

National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes

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# Postsecondary Achievement of Deaf People in District of Columbia: 2019-2023

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**NDC**  
National Deaf Center  
on Postsecondary Outcomes



## INTRODUCTION

Historically, the sample size in the District of Columbia has been below 351 for both 1-year and 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) datasets. For this, one has been separately prepared to report with the sample size equal to or greater than 200 instead. As mentioned, ACS, a national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, provides an overview of employment and educational outcomes for deaf people in your state. Over 207,000 deaf people participate in the survey annually, making it a premier source for identifying improvement opportunities in your state. Some data may not be available for specific demographic groups due to smaller sizes (i.e., below 200) or unstable estimates. We recommend combining these data with community conversations and local data sources to understand better what resources deaf people need in your area.

## KEY FINDINGS: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- 66.2% of deaf people complete at least some college.
- 22.5% fewer deaf people complete bachelor's degrees than hearing people.
- 54.1% of deaf people are employed.

In this report, we use the term *deaf* in an all-inclusive manner to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that, for many people, identity is fluid and can change over time or with the setting.

# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

On the national level, fewer deaf people completed high school or a college degree than their hearing peers. The data below (Figure 1) shows how your state compares to national averages for educational attainment. More detailed national statistics are available on the [NDC Data Dashboard](#).

Figure 1  
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

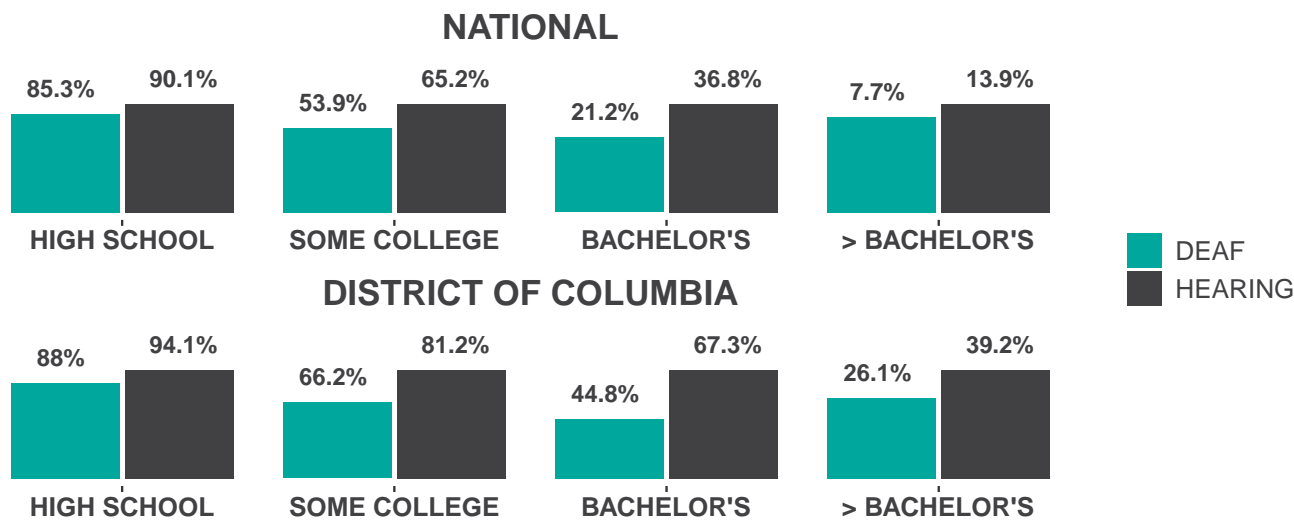
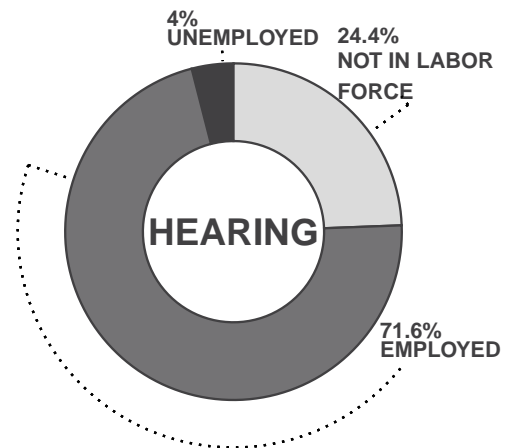
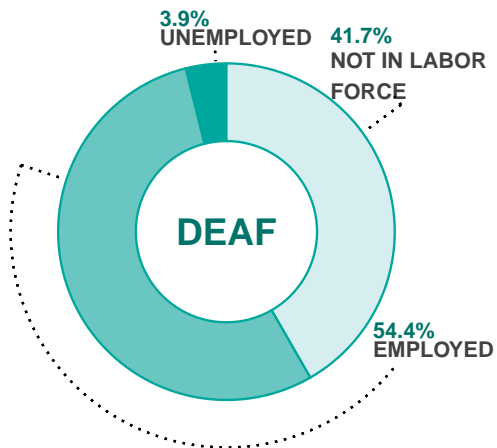
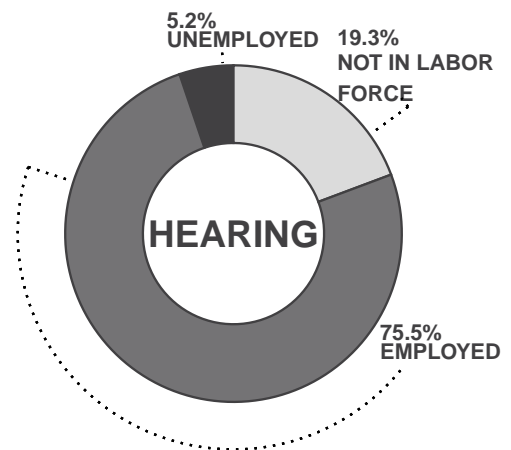
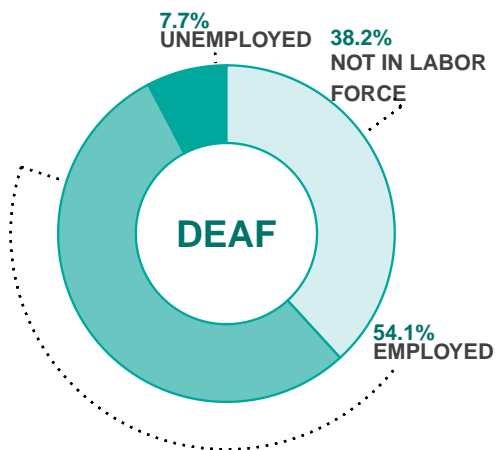


Figure 2  
**EMPLOYMENT RATES**

**NATIONAL**

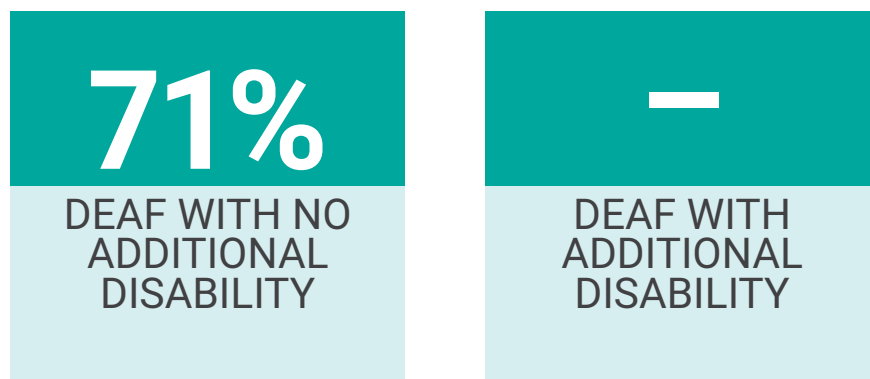


**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



*Figure 3*  
**EMPLOYMENT RATES IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY DISABILITY**

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## METHOD

### Where does this data come from?

The data for this report comes from the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual, nationwide survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau. Unlike the Census, which everyone fills out, the ACS is filled out by just a sample of people in each community, and their answers are used to generate estimates. More information may be found at [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html).

### What does the word *deaf* mean in this report?

The ACS gathers information about functional limitations rather than disability or identity labels. In this report, anyone who answers yes to question 18a “**Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?**” is considered deaf. Unfortunately, this dataset has no information about sign language use or the type of school attended (e.g., mainstream vs. deaf school).

### Why is some data not available in this report?

When examining subgroups within the deaf community, such as deafblind people, there are instances where the sample size is too small or the standard error is too large to present these estimates reliably. In such cases, the data points are excluded from the report. Please feel free to contact us for more information or any specific requests.

For more Frequently Asked Questions, visit our website: [www.nationaldeafcenter.org/datafaqs](http://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/datafaqs)

### Technical Information

- Dataset: Public Microdata Sample (PUMS), 5-year Estimates (2019-2023)
- Age Range: 16-64 for employment data, 25-64 for educational data
- Weighting: Person Weight (PWGT)
- Sample Size: 339 (District of Columbia), 207,327 (United States)
- Minimum sample size to report: 200
- Maximum relative standard error to report: 30%

### THIS REPORT MAY BE CITED AS:

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