

15th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: July 26, 2005

On this day in 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, guaranteeing equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.



Population Distribution

37.5 million

Number of people age 5 and over in the civilian noninstitutionalized population with at least one disability, representing 14 percent. These individuals fit at least one of the following descriptions: they are 5 years old or older and have a sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability; they are 16 years old or older and have difficulty going outside the home; or they are 16 to 64 years old and have an employment disability.

By age and sex —

- 8 percent of boys and 4 percent of girls ages 5 to 15 have disabilities.
- 12 percent of men and 11 percent of women ages 16 to 64 have disabilities. This apparent difference is not statistically significant.
- 42 percent of women and 38 percent of men 65 or older have disabilities.

Specific Disabilities

10.8 million

The number of people age 5 or older with a sensory disability involving sight or hearing. This group accounts for 4.1 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

23.6 million

The number of people age 5 or older with a condition limiting basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying. This group accounts for 9.0 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

13.5 million

The number of people age 5 or older with a physical, mental or emotional condition causing difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating. This group accounts for 5.1 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.



42%

Percentage of working-age men (21 to 64) with disabilities who are employed. For women, the rate is 34 percent. Altogether, 4.0 million men and 3.5 million women with disabilities are employed.

847,000

Number of people ages 18 to 34 who have disabilities and are enrolled in school. They comprise 5 percent of all students in this age group. The majority of this group (567,000) attend college or graduate school.

[More information](#) on the data appearing in the "Population Distribution" section.

Serving Our Nation

2.5 million

Number of [veterans who received compensation for service-related disabilities as of 2003](#) [PDF]. Of these vets, 414,000 served in World War II; 164,000 in Korea; 848,000 in Vietnam; and 476,000 in the Persian Gulf (the data cover service from Aug. 2, 1990 to Sept. 30, 2003).

7.0 million

Number of people age 5 or older who have a physical, mental or emotional condition causing difficulty in dressing, bathing or moving around inside the home. This group accounts for 2.7 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 5 or older.

10.7 million

Number of people age 16 or older who have a condition that makes it difficult to go outside the home to shop or visit a doctor. This group accounts for 4.9 percent of civilian noninstitutionalized people who are of this age.

11.8 million

Number of people ages 16 to 64 who have a condition that affects their ability to work at a job or business. They account for 6.4 percent of civilian noninstitutionalized people in this age group.

[More information](#) on the data appearing in the "Specific Disabilities" section.

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's [Facts for Features](#) series:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 17)/ African-American History Month (February)
- Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
- Women's History Month (March)
- St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
- Older Americans Month (May)
- Mother's Day (May 8)
- Father's Day (June 19)
- The Fourth of July (July 4)
- Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)
- Back to School (August)
- Labor Day (Sept. 5)
- Grandparents Day (Sept. 11)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Halloween (Oct. 31)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24)
- The Holiday Season (December)

Individual source links for each statement herein may be accessed on the Internet at http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/004998.htm.

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Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030; fax (301) 457-3670; or e-mail pio@census.gov.