

Cornell University

2009

US

United States

# 2009 Disability Status Report United States



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

Employment and Disability Institute at the Cornell University ILR School

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# The 2009 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 estimates in the 2009 Disability Status Reports are based on American Community Survey (ACS) data - a US Census Bureau survey that has replaced the Decennial Census long form. See the ACS User Guide on [www.disabilitystatistics.org](http://www.disabilitystatistics.org) for additional information on the ACS.

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.

Finally, the 2009 Disability Status Report estimates should not be compared to estimates from any reports based on ACS data collected prior to 2008. In 2008, the US Census Bureau made a number of significant changes to the ACS. These changes included an entirely new set of disability questions as described on the following page. For a summary of all changes to the ACS 2008 survey see the following Census Bureau document: [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/methodology/content\\_test/SummaryResultsACS2006ContentTest.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/methodology/content_test/SummaryResultsACS2006ContentTest.pdf)

## Suggested Citation

Erickson, W., Lee, C., & von Schrader, S. (2011). 2009 Disability Status Report: United States. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute(EDI).

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

# ACS Disability Questions

The disability questions used in the ACS are listed below. 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?

# New Features and Notes

## New Features

We are pleased to announce Spanish language versions of the Annual Disability Status Reports for the US, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington D.C. These reports can be downloaded at the same location as the English Status Reports. The Spanish translation was made possible funding from the Northeast Disability Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) and NIDRR.

## Notes

**Puerto Rico:** A Puerto Rico Disability Status Report, based on the parallel 2009 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 (see glossary).

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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS).

**Age:** In 2009, the prevalence of disability in the US was:

- 12.0 percent for persons of all ages
- 0.7 percent for persons ages 4 and under
- 5.1 percent for persons ages 5 to 15
- 5.5 percent for persons ages 16 to 20
- 10.4 percent for persons ages 21 to 64
- 26.0 percent for persons ages 65 to 74
- 50.8 percent for persons ages 75+

**Disability Type:** In 2009, the prevalence of the six disability types among persons of all ages in the US was:

- 2.1% reported a Visual Disability
- 3.4% reported a Hearing Disability
- 6.9% reported an Ambulatory Disability
- 4.8% reported a Cognitive Disability
- 2.6% reported a Self-Care Disability
- 5.4% reported an Independent Living Disability

**Gender:** In 2009, 12.3 percent of females of all ages and 11.6 percent of males of all ages in the US reported a disability.

**Hispanic/Latino:** In 2009, the prevalence of disability among persons of all ages of Hispanic or Latino origin in the US was 8.3 percent.

**Race:** In the US in 2009, the prevalence of disability for working-age people (ages 21 to 64) was:

- 10.1 percent among Whites
- 14.1 percent among Black / African Americans
- 4.5 percent among Asians
- 18.0 percent among Native Americans
- 10.1 percent among persons of some other race(s)

**Employment:** In 2009, the employment rate of working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the US was 36.0 percent.

**Looking for Work:** In the US in 2009, the percentage actively looking for work among people with disabilities who were not working was 11.6 percent.

**Full-Time/Full-Year Employment:** In the US in 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year was 22.5 percent.

**Annual Earnings:** In 2009, the median annual earnings of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was \$35,000.

**Annual Household Income:** In the US in 2009, the median annual income of households with working-age people with disabilities was \$37,200.

**Poverty:** In the US in 2009, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities was 26.4 percent.

**Supplemental Security Income:** In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments in the US was 18.5 percent.

**Educational Attainment:** In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities in the US:

- with only a high school diploma or equivalent was 34.0 percent
- with only some college or an associate degree was 29.9 percent
- with a bachelor's degree or more was 12.2 percent.

**Veterans Service-Connected Disability:** In 2009, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans with a VA determined Service-Connected Disability was 17.5 percent in the US.

**Health Insurance Coverage:** In 2009 in the US, 82.6 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). The US disability prevalence rate for this population was 10.4%

<b>Location</b>	<b>2009 (%)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>2009 (%)</b>
Alabama	<b>15.5</b>	Montana	<b>11.8</b>
Alaska	<b>12.0</b>	Nebraska	<b>9.2</b>
Arizona	<b>10.3</b>	Nevada	<b>9.0</b>
Arkansas	<b>17.0</b>	New Hampshire	<b>9.2</b>
California	<b>8.4</b>	New Jersey	<b>7.8</b>
Colorado	<b>8.2</b>	New Mexico	<b>12.3</b>
Connecticut	<b>8.6</b>	New York	<b>9.1</b>
Delaware	<b>11.2</b>	North Carolina	<b>11.7</b>
District of Columbia	<b>10.0</b>	North Dakota	<b>9.2</b>
Florida	<b>9.9</b>	Ohio	<b>12.0</b>
Georgia	<b>10.5</b>	Oklahoma	<b>15.2</b>
Hawaii	<b>7.7</b>	Oregon	<b>11.2</b>
Idaho	<b>11.2</b>	Pennsylvania	<b>11.0</b>
Illinois	<b>8.2</b>	Puerto Rico	<b>19.1</b>
Indiana	<b>11.3</b>	Rhode Island	<b>10.2</b>
Iowa	<b>9.4</b>	South Carolina	<b>12.2</b>
Kansas	<b>10.6</b>	South Dakota	<b>9.7</b>
Kentucky	<b>16.4</b>	Tennessee	<b>13.9</b>
Louisiana	<b>13.0</b>	Texas	<b>10.3</b>
Maine	<b>14.4</b>	Utah	<b>8.3</b>
Maryland	<b>8.4</b>	Vermont	<b>11.4</b>
Massachusetts	<b>9.2</b>	Virginia	<b>9.3</b>
Michigan	<b>11.9</b>	Washington	<b>10.7</b>
Minnesota	<b>8.4</b>	West Virginia	<b>18.4</b>
Mississippi	<b>15.1</b>	Wisconsin	<b>8.9</b>
Missouri	<b>12.6</b>	Wyoming	<b>11.1</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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). The employment rate in the US for this population was 36.0% for people with disabilities and 76.8% for people without disabilities.

Location	People with Disabilities 2009	People without Disabilities 2009	Location	People with Disabilities 2009	People without Disabilities 2009
Alabama	30.0	74.8	Montana	45.5	78.6
Alaska	50.2	77.7	Nebraska	45.8	84.7
Arizona	33.9	73.4	Nevada	40.9	75.4
Arkansas	34.6	76.8	New Hampshire	39.3	82.0
California	34.2	74.3	New Jersey	40.2	77.8
Colorado	46.7	78.7	New Mexico	37.0	74.7
Connecticut	41.7	79.8	New York	33.9	76.4
Delaware	35.8	80.1	North Carolina	34.9	76.2
District of Columbia	28.3	78.0	North Dakota	56.1	85.4
Florida	32.9	74.6	Ohio	34.0	76.5
Georgia	34.6	75.4	Oklahoma	40.2	78.5
Hawaii	41.1	80.3	Oregon	38.1	74.7
Idaho	38.5	75.7	Pennsylvania	36.3	78.1
Illinois	36.3	76.5	Puerto Rico	22.8	57.6
Indiana	36.0	77.0	Rhode Island	36.6	80.6
Iowa	47.0	84.0	South Carolina	30.1	74.7
Kansas	44.7	81.7	South Dakota	45.8	83.3
Kentucky	28.1	74.7	Tennessee	30.2	75.7
Louisiana	35.0	76.3	Texas	39.8	77.1
Maine	33.8	81.0	Utah	43.3	77.9
Maryland	44.0	81.0	Vermont	44.2	83.6
Massachusetts	34.8	79.8	Virginia	39.6	80.0
Michigan	30.4	71.7	Washington	39.1	76.7
Minnesota	44.3	82.0	West Virginia	28.0	74.2
Mississippi	28.7	74.9	Wisconsin	40.3	81.6
Missouri	35.6	78.5	Wyoming	50.3	82.5

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

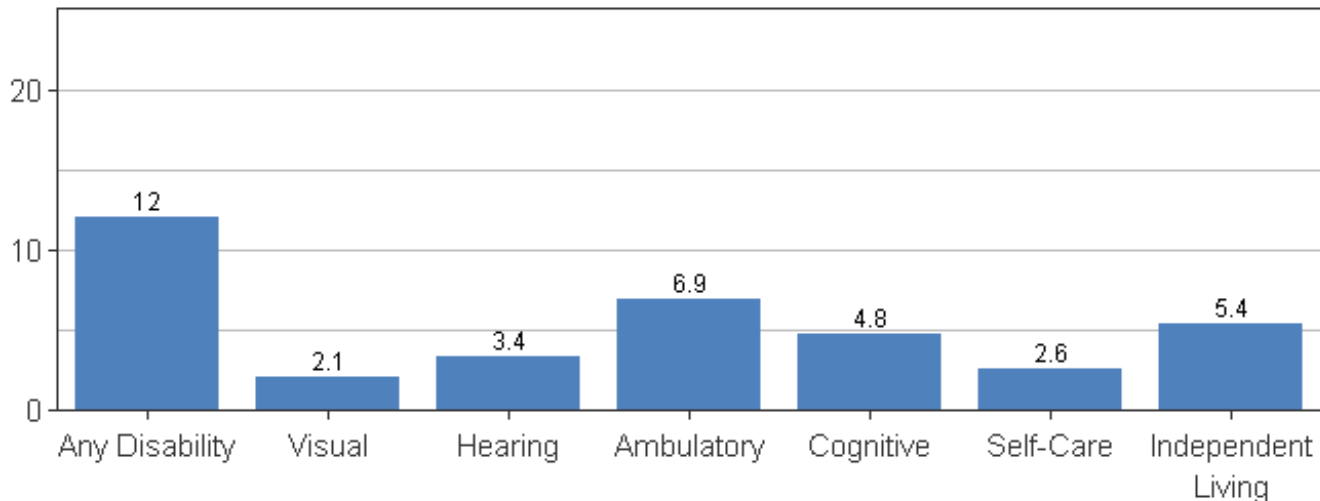
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
All Ages  
**12.0%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability of all ages in the US was 12.0 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 36,230,100 of the 302,783,200 individuals of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, 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," 2.1 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people of all ages in the United States in 2009\*

Prevalence Rates: All Ages (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	12.0	0.05	36,230,100	157,290	302,783,200	2,979,835
Visual	2.1	0.02	6,453,300	69,940	302,783,200	2,979,835
Hearing	3.4	0.03	10,221,000	87,460	302,783,200	2,979,835
Ambulatory	6.9	0.04	19,425,100	118,690	281,613,500	2,799,892
Cognitive	4.8	0.04	13,581,200	100,250	281,613,500	2,799,892
Self-Care	2.6	0.03	7,189,100	73,730	281,613,500	2,799,892
Independent Living	5.4	0.04	13,041,100	98,330	240,963,700	2,414,589

\* **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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). Only the two sensory disability questions were asked of this population. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

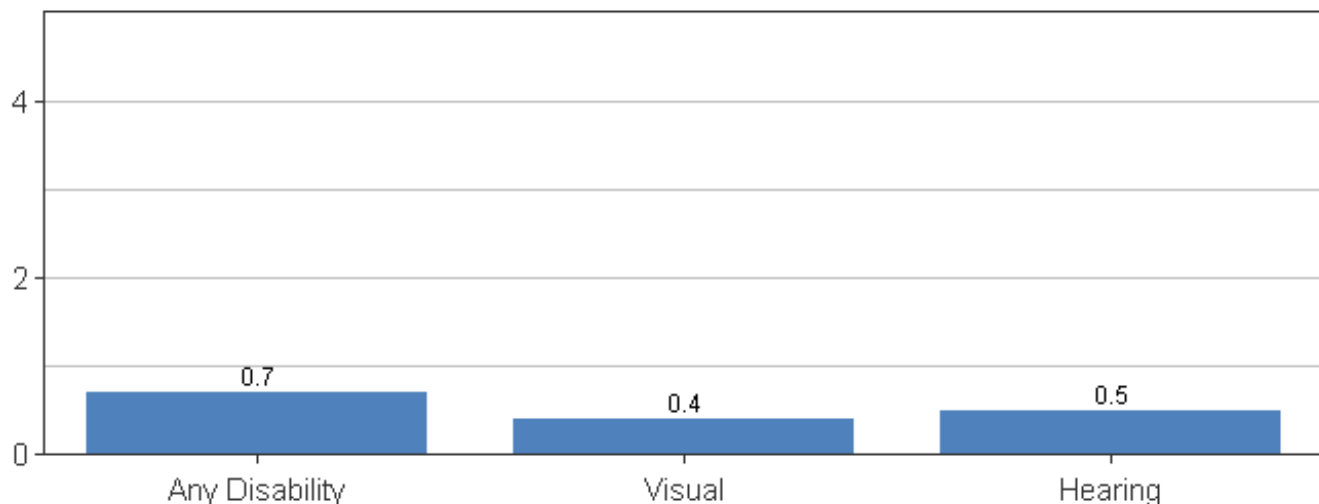
Prevalence:  
Ages 4 and  
under

**0.7%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of children with a visual and/or hearing disability ages 0 to 4 in the US was 0.7 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 157,000 of the 21,169,700 children ages 0 to 4 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, 0.4 reported a visual disability
- In the US in 2009, 0.5 reported a hearing disability

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 4 and under in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 4 years and under (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	0.7	3.29	157,000	11,020	21,169,700	179,943
Visual	0.4	3.29	92,100	8,440	21,169,700	179,943
Hearing	0.5	3.29	101,900	8,880	21,169,700	179,943

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

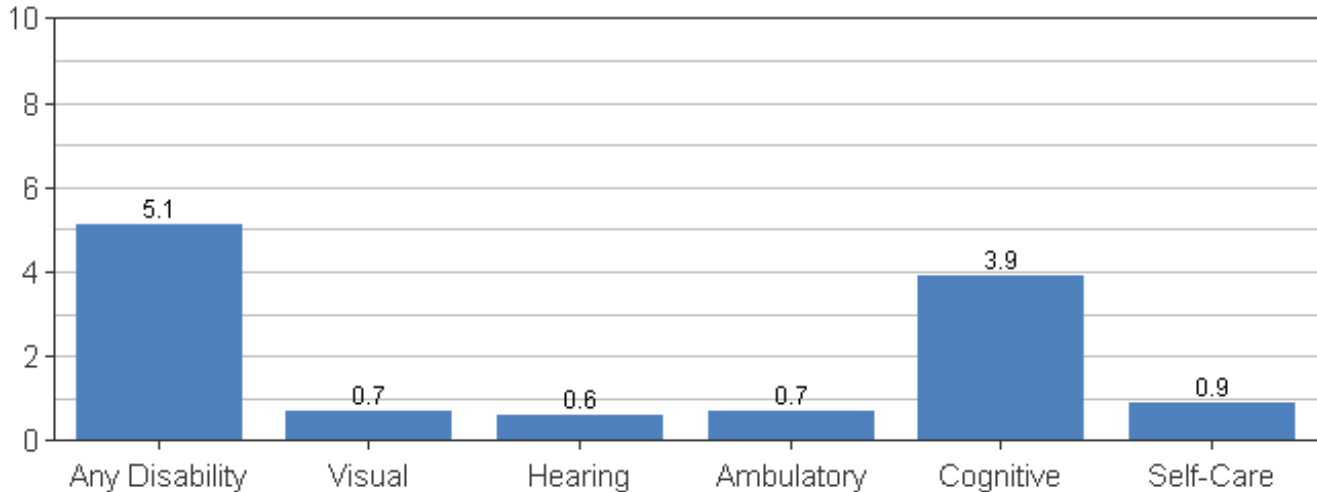
### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Ages 5 to  
15 years  
**5.1%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of children with a disability ages 5 to 15 in the US was 5.1 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 2,299,900 of the 44,761,000 individuals ages 5 to 15 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, among the five types of disabilities\* identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Cognitive Disability," 3.9 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Hearing Disability," 0.6 percent.

## Prevalence of disability\* among non-institutionalized people ages 5 to 15 in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 5 to 15 years (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	5.1	0.09	2,299,900	42,040	44,761,000	426,632
Visual	0.7	3.29	326,800	15,900	44,761,000	426,632
Hearing	0.6	3.29	290,900	15,000	44,761,000	426,632
Ambulatory	0.7	3.29	291,600	15,020	44,761,000	426,632
Cognitive	3.9	0.08	1,759,000	36,800	44,761,000	426,632
Self-Care	0.9	3.29	407,400	17,750	44,761,000	426,632

\* **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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

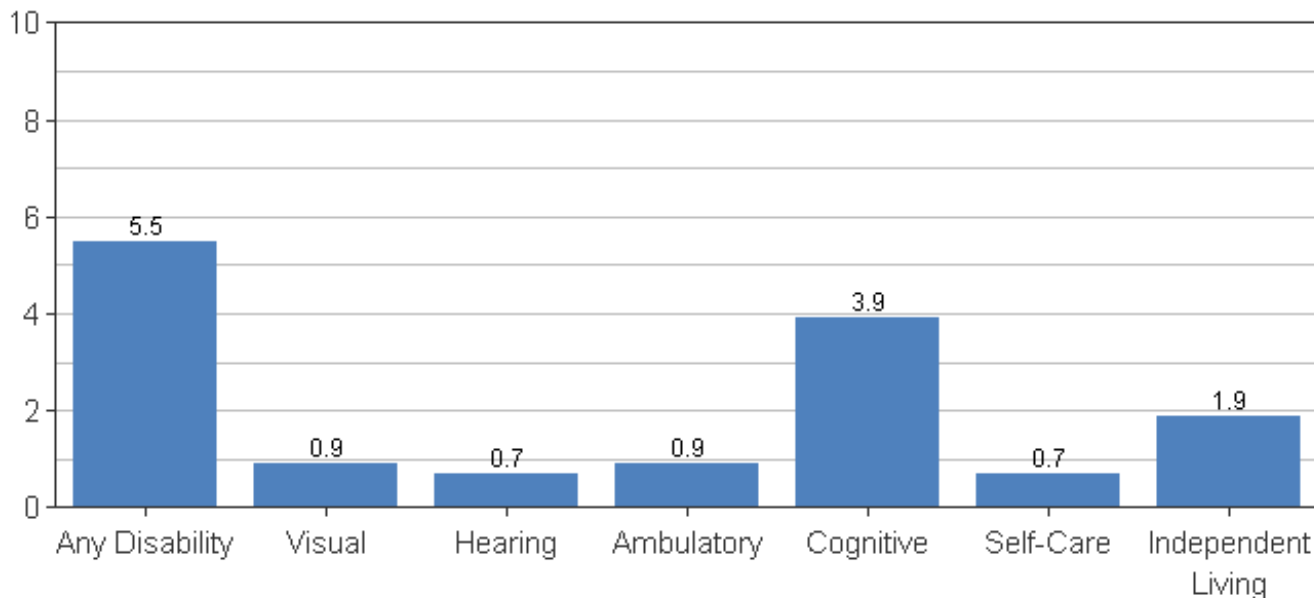
Prevalence:  
Ages 16 to  
20 years  
**5.5%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 16 to 20 in the US was 5.5 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 1,215,700 of the 21,930,700 individuals ages 16 to 20 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Cognitive Disability," 3.9 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 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 16 to 20 years (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	5.5	0.14	1,215,700	30,620	21,930,700	201,911
Visual	0.9	3.29	195,800	12,310	21,930,700	201,911
Hearing	0.7	3.29	149,200	10,740	21,930,700	201,911
Ambulatory	0.9	3.29	193,900	12,250	21,930,700	201,911
Cognitive	3.9	0.11	845,800	25,550	21,930,700	201,911
Self-Care	0.7	3.29	147,500	10,680	21,930,700	201,911
Independent Living	1.9	3.29	413,700	17,890	21,930,700	201,911

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

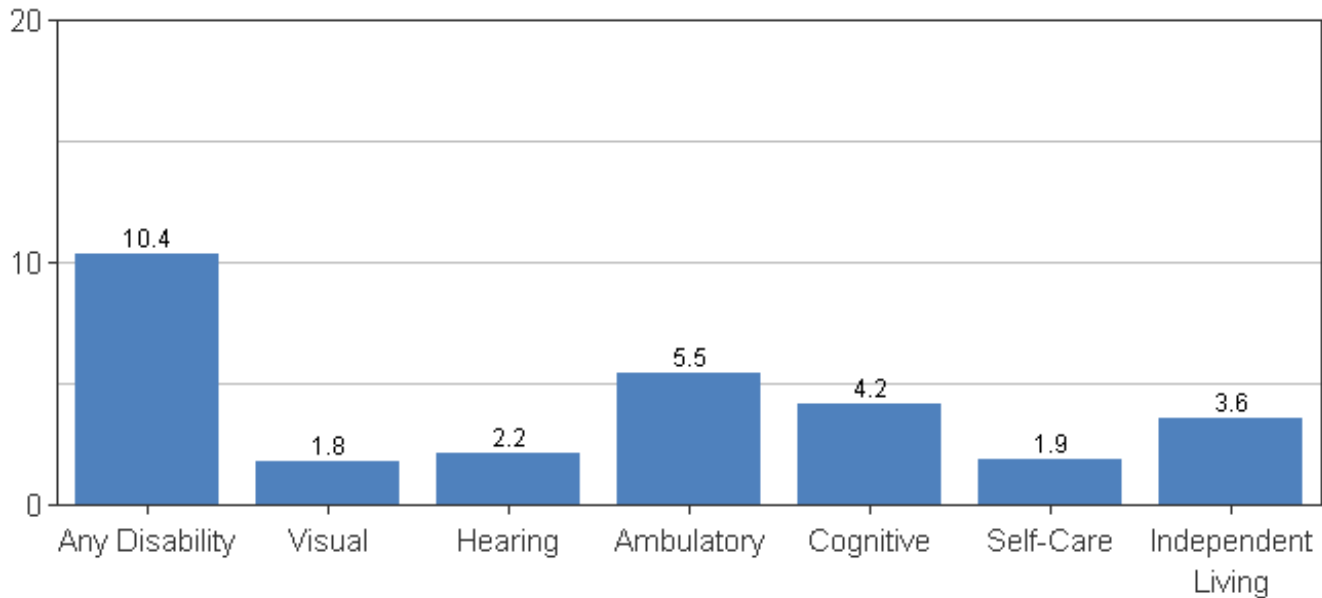
Prevalence:  
Ages 21 to 64  
years

**10.4%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of working age people (ages 21 to 64) with a disability in the US was 10.4 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 18,382,600 of the 177,004,700 individuals ages 21 to 64 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 5.5 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was "Visual Disability," 1.8 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 21 to 64 in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 21 to 64 years (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	10.4	0.06	18,382,600	115,670	177,004,700	1,709,245
Visual	1.8	3.29	3,156,700	49,180	177,004,700	1,709,245
Hearing	2.2	0.03	3,829,400	54,110	177,004,700	1,709,245
Ambulatory	5.5	0.05	9,739,500	85,450	177,004,700	1,709,245
Cognitive	4.2	0.04	7,385,200	74,700	177,004,700	1,709,245
Self-Care	1.9	3.29	3,307,500	50,330	177,004,700	1,709,245
Independent Living	3.6	0.04	6,324,100	69,250	177,004,700	1,709,245

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

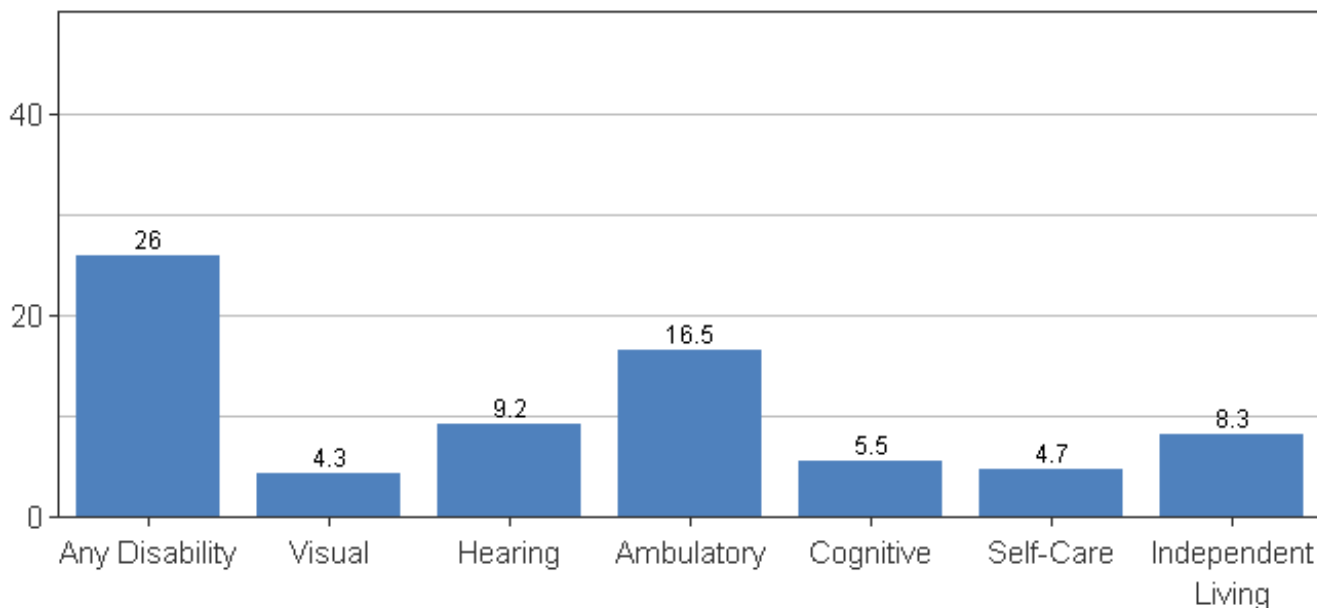
Prevalence:  
Ages 65 to 74  
years

**26.0%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 65 to 74 in the US was 26.0 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 5,346,000 of the 20,550,800 individuals ages 65 to 74 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 16.5 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 4.3 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 65 to 74 in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 65 to 74 years (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	26.0	0.27	5,346,000	63,770	20,550,800	253,484
Visual	4.3	0.12	875,800	26,000	20,550,800	253,484
Hearing	9.2	0.18	1,894,200	38,180	20,550,800	253,484
Ambulatory	16.5	0.23	3,390,300	50,950	20,550,800	253,484
Cognitive	5.5	0.14	1,120,300	29,400	20,550,800	253,484
Self-Care	4.7	0.13	956,000	27,160	20,550,800	253,484
Independent Living	8.3	0.17	1,704,100	36,220	20,550,800	253,484

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

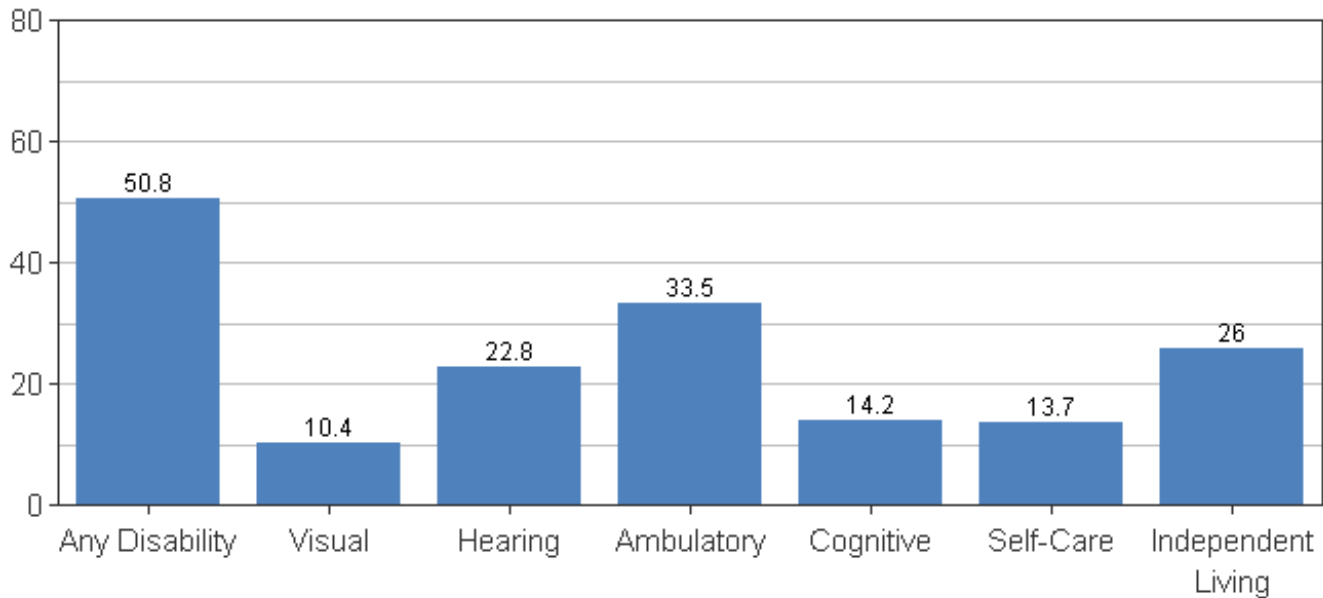
Prevalence:  
Ages 75 and  
Older

**50.8%**

- In 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 75 and older in the US was 50.8 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 8,828,900 of the 17,366,300 individuals ages 75 and older in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 33.5 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 10.4 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 75 and older in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Age 75 and older (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	50.8	0.33	8,828,900	81,480	17,366,300	208,620
Visual	10.4	0.20	1,806,100	37,280	17,366,300	208,620
Hearing	22.8	0.28	3,955,300	54,980	17,366,300	208,620
Ambulatory	33.5	0.32	5,809,800	66,430	17,366,300	208,620
Cognitive	14.2	0.23	2,470,800	43,560	17,366,300	208,620
Self-Care	13.7	0.23	2,370,600	42,680	17,366,300	208,620
Independent Living	26.0	0.29	4,520,800	58,720	17,366,300	208,620

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Males All  
Ages

**11.6%**

Prevalence:  
Female All  
Ages

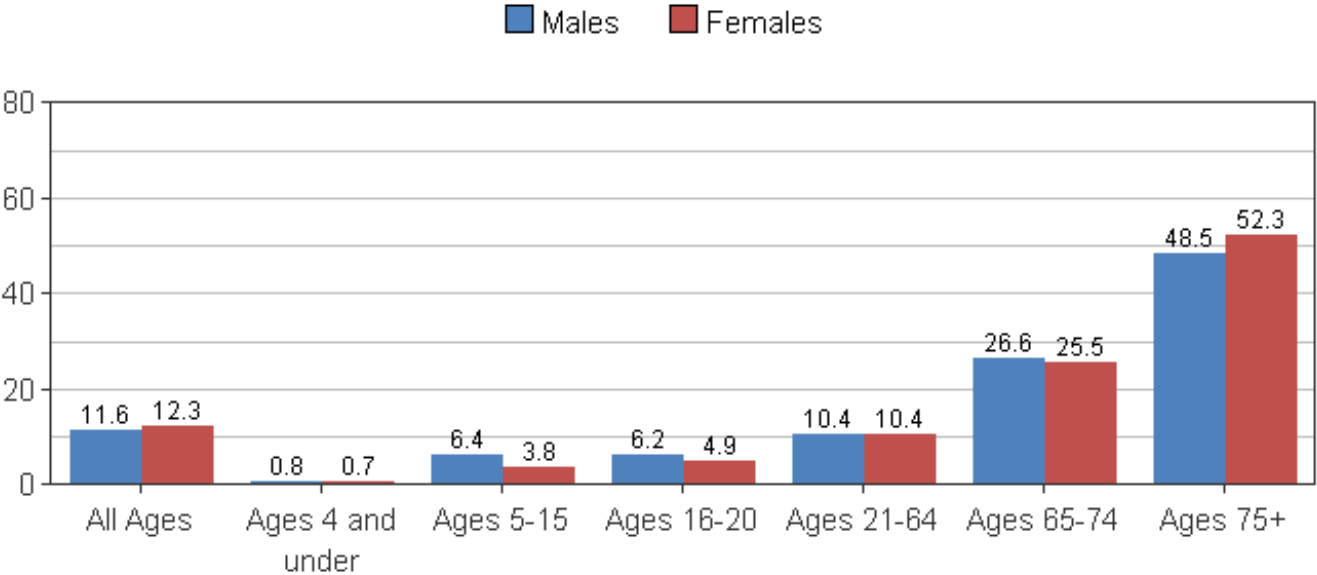
**12.3%**

- In the US in 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of males with a disability of all ages was 11.6 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 17,200,400 of the 148,653,800 males of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of females with a disability of all ages was 12.3 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 19,029,700 of the 154,129,400 females of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.



# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people by gender and age group in the United States in 2009

Prevalence Rates: Gender and Age (%)



Gender & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Males</b>						
Males: All Ages	11.6	0.07	17,200,400	112,120	148,653,800	1,437,700
Males: Ages 4 and under	0.8	3.29	85,000	8,110	10,830,300	92,081
Males: Ages 5-15	6.4	0.14	1,477,700	33,740	22,914,800	218,007
Males: Ages 16-20	6.2	0.20	692,500	23,130	11,201,500	103,155
Males: Ages 21-64	10.4	0.09	9,107,500	82,720	87,396,200	822,262
Males: Ages 65-74	26.6	0.40	2,519,600	43,990	9,476,000	117,706
Males: Ages 75+	48.5	0.53	3,318,200	50,410	6,834,900	84,489
<b>Females</b>						
Females: All Ages	12.3	0.07	19,029,700	117,560	154,129,400	1,542,135
Females: Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	72,100	7,470	10,339,400	87,862
Females: Ages 5-15	3.8	0.11	822,200	25,200	21,846,200	208,625
Females: Ages 16-20	4.9	0.18	523,300	20,110	10,729,200	98,756
Females: Ages 21-64	10.4	0.09	9,275,100	83,450	89,608,500	886,983
Females: Ages 65-74	25.5	0.36	2,826,500	46,560	11,074,800	135,778
Females: Ages 75+	52.3	0.43	5,510,700	64,730	10,531,400	124,131

\* **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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Hispanic All  
Ages

**8.3%**

Prevalence:  
Non-Hispanic  
All Ages

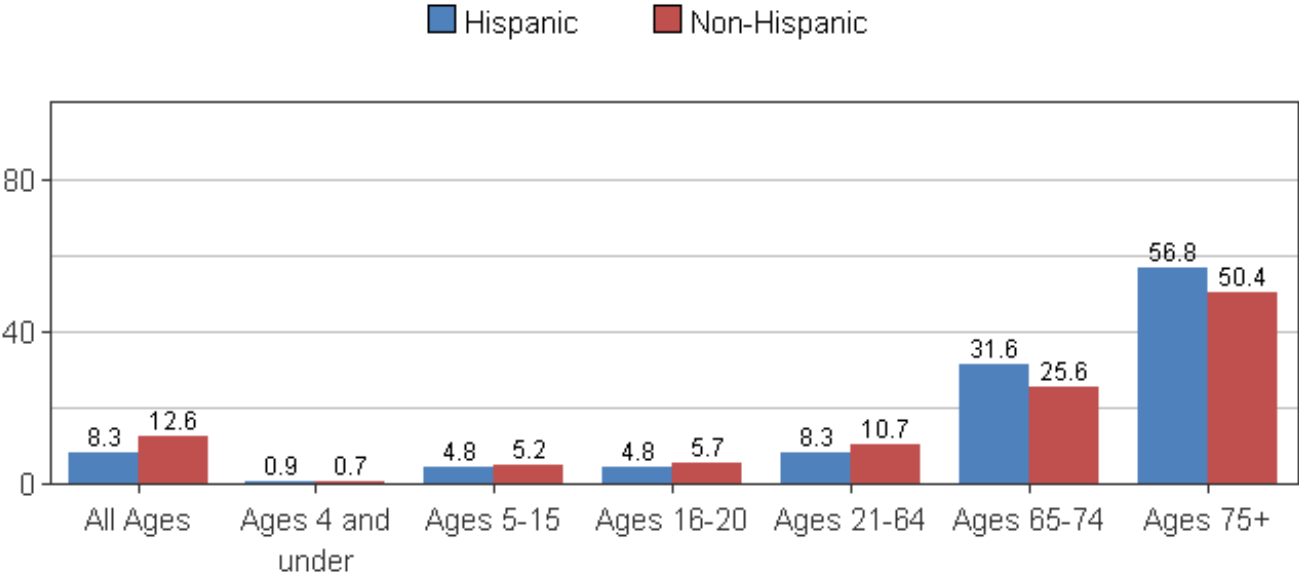
**12.6%**

- In the US in 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 8.3 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 3,983,200 of the 47,803,900 people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2009, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of non-Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 12.6 percent.
- In other words, in 2009, 32,246,900 of the 254,979,300 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 2009

Prevalence Rates: Hispanic/Latino Origin and Age (%)



Hispanic/Latino Origin & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Hispanic</b>						
Hispanic - All Ages	8.3	0.11	3,983,200	55,170	47,803,900	391,387
Hispanic - Ages 4 and under	0.9	3.29	48,200	6,110	5,435,300	38,546
Hispanic - Ages 5-15	4.8	0.19	462,300	18,900	9,651,700	81,600
Hispanic - Ages 16-20	4.8	0.30	193,100	12,220	4,012,700	34,405
Hispanic - Ages 21-64	8.3	0.15	2,162,900	40,780	26,052,200	210,562
Hispanic - Ages 65-74	31.6	1.04	490,500	19,470	1,549,900	15,625
Hispanic - Ages 75+	56.8	1.31	626,300	22,000	1,102,100	10,649
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>						
Non-Hispanic - All Ages	12.6	0.06	32,246,900	149,480	254,979,300	2,588,448
Non-Hispanic - Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	108,800	9,180	15,734,400	141,397
Non-Hispanic - Ages 5-15	5.2	0.10	1,837,600	37,610	35,109,200	345,032
Non-Hispanic - Ages 16-20	5.7	0.15	1,022,700	28,090	17,918,000	167,506
Non-Hispanic - Ages 21-64	10.7	0.07	16,219,600	109,060	150,952,500	1,498,683
Non-Hispanic - Ages 65-74	25.6	0.28	4,855,500	60,830	19,000,900	237,859
Non-Hispanic - Ages 75+	50.4	0.34	8,202,600	78,620	16,264,200	197,971

\* **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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

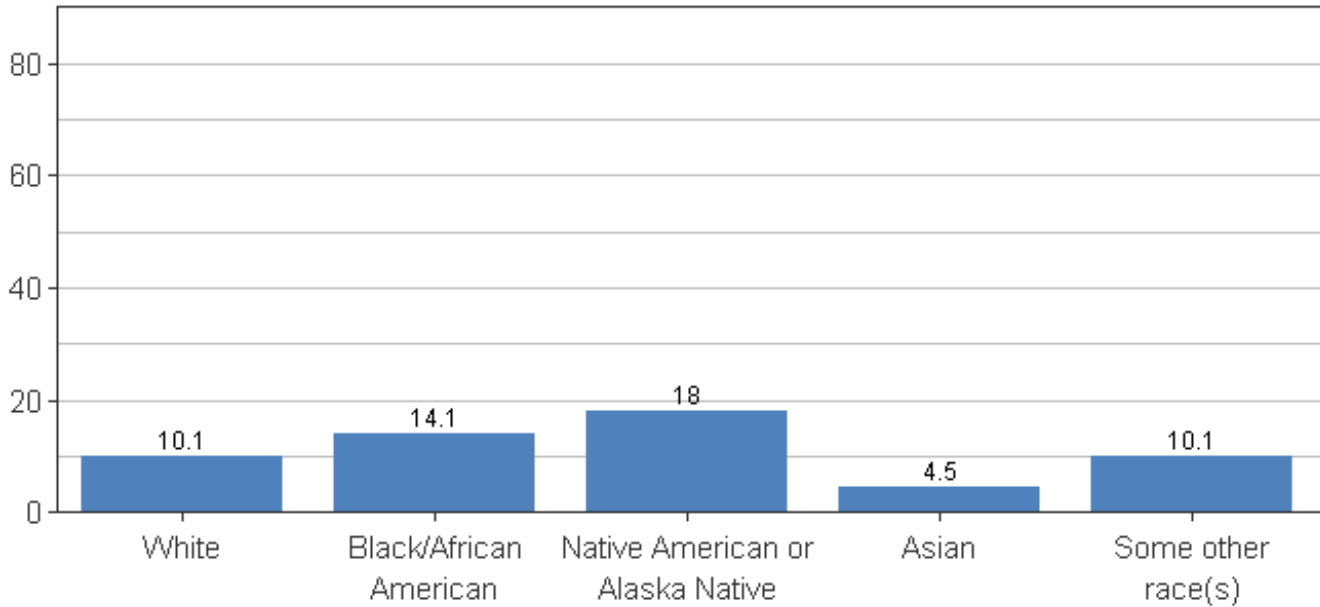
### Quick Statistics

In 2009, among working-age people in the US:

- 10.1 percent of persons who were White reported a disability.
- 14.1 percent of persons who were Black/African American reported a disability.
- 18.0 percent of persons who were Native American reported a disability.
- 4.5 percent of persons who were Asian reported a disability.
- 10.1 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 2009

Prevalence Rates: Race (%)



Race	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
White	10.1	0.07	13,570,800	100,210	133,865,000	1,349,321
Black/African American	14.1	0.21	2,976,800	47,770	21,165,500	164,366
Native American or Alaska Native	18.0	0.91	248,400	13,860	1,383,800	14,774
Asian	4.5	0.19	391,500	17,400	8,756,800	83,646
Some other race(s)	10.1	0.24	1,195,100	30,360	11,833,600	97,138

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

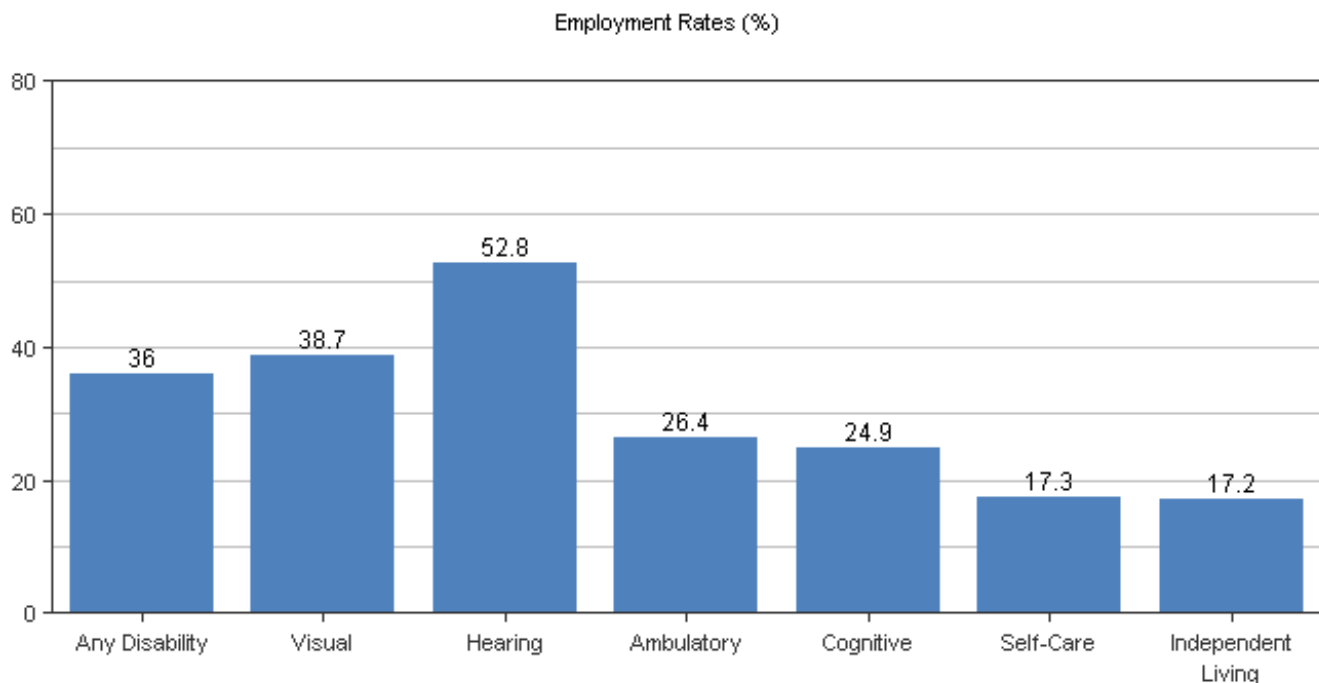
Employment:  
with disability  
**36.0%**

Employment:  
without  
disability  
**76.8%**

- In 2009, the employment rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 36.0 percent.
- In 2009, the employment rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 76.8 percent.
- The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without disabilities was 40.8 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest employment rate was for people with a "Hearing Disability," 52.8 percent. The lowest employment rate was for people with a "Independent Living Disability," 17.2 percent.



## Employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2009



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	76.8	0.09	121,778,200	237,410	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	36.0	0.31	6,612,900	70,770	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	38.7	0.76	1,222,800	30,710	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	52.8	0.71	2,021,500	39,430	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	26.4	0.39	2,567,000	44,390	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	24.9	0.44	1,835,400	37,580	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	17.3	0.58	573,200	21,050	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	17.2	0.42	1,086,900	28,960	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

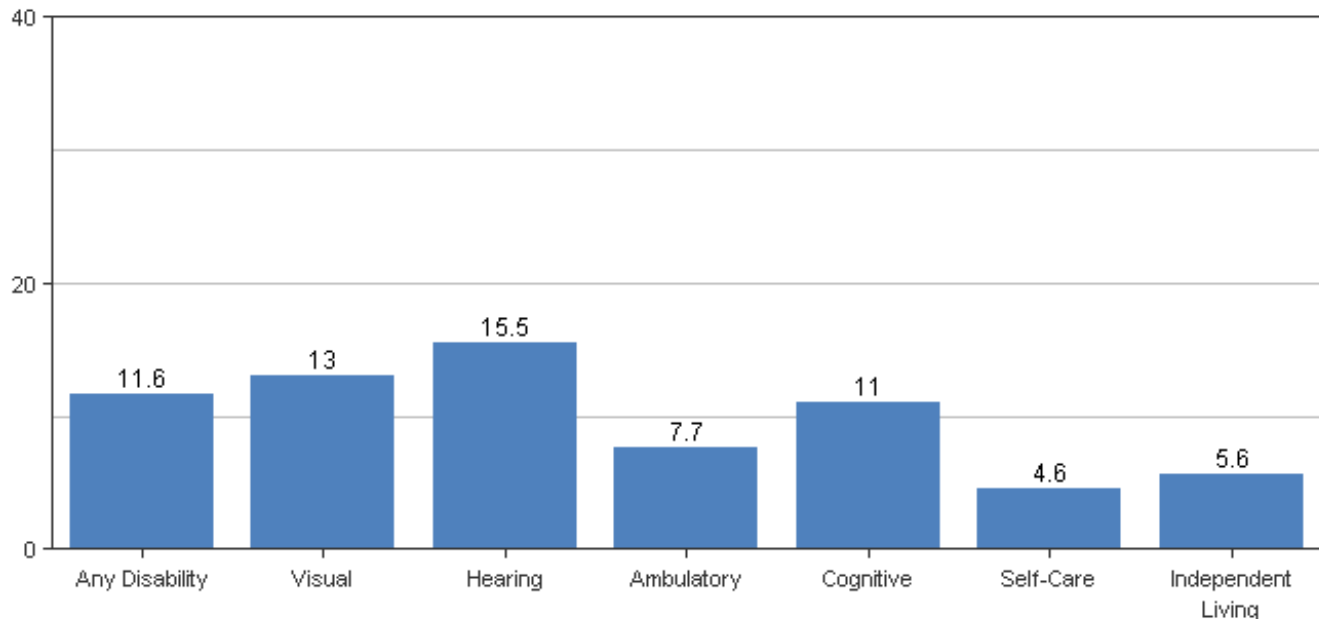
Actively  
Looking: with  
disability  
**11.6%**

Actively  
Looking:  
without  
disability  
**30.4%**

- In 2009 in the US, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 11.6 percent.
- In 2009 in the US, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 30.4 percent.
- The difference in the percentage not working but actively looking for work between working-age people with and without disabilities was 18.8 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 "Hearing Disability," 15.5 percent. The lowest percentage was for people with a "Self-Care Disability," 4.6 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 2009

Not Working but Actively Looking for Work (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	30.4	0.15	11,214,400	64,560	36,843,900	350,460
Any Disability	11.6	0.18	1,366,400	22,910	11,769,600	115,428
Visual	13.0	0.47	252,300	9,860	1,933,900	18,119
Hearing	15.5	0.53	280,600	10,400	1,807,900	18,433
Ambulatory	7.7	0.20	552,400	14,590	7,172,500	71,439
Cognitive	11.0	0.26	611,300	15,340	5,549,800	52,189
Self-Care	4.6	0.25	124,800	6,940	2,734,300	26,706
Independent Living	5.6	0.20	291,100	10,590	5,237,200	51,555

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

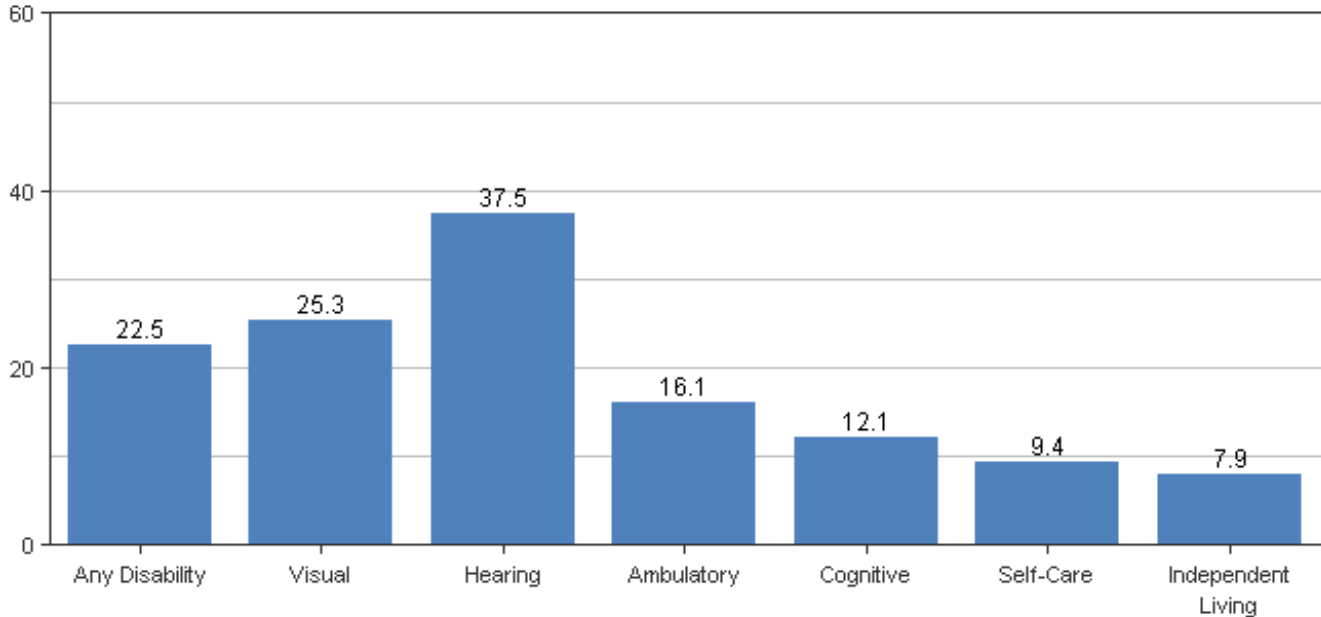
FT / FY  
Employment:  
with disability  
**22.5%**

FT / FY  
Employment:  
without  
disability  
**57.0%**

- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 22.5 percent.
- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 57.0 percent.
- The difference in the percentage working full-time/full-year between working-age people with and without disabilities was 34.5 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," 37.5 percent. The lowest full-time/full-year employment rate was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 7.9 percent.

## Full-Time/Full-Year employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2009

Full-Time / Full-Year Employment Rates (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	57.0	0.08	90,418,700	169,940	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	22.5	0.21	4,130,100	42,950	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	25.3	0.52	799,700	19,000	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	37.5	0.53	1,436,500	25,440	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	16.1	0.25	1,572,500	26,610	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	12.1	0.26	890,500	20,050	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	9.4	0.34	310,600	11,850	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	7.9	0.23	498,100	15,010	6,324,100	61,949

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

## Introduction

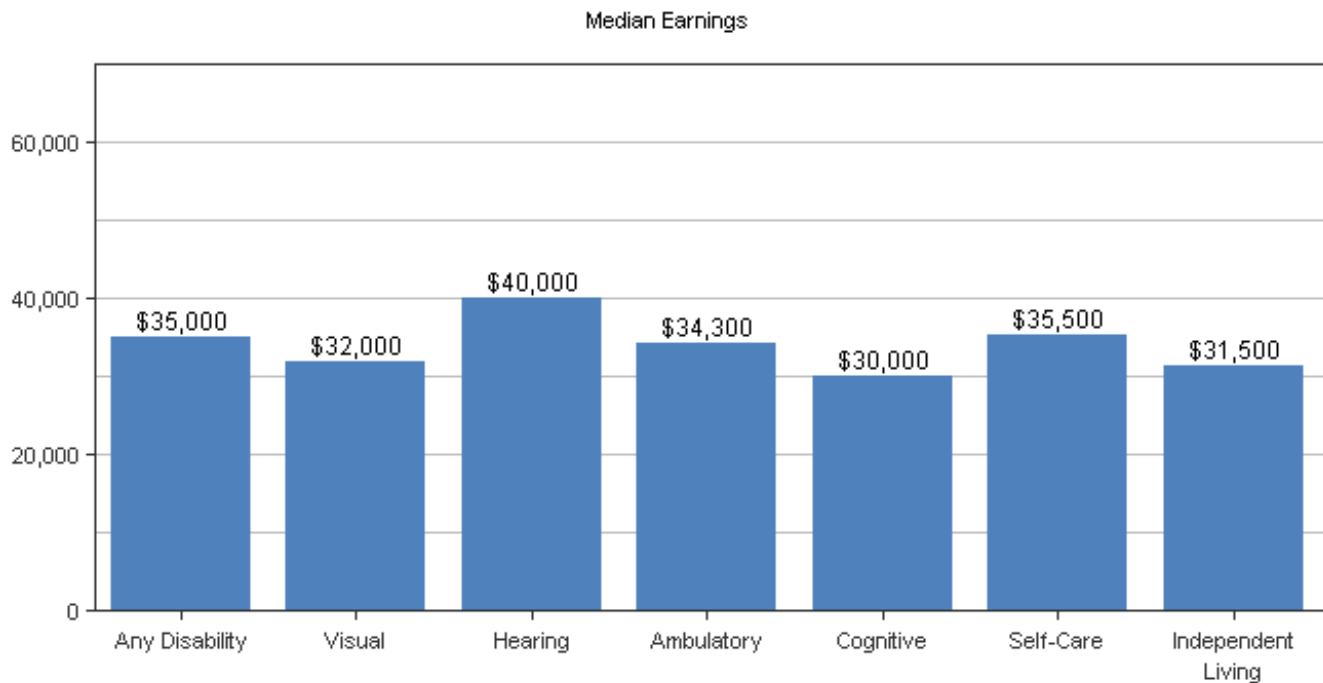
This section examines the median annual earnings of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities who work full-time/full-year in the United States, using data from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics



- In 2009, the median earnings of working-age people with disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$35,000.
- In 2009, the median earnings of working-age people without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$41,000.
- The difference in the median earnings between working-age people with and without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year was \$6,000.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest annual earnings was for people with "Hearing Disability," \$40,000. The lowest annual earnings was for people with "Cognitive Disability," \$30,000.

## 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 2009



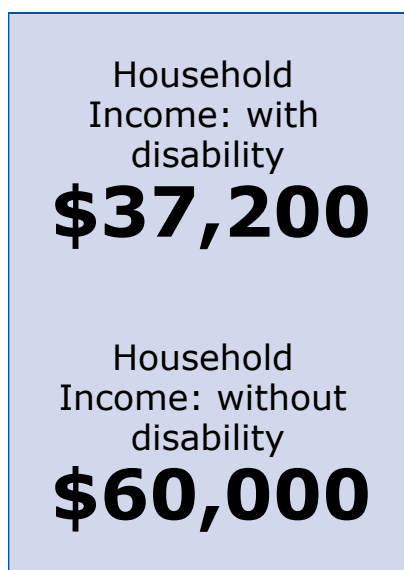
Disability Type	Median Earnings	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$41,000	\$110	90,419,000	876,222
Any Disability	\$35,000	\$390	4,130,000	41,845
Visual	\$32,000	\$850	800,000	7,591
Hearing	\$40,000	\$740	1,436,000	15,223
Ambulatory	\$34,300	\$580	1,573,000	15,734
Cognitive	\$30,000	\$740	890,000	8,477
Self-Care	\$35,500	\$1,460	311,000	2,965
Independent Living	\$31,500	\$1,110	498,000	4,873

# Annual Household Income

## Introduction

This section illustrates the median annual income<sup>†</sup> of households that include any working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

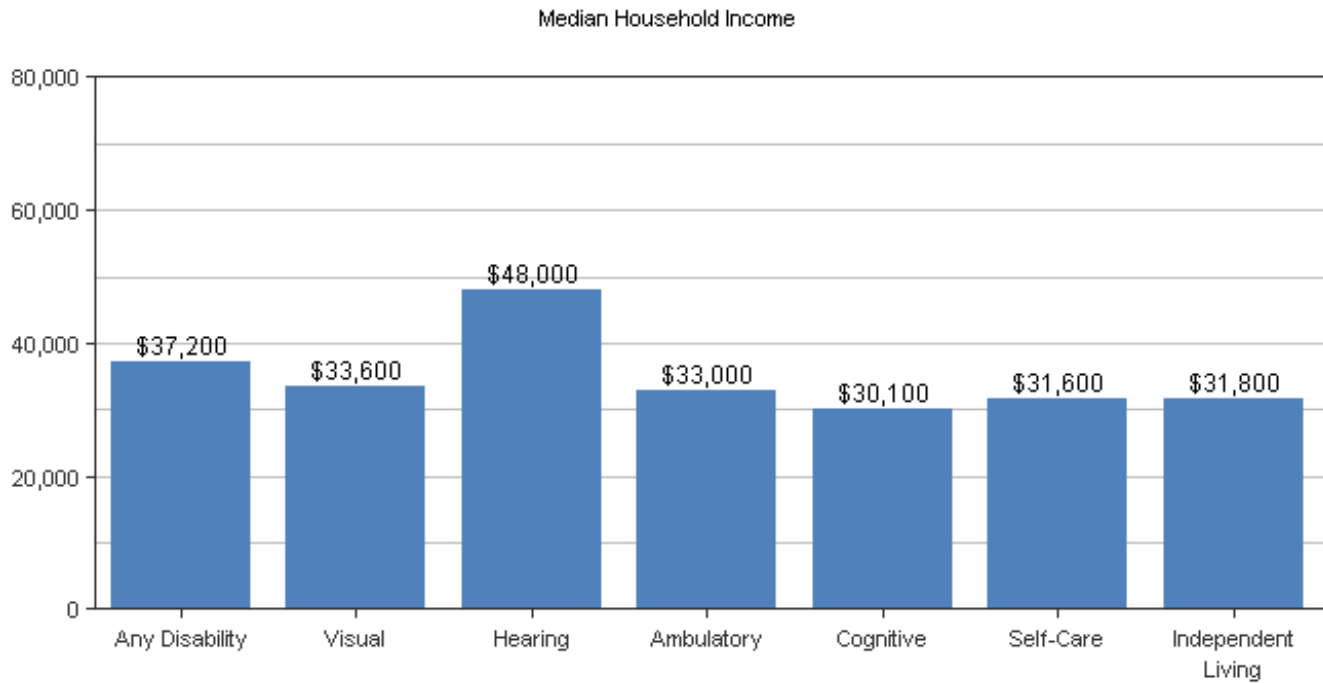


- In 2009, the median income of households that include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$37,200.
- In 2009, the median income of households that do not include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$60,000.
- The difference in the median income between households including and not including working-age people with disabilities was \$22,800.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest median income was for households including persons with a "Hearing Disability," \$48,000. The lowest median income was for households containing persons with a "Cognitive Disability".

<sup>†</sup> **Note:** Household income is not available for persons living in group quarters.



## Median annual income<sup>†</sup> of households including any working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2009



Disability Type	Median H.H. Income	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$60,000	\$190	79,747,000	798,887
Any Disability	\$37,200	350	14,718,000	155,378
Visual	\$33,600	760	2,723,000	27,260
Hearing	\$48,000	810	3,480,000	37,673
Ambulatory	\$33,000	430	8,300,000	87,361
Cognitive	\$30,100	490	5,831,000	60,667
Self-Care	\$31,600	740	2,773,000	29,373
Independent Living	\$31,800	540	5,137,000	55,446

<sup>†</sup> **Note:** Household income is not available for persons living in group quarters.

# Poverty

## Introduction

This section examines the poverty rates<sup>†</sup> of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the United States, using data from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

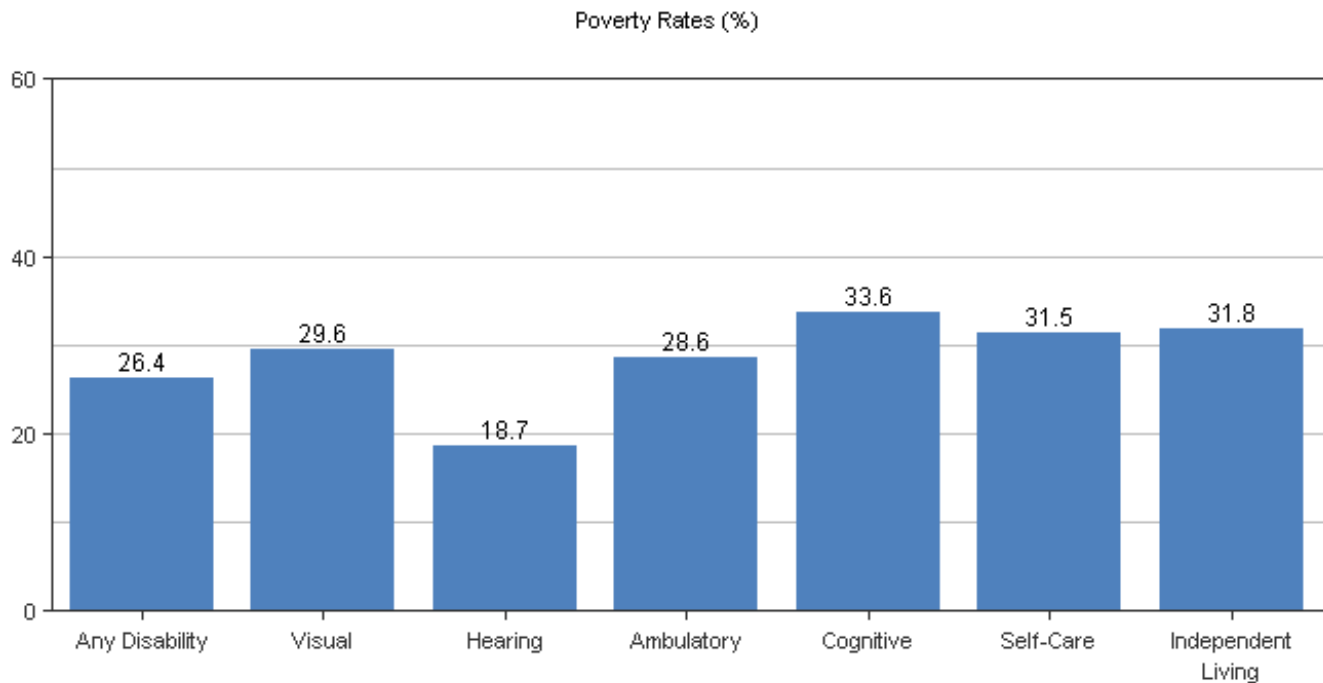
## Quick Statistics



- In 2009, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 26.4 percent.
- In 2009, the poverty rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 10.8 percent<sup>†</sup>.
- The difference in the poverty rate between working-age people with and without disabilities was 15.6 percentage points<sup>†</sup>.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest poverty rate was for people with "Cognitive Disability," 33.6 percent. The lowest poverty rate was for people with "Hearing Disability," 18.7 percent.

<sup>†</sup> Note: The Census Bureau does not calculate poverty status for those people living in military group quarters or college dormitories.

## Poverty rates<sup>†</sup> of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2009



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	10.8	0.07	16,987,200	111,460	158,005,900	1,522,895
Any Disability	26.4	0.29	4,846,900	60,770	18,349,300	180,847
Visual	29.6	0.72	933,000	26,840	3,152,800	29,570
Hearing	18.7	0.56	716,200	23,520	3,821,000	39,501
Ambulatory	28.6	0.40	2,778,700	46,170	9,732,700	96,680
Cognitive	33.6	0.48	2,473,800	43,590	7,368,000	69,125
Self-Care	31.5	0.71	1,040,800	28,340	3,305,600	32,104
Independent Living	31.8	0.52	2,009,700	39,320	6,320,500	61,920

<sup>†</sup> **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

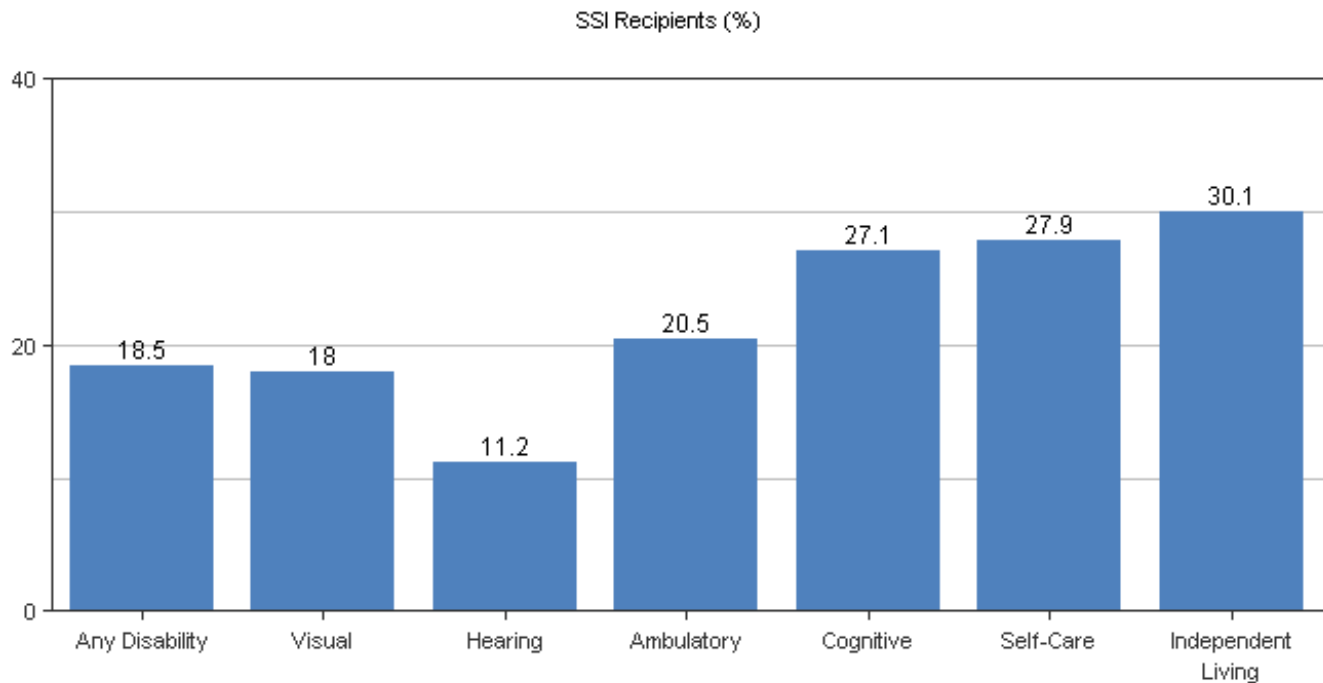
This section focuses on the percentage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in the United States, using data from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Please note 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  
**18.5%**

- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 18.5 percent.
- In 2009, the number of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 3,402,800.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage that received SSI was people with "Independent Living Disability," 30.1 percent. The lowest percentage that received SSI was people with "Hearing Disability," 11.2 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 2009



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	18.5	0.19	3,402,800	39,030	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	18.0	0.46	568,300	16,030	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	11.2	0.34	427,800	13,910	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	20.5	0.28	1,993,100	29,940	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	27.1	0.35	2,002,900	30,010	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	27.9	0.52	924,100	20,420	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	30.1	0.39	1,903,800	29,270	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

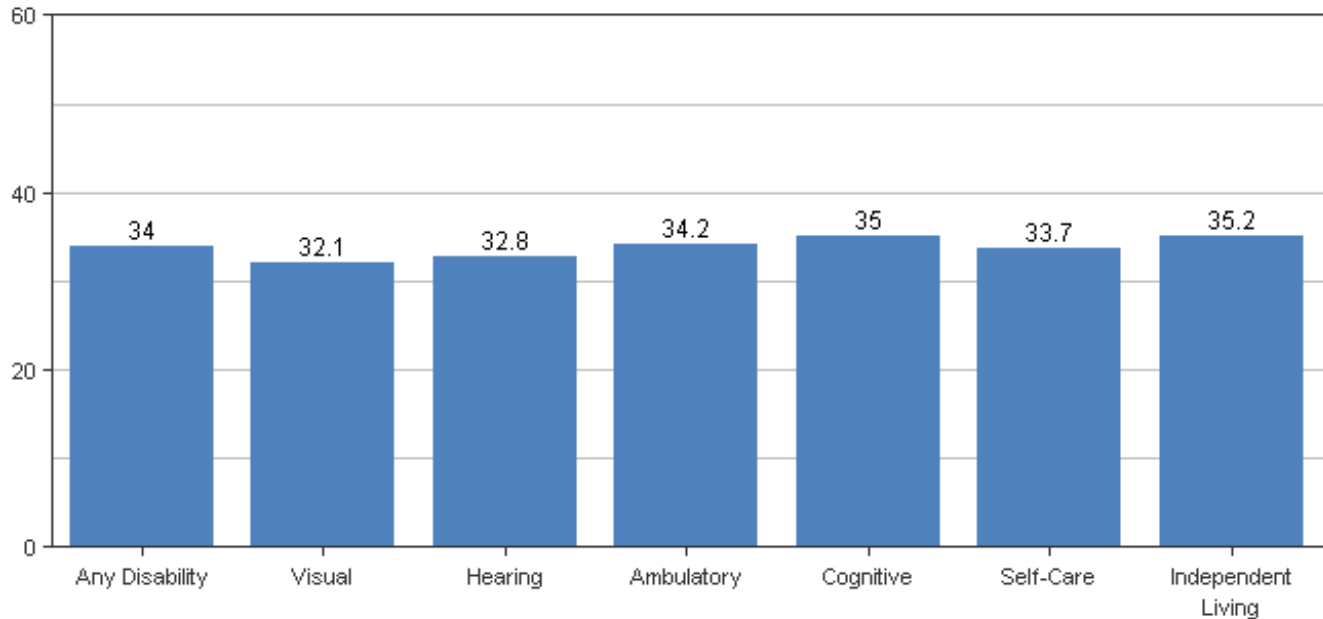
High School  
Only: with  
disability  
**34.0%**

High School  
Only: without  
disability  
**26.1%**

- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 34.0 percent.
- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 26.1 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent between working-age people with and without disabilities was 7.9 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," 35.2 percent. The lowest percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent was for people with "Visual Disability," 32.1 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 2009

Education: High School Diploma Only or Equivalent (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	26.1	0.09	41,339,500	146,840	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	34.0	0.27	6,258,600	60,790	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	32.1	0.65	1,012,800	24,670	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	32.8	0.59	1,254,200	27,440	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	34.2	0.37	3,329,800	44,560	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	35.0	0.43	2,583,200	39,290	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	33.7	0.64	1,115,000	25,880	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	35.2	0.47	2,225,100	36,490	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Some  
College: with  
disability  
**29.9%**

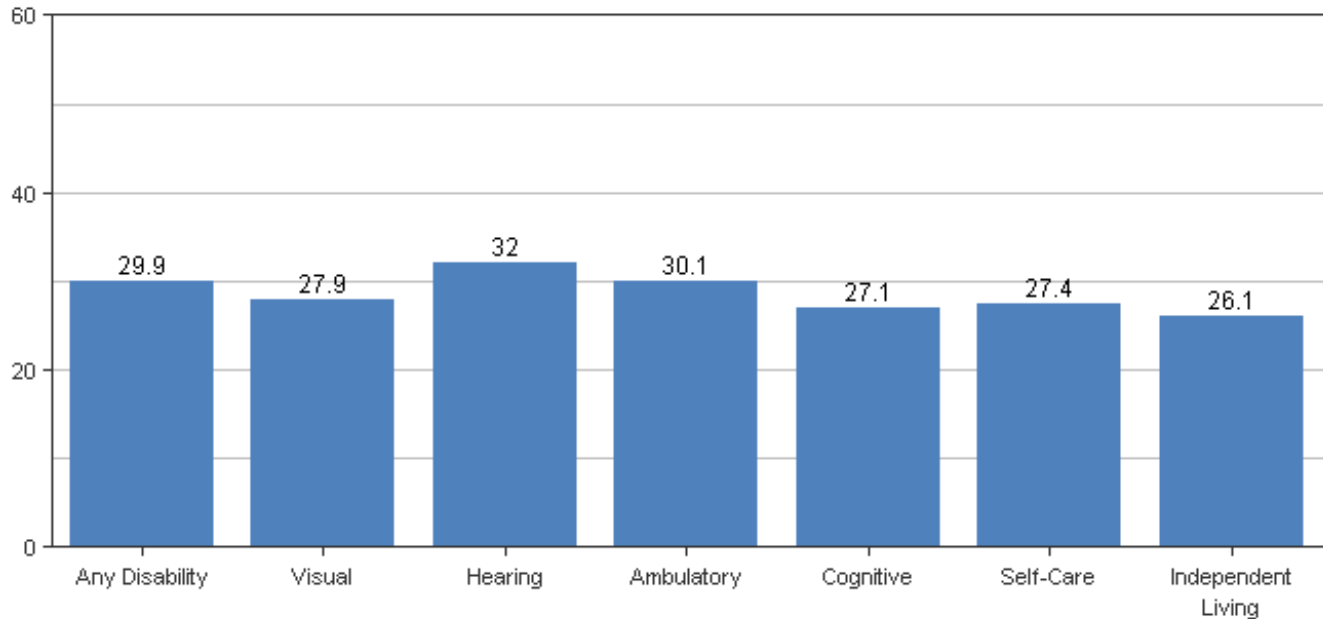
Some  
College:  
without  
disability  
**32.3%**

- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 29.9 percent.
- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 32.3 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only some college or an Associate's degree between working-age people with and without disabilities was 2.4 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," 32.0 percent. The lowest percentage with only some college or Associate's degree was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 26.1 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 2009

Education: Some College/Associate's Degree Only (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	32.3	0.09	51,234,800	160,400	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	29.9	0.26	5,502,900	57,070	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	27.9	0.62	882,000	23,020	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	32.0	0.59	1,224,500	27,110	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	30.1	0.36	2,930,000	41,820	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	27.1	0.40	1,997,900	34,590	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	27.4	0.60	906,100	23,340	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	26.1	0.43	1,651,800	31,470	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Bachelor's  
Degree or  
More: with  
disability

**12.2%**

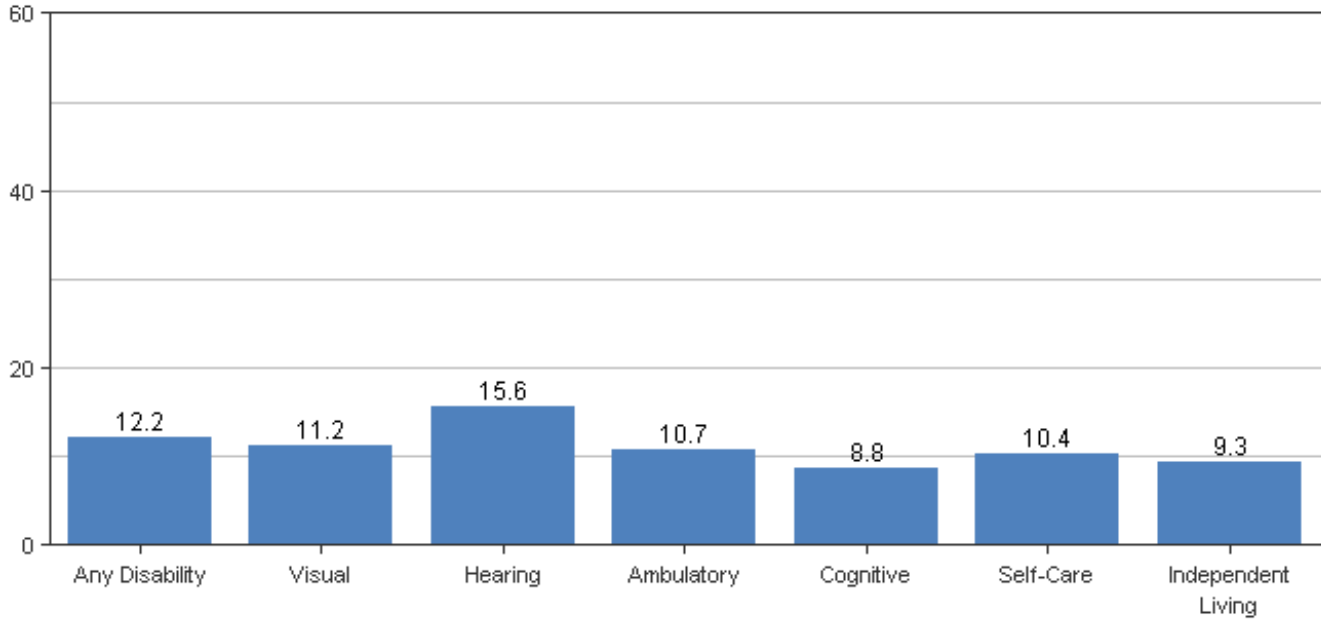
Bachelor's  
Degree or  
More: without  
disability

**30.8%**

- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 12.2 percent.
- In 2009, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 30.8 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more between working-age people with and without disabilities was 18.6 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," 15.6 percent. The lowest percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more was for people with "Cognitive Disability," 8.8 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 2009

Education: Bachelor's Degree or More (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	30.8	0.09	48,808,500	157,300	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	12.2	0.19	2,235,600	36,580	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	11.2	0.44	353,700	14,590	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	15.6	0.46	598,200	18,970	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	10.7	0.24	1,046,600	25,070	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	8.8	0.26	648,300	19,750	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	10.4	0.41	342,500	14,360	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	9.3	0.28	590,800	18,850	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2008 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.

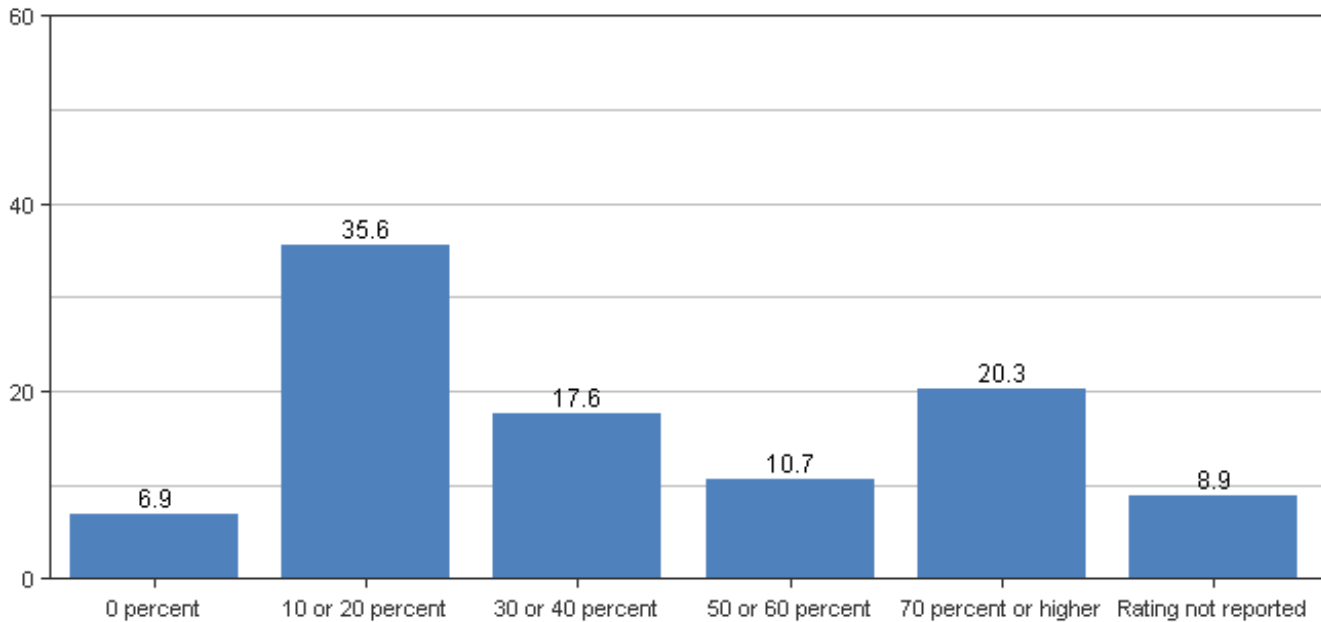
## Quick Statistics

Veterans with a  
Service-Connected  
Disability  
**17.5%**

- In 2009, there were 12,609,500 working-age civilian veterans in the US, of whom 2,201,900 had a VA service-connected disability.
- In 2009, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans in the US with a VA service-connected disability was 17.5 percent.
- In 2009, 447,800 working-age civilian veterans in the US had the most severe service-connected disability rating (70 percent or above).
- In 2009, 20.3 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 2009

Veteran Disability Rating (%)



Service-Connected Disability	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Has a service-connected disability rating (0-100%)	17.5	0.21	2,201,900	29,040	12,609,500	132,558
<b>Disability rating of veterans with a service connected-disability</b>						
0 percent	6.9	0.34	153,000	7,680	2,201,900	23,718
10 or 20 percent	35.6	0.63	783,700	17,370	2,201,900	23,718
30 or 40 percent	17.6	0.50	386,400	12,200	2,201,900	23,718
50 or 60 percent	10.7	0.41	235,900	9,540	2,201,900	23,718
70 percent or higher	20.3	0.53	447,800	13,130	2,201,900	23,718
Rating not reported	8.9	0.38	195,100	8,670	2,201,900	23,718

# 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 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

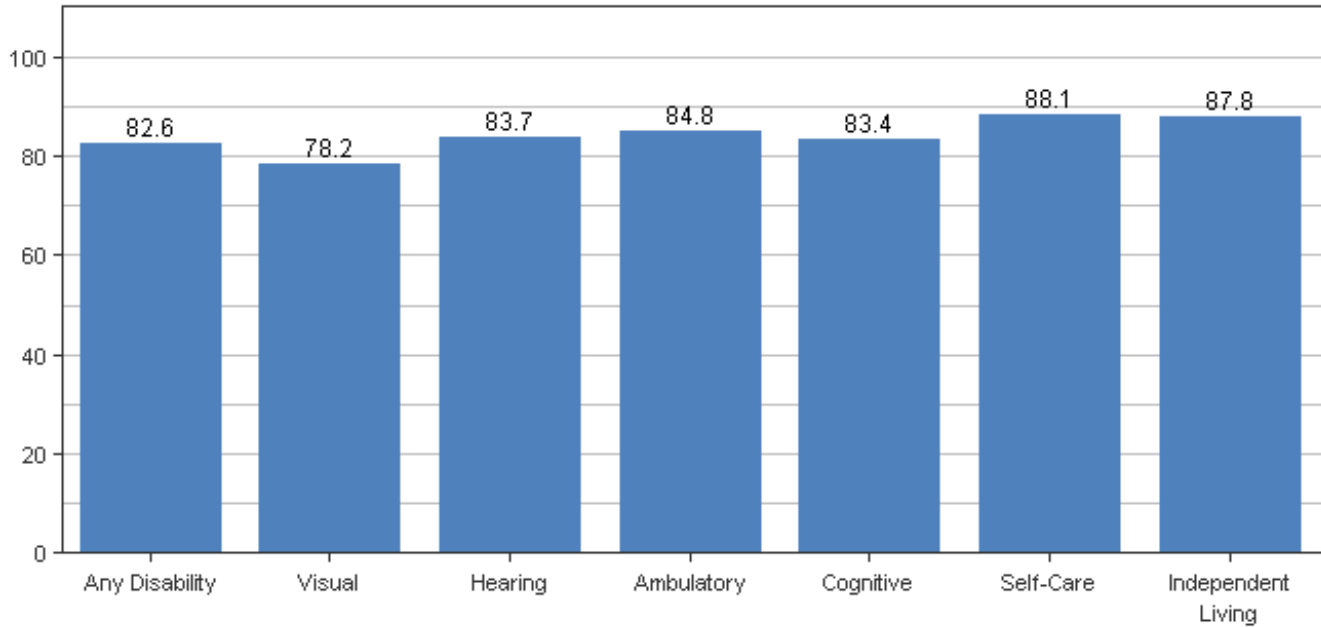
Health  
Coverage:  
with Disability  
**82.6%**

Health  
Coverage:  
without  
Disability  
**79.5%**

- In 2009, 82.6 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US had some type of health insurance coverage.
- In 2009, 79.5 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 3.1 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," 88.1 percent. The lowest health insurance coverage rate was for people with "Visual Disability," 78.2 percent.

## Health Insurance Coverage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2009

Health Insurance Coverage - By Disability Type (%)



Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	79.5	0.07	126,146,700	183,430	158,622,200	1,528,114
Any Disability	82.6	0.19	15,190,400	80,850	18,382,600	181,131
Visual	78.2	0.49	2,469,900	33,310	3,156,700	29,607
Hearing	83.7	0.40	3,206,000	37,900	3,829,400	39,569
Ambulatory	84.8	0.24	8,263,900	60,340	9,739,500	96,738
Cognitive	83.4	0.29	6,157,800	52,270	7,385,200	69,278
Self-Care	88.1	0.38	2,913,100	36,140	3,307,500	32,116
Independent Living	87.8	0.28	5,555,100	49,690	6,324,100	61,949

# 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 2009 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

**36.5%**

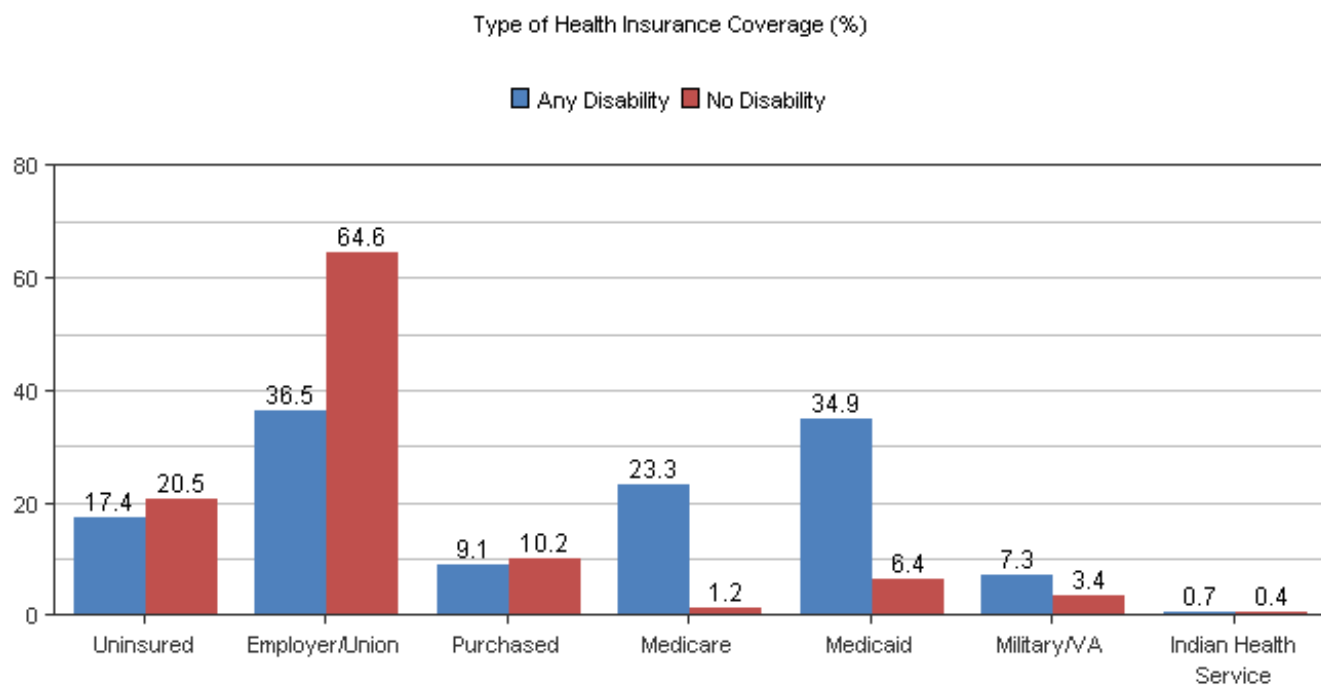
Coverage  
through  
Employer/Union:  
without  
Disability

**64.6%**

- In 2009, 36.5 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 2009, 64.6 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 2009, 9.1 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 2009, 23.3 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US reported Medicare coverage and 34.9 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 2009



Disability Status/ Insurance Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Any Disability</b>						
Uninsured	17.4	0.19	3,192,200	37,820	18,382,600	181,131
Employer/Union	36.5	0.24	6,701,400	54,480	18,382,600	181,131
Purchased	9.1	0.14	1,669,300	27,420	18,382,600	181,131
Medicare	23.3	0.21	4,279,500	43,710	18,382,600	181,131
Medicaid	34.9	0.24	6,413,800	53,320	18,382,600	181,131
Military/VA	7.3	0.13	1,351,000	24,680	18,382,600	181,131
Indian Health Service	0.7	3.29	126,900	7,580	18,382,600	181,131
<b>No Disability</b>						
Uninsured	20.5	0.07	32,475,500	114,660	158,622,200	1,528,114
Employer/Union	64.6	0.08	102,522,900	175,830	158,622,200	1,528,114
Purchased	10.2	0.05	16,173,900	83,290	158,622,200	1,528,114
Medicare	1.2	3.29	1,938,400	29,530	158,622,200	1,528,114
Medicaid	6.4	0.04	10,183,500	66,770	158,622,200	1,528,114
Military/VA	3.4	0.03	5,413,700	49,070	158,622,200	1,528,114
Indian Health Service	0.4	3.29	598,200	16,440	158,622,200	1,528,114

# 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. were "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.

## 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/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/)

## 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 Employment and Disability 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 Employment and Disability 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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