

# Americans With Disabilities: 2005

## Household Economic Studies

Issued December 2008

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Recent public policy in the United States concerning disability has focused on improving the socioeconomic conditions for people with disabilities. Increasing access to employment opportunities by reducing discrimination and providing public services are the centerpieces of the New Freedom Initiative, which renewed the government's commitment to the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).<sup>1</sup> For years, the ADA has mandated that people with disabilities be afforded legal protections and provided with essential public services. In addition to these provisions, the ADA provides a definition for people with disabilities, in part, as those who have "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities."<sup>2</sup> Other federal laws that offer guidance on issues affecting people with disabilities include the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>3</sup>

In order to assist governmental agencies and advocacy and research organizations that monitor the efficacy of these laws, programs, and policies, as well as the public at large, this report provides estimates of the socioeconomic characteristics of people with disabilities. In addition, since many of the programs and

policies target specific groups, this report provides estimates for different categories of disability—from specific activity limitations to the broad category of "with any disability." This report is an update of *Americans with Disabilities: 2002*, which presented similar estimates of disability as this report.<sup>4</sup> As such, this report includes some comparisons of prevalence estimates between two reports.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), through its supplemental questionnaires on adult and child functional limitations, asks questions about the ability of respondents to perform functional and participatory activities. When a respondent indicates having difficulty performing an activity, a follow-up question is usually asked to determine the severity of the limitation. The responses to these and other related questions are used to develop two overall measures of disability—severe disability and nonsevere disability—described in Figure 1. Throughout this report, these terms will be used to allow analysis of subsets of people with disabilities.

The estimates shown in this report use data collected from June through September 2005 during the fifth interview of the 2004 SIPP panel. The SIPP provides estimates representative of the civilian non-institutionalized population living in the United States (the population universe), meaning that the disability statuses of people living in institutional group

## Current Population Reports

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<sup>1</sup> *Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals With Disabilities*, Exec. Order No. 13217, June 18, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12102(2)(A).

<sup>3</sup> *A Guide to Disability Rights Laws: September 2005*, available at <[www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm)>, describes the federal laws that specifically address the interests of people with disabilities.

<sup>4</sup> Erika Steinmetz, *Americans with Disabilities: 2002, Current Population Reports, P70-107*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2006. See <[www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p70-107.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p70-107.pdf)>.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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Figure 1.

### Definition of Disability, Functional Limitations, Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)

A person has a disability if they have either a ☒ or ✓

☒ = Person is defined as having a nonsevere disability

✓ = Person is defined as having a severe disability

Types of disabilities	Age			
	Under 3	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 and over
Used a wheelchair, a cane, crutches, or a walker			✓	✓
Had difficulty performing one or more functional activities (seeing, hearing, speaking, lifting/carrying, using stairs, walking, or grasping small objects)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more of the functional activities				✓
Had difficulty with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs), which includes getting around inside the home, getting in or out of bed or a chair, bathing, dressing, eating, and toileting			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more ADLs			✓	✓
Had difficulty with one or more instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), which includes going outside the home, keeping track of money and bills, preparing meals, doing light housework, taking prescription medicines in the right amount at the right time, and using the telephone				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more IADLs				✓
Had one or more specified conditions: a learning disability or some other type of mental or emotional condition			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Had one or more specified conditions: mental retardation or another developmental disability, or Alzheimer's disease				✓
Had any other mental or emotional condition that seriously interfered with everyday activities				✓
Had a condition that limited the ability to work around the house or made it difficult to remain employed				✓
Had one or more specified conditions: autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, or another developmental disability			✓	
Had difficulty performing one or more functional activities (seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, running, or taking part in sports)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Unable to perform or needed help to perform one or more of the functional activities			✓	
Developmental delay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Difficulty walking, running, or playing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Difficulty moving arms or legs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Note: The concepts and methods used to define "disability," ADLs, or IADLs are not unique to this report. The definitions for ADLs and IADLs are consistent with those used by other agencies, including the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey and the National Health Interview Survey. See *Related Materials* and Appendix A, *Background on the Concept of Disability in Four National Household Surveys*, for more details about the questionnaire or definitions of disability.

Table 1.  
**Selected Disability Measures by Selected Age Groups: 2005**

(Numbers in thousands)

Category	Number		Percentage	
	Estimate	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>All ages</b> .....	<b>291,099</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	54,430	936	18.7	0.3
Severe disability .....	34,953	779	12.0	0.3
<b>Aged 6 and older</b> .....	<b>266,752</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Needed personal assistance with an ADL or IADL .....	10,999	456	4.1	0.2
<b>Aged 15 and older</b> .....	<b>230,391</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	49,073	898	21.3	0.4
Severe disability .....	32,776	757	14.2	0.3
Difficulty seeing .....	7,794	386	3.4	0.2
Severe difficulty seeing .....	1,783	186	0.8	0.1
Difficulty hearing .....	7,809	386	3.4	0.2
Severe difficulty hearing .....	992	139	0.4	0.1
<b>Aged 21 to 64</b> .....	<b>170,349</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	28,145	708	16.5	0.4
Employed .....	12,836	491	45.6	1.3
Nonsevere disability .....	9,435	423	5.5	0.2
Employed .....	7,099	369	75.2	2.0
Severe disability .....	18,710	587	11.0	0.3
Employed .....	5,737	332	30.7	1.5
No disability .....	142,204	1,219	83.5	0.4
Employed .....	118,702	1,191	83.5	0.4
<b>Aged 65 and older</b> .....	<b>35,028</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	18,133	578	51.8	1.2
Severe disability .....	12,943	493	36.9	1.1

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> A 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7\(S&A-7\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7(S&A-7).pdf)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

quarters, such as nursing homes, are not included in this report.

About 49.4 percent of people age 5 and over living in institutional group quarters reported a disability in the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS).<sup>5</sup> As demonstrated in the ACS, when the institutionalized population is included in the population universe, the estimate of disability prevalence was 15.7 percent, 0.6 percentage points higher than the civilian noninstitutionalized population at 15.1 percent.

<sup>5</sup> Matthew Brault, *Disability Status and the Characteristics of People in Group Quarters: A Brief Analysis of Disability Prevalence Among the Civilian Noninstitutionalized and Total Populations in the American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2008.

As such, had this population been included in this report, estimates of disability prevalence may have been higher.

## HIGHLIGHTS<sup>6</sup>

- Of the 291.1 million people in the population in 2005, 54.4 million (18.7 percent) had some level of disability and 35.0

<sup>6</sup> The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates of two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

million (12.0 percent) had a severe disability (Table A).<sup>7</sup>

- Of people 6 years and older, 11.0 million people (4.1 percent) needed personal assistance with one or more Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).
- Among the population 15 years and older, 7.8 million people (3.4 percent) had difficulty seeing words or letters in ordinary newspaper print, and 1.8 million of these people reported being unable to see.

<sup>7</sup> In this report, the term "population" always refers to the civilian noninstitutionalized population. See the *Source and Accuracy* section of the report for more information.

- An estimated 7.8 million people 15 years and older (3.4 percent) had difficulty hearing a normal conversation, and 1.0 million of these reported being unable to hear.
- Of the population aged 21 to 64, 28.1 million people (16.5 percent) had a disability, and 45.6 percent of this group were employed. The employment rate was 30.7 percent for people with a severe disability, compared with rates of 75.2 percent for people with a nonsevere disability and 83.5 percent for people with no disability.
- Among people aged 65 and older, 18.1 million people (51.8 percent) had a disability. About 12.9 million people 65 years and older (36.9 percent) had a severe disability.

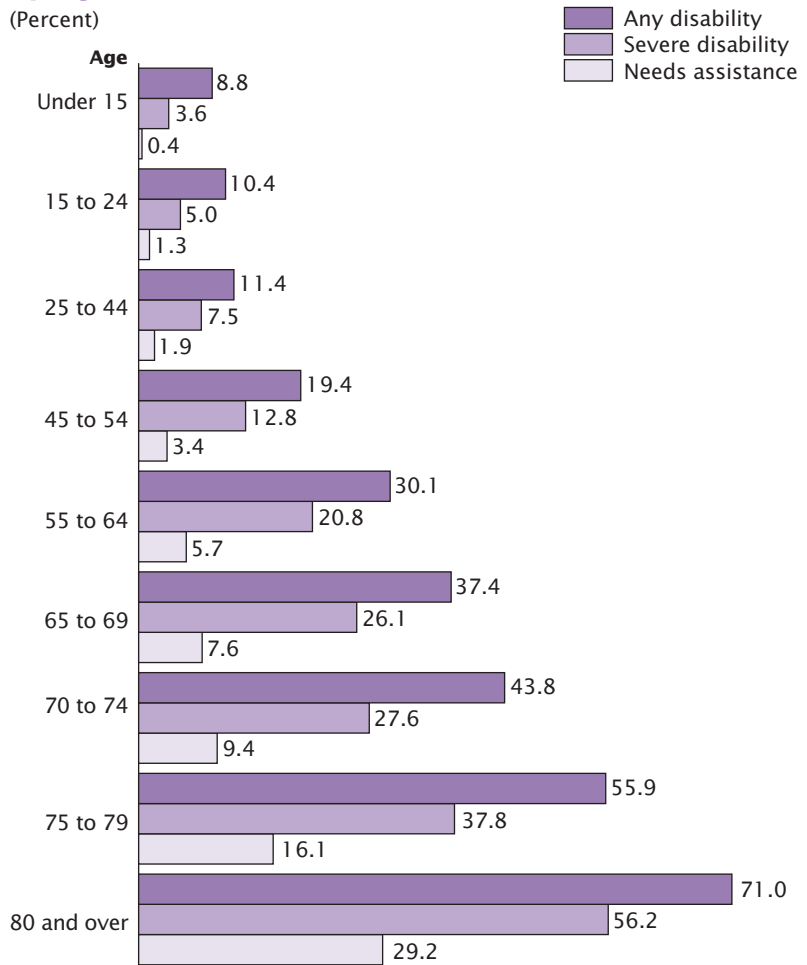
## DISABILITY PREVALENCE

Of the 291.1 million people in the 2005 population of the United States, 54.4 million, or 18.7 percent, reported some level of disability (Table A). Among this population, 34.9 million (12.0 percent of all people) reported a severe disability. Both the number and percent of people with any disability was higher in 2005 than in 2002—51.2 million people and 18.1 percent in 2002. The number and percent of people with a severe disability was also higher in 2005 than in 2002.<sup>8</sup> Of people aged 6 years and older, approximately 11.0 million people (4.1 percent) reported needing assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs, not statistically different from those in 2002.

As age increases so does the prevalence of disability. As shown

<sup>8</sup> For 2002 estimates of any disability, severe disability, and need for personal assistance, see Table A from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

Figure 2.  
**Disability Prevalence and the Need for Assistance by Age: 2005**



Note: The need for assistance with activities of daily living was not asked of children under 6 years.

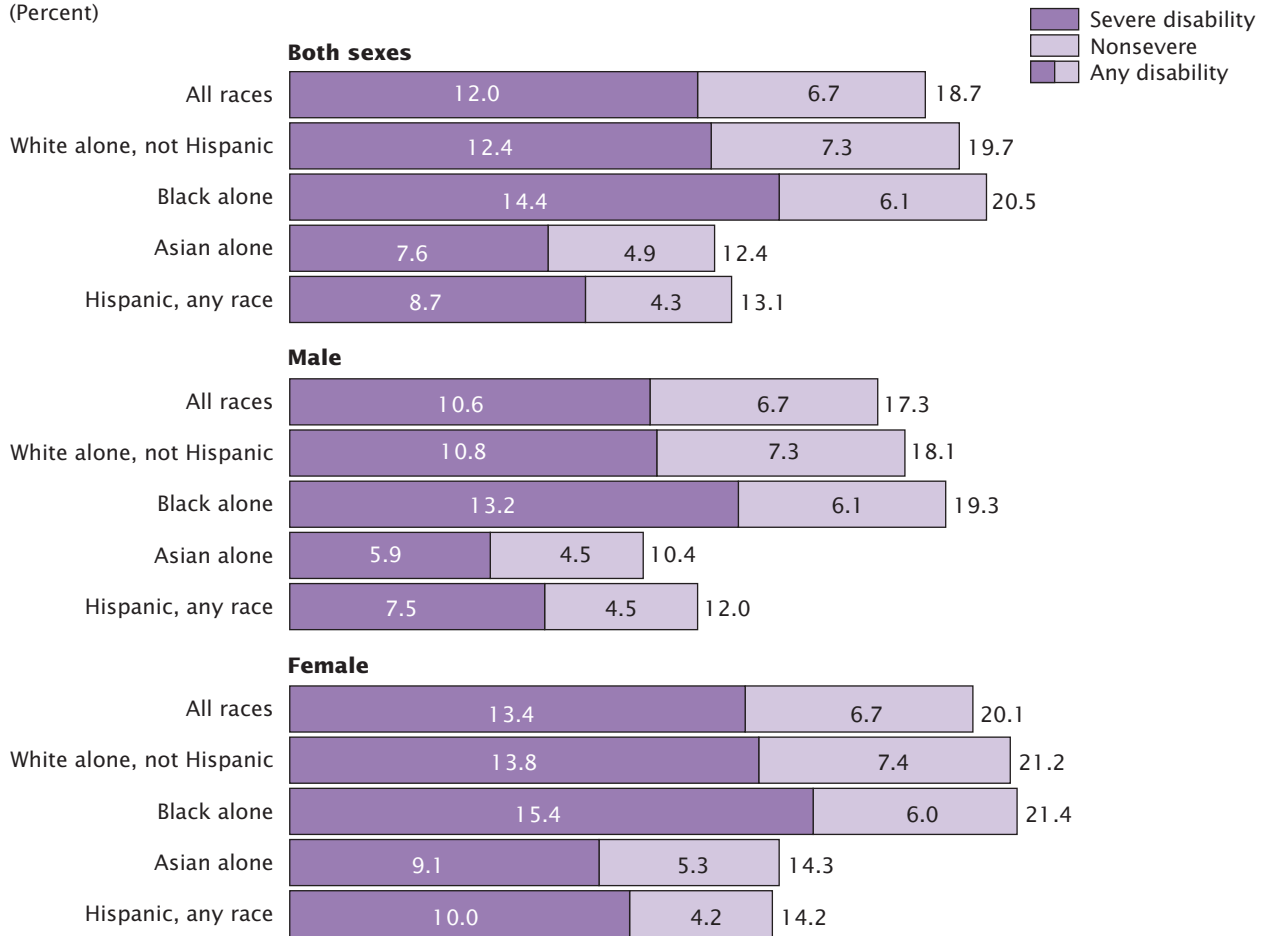
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

in Figure 2, the disability rate for each age group was higher than the rates for the younger age groups, with people 80 years and older having the highest incidence of disability at 71.0 percent. At a rate of 30.1 percent, people aged 55 to 64 were nearly three times as likely to have a disability as people aged 15 to 24 (10.4 percent). An increase in the likelihood of severe disability was also seen in successively older age groups ranging from 3.6 percent for the population

under 15 years to 56.2 percent for the population 80 years and older. Transitions into nursing facilities amongst older people with disabilities, and subsequently out of the population universe, may lessen the magnitude of increases in disability prevalence for older populations as 97.3 percent of people in nursing facilities had a disability and the median age of this population was 83.2 years.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Brault, *Disability*, p.11.

Figure 3.  
**Disability Prevalence by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2005**  
 (Percent)



Note: Federal surveys, including the SIPP, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive with other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This figure shows race using the first method. Hispanic origin is not mutually exclusive with race. The percentages of severe and nonsevere disability may not sum to the percentage with any disability due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

Differences in disability were also present when looking at prevalence by sex, race, and Hispanic origin.<sup>10</sup> Shown in Figure 3, Blacks had a higher prevalence of disability (20.5 percent) than Asians (12.4 percent) and Hispanics (13.1

percent), and were not statistically different from non-Hispanic Whites (19.7 percent). The prevalence of disability among Asians was not statistically different from that of Hispanics. With a disability rate of 20.1 percent, females were more likely to have a disability than males (17.3 percent).<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the percentage with a disability for females was higher than

that of males for each race group and Hispanics.

Blacks also had the highest rate of severe disability at 14.4 percent, compared with non-Hispanic Whites at 12.4 percent and Asians at 7.6 percent, as shown in Figure 3. Hispanics had a severe disability rate of 8.7 percent.<sup>12</sup> Severe disability was more prevalent among females

<sup>10</sup> Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

<sup>11</sup> The percentage of females with a disability was not statistically different from that of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites.

<sup>12</sup> The percentage of Hispanics with a severe disability was not statistically different from that of Asians.

(13.4 percent) than males (10.6 percent). Like the overall disability rate, the percentage of females with a severe disability was higher than that of males for each race group and Hispanics.

The previous paragraphs discussed sex, race, and Hispanic origin separately from age. Many of the differences between the disability rates by race and Hispanic origin can be attributed to differences in the age distributions of their populations. For example, Hispanics are predominantly younger than non-Hispanic Whites—roughly 6 percent of Hispanics are 65 years or older compared with 15 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>13</sup> Likewise, higher disability rates for females are associated with proportionally larger groups of older women than older men—there are almost 6 million more females than males aged 65 and older.<sup>14</sup>

## SPECIFIC MEASURES OF DISABILITY

### Limitations in Seeing, Hearing, and Speaking

As shown in Table B-1, an estimated 6.4 percent of people 15 years old or over (14.7 million people) had difficulty seeing, hearing, or having their speech understood. About 7.8 million reported difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newsprint, even when wearing glasses or contacts (if normally worn). Of this group, 1.8 million reported being unable

to see printed words at all or blind. About 7.8 million people reported difficulty hearing a normal conversation, even when wearing a hearing aid (if normally worn); an estimated 1 million reported deafness or being unable to hear conversations at all.<sup>15</sup> About 2.5 million reported difficulty having their speech understood.<sup>16</sup>

The survey also asked respondents if they used a hearing aid, though this is not part of the definition of disability used in this report. Roughly 4.3 million people reported using a hearing aid, of whom 1.8 million indicated having difficulty hearing even when using the hearing aid.

### Upper and Lower Body Limitations

Of people aged 15 and older, 27.4 million (11.9 percent) had difficulty with ambulatory activities of the lower body, as shown in Table B-1. About 22.6 million people (9.8 percent) had difficulty walking a quarter of a mile; 12.7 million were not able to perform this activity. About 21.8 million people or (9.4 percent) had difficulty climbing a flight of stairs; 7.4 million of them were not able to do it at all.<sup>17</sup> Roughly 3.3 million people (1.4 percent) used a wheelchair or similar device and 10.2 million (4.4 percent) used a cane, crutches, or walker to assist with mobility.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The number of people who reported difficulty hearing was not statistically different from the number who reported difficulty seeing.

<sup>16</sup> The estimates of difficulty seeing, hearing, or speaking shown here were not statistically different from those in 2002. See Table B-2 from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

<sup>17</sup> The number and percentage of people with difficulty walking were not different from the number and percentage of people with difficulty climbing stairs.

<sup>18</sup> The estimates of difficulty with ambulatory activities, use of ambulatory aids, and difficulty with physical tasks shown in this section were not statistically different from those in 2002. See Table B-2 from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

Roughly 19.0 million people (8.2 percent) aged 15 and older experienced difficulty with certain upper body physical tasks. An estimated 15.9 million people (6.9 percent) had difficulty lifting a 10-pound bag of groceries; 7.6 million were not able to do it at all. About 7.1 million people (3.1 percent) had difficulty grasping objects like a glass or pencil; 687,000 of them were not able to do it at all.

In addition to these physical tasks, the survey asked about difficulty performing other tasks that were not included in the disability definition. About 22.5 million had difficulty moving a large object like a chair, 23.9 million had difficulty standing for an hour or longer, 9.9 million had difficulty sitting for an hour or longer, 27.4 million had difficulty crouching, and 11.7 million had difficulty reaching overhead.

### Personal Assistance

Survey respondents were asked about difficulty performing ADLs or IADLs and whether any assistance from another person was needed in order to perform the activities. ADL limitations included difficulty getting around inside the home, getting into or out of a bed or chair, taking a bath or shower, dressing, eating, and getting to or using the toilet. IADL limitations included difficulty going outside the home alone, managing finances, preparing meals, performing light housework, taking prescription medications, and using the telephone.

Table B-1 shows that 8.5 million people aged 15 and older (3.7 percent) had difficulty with one or more ADL limitations, of whom 4.5 million needed the assistance of another person to help perform the activity or activities. Roughly 13.7 million people (5.9 percent) had difficulty with one or more IADL

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Estimates of the White Alone Not Hispanic Population by Sex and Age for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007*, <[www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-04-WANH.xls](http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-04-WANH.xls)> and *Estimates of the Hispanic Population by Sex and Age for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007*, <[www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-04-HISP.xls](http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-04-HISP.xls)>.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Estimates of the Population by Sex and Selected Age Groups for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007*, <[www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-01.xls](http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2007/NC-EST2007-01.xls)>.



## Definitions of a Disability in a Communication, Mental, or Physical Domain

For people 15 years and older, types of disability were categorized into domains (communication, mental, or physical) according to the following criteria:

People with disabilities in the communication domain reported one or more of the following:

1. Difficulty seeing, hearing, or having their speech understood.
2. Being blind or deaf.
3. Blindness or a vision problem, deafness or a hearing problem, or a speech disorder as a condition contributing to a reported activity limitation.

People with disabilities in the mental domain reported one or more of the following:

1. A learning disability, mental retardation or another developmental disability, Alzheimer's disease, or some other type of mental or emotional condition.
2. Some other mental or emotional condition that seriously interfered with everyday activities.
3. Difficulty managing money/bills.

4. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, a learning disability, mental retardation, mental or emotional problems, senility, dementia, or Alzheimer's disease as a condition contributing to a reported activity limitation.

People with disabilities in the physical domain reported one or more of the following:

1. Use of a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or walker.
2. Difficulty walking a quarter of a mile, climbing a flight of stairs, lifting something as heavy as a 10-pound bag of groceries, grasping objects, or getting in or out of bed.
3. Arthritis or rheumatism, back or spine problems, broken bones or fractures, cancer, cerebral palsy, diabetes, epilepsy, head or spinal cord injury, heart trouble or atherosclerosis, hernia or rupture, high blood pressure, kidney problems, lung or respiratory problems, missing limbs, paralysis, stiffness or deformity of limbs, stomach/digestive problems, stroke, thyroid problems, or tumor/cyst/growth as a condition contributing to a reported activity limitation.

limitations, and 10.3 million of them needed assistance. Together, about 10.8 million people (4.7 percent) needed personal assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs.<sup>19</sup>

### Cognitive, Mental, and Emotional Functioning

People who had difficulty with cognitive, mental, or emotional functioning accounted for 7.0 percent of the population 15 years and older, or 16.1 million people (Table B-1). Of this group, 9.6 million reported one or more selected conditions that include a learning disability, mental retardation, Alzheimer's disease, senility, dementia, and other mental

or emotional conditions. About 8.4 million reported one or more selected symptoms that interfere with daily activities, which include frequently being depressed or anxious, trouble getting along with others, trouble concentrating, and trouble coping with stress. In addition, 5.1 million people reported difficulty managing finances.<sup>20</sup>

### Employment Limitations

Among people aged 16 to 64, 13.3 million, or 7.0 percent, reported difficulty finding a job or remaining employed due to a health related condition. Not included in the disability definition was a question asking if the respondent was

limited in the kind or amount of work they could do because of a physical, mental, or other health condition, to which about 22.7 million people (11.9 percent) reported that they had this limitation. The survey then followed up with a question about whether they were prevented from working, to which 13.3 million people (6.9 percent) responded in the affirmative.<sup>21</sup>

### Disability Domains

The many types of functional and activity limitations described in this report can be categorized into three disability domains: communication, mental, and physical. These three disability domains are defined

<sup>19</sup> The estimates of activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living shown here were not statistically different from those in 2002. See Table B-2 from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

<sup>20</sup> The estimates of limitations in cognitive, mental, and emotional functioning shown here were not statistically different from those in 2002. See Table B-2 from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

<sup>21</sup> The estimates of employment limitations shown here were not statistically different from those in 2002. See Table B-2 from *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* (P70-107).

in the text box above titled “Definitions of a Disability in a Communication, Mental, or Physical Domain.”

About 28.3 million people, or 12.3 percent of the population 15 and older, had disabilities in one domain—2.7 million in communication, 20.8 million in physical, and 4.9 million in mental (Table B-1). Of the 14.7 million people who had disabilities in two domains, 7.3 million had disabilities in communication and physical, 710,000 had disabilities in communication and mental, and 6.7 million had disabilities in physical and mental. About 4.7 million people had disabilities in all three domains. Roughly 1.3 million people had disabilities not categorized into a domain.

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### Poverty Status

As shown in Table B-2, among people aged 25 to 64 with a severe disability, 27.1 percent were in poverty, compared with 12.0 percent for people with a nonsevere disability and 9.1 percent for people with no disability. Among people aged 65 and older, the poverty rate was 10.1 percent for people with a severe disability, 8.5 percent for people with a nonsevere disability, and 6.6 percent for people with no disability.<sup>22</sup>

### Program Participation

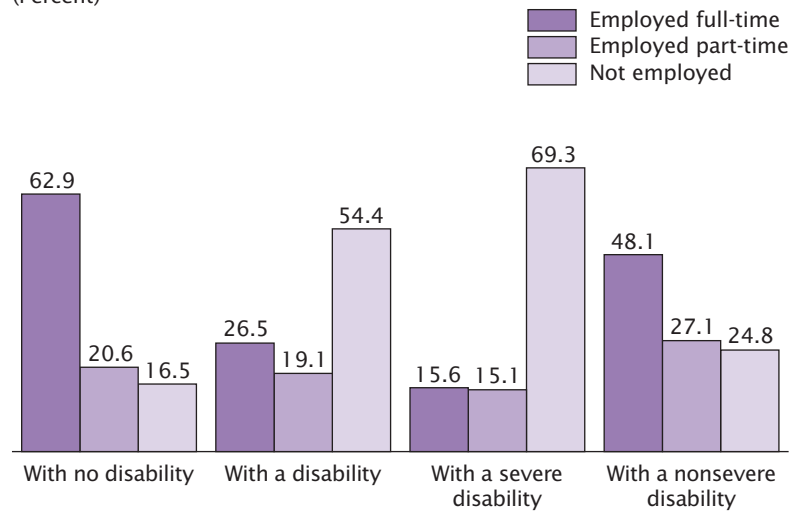
For the population aged 25 to 64 years, program participation through cash assistance, food stamps, and subsidized housing programs was more prevalent among people with a severe disability than people with a nonsevere disability and people with no disability. Table B-2 shows

<sup>22</sup> In the 65 and older age group, the poverty rates for people with severe and nonsevere disability were not statistically different.

Figure 4.

### Employment Status by Disability Status for Individuals 21 to 64 Years: 2005

(Percent)



Note: Not employed includes unemployed people and people not in the labor force.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

that 57.0 percent of people with a severe disability received some form of public assistance, compared with 16.3 percent of people with a nonsevere disability and 7.3 percent of people with no disability.

At 21.6 percent, people with a severe disability were about three times as likely to receive food stamps as people with a nonsevere disability (6.9 percent) and six times as likely as people with no disability (3.6 percent). The percentage of people with a severe disability residing in public or subsidized housing (12.1 percent) was also higher than percentages for people with a nonsevere disability and people with no disability—3.1 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

### Employment

Fewer than half (45.6 percent) of people with a disability between the ages of 21 and 64 were employed at the end of the interview period, shown in Table B-3.

People with a nonsevere disability were less likely to be employed than people with no disability, 75.2 percent and 83.5 percent, respectively. People reporting a severe disability were the least likely to be employed (30.7 percent). Figure 4 shows that for people with no disability, 62.9 percent worked full-time, while 48.1 percent of those with nonsevere disability and 15.6 percent of those with a severe disability worked full-time. More than two-thirds (69.3 percent) of people with a severe disability were not employed, compared with 24.8 percent of people with a nonsevere disability and 16.5 percent of people with no disability.

Employment also varied by specific disability type. At 59.1 percent, people with difficulty hearing were more likely to be employed than people with difficulty seeing, at 40.8 percent. Of people with one or more ADL limitations, 19.5 percent were employed, not statistically different from 22.2 percent of people



with an IADL limitation. People with a disability in one domain were more likely to be employed (51.5 percent) than people with a disability in two domains (40.0 percent) and about twice as likely as people with a disability in three domains (25.1 percent).

### Monthly Earnings and Family Income

Median monthly earnings were \$1,458 for people with a severe disability, \$2,250 for people with a nonsevere disability, and \$2,539 for people with no disability.<sup>23</sup> The median monthly earnings for people with difficulty seeing was \$1,932, lower than the median monthly earnings for people with difficulty hearing at \$2,252.<sup>24</sup> People who needed assistance with an ADL had median monthly earnings of \$1,412, not statistically different from the median monthly earnings for people who needed assistance with an IADL.<sup>25</sup> For people with a disability in one domain, the median monthly earnings were \$2,000—higher than that of people with a disability in two domains (\$1,766) and people with a disability in three domains (\$1,210).

People with a severe disability had a median monthly family income of \$2,182, compared with \$3,801 for people with a nonsevere disability and \$4,669 for people with no disability. People with difficulty hearing had higher median monthly family income (\$3,162) than people

with difficulty seeing (\$2,188).<sup>26</sup> The median monthly family income for people with a disability in one domain was \$3,049, higher than \$2,252 for people with a disability in two domains and \$1,743 for people with a disability in three domains.

### CHILDREN

Disability is categorized differently for children than for adults, primarily due to differences in the types of functions and activities in which they participate. The SIPP supplemental questionnaire on the functional limitations of children asked a different set of questions to determine disability status for this population. For children under 3 years old, disability is based on whether the child has a developmental delay or has difficulty moving his or her arms or legs. Disability status for children 3 to 5 years considers whether they have a developmental delay or have difficulty walking, running, or playing. Those with difficulty with these activities are considered to have a disability. In 2005, parents reported 228,000 children under 3 years old (1.9 percent) with a disability and 475,000 children 3 to 5 years (3.8 percent) with a disability.

For children 6 to 14 years old, the definition of disability is broader, including communication-related difficulties, mental or emotion conditions, difficulty doing regular schoolwork, difficulty getting along with other children, difficulty walking or running, use of some assistive devices, and difficulty with ADLs. Of the 36.4 million children 6 to 14 years old, 4.7 million (12.8 percent) had a disability, and 1.6

million (4.4 percent) had a severe disability.

Of the specific aspects of disability covered in the survey for children 6 to 14 years, difficulty doing regular schoolwork was the most prevalent at 7.0 percent (2.5 million children). About 5.8 percent of children had one or more selected developmental conditions. These children included 2.8 percent with a learning disability; 0.5 percent with mental retardation; 1.0 percent with some other developmental disability such as autism or cerebral palsy; and 2.9 percent with some other developmental condition that required therapy or diagnostic services.<sup>27</sup>

About 0.8 percent of children in this age group had difficulty seeing, 0.7 percent had difficulty hearing, and 2.0 percent had difficulty having their speech understood. About 748,000 children (2.1 percent) had difficulty walking or running, and 263,000 children (0.7 percent) had difficulty with an ADL.<sup>28</sup>

### RELATED MATERIALS

This report updates estimates shown in the Census Bureau reports *Americans With Disabilities: 2002*, Series P70-107; *Americans With Disabilities: 1997*, Series P70-73; *Americans With Disabilities: 1994-95*, Series P70-61; and *Americans With Disabilities: 1991-92*, Series P70-33; located online at <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/disability.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/disability.html)>.

<sup>23</sup> Median monthly earnings were based on the personal earnings in the last month of the interview period of people who reported employment that same month.

<sup>24</sup> The median monthly earnings of people who had difficulty hearing was not statistically different from the earnings of those with a nonsevere disability.

<sup>25</sup> The median monthly earnings of people who needed assistance with an ADL was not statistically different from the earnings of those with a severe disability.

<sup>26</sup> The median monthly family income of people with difficulty seeing was not statistically different from that of people with a severe disability.

<sup>27</sup> The percentage of children with a learning disability was not statistically different from the percentage of children with some other developmental condition.

<sup>28</sup> The percentage of children with difficulty seeing, the percentage with difficulty hearing, and the percentage with an ADL were not statistically different from one another. The percentage of children with difficulty having their speech understood was not statistically different from the percentage with difficulty walking or running.

The definitions of disability in this report and in *Americans With Disabilities: 2002* differ slightly from prior reports. In earlier reports, the following situations were used to determine disability status: (1) a condition that limited the kind or amount of work or prevented a person from working at a job or business for people aged 16 to 67, or (2) receipt of federal benefits in the form of Medicare or Supplemental Security Income based on the inability to work. Estimates of income and earnings in this report use only data from the last month of the interview period, which produce estimates that differ from those in prior reports. Additional tables presenting disability information from the SIPP to accompany this report are also available on the Disability website at <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/disability.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/disability.html)>. The disability questions included in the SIPP Wave 5 Topical Module can be located online at <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/top\\_mod/2004/quests/2004w5tm.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/top_mod/2004/quests/2004w5tm.pdf)>.

Appendix A of this report presents an overview of disability measurement in four major national household surveys: SIPP, ACS, the Current Population Survey (CPS), and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The section briefly describes the disability questions in each survey and discusses some future developments related to the integration of the ACS disability measure into other surveys. Finally, the appendix provides references for additional information.

## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

### Source of the Data

The population represented (population universe) in the 2004 SIPP is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United

States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-months intervals. The data in this report were collected from June through September 2005 in the fifth wave (interview) of the 2004 SIPP. For the 2004 SIPP Panel, approximately 62,700 housing units were in sample for Wave 1. Of the 51,400 eligible units, 43,700 units were interviewed. In the fifth wave, about 37,400 housing units were interviewed. All household members aged 15 and older were eligible to be interviewed, with proxy response permitted for household members not available at the time of interview. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized population in Census 2000).

### Accuracy of the Estimates

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers

and coders, and statistical review of reports. The SIPP weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in this survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparison across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/source.html)> or contact Sam Sae-Ung of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division by e-mail <[Smanchai.Sae.Ung@census.gov](mailto:Smanchai.Sae.Ung@census.gov)> or at 301-763-4221.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf)> (SIPP Quality Profile), and <[www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf](http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf)> (SIPP User's Guide).

For further information on the content of the report, contact Matthew Brault of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division by e-mail <[Matthew.W.Brault@census.gov](mailto:Matthew.W.Brault@census.gov)> or at 301-763-3213.

### Suggested Citation

Brault, Matthew, *Americans With Disabilities: 2005*, Current Population Reports, P70-117, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2008.

## Appendix A.

### BACKGROUND ON THE CONCEPT OF DISABILITY IN FOUR NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Disability is difficult to define and is no longer considered a characteristic defined by a medical condition alone.<sup>29</sup> Many in the data-user community are now saying that “disability” is an umbrella term, encompassing a range of situations. The group often identified as “people with disabilities” is quite heterogeneous. The individuals vary in their basic functional abilities and adaptation methods and they face different types of barriers to participation in school, work, and social activities.

Any survey hoping to measure this group faces a number of challenges, such as answering the fundamental questions “What is a disability?” and “What aspects of the disablement process can we capture in this survey?” In some cases, respondents may be offended by the way surveys have approached them.

The four surveys discussed here are evolving to meet the needs of the users of disability data. Agencies providing support services to people with disability are looking to identify and understand their current and potential clients. Advocates may want to identify pressing issues, like educational or earnings parity. These surveys continue to try to provide a measure of disability for these uses, while keeping up with changing expectations and definitions.

As described in the text box “Overview of Four National Household

Surveys” and the following text, each of these surveys currently uses (or plans to add) a measure to assess whether people with disabilities have the same access to educational, occupational, and community involvement opportunities as people without disabilities. This approach to assessing disability attempts to identify people who, in the absence of accommodation, would be likely to experience an activity or participation limitation.

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) reports on “disability-related” issues in its “Summary of Health Statistics for the United States.” In that report series, measures of “limitation in usual activities” are based on a series of questions concerning limitation(s) in a person’s ability to engage in work, school, play, or other functional and participatory activities for health reasons; the specific conditions causing the limitation(s); and the duration of these condition(s). Conditions lasting more than 3 months are classified as chronic; selected conditions (e.g., arthritis, diabetes, cancer, heart conditions) are considered chronic regardless of duration.

NHIS reports activities of daily living (ADLs) limitations based on the question “Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, does ... need the help of other persons with PERSONAL CARE NEEDS, such as eating, bathing, dressing, or getting around inside the home?” It reports instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) limitations based on the question “Because of a physical, mental, or emotional

problem, does ... need the help of other persons in handling ROUTINE NEEDS, such as everyday household chores, doing necessary business, shopping, or getting around for other purposes?” These are screener questions, which then lead to a set of questions about difficulty with the specific activities that encompass daily living.

The American Community Survey (ACS) questionnaires for 2000 through 2007 used two summary questions to measure ADL and IADL limitations, referred to in ACS documentation as self-care and go-outside-home disabilities. The other four questions broadly cover disabilities in the three domains described earlier in this report—communication, physical, and mental. An advantage to using the ACS is its ability to generate estimates at state-, county-, and place-level geographies due to its large sample size—approximately 250,000 households per month.

In contrast, the SIPP questionnaire on functional limitations used in this report covers similar activity limitations in a slightly different way. For example, the SIPP collects ADL limitation information on a series of activities beginning with a lead-in question, “Because of a physical or mental health condition, do you have difficulty doing any of the following by yourself?” It then lists a series of activities, allowing for a “yes” or “no” answer to each activity (e.g. “taking a bath or shower” or “dressing”). Each “yes” response is followed by a question asking if the respondent needs the help of another person to do the activity.

<sup>29</sup> Pfeiffer, David, “The problem of disability definition: again”, *Disability and Rehabilitation*, Vol. 21, No. 8, Aug. 1999, pp 392-395.

## Overview of Four National Household Surveys

National survey	Summary of disability-related items	Brief comments
<b>ACS</b> —2001 through 2007 data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.</li> <li>▪ A condition limiting one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.</li> </ul> <p>Difficulty with any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Learning, remembering, or concentrating.</li> <li>▪ Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.</li> <li>▪ Going outside the home to shop or visit a doctor's office.</li> <li>▪ Working at a job or business.</li> </ul>	<p>Rooted in Census 2000 and incrementally improved since, these are still limited to six aspects of disability. These questions were included on the survey until 2007. The final data with these items were released in the fall of 2008.</p> <p>Beginning in 2006, the ACS started collecting data on people with disabilities who lived in group quarters (GQ) such as prisons, nursing homes, college dormitories, and military barracks.</p>
<b>ACS</b> —2008 and forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is this person deaf or does he or she have serious difficulty hearing?</li> <li>▪ Is this person blind or does he or she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?</li> <li>▪ Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?</li> <li>▪ Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?</li> <li>▪ Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?</li> <li>▪ 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?</li> </ul>	<p>Tested in the 2006 ACS Content Test, these questions were included in the 2008 questionnaire. While some items are similar to the previous questions in the domain, only two produced similar prevalence results. Specifically, "Difficulty with Errands" had a similar prevalence as "Difficulty Going Outside" and "Difficulty Concentrating, Remembering, and Making Decisions" had a similar prevalence as "Difficulty Learning, Remembering, or Concentrating."</p> <p>The 2008 and subsequent ACS surveys continue to collect data on the GQ population as they have since 2006.</p>
<b>SIPP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes "work disability" as part of the core: "Are you limited in the kind or amount of work you can do?"</li> <li>▪ Includes a supplemental questionnaire on work disability history.</li> <li>▪ Includes a supplemental questionnaire on functional limitations of adults and children.</li> </ul>	<p>Although content has changed slightly over the past 20 years, the SIPP functional limitation module still essentially takes a kitchen-sink approach to disability measurement. It includes a battery of questions on conditions, difficulty with activities, and condition-type. These are reported both individually and combined in an "any disability" measure.</p>

## Overview of Four National Household Surveys—Con.

National survey	Summary of disability-related items	Brief comments
<b>Reengineered SIPP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACS-style questions</li> <li>▪ Work disability</li> </ul>	This is still in development, planned for 2013. The stakeholders asked for two measures of disability.
<b>CPS ASEC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work disability</li> </ul>	<p>The CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) is a one yearly additional questionnaire that collects information on topics such as income and noncash benefits.</p> <p>Contention with use of this measure as a proxy for the population of people with a disability had led to its rejection by both BLS and the data user community. The measure only specifies people with limitations in work, and so it artificially lowers the employment rate when used to describe the population of people with any disability. Many people with non-work-related disabilities are employed.</p>
<b>CPS monthly</b>	<p>Similar to the questions on the 2008 ACS questionnaire, the wording is very close. The difference is that each of the six disability questions inquires first as to whether anyone in the household has a specific type of difficulty. In the case of a “yes,” it then asks “who.”</p> <p>“This month we want to learn about people who have physical, mental, or emotional conditions that cause serious difficulty with their daily activities. Please answer for household members who are 15 years old or over.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is anyone deaf or does anyone have serious difficulty hearing?</li> <li>▪ Is anyone blind or does anyone have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?</li> <li>▪ Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does anyone have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?</li> <li>▪ Does anyone have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?</li> <li>▪ Does anyone have difficulty dressing or bathing?</li> <li>▪ Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does anyone have difficulty doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?</li> </ul>	<p>The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households collected by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The CPS is the primary source of information on the labor force characteristics of the U.S. population.</p> <p>For people 15 years old and over only, starting in June 2008.</p> <p>These questions will be a permanent addition to the CPS and will be asked of new and returning CPS households (asked of all households in June 2008 and of only households in month-in-sample one and five thereafter), as well as any new members of households that have already been participating in the CPS. BLS intends to review data from June to December 2008 and start publishing employment statistics for people with disabilities using data collected in January 2009.</p>



## Overview of Four National Household Surveys—Con.

National survey	Summary of disability-related items	Brief comments
NHIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limitations in usual activities.</li> <li>▪ ADLs and IADLs.</li> <li>▪ Special education and early intervention services.</li> <li>▪ Limitations in work.</li> </ul>	<p>Conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) has monitored the health of the nation since 1957 by conducting household interviews on a broad range of health-related topics.</p> <p>NHIS does not report a number of people “with disabilities.” It does report on health and activities often associated with disabilities. NHIS includes a short set of items meant to capture a wide array of functioning and activities.</p>

Each of these surveys has limitations. No survey is comprehensive in its measure of disability. No survey systematically approaches the use of assistive devices, technology, and helpers (e.g. assessing difficulty both with and without assistance). No survey fully applies the most current theoretical conceptualizations of disability, including the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).<sup>30</sup>

### Recent Research

#### 2006 ACS Content Test

Under the auspices of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the interagency committee for the ACS created a subcommittee for the disability questions that debated the need for disability data and the aspects that would be covered in the ACS. The group recognized that only a limited amount of information could be gathered on a few inches of paper. They decided that the ACS questionnaire needed

<sup>30</sup> Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Disability in America*. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC 2007.

to measure people at risk for a participation limitation, in order to answer questions like “Are people with disabilities progressing in school at the same rate as people without disabilities?” Identifying people by their experience of limitation in the activity being monitored necessitates lower activity participation rates. For example, if a disability measure of independent living is defined only by one’s inability to go outside the home, then rates of community participation for this group will, by definition, be low. Rather, a measure of disability should be independent of the activity on which policy improvements are being gauged.

The subcommittee’s members chose the key domains and key activities that would meet the stakeholders’ legislative needs and as many other data needs as possible—vision, hearing, walking, and remembering/concentrating. They also picked indicators of the ability to live independently—bathing/dressing and doing errands. They designed new question wording based on the understanding that there is currently no gold standard;

none of the questions the survey community has been using are excellent. The group relied heavily on cognitive testing results to create the wording of the questions. The group also limited the scope of the questions (fewer “such as” examples) to make them less confusing for the respondents.

For the Content Test, the criteria for selection of the proposed question set over the existing question set involved evaluating the reliability and item response rates. The subcommittee developed the proposed questions to fit the theoretical framework of disability and believed that comparing prevalence rates between the question sets was not a legitimate criterion. The test panel (using the proposed ACS questions) was more reliable than the control panel (using the existing ACS questions) using a test-retest adjusted simple response variance. The test panel had higher item response than the control panel.

For more information on results from the 2006 Content Test, see Brault, Matthew, Sharon Stern, and



David Raglin. *Evaluation Report Covering Disability*. 2006 American Community Survey Content Test Report P.4., U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2007. Available at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content\\_test/P4\\_Disability.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content_test/P4_Disability.pdf)>.

### *Current Population Survey (CPS) Disability Field Test*

Under a 1998 Executive Order, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began to develop disability items for the CPS. The Executive Order required data on the employment rate for people with disabilities as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Because the CPS is the official source of employment statistics, the steering committee focused on identifying appropriate disability questions to be added to this survey. Like the ACS, the CPS has limited space, requiring a short set of questions. In addition, BLS had to be concerned about minimizing any possible adverse affects on future CPS response rates, as disability items are often considered very sensitive.

BLS did extensive research using the National Comorbidity Survey (NCS).<sup>31</sup> They used some data reduction techniques to identify the best predictors of disability status as defined using the full set of questions and the ADA definition of disability. The results of their follow-up split panel test showed that the questions do not impede the collection of employment statistics. Because the disability measurement has properties that do not mimic

the NCS, the research source of the questions, the BLS decided to implement the ACS questions on the CPS, which first appeared in June 2008.

### **Future Developments**

#### *The Reengineered SIPP*

In 2013, the Census Bureau will be fielding a reengineered version of the SIPP. While still in development, stakeholders have requested that the 2008 ACS questions be used in the survey.<sup>32</sup> The argument was that, at a minimum, this would identify an important population. Several stakeholders also requested a work disability item similar to the one on the earlier SIPP. Questions will be asked for each person in the household (as age appropriate) based on current status. The reengineered survey could also provide an opportunity for respondents to be asked about disability onset as it relates to employment, income, and program participation events identified in the Event History Calendar section of the survey.

#### *NHIS test of ACS questions*

Beginning in the final quarter of 2008 and running through 2009, the NHIS will conduct a split-ballot experiment of the 2008 ACS disability question set. By random assignment, half the sample will be asked the questions on a person-by-person basis (like in the ACS), whereas the other half will get the family-based questions, like the ones used in the CPS. The results will be used to evaluate the impact

of how the questions are asked on data quality and prevalence rates. In addition, a planned cross-survey comparison analysis (NHIS compared with ACS and NHIS compared with CPS) will provide insights into possible survey context effects on estimates of disability.

### **Additional Information on Disability in National Surveys**

- The American Community Survey <[www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)>.
- Disability in the ACS <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/acs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/acs.html)>.
- The Current Population Survey <[www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm)>.

*Discussion and Presentation of the Disability Test Results from the Current Population Survey*, McMenamin, Terence, Stephen M. Miller and Anne E. Polivka, Bureau of Labor Statistics. See <[www.bls.gov/osmr/pdf/ec060080.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/osmr/pdf/ec060080.pdf)>.

- The National Health Interview Survey <[www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm)>.

*Health, United States, 2007* <[www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm)>.

*Disability and Health in the United States, 2001–2005*, Altman, Barbara, National Center for Health Statistics <[www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/disability2001-2005.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/disability2001-2005.pdf)>.

The author would like to thank James Dahlhamer (NCHS/CDC) and Terence McMenamin (BLS) for their contributions to this summary of disability concepts in national surveys.

<sup>31</sup> McMenamin Terence, Stephen M. Miller and Anne E. Polivka, *Discussion and Presentation of the Disability Test Results from the Current Population Survey*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC. August 2006. Available at <[www.bls.gov/osmr/pdf/ec060080.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/osmr/pdf/ec060080.pdf)>.

<sup>32</sup> Letter from Jim Nussle, Director, Office of Management and Budget, to Representative William Lacy Clay, Chairman, Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, (July 24, 2008).

## Appendix B. DETAILED TABLES

Table B-1.

### Prevalence of Disability Among Individuals 15 Years and Older by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	15 years and older				65 years and older			
	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>230,391</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>35,028</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
<b>Disability Status</b>								
With a disability .....	49,073	898	21.3	0.4	18,133	578	51.8	1.2
Severe .....	32,776	757	14.2	0.3	12,943	493	36.9	1.1
Not severe .....	16,297	550	7.1	0.2	5,190	316	14.8	0.8
No disability .....	181,317	1,199	78.7	0.4	16,895	559	48.2	1.2
<b>Seeing/Hearing/Speaking</b>								
With a disability .....	14,650	523	6.4	0.2	6,508	353	18.6	0.9
Severe .....	2,957	240	1.3	0.1	1,464	169	4.2	0.5
Not severe .....	11,693	470	5.1	0.2	5,045	312	14.4	0.8
Difficulty seeing .....	7,794	386	3.4	0.2	3,534	262	10.1	0.7
Severe .....	1,783	186	0.8	0.1	964	137	2.8	0.4
Not severe .....	6,011	340	2.6	0.1	2,570	224	7.3	0.6
Difficulty hearing .....	7,809	386	3.4	0.2	3,915	275	11.2	0.7
Severe .....	992	139	0.4	0.1	527	102	1.5	0.3
Not severe .....	6,817	361	3.0	0.2	3,387	256	9.7	0.7
Difficulty with speech .....	2,534	222	1.1	0.1	753	121	2.1	0.3
Severe .....	431	92	0.2	—	†120	48	0.3	0.1
Not severe .....	2,103	202	0.9	0.1	633	111	1.8	0.3
Used a hearing aid <sup>2</sup> .....	4,316	289	1.9	0.1	3,209	249	9.2	0.7
Had difficulty hearing .....	1,759	185	0.8	0.1	1,299	159	3.7	0.4
No difficulty hearing .....	2,557	223	1.1	0.1	1,910	193	5.5	0.5
<b>Walking/Using Stairs</b>								
With a disability .....	27,360	699	11.9	0.3	13,346	500	38.1	1.1
Severe .....	14,326	517	6.2	0.2	7,852	387	22.4	1.0
Not severe .....	13,034	495	5.7	0.2	5,493	325	15.7	0.9
Difficulty walking .....	22,585	640	9.8	0.3	11,098	458	31.7	1.1
Severe .....	12,656	488	5.5	0.2	7,036	367	20.1	0.9
Not severe .....	9,929	434	4.3	0.2	4,063	280	11.6	0.8
Difficulty using stairs .....	21,768	629	9.4	0.3	10,576	447	30.2	1.1
Severe .....	7,355	375	3.2	0.2	4,134	283	11.8	0.8
Not severe .....	14,413	519	6.3	0.2	6,442	352	18.4	0.9
Used a wheelchair .....	3,311	253	1.4	0.1	1,823	188	5.2	0.5
Used a cane/crutches/walker .....	10,229	440	4.4	0.2	6,256	347	17.9	0.9
For 6 months or longer .....	8,414	400	3.7	0.2	5,308	320	15.2	0.8
<b>Selected Physical Tasks</b>								
With a disability .....	18,996	591	8.2	0.3	8,725	408	24.9	1.0
Severe .....	7,974	390	3.5	0.2	4,224	286	12.1	0.8
Not severe .....	11,022	456	4.8	0.2	4,501	295	12.8	0.8
Difficulty lifting .....	15,934	544	6.9	0.2	7,622	382	21.8	1.0
Severe .....	7,630	382	3.3	0.2	4,069	281	11.6	0.8
Not severe .....	8,304	398	3.6	0.2	3,553	262	10.1	0.7
Difficulty grasping .....	7,087	368	3.1	0.2	2,860	236	8.2	0.6
Severe .....	687	116	0.3	0.1	329	80	0.9	0.2
Not severe .....	6,400	350	2.8	0.2	2,531	222	7.2	0.6
Difficulty moving chair <sup>2</sup> .....	22,500	639	9.8	0.3	10,255	441	29.3	1.1
Severe .....	13,423	502	5.8	0.2	6,735	359	19.2	0.9
Not severe .....	9,077	416	3.9	0.2	3,519	261	10.0	0.7
Difficulty standing <sup>2</sup> .....	23,893	657	10.4	0.3	11,175	459	31.9	1.1
Difficulty sitting <sup>2</sup> .....	9,869	433	4.3	0.2	3,209	250	9.2	0.7
Difficulty crouching <sup>2</sup> .....	27,436	700	11.9	0.3	12,367	482	35.3	1.1
Difficulty reaching <sup>2</sup> .....	11,662	469	5.1	0.2	5,309	320	15.2	0.8
<b>Activities of Daily Living</b>								
With an ADL limitation .....	8,529	403	3.7	0.2	4,361	290	12.5	0.8
Needed assistance .....	4,538	296	2.0	0.1	2,503	221	7.1	0.6
Did not need assistance .....	3,991	278	1.7	0.1	1,858	190	5.3	0.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table B-1.

**Prevalence of Disability Among Individuals 15 Years and Older by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	15 years and older				65 years and older			
	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Activities of Daily Living—Con.</b>								
Difficulty getting around .....	4,062	280	1.8	0.1	2,247	209	6.4	0.6
Needed assistance .....	2,265	210	1.0	0.1	1,323	161	3.8	0.5
Did not need assistance .....	1,797	187	0.8	0.1	924	134	2.6	0.4
Difficulty getting into bed .....	5,309	320	2.3	0.1	2,633	226	7.5	0.6
Needed assistance .....	2,549	223	1.1	0.1	1,335	161	3.8	0.5
Did not need assistance .....	2,760	232	1.2	0.1	1,297	159	3.7	0.4
Difficulty taking a bath .....	5,074	313	2.2	0.1	2,780	232	7.9	0.6
Needed assistance .....	3,227	250	1.4	0.1	1,903	193	5.4	0.5
Did not need assistance .....	1,847	190	0.8	0.1	878	131	2.5	0.4
Difficulty dressing .....	3,729	269	1.6	0.1	1,864	191	5.3	0.5
Needed assistance .....	2,548	223	1.1	0.1	1,387	165	4.0	0.5
Did not need assistance .....	1,181	152	0.5	0.1	477	97	1.4	0.3
Difficulty eating .....	1,491	171	0.6	0.1	728	119	2.1	0.3
Needed assistance .....	857	129	0.4	0.1	467	96	1.3	0.3
Did not need assistance .....	635	111	0.3	—	260	71	0.7	0.2
Difficulty toileting .....	2,374	215	1.0	0.1	1,275	158	3.6	0.4
Needed assistance .....	1,563	175	0.7	0.1	879	131	2.5	0.4
Did not need assistance .....	811	126	0.4	0.1	396	88	1.1	0.3
<b>Instrumental Activities of Daily Living</b>								
With an IADL limitation .....	13,666	506	5.9	0.2	6,676	358	19.1	0.9
Needed assistance .....	10,316	442	4.5	0.2	5,280	319	15.1	0.8
Did not need assistance .....	3,350	255	1.5	0.1	1,396	165	4.0	0.5
Difficulty going out .....	8,808	409	3.8	0.2	4,809	305	13.7	0.8
Needed assistance .....	6,951	365	3.0	0.2	4,031	279	11.5	0.8
Did not need assistance .....	1,857	190	0.8	0.1	778	123	2.2	0.3
Difficulty managing money .....	5,133	315	2.2	0.1	2,579	224	7.4	0.6
Needed assistance .....	4,360	290	1.9	0.1	2,323	213	6.6	0.6
Did not need assistance .....	773	123	0.3	0.1	257	71	0.7	0.2
Difficulty preparing meals .....	5,115	314	2.2	0.1	2,786	233	8.0	0.6
Needed assistance .....	4,318	289	1.9	0.1	2,404	216	6.9	0.6
Did not need assistance .....	797	125	0.3	0.1	381	86	1.1	0.2
Difficulty doing housework .....	6,931	364	3.0	0.2	3,485	260	9.9	0.7
Needed assistance .....	5,463	324	2.4	0.1	2,890	237	8.2	0.7
Did not need assistance .....	1,468	169	0.6	0.1	595	108	1.7	0.3
Difficulty taking prescriptions .....	4,174	284	1.8	0.1	2,183	206	6.2	0.6
Needed assistance .....	3,397	257	1.5	0.1	1,835	189	5.2	0.5
Did not need assistance .....	778	123	0.3	0.1	348	83	1.0	0.2
Difficulty using the phone .....	2,754	231	1.2	0.1	1,620	178	4.6	0.5
Needed assistance .....	1,046	143	0.5	0.1	566	105	1.6	0.3
Did not need assistance .....	1,708	182	0.7	0.1	1,054	144	3.0	0.4
<b>Need for Personal Assistance</b>								
Number of ADLs or IADLs for which assistance was needed:								
One or more .....	10,763	451	4.7	0.2	5,464	324	15.6	0.9
One .....	3,837	273	1.7	0.1	1,809	188	5.2	0.5
Two .....	1,834	189	0.8	0.1	890	132	2.5	0.4
Three or more .....	5,092	313	2.2	0.1	2,766	232	7.9	0.6
Number of ADLs for which assistance was needed:								
One or more .....	4,538	296	2.0	0.1	2,503	221	7.1	0.6
One .....	1,548	174	0.7	0.1	856	129	2.4	0.4
Two .....	812	126	0.4	0.1	425	91	1.2	0.3
Three or more .....	2,178	206	0.9	0.1	1,223	155	3.5	0.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table B-1.

**Prevalence of Disability Among Individuals 15 Years and Older by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	15 years and older				65 years and older			
	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Need for Personal Assistance—Con.</b>								
Number of IADLs for which assistance was needed:								
One or more .....	10,316	442	4.5	0.2	5,280	319	15.1	0.8
One .....	4,123	282	1.8	0.1	1,980	196	5.7	0.5
Two .....	2,034	199	0.9	0.1	944	136	2.7	0.4
Three or more .....	4,159	284	1.8	0.1	2,356	214	6.7	0.6
<b>Mental</b>								
With a disability .....	16,050	546	7.0	0.2	4,006	278	11.4	0.8
With 1 or more selected conditions ..	9,635	428	4.2	0.2	1,884	192	5.4	0.5
A learning disability .....	3,648	266	1.6	0.1	226	67	0.6	0.2
Mental retardation .....	1,307	160	0.6	0.1	<sup>†</sup> 96	43	0.3	0.1
Alzheimer's, senility, or dementia ..	2,115	203	0.9	0.1	1,328	161	3.8	0.5
Other mental/emotional condition ..	4,451	293	1.9	0.1	485	97	1.4	0.3
With 1 or more selected symptoms ..	8,359	399	3.6	0.2	1,761	185	5.0	0.5
Depressed or anxious .....	6,821	362	3.0	0.2	1,188	152	3.4	0.4
Trouble getting along with others ..	2,306	212	1.0	0.1	279	74	0.8	0.2
Trouble concentrating .....	4,734	302	2.1	0.1	1,065	144	3.0	0.4
Trouble coping with stress .....	5,551	327	2.4	0.1	927	135	2.6	0.4
Difficulty managing money/bills .....	5,133	315	2.2	0.1	2,579	224	7.4	0.6
<b>Working at a Job</b>								
Age 16 to 64 years .....	190,956	1,181	100.0	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
With disability related problems <sup>2</sup> ..	24,137	660	12.6	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Has difficulty remaining employed ...	13,297	499	7.0	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Limited in kind or amount of work <sup>2</sup> ...	22,736	642	11.9	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Prevented .....	13,250	498	6.9	0.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Not prevented .....	9,486	424	5.0	0.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Working Around the House</b>								
Age 16 years and older .....	225,984	1,068	100.0	(X)	35,028	780	100.0	(X)
Limited in kind or amount of house work .....	18,886	589	8.4	0.3	7,115	369	20.3	1.0
Prevented .....	5,063	312	2.2	0.1	2,378	215	6.8	0.6
Not prevented .....	13,824	509	6.1	0.2	4,737	302	13.5	0.8
<b>Program Participation<sup>2</sup></b>								
Under 65 years and on Medicare ...	5,313	320	2.3	0.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Under 65 years and received SSI ...	5,087	313	2.2	0.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Disability Domains</b>								
With a disability in 1 domain .....	28,306	709	12.3	0.3	10,144	438	29.0	1.1
Communication .....	2,697	229	1.2	0.1	791	124	2.3	0.4
Physical .....	20,752	616	9.0	0.3	9,132	417	26.1	1.0
Mental .....	4,857	306	2.1	0.1	222	66	0.6	0.2
With a disability in 2 domains .....	14,706	524	6.4	0.2	5,856	336	16.7	0.9
Communication and physical .....	7,316	374	3.2	0.2	3,913	275	11.2	0.7
Communication and mental .....	710	118	0.3	0.1	<sup>†</sup> 112	47	0.3	0.1
Physical and mental .....	6,680	358	2.9	0.2	1,831	189	5.2	0.5
With a disability in 3 domains .....	4,738	302	2.1	0.1	2,072	201	5.9	0.6
Domain(s) not identified .....	1,324	161	0.6	0.1	<sup>†</sup> 61	35	0.2	0.1
No disability .....	181,317	1,199	78.7	0.4	16,895	559	48.2	1.2

(X) Not applicable.

– Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>†</sup> Since this estimate is less than 200,000 or based upon a population less than 200,000 (implying questionably small sample size), the estimate, its confidence interval estimate, and any other estimate associated with it are unlikely to be accurate enough to reveal useful information.<sup>1</sup> A 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7(S&A-7).pdf>.<sup>2</sup>Not part of the disability definition.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

Table B-2.

# Distribution of Selected Characteristics of Individuals 25 Years and Older by Disability Status: 2005

Characteristic	25 to 64 years						65 years and older					
	Severe	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Not severe	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	No disability	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Severe	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Not severe	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	No disability	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total (thousands) . . . . .</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>127,679</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>12,943</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>16,895</b>	<b>559</b>
Percent distribution . . . . .	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)
<b>Educational Attainment</b>												
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	16.4	1.2	8.0	1.3	7.0	0.3	24.7	1.7	16.7	2.3	10.6	1.0
High school diploma . . . . .	36.6	1.6	29.5	2.1	26.7	0.5	39.4	1.9	39.6	3.0	38.1	1.7
Some college or associate's degree . . . . .	16.2	1.2	20.1	1.9	16.9	0.5	10.7	1.2	12.5	2.0	13.9	1.2
Bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	30.9	1.5	42.4	2.3	49.4	0.6	25.1	1.7	31.2	2.8	37.4	1.6
<b>Health Insurance Coverage<sup>2</sup></b>												
With health insurance . . . . .	85.4	1.2	82.5	1.8	84.0	0.5	99.6	0.2	99.0	0.6	99.3	0.3
Private or military . . . . .	47.6	1.7	75.0	2.0	80.5	0.5	70.9	1.8	81.3	2.4	84.5	1.2
Government (Medicare or Medicaid) . . . . .	49.9	1.7	10.5	1.4	4.5	0.3	99.1	0.4	98.3	0.8	97.2	0.6
Medicare . . . . .	24.6	1.4	3.4	0.9	0.4	0.1	98.3	0.5	97.9	0.9	96.9	0.6
Both Medicare and private or military . . . . .	8.8	0.9	*1.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	70.3	1.8	80.6	2.4	82.4	1.3
Medicaid . . . . .	38.6	1.6	8.5	1.3	4.3	0.3	20.7	1.6	9.0	1.8	6.5	0.8
Both Medicaid and Medicare . . . . .	13.3	1.1	*1.5	0.6	0.2	—	19.8	1.6	8.7	1.7	6.2	0.8
No health insurance . . . . .	14.6	1.2	17.5	1.8	16.0	0.5	*0.4	0.2	*1.0	0.6	*0.7	0.3
<b>Program Participation</b>												
Any form of public assistance . . . . .	57.0	1.6	16.3	1.7	7.3	0.3	96.0	0.8	95.9	1.2	93.2	0.9
Cash assistance . . . . .	49.1	1.7	10.8	1.5	3.3	0.2	95.8	0.8	95.8	1.2	93.1	0.9
Supplemental security income . . . . .	19.9	1.3	*1.9	0.6	0.4	0.1	8.8	1.1	4.2	1.2	2.0	0.5
Social security . . . . .	33.5	1.6	8.7	1.3	2.5	0.2	93.2	1.0	93.9	1.5	92.3	0.9
Other cash assistance . . . . .	5.0	0.7	*1.1	0.5	0.5	0.1	*0.7	0.3	*0.3	0.3	*0.1	0.1
Food stamps . . . . .	21.6	1.4	6.9	1.2	3.6	0.2	7.7	1.0	3.9	1.2	1.7	0.4
Public/subsidized housing . . . . .	12.1	1.1	3.1	0.8	1.8	0.2	8.6	1.1	4.6	1.3	1.9	0.5
<b>Monthly Individual Income</b>												
Less than \$500 . . . . .	28.0	1.5	18.0	1.8	17.1	0.5	8.7	1.1	10.1	1.9	6.8	0.9
\$500 to \$999 . . . . .	26.9	1.5	9.6	1.4	5.7	0.3	30.2	1.8	22.9	2.6	18.8	1.3
\$1,000 to \$1,999 . . . . .	24.6	1.4	22.4	2.0	18.6	0.5	39.6	1.9	36.1	3.0	33.3	1.6
\$2,000 to \$3,999 . . . . .	13.9	1.1	30.3	2.2	32.0	0.6	16.8	1.5	22.8	2.6	27.2	1.5
\$4,000 to \$5,999 . . . . .	4.1	0.7	11.1	1.5	14.6	0.4	3.1	0.7	4.8	1.3	7.8	0.9
\$6,000 to \$7,999 . . . . .	1.5	0.4	4.7	1.0	6.0	0.3	*0.8	0.4	*1.8	0.8	2.6	0.5
\$8,000 and over . . . . .	*1.0	0.3	3.9	0.9	6.1	0.3	*0.8	0.3	*1.6	0.8	3.4	0.6
<b>Monthly Household Income</b>												
Less than \$2,000 . . . . .	41.5	1.6	20.4	1.9	13.7	0.4	46.1	1.9	37.9	3.0	26.9	1.5
\$2,000 to \$3,999 . . . . .	27.3	1.5	27.2	2.1	23.5	0.5	31.2	1.8	34.5	2.9	35.2	1.6
\$4,000 to \$5,999 . . . . .	15.1	1.2	20.8	1.9	22.4	0.5	12.2	1.3	14.9	2.2	18.6	1.3
\$6,000 to \$7,999 . . . . .	7.8	0.9	13.3	1.6	15.6	0.4	5.3	0.9	6.4	1.5	9.0	1.0
\$8,000 to \$9,999 . . . . .	4.1	0.7	9.0	1.3	9.8	0.4	2.3	0.6	*2.4	0.9	4.0	0.7
\$10,000 and over . . . . .	4.2	0.7	9.3	1.4	15.0	0.4	2.9	0.7	3.9	1.2	6.3	0.8
<b>Poverty Status</b>												
In poverty . . . . .	27.1	1.5	12.0	1.5	9.1	0.4	10.1	1.2	8.5	1.7	6.6	0.8
Not in poverty . . . . .	72.9	1.5	88.0	1.5	90.9	0.4	89.9	1.2	91.5	1.7	93.4	0.8
<b>Working at a Job</b>												
Limited in the kind or amount of work that can be done . . . . .	77.6	1.4	28.4	2.1	3.4	0.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Prevented from working . . . . .	58.8	1.6	8.0	1.3	0.9	0.1	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Not prevented from working . . . . .	18.8	1.3	20.4	1.9	2.4	0.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

(X) Not applicable.

— Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>†</sup> Since this estimate is less than 200,000 or based upon a population less than 200,000 (implying questionably small sample size), the estimate, its confidence interval estimate, and any other estimate associated with it are unlikely to be accurate enough to reveal useful information.

<sup>1</sup> A 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7\(S&A-7\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7(S&A-7).pdf)>.

<sup>2</sup> The estimates by type of coverage are not mutually exclusive; people can be covered by more than one type of health insurance during the interview period.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

Table B-3.  
**Disability Status, Employment, Monthly Earnings, and Monthly Family Income Among  
Individuals 21 to 64 Years Old by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005**

(Numbers in thousands. Earnings and income in dollars)

Characteristic	Total	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Employed						Median monthly family income	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
			Number	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Median monthly earnings	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>170,349</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>131,538</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Disability Status</b>										
With a disability .....	28,145	708	12,836	491	45.6	1.3	1,917	68	2,700	68
Severe .....	18,710	587	5,737	332	30.7	1.5	1,458	96	2,182	69
Covered by Medicare or received social security or supplemental security income .....	8,600	405	798	125	9.3	1.4	375	82	1,782	71
Covered by Medicare ....	4,432	293	384	87	8.7	1.9	422	111	1,921	99
Received social security .....	6,083	342	573	106	9.4	1.7	400	97	2,105	97
Received supplemental security income .....	3,756	270	343	82	9.1	2.1	302	107	1,339	76
Not covered by Medicare and not receiving social security or supplemental security income .....	10,110	438	4,939	309	48.9	2.2	1,732	110	2,600	124
Not severe .....	9,435	423	7,099	369	75.2	2.0	2,250	89	3,801	139
No disability .....	142,204	1,219	118,702	1,191	83.5	0.4	2,539	24	4,669	42
<b>Seeing/Hearing/Speaking</b>										
Difficulty seeing words/letters ...	4,103	282	1,673	181	40.8	3.4	1,932	182	2,188	142
Severe .....	779	123	204	63	26.2	7.0	1,957	670	1,743	259
Not severe .....	3,323	254	1,469	169	44.2	3.8	1,925	188	2,253	162
Difficulty hearing conversation ...	3,756	270	2,219	208	59.1	3.6	2,252	178	3,162	208
Severe .....	449	94	257	71	57.2	10.3	1,920	506	2,514	400
Not severe .....	3,307	253	1,962	195	59.3	3.8	2,369	186	3,240	227
Difficulty with speech .....	1,521	172	560	105	36.8	5.5	1,575	321	2,260	236
Severe .....	230	67	764	35	27.7	13.1	1,168	866	2,377	532
Not severe .....	1,291	159	496	99	38.4	6.0	1,645	365	2,252	258
<b>Walking/Using Stairs/ Ambulatory Aids</b>										
Difficulty walking .....	11,219	460	3,295	253	29.4	1.9	1,810	136	2,290	91
Severe .....	5,539	327	1,082	145	19.5	2.4	1,600	230	1,950	106
Not severe .....	5,679	331	2,213	208	39.0	2.9	2,000	167	2,739	150
Difficulty using stairs .....	10,969	455	3,259	251	29.7	1.9	1,768	132	2,258	91
Severe .....	3,154	247	575	106	18.2	3.0	1,315	265	1,777	128
Not severe .....	7,815	386	2,684	228	34.3	2.4	1,836	143	2,494	118
Used a wheelchair or similar device .....	1,393	165	237	68	17.0	4.5	1,833	679	2,135	243
Used a cane, crutches, or walker .....	3,907	275	828	127	21.2	2.9	2,000	342	2,175	147
<b>Selected Physical Tasks</b>										
Difficulty lifting/carrying 10 lbs ...	8,130	394	2,169	205	26.7	2.2	1,626	168	2,178	103
Severe .....	3,468	259	601	108	17.3	2.8	1,474	275	1,838	131
Not severe .....	4,662	300	1,569	175	33.6	3.1	1,689	214	2,412	153
Difficulty grasping objects .....	4,128	283	1,373	164	33.3	3.2	1,761	184	2,395	154
Severe .....	344	82	76	39	22.0	9.9	2,000	594	2,655	598
Not severe .....	3,784	271	1,298	159	34.3	3.4	1,751	193	2,371	159
Difficulty moving large chair <sup>2</sup> ....	11,917	474	4,126	282	34.6	1.9	1,732	117	2,500	98
Severe .....	6,526	354	1,625	178	24.9	2.4	1,559	189	2,208	118
Not severe .....	5,391	322	2,500	220	46.4	3.0	1,832	149	2,822	154
Difficulty standing 1 hour <sup>2</sup> .....	12,398	483	4,033	279	32.5	1.9	1,900	127	2,452	93
Difficulty sitting 1 hour <sup>2</sup> .....	6,517	354	1,967	196	30.2	2.5	1,540	171	2,260	117
Difficulty crouching <sup>2</sup> .....	14,761	525	6,037	341	40.9	1.8	2,080	106	2,728	92
Difficulty reaching overhead <sup>2</sup> ....	6,210	345	1,819	188	29.3	2.6	1,760	179	2,367	125

See footnotes at end of table.



Table B-3.

**Disability Status, Employment, Monthly Earnings, and Monthly Family Income Among Individuals 21 to 64 Years Old by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands. Earnings and income in dollars)

Characteristic	Total	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Employed						Median monthly family income	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
			Number	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Median monthly earnings	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>		
Activities of Daily Living										
With an ADL limitation .....	4,022	279	785	124	19.5	2.8	1,584	298	2,123	138
Needed assistance .....	1,919	193	216	65	11.3	3.2	1,412	615	2,101	190
Did not need assistance .....	2,102	202	569	106	27.1	4.3	1,595	342	2,125	200
Difficulty getting around .....	1,754	185	*171	58	9.7	3.1	1,667	729	2,008	195
Needed assistance .....	896	132	*57	33	6.3	3.6	1,667	1,368	1,861	247
Did not need assistance .....	858	130	*114	47	13.3	5.1	2,000	686	2,042	302
Difficulty getting into bed .....	2,604	225	499	99	19.2	3.4	1,595	373	2,041	166
Needed assistance .....	1,164	151	*129	50	11.1	4.1	1,667	713	1,936	231
Did not need assistance .....	1,439	168	370	85	25.7	5.1	1,584	430	2,072	229
Difficulty taking a bath .....	2,180	206	286	75	13.1	3.2	1,375	445	1,843	158
Needed assistance .....	1,229	155	*96	43	7.8	3.4	1,240	815	1,881	210
Did not need assistance .....	951	136	*189	61	19.9	5.7	1,400	525	1,793	237
Difficulty dressing .....	1,789	187	280	74	15.6	3.8	1,801	601	2,150	206
Needed assistance .....	1,091	146	*108	46	9.9	4.0	1,340	846	2,150	240
Did not need assistance .....	697	117	*172	58	24.6	7.2	2,000	661	2,152	356
Difficulty eating .....	701	117	*80	40	11.5	5.3	2,469	922	1,850	282
Needed assistance .....	329	80	*16	18	4.8	5.2	2,256	2,190	2,337	485
Did not need assistance .....	372	85	*64	36	17.3	8.7	2,469	843	1,521	294
Difficulty toileting .....	1,035	142	*87	41	8.4	3.8	889	625	1,908	235
Needed assistance .....	622	110	*28	24	4.6	3.7	866	1,065	2,100	304
Did not need assistance .....	412	90	*59	34	14.3	7.6	889	761	1,776	343
Instrumental Activities of Daily Living										
With an IADL limitation .....	6,622	356	1,467	169	22.2	2.3	1,299	183	2,101	109
Needed assistance .....	4,715	302	853	129	18.1	2.5	1,100	220	2,094	124
Did not need assistance .....	1,907	193	614	110	32.2	4.7	1,500	296	2,126	221
Difficulty going out .....	3,839	273	482	97	12.5	2.4	1,083	318	1,881	123
Needed assistance .....	2,769	232	258	71	9.3	2.4	718	294	1,904	143
Did not need assistance .....	1,070	145	224	66	20.9	5.5	1,240	544	1,801	243
Difficulty managing money .....	2,307	212	578	106	25.1	4.0	1,084	246	2,103	180
Needed assistance .....	1,806	188	392	88	21.7	4.3	779	225	2,212	210
Did not need assistance .....	501	99	*186	60	37.2	9.6	1,382	421	1,645	310
Difficulty preparing meals .....	2,150	205	261	72	12.2	3.1	667	271	2,069	177
Needed assistance .....	1,745	184	200	63	11.5	3.4	650	284	2,188	202
Did not need assistance .....	404	89	*61	35	15.2	7.9	1,732	1,390	1,664	327
Difficulty doing housework .....	3,314	254	521	101	15.7	2.8	1,200	331	1,939	142
Needed assistance .....	2,453	218	319	79	13.0	3.0	1,012	372	2,008	167
Did not need assistance .....	862	130	202	63	23.4	6.4	1,375	520	1,801	288
Difficulty taking prescriptions .....	1,768	186	308	78	17.4	4.0	706	264	2,100	198
Needed assistance .....	1,346	162	201	63	14.9	4.3	500	231	2,212	231
Did not need assistance .....	422	91	*107	46	25.4	9.4	1,497	949	1,681	353
Difficulty using the phone .....	997	140	288	75	28.9	6.4	1,339	429	2,514	312
Needed assistance .....	405	89	*103	45	25.3	9.6	823	498	2,514	427
Did not need assistance .....	592	108	*186	60	31.4	8.4	1,853	564	2,518	434
Mental										
With a disability .....	10,526	446	4,026	279	38.2	2.1	1,516	112	2,165	93
With 1 or more selected conditions .....	6,442	352	2,655	227	41.2	2.7	1,500	134	2,232	121
A learning disability .....	2,611	225	1,439	168	55.1	4.3	1,736	180	2,687	226
Mental retardation .....	948	136	269	73	28.4	6.5	600	201	2,215	249
Alzheimer's, senility, or dementia .....	760	122	208	64	27.4	7.2	987	312	1,582	228
Other mental/emotional condition .....	3,495	260	1,108	147	31.7	3.5	1,299	188	1,788	130

See footnotes at end of table.

Table B-3.

**Disability Status, Employment, Monthly Earnings, and Monthly Family Income Among Individuals 21 to 64 Years Old by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005—Con.**

(Numbers in thousands. Earnings and income in dollars)

Characteristic	Total	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Employed						Median monthly family income	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
			Number	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Median monthly earnings	90- percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Mental—Con.</b>										
With 1 or more selected symptoms .....	6,055	341	1,751	185	28.9	2.6	1,400	172	1,881	108
Depressed or anxious .....	5,246	318	1,492	171	28.4	2.8	1,400	186	1,842	113
Trouble getting along with others .....	1,749	185	374	86	21.4	4.3	1,212	370	1,659	166
Trouble concentrating .....	3,249	251	734	120	22.6	3.2	1,125	210	1,842	143
Trouble coping with stress ....	4,229	286	1,156	150	27.3	3.0	1,339	201	1,819	123
Difficulty managing money/ bills .....	2,307	212	578	106	25.1	4.0	1,084	246	2,103	180
<b>Working at a Job</b>										
With disability related problems <sup>2</sup> .....	22,873	644	7,918	389	34.6	1.4	1,500	78	2,314	65
Has difficulty remaining employed .....	12,718	489	2,073	201	16.3	1.5	720	96	1,910	71
Limited in kind/amount of work <sup>2</sup> .....	21,571	627	7,450	377	34.5	1.4	1,500	79	2,288	66
Prevented .....	12,752	489	321	79	2.5	0.6	1,083	323	1,817	65
Not prevented .....	8,819	410	7,129	369	80.8	1.9	1,512	81	3,207	139
<b>Disability Domains</b>										
With a disability in 1 domain ....	16,578	554	8,540	403	51.5	1.7	2,000	85	3,049	97
Communication .....	1,759	185	1,395	165	79.3	4.3	2,543	236	3,931	325
Physical .....	11,298	462	5,167	316	45.7	2.1	1,994	104	3,001	114
Mental .....	3,521	261	1,978	196	56.2	3.7	1,732	169	2,807	214
With a disability in 2 domains ...	8,481	402	3,392	256	40.0	2.4	1,766	123	2,252	105
Communication and physical ..	3,363	255	1,785	187	53.1	3.8	2,165	175	2,765	182
Communication and mental ...	472	96	*191	61	40.6	10.0	1,168	471	2,285	465
Physical and mental .....	4,646	299	1,416	166	30.5	3.0	1,386	172	1,856	118
With a disability in 3 domains ...	2,529	222	635	111	25.1	3.8	1,210	261	1,743	142
Domain(s) not identified .....	557	104	269	73	48.2	9.4	2,656	722	3,286	602
No disability .....	142,204	1,219	118,702	1,191	83.5	0.4	2,539	24	4,669	42
<b>Selected Conditions Reported as the Cause or One of the Causes of Activity Limitations or Fair/ Poor Health</b>										
Arthritis or rheumatism .....	7,183	371	3,443	258	47.9	2.6	1,944	128	2,922	140
Back or spine problem .....	10,432	444	5,027	311	48.2	2.2	1,879	104	2,801	112
Diabetes .....	3,292	253	1,409	166	42.8	3.8	1,800	183	2,288	163
Heart trouble or hardening of arteries .....	2,746	231	1,106	147	40.3	4.1	2,203	276	2,881	223
High blood pressure .....	2,427	217	1,146	150	47.2	4.5	2,000	202	2,617	200
Lung or respiratory problems ...	2,418	217	1,132	149	46.8	4.5	1,677	200	2,556	218
Mental or emotional problems ..	3,056	244	758	122	24.8	3.5	909	166	1,653	125
Stiffness or deformity of legs, arms, feet or hands .....	2,141	204	1,115	148	52.1	4.8	1,957	205	2,784	261

<sup>†</sup> Since this estimate is less than 200,000 or based upon a population less than 200,000 (implying questionably small sample size), the estimate, its confidence interval estimate, and any other estimate associated with it are unlikely to be accurate enough to reveal useful information.

<sup>1</sup> A 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to <www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7(S&A-7).pdf>. Confidence intervals for estimates of median earnings and median income are created using median absolute deviation. For more information on this method, see Peter Rousseeuw and Christophe Croux, "Alternatives to the Median Absolute Deviation," JASA, Vol. 88, No. 425, December 1993, pp. 1273–1283.

<sup>2</sup> Not part of the disability definition.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

Table B-4.

# **Prevalence of Disability Among Children Under 15 Years Old by Specific Measures of Disability: 2005**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Number	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>	Percent	90-percent C.I. (±) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Under 3 years</b> .....	<b>12,008</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	228	67	1.9	0.6
With a developmental delay .....	206	63	1.7	0.5
Difficulty moving arms or legs .....	<sup>†</sup> 60	34	0.5	0.3
No disability .....	11,779	471	98.1	0.6
<b>3 to 5 years</b> .....	<b>12,339</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	475	96	3.8	0.8
With a developmental delay .....	387	87	3.1	0.7
Difficulty walking, running, or playing .....	227	67	1.8	0.5
No disability .....	11,864	473	96.2	0.8
<b>6 to 14 years</b> .....	<b>36,361</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
With a disability .....	4,654	300	12.8	0.8
Severe .....	1,584	176	4.4	0.5
Not severe .....	3,069	244	8.4	0.6
With no disability .....	31,708	746	87.2	0.8
Difficulty doing regular schoolwork .....	2,528	222	7.0	0.6
Difficulty getting along with others .....	672	115	1.8	0.3
With one or more selected conditions .....	2,116	203	5.8	0.5
A learning disability .....	1,024	141	2.8	0.4
Mental retardation .....	<sup>†</sup> 195	62	0.5	0.2
Other developmental disability <sup>2</sup> .....	347	82	1.0	0.2
Other developmental condition <sup>2</sup> .....	1,066	144	2.9	0.4
With a developmental disability or condition .....	1,325	161	3.6	0.4
Difficulty seeing words or letters .....	278	74	0.8	0.2
Severe .....	<sup>†</sup> 44	29	0.1	0.1
Not severe .....	234	68	0.6	0.2
Difficulty hearing conversation .....	244	69	0.7	0.2
Severe .....	<sup>†</sup> 16	18	—	—
Not severe .....	228	67	0.6	0.2
Difficulty with speech .....	719	119	2.0	0.3
Severe .....	<sup>†</sup> 138	52	0.4	0.1
Not severe .....	581	107	1.6	0.3
Difficulty walking or running .....	748	121	2.1	0.3
Used a wheelchair or similar device .....	<sup>†</sup> 83	40	0.2	0.1
Use a cane, crutches, or walker .....	<sup>†</sup> 60	34	0.2	0.1
Had used for 6 months or more .....	<sup>†</sup> 49	31	0.1	0.1
With an ADL limitation .....	263	72	0.7	0.2
Needed personal assistance .....	236	68	0.6	0.2
Did not need personal assistance .....	<sup>†</sup> 27	23	0.1	0.1

(X) Not applicable.

— Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>†</sup> Since this estimate is less than 200,000 or based upon a population less than 200,000 (implying questionably small sample size), the estimate, its confidence interval estimate, and any other estimate associated with it are unlikely to be accurate enough to reveal useful information.

<sup>1</sup> A 90-percent confidence interval is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. For further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, go to [www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7\(S&A-7\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04W1toW7(S&A-7).pdf).

<sup>2</sup> A child was considered to have a developmental disability if a "yes" response was received to a question about the presence of mental retardation or to a question about the presence of some other developmental disability, such as autism or cerebral palsy. A child was considered to have a developmental condition if a "yes" response was received to a question about the presence of a developmental condition for which the child had received therapy or diagnostic services.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005.

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