

Figure 1.
Definition of Disability by Severity

Types of disabilities (applicable age group)	Severity	
	Nonsevere	Severe
Had difficulty seeing words in ordinary newsprint, hearing a normal conversation, or having speech understood (aged 6 and older).	X	
Was deaf, blind, or was unable to see, hear, or have speech understood (aged 6 and older).		X
Had difficulty moving arms or legs (under 3 years).	X	
Had difficulty walking, running, or playing/taking part in sports (aged 3 to 14).	X	
Had difficulty performing one or more functional activities: walking, using stairs, lifting/carrying, or grasping small objects (aged 15 and older).	X	
Unable to perform one or more of the functional activities (aged 15 and older).		X
Used a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or walker (aged 6 and older).		X
Had difficulty with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs): getting around inside the home, getting in or out of bed or a chair, bathing, dressing, eating, or toileting (aged 6 and older).	X	
Needed assistance of another person to perform one or more ADLs (aged 6 and older).		X
Had difficulty with one or more instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs): going outside the home, managing money and bills, preparing meals, doing light housework, taking prescription medicines, or using the telephone (aged 15 and older).	X	
Needed assistance of another person to perform one or more IADLs (aged 15 and older).		X
Had difficulty with schoolwork (aged 6 to 19).	X	
Was limited in the kind or amount of housework (aged 16 and older).	X	
Had difficulty finding a job or remaining employed (aged 16 to 72).		X
Had a learning disability such as dyslexia (aged 6 and older).	X	
Had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (aged 6 to 14).	X	
Had Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or senility (aged 15 and older).		X
Had a developmental delay (under 6 years).		X
Had an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, such as autism or cerebral palsy (aged 6 and older).		X
Had some other developmental condition for which received therapy or diagnostic services (aged 6 to 14).		X
Had difficulty getting along with other children of the same age (aged 6 to 14).	X	
Had one or more selected symptoms that interfered with everyday activities: was frequently depressed or anxious, had trouble getting along with others, had trouble concentrating, or had trouble coping with stress (aged 15 and older).		X
Had some other type of mental or emotional condition (aged 15 and older).	X	

Note: The definition of disability shown here is consistent with the definition used in the prior report, "Americans With Disabilities: 2005," (P70-117). The definition of ADLs and IADLs is consistent with other national surveys like the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey and the National Health Interview Survey.