

Cornell University

2008

US

United States

# 2008 Disability Status Report United States



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

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics

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## Glossary

## About the StatsRRTC

# The 2008 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 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 2008 Disability Status Report are based on American Community Survey (ACS) data - a US Census Bureau survey designed to replace the Decennial Census long form. See the ACS User Guide on [www.disabilitystatistics.org](http://www.disabilitystatistics.org) for additional information on the ACS.

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. Changes made to other 2008 ACS questions, including those regarding employment status and the number of weeks worked in the past 12 months (used to calculate full-time/full year employment status), also may have an impact on the results in this report. Because of these changes, comparisons should not be made with previous status reports or estimates. For a summary of all changes to the ACS 2008 survey see the following Census Bureau document: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/SummaryResultsACS2006ContentTest.pdf>.

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. As a result, differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant.

## Suggested Citation

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# 2008 ACS Disability Questions

A number of major changes were made to the ACS disability questions in 2008. The US Census Bureau made these changes to better identify specific portions of the population of persons with disabilities, and to more clearly define disability as a functional limitation that may increase a person's risk of participation limitation. These changes mean that the population of persons with disabilities identified in 2008 is different from that identified in previous years, and the results should not be compared.

Below are the disability questions used in the 2008 ACS. 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):*

16a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

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

16b. 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):*

17a. 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):*

17b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

**Self-Care Disability** *(asked of persons ages 5 or older):* 17c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

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

18. 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?

***The major changes from the previous ACS disability questions are:***

Duration of limitation was removed and the term "serious" is used to focus on longer term/more severe impairments.

Employment Disability question is no longer asked.

**Vision** and **Hearing Disabilities** (was Sensory Disability) are now two separate questions and include children under the age of 5.

**Cognitive Disability** (was Mental Disability): dropped "learning" as an activity, added the activity "making decisions."

**Ambulatory Disability** (was Physical disability) is now limited to mobility related activities; "reaching, lifting, or carrying" activities dropped.

**Self-Care Disability** (was Self-Care disability): no longer includes phrase "Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition." The new question is limited to dressing and bathing activities, and the "getting around inside the home" activity is dropped.

**Independent Living Disability** (was Go-Outside-Home disability): dropped both the time restriction "lasting 6 months or more" and the phrase "Outside the home."

# New Features and Notes

## New Features

**Additional Topics:** Two new topics of special interest to disability were added to the revised 2008 ACS and have been included in the 2008 Disability Status Report: health insurance coverage and veterans service-connected disability rating. As the two new sensory disability questions (visual and hearing disabilities) are asked of children ages 4 and under, estimates for this age group are included in this report.

## Further Notes

**Puerto Rico:** A Puerto Rico Disability Status Report, based on the parallel 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey, is available again this year. 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 last year's report 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 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.ilr.cornell.edu/edi/disabilitystatistics/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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS questions.

**Age:** In 2008, the prevalence of disability in the US was:

- 12.1 percent for persons of all ages
- 0.7 percent for persons ages 4 and under
- 5.1 percent for persons ages 5 to 15
- 5.6 percent for persons ages 16 to 20
- 10.4 percent for persons ages 21 to 64
- 26.6 percent for persons ages 65 to 74
- 51.5 percent for persons ages 75+

**Gender:** In 2008, 12.4 percent of females of all ages and 11.7 percent of males of all ages in the US reported a disability.

**Hispanic/Latino:** In 2008, the prevalence of disability among persons of all ages of Hispanic or Latino origin in the US was 8.4 percent.

**Race:** In the US in 2008, the prevalence of disability for working-age people (ages 21 to 64) was:

- 10.2 percent among Whites
- 14.3 percent among Black / African Americans
- 4.6 percent among Asians
- 18.8 percent among Native Americans
- 9.8 percent among persons of some other race(s)

**Employment:** In 2008, the employment rate of working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in the US was 39.5 percent.

**Looking for Work:** In the US in 2008, the percentage actively looking for work among people with disabilities who were not working was 8.7 percent.

**Full-Time/Full-Year Employment:** In the US in 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/ full-year was 25.4 percent.

**Annual Earnings:** In 2008, the median annual earnings of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was \$35,600.

**Annual Household Income:** In the US in 2008, the median annual income of households with working-age people with disabilities was \$39,600.

**Poverty:** In the US in 2008, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities was 25.3 percent.

**Supplemental Security Income:** In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments in the US was 17.7 percent.

**Educational Attainment:** In 2008, 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 29.7 percent
- with a bachelor's degree or more was 12.3 percent.

**Veterans Service-Connected Disability:** In 2008, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans with a VA determined Service-Connected Disability was 16.9 percent in the US.

**Health Insurance Coverage:** In 2008 in the US, 81.8 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

<b>Location</b>	<b>2008 (%)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>2008 (%)</b>
Alabama	<b>15.1</b>	Montana	<b>12.0</b>
Alaska	<b>12.9</b>	Nebraska	<b>8.4</b>
Arizona	<b>10.7</b>	Nevada	<b>8.7</b>
Arkansas	<b>16.6</b>	New Hampshire	<b>9.7</b>
California	<b>8.5</b>	New Jersey	<b>7.7</b>
Colorado	<b>8.3</b>	New Mexico	<b>12.4</b>
Connecticut	<b>8.5</b>	New York	<b>9.1</b>
Delaware	<b>10.8</b>	North Carolina	<b>11.7</b>
District of Columbia	<b>8.9</b>	North Dakota	<b>8.6</b>
Florida	<b>10.0</b>	Ohio	<b>11.6</b>
Georgia	<b>10.5</b>	Oklahoma	<b>16.0</b>
Hawaii	<b>7.2</b>	Oregon	<b>11.2</b>
Idaho	<b>10.9</b>	Pennsylvania	<b>11.3</b>
Illinois	<b>8.4</b>	Puerto Rico	<b>20.2</b>
Indiana	<b>11.6</b>	Rhode Island	<b>10.9</b>
Iowa	<b>9.6</b>	South Carolina	<b>12.7</b>
Kansas	<b>10.8</b>	South Dakota	<b>8.7</b>
Kentucky	<b>16.4</b>	Tennessee	<b>13.6</b>
Louisiana	<b>13.8</b>	Texas	<b>10.6</b>
Maine	<b>13.4</b>	Utah	<b>7.9</b>
Maryland	<b>8.6</b>	Vermont	<b>12.8</b>
Massachusetts	<b>9.3</b>	Virginia	<b>8.9</b>
Michigan	<b>11.8</b>	Washington	<b>10.6</b>
Minnesota	<b>7.9</b>	West Virginia	<b>18.7</b>
Mississippi	<b>16.3</b>	Wisconsin	<b>9.1</b>
Missouri	<b>12.6</b>	Wyoming	<b>11.9</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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

Location	People with Disabilities 2008	People without Disabilities 2008	Location	People with Disabilities 2008	People without Disabilities 2008
Alabama	33.1	78.1	Montana	43.7	81.0
Alaska	51.4	80.5	Nebraska	50.5	86.6
Arizona	42.4	78.2	Nevada	44.8	79.5
Arkansas	33.9	79.1	New Hampshire	46.4	84.6
California	37.2	77.3	New Jersey	41.7	81.3
Colorado	48.3	82.5	New Mexico	41.2	77.3
Connecticut	42.1	82.4	New York	36.2	78.9
Delaware	45.8	81.4	North Carolina	39.7	80.1
District of Columbia	33.1	80.6	North Dakota	60.2	87.0
Florida	36.6	78.4	Ohio	38.3	80.4
Georgia	40.8	79.2	Oklahoma	43.5	80.8
Hawaii	44.7	82.3	Oregon	41.2	79.0
Idaho	46.0	80.4	Pennsylvania	38.8	80.9
Illinois	39.5	80.0	Puerto Rico	25.0	59.4
Indiana	39.8	80.6	Rhode Island	39.8	81.4
Iowa	52.5	86.9	South Carolina	33.9	77.6
Kansas	51.3	85.0	South Dakota	61.4	86.0
Kentucky	30.8	77.0	Tennessee	35.6	79.1
Louisiana	36.6	77.6	Texas	42.9	79.6
Maine	39.5	81.4	Utah	45.9	80.1
Maryland	44.7	83.8	Vermont	48.8	84.0
Massachusetts	39.9	82.5	Virginia	41.5	82.6
Michigan	33.6	76.8	Washington	41.0	80.5
Minnesota	52.4	84.8	West Virginia	30.5	76.7
Mississippi	33.2	77.9	Wisconsin	45.1	84.3
Missouri	39.5	81.5	Wyoming	56.6	84.9

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

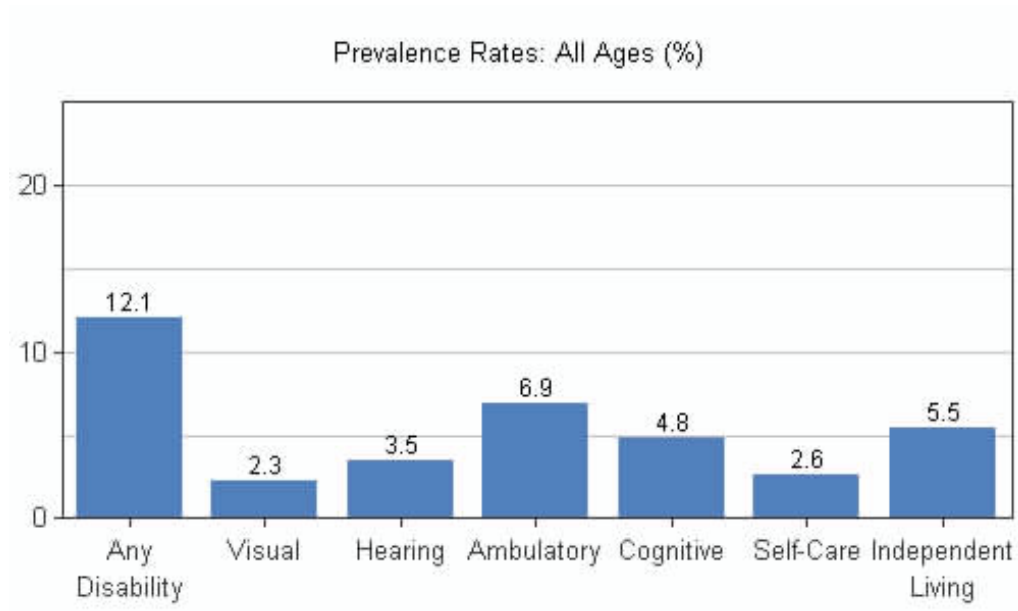
**12.1%**

Prevalence:  
All Ages

- In 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability of all ages in the US was 12.1 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 36,169,200 of the 299,852,800 individuals of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, 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 2008\*

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	12.1	0.05	36,169,200	157,070	299,852,800	2,949,415
Visual	2.3	0.02	6,826,400	71,880	299,852,800	2,949,415
Hearing	3.5	0.03	10,393,100	88,160	299,852,800	2,949,415
Ambulatory	6.9	0.04	19,203,700	118,020	278,976,400	2,770,321
Cognitive	4.8	0.04	13,462,900	99,810	278,976,400	2,770,321
Self-Care	2.6	0.03	7,195,600	73,750	278,976,400	2,770,321
Independent Living	5.5	0.04	13,179,300	98,800	238,826,000	2,384,789

\* **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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Only the two sensory disability questions were asked of this population. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

**0.7%**

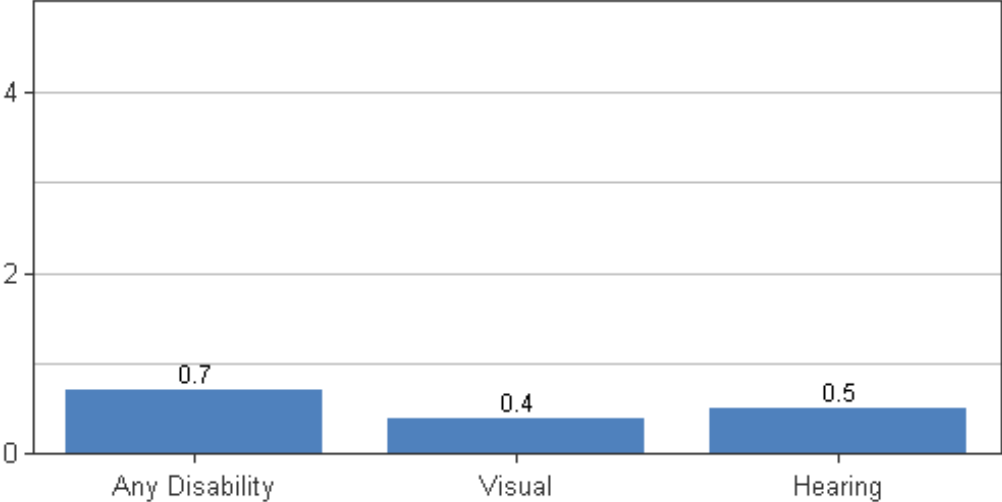
Prevalence:  
Ages 4 and  
under

- In 2008, 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 2008, 156,200 of the 20,876,400 children ages 0 to 4 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, 0.4 percent reported a visual disability
- In the US in 2008, 0.5 percent reported a hearing disability

# Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 4 and under in the United States in 2008

## Table

Prevalence Rates: Age 4 years and under (%)



## Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	0.7	3.29	156,200	10,990	20,876,400	179,094
Visual	0.4	3.29	91,600	8,420	20,876,400	179,094
Hearing	0.5	3.29	96,900	8,660	20,876,400	179,094

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS).<sup>\*</sup> For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

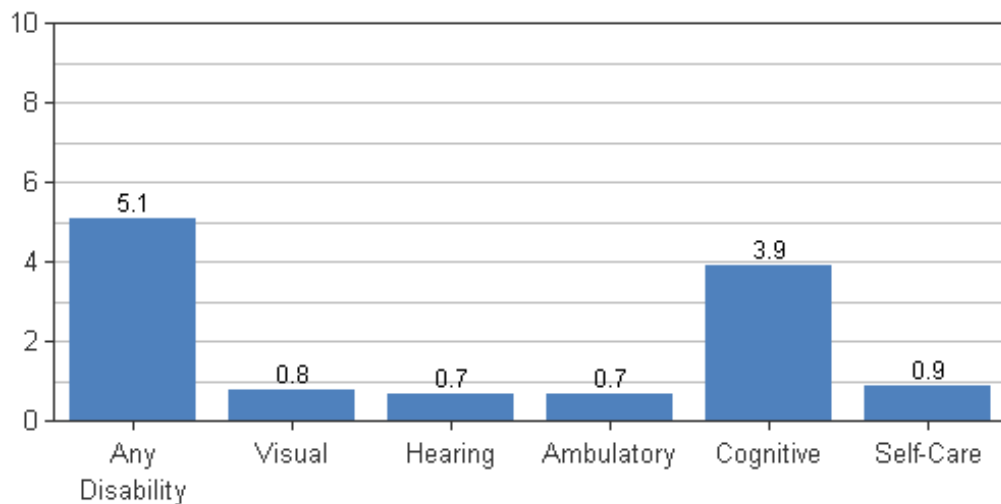
Prevalence:  
Ages 5 to  
15 years  
**5.1%**

- In 2008, 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 2008, 2,265,800 of the 44,299,900 individuals ages 5 to 15 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, among the five types of disabilities<sup>\*</sup> 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 5 to 15 in the United States in 2008

### Chart

Prevalence Rates: Age 5 to 15 years (%)



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	5.1	0.09	2,265,800	41,730	44,299,900	427,147
Visual	0.8	3.29	342,600	16,280	44,299,900	427,147
Hearing	0.7	3.29	300,900	15,250	44,299,900	427,147
Ambulatory	0.7	3.29	300,900	15,260	44,299,900	427,147
Cognitive	3.9	0.08	1,729,100	36,480	44,299,900	427,147
Self-Care	0.9	3.29	395,600	17,490	44,299,900	427,147

\* **Note:** The "Independent Living Disability" question was not asked of children ages 15 years old 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

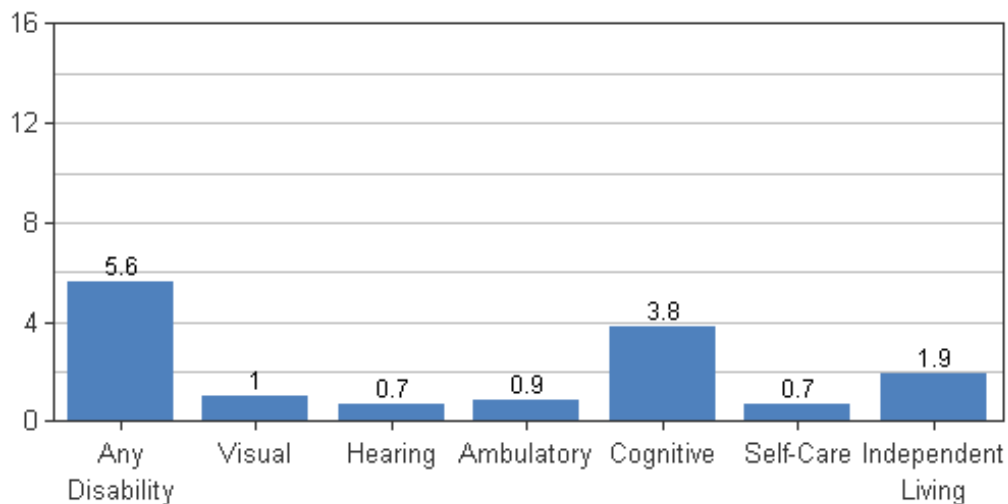
Prevalence:  
Ages 16 to  
20 years  
**5.6%**

- In 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 16 to 20 in the US was 5.6 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 1,233,700 of the 22,107,800 individuals ages 16 to 20 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Cognitive Disability," 3.8 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 2008

### Chart

Prevalence Rates: Age 16 to 20 years (%)



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	5.6	0.14	1,233,700	30,840	22,107,800	200,117
Visual	1.0	3.29	213,000	12,840	22,107,800	200,117
Hearing	0.7	3.29	150,300	10,790	22,107,800	200,117
Ambulatory	0.9	3.29	192,600	12,210	22,107,800	200,117
Cognitive	3.8	0.11	850,400	25,620	22,107,800	200,117
Self-Care	0.7	3.29	143,700	10,550	22,107,800	200,117
Independent Living	1.9	3.29	418,200	17,980	22,107,800	200,117

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

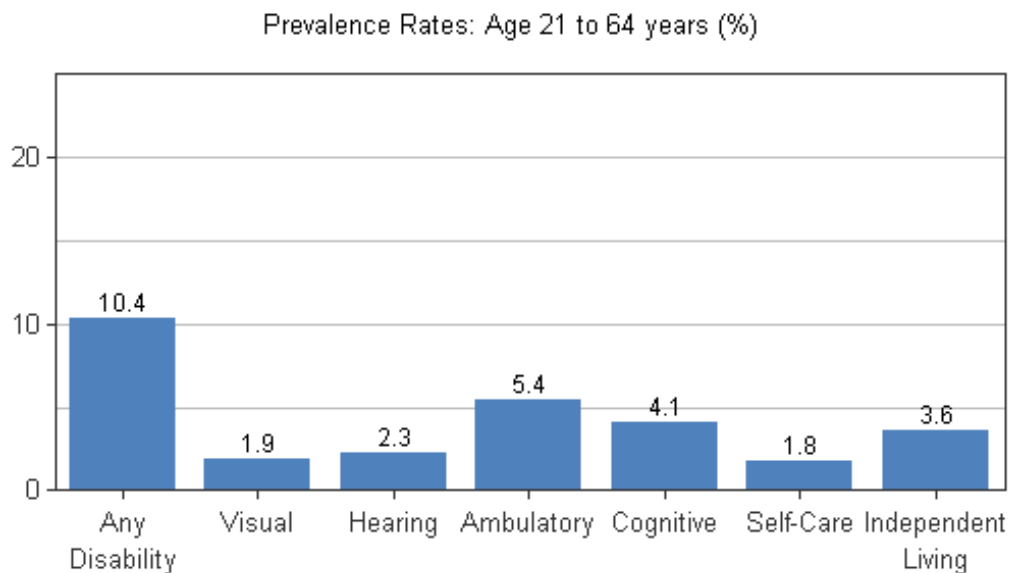
Prevalence:  
Ages 21 to  
64 years

**10.4%**

- In 2008, 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 2008, 18,312,900 of the 175,368,200 individuals ages 21 to 64 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 5.4 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was "Self-Care Disability," 1.8 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 21 to 64 in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	10.4	0.06	18,312,900	115,430	175,368,200	1,693,675
Visual	1.9	3.29	3,314,200	50,380	175,368,200	1,693,675
Hearing	2.3	0.03	3,990,400	55,220	175,368,200	1,693,675
Ambulatory	5.4	0.05	9,498,200	84,400	175,368,200	1,693,675
Cognitive	4.1	0.04	7,213,700	73,840	175,368,200	1,693,675
Self-Care	1.8	3.29	3,240,900	49,820	175,368,200	1,693,675
Independent Living	3.6	0.04	6,289,600	69,060	175,368,200	1,693,675

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

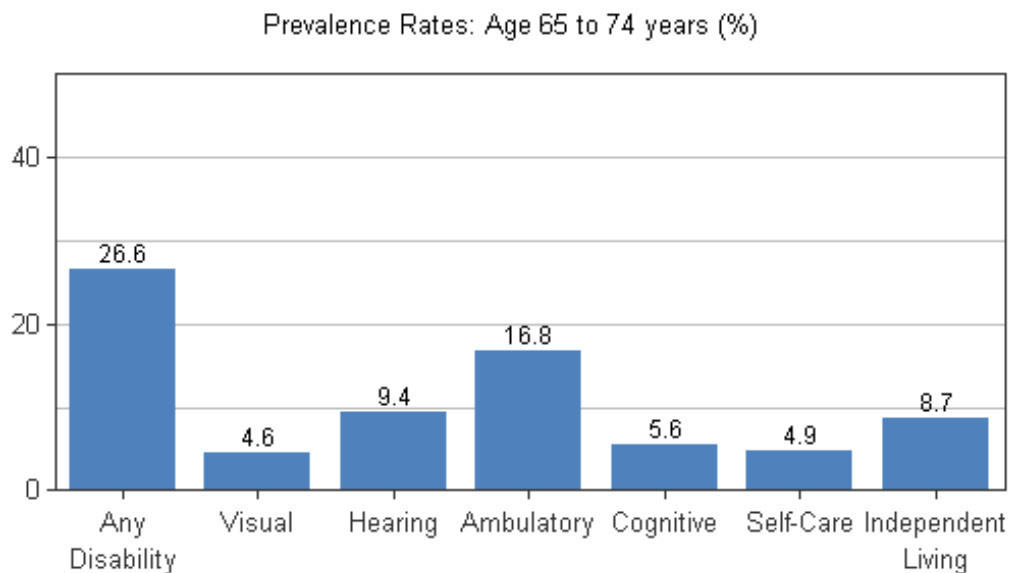
Prevalence:  
Ages 65 to  
74 years

**26.6%**

- In 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 65 to 74 in the US was 26.6 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 5,287,300 of the 19,902,000 individuals ages 65 to 74 in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 16.8 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 4.6 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 65 to 74 in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	26.6	0.28	5,287,300	63,420	19,902,000	243,887
Visual	4.6	0.13	925,200	26,720	19,902,000	243,887
Hearing	9.4	0.18	1,866,300	37,900	19,902,000	243,887
Ambulatory	16.8	0.23	3,342,000	50,590	19,902,000	243,887
Cognitive	5.6	0.14	1,121,100	29,410	19,902,000	243,887
Self-Care	4.9	0.13	974,300	27,420	19,902,000	243,887
Independent Living	8.7	0.18	1,732,000	36,510	19,902,000	243,887

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions,

### Quick Statistics

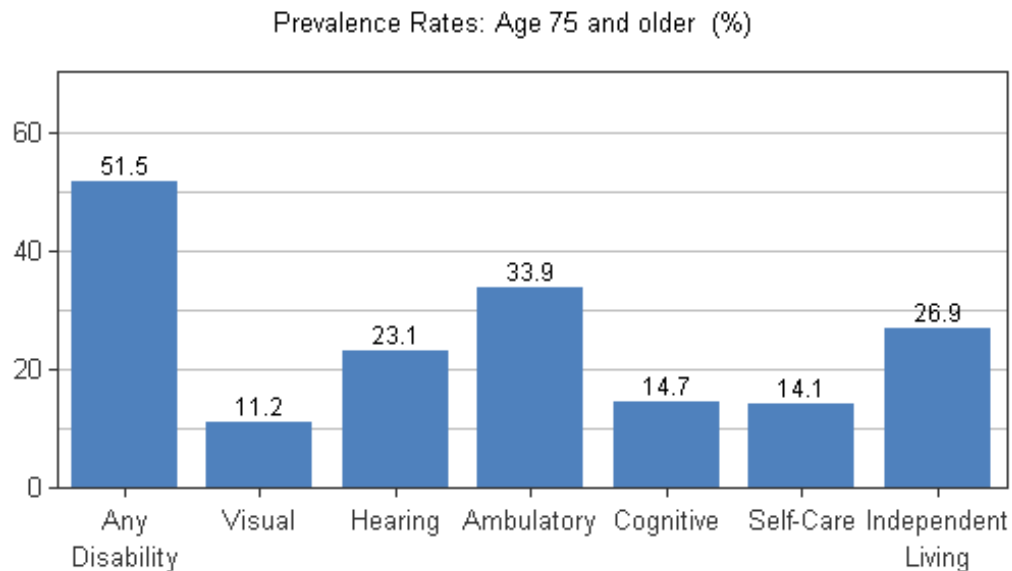
Prevalence:  
Ages 75 and  
Older

**51.5%**

- In 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of people with a disability ages 75 and older in the US was 51.5 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 8,913,300 of the 17,298,500 individuals ages 75 and older in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest prevalence rate was for "Ambulatory Disability," 33.9 percent. The lowest prevalence rate was for "Visual Disability," 11.2 percent.

## Prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people ages 75 and older in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	51.5	0.33	8,913,300	81,840	17,298,500	205,495
Visual	11.2	0.21	1,939,800	38,630	17,298,500	205,495
Hearing	23.1	0.28	3,988,300	55,200	17,298,500	205,495
Ambulatory	33.9	0.32	5,870,000	66,760	17,298,500	205,495
Cognitive	14.7	0.24	2,548,600	44,230	17,298,500	205,495
Self-Care	14.1	0.23	2,441,200	43,300	17,298,500	205,495
Independent Living	26.9	0.30	4,655,500	59,580	17,298,500	205,495



# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Males All  
Ages

**11.7%**

Prevalence:  
Female All  
Ages

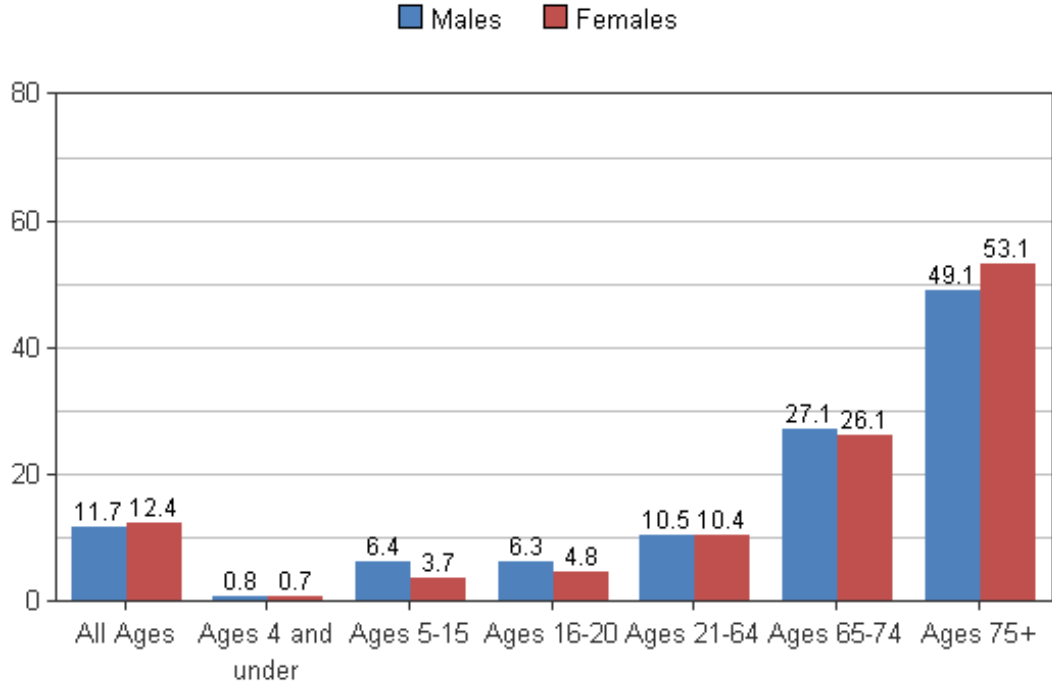
**12.4%**

- In the US in 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of males with a disability of all ages was 11.7 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 17,182,300 of the 147,192,100 males of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of females with a disability of all ages was 12.4 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 18,986,900 of the 152,660,700 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 2008

## Chart

Prevalence Rates: Gender and Age (%)



## Table

Gender & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Males</b>						
All Ages	11.7	0.07	17,182,300	112,030	147,192,100	1,422,424
Ages 4 and under	0.8	3.29	88,800	8,290	10,702,800	91,486
Ages 5-15	6.4	0.14	1,454,400	33,480	22,658,100	218,391
Ages 16-20	6.3	0.20	712,200	23,450	11,297,600	102,575
Ages 21-64	10.5	0.09	9,100,900	82,680	86,569,500	813,909
Ages 65-74	27.1	0.41	2,486,200	43,690	9,157,800	113,020
Ages 75+	49.1	0.53	3,339,800	50,570	6,806,200	83,043
<b>Females</b>						
All Ages	12.4	0.07	18,986,900	117,400	152,660,700	1,526,991
Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	67,400	7,220	10,173,700	87,608
Ages 5-15	3.7	0.11	811,400	25,030	21,641,800	208,756
Ages 16-20	4.8	0.18	521,500	20,080	10,810,200	97,542
Ages 21-64	10.4	0.09	9,212,000	83,160	88,798,700	879,766
Ages 65-74	26.1	0.37	2,801,100	46,350	10,744,200	130,867
Ages 75+	53.1	0.43	5,573,500	65,080	10,492,300	122,452

\* **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

## 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS)\*. For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

### Quick Statistics

Prevalence:  
Hispanic All  
Ages

**8.4%**

Prevalence:  
Non-Hispanic  
All Ages

**12.7%**

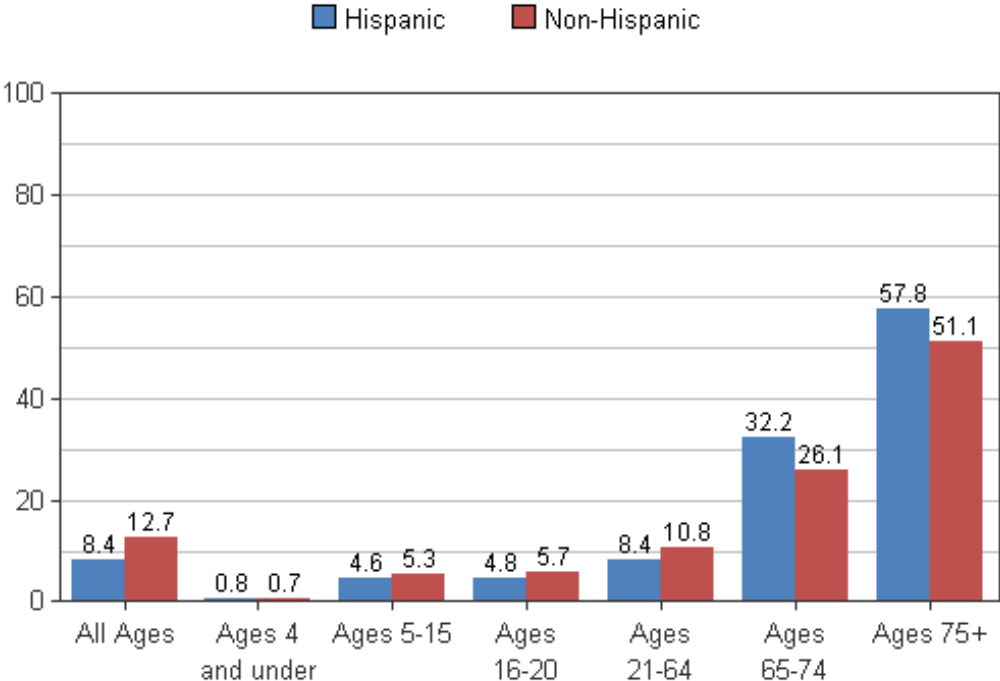
- In the US in 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 8.4 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 3,881,100 of the 46,285,000 people of Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages in the US reported one or more disabilities.
- In the US in 2008, the overall percentage (prevalence rate) of disability among people of non-Hispanic/Latino origin of all ages was 12.7 percent.
- In other words, in 2008, 32,288,100 of the 253,567,900 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 2008

## Chart

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



## Table

Hispanic/Latino Origin & Age	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Hispanic</b>						
All Ages	8.4	0.11	3,881,100	54,470	46,285,000	375,733
Ages 4 and under	0.8	3.29	41,300	5,660	5,215,000	36,810
Ages 5-15	4.6	0.19	419,400	18,010	9,204,100	79,074
Ages 16-20	4.8	0.30	187,000	12,030	3,856,500	32,982
Ages 21-64	8.4	0.15	2,131,300	40,480	25,442,000	201,820
Ages 65-74	32.2	1.06	480,900	19,280	1,491,900	14,805
Ages 75+	57.8	1.33	621,100	21,910	1,075,500	10,242
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>						
All Ages	12.7	0.06	32,288,100	149,480	253,567,900	2,573,682
Ages 4 and under	0.7	3.29	114,800	9,430	15,661,400	142,284
Ages 5-15	5.3	0.10	1,846,400	37,690	35,095,800	348,073
Ages 16-20	5.7	0.15	1,046,600	28,420	18,251,300	167,135
Ages 21-64	10.8	0.07	16,181,600	108,910	149,926,200	1,491,855
Ages 65-74	26.1	0.28	4,806,400	60,520	18,410,200	229,082
Ages 75+	51.1	0.35	8,292,200	79,020	16,223,000	195,253

**\* 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

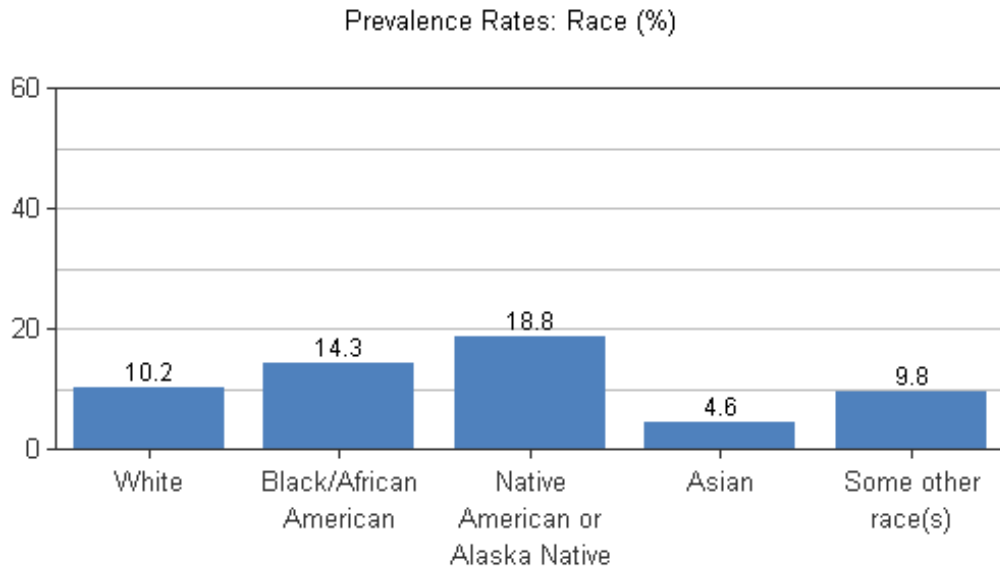
### Quick Statistics

In 2008, among working-age people in the US:

- 10.2 percent of persons who were White reported a disability.
- 14.3 percent of persons who were Black/African American reported a disability.
- 18.8 percent of persons who were Native American reported a disability.
- 4.6 percent of persons who were Asian reported a disability.
- 9.8 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Race	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
White	10.2	0.07	13,555,900	100,140	133,078,900	1,345,915
Black/African American	14.3	0.21	2,968,400	47,710	20,797,800	160,618
Native American or Alaska Native	18.8	0.92	260,900	14,210	1,386,100	14,552
Asian	4.6	0.20	395,700	17,490	8,578,100	80,849
Some other race(s)	9.8	0.24	1,132,000	29,550	11,527,300	91,741



# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

## Quick Statistics

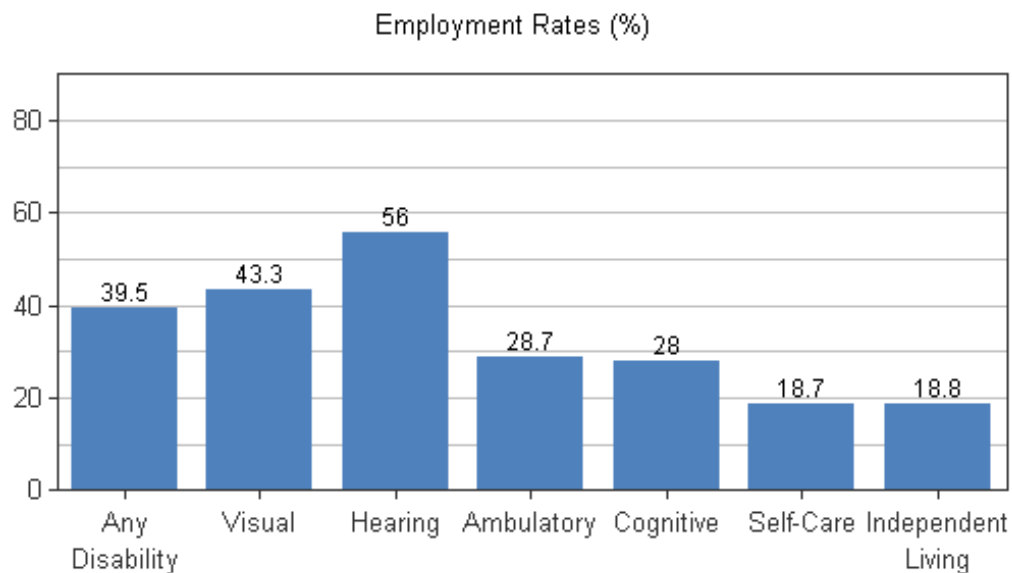
Employment:  
with disability  
**39.5%**

Employment:  
without  
disability  
**79.9%**

- In 2008, the employment rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 39.5 percent.
- In 2008, the employment rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 79.9 percent.
- The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without disabilities was 40.4 percentage points.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest employment rate was for people with a "Hearing Disability," 56.0 percent. The lowest employment rate was for people with a "Self-Care Disability," 18.7 percent.

## Employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	79.9	0.09	125,504,100	237,690	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	39.5	0.32	7,234,000	73,930	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	43.3	0.76	1,433,700	33,240	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	56.0	0.69	2,234,700	41,440	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	28.7	0.41	2,725,300	45,730	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	28.0	0.47	2,021,300	39,430	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	18.7	0.60	604,800	21,620	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	18.8	0.43	1,184,500	30,220	6,289,600	60,862

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

## Quick Statistics

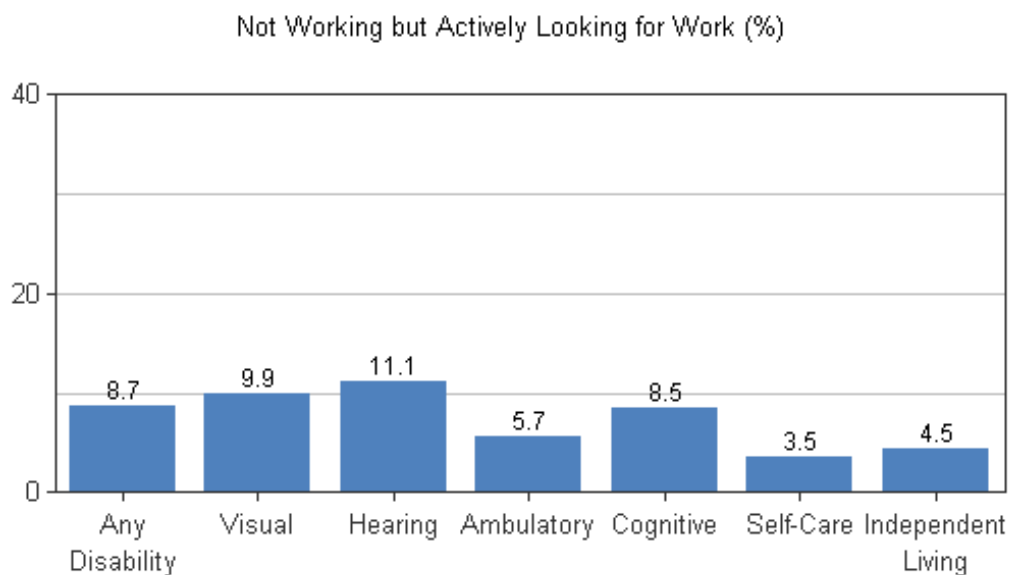
Actively  
Looking: with  
disability  
**8.7%**

Actively  
Looking:  
without  
disability  
**21.4%**

- In 2008 in the US, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 8.7 percent.
- In 2008 in the US, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 21.4 percent.
- The difference in the percentage not working but actively looking for work between working-age people with and without disabilities was 12.7 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," 11.1 percent. The lowest percentage was for people with a "Self-Care Disability," 3.5 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	21.4	0.15	6,897,800	55,250	32,269,500	308,535
Any Disability	8.7	0.18	990,300	21,140	11,414,900	110,443
Visual	9.9	0.45	195,500	9,410	1,975,100	18,115
Hearing	11.1	0.50	199,300	9,500	1,799,300	17,982
Ambulatory	5.7	0.19	399,200	13,430	6,946,300	68,417
Cognitive	8.5	0.26	457,500	14,380	5,361,800	49,854
Self-Care	3.5	0.24	94,100	6,520	2,699,100	26,012
Independent Living	4.5	0.19	236,500	10,340	5,267,900	50,788

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS questions regarding the number of weeks worked in the past 12 months and disability.

## Quick Statistics

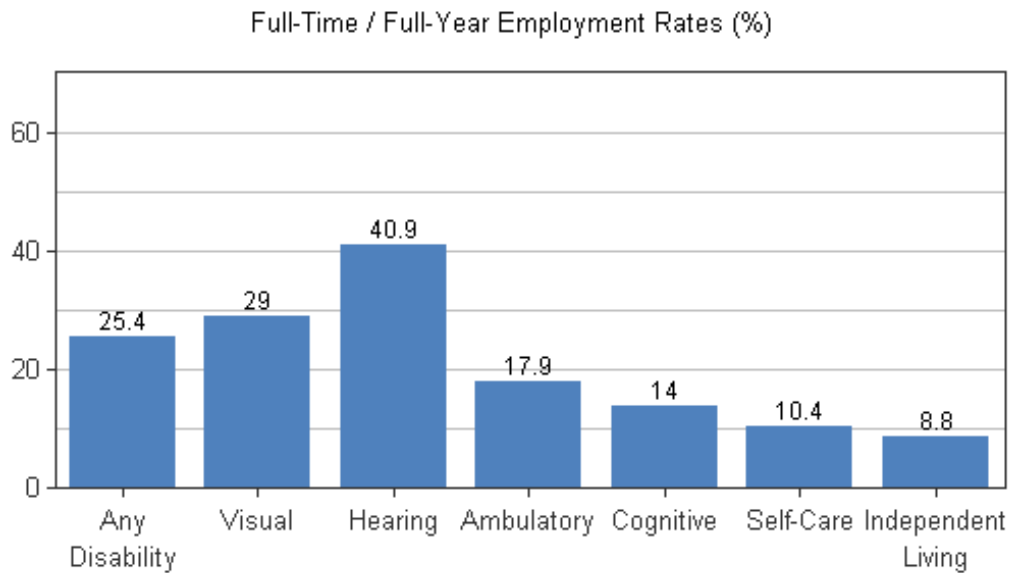
FT / FY  
Employment:  
with disability  
**25.4%**

FT / FY  
Employment:  
without  
disability  
**60.4%**

- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 25.4 percent.
- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities working full-time/full-year in the US was 60.4 percent.
- The difference in the percentage working full-time/full-year between working-age people with and without disabilities was 35 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," 40.9 percent. The lowest full-time/full-year employment rate was for people with "Independent Living Disability," 8.8 percent.

## Full-Time/Full-Year employment of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	60.4	0.09	94,829,400	185,100	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	25.4	0.23	4,645,200	49,010	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	29.0	0.57	960,400	22,420	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	40.9	0.56	1,632,400	29,200	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	17.9	0.29	1,703,500	29,820	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	14.0	0.30	1,011,500	23,010	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	10.4	0.39	338,400	13,320	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	8.8	0.26	554,100	17,040	6,289,600	60,862

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the ACS disability questions.

## Quick Statistics

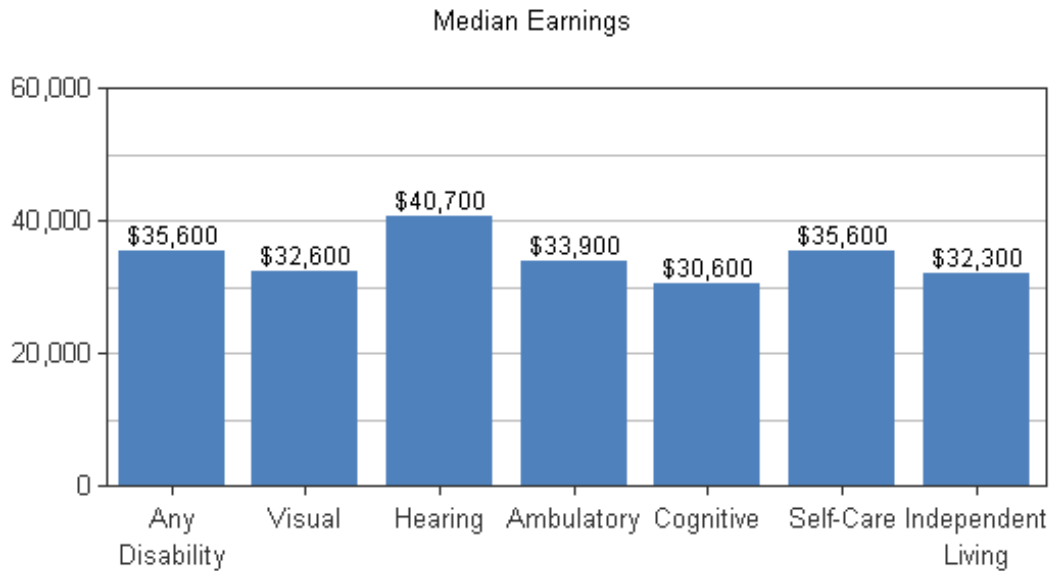
Earnings: with  
disability  
**\$35,600**

Earnings:  
without disability  
**\$40,700**

- In 2008, the median earnings of working-age people with disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$35,600.
- In 2008, the median earnings of working-age people without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year in the US was \$40,700.
- The difference in the median earnings between working-age people with and without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year was \$5,100.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest annual earnings was for people with "Hearing Disability," \$40,700. The lowest annual earnings was for people with "Cognitive Disability," \$30,600.

## 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	Median Earnings	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$40,700	\$100	94,829,000	914,570
Any Disability	\$35,600	\$370	4,645,000	46,353
Visual	\$32,600	\$790	960,000	8,812
Hearing	\$40,700	\$720	1,632,000	17,103
Ambulatory	\$33,900	\$570	1,703,000	17,011
Cognitive	\$30,600	\$670	1,011,000	9,515
Self-Care	\$35,600	\$1,380	338,000	3,155
Independent Living	\$32,300	\$1,070	554,000	5,460



# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

## Quick Statistics

Household  
Income: with  
disability  
**\$39,600**

Household  
Income: without  
disability  
**\$61,200**

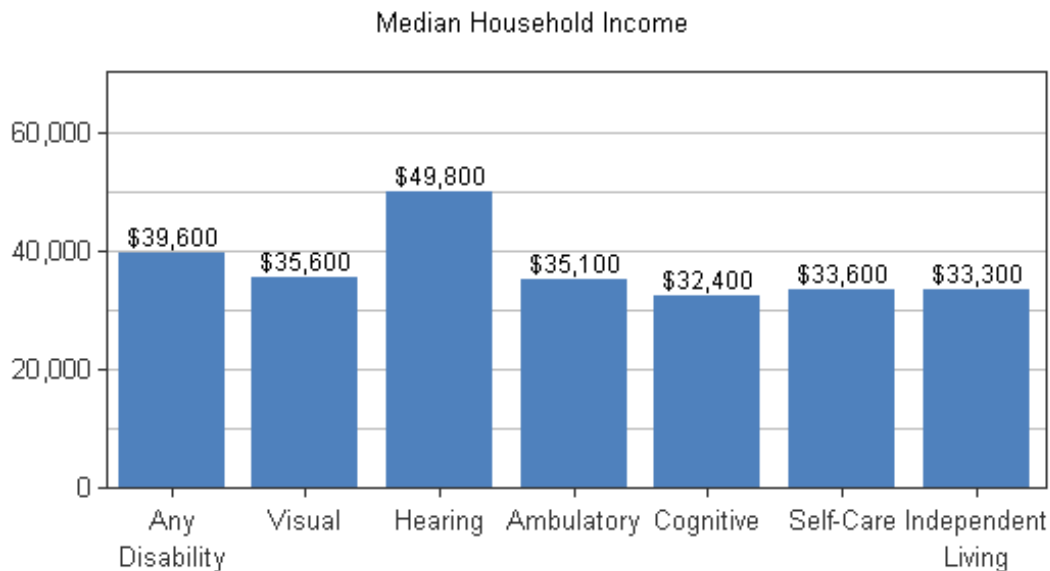
- In 2008, the median income of households that include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$39,600<sup>†</sup>.
- In 2008, the median income of households that do not include any working-age people with disabilities in the US was \$61,200.
- The difference in the median income between households including and not including working-age people with disabilities was \$21,600<sup>†</sup>.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest median income was for households including persons with a "Hearing Disability," \$49,800. The lowest median income was for households containing persons with a "Cognitive Disability," \$32,400.

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

<sup>†</sup> **Caution:** Estimate based on small sample size (less than 40 individuals).

## Median annual income\* of households including any working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	Median H.H. Income	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	\$61,200	\$200	79,519,000	798,761
Any Disability	\$39,600	\$370	14,646,000	153,586
Visual	\$35,600	\$780	2,838,000	27,998
Hearing	\$49,800	\$810	3,610,000	38,932
Ambulatory	\$35,100	\$450	8,076,000	84,682
Cognitive	\$32,400	\$520	5,655,000	58,674
Self-Care	\$33,600	\$760	2,697,000	28,328
Independent Living	\$33,300	\$570	5,039,000	54,197

† **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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions.

## Quick Statistics

Poverty: with  
disability

**25.3%**

Poverty:  
without  
disability

**9.6%**

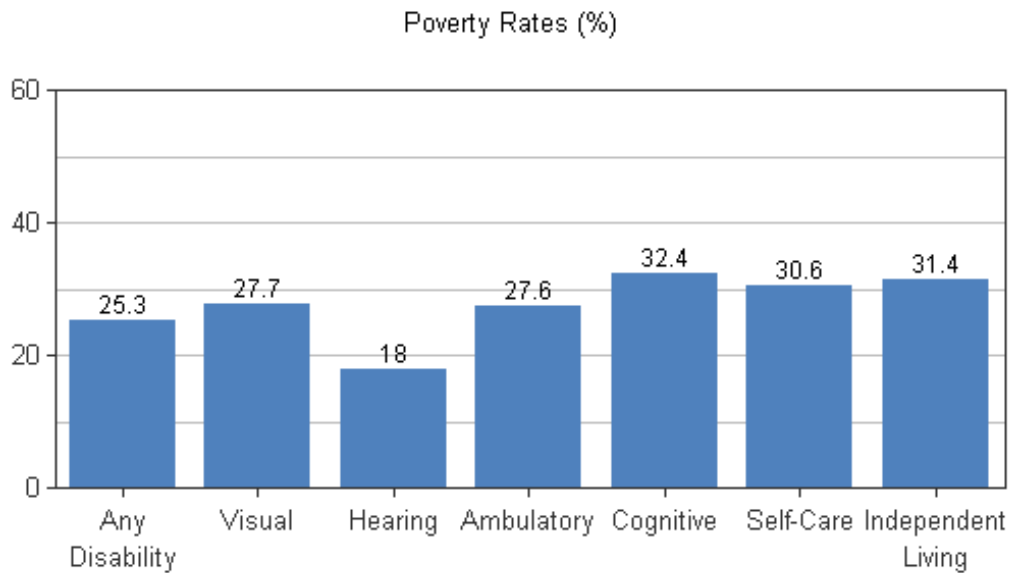
- In 2008, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities in the US was 25.3 percent †.
- In 2008, the poverty rate of working-age people without disabilities in the US was 9.6 percent †.
- The difference in the poverty rate between working-age people with and without disabilities was 15.7 percentage points †.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest poverty rate was for people with "Cognitive Disability," 32.4 percent. The lowest poverty rate was for people with "Hearing Disability," 18.0 percent.

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

† **Caution:** Estimate based on small sample size (less than 40 individuals).

## Poverty rates of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	9.6	0.07	15,003,300	105,080	156,398,000	1,509,656
Any Disability	25.3	0.28	4,617,300	59,330	18,275,200	178,495
Visual	27.7	0.68	915,300	26,580	3,308,400	30,382
Hearing	18.0	0.54	715,100	23,500	3,982,600	40,758
Ambulatory	27.6	0.40	2,621,400	44,860	9,488,200	93,690
Cognitive	32.4	0.49	2,330,600	42,320	7,193,100	67,042
Self-Care	30.6	0.71	992,000	27,670	3,239,200	31,120
Independent Living	31.4	0.52	1,970,900	38,940	6,283,700	60,820

† **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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary. Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions. 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).

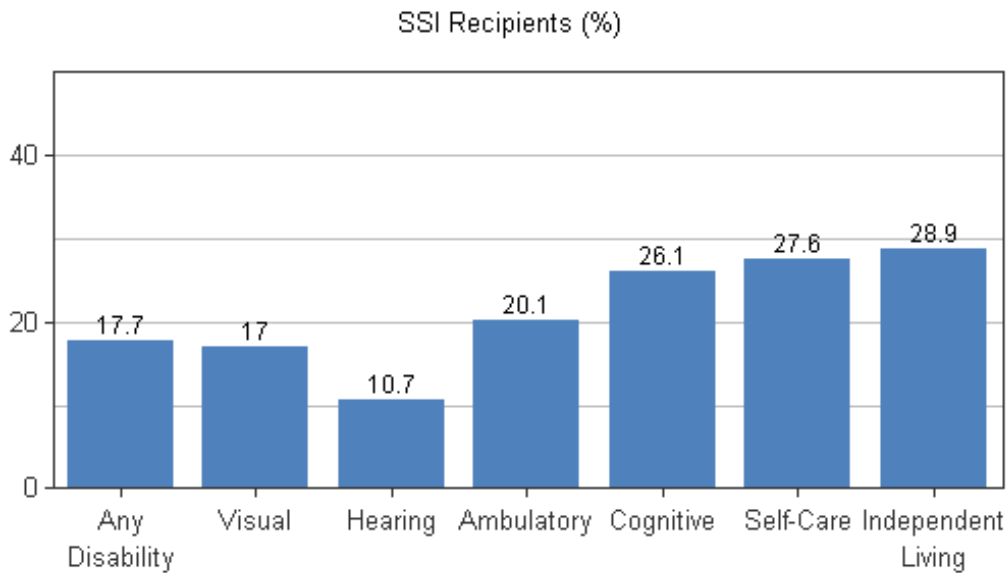
## Quick Statistics

SSI  
Recipients:  
with disability  
**17.7%**

- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 17.7 percent.
- In 2008, the number of working-age people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income payments in the US was 3,237,600.
- Among the six types of disabilities identified in the ACS, the highest percentage that received SSI was people with "Independent Living Disability," 28.9 percent. The lowest percentage that received SSI was people with "Hearing Disability," 10.7 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Any Disability	17.7	0.19	3,237,600	38,080	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	17.0	0.44	562,800	15,950	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	10.7	0.33	426,300	13,880	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	20.1	0.28	1,912,100	29,330	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	26.1	0.35	1,883,900	29,110	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	27.6	0.53	895,400	20,100	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	28.9	0.38	1,818,300	28,610	6,289,600	60,862

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

High School  
Only: with  
disability

**34.0%**

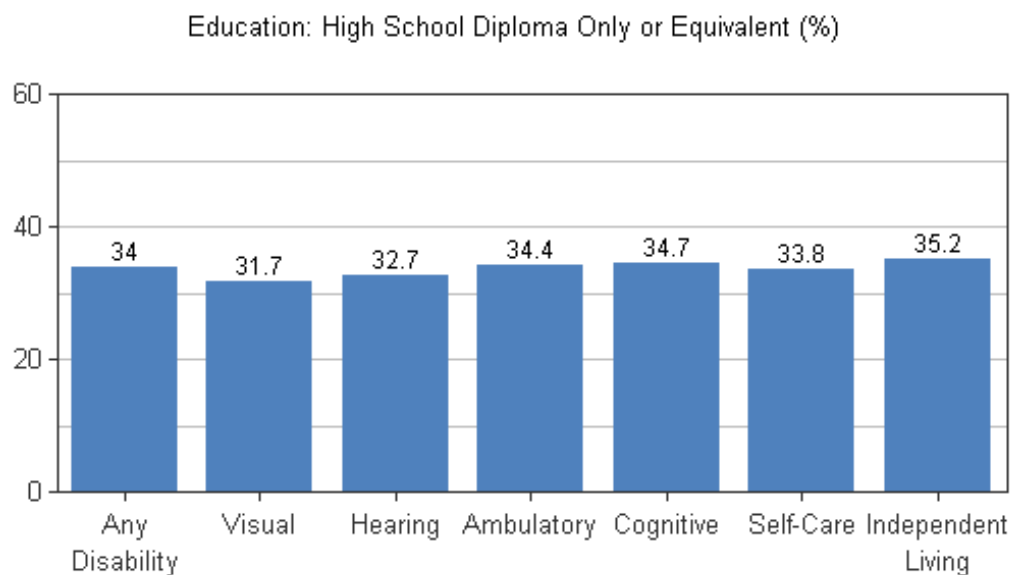
High School  
Only: without  
disability

**26.2%**

- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 34.0 percent.
- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only a high school diploma or equivalent in the US was 26.2 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only a high school diploma or equivalent between working-age people with and without disabilities was 7.8 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," 31.7 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	26.2	0.09	41,080,200	146,340	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	34.0	0.27	6,230,700	60,650	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	31.7	0.63	1,052,000	25,140	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	32.7	0.58	1,306,400	28,000	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	34.4	0.38	3,263,500	44,110	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	34.7	0.44	2,505,300	38,700	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	33.8	0.65	1,094,600	25,640	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	35.2	0.47	2,212,700	36,390	6,289,600	60,862



# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

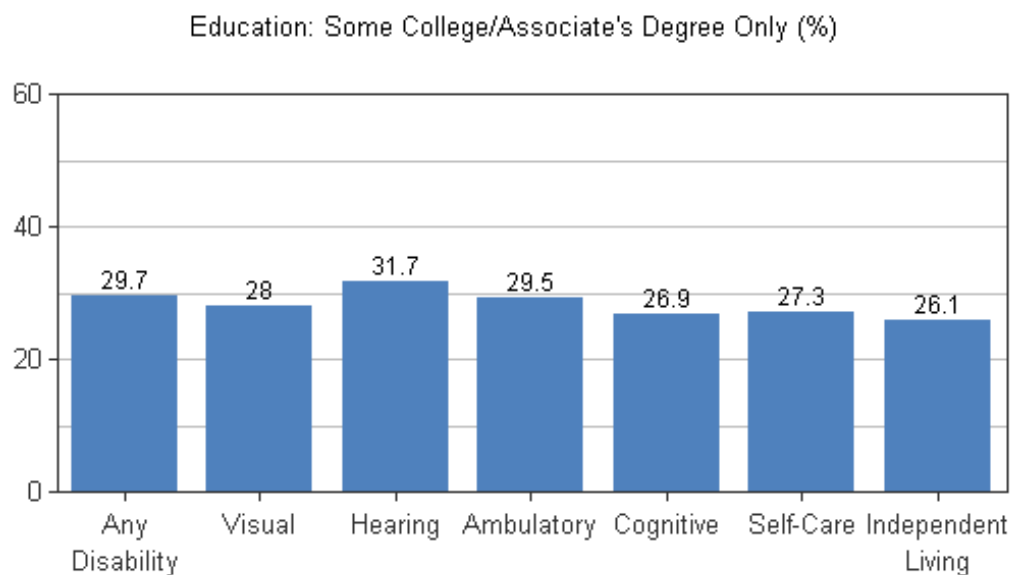
Some  
College: with  
disability  
**29.7%**

Some  
College:  
without  
disability  
**32.2%**

- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 29.7 percent.
- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with only some college or an Associate's degree in the US was 32.2 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with only some college or an Associate's degree between working-age people with and without disabilities was 2.5 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," 31.7 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	32.2	0.09	50,607,100	159,460	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	29.7	0.26	5,436,900	56,730	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	28.0	0.61	926,800	23,600	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	31.7	0.57	1,266,200	27,570	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	29.5	0.36	2,799,400	40,890	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	26.9	0.41	1,937,900	34,070	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	27.3	0.61	884,300	23,050	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	26.1	0.43	1,639,000	31,350	6,289,600	60,862

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). Comparisons to the 2007 Disability Status Report should not be made due to changes in the 2008 ACS disability questions. For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

### Quick Statistics

Bachelor's  
Degree or  
More: with  
disability

**12.3%**

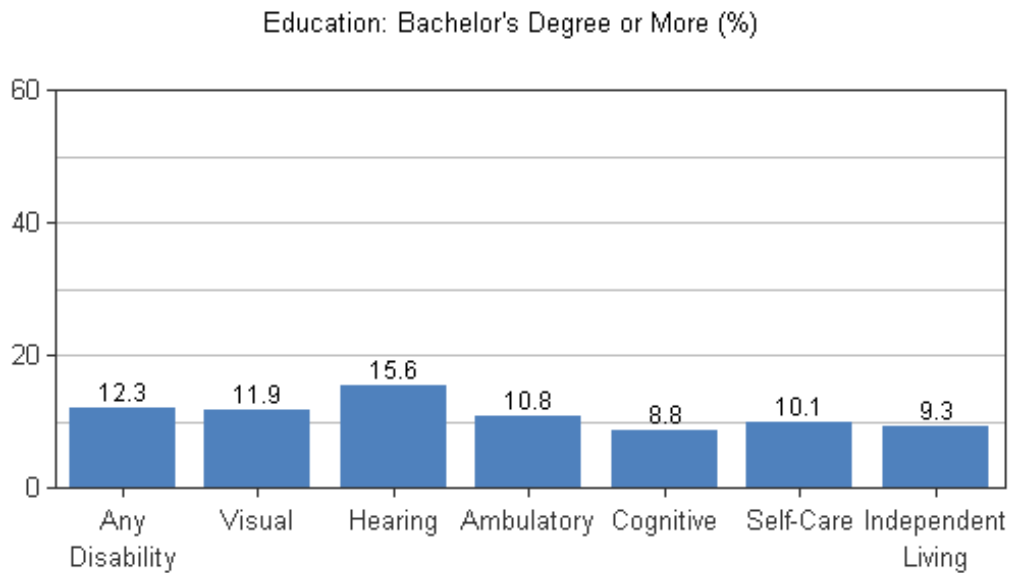
Bachelors's  
Degree or  
More:  
without  
disability

**30.6%**

- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 12.3 percent.
- In 2008, the percentage of working-age people without disabilities with a Bachelor's degree or more in the US was 30.6 percent.
- The difference in the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more between working-age people with and without disabilities was 18.3 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	30.6	0.09	48,003,300	156,100	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	12.3	0.19	2,260,500	36,770	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	11.9	0.44	394,900	15,420	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	15.6	0.45	621,600	19,340	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	10.8	0.25	1,028,300	24,850	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	8.8	0.26	634,200	19,530	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	10.1	0.41	326,700	14,030	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	9.3	0.28	587,000	18,790	6,289,600	60,862

# 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 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.

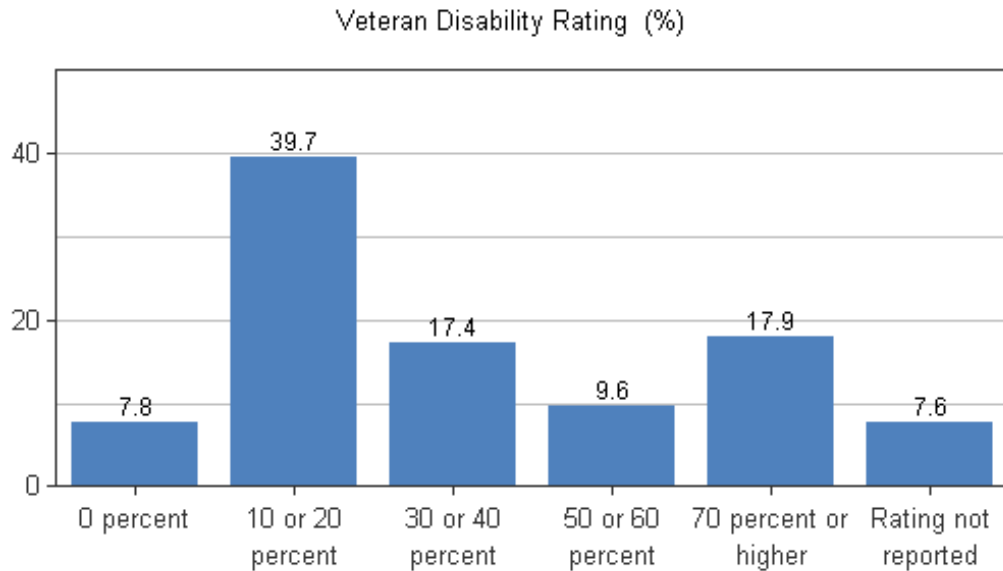
## Quick Statistics

Veterans with a  
Service-connected  
Disability  
**16.9%**

- In 2008, there were 13,102,700 working-age civilian veterans in the US, of whom 2,217,000 had a VA service-connected disability.
- In 2008, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans in the US with a VA service-connected disability was 16.9 percent.
- In 2008, 396,700 working-age civilian veterans in the US had the most severe service-connected disability rating (70 percent or above).
- In 2008, 17.9 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 2008

### Chart



### Table

Service-Connected Disability	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
Has a service-connected disability rating (0-100%)	16.9	0.20	2,217,000	29,140	13,102,700	137,632
<b>Disability rating of veterans with a service connected-disability</b>						
0 percent	7.8	0.35	172,600	8,160	2,217,000	24,071
10 or 20 percent	39.7	0.65	880,500	18,400	2,217,000	24,071
30 or 40 percent	17.4	0.50	384,700	12,170	2,217,000	24,071
50 or 60 percent	9.6	0.39	213,000	9,060	2,217,000	24,071
70 percent or higher	17.9	0.51	396,700	12,360	2,217,000	24,071
Rating not reported	7.6	0.35	169,600	8,090	2,217,000	24,071

# 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 2008 American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions of terms, see Glossary.

## Quick Statistics

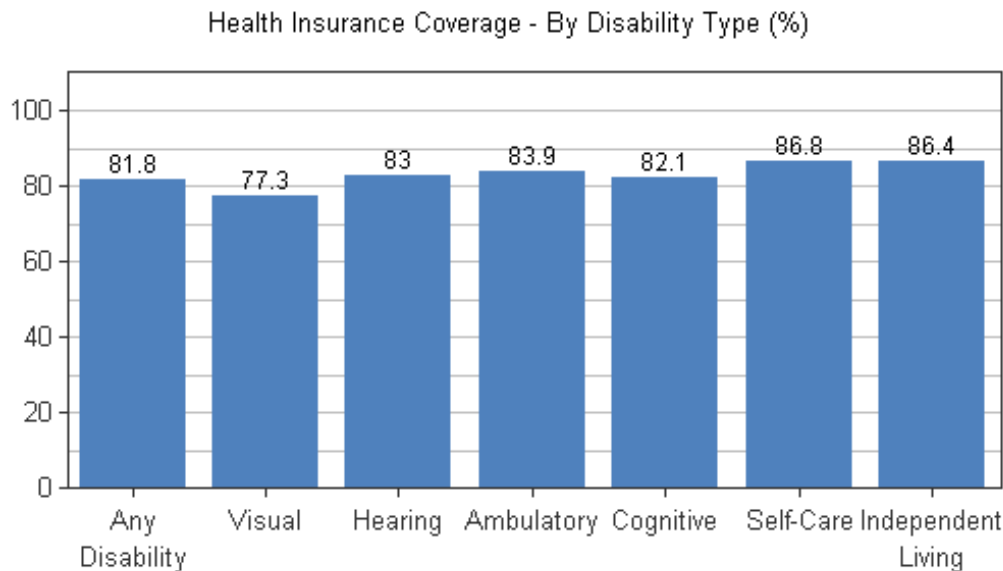
Health  
Coverage:  
with Disability  
**81.8%**

Health  
Coverage:  
without  
Disability  
**80.5%**

- In 2008, 81.8 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US had some type of health insurance coverage.
- In 2008, 80.5 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 1.3 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," 86.8 percent. The lowest health insurance coverage rate was for people with "Visual Disability," 77.3 percent.

## Health Insurance Coverage of non-institutionalized working-age people (ages 21 to 64) by disability status in the United States in 2008

### Chart



### Table

Disability Type	Percent	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
No Disability	80.5	0.09	126,441,100	253,200	157,055,300	1,514,867
Any Disability	81.8	0.27	14,982,100	111,190	18,312,900	178,808
Visual	77.3	0.68	2,560,600	46,950	3,314,200	30,434
Hearing	83.0	0.55	3,310,600	53,310	3,990,400	40,827
Ambulatory	83.9	0.35	7,968,400	82,070	9,498,200	93,756
Cognitive	82.1	0.42	5,926,000	71,020	7,213,700	67,209
Self-Care	86.8	0.55	2,814,100	49,190	3,240,900	31,133
Independent Living	86.4	0.40	5,431,700	68,050	6,289,600	60,862



# 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 2008 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

**39.0%**

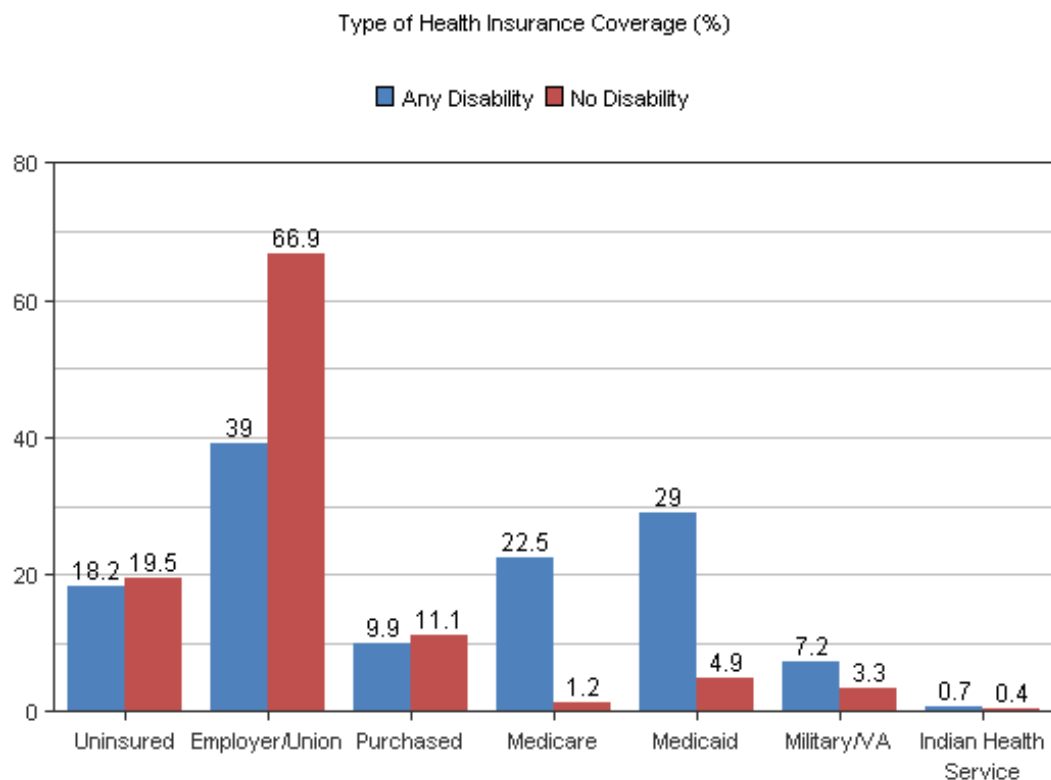
Coverage  
through  
Employer/Union:  
without  
Disability

**66.9%**

- In 2008, 39.0 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 2008, 66.9 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 2008, 9.9 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 2008, 22.5 percent of working-age people with disabilities in the US reported Medicare coverage and 29.0 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 2008

### Chart



## Table

Disability Status/ Insurance Type	%	MOE	Number	MOE	Base Pop.	Sample Size
<b>Any Disability</b>						
Uninsured	18.2	0.27	3,330,800	53,470	18,312,900	178,808
Employer/Union	39.0	0.34	7,139,800	77,790	18,312,900	178,808
Purchased	9.9	0.21	1,810,800	39,530	18,312,900	178,808
Medicare	22.5	0.29	4,128,200	59,450	18,312,900	178,808
Medicaid	29.0	0.31	5,319,700	67,350	18,312,900	178,808
Military/VA	7.2	0.18	1,317,400	33,740	18,312,900	178,808
Indian Health Service	0.7	3.29	134,400	10,800	18,312,900	178,808
<b>No Disability</b>						
Uninsured	19.5	0.09	30,614,200	154,590	157,055,300	1,514,867
Employer/Union	66.9	0.11	105,056,800	244,300	157,055,300	1,514,867
Purchased	11.1	0.07	17,465,800	119,540	157,055,300	1,514,867
Medicare	1.2	3.29	1,912,700	40,620	157,055,300	1,514,867
Medicaid	4.9	0.05	7,642,800	80,420	157,055,300	1,514,867
Military/VA	3.3	0.04	5,220,400	66,730	157,055,300	1,514,867
Indian Health Service	0.4	3.29	610,000	22,990	157,055,300	1,514,867

# 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/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.

### 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 StatsRRTC

## About the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics (StatsRRTC)

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics (StatsRRTC) bridges the divide between the sources of disability data and the users of disability statistics. We conduct research exploring the reliability of existing data sources and collection methods, and study the potential to improve current and future data collection efforts.

The StatsRRTC is an interdisciplinary effort of two organizations at Cornell University: the Employment and Disability Institute, and the Department of Policy Analysis and Management. In addition, expertise is drawn from the following collaborating institutions: American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Center for an Accessible Society, InfoUse, and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

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