

American Community Survey

Population: Question on Disability

Questions as they appear in the questionnaire.

17 a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?

Yes
 No

b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

Yes
 No

19 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?

Yes
 No

18 a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Yes
 No

b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Yes
 No

c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Yes
 No

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Information on disability is used by a number of federal agencies to distribute funds and develop programs for people with disabilities. For example, data about the size, distribution, and needs of the disabled population are essential for developing disability employment policy. For the Americans with Disabilities Act, data about functional limitations are important to ensure that comparable public transportation services are available for all segments of the population. Federal grants are awarded, under the Older Americans Act, based on the number of elderly people with physical and mental disabilities.

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COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Transportation

Disability data are used to allocate funds for mass transit systems to provide handicapped facilities.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, local transit authorities use these data on the number of individuals with functional limitations in order to ensure public transportation services are comparable to those for individuals without disabilities.

Employment

Data about people with disabilities are used to allocate funds to states and local areas for employment and job training programs for veterans.

Social Services

Under the Older Americans Act, these data assist state and local agencies concerned with aging to develop health care and other services tailored to the disabilities of the elderly.

Disability data are used by state and county agencies to plan for eligible recipients under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

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