National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes

Postsecondary Achievement of Deaf People in Washington: 2018-2022

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NDC

National Deaf Center
on Postsecondary Outcomes

IDEAs that Work

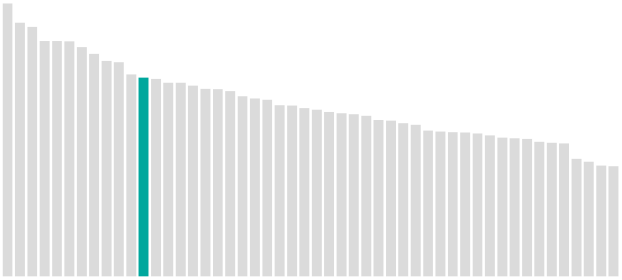
Office of Special Education Programs

INTRODUCTION

This report uses the American Community Survey (ACS), a national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, to provide an overview of employment and educational outcomes for deaf people in your state. Over 204,000 deaf people participate in the survey annually, making it a premier source for identifying improvement opportunities in your state. Due to smaller sample sizes or unstable estimates, some data may not be available for your state. We recommend combining these data with community conversations and local data sources to understand better what resources deaf people need in your area.

STATE RANKING AMONG DEAF PEOPLE

Bachelor's degree completion
#12 out of 50



Employment
#17 out of 50

KEY FINDINGS: WASHINGTON

- 60.9% of deaf people complete at least some college.
- 16.2% fewer deaf people complete bachelor's degrees than hearing people.
- Bachelor's completion among deaf people differs by race (white 23.8%; BIPOC 21%).
- Fewer deaf people with additional disabilities have completed a bachelor's degree.
- 56.5% of deaf people are employed.
- The employment rate for deaf people with additional disabilities is 31.1%.

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) show 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

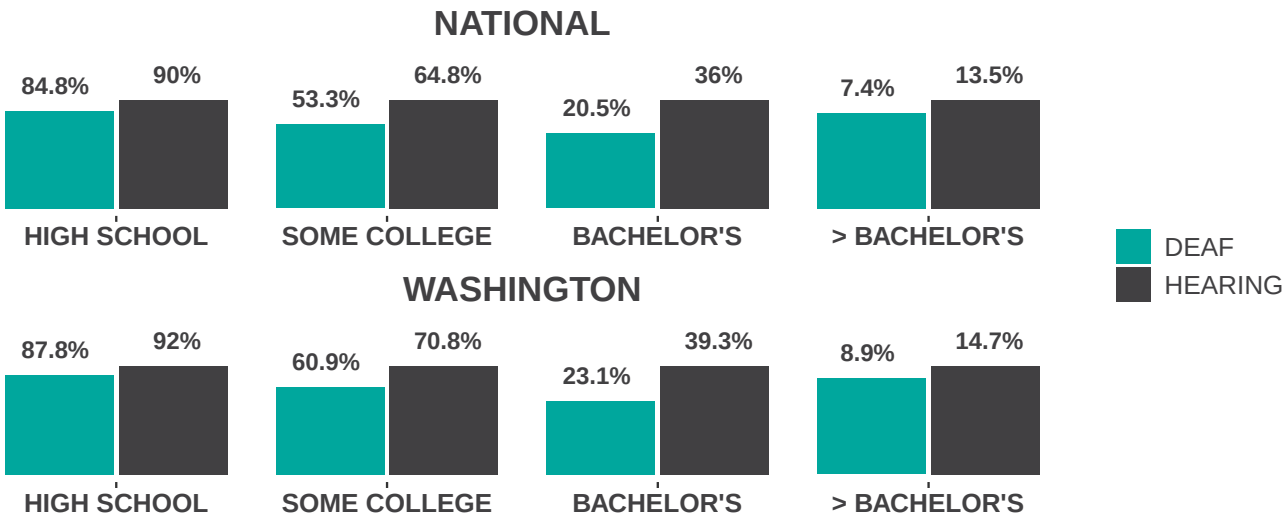


Figure 2
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN WASHINGTON BY GENDER

DEAF HEARING

	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME COLLEGE	BACHELOR'S	> BACHELOR'S
DEAF MEN	88.0%	60.0%	22.3%	8.2%
HEARING MEN	91.1%	67.8%	37.4%	13.6%
DEAF WOMEN	87.6%	62.4%	24.5%	10.0%
HEARING WOMEN	93.0%	74.0%	41.2%	15.9%

Figure 3

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN WASHINGTON BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

DEAF HEARING

	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME COLLEGE	BACHELOR'S	> BACHELOR'S
ASIAN DEAF	– –	– –	– –	– –
ASIAN HEARING	92.6%	79.3%	59.6%	29.7%
BLACK DEAF	– –	– –	– –	– –
BLACK HEARING	91.5%	66.1%	26.8%	9.3%
LATINX DEAF	61.8%	38.0%	12.6%	6.5%
LATINX HEARING	70.9%	44.8%	19.3%	6.1%
MULTIRACIAL DEAF	– –	– –	– –	– –
MULTIRACIAL HEARING	95.0%	74.0%	38.2%	12.5%
NATIVE AMERICAN DEAF	– –	– –	– –	– –
NATIVE AMERICAN HEARING	86.5%	53.1%	15.9%	6.5%
WHITE DEAF	90.9%	63.0%	23.8%	8.6%
WHITE HEARING	95.5%	74.3%	40.5%	14.4%
BIPOC DEAF	78.2%	54.4%	21.0%	9.7%
BIPOC HEARING	85.0%	64.0%	36.8%	15.5%

Many deaf people have additional disabilities of varying types, which contribute to their unique strengths and needs. National data show that 46.1% of deaf people have any type of additional disability. Across the nation, deaf people with additional disabilities experience more barriers in educational systems, which results in lower educational attainment rates. Educational attainment varies by type of disability.

Figure 4

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN WASHINGTON BY DISABILITY

	HIGH SCHOOL	SOME COLLEGE	BACHELOR'S	> BACHELOR'S
DEAFBLIND	81.3%	48%	16.6%	6.9%
DEAFDISABLED	82.8%	54.5%	13.7%	4.2%
DEAF WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DISABILITY	91.8%	67.2%	28.9%	11.4%

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Deaf people receive supplemental security income (SSI) benefits at different rates across the nation. Among the deaf population ages 16–64 , 10.8% are recipients of SSI benefits, while in Washington, 9.8% of deaf people receive SSI benefits.

EMPLOYMENT RATES

On the national level, fewer deaf people have jobs than their hearing peers. Almost half of deaf people are not in the labor force. The data shown below show how your state compares to national employment rates. Employment also varies across gender, race, ethnicity, and disability. More detailed statistics are on the **NDC Data Dashboard**.

Figure 5
EMPLOYMENT RATES

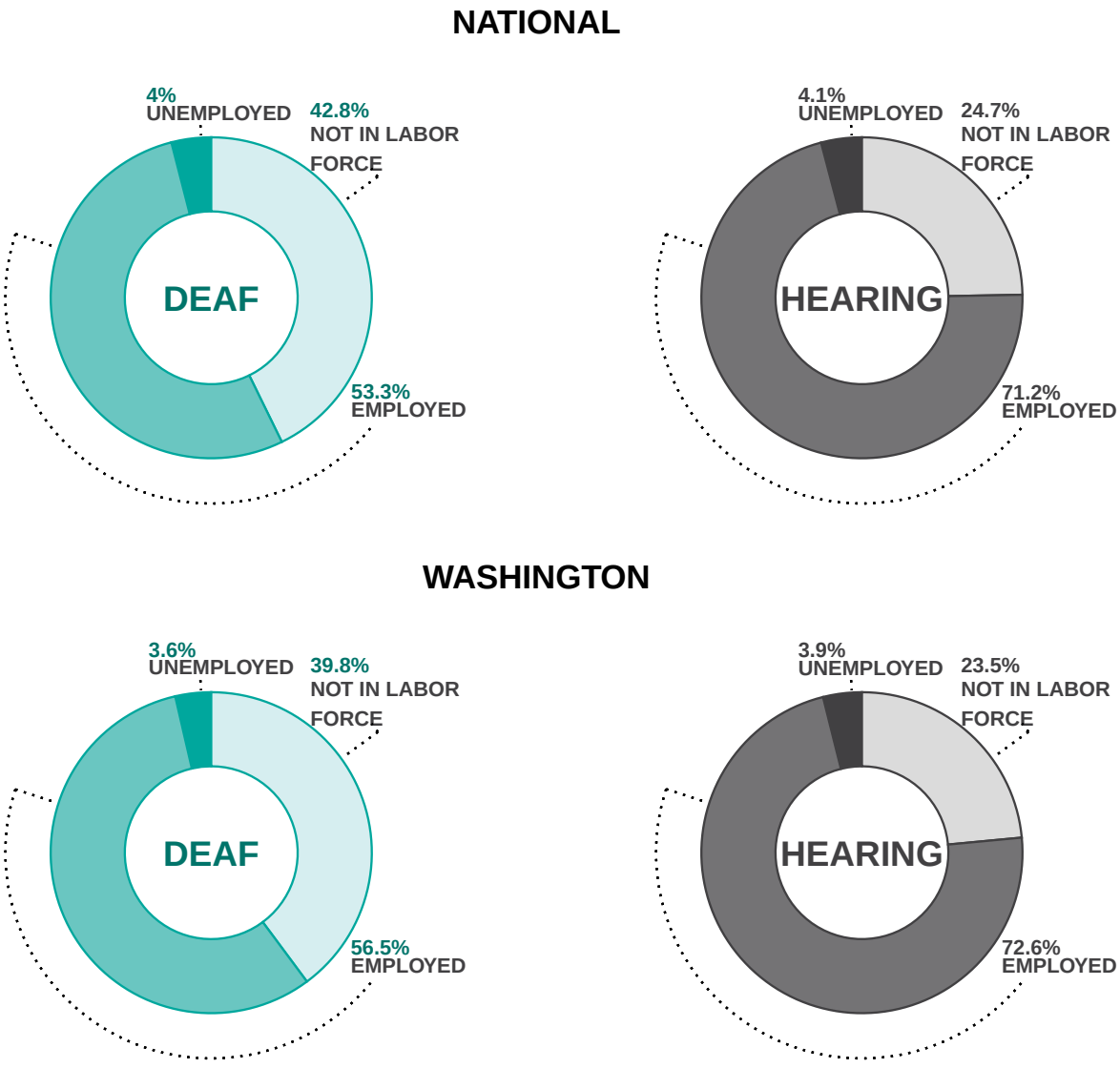


Figure 6

EMPLOYMENT RATES IN WASHINGTON BY GENDER

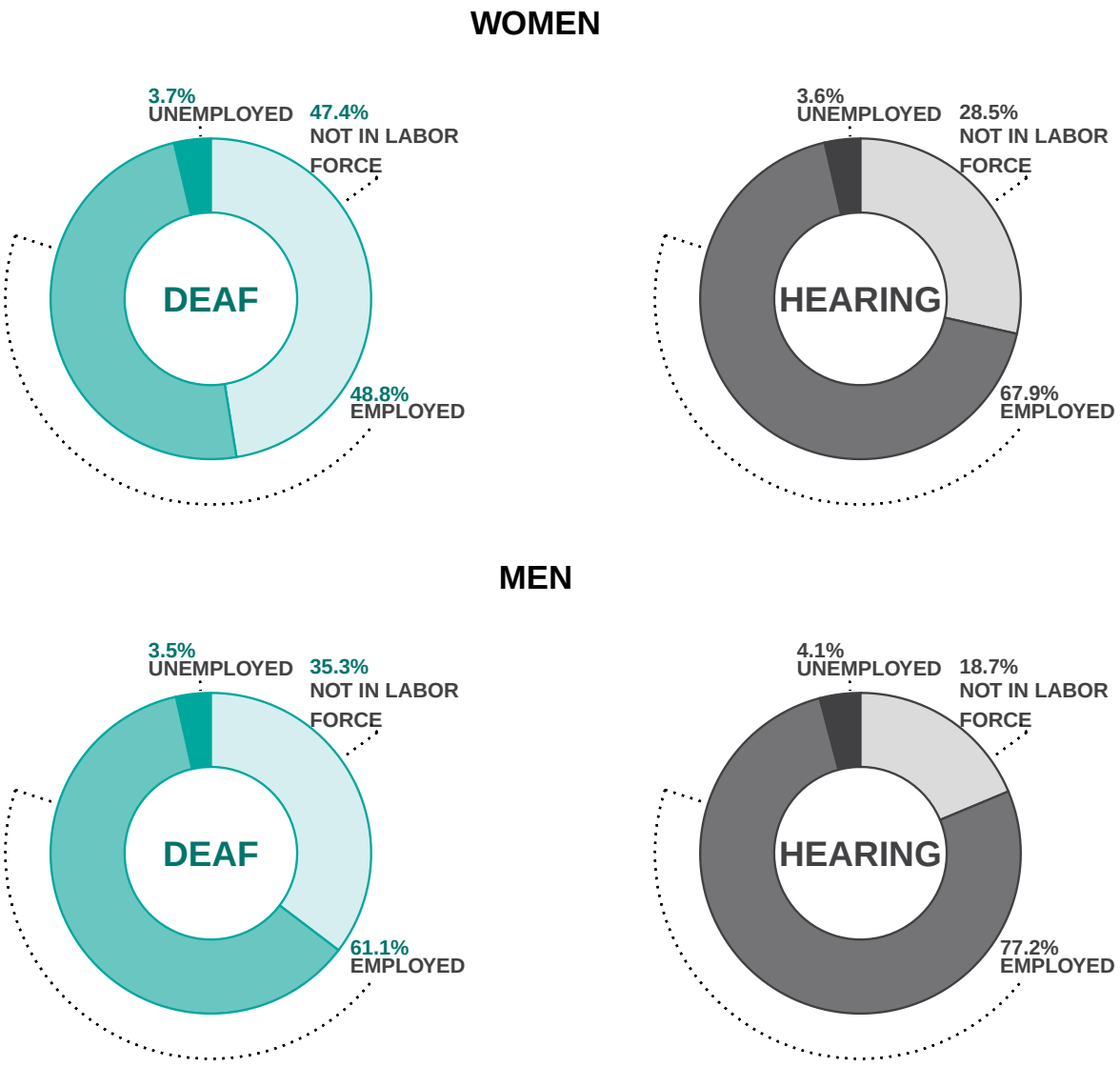


Figure 7

EMPLOYMENT RATES IN WASHINGTON BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

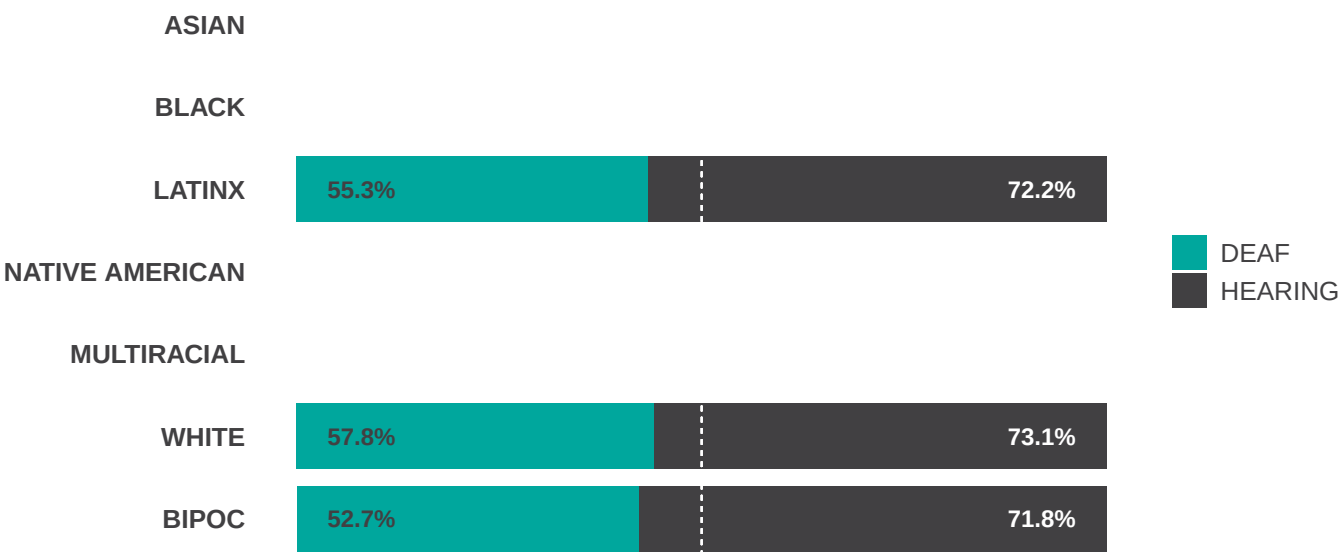


Figure 8

EMPLOYMENT RATES IN WASHINGTON BY DISABILITY

41%
DEAFBLIND

31%
DEAFDISABLED

72%
DEAF WITH NO ADDITIONAL DISABILITY

EARNINGS

National data show lower median earnings among deaf people who are employed full-time. Earnings also vary across gender, race, ethnicity, and disability status.

Figure 9

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE

Figure 10

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON BY GENDER

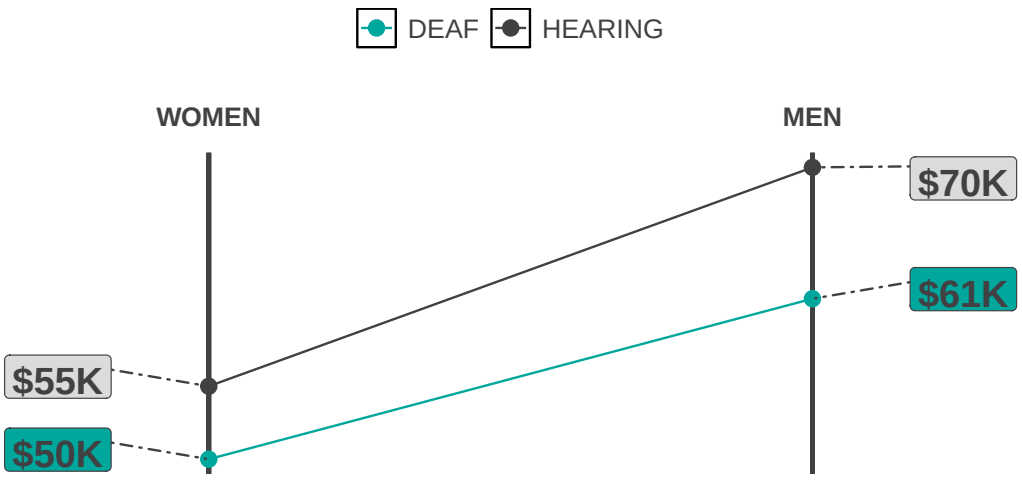


Figure 11

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

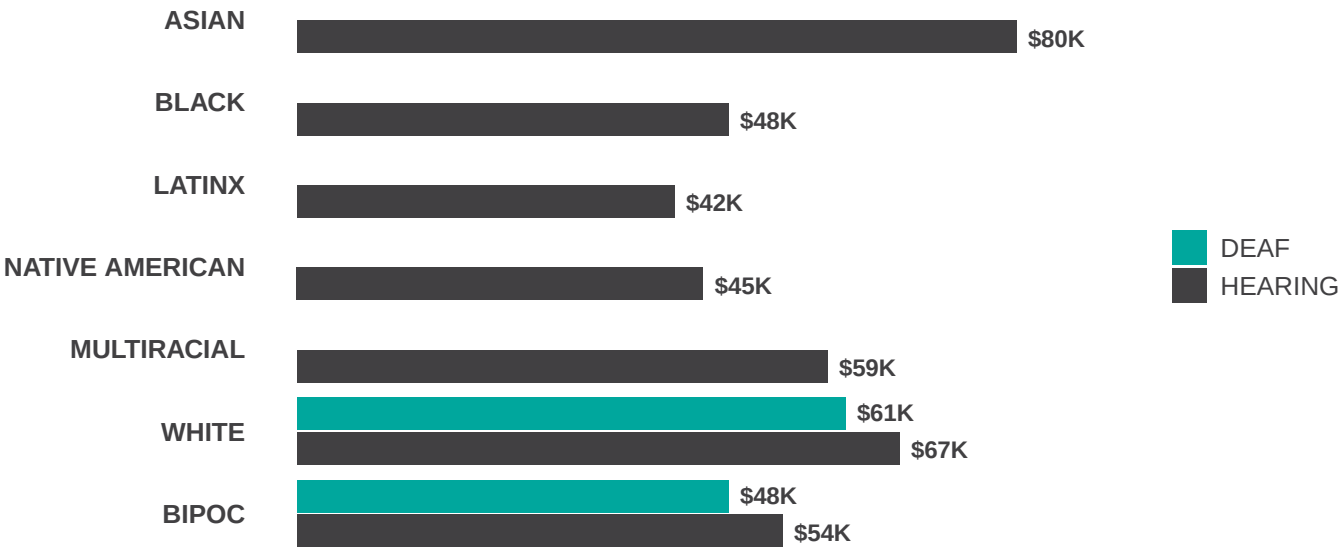
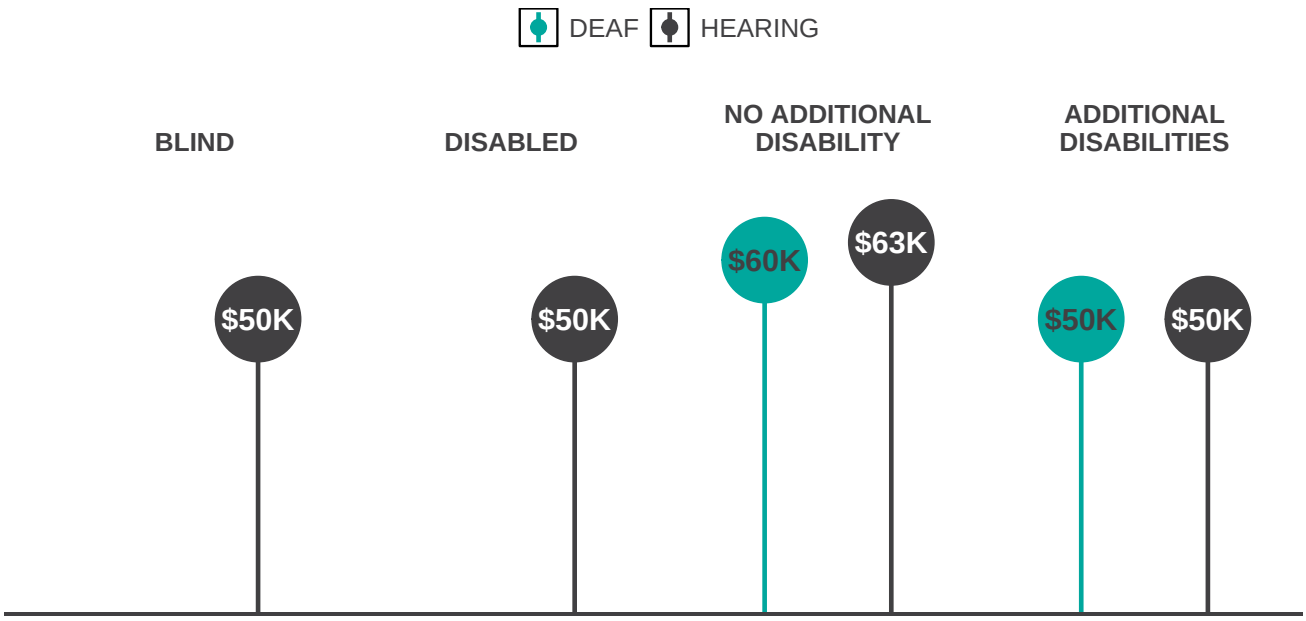


Figure 12

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON BY DISABILITY



METHOD

Where do this data come from?

The data for this report come 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**.

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 are 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 Question, visit our website: **www.nationaldeafcenter.org/datafaqs**

Technical Information

- Dataset: Public Microdata Sample (PUMS), 5-year Estimates (2018-2022)
- Age Range: 16–64 for employment data, 25-64 for educational data
- Weighting: Person Weight (PWGT)
- Sample Size: 5,175 (Washington), 204,120 (United States)
- Minimum sample size to report: 351
- Maximum relative standard error to report: 30%

THIS REPORT MAY BE CITED AS:

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