118,647
Visual	2.3	0.02	7,543,000	71,090	321,823,700	3,118,647
Hearing	3.6	0.03	11,524,400	87,320	321,823,700	3,118,647
Ambulatory	6.9	0.04	20,898,200	115,810	302,104,600	2,955,036
Cognitive	5.1	0.03	15,391,000	100,280	302,104,600	2,955,036
Self-Care	2.6	0.02	7,935,500	72,870	302,104,600	2,955,036
Independent Living	5.6	0.04	14,592,000	97,770	260,869,300	2,581,685

\* **Note:** Children under the age of five were only asked about Vision and Hearing disabilities. The Independent Living disability question was only asked of persons aged 16 years old and older.

# Prevalence

## Ages 4 years and under

### Introduction

This section focuses on the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized children ages 4 and under in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). Only the two sensory disability questions were asked of this population. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

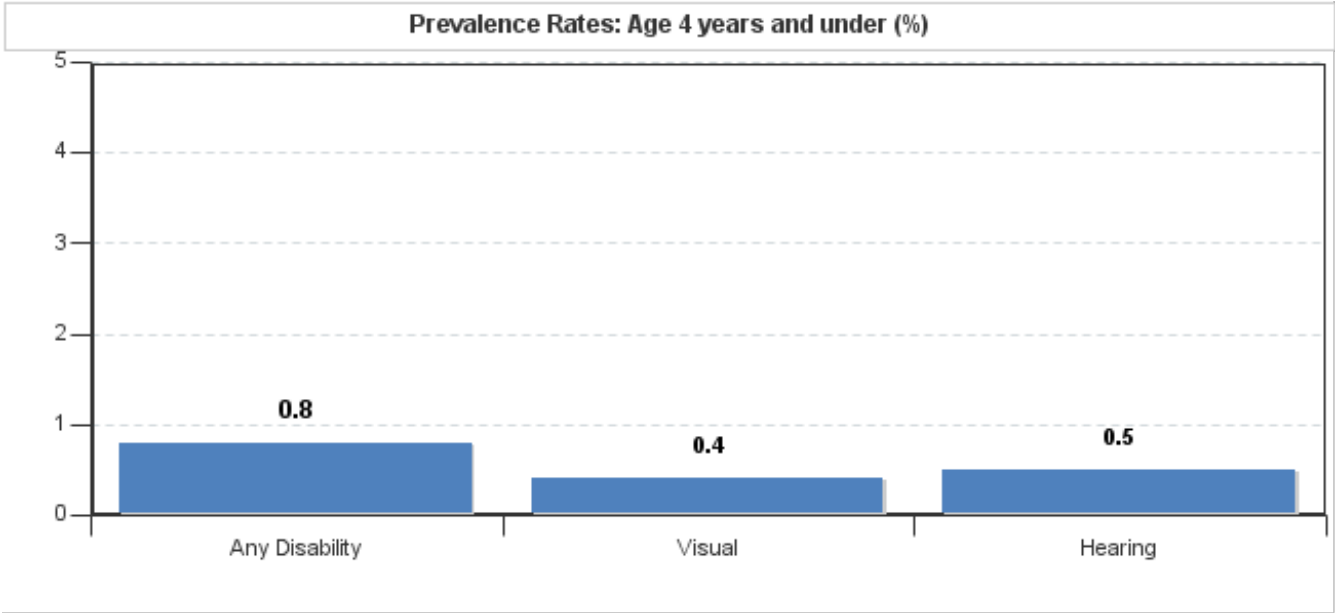
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 4 and  
under

**0.8%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of children with a visual and/or hearing disability ages 0 to 4 in the US was 0.8 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 148,300 of the 19,719,100 children ages 0 to 4 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, 0.4 percent reported a "Visual Disability"
- In the US in 2017, 0.5 percent reported a "Hearing Disability"

# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 4 and under in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	0.8	3.29	148,300	10,080	19,719,100	163,611
Visual	0.4	3.29	88,700	7,800	19,719,100	163,611
Hearing	0.5	3.29	99,800	8,270	19,719,100	163,611

# Prevalence

## Ages 5 to 15 years

### Introduction

This section focuses on the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized children ages 5 to 15 in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

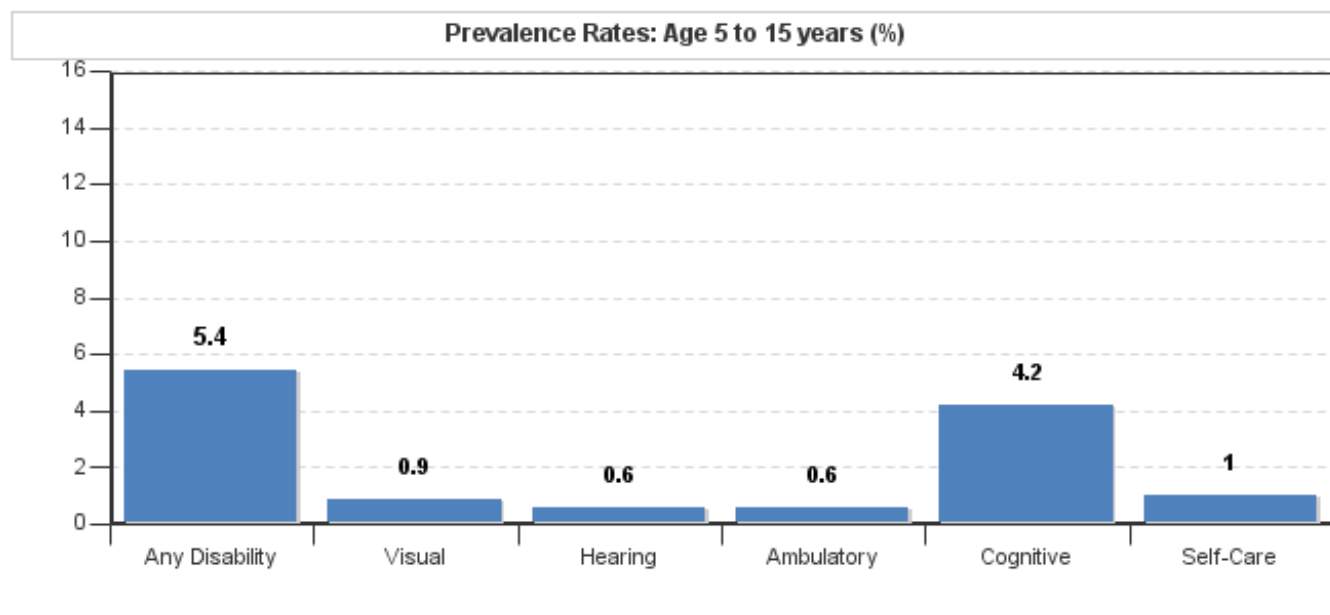
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 5 to  
15 years  
**5.4%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of children with a disability ages 5 to 15 in the US was 5.4 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 2,427,700 of the 45,320,000 individuals ages 5 to 15 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the five types of disabilities\* identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Cognitive Disability," 4.2 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Hearing Disability," 0.6 percent.

\* **Note:** The "Independent Living Disability" question was not asked of children ages 15 years and younger.

## Prevalence of disability\* among non-institutionalized people ages 5 to 15 in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	5.4	0.09	2,427,700	40,650	45,320,000	411,951
Visual	0.9	3.29	387,300	16,290	45,320,000	411,951
Hearing	0.6	3.29	262,700	13,420	45,320,000	411,951
Ambulatory	0.6	3.29	270,300	13,610	45,320,000	411,951
Cognitive	4.2	0.08	1,901,600	36,010	45,320,000	411,951
Self-Care	1.0	3.29	462,300	17,790	45,320,000	411,951

\* **Note:** The "Independent Living Disability" question was not asked of children ages 15 years and younger.

# Prevalence

## Ages 16 to 20 years

### Introduction

This section focuses on the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 16 to 20 in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

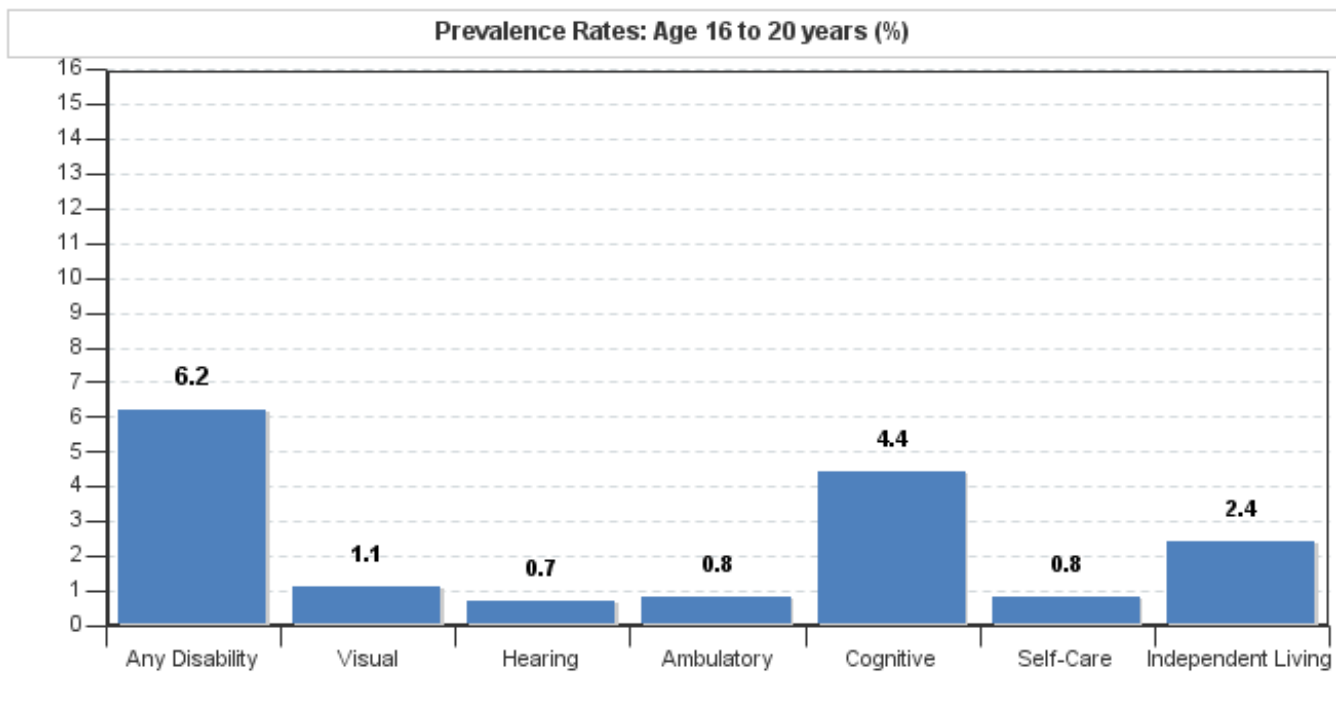
Prevalence:  
Ages 16 to  
20 years

**6.2%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 16 to 20 in the US was 6.2 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 1,348,800 of the 21,674,500 individuals ages 16 to 20 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Cognitive Disability," 4.4 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Hearing Disability," 0.7 percent.



## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 16 to 20 in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	6.2	0.14	1,348,800	30,350	21,674,500	207,022
Visual	1.1	3.29	239,700	12,820	21,674,500	207,022
Hearing	0.7	3.29	148,200	10,080	21,674,500	207,022
Ambulatory	0.8	3.29	174,100	10,930	21,674,500	207,022
Cognitive	4.4	0.12	951,500	25,510	21,674,500	207,022
Self-Care	0.8	3.29	165,000	10,640	21,674,500	207,022
Independent Living	2.4	0.09	527,100	19,000	21,674,500	207,022

# Prevalence

## Ages 21 to 64 years

### Introduction

This section focuses on the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

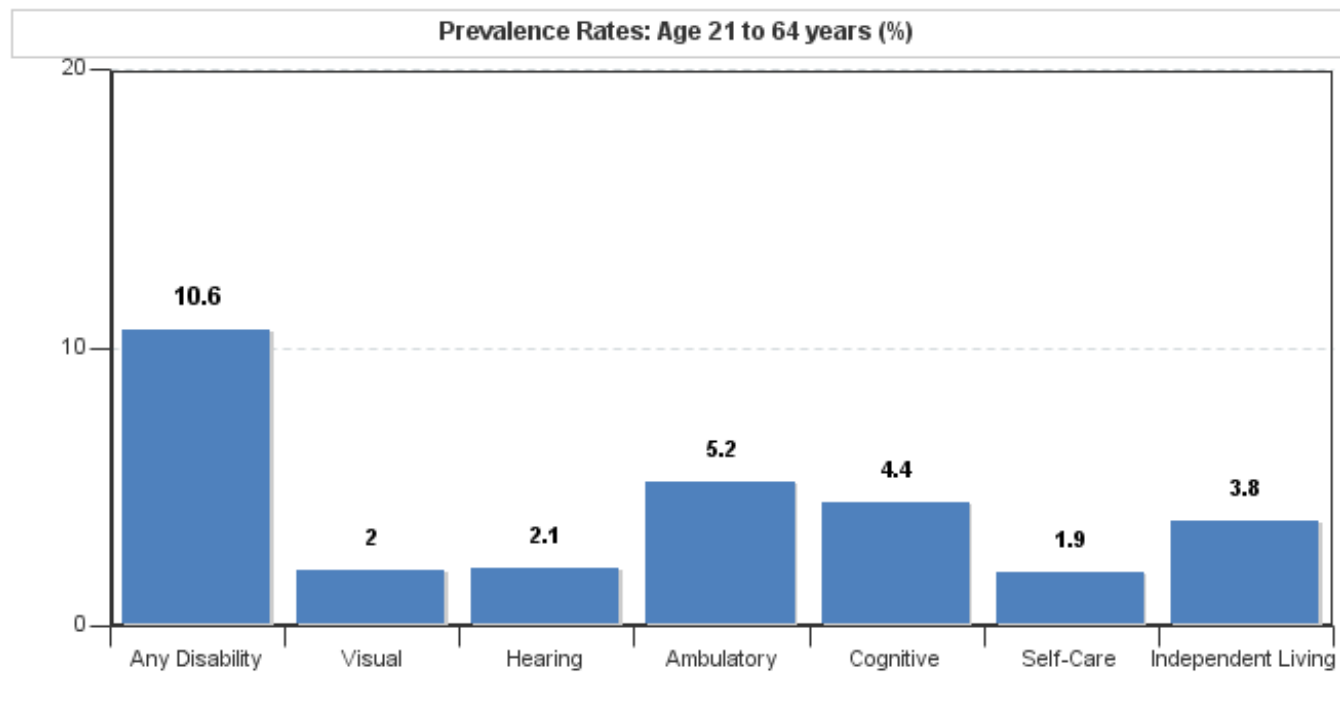
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 21 to 64  
years

**10.6%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of working age people (ages 21 to 64) with a disability in the US was 10.6 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 19,637,200 of the 185,624,500 individuals ages 21 to 64 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 5.2 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was "Self-Care Disability," 1.9 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 21 to 64 in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	10.6	0.06	19,637,200	112,500	185,624,500	1,752,088
Visual	2.0	0.03	3,714,400	50,180	185,624,500	1,752,088
Hearing	2.1	0.03	3,847,000	51,060	185,624,500	1,752,088
Ambulatory	5.2	0.04	9,604,200	79,950	185,624,500	1,752,088
Cognitive	4.4	0.04	8,253,300	74,280	185,624,500	1,752,088
Self-Care	1.9	3.29	3,442,300	48,330	185,624,500	1,752,088
Independent Living	3.8	0.04	6,961,300	68,350	185,624,500	1,752,088

# Prevalence

## Ages 65 to 74 years

### Introduction

This section explores the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 65 to 74 in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

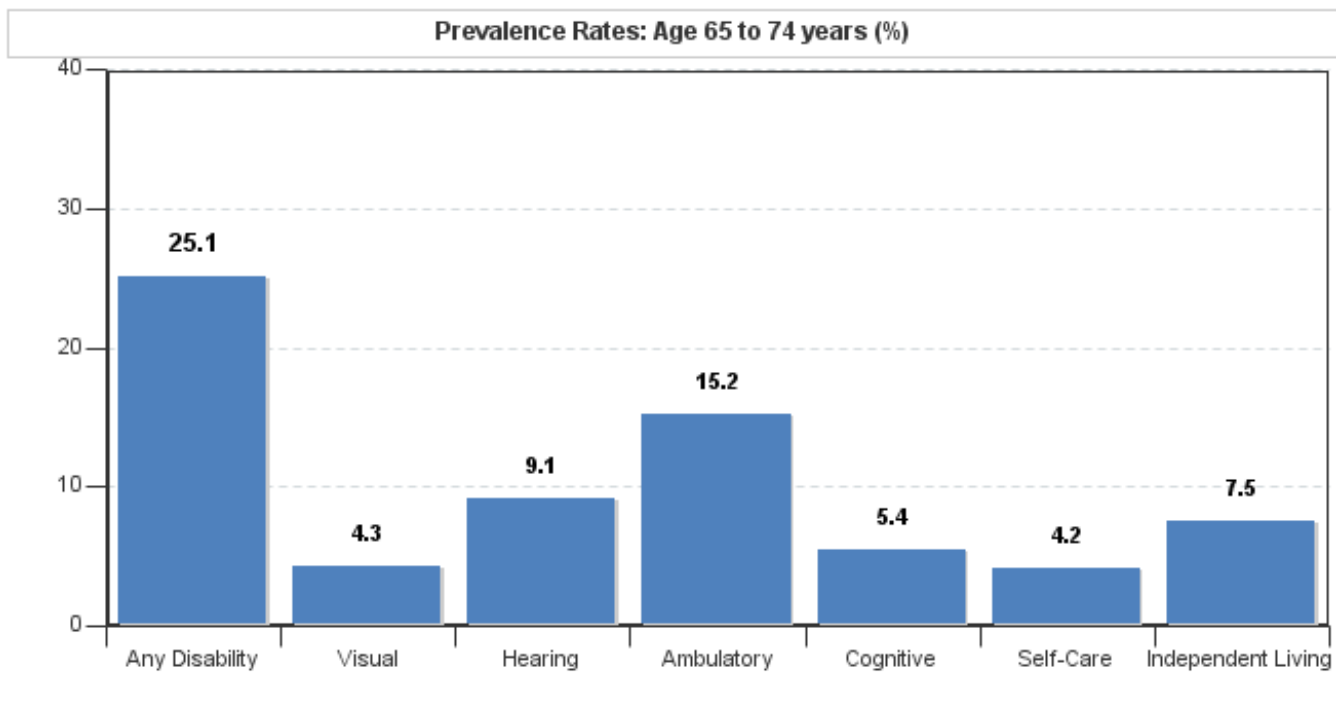
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 65 to 74  
years

**25.1%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 65 to 74 in the US was 25.1 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 7,368,100 of the 29,401,800 individuals ages 65 to 74 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 15.2 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Self-Care Disability," 4.2 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 65 to 74 in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	25.1	0.21	7,368,100	70,280	29,401,800	350,782
Visual	4.3	0.10	1,250,200	29,220	29,401,800	350,782
Hearing	9.1	0.14	2,686,700	42,750	29,401,800	350,782
Ambulatory	15.2	0.17	4,461,200	54,930	29,401,800	350,782
Cognitive	5.4	0.11	1,579,300	32,830	29,401,800	350,782
Self-Care	4.2	0.10	1,230,300	28,990	29,401,800	350,782
Independent Living	7.5	0.13	2,210,900	38,810	29,401,800	350,782

# Prevalence

## Ages 75 and Older

### Introduction

This section focuses on the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 75 and older in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

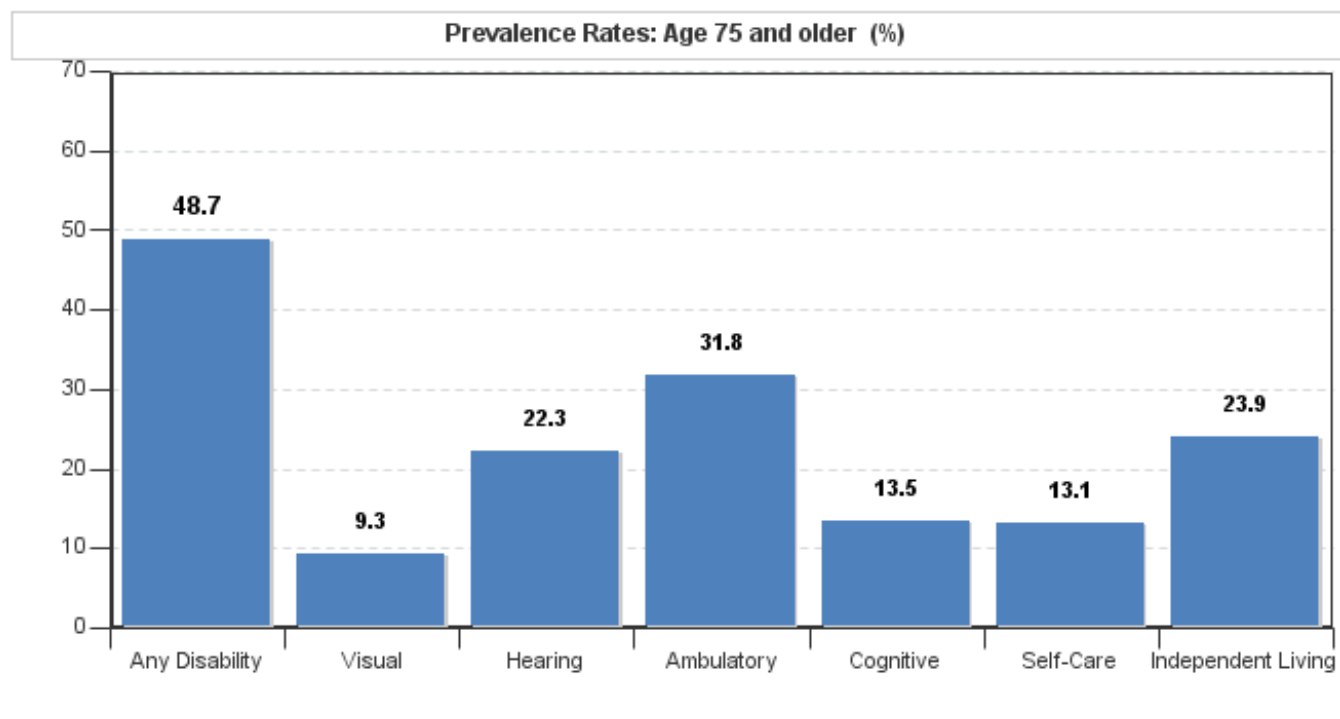
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 75 and  
Older

**48.7%**

- In 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 75 and older in the US was 48.7 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 9,784,600 of the 20,083,700 individuals ages 75 and older in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 31.8 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 9.3 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 75 and older in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	48.7	0.29	9,784,600	80,680	20,083,700	233,193
Visual	9.3	0.17	1,862,700	35,640	20,083,700	233,193
Hearing	22.3	0.24	4,480,100	55,050	20,083,700	233,193
Ambulatory	31.8	0.27	6,388,500	65,540	20,083,700	233,193
Cognitive	13.5	0.20	2,705,400	42,900	20,083,700	233,193
Self-Care	13.1	0.20	2,635,500	42,340	20,083,700	233,193
Independent Living	23.9	0.25	4,798,300	56,940	20,083,700	233,193

# Prevalence

## Gender and Age

### Introduction

This section examines the prevalence of disability among people by gender and age group in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Males All  
Ages

**12.5%**

Prevalence:  
Female All  
Ages

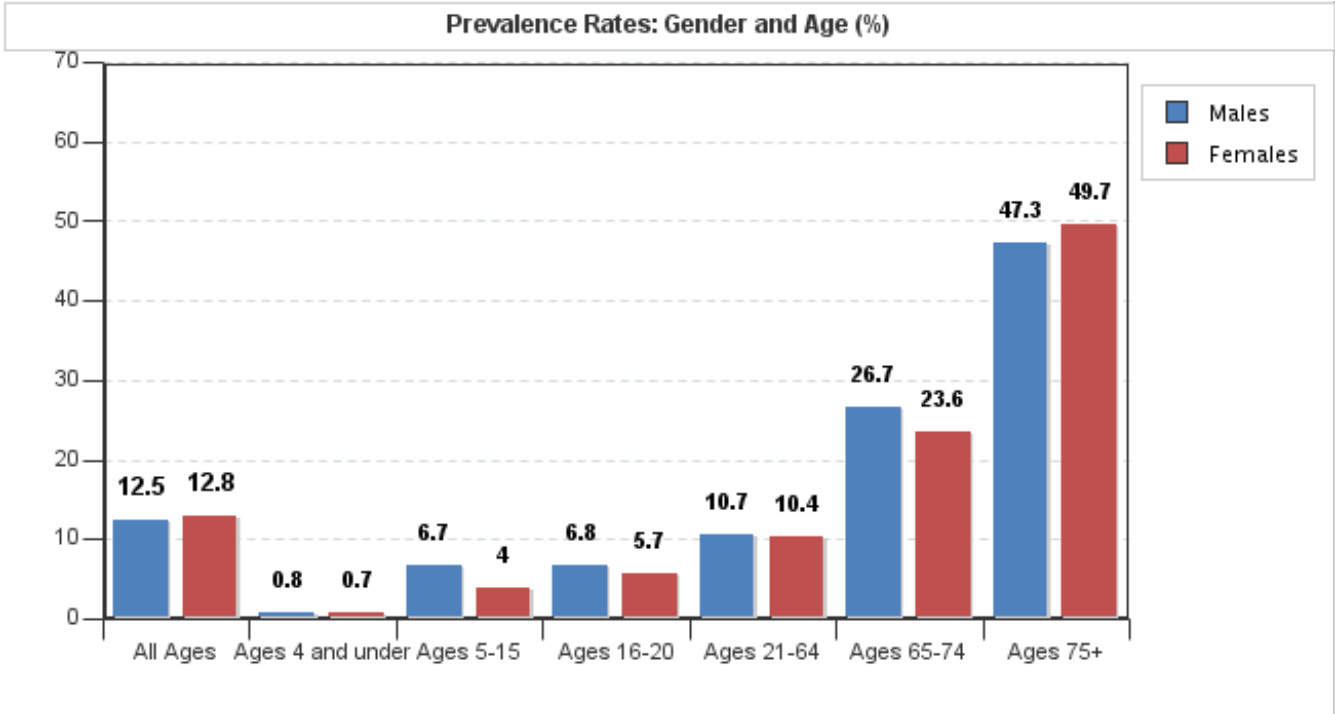
**12.8%**

- In the US in 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of males with a disability of all ages was 12.5 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 19,782,700 of the 157,688,600 males of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of females with a disability of all ages was 12.8 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 20,932,100 of the 164,135,100 females of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.

\* **Note:** Children ages 0-4 were only asked about visual and hearing disabilities, children ages 5-15 were not asked the "Independent Living Disability" question.



# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people by gender and age group in the United States in 2017



Gender & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Males</b>						
Males: All Ages	12.5	0.07	19,782,700	112,890	157,688,600	1,514,265
Males: Ages 4 and under	0.8	3.29	78,500	7,340	10,105,300	83,684
Males: Ages 5-15	6.7	0.14	1,548,300	32,510	23,157,500	210,051
Males: Ages 16-20	6.8	0.20	748,500	22,630	11,071,000	104,937
Males: Ages 21-64	10.7	0.08	9,806,600	80,770	91,306,600	851,079
Males: Ages 65-74	26.7	0.31	3,660,700	49,820	13,715,600	165,227
Males: Ages 75+	47.3	0.45	3,940,100	51,670	8,332,600	99,287
<b>Females</b>						
Females: All Ages	12.8	0.07	20,932,100	115,900	164,135,100	1,604,382
Females: Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	69,800	6,920	9,613,800	79,927
Females: Ages 5-15	4.0	0.11	879,400	24,520	22,162,500	201,900
Females: Ages 16-20	5.7	0.19	600,300	20,270	10,603,500	102,085
Females: Ages 21-64	10.4	0.08	9,830,700	80,860	94,317,900	901,009
Females: Ages 65-74	23.6	0.28	3,707,400	50,140	15,686,200	185,555
Females: Ages 75+	49.7	0.38	5,844,500	62,740	11,751,100	133,906

\* **Note:** Children ages 0-4 were only asked about visual and hearing disabilities, children ages 5-15 were not asked the "Independent Living Disability" question.

# Prevalence

## Hispanic/Latino Origin and Age

### Introduction

This section examines the prevalence of disability among people by Hispanic/Latino origin and age group in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Hispanic All  
Ages

**8.9%**

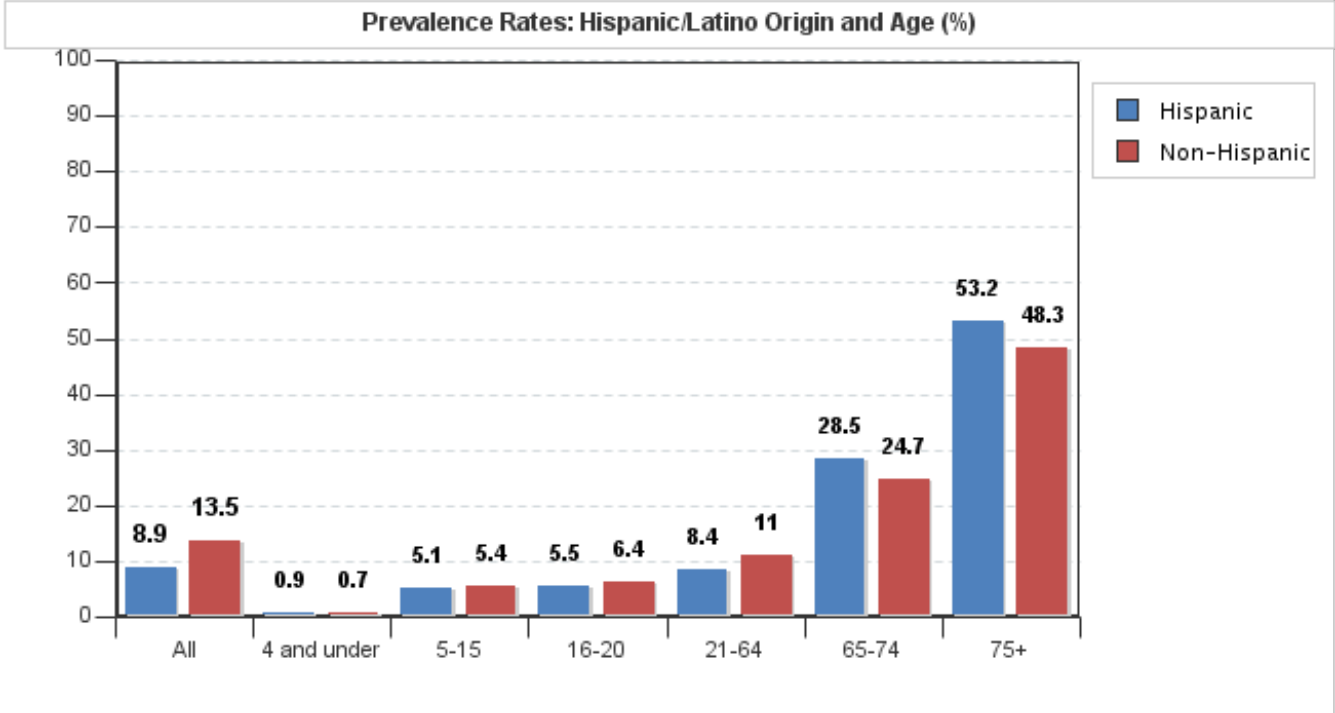
Prevalence:  
Non-Hispanic  
All Ages

**13.5%**

- In the US in 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 8.9 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 5,200,900 of the 58,263,600 people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2017, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of non-Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 13.5 percent.
- In other words, in 2017, 35,513,800 of the 263,560,100 people of non-Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.

\* **Note:** Children ages 0-4 were only asked about visual and hearing disabilities, children age 5-15 were not asked the "Independent Living Disability" question.

# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people by Hispanic / Latino origin and age group in the United States in 2017



Hispanic/Latino Origin & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Hispanic</b>						
Hispanic - All Ages	8.9	0.10	5,200,900	59,240	58,263,600	453,459
Hispanic - Ages 4 and under	0.9	3.29	45,000	5,550	5,085,900	33,873
Hispanic - Ages 5-15	5.1	0.17	587,200	20,050	11,458,100	87,176
Hispanic - Ages 16-20	5.5	0.27	272,400	13,660	4,958,500	40,504
Hispanic - Ages 21-64	8.4	0.13	2,735,900	43,130	32,656,300	252,335
Hispanic - Ages 65-74	28.5	0.74	717,500	22,160	2,520,300	24,269
Hispanic - Ages 75+	53.2	1.04	842,900	24,010	1,584,500	15,302
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>						
Non-Hispanic - All Ages	13.5	0.06	35,513,800	147,310	263,560,100	2,665,188
Non-Hispanic - Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	103,300	8,420	14,633,300	129,738
Non-Hispanic - Ages 5-15	5.4	0.10	1,840,500	35,430	33,861,900	324,775
Non-Hispanic - Ages 16-20	6.4	0.16	1,076,400	27,120	16,716,000	166,518
Non-Hispanic - Ages 21-64	11.0	0.07	16,901,300	104,830	152,968,300	1,499,753
Non-Hispanic - Ages 65-74	24.7	0.22	6,650,600	66,840	26,881,500	326,513
Non-Hispanic - Ages 75+	48.3	0.30	8,941,700	77,230	18,499,200	217,891

\* **Note:** Children ages 0-4 were only asked about visual and hearing disabilities, children ages 5-15 were not asked the "Independent Living Disability" question.

# Prevalence

## Race

### Introduction

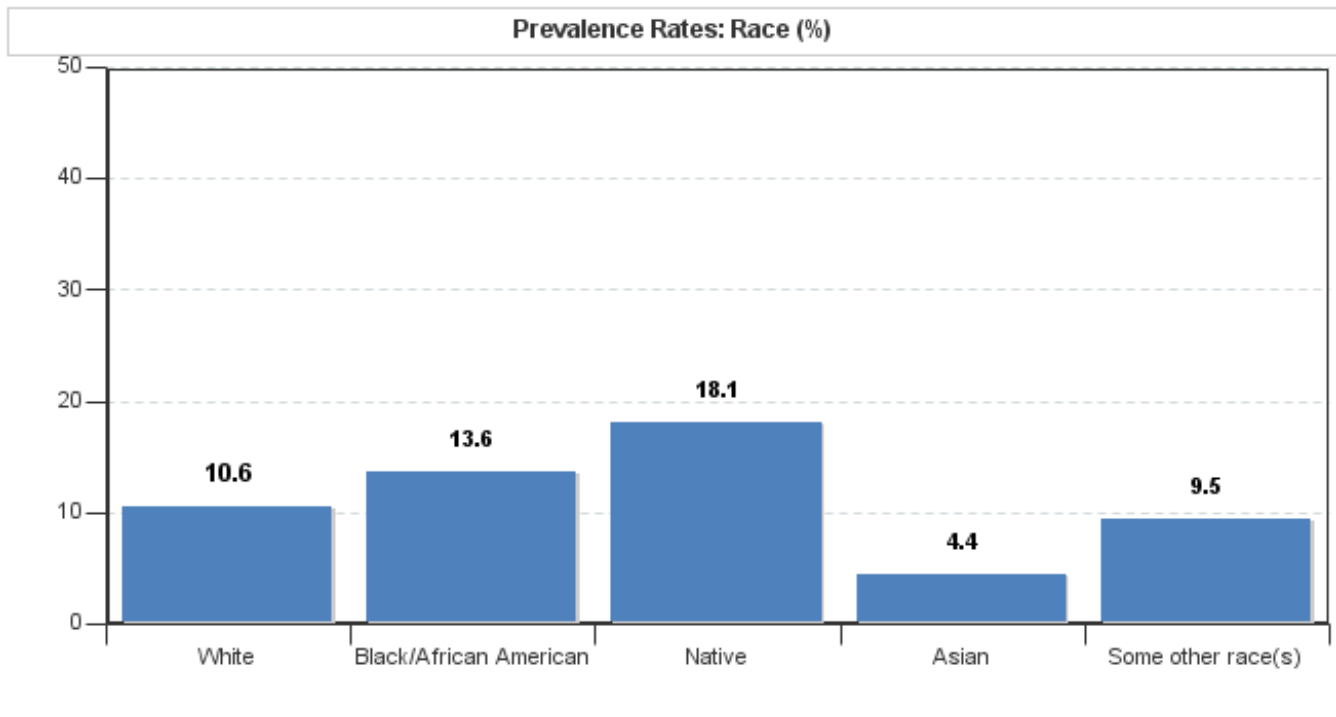
This section presents the disability prevalence rate among non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by race category in the US, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

In 2017, among working-age people in the US:

- 10.6 percent of persons who were White reported a disability.
- 13.6 percent of persons who were Black/African American reported a disability.
- 18.1 percent of persons who were Native American reported a disability.
- 4.4 percent of persons who were Asian reported a disability.
- 9.5 percent of persons who were some other race(s) reported a disability.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by race in the United States in 2017



Race	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
White	10.6	0.07	14,234,200	96,620	134,218,100	1,339,033
Black/African American	13.6	0.18	3,218,200	46,750	23,608,100	170,465
Native American or Alaska Native	18.1	0.82	274,400	13,710	1,517,400	19,358
Asian	4.4	0.16	515,400	18,790	11,655,400	107,868
Some other race(s)	9.5	0.20	1,395,100	30,870	14,625,600	115,364

# Employment

## Introduction

This section examines the employment rates of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

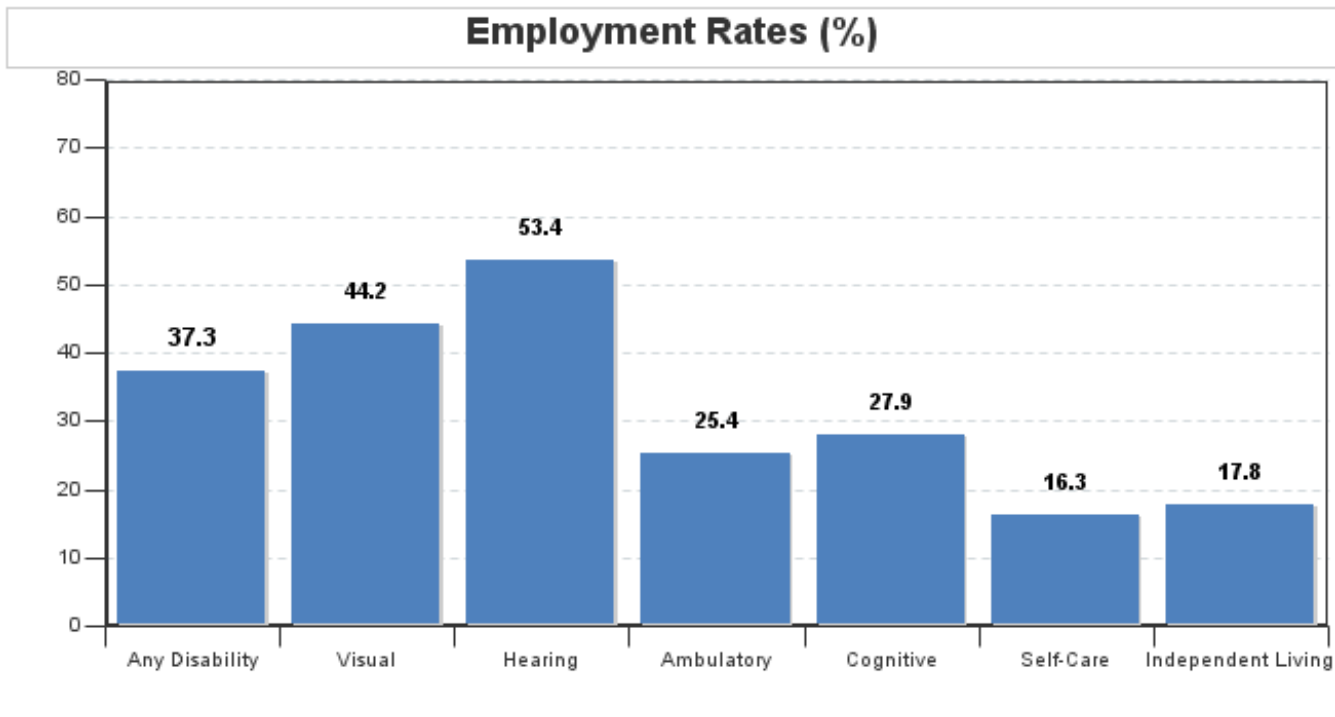
Employment:  
with disability  
**37.3%**

Employment:  
without  
disability  
**79.4%**

- In 2017, the employment rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 37.3 percent.
- In 2017, the employment rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 79.4 percent.
- The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without disabilities was 42.1 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest employment rate was for people with a "Hearing Disability," 53.4 percent. The lowest employment rate was for people with a "Self-Care Disability," 16.3 percent.



## Employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	79.4	0.08	131,789,000	231,020	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	37.3	0.29	7,318,000	70,030	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	44.2	0.67	1,643,100	33,480	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	53.4	0.67	2,055,300	37,420	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	25.4	0.37	2,442,800	40,770	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	27.9	0.41	2,298,900	39,560	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	16.3	0.52	561,400	19,610	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	17.8	0.38	1,237,500	29,080	6,961,300	70,302

# Not Working but Actively Looking for Work

## Introduction

This section focuses on the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States who are not working but actively looking for work, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

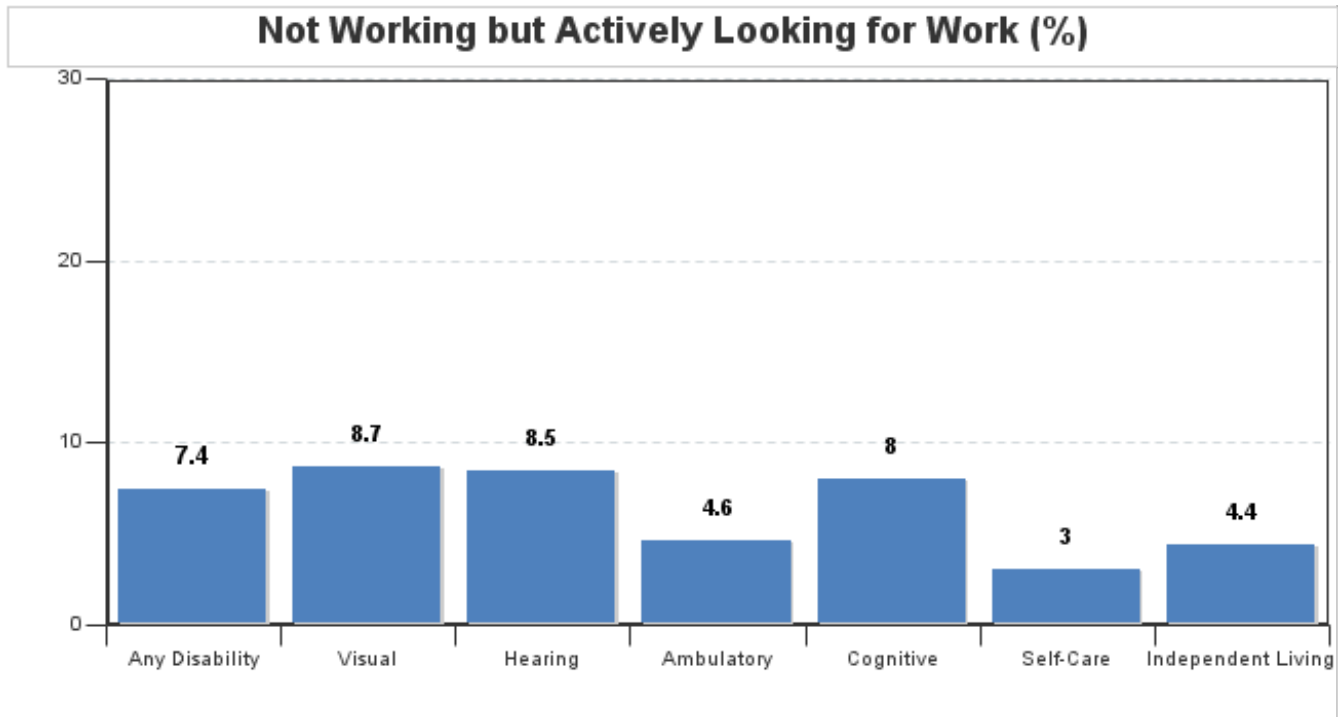
## Quick Statistics

Actively  
Looking: with  
disability  
**7.4%**

Actively  
Looking:  
without  
disability  
**17.4%**

- In 2017 in the US, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 7.4 percent.
- In 2017 in the US, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 17.4 percent.
- The difference in the percentage of not working but actively looking for work between working-age people with and without disabilities was 10 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage of not working but actively looking for work was for people with a "Visual Disability," 8.7 percent. The lowest percentage was for people with a "Self-Care Disability," 3.0 percent.

## Percentage who are not working but actively looking for work among non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	17.4	0.17	5,944,600	63,270	34,198,300	321,869
Any Disability	7.4	0.20	913,500	24,990	12,319,300	122,966
Visual	8.7	0.51	180,400	11,120	2,071,200	19,362
Hearing	8.5	0.55	152,700	10,230	1,791,600	17,829
Ambulatory	4.6	0.21	326,500	14,960	7,161,400	71,265
Cognitive	8.0	0.29	478,600	18,100	5,954,400	59,517
Self-Care	3.0	0.26	87,400	7,740	2,880,900	29,377
Independent Living	4.4	0.22	249,200	13,070	5,723,800	57,870

# Full-Time / Full-Year Employment

## Introduction

This section presents the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

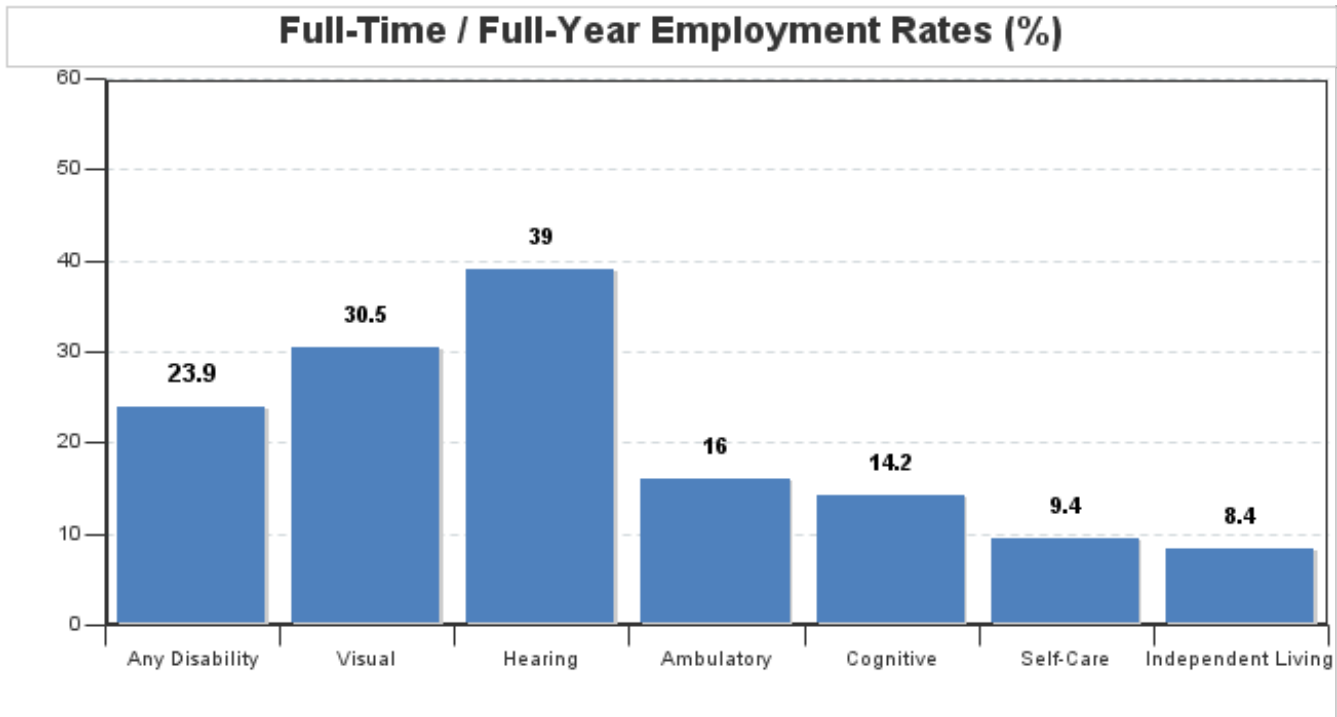
## Quick Statistics

FT / FY  
Employment:  
with disability  
**23.9%**

FT / FY  
Employment:  
without  
disability  
**60.3%**

- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 23.9 percent.
- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 60.3 percent.
- The difference in the percentage working full-time/full-year between working-age people with and without disabilities was 36.4 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest full-time/full-year employment rate was for people with "Hearing Disability," 39.0 percent. The lowest full-time/full-year employment rate was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 8.4 percent.

## Full-Time/Full-Year employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	60.3	0.10	100,076,900	218,050	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	23.9	0.25	4,687,900	56,290	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	30.5	0.63	1,133,700	27,840	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	39.0	0.65	1,499,400	31,990	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	16.0	0.31	1,534,500	32,360	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	14.2	0.32	1,175,000	28,340	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	9.4	0.41	321,900	14,850	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	8.4	0.28	583,100	19,980	6,961,300	70,302

# Annual Earnings (Full-Time / Full-Year Workers)

## Introduction

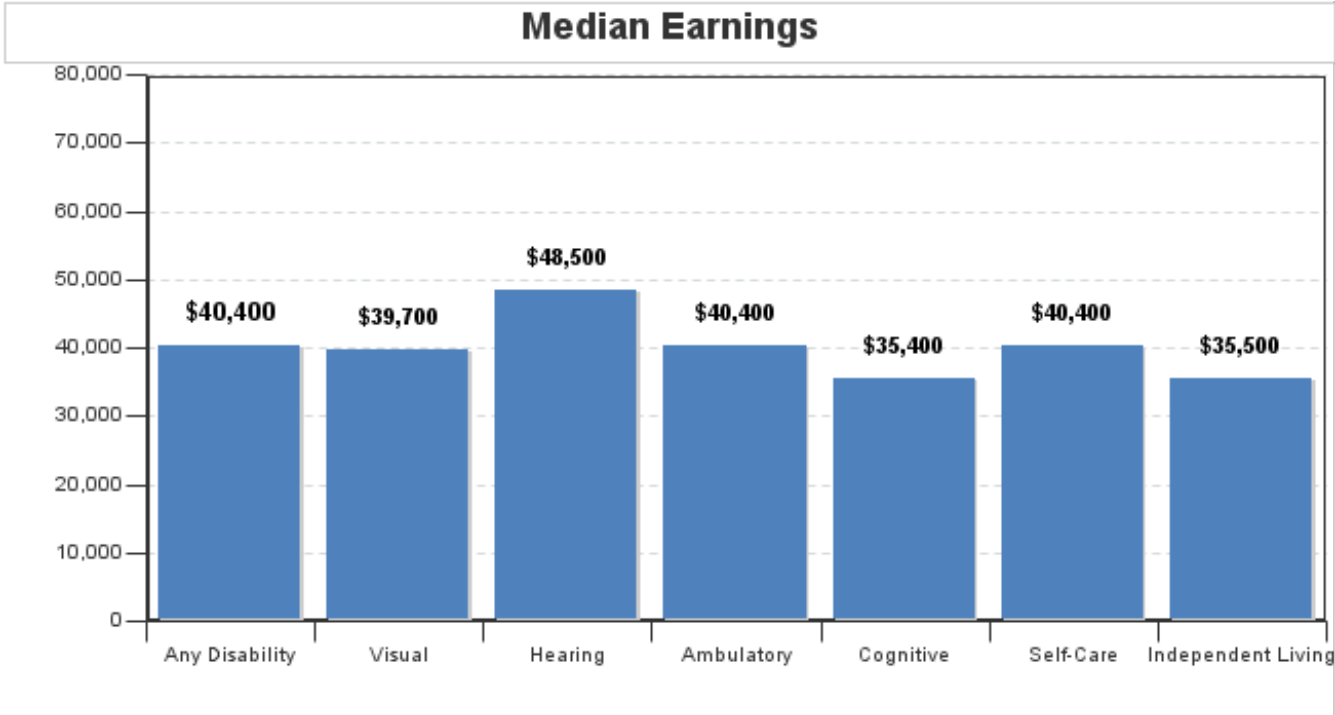
This section examines the median annual earnings of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities who work full-time/full-year in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics



- In 2017, the median earnings of working-age people with disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$40,400.
- In 2017, the median earnings of working-age people without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$47,500.
- The difference in the median earnings between working-age people with and without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year was \$7,100.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest annual earnings was for people with "Hearing Disability," \$48,500. The lowest annual earnings was for people with "Cognitive Disability," \$35,400.

# Median annual earnings of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) who work full-time/full-year by disability status in the United States in 2017



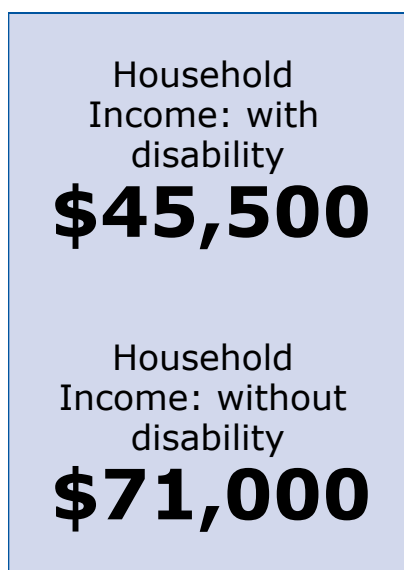
Disability Type	Median Earnings	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$47,500	\$120	100,077,000	934,843
Any Disability	\$40,400	\$450	4,688,000	46,815
Visual	\$39,700	\$870	1,134,000	11,116
Hearing	\$48,500	\$890	1,499,000	15,408
Ambulatory	\$40,400	\$730	1,534,000	15,088
Cognitive	\$35,400	\$780	1,175,000	11,178
Self-Care	\$40,400	\$1,630	322,000	2,998
Independent Living	\$35,500	\$1,080	583,000	5,660

# Annual Household Income

## Introduction

This section illustrates the median annual income\* of households that include any working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

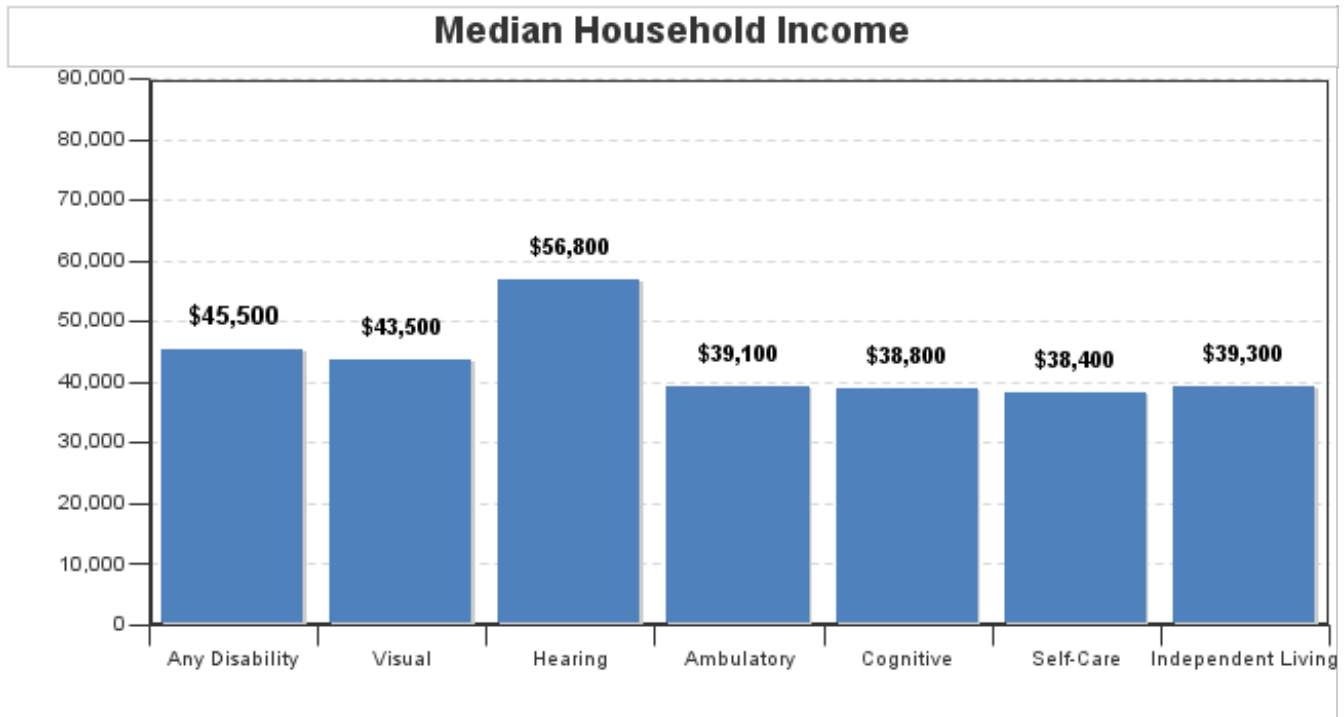


- In 2017, the median income of households that include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$45,500.
- In 2017, the median income of households that do not include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$71,000.
- The difference in the median income between households including and not including working-age people with disabilities was \$25,500.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest median income was for households including persons with a "Hearing Disability," \$56,800. The lowest median income was for households containing persons with a "Self-Care Disability" \$38,400.

\* **Note:** Household income is not available for persons living in group quarters.



## Median annual income\* of households including any working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	Median H.H. Income	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$71,000	\$270	80,724,000	796,528
Any Disability	\$45,500	490	15,439,000	161,580
Visual	\$43,500	1,060	3,123,000	31,443
Hearing	\$56,800	1,190	3,440,000	36,260
Ambulatory	\$39,100	600	8,104,000	84,140
Cognitive	\$38,800	690	6,414,000	66,448
Self-Care	\$38,400	990	2,832,000	29,481
Independent Living	\$39,300	730	5,539,000	58,758

\* **Note:** Household income is not available for persons living in group quarters.

# Poverty

## Introduction

This section examines the poverty rates\* of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

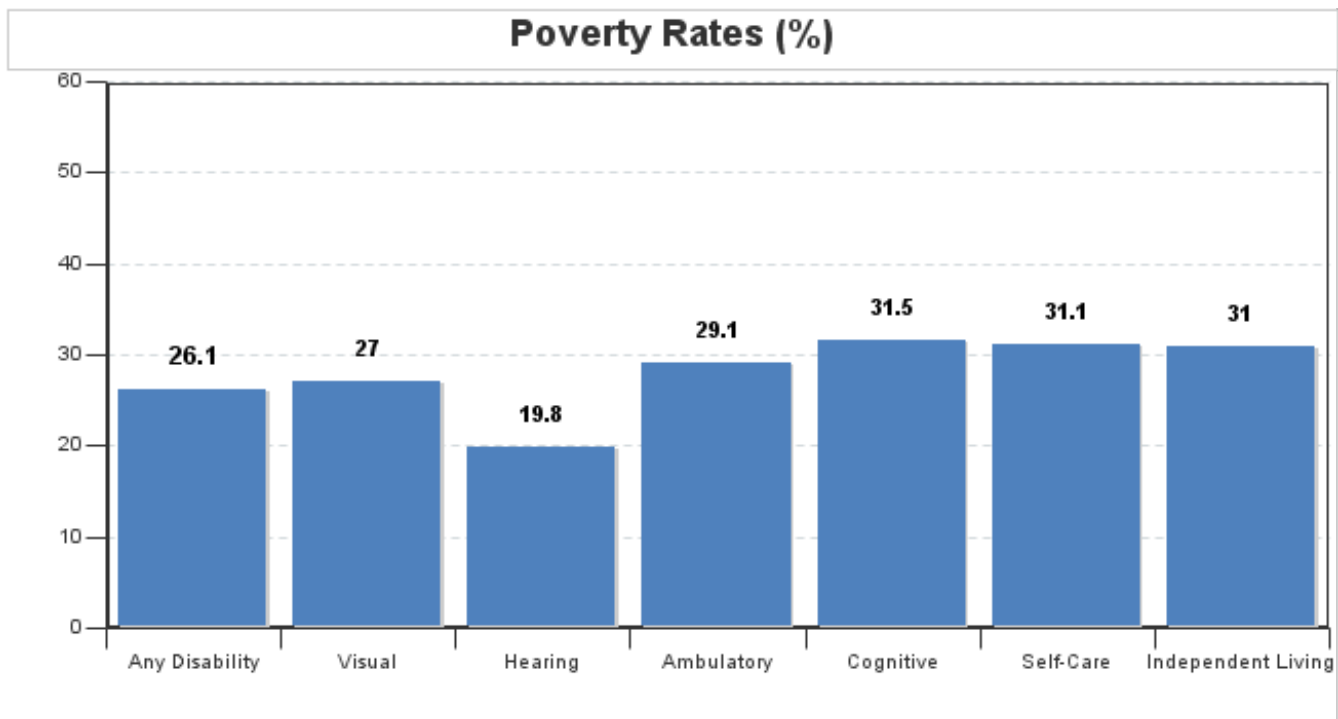
## Quick Statistics



- In 2017, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 26.1 percent.
- In 2017, the poverty rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 10.4 percent.
- The difference in the poverty rate between working-age people with and without disabilities was 15.7 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest poverty rate was for people with "Cognitive Disability," 31.5 percent. The lowest poverty rate was for people with "Hearing Disability," 19.8 percent.

\* **Note:** The Census Bureau does not calculate poverty status for those people living in military group quarters or college dormitories.

## Poverty rates\* of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	10.4	0.07	17,128,500	125,280	165,249,600	1,544,390
Any Disability	26.1	0.31	5,111,300	69,750	19,607,800	195,113
Visual	27.0	0.72	1,000,300	31,060	3,709,700	35,275
Hearing	19.8	0.63	762,300	27,120	3,843,300	38,727
Ambulatory	29.1	0.46	2,795,200	51,770	9,600,500	95,200
Cognitive	31.5	0.50	2,592,900	49,880	8,233,700	81,220
Self-Care	31.1	0.78	1,070,000	32,120	3,441,300	34,869
Independent Living	31.0	0.55	2,159,700	45,550	6,957,700	70,234

\* **Note:** The Census Bureau does not calculate poverty status for those people living in military group quarters or college dormitories.

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

## Introduction

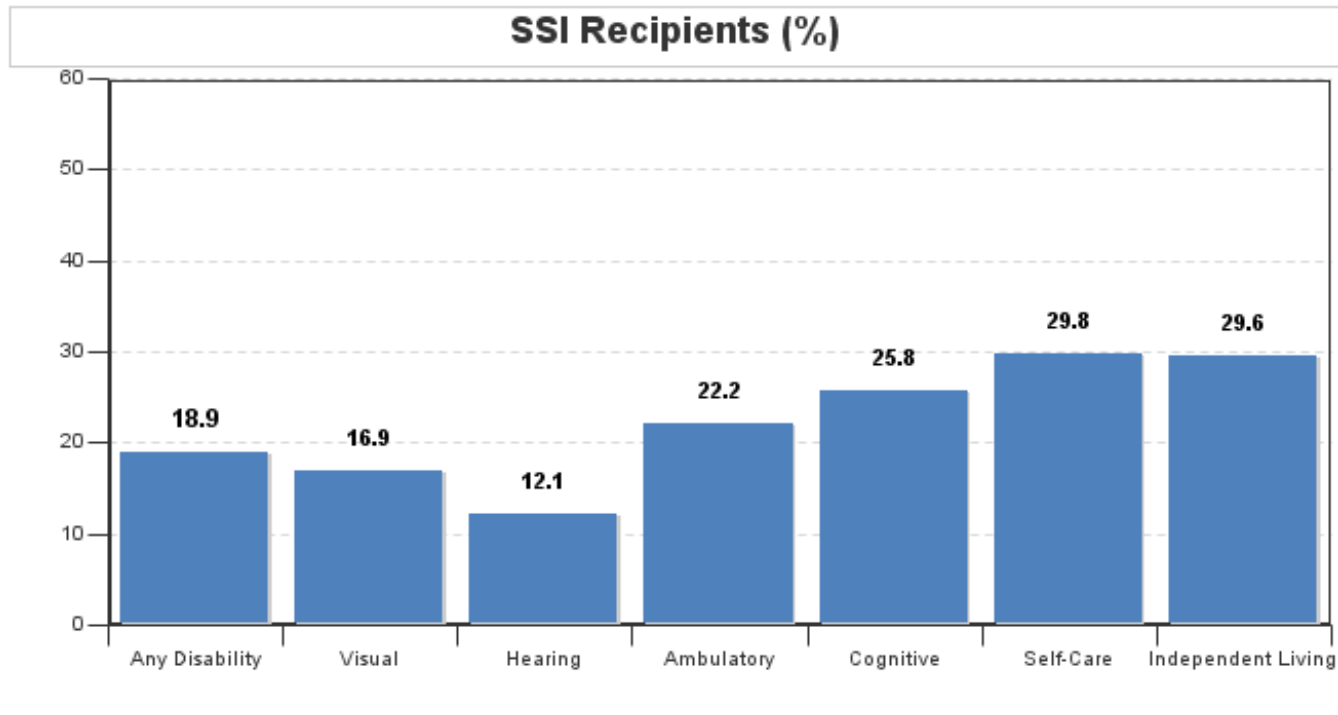
This section focuses on the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Please note that these results will differ from official Social Security Administration reports for several reasons. For additional information, please email [DisabilityStatistics@cornell.edu](mailto:DisabilityStatistics@cornell.edu).

## Quick Statistics

SSI  
Recipients:  
with disability  
**18.9%**

- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 18.9 percent.
- In 2017, the number of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 3,718,700.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage that received SSI was people with "Self-Care Disability," 29.8 percent. The lowest percentage that received SSI was people with "Hearing Disability," 12.1 percent.

## Percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	18.9	0.23	3,718,700	50,210	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	16.9	0.51	627,700	20,730	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	12.1	0.44	466,100	17,870	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	22.2	0.35	2,128,500	38,080	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	25.8	0.40	2,129,400	38,090	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	29.8	0.65	1,024,800	26,470	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	29.6	0.45	2,059,400	37,460	6,961,300	70,302

# Education

## High School Diploma/Equivalent

### Introduction

This section explores the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

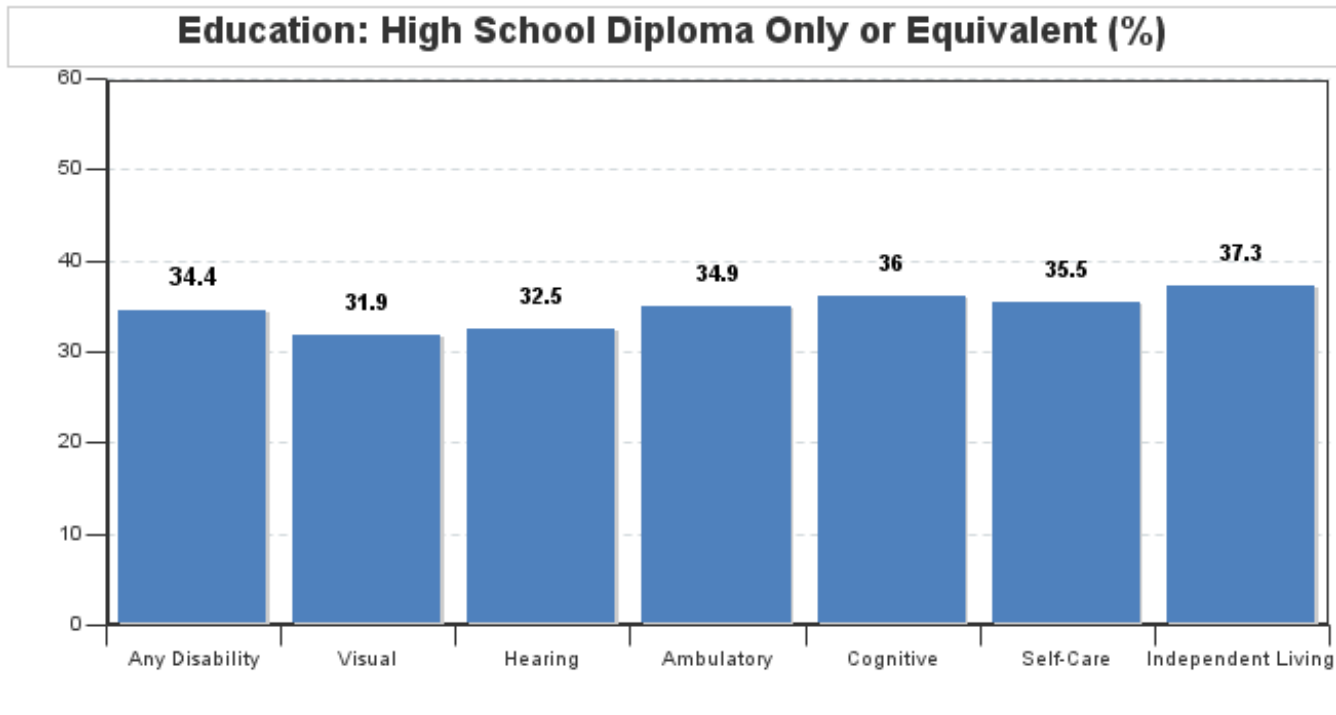
### Quick Statistics

High School  
Only: with  
disability  
**34.4%**

High School  
Only: without  
disability  
**25.0%**

- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 34.4 percent.
- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 25.0 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent between working-age people with and without disabilities was 9.4 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 37.3 percent. The lowest percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent was for people with "Visual Disability," 31.9 percent.

## Percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with only a high school diploma or equivalent by disability status in the US in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	25.0	0.09	41,490,900	157,580	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	34.4	0.28	6,749,600	67,330	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	31.9	0.63	1,185,200	28,460	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	32.5	0.63	1,251,900	29,240	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	34.9	0.40	3,355,700	47,720	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	36.0	0.44	2,970,700	44,930	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	35.5	0.68	1,220,700	28,880	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	37.3	0.48	2,593,200	42,000	6,961,300	70,302

# Education

## Some College/Associate's Degree

### Introduction

This section examines the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

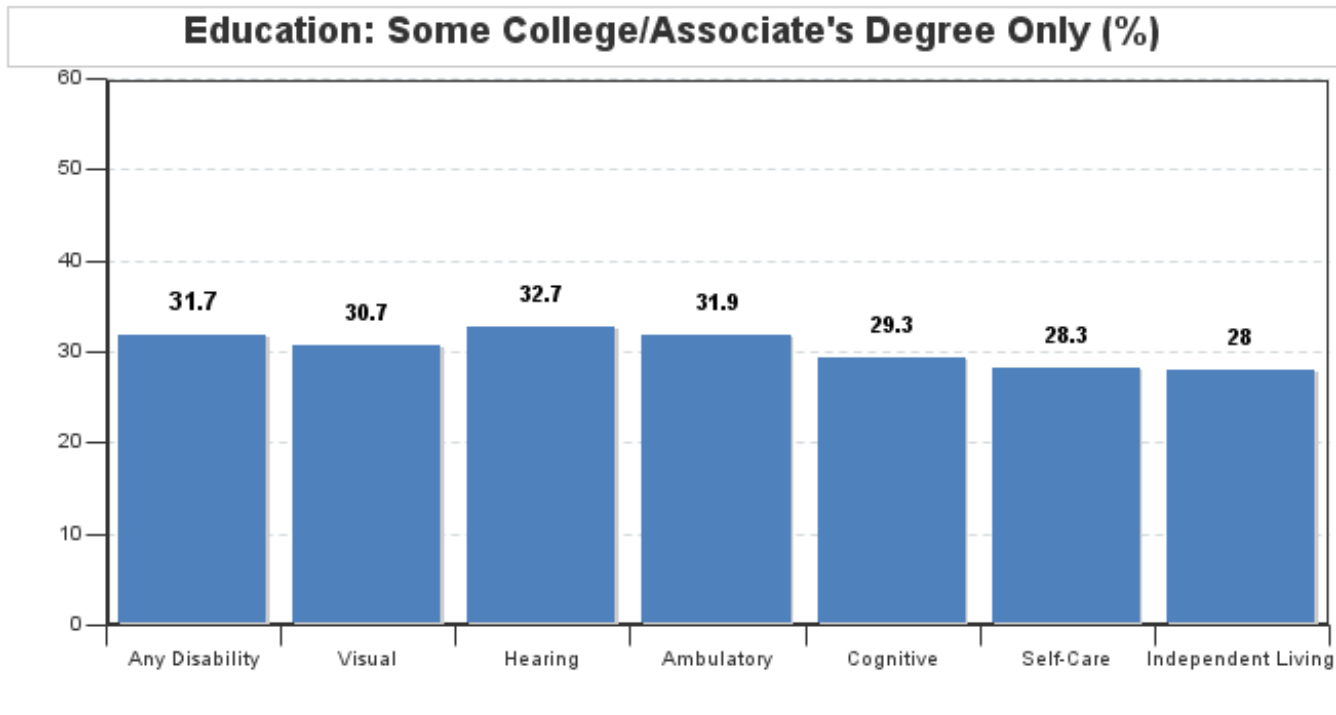
Some  
College: with  
disability  
**31.7%**

Some  
College:  
without  
disability  
**31.2%**

- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 31.7 percent.
- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 31.2 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only some college or an Associate's degree between working-age people with and without disabilities was -0.5 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage with only some college or an Associate's degree was for people with "Hearing Disability," 32.7 percent. The lowest percentage with only some college or Associate's degree was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 28.0 percent.



## Percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with only some college or an Associate's degree by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	31.2	0.09	51,865,100	172,930	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	31.7	0.27	6,219,000	64,680	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	30.7	0.63	1,141,600	27,930	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	32.7	0.63	1,258,400	29,320	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	31.9	0.39	3,061,000	45,600	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	29.3	0.41	2,417,100	40,560	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	28.3	0.64	975,800	25,830	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	28.0	0.45	1,947,600	36,440	6,961,300	70,302

# Education

## Bachelor's Degree or More

### Introduction

This section presents the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Bachelor's  
Degree or  
More: with  
disability

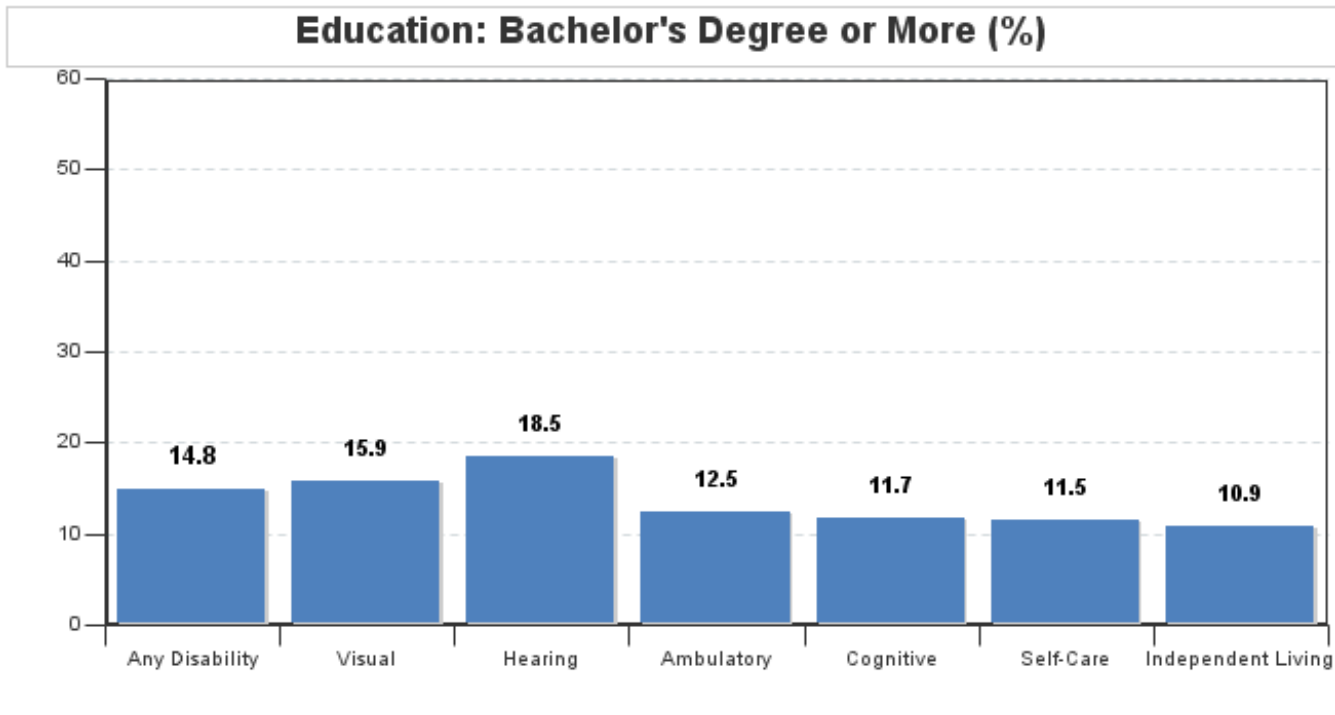
**14.8%**

Bachelor's  
Degree or  
More: without  
disability

**34.5%**

- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 14.8 percent.
- In 2017, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 34.5 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more between working-age people with and without disabilities was 19.7 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more was for people with "Hearing Disability," 18.5 percent. The lowest percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 10.9 percent.

## Percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with a Bachelor's degree or more by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	34.5	0.10	57,190,300	179,820	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	14.8	0.21	2,915,100	44,510	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	15.9	0.50	589,500	20,090	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	18.5	0.52	713,600	22,100	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	12.5	0.28	1,197,200	28,600	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	11.7	0.29	964,600	25,680	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	11.5	0.45	397,300	16,500	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	10.9	0.31	758,700	22,780	6,961,300	70,302

# Veterans Service-Connected Disability Rating

## Introduction

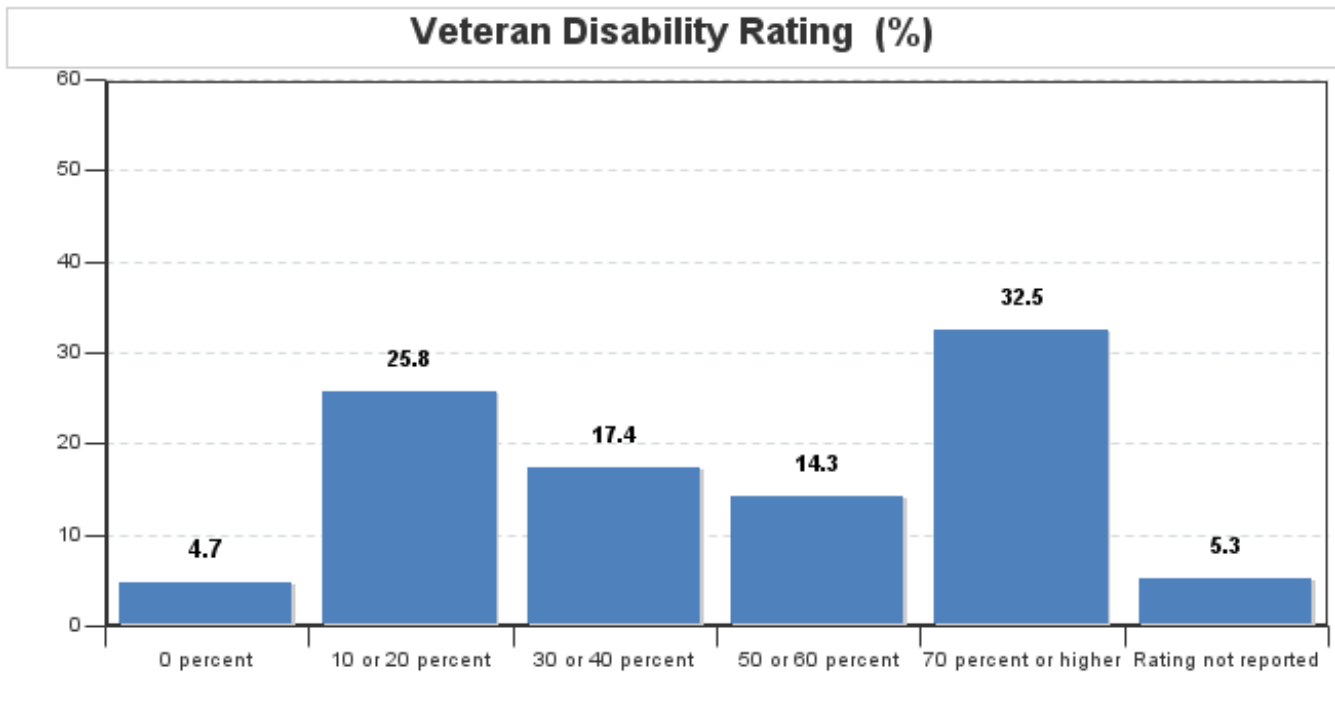
This section presents the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age (ages 21 to 64) civilian veterans reporting a service-connected disability rating in the United States. The 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) asks if the veteran has a service-connected disability, and if so, what their rating is (0-100%). A "service-connected" disability is one that has been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as being a result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated during military service. Note that a veteran can receive disability compensation for a wide range of conditions, and a veteran with a service-connected disability may not report having one of the six ACS functional or activity limitation disabilities. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

Veterans with a  
Service-Connected  
Disability  
**26.3%**

- In 2017, there were 8,958,400 working-age civilian veterans in the US, of whom 2,354,700 had a VA service-connected disability.
- In 2017, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans in the US with a VA service-connected disability was 26.3 percent.
- In 2017, 764,100 working-age civilian veterans in the US had the most severe service-connected disability rating (70 percent or above).
- In 2017, 32.5 percent of the working-age civilian veterans in the US who had a service-connected disability had a service-connected disability rating of 70 percent or above.

## Disability rating of working-age civilian veterans (ages 21 to 64) with a service-connected disability in the United States in 2017



Service-Connected Disability	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Has a service-connected disability rating (0-100%)	26.3	0.39	2,354,700	40,040	8,958,400	89,397
<b>Disability rating of veterans with a service connected-disability</b>						
0 percent	4.7	0.36	110,100	8,690	2,354,700	23,456
10 or 20 percent	25.8	0.75	608,400	20,410	2,354,700	23,456
30 or 40 percent	17.4	0.65	409,000	16,740	2,354,700	23,456
50 or 60 percent	14.3	0.60	337,700	15,210	2,354,700	23,456
70 percent or higher	32.5	0.80	764,100	22,860	2,354,700	23,456
Rating not reported	5.3	0.38	125,400	9,270	2,354,700	23,456

# Health Insurance Coverage

## Introduction

This section examines the health insurance coverage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

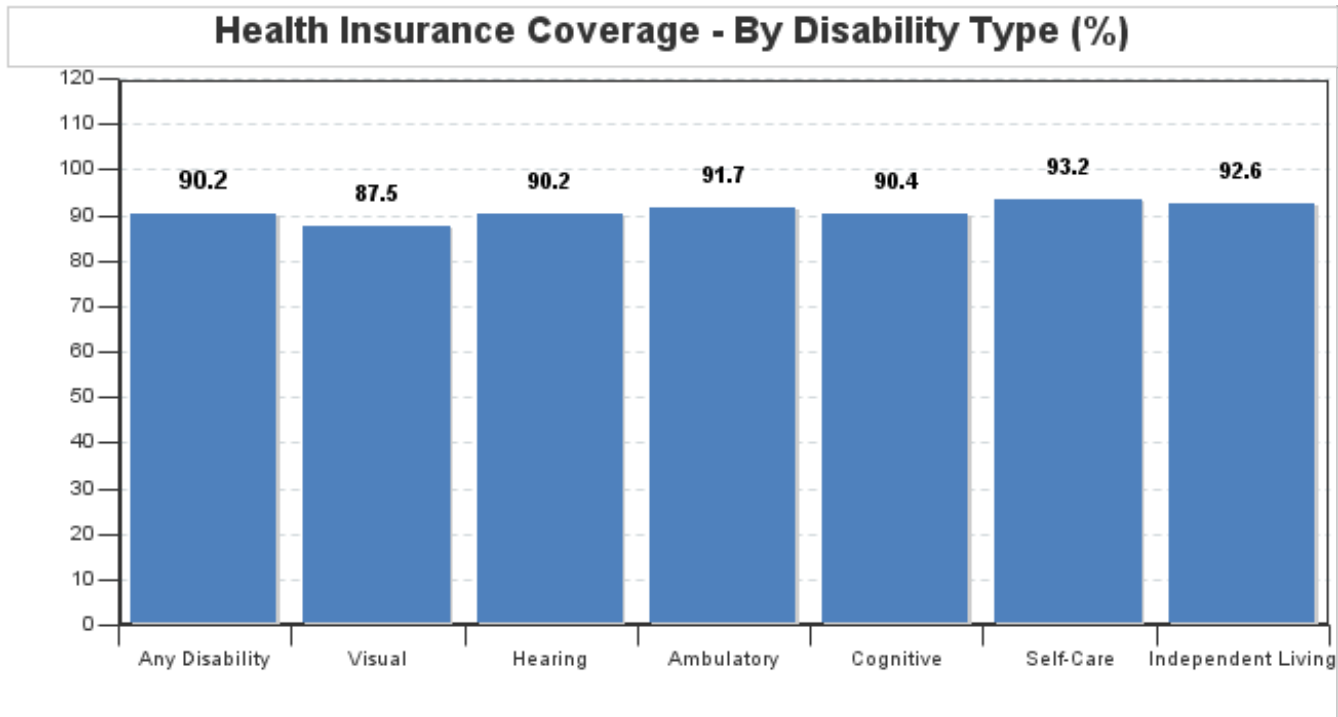
## Quick Statistics

Health  
Coverage:  
with Disability  
**90.2%**

Health  
Coverage:  
without  
Disability  
**87.6%**

- In 2017, 90.2 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US had some type of health insurance coverage.
- In 2017, 87.6 percent of working-age people without disabilities in the US had some type of health insurance coverage.
- The difference in the health insurance coverage rate between working-age people with and without disabilities was 2.6 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest health insurance coverage rate was for people with "Self-Care Disability," 93.2 percent. The lowest health insurance coverage rate was for people with "Visual Disability," 87.5 percent.

## Health insurance coverage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	87.6	0.07	145,400,200	234,960	165,987,300	1,556,444
Any Disability	90.2	0.18	17,704,000	107,150	19,637,200	195,644
Visual	87.5	0.45	3,248,400	46,960	3,714,400	35,356
Hearing	90.2	0.40	3,468,500	48,510	3,847,000	38,791
Ambulatory	91.7	0.23	8,804,700	76,650	9,604,200	95,270
Cognitive	90.4	0.27	7,461,900	70,710	8,253,300	81,575
Self-Care	93.2	0.36	3,206,800	46,660	3,442,300	34,887
Independent Living	92.6	0.26	6,447,500	65,840	6,961,300	70,302

# Type of Health Insurance Coverage

## Introduction

This section examines the type of health insurance coverage for non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS). Note that people can report more than one type of insurance coverage. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

Coverage  
through  
Employer/Union:  
with Disability

**34.7%**

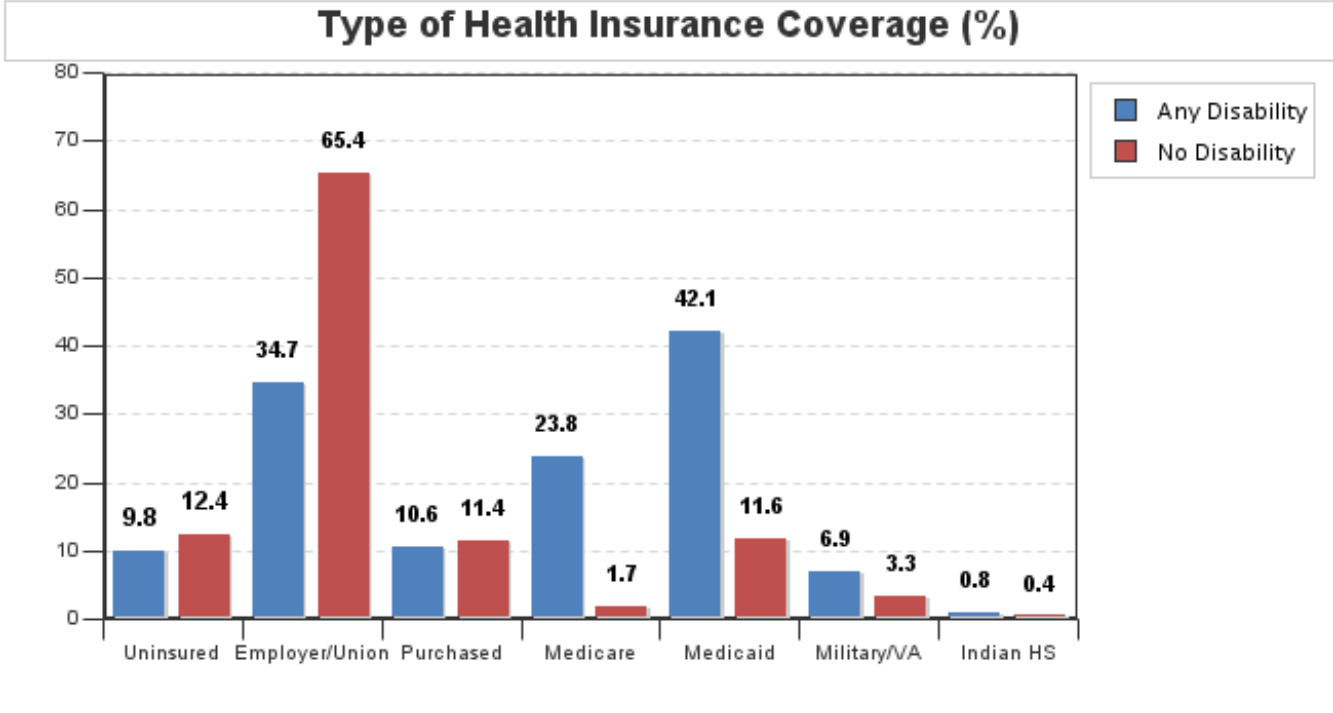
Coverage  
through  
Employer/Union:  
without  
Disability

**65.4%**

- In 2017, 34.7 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US reported health insurance coverage through a current or former employer or union (theirs or another family member).
- In 2017, 65.4 percent of working-age people without disabilities in the US reported health insurance coverage through a current or former employer or union (theirs or another family member).
- In 2017, 10.6 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US reported purchasing health insurance coverage directly from an insurance company (by themselves or another family member).
- In 2017, 23.8 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US reported Medicare coverage and 42.1 percent reported Medicaid coverage (or other government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability).



# Type of health insurance coverage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2017



Disability Status/ Insurance Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Any Disability</b>						
Uninsured	9.8	0.18	1,933,300	36,300	19,637,200	195,644
Employer/Union	34.7	0.28	6,806,200	67,600	19,637,200	195,644
Purchased	10.6	0.18	2,081,900	37,670	19,637,200	195,644
Medicare	23.8	0.25	4,664,900	56,160	19,637,200	195,644
Medicaid	42.1	0.29	8,266,600	74,330	19,637,200	195,644
Military/VA	6.9	0.15	1,348,700	30,350	19,637,200	195,644
Indian Health Service	0.8	3.29	152,900	10,240	19,637,200	195,644
<b>No Disability</b>						
Uninsured	12.4	0.07	20,587,100	115,010	165,987,300	1,556,444
Employer/Union	65.4	0.10	108,631,700	222,830	165,987,300	1,556,444
Purchased	11.4	0.06	18,931,500	110,580	165,987,300	1,556,444
Medicare	1.7	3.29	2,798,000	43,620	165,987,300	1,556,444
Medicaid	11.6	0.07	19,304,500	111,600	165,987,300	1,556,444
Military/VA	3.3	0.04	5,552,800	61,180	165,987,300	1,556,444
Indian Health Service	0.4	3.29	726,700	22,300	165,987,300	1,556,444

# Glossary

## Actively Looking for Work

A person is defined as ACTIVELY looking for work if he or she reports looking for work during the last four weeks.

## Ambulatory Disability

This disability type is based on the question (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

## Base Population (Base Pop.)

The estimated number of individuals upon which the calculation is based. (For percentages, this is the denominator).

## Cognitive Disability

This disability type is based on the question (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

## Disability and Disability Types

The ACS definition of disability is based on six questions. A person is coded as having a disability if he or she or a proxy respondent answers affirmatively for one or more of these six categories.

- Hearing Disability (*asked of all ages*): Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
- Visual Disability (*asked of all ages*): Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
- Cognitive Disability (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
- Ambulatory Disability (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
- Self-care Disability (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
- Independent Living Disability (*asked of persons ages 15 or older*): 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?

## Earnings

Earnings are defined as wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs including self-employment income (NET income after business expenses) from own nonfarm businesses or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships.

## Education

Our definition is based on the responses to the question: "What is the highest degree or level of school this person has completed? If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received." Our category "high school diploma/equivalent" includes those marking the ACS option "Regular high school diploma — GED or alternative credential." Our category "Some college/Associate's degree" includes those marking the ACS options: some college credit, but less than 1 year of college credit; one or more years of college credit but no degree, or "Associate's degree (for example: AA, AS)." Our category "a Bachelor's or more" includes those marking the ACS options: "Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, BS)"; "Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)"; "Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)"; or "Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)." Note in 2008 changes were made to some of the response categories and the layout of this question.

## Employment

A person is considered employed if he or she is either

- a. "at work": those who did any work at all during the reference week as a paid employee (worked in his or her own business or profession, worked on his or her own farm, or worked 15 or more hours as an unpaid worker on a family farm or business) or
- b. "with a job but not at work": had a job but temporarily did not work at that job during the reference week due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation or other personal reasons. The reference week is defined as the week preceding the date the questionnaire was completed.

## Employment Rate

The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons employed by the number of persons in that population.

\*\* Note that the unemployment rate cannot be calculated using the employment rate:

- The employment rate is the percentage of all persons who have a job.
- The unemployment rate is the percentage of persons in the labor force who do not have a job but are actively looking for work. The labor force includes people who have a job, are on layoff, or who actively searched for work in the last four weeks.

Please see <http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/faq.cfm#Q6> for more information on unemployment rate calculation and its implications.

## Full-Time/Full-Year Employment

A person is considered employed full-time/full-year if he or she worked 35 hours or more per week (full-time) and 50 or more weeks per year (full-year). The reference period is defined as the year preceding the date the questionnaire was completed. Note: this does not signify whether a person is eligible for fringe benefits. The question and response categories regarding weeks worked per year was changed in 2008.

## Group Quarters (GQ)

A GQ is a place where people live or stay that is normally owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories. See the definitions of institutional GQs and non-institutional GQs for more information. In addition, a description of the types of group quarters included in the 2008 ACS is located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2008\\_ACS\\_GQ\\_Definitions.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2008_ACS_GQ_Definitions.pdf).

## Health Insurance Coverage

Is based on the following question: Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Mark "Yes" or "No" for EACH type of coverage in items a – h.

- a. Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
- c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities
- d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability
- e. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)
- f. TRICARE or other military health care
- g. Indian Health Service
- h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – Specify (Note: "Other type" were recoded into one of the categories a-g by the Census Bureau)

## Hearing Disability

This disability type is based on the question (*asked of all ages*): Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

## Hispanic or Latino Origin

People of Hispanic or Latino origin are those who classify themselves in a specific Hispanic or Latino category in response to the question, "Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?" Specifically, those of Hispanic or Latino origin are those who are Cuban; Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano; Puerto Rican; or other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Origin may be the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

## Household Income

Household Income is defined as the total income of a household including: wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs; self-employment income (NET income after business expenses) from own non-farm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from real estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement; Supplemental Security Income; any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor or disability pensions; and any other regularly received income (e.g., Veterans' payments, unemployment compensation, child support or alimony). Median household income is calculated with the household as the unit of analysis, using household weights without adjusting for household size.

## Independent Living Disability

This disability type is based on the question (*asked of persons ages 15 or older*): Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctors office or shopping?

## Institutional Group Quarters (GQs)

Includes facilities for people under formally authorized, supervised care or custody at the time of enumeration. Generally, restricted to the institution, under the care or supervision of trained staff, and classified as "patients" or "inmates." Includes: correctional, nursing, and in-patient hospice facilities, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile group homes and residential treatment centers.

## Margin of Error (MOE)

Data, such as data from the American Community Survey, is based on a sample, and therefore statistics derived from this data are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error (MOE) is a measure of the degree of sampling variability. In a random sample, the degree of sampling variation is determined by the underlying variability of the phenomena being estimated (e.g., income) and the size of the sample (i.e., the number of survey participants used to calculate the statistic). The smaller the margin of error, the lower the sampling variability and the more "precise" the estimate. A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Confidence bounds are calculated by adding the MOE to the estimate (upper bound) and subtracting the MOE from the estimate (lower bound). All margins of error in this report are based on a 90 percent confidence level. This means that there is a 90% certainty that the actual value lies somewhere between the upper and lower confidence bounds.

## Non-Institutional Group Quarters (GQs)

Includes facilities that are not classified as institutional group quarters; such as college/university housing, group homes intended for adults, residential treatment facilities for adults, workers' group living quarters and Job Corps centers and religious group quarters.

## **Not Working but Actively Looking for Work**

A person is defined as not working but actively looking for work if he or she reports not being employed, but has been looking for work during the last four weeks.

## **Number**

This term appears in the tables; it refers to estimated number of people in the category. (for percentages, this is the numerator).

## **Poverty**

The poverty measure is computed based upon the standards defined in Directive 14 from the Office of Management and Budget. These standards use poverty thresholds created in 1982 and index these thresholds to 2008 dollars using poverty factors based upon the Consumer Price Index. They use the family as the income sharing unit and family income is the sum of total income from each family member living in the household. The poverty threshold depends upon the size of the family; the age of the householder; and the number of related children under the age of 18.

## **Race**

Race categories are based on the question, "[w]hat is this person's race? Mark (X) one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be." Responses include the following: White; Black or African-American; American Indian or Alaska Native (print name of enrolled or principal tribe); Asian Indian; Chinese; Filipino; Japanese; Korean; Vietnamese; Other Asian (Print Race); Native Hawaiian; Guamanian or Chamorro; Samoan; Other Pacific Islander (Print Race Below); Some other race (print race below). "Other race" also contains people who report more than one race.

## **Sample Size**

The number of survey participants used to calculate the statistic.

## **Self-care Disability**

This disability type is based on the question (*asked of persons ages 5 or older*): 17c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

## **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

A person is defined as receiving SSI payments if he or she reports receiving (SSI) income in the 12 months prior to the survey.

**Note:** The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not apply to Puerto Rico. SSI is a federal cash assistance program that provides monthly payments to low-income aged, blind, or disabled persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

## Veteran Service-Connected Disability

A disease or injury determined to have occurred in or to have been aggravated by military service. A disability is evaluated according to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities in Title 38, CFR, and Part 4. Extent of disability is expressed as a percentage from 0% (for conditions that exist but are not disabling to a compensable degree) to 100%, in increments of 10%. This information was determined by the following two part question:

a. **Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?**

Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)

No *SKIP* to question 28a

b. **What is this person's service-connected disability rating?"**

Responses included: 0 percent; 10 or 20 percent; 30 or 40 percent; 50 or 60 percent; 70 percent or higher

## Visual Disability

This disability type is based on the question: (*asked of all ages*): Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?



# About the Disability Status Reports

The Cornell University Disability Status Reports is produced and funded by the Yang-Tan Institute at the Cornell University ILR School. This effort originated as a product of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics (StatsRRTC) funded to the Yang-Tan Institute in the ILR School at Cornell University by the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (grant No. H133B031111).

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