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Disability Statistics used by Rehabilitation Professionals:
What's there, where it comes from, what it all means

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IARP Annual Conference, Portland, OR
November 1, 2019

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Why Disability Statistics?

- Statistics are valuable in many ways:
 - Improve understanding of issues
 - Help with needs assessments
 - Provide supporting evidence for services
 - Identify patterns and associations

However, finding, using, and documenting relevant disability statistics can be challenging

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Objectives

- Talk about disability data sources
- Strengths and limitations of different sources/resources
- Important considerations when presenting and exploring disability statistics
- Focus on easily accessible survey based statistics
- Demonstrate online data tools and other useful resources

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Disability Data Source Types:

- Administrative data (eg SSA, VR)
 - Includes only program participants
 - Not representative of overall population
 - Limited utility outside of program
- Survey data
 - Typically representative sample
 - Primary source of “population-based” statistics.

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Survey Data: Strengths and Limitations

- Samples can be designed to be representative of the population.
- Sample size can be an issue.
- Survey data is based on self-reports and personal interpretation of the questions.
- Sometimes proxy responses are used.
- Over time the wording of questions may change or survey instrument redesigned.

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Survey Data Source Examples:

- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Survey of Program Participation (SIPP) SSA Supplement

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Question:

How many people in the US have a disability?

- 85.3 Million
- 30.1 Million
- 41.1 Million
- 61.4 Million

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How many people in the US have a disability?

- 83.5 Million: 2014 SIPP SSA Supplement (all ages)
- 30.1 Million: 2019 CPS (ages 16+)
- 40.7 Million: 2017 ACS (all ages)
- 61.4 Million: 2016 BRFSS (ages 16+)

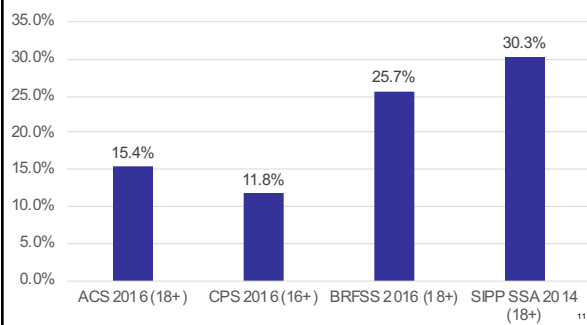
Answer: All of the above . . .

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Disability Prevalence Rate by Data Source



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There is no single accepted definition of disability.

- 67 Federal Acts or Programs define disability
- 35 have self-contained definitions
 - 26 use definitions from another Code section
 - 6 use definitions from more than one Code section.

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Different prevalence rates could be due to:

- Different disability questions
- Different sampling strategies
- Different data collection methods
- Different topical focus
- Different populations

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Consider the Survey Question!!

- Disability labels can be misleading
- Whenever possible carefully read the actual survey question used.
- How might a respondent interpret the question?
- Does it get at the specific population you are interested in?

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ACS 6 question sequence:

Hearing Disability (all ages):

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

Visual Disability (all ages):

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

Cognitive Disability (ages 5 or older):

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

Ambulatory Disability (ages 5 or older):

Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Self-Care Disability (ages 5 or older):

Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Independent Living Disability (ages 15 or older):

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?

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Which data source should I use?

Depends on the question(s) you are trying to address:

- Overall disability or specific type(s)
- Population of interest: children, working age, older individuals, program participants (ex. VR)
- Topic: prevalence, health, employment, wages, etc.
- Time frame: most recent, longitudinal
- Geographic level: national, state, local?

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Major National Disability Related Surveys

- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) SSA Supplement

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American Community Survey (ACS)

- Sponsor: Census Bureau
- Frequency: Annual
- Disability: ACS 6 question series
- Replaces Decennial Census Long Form
- Variety of other topics available w/disability
- Estimates at the national, state (including PR), county, city, town & local level

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American Community Survey (ACS) Data Resources

- Dataset Directory Description:
 - <http://datasetdirectory.disabilitystatistics.org/show/45>
- Disability Status Report, interactive search tool


National & state level data: variety of demographics & topics
www.DisabilityStatistics.org
- Census Bureau Data.Census.Gov

National, state & local level data
<https://data.census.gov>

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Current Population Survey (CPS)

- Sponsor: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Frequency: Monthly
- Disability: ACS 6 question series
- Focus: employment, government programs, and economic well-being
- Monthly employment & unemployment figures
- Estimates at the national level

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Current Population Survey (CPS) Data Resources:

Dataset Directory Description:

- <http://datasetdirectory.disabilitystatistics.org/show/74>

Work limitation disability
(www.DisabilityStatistics.org)
Time trends (1981-2014) employment, poverty etc.

Bureau of Labor Statistics
(<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability.htm>)
National monthly labor force statistics

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Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- Sponsor: Center for Disease Control (CDC) & state health departments
- Frequency: Annual
- Disability: ACS 6 question series
- Focus: chronic health conditions, health care access, health related behaviors (ex. immunization, smoking, alcohol use), worker health
- Estimates at the: national, state, territory, selected counties and cities

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Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) Resources:

- Dataset Directory Description:
 - <http://datasetdirectory.disabilitystatistics.org/show/46>
- Prevalence Data, Data Analysis & Mapping Tools:
 - http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/data_tools.htm

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2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) SSA Supplement

- Sponsor: SSA (& U.S. Census Bureau)
- Extensive set of disability questions
 - “kitchen sink” definition
- Disability severity measures
- Information about the economic and social situation of people with disabilities
- 2018 most recent report (2014 data)
- Relatively small sample

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2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) SSA Supplement Data Resources:

- Dataset Directory Description:
<http://datasetdirectory.disabilitystatistics.org/show/126>
- Americans With Disabilities: 2014, Household Economic Studies, Current Population Reports (November 2018)
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p70-152.pdf>

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www.DisabilityStatistics.org

- Yang-Tan developed a leading resource for disability statistics over 14 years ago
- Provides easy access to estimates from multiple data sources.
- First hit on Google when searching for disability statistics
- Expanded website through the CLDR to provide additional data tools for our users.

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Disability Statistics
Online Resource for U.S. Disability Statistics

ABOUT Disability Statistics
Select a topic below to access the Disability Statistics interactive search tool.

- American Community Survey (ACS)**
 - Prevalence
 - Employment Rate
 - Not Working but Actively Looking for Work
 - Full-Time / Full-Year Employment
 - Annual Earnings
 - Annual Household Income
 - Poverty
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Educational Attainment
 - Veterans Service-Connected Disability
 - Health Insurance Coverage (and Type)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)**
 - Prevalence
 - Labor Market Activity
 - Employment
 - Household Income
 - Poverty
- EEOC Charge Data Report Dashboard**
 - State Level Reports on Common Issues and States
 - Compare the Most Common Issues Cited Across States
 - Compare the Most Common Issues Cited Across States
 - Charge State Comparison by State
 - Charge State Comparison by Employment Discrimination Area
- Ask Our Researchers**
 - Log In
 - Create an account

REPORTS Disability Status Reports
National and state-level reports presenting prevalence and other economic status of people with disabilities.

[View Disability Status Reports](#)

Status Reports: PDF
United States
2013
[Download PDF in English](#)

Status Reports: HTML
United States
2013
[Download HTML in English](#)

Virgin Islands Status Report
[View Report](#)

RESEARCH Research Tools
Detailed information on dozens of national level disability data sources.

Disability and Compensation Worksheet Catalog
Provides an easy way to explore content and the broader conditions across disability and health conditions, work, compensation and more, nationally and by region.

Rehabilitation Research Cross-Database Worksheet Catalog
The Rehabilitation Research Cross-Database Worksheet Catalog is a user-friendly web site.

Disability Dataset User Guides
Disability Dataset User Guides are available for researchers and others who are major on the disability data products. They provide a detailed description of the dataset, including historical background, sampling strategy, limitations and unique features.

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The Issue

Variety of disability relevant data is available,

BUT

What is out there?

Which might be relevant?

How do you find them?

How do you access them?

In collaboration with UTMB, we developed
several tools to address these needs

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Center for Large Data Research & Data Sharing in Rehabilitation



The CLDR includes a consortium devoted to building rehabilitation research capacity by increasing the quantity and quality of clinical & health policy-relevant outcomes research using large data.

Visit us at: <http://rehabsciences.utmb.edu/cldr>



Supported by the National Institutes of Health – the NICHD/NCMRR, the NINDS, and the NIBIB # P2C-HD065702

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Dataset Tools at:

www.DisabilityStatistics.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of DisabilityStatistics.org. It features a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'CONTACT', 'FAQ', 'DISABILITY', and 'HELP'. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column lists data sources: American Community Survey (ACS) 2008-2011, Current Population Survey (CPS) 1998-2011, and EEOC Charge Data 2006-2014. The middle column lists tools: Disability Status Reports, Status Reports: PDF, Status Reports: HTML, and Virgin Islands Status Report. The right column lists research tools: Rehabilitation Research Center, Rehabilitation Research Center, and Disability and Compensation. A search bar is located at the top left of the main content area.

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Rehabilitation Dataset Directory

A searchable database to help identify datasets relevant to specific areas of interest.

- Summary description & data collection objective
- Health conditions/disability measures & outcomes
- Study design & sample
- Contact information and technical resources
- Some strengths and weaknesses
- Information is currently available for over 80 data sets

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Rehabilitation Research Cross-Dataset Variable Catalog

Browse or search for detailed variable level rehabilitation relevant information across 6 major datasets.

Topics:

- Demographics
- Disability and Medical Conditions
- Employment
- Health Behaviors
- Healthcare Access & Utilization
- Healthcare Costs and Health Insurance

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Rehabilitation Research Cross-Dataset Variable Catalog

Browse or search for detailed variable level rehabilitation relevant information across 6 major datasets. The catalog provides: variable names, labels, survey questions, resp categories and other related variables that can be exported into an excel spreadsheet for your use.

Note: this tool is designed to provide an overview of rehabilitation related information available across multiple datasets - always use the dataset's codebook/dictionary to get actual analysis.

Screen Reader Friendly Version

Show/Hide Help

Search by Topic, Data Set, or Keyword

Keyword Search: Search


Select Topic Select Data Set RESET ALL SELECTIONS

	HRS	MEPS	HNANES	NLTCS	BSCN	SIPP
Open All Close All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demographics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race/Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability & Medical Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Behaviors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare Access & Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare Costs & Health Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Search

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Other useful resources

- State Level data
<http://statedata.info>
Focuses on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Annual Disability Statistics Compendium
<https://disabilitycompendium.org/>
Compendium of disability tables from a variety of survey and administrative data sources

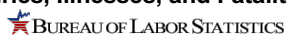
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Injury and Fatality Databases Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF)

 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Provides annual information on the rate and number of work related injuries, illnesses, and fatal injuries, and how they vary by incident, industry, geography, occupation, and other characteristics.

<http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm>

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Injury and Fatality Databases



WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)

CDC's interactive, online database that provides fatal and nonfatal injury, violent death, and cost of injury data.

<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

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Rehabilitation Services Administration's Case Service Report (RSA-911):

RSA-911 Query

Ad Hoc Query engine (do your own analysis):

https://rsa.ed.gov/ad-hoc-query.cfm?mode=set-query-options&tbl=vw_911_by_dataset

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Summary: Survey Data Sources

ACS:

Current national, state local level data,

CPS:

Monthly employment figures

SIPP SSA Supplement:

Detailed disability types (national level only)

BRFSS:

Health & behavior focused at the state, MSA and national level

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Questions?

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