

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Disability Prevalence is Rising Alongside Employment](#)

Article Link: <https://www.briefingbook.info/p/disability-prevalence-is-rising-alongside>

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Tweet: [@kevinrinz documents a 25% increase since February 2020 in the share of the prime-age US population having serious trouble with concentrating, remembering, or making decisions.](#)

Summary: The increase in disability reporting has been especially pronounced among people aged 25-54 (the so-called prime-age population). This group has also seen its disability rate rise by about 0.9pp but from a lower base. This increase brings the prime-age disability rate to 6.9% over the last three months, corresponds to nearly 1.3mm additional prime-age people with disabilities, and represents a 16% increase in that population. Even though cognitive difficulties are more common among older people, the increases in cognitive difficulties seen since the onset of the pandemic have been driven by younger people. Since February 2020, rates of cognitive difficulties have increased by about 1.1 percentage points among people 16-24 and 25-34 and by 0.7 percentage points among people 35-44, in each case representing at least a 25 percent increase in prevalence. Related: The Teen Mental Illness Epidemic is International, Part 1: The Anglosphere and Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Primary Topic: Unemployment/Participation

Topics: Op-Ed/Blog Post, Unemployment/Participation, Workforce

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