Disability Status: 2000

Census 2000 Brief

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Census 2000 counted 49.7 million people with some type of long lasting condition or disability.[1] They represented 19.3 percent of the 257.2 million people who were aged 5 and older in the civilian noninstitutionalized population — or nearly one person in five (see Table 1).[2] Within this population, Census 2000 found:

- 9.3 million (3.6 percent) with a sensory disability involving sight or hearing.
- 21.2 million (8.2 percent) with a condition limiting basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- 12.4 million (4.8 percent) with a physical, mental, or emotional condition causing difficulty in learning, remembering, or concentrating.
- 6.8 million (2.6 percent) with a physical, mental, or emotional condition causing difficulty in dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.
- 18.2 million of those aged 16 and older with a condition that made it difficult to go outside the home to shop or visit a doctor (8.6 percent of

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Disability From Census 2000

16 Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

	Yes	No
a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment?	☐	☐
b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?	☐	☐

17 Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

	Yes	No
a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating?	☐	☐
b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home?	☐	☐
c. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office?	☐	☐
d. (Answer if this person is 16 YEARS OLD OR OVER.) Working at a job or business?	☐	☐

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

[1] The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted.

[2] In this report, the population universe for people with disabilities excludes people in the military and people who are in institutions.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U
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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States Census 2000

Table 1.
Characteristics of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Age, Disability Status, and Type of Disability: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Characteristic	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 5 and older	**257,167,527**	**100.0**	**124,636,825**	**100.0**	**132,530,702**	**100.0**
With any disability	49,746,248	19.3	24,439,531	19.6	25,306,717	19.1
Population 5 to 15	**45,133,667**	**100.0**	**23,125,324**	**100.0**	**22,008,343**	**100.0**
With any disability	2,614,919	5.8	1,666,230	7.2	948,689	4.3
Sensory	442,894	1.0	242,706	1.0	200,188	0.9
Physical	455,461	1.0	251,852	1.1	203,609	0.9
Mental	2,078,502	4.6	1,387,393	6.0	691,109	3.1
Self-care	419,018	0.9	244,824	1.1	174,194	0.8
Population 16 to 64	**178,687,234**	**100.0**	**87,570,583**	**100.0**	**91,116,651**	**100.0**
With any disability	33,153,211	18.6	17,139,019	19.6	16,014,192	17.6
Sensory	4,123,902	2.3	2,388,121	2.7	1,735,781	1.9
Physical	11,150,365	6.2	5,279,731	6.0	5,870,634	6.4
Mental	6,764,439	3.8	3,434,631	3.9	3,329,808	3.7
Self-care	3,149,875	1.8	1,463,184	1.7	1,686,691	1.9
Difficulty going outside the home	11,414,508	6.4	5,569,362	6.4	5,845,146	6.4
Employment disability	21,287,570	11.9	11,373,786	13.0	9,913,784	10.9
Population 65 and older	**33,346,626**	**100.0**	**13,940,918**	**100.0**	**19,405,708**	**100.0**
With any disability	13,978,118	41.9	5,634,282	40.4	8,343,836	43.0
Sensory	4,738,479	14.2	2,177,216	15.6	2,561,263	13.2
Physical	9,545,680	28.6	3,590,139	25.8	5,955,541	30.7
Mental	3,592,912	10.8	1,380,060	9.9	2,212,852	11.4
Self-care	3,183,840	9.5	1,044,910	7.5	2,138,930	11.0
Difficulty going outside the home	6,795,517	20.4	2,339,128	16.8	4,456,389	23.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

the 212.0 million people this age).

- 21.3 million of those aged 16 to 64 with a condition that affected their ability to work at a job or business (11.9 percent of the 178.7 million people this age).

This report is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000. It presents data on the disability status of people aged 5 and older in the civilian noninstitutionalized population, and describes the geographic distribution of people with disabilities for the United States,[3] including regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000 or more.

Information on disability was first collected in the 1830 census and the questions have evolved over the decades. Census 2000 asked two questions (see Figure 1) about long-lasting conditions among the population aged 5 and older. The first question, with two subparts, focused on long-lasting impairments involving vision or hearing (sensory disability) and certain physical limitations, such as difficulty walking or climbing stairs (physical disability). The second question, with four subparts, concentrated on difficulty performing certain activities due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition. People aged 5 and older were asked if they experienced difficulty with cognitive tasks such as learning, remembering, and concentrating (mental disability). They were also asked about difficulty in taking care of personal needs like dressing and bathing (self-care disability). People aged 16 and older were asked if they experienced difficulty going outside the home to shop or visit the doctor. Additionally, people in this group were asked if a physical, mental, or emotional condition caused them difficulty working at a job or business (employment disability).

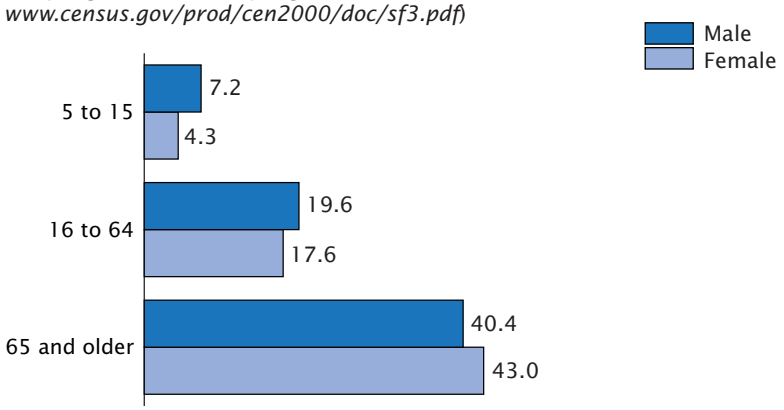
This report uses a disability status indicator to present estimates of the number and percentage of people with disabilities. People were defined as having a disability if

[3] The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 3 and Figure 5.

Figure 2.

Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population With Any Disability by Age and Sex: 2000

(For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

one or more of the following conditions were true:

- They were aged 5 or older and responded "yes" to a sensory, physical, mental, or self-care disability.
- They were aged 16 years or older and responded "yes" to a disability affecting going outside the home.
- They were between the ages of 16 and 64 and responded "yes" to an employment disability.

When referring to people with disabilities, this report does not distinguish between people who responded positively to only one of the subparts and those who responded positively to more than one. As a result, the terms "with a disability," "with any disability," and "with one or more disabilities" are used interchangeably throughout the report.

Census 2000 asked for disability information from all people aged 5 and older, except those responding to special military or shipboard questionnaires. This report considers only the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

As a result of extensive discussions with the disability and policy research communities, the Census 2000 questions on disability were substantially different from the 1990 questions on this topic. While Census 2000 gathered data from the population aged 5 and older, data collected in 1990 came only from the population aged 15 and older. The 1990 questions focused on conditions limiting work, going outside the home, and self-care, but did not specify sensory impairments or conditions restricting walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying. Because of the major differences between the disability questions in 1990 and 2000, comparisons between the two censuses are not recommended.

Census 2000 showed disability rising with age.

Disability rates rose with age for both sexes, but significant differences existed between men and women, as illustrated in Figure 2. For people under 65 years old, the prevalence of disability among men and boys was higher than among women and girls. In contrast, disability rates were higher for women than men aged 65 and older.

Specifically, in 2000, the disability rate was 7.2 percent for boys 5 to 15 years old and 4.3 percent for girls the same age. Nearly two-thirds of all children with disabilities were boys. Census 2000 found 1.7 million boys this age with one or more disabilities, compared with 949,000 girls this age.

Among people aged 16 to 64 in the civilian noninstitutionalized population, 19.6 percent of men and 17.6 percent of women reported one or more disabilities. Among people 65 and older, the disability rate was 43.0 percent for women and 40.4 percent for men. In this age group, 59.7 percent of people with disabilities were women. However, 58.2 percent of all people aged 65 and older were women.

In the civilian noninstitutionalized population, people 65 and older were much more likely than people of working age (16 to 64) to report a sensory, physical, mental, or self-care disability, or a disability causing difficulty going outside the home (see Figure 3). While only 6.4 percent of working-age adults experienced difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit the doctor, 20.4 percent of older adults reported these problems. Physical disabilities affected 6.2 percent of the working-age population and 28.6 percent of older adults. About 3.8 percent of working-age adults reported difficulties in learning, remembering, or concentrating (a mental disability), compared with 10.8 percent of older adults. The prevalence of a self-care disability was more than 5 times greater among older adults

(9.5 percent) than among people of working age (1.8 percent). Also, the occurrence of sensory disabilities was more than 6 times greater among older adults than working-age people, 14.2 percent compared with 2.3 percent.

Disability rates varied among the major racial and ethnic groups.

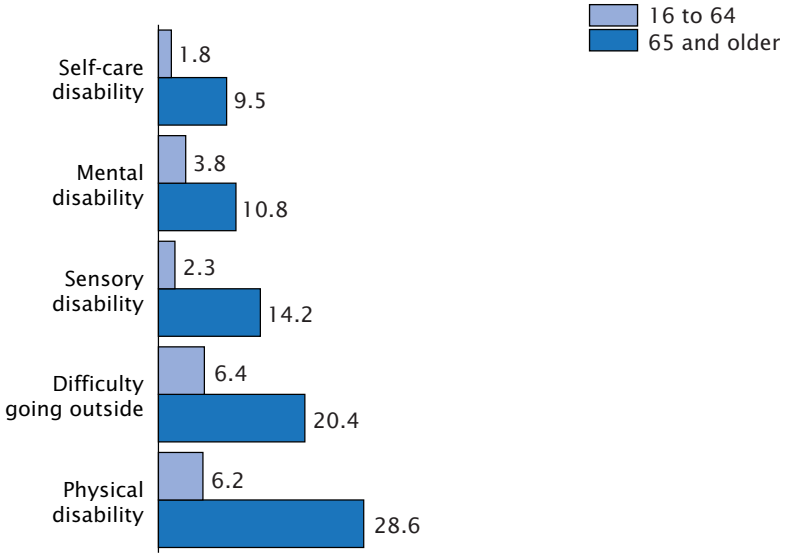
Census 2000 allowed respondents to choose more than one race. With the exception of the Two or more races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated *only one* racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.[4] The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.[5]

Interestingly, people who indicated that they were White (and no other race) and were not of Hispanic or Latino origin had a low overall disability rate despite the fact that their median age was higher than for other racial and ethnic groups examined in this brief.[6] In Census 2000, they reported a disability rate of 18.3 percent, compared with 19.3 percent for all noninstitutionalized civilians aged 5 and older, as shown in Table 2.[7]

Figure 3.

Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population With a Disability by Age and Type of Disability: 2000

(For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Among the racial and ethnic groups examined in this report, the highest overall estimated disability rate, 24.3 percent, was shared by two groups — people who reported Black and people who reported American Indian and Alaska Native. The disability rates for these two groups were higher than the rates for non-Hispanic Whites in each of the broad age groups investigated in this report (see Table 2). Among children 5 to 15 years old, the disability rate was 5.7 percent for non-Hispanic Whites, but 7.0 percent for Black children and 7.7 percent for American Indian and Alaska Native children. Although the disability rate was 16.2 percent for non-Hispanic Whites of working age (16 to 64), it was 26.4 percent for Blacks and 27.0 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Among people 65 and older, the rates were 40.4, 52.8, and 57.6 percent, respectively.

Asians who reported only one race had the lowest overall disability

[4] For further information on each of the 6 major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.*

[5] This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through American FactFinder, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, *www.census.gov.* Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White ***and*** American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian ***and*** Black or African American," is forthcoming in Summary File 4, which will also be available through American FactFinder in 2003. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race.

[6] For information on median age, see Age: 2000 (C2KBR/01-12).

[7] Hereafter this report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino.

Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for Whites, 1.9 percent for Blacks, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some other race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or more races.

Table 2.
Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population With Any Disability by Age and Selected Race and Hispanic Origin Groups: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	Total population aged 5 and older	Percent with a disability			
		5 and older	5 to 15	16 to 64	65 and older
Total	**257,167,527**	**19.3**	**5.8**	**18.6**	**41.9**
White alone	195,100,538	18.5	5.6	16.8	40.6
Black or African American alone	30,297,703	24.3	7.0	26.4	52.8
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,187,507	24.3	7.7	27.0	57.6
Asian alone	9,455,058	16.6	2.9	16.9	40.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	337,996	19.0	5.1	21.0	48.5
Some other race alone	13,581,921	19.9	5.2	23.5	50.4
Two or more races	6,206,804	21.7	7.1	25.1	51.8
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	31,041,269	20.9	5.4	24.0	48.5
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	180,151,084	18.3	5.7	16.2	40.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

rate of any of the racial and ethnic groups examined in this report: 16.6 percent. Their child disability rate, 2.9 percent, was also the lowest. The disability rate for working-age Asians (16.9 percent) was slightly higher than the rate for working-age non-Hispanic Whites, whereas the rates for those 65 and older were not significantly different.

The overall disability rate for single-race Pacific Islanders (19.0 percent) and their child disability rate (5.1 percent) were both slightly higher than the corresponding rates for Asians, but not statistically different from the rates for non-Hispanic Whites. However, the rates for Pacific Islander working-age adults (21.0 percent) and older adults (48.5 percent) were higher than the rates for Asians and non-Hispanic Whites in these same age groups.

Even though people reporting two or more races had the lowest median age among the racial or ethnic groups examined in this report, their disability rates were among the highest in 2000 — 21.7 percent overall. Among those reporting two or more races, 7.1 percent of children, 25.1 percent of working-age adults, and 51.8 percent of older adults reported at least one disability.

The overall disability rate was higher for Hispanics (20.9 percent) than for non-Hispanic Whites (18.3 percent). However, their child disability rate was lower — (5.4 percent compared with 5.7 percent). Still, the disability rates for Hispanics of working-age (24.0 percent) and older (48.5 percent) exceeded the rates for non-Hispanic Whites.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The following discussion on the geographic distribution of people with disabilities is based on the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 5 and older.

Almost two out of every five people with a disability lived in the South, while about one in five lived in each of the other three regions of the United States.[8]

Even though 35.5 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population 5 and older lived in the South in 2000, this region was home to 38.3 percent of people with disabilities, as shown in Figure 4. The 20.9-percent disability rate in the South was higher than the rate in any other region. This high rate, coupled with the

[8] The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

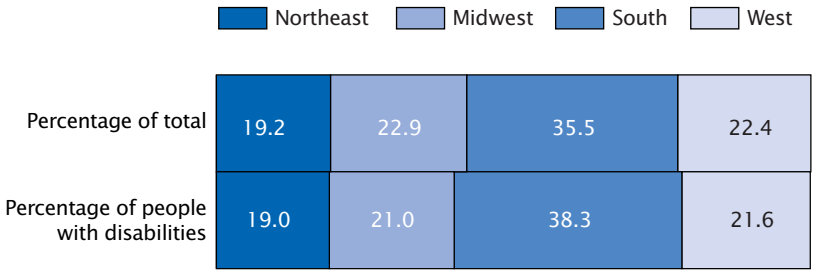
fact that the South contained the largest total population among the four regions, accounted for the fact that the South recorded the largest disabled population in 2000 — 19.1 million people.

The West and the Midwest had the second and third largest disabled populations — 10.8 million and 10.5 million, respectively. However, the percentage of people with disabilities was low in both these regions — 18.7 percent in the West and 17.7 percent in the Midwest. Among the four regions, the Northeast had the fewest people with disabilities — 9.5 million or 19.2 percent of its total population — but it also had the smallest total population.

Figure 4.

Percent Distribution of All Noninstitutionalized Civilians Aged 5 and Older and All People With Disabilities by Region: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*



Note: Numbers may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Among the states, the disability rate was highest in West Virginia.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the highest disability rates were in the South, as shown in Table 3. West Virginia, the state with the highest median age in the United States, also recorded the highest disability rate, 24.4 percent. It was followed closely by four other southern states: Kentucky (23.7 percent), Arkansas (23.6 percent), Mississippi (23.6 percent), and Alabama (23.2 percent).[9] Not all states in the South had high disability rates. In fact, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia had disability rates that were significantly below the national rate.

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and West Virginia — the states with highest overall disability rates — also registered high rates for each of the individual measures. For example, in Mississippi 4.8 percent of people reported a sensory disability, 11.3 percent reported a physical disability, and 6.4 percent reported a mental disability. These rates exceeded the national rates of 3.6 percent, 8.2 percent, and 4.8 percent, respectively.[10]

The states with the lowest disability rates were in the West and Midwest. Alaska (14.9 percent), Utah (14.9 percent), and Minnesota (15.0 percent) topped the list of states with the lowest disability rates.[11] Wisconsin and Nebraska, both of which had an estimated disability rate of 16.0 percent, followed.[12]

Minnesota and Utah registered low rates by every measure. Even so, low disability rates by one measure did not guarantee low rates by every measure. For example, Nevada had one of the lowest percentages of the civilian noninstitutionalized population with difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability), 3.8 percent compared with 4.8 percent nationwide. However, among the civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 to 64 years old, the percentage of Nevadans who reported difficulty working at a job or business was high, 14.5 percent compared with 11.9 percent, nationally.

In 2000, counties with very high disability rates were clustered in the coal mining areas of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia.[13]

Included in this group of counties were Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Leslie, Martin, and Owsley counties in Kentucky; Buchanan County, Virginia; and McDowell County,

[9] The disability rate for Kentucky was not significantly different than the rates for Arkansas or Mississippi, and the rate for Arkansas is not significantly different than the rate for Mississippi.

[10] The rate of sensory disability in Mississippi and the rate of mental disability in the United States are not significantly different.

[11] The disability rates in Alaska, Utah, and Minnesota were not significantly different from one another.

[12] The disability rate in Nebraska was not significantly different from the rate for Colorado (16.3 percent).

[13] Although the point estimate for the disability rate in Kalawao county, Hawaii, (60 percent) was the highest, it was not statistically different from high disability rates in other counties. Kalawao County registered a high disability rate in Census 2000 in part because of its charter. According to Hawaii state law (§324-34(b)), it is "under the jurisdiction and control of the [state] department of health and is governed by the laws and rules relating to the department and the care and treatment of persons affected with Hansen's disease." Hansen's disease is also called leprosy.

Table 3.

Disability Status of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population of the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

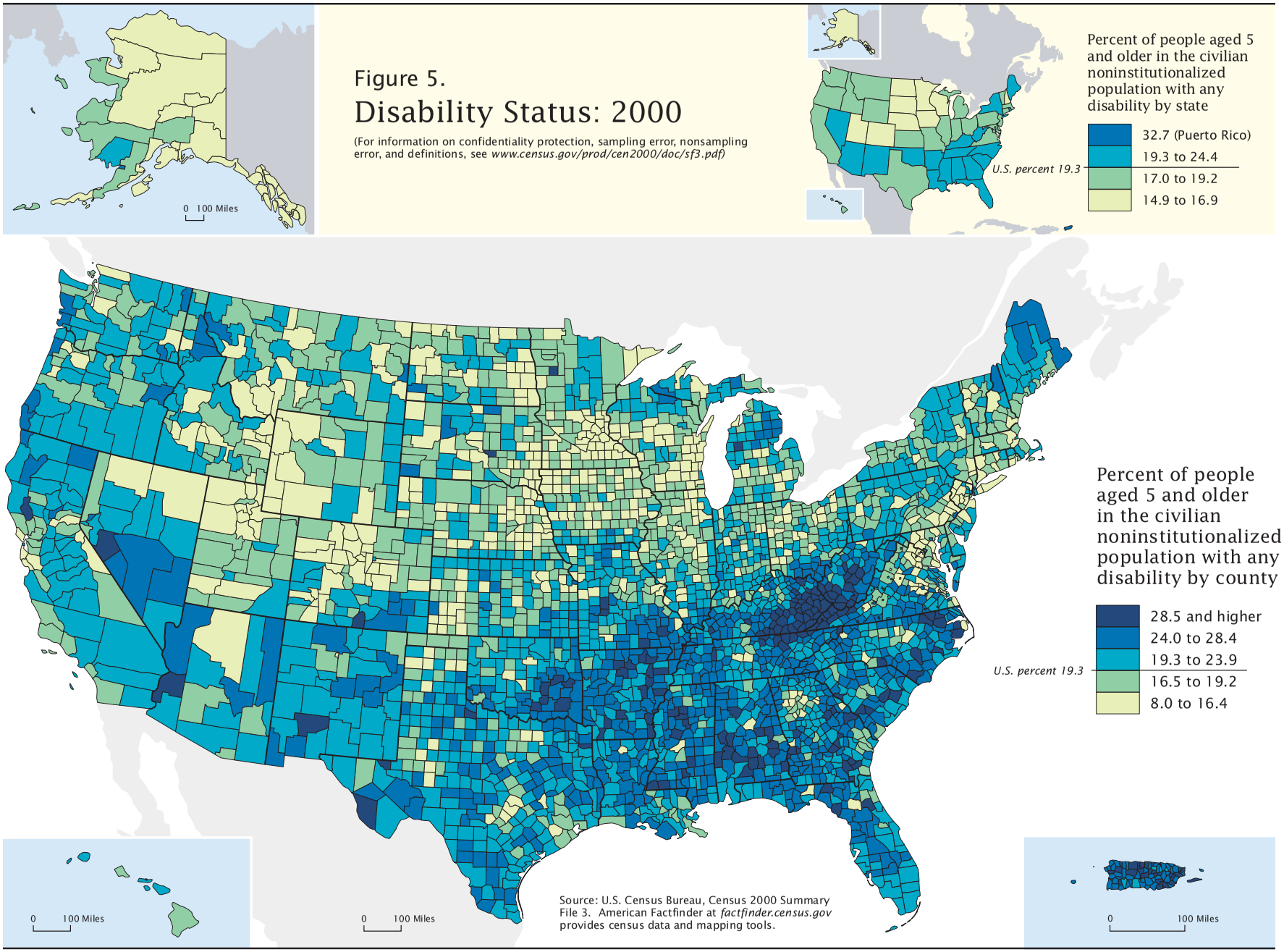
Area	Population 5 and older						Population 16 and older		Population 16 to 64	
		Percentage with selected disabilities								
	Number	Any disability	Sensory disability	Physical disability	Mental disability	Self-care disability	Number	Percentage with difficulty going outside the home	Number	Percentage with employment disability
United States . .	**257,167,527**	**19.3**	**3.6**	**8.2**	**4.8**	**2.6**	**212,033,860**	**8.6**	**178,687,234**	**11.9**
Region										
Northeast	49,386,446	19.2	3.3	7.7	4.6	2.6	41,161,934	8.8	34,177,140	11.9
Midwest	59,017,677	17.7	3.5	7.8	4.6	2.4	48,620,454	7.4	40,836,120	10.3
South	91,179,367	20.9	4.0	9.2	5.2	2.9	75,292,633	9.3	63,405,874	13.0
West	57,584,037	18.7	3.5	7.5	4.6	2.4	46,958,839	8.5	40,268,100	11.9
State										
Alabama	4,071,185	23.2	4.7	11.0	6.2	3.6	3,370,738	10.6	2,815,333	13.7
Alaska	557,705	14.9	3.8	6.6	4.4	1.9	436,142	5.3	401,841	8.3
Arizona	4,667,187	19.3	3.8	8.2	4.6	2.4	3,822,951	8.0	3,169,173	12.2
Arkansas	2,440,964	23.6	5.1	11.8	6.5	3.7	2,021,501	9.9	1,666,895	13.8
California	30,853,063	19.2	3.2	7.2	4.6	2.5	25,039,958	9.7	21,570,148	12.8
Colorado	3,926,325	16.3	3.3	6.7	4.2	1.9	3,246,486	6.1	2,847,842	9.9
Connecticut	3,120,953	17.5	3.1	6.9	4.2	2.3	2,589,549	7.6	2,149,614	11.0
Delaware	716,691	18.4	3.2	8.0	4.6	2.3	594,673	7.2	497,601	11.2
District of Columbia . .	528,933	21.9	3.2	8.0	4.9	3.0	458,424	11.0	391,946	13.5
Florida	14,730,208	22.2	4.1	9.6	5.1	2.9	12,435,261	9.8	9,715,134	14.2
Georgia	7,402,293	19.7	3.4	8.2	4.8	2.6	6,061,272	9.2	5,306,618	12.6
Hawaii	1,087,490	18.4	3.5	7.2	4.6	2.3	903,314	8.9	745,317	11.4
Idaho	1,174,093	17.1	4.2	7.9	4.9	2.1	947,715	6.0	807,071	9.4
Illinois	11,350,345	17.6	3.1	7.2	4.1	2.4	9,336,005	8.3	7,919,587	10.8
Indiana.	5,563,619	19.0	3.8	8.3	4.8	2.5	4,591,434	7.5	3,884,065	11.3
Iowa.	2,686,760	16.6	3.5	7.5	4.2	2.1	2,230,430	6.2	1,826,699	9.3
Kansas	2,440,373	17.6	3.7	8.0	4.3	2.3	1,999,749	6.9	1,669,088	10.2
Kentucky	3,695,005	23.7	5.1	12.2	6.9	3.6	3,081,517	9.7	2,604,977	13.9
Louisiana	4,045,963	21.8	4.3	9.8	5.9	3.3	3,288,622	9.5	2,799,048	12.9
Maine.	1,187,124	20.0	4.4	9.5	5.8	2.5	993,421	6.5	818,423	11.7
Maryland	4,843,046	17.6	3.0	7.0	4.3	2.2	3,985,174	7.9	3,412,197	10.8
Massachusetts.	5,860,845	18.5	3.2	7.1	4.7	2.4	4,918,464	7.9	4,111,458	11.8
Michigan	9,138,340	18.7	3.5	8.3	5.2	2.7	7,503,217	8.0	6,332,137	10.7
Minnesota	4,526,211	15.0	3.0	6.4	4.1	1.9	3,717,854	5.8	3,163,716	8.6
Mississippi	2,575,139	23.6	4.8	11.3	6.4	3.8	2,093,773	11.1	1,767,972	14.4
Missouri	5,120,568	19.0	3.9	9.1	5.2	2.7	4,227,906	7.9	3,516,489	10.8
Montana	831,694	17.5	4.4	8.6	4.9	2.1	685,843	5.7	571,484	9.3
Nebraska	1,561,301	16.0	3.4	7.0	3.8	2.0	1,283,164	6.3	1,066,390	9.4
Nevada	1,823,351	20.6	3.5	7.9	3.8	2.2	1,508,632	8.3	1,294,567	14.5
New Hampshire	1,145,557	16.9	3.4	7.2	4.6	2.0	946,154	5.6	807,076	10.1
New Jersey	7,735,218	18.0	2.9	6.9	4.0	2.4	6,426,224	8.8	5,362,242	11.6
NewMexico	1,659,502	20.4	4.5	9.0	5.4	2.7	1,339,155	8.6	1,133,564	12.3
New York.	17,464,264	20.6	3.2	8.0	4.7	2.8	14,526,599	10.5	12,193,044	13.2
NorthCarolina	7,316,733	21.1	3.9	9.3	5.1	2.9	6,096,197	9.2	5,172,069	13.3
North Dakota	586,289	16.7	3.7	7.1	4.2	1.9	485,666	6.4	398,305	9.3
Ohio.	10,417,902	18.3	3.6	8.5	5.0	2.6	8,608,703	7.6	7,186,632	10.3
Oklahoma	3,124,998	21.6	5.0	10.7	5.7	3.1	2,577,036	8.6	2,147,470	12.5
Oregon	3,158,684	18.8	4.1	8.7	5.5	2.5	2,634,072	6.8	2,210,613	10.6
Pennsylvania	11,336,483	18.6	3.7	8.4	4.8	2.7	9,478,129	7.9	7,668,809	10.6
Rhode Island	967,557	20.2	3.5	7.8	5.1	2.4	810,601	8.6	667,036	12.7
South Carolina.	3,652,809	22.2	4.1	9.6	5.6	3.2	3,019,142	9.9	2,553,295	14.3
South Dakota.	686,094	16.7	3.8	7.6	3.9	1.9	560,279	6.2	459,778	9.4
Tennessee	5,214,986	22.0	4.5	10.6	6.2	3.3	4,346,553	9.4	3,678,482	13.2
Texas.	18,761,475	19.2	3.5	7.6	4.4	2.6	15,142,480	9.0	13,176,208	12.5
Utah.	1,998,373	14.9	3.1	5.9	4.2	1.7	1,575,354	5.8	1,391,541	8.9
Vermont	568,445	17.1	3.8	7.7	5.1	2.1	472,793	5.5	399,438	9.7
Virginia	6,377,588	18.1	3.3	7.8	4.7	2.4	5,290,221	7.7	4,536,339	10.9
Washington	5,395,395	18.2	4.1	8.1	5.1	2.4	4,448,728	6.9	3,809,080	10.6
West Virginia	1,681,351	24.4	5.8	13.5	7.7	4.1	1,430,049	10.1	1,164,290	13.2
Wisconsin	4,939,875	16.0	3.1	6.9	4.2	2.1	4,076,047	6.4	3,413,234	9.1
Wyoming	451,175	17.1	4.2	7.7	4.4	1.8	370,489	5.3	315,859	9.8
Puerto Rico	3,482,047	26.8	7.1	11.2	7.8	4.6	2,810,111	17.3	2,392,893	15.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 5.

Disability Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3. American Factfinder at *factfinder.census.gov* provides census data and mapping tools.

Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Percentage of People Aged 5 and Older With Disabilities in the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/sf3.pdf)*

Place	Number with disabilities	Percent	Margin of error*
Paterson, NJ	40,068	29.8	0.4
Miami, FL	97,782	29.4	0.2
Newark, NJ	71,291	29.0	0.3
Detroit, MI	244,893	28.3	0.1
Birmingham, AL	61,421	27.6	0.3
Springfield, MA	38,264	27.6	0.4
Hartford, CT	29,669	27.2	0.4
Baltimore, MD	162,044	27.2	0.2
Gary, IN	25,182	26.9	0.4
Buffalo, NY	69,927	26.2	0.3

* When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

West Virginia, as shown in Figure 5. Counties with high disability rates covered most of the South, with the exception of the Atlanta metropolitan area and a few counties scattered around the region.

The West, especially Colorado, contained many of the counties with the lowest disability rates. The disability rate was about 10 percent or less in Yakutat City and Borough in Alaska; Douglas, Gunnison, Routt, and San Miguel counties in Colorado; Madison County, Idaho, Summit County, Utah, and Teton County, Wyoming.

Counties with disability rates below the national rate distinguished the upper Midwest, especially the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Grant County, Nebraska, had a disability rate of about 10 percent. In fact, only a handful of counties in either the Midwest or the Northeast exhibited extremely high rates of disability. Many counties with low rates were found in the high-density area that stretched from New York City to Richmond, Virginia.

More than one person in four reported a disability in each of the ten places with the highest disability rates.

Among places with populations of 100,000 or more,[14] Paterson, New Jersey; Miami, Florida; and Newark, New Jersey, registered the highest proportions of people with disabilities, as shown in Table 4.[15] At least one person in four experienced some type of disability in each of the ten places with the highest point estimates for disability. Most of these places were older industrial cities. High concentrations of Blacks, Hispanics, and other populations exhibiting high disability rates were also common in these areas.

In 2000, many of the places with the lowest disability rates were fast growing areas on the outskirts of metropolitan areas — places with high concentrations of families with children (see Table 5). Naperville, Illinois, was the place with the lowest percentage of people with disabilities, 7.9 percent. One of the reasons why some places had low disability rates may be that only a small proportion of residents were aged 65 and older. Provo, Utah; Gilbert, Arizona; Plano, Texas; and Carrollton, Texas, were among the ten places with the lowest disability rates and the lowest percentage of older residents.[16]

[14] Census 2000 shows 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They include 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that are not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html*.

[15] The disability rates in Paterson, Miami, and Newark were not significantly different from one another. The percentage in Newark was not significantly different than Detroit.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

How many people had more than one disability in 2000?

Disability measures from Census 2000 were not mutually exclusive and 46.3 percent of people with any disability reported more than one. A person with a single condition might report both a physical disability and an employment disability. For example, a person with severe asthma may have also experienced difficulty climbing stairs and difficulty working at a job or business. The people who responded positively to more than one of the Census 2000 disability questions demonstrated the degree to which a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition could affect more than one aspect of a person's life.

Of the people who reported an employment disability, 56.4 percent also reported at least one other type of condition. (See Figure 6.) Additionally, 63.7 percent of people

[16] The disability rates in Provo, Gilbert, and Plano were not significantly different from one another. For more information on the population aged 65 and over, see *The 65 Years and Over Population: 2000* (C2KBR/01-10).

with a sensory disability, 67.6 percent of people with a physical disability, and 70.9 percent of people with a mental disability reported more than one condition. Among people with difficulty going outside the home, 81.5 percent indicated at least one other measure of disability. The disability most likely to be linked to multiple conditions was the self-care measure — 97.0 percent of people who marked this type of condition also reported one or more of the other measures of disability.

Were people with disabilities less likely to be employed than others?

Census 2000 showed that people between the ages of 16 and 64 were less likely to be employed if they were disabled (see Figure 7). While 79.9 percent of working-age men without a disability were employed, only 60.1 percent of those with a disability worked. Among women of working age, the respective employment rates were 67.3 percent and 51.4 percent. Altogether, 10.4 million men and 8.2 million women with disabilities were employed.

How many people with disabilities lived in poverty in 2000?[17]

In 2000, 8.7 million people with disabilities were poor — a substantially higher proportion (17.6 percent) than was found among people aged 5 and older without disabilities (10.6 percent). However, the pattern of poverty by age was similar for both groups, with the highest poverty rates found among children aged 5 to 15 (see Figure 8). The poverty rate for young people with disabilities was 25.0 percent, compared with 15.7 percent for those without disabilities. The next highest poverty rates for both groups were found among people 16 to 64 years old — 18.8 percent for those with disabilities, nearly double the rate for those without (9.6 percent). Among people 65 years old and over, the respective proportions were 13.2 percent and 7.4 percent.

[17] Poverty status was determined for all noninstitutionalized civilians, except those in military group quarters and dormitories, and unrelated individuals under age 15. For more information on poverty, see *www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html*.

Table 5.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More With the Lowest Percentage of People Aged 5 and Older With Disabilities in the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/sf3.pdf)*

Place	Number with disabilities	Percent	Margin of error*
Naperville, IL	9,261	7.9	0.2
Provo, UT	9,823	10.3	0.3
Gilbert, AZ	10,598	10.8	0.3
Plano, TX	22,233	10.9	0.2
Irvine, CA	14,985	11.1	0.3
Ann Arbor, MI	12,062	11.2	0.3
Fort Collins, CO	12,727	11.5	0.3
Overland Park, KS	16,252	11.9	0.3
Carrollton, TX	12,338	12.3	0.3
Santa Clarita, CA	18,242	13.1	0.3

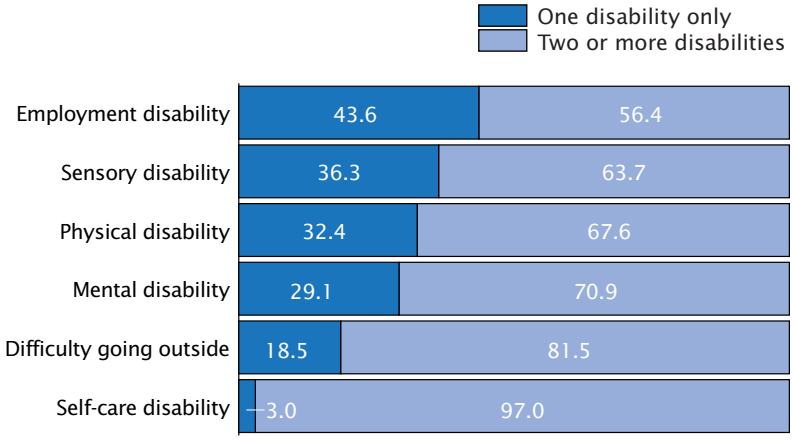
* When the margin of error is added to or subtracted from the estimate, it produces a 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from other places not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 6.
Percent Distribution of People With Disabilities in the Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population by Type and Number of Disabilities: 2000

(For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

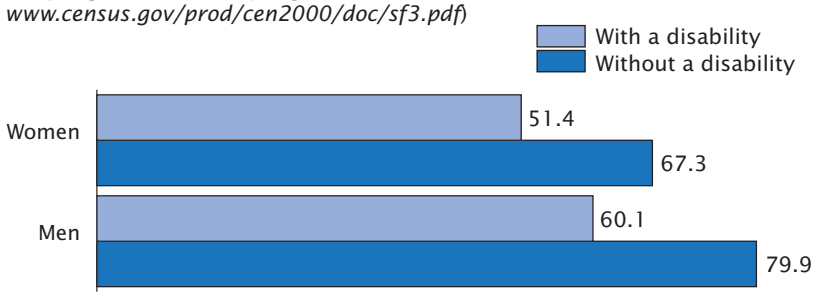


Note: The statistics for difficulty going outside the home are only for people aged 16 and older. The statistics on employment disability are only for people 16 to 64. All other disability estimates include people 5 and older.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 7.

Employed Men and Women Aged 16 to 64 as a Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Disability Status: 2000

(For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

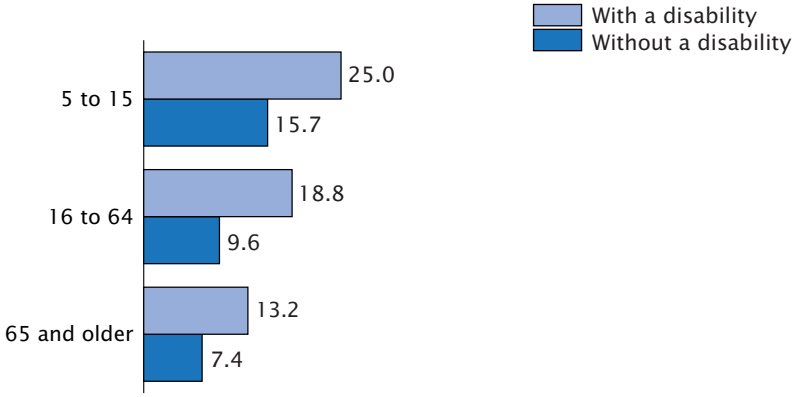


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 8.

Poverty Rates for People With and Without Disabilities in the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Age: 2000

(For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Why Census 2000 Asked About Disability

Information on disability is used by a number of federal agencies to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities and the elderly. Among these are the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Training Act, the School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Act, and State Literacy Initiatives. Data about the number, distribution, and needs of people with disabilities are essential under the Rehabilitation Act, which guarantees benefits to qualified people with disabilities. Data about difficulties going outside the home and work disabilities are important to ensure comparable public transportation services for all segments of the population, according to the goals of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Disability data also are used to allocate funds for employment and job training programs for veterans under the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. Under the Older Americans Act, federal grants are awarded based on the number of elderly people with physical and mental disabilities. Medicare and medicaid programs and federal education programs also use data on people with disabilities.

Accuracy of the Estimates

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately one out of every six housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required

information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*.

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

For More Information

For more information on people with disabilities in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site on disability at *www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability.html*. Data on people with disabilities from Census 2000 Summary File 3 were released on a state-by-state basis during the summer of 2002. The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available on the Internet via *factfinder.census.gov* and for purchase on CD-ROM and on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf* or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html*. This series presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail *webmaster@census.gov*.

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