

Annual Report on People with Disabilities in America: 2024

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and
Demographics

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The StatsRRTC is part of the Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The Institute on Disability was established in 1987 to provide a university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of people with disabilities and their families and is New Hampshire's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). Located within the University of New Hampshire, the IOD is a federally designated center authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Act. Through innovative and interdisciplinary research, academic, service, and dissemination initiatives, the IOD builds local, state, and national capacities to respond to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.



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Introduction

Make the Call

Statistics are numbers that show us how something has changed over time or how something could change in the future. For example, the National Bureau of Economic Research looks at the national gross domestic product, which tells us how much money the country makes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics checks how many people are or are not working. Every September, the United States Census Bureau tells us how many poor people there are and if that number is going up or down. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy People program reviews health data every ten years. The Annual Report on People with Disabilities in America tracks the progress of key social and economic statistics to see if things are getting better or worse for people with disabilities.

The Annual Report shows statistics on the most important topics about people with disabilities. We know these are the most important topics because of a large study done in 2008 by the National Council on Disability. The National Council on Disability chose these topics by asking many people what they thought were the most important things to know about people with disabilities. People said things like jobs, education, health, money, free time, relationships, and safety are the most important topics to know about.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed how information for the ACS, the survey we use, was collected in 2020. Because of this, for the Annual Report, we didn't run tests to compare the numbers between 2019 and 2020 or for 2020 and 2021. The US Census Bureau usually interviews people for the ACS in four different ways – online, by mail, on the phone, and in person. But because of the pandemic, from March to June 2020, they only did interviews online or by phone. Some in-person interviews started again in some places from July onwards. Interviews returned to the normal schedule in February 2021. They also couldn't send out as much mail, which changed the amount of information that was returned to them.

Because of these problems, the US Census Bureau had to do things a bit differently for the 2020 numbers. The usual way of calculating numbers used for all other years could not be used for 2020. If they had used that method, the 2020 results would be very wrong. So, the US Census Bureau adjusted the methods to make the results somewhat accurate. **However, since a different calculation was used for 2020, results from that year should not be compared to any other year.** [Visit the US Census Bureau online](#) for more information.

Suggested Citation

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Expanded Discussion

Topics

The Annual Report on People With Disabilities in America includes many of the key indicators identified in a comprehensive 2008 study, *Keeping Track: National Disability Status and Program Performance Indicators*, conducted by the National Council on Disability (NCD). This NCD report used a systematic approach of stakeholder input to select indicators based on data availability and ability to address key areas of interest to stakeholders. The resulting indicators were in the following areas of interest: employment, educational attainment, health and health care, financial status and security, leisure recreation, personal relationships, and crime/safety. At the top of each topic the population being studied is noted in parentheses. In the coming years, we intend to add to this report more of the NCD indicators in these areas, as well as indicators for which data has only recently become available.

Methods

The current set of indicators is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS). In future years, other data sources will be used to track other indicators. The ACS is an annual survey conducted by the Census Bureau and is well-suited to track indicators over time due to its large sample size, consistent questionnaire over the years, and multitude of variables to examine. The Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files were used to estimate the statistics enclosed. The PUMS files allow data users to conduct custom analyses. At the top of each topic the population being studied is noted in parentheses. Sample weights and replicate sample weights were used to produce nationally representative statistics that account for sample design effects. Statistical significance is based on a one-tail test using a 95 percent level of confidence.

The statistics in this Annual Report are from a national survey called the American Community Survey (ACS), which is done by the US Census Bureau. In the future, we will use other surveys for more statistics. The ACS happens every year and is great for keeping track of things (for example how many people have disabilities and how many people have health insurance) over time because it asks many people a lot of questions. We used the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files to calculate the numbers we're sharing. These files help people study the data in their own way. We made sure our numbers represent the whole country by using special methods. We followed certain mathematical tests to make sure the statistics we present here are accurate.

COVID-19 and Data Collection

The COVID-19 Pandemic impacted the collection of ACS data in 2020. As a result, statistical tests comparing estimates of 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 are not conducted. Tables include red lines above and below the 2020 row. Line graphs use dashed lines connecting 2019 and 2020 as well as 2020 and 2021.

To explain, the ACS uses a mix of internet, mail, telephone, and in-person interviews to collect data. **Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, data collection activities were interrupted.** In-person interviewing ceased on March 20, 2020, and only internet and telephone interviewing continued through the end of June 2020. In July and August 2020, limited in-person interviewing resumed in certain geographic areas, expanding throughout the year. However, the ACS resumed pre-COVID in-person interviewing coverage in February 2021. Mailings were also limited due to a decrease in federal staff and resources during this same period. This impacted not only mail data collection but also telephone response rates due to the lack of pre-notice mailings typically sent in advance of first contact.

Due to these data collection challenges, the U.S. Census Bureau assessed the 2020 ACS for new biases (i.e., differences from previous years) due to nonresponse and coverage and

examined data quality issues associated with low sample sizes high and high item non-response rates. Due to the corresponding bias in some point estimates, combined with the

lower reliability of estimates, the standard 1-year ACS estimates were not released. Instead, U.S. Census Bureau-issued experimental weights which have been applied to provide the best estimates for 2020 at the national and state level. Data users should not interpret substantial differences from 2020 estimates as evidence of a trend or statistically significant difference. Estimates using the experimental weights are generally considered the best possible estimates of U.S. population statistics for 2020, however, comparisons should not be made to prior or subsequent years.

Due to the variance properties of the experimental estimation methodology, the standard error estimates for some estimates may be smaller than expected when compared to the equivalent variance estimates from previous years. ([Visit the Census Bureau](#) for more information on experimental weights.)

Additional Resources

The Annual Report complements the detailed tables of data which can be found in the [Annual Disability Statistics Compendium](#). For reasons discussed previously in methods, the statistics reported in the Annual Report might differ from those reported in the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium and Supplement. Help navigating any of the resources described here can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section. Assistance interpreting and locating additional statistics is available via our toll-free number, 886-538-9521, or by email at disability.statistics@unh.edu. Please [visit the Center for Research on Disability online](#) for more information about our research projects.

Findings: 2021-2022 Calls

How did the lives of people with disabilities change from 2021 to 2022? The statistics show mixed results, according to the narrowing or widening of the “gaps” in key indicators between people with and without disabilities. “Calls” can be made for each of the indicators, meaning that we are certain that each of these gaps is greater than zero. In other words, we are certain (with at least 95 percent confidence) that a given gap exists. It is also important to note that statistical significance is not the same as the term significance or meaningfulness. Whether the magnitude of any gap is meaningful from a social or policy perspective is a matter for further discussion.

Population Size

While not a gap, the percentage of civilians with disabilities **increased** from 13.5 percent in 2021 to 13.9 percent in 2022.

Role of the Environment

While also not a gap, but an indicator of local area accessibility, the Disabling Environments Index **increased** from 32.4 percent in 2021 to 32.6 percent in 2022. The Index is the percentage of persons (civilians (ages 18-64 under living in community settings) with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disabilities) reporting independent living disability (i.e., difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping).

Institutionalization

The gap in the “percentage of living in institutional group quarters” between people (civilians 64 years old or younger) with and without disabilities **narrowed** from 2.45 percentage points in 2021 to 2.44 percentage points in 2022.

Education: High School

The gap in the “percentage attaining a high school diploma or equivalent” between people (civilians 25-34 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities **narrowed** from 6.3 percentage points in 2021 to 5.9 percentage points in 2022.

Education: College

The gap in the “percentage attaining a bachelor’s degree or higher” between people (civilians 25-34 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities **narrowed** from -21.5 percentage points in 2021 to -20.4 percentage points in 2022.

Employment

The gap in the “employment-to-population ratio” between people (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities **narrowed** from -35.9 percentage points in 2021 to -34.4 percentage points in 2022.

Earnings from Work

The gap in “median earnings from work” between people (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community and working full-time, full-year) with and without disabilities **widened** from -\$6,825 in 2021 to -\$8,331 in 2022.

Poverty

The gap in the “poverty rate” between people (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities **widened** from 13.5 percentage points in 2021 to 14.3 percentage points in 2022.

Health Insurance

The difference in the “percentage with health insurance coverage” between people (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities **decreased** from 2.1 percentage points in 2021 to 1.9 percentage points in 2022.

Health Insurance: Private

The gap in the “percentage with private health insurance coverage” between people with (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) and without disabilities **narrowed** from -27.2 percentage points in 2021 to -26.3 percentage points in 2022.

Mass Transit to Work

The difference in the “percentage of workers using mass transportation to go to work” between people with (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) and without disabilities **decreased** from 0.7 percentage points in 2021 to 0.6 percentage points in 2022.

Age of Home (1990+)

The gap in the “percentage living in homes built in 1990 or more recent” between people (civilians 18-64 years old living in the community) with and without disabilities narrowed from 7.1 percentage points in 2021 to 6.9 percentage points in 2022.

The gap in the “percentage living in homes built in 1990 or more recent” is not compared between 2020 and 2021 because a change in the response options on the ACS Housing Questionnaire made it easier to select newer houses/apartments (see Appendix for details).

Population Size

Focus Population: Civilians, all ages

Table 1. Number and Percentage with Disabilities

Year	Total Population Estimate (#)	Pop. w/Disabilities Estimate (#)	Percent with Disabilities	
			Estimate (%)	St. Error (%)
2008	302,819,000	38,560,000	12.7 [†]	0.03
2009	305,701,000	38,583,000	12.6 ^{††}	0.02
2010	308,291,000	38,463,000	12.5 ^{††}	0.02
2011	310,572,000	39,383,000	12.7 ^{††}	0.02
2012	312,873,000	39,710,000	12.7 [†]	0.02
2013	315,143,000	41,242,000	13.1 ^{††}	0.03
2014	317,861,000	41,827,000	13.2 ^{††}	0.03
2015	320,399,000	42,050,000	13.1 ^{††}	0.02
2016	322,110,000	42,940,000	13.3 ^{††}	0.02
2017	324,689,000	42,776,000	13.2 ^{††}	0.02
2018	326,155,000	42,630,000	13.1 ^{††}	0.02
2019	327,011,000	43,227,000	13.2 ^{††}	0.03
2020	328,242,000	44,061,000	13.4 [×]	0.01
2021	330,562,000	44,482,000	13.5 [†]	0.02
2022	331,940,000	46,227,000	13.9 [†]	0.03

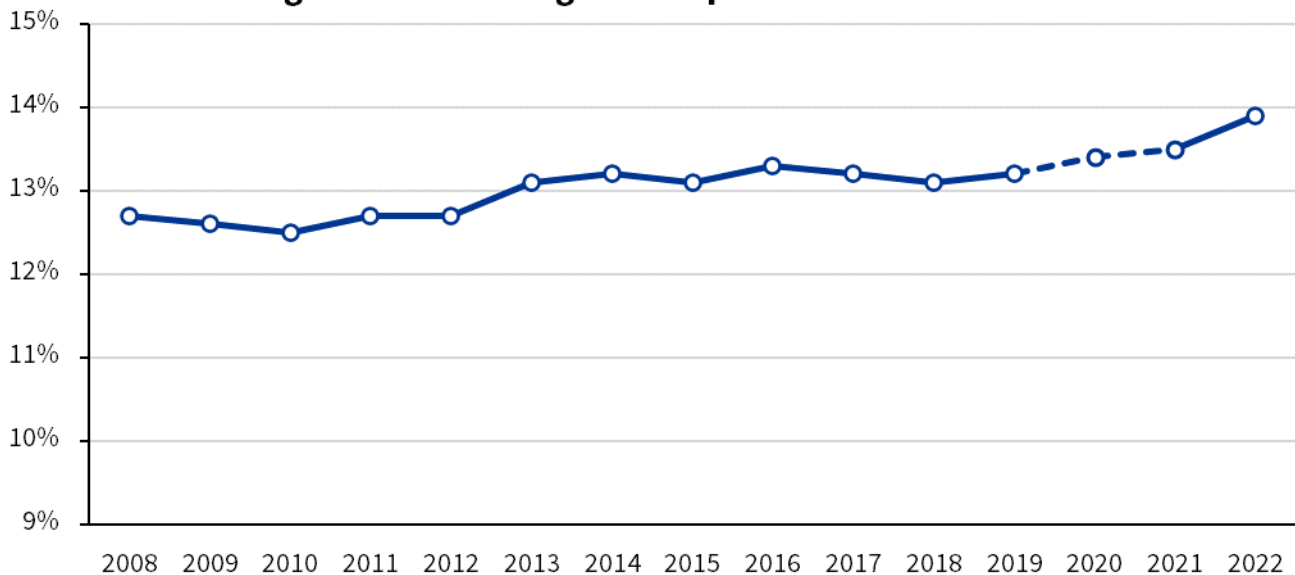
Source: Authors' estimates from using the 2008-2022 ACSs for civilian respondents of all ages.

[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

[†]Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†]Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 1. Percentage of People with Disabilities



Disabling Environments

Focus Population: Civilians with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disabilities

Table 2. Disabling Environments Index

Population with Hearing, Vision, Ambulatory, and/or Cognitive Disabilities

Year	Total Estimate (#)	Reports Independent Living Disability Estimate (#)	Disabling Environment Index (% Reporting Ind. Living Disability)	
			Estimate (%)	St. Error (%)
2008	18,210,000	5,866,000	32.2 [†]	0.14
2009	18,268,000	5,914,000	32.4	0.16
2010	18,232,000	5,995,000	32.9 [†]	0.15
2011	18,748,000	6,263,000	33.4 ^{††}	0.16
2012	18,749,000	6,285,000	33.5 [†]	0.15
2013	19,517,000	6,372,000	32.6 [†]	0.14
2014	19,642,000	6,525,000	33.2 ^{††}	0.15
2015	19,540,000	6,515,000	33.3 [†]	0.16
2016	19,929,000	6,676,000	33.5 [†]	0.15
2017	19,472,000	6,441,000	33.1 ^{††}	0.15
2018	19,179,000	6,439,000	33.6 ^{††}	0.14
2019	19,349,000	6,574,000	34.0 ^{††}	0.16
2020	19,748,000	6,522,000	33.0 [*]	0.04
2021	20,270,000	6,564,000	32.4	0.14
2022	20,804,000	6,784,000	32.6	0.15

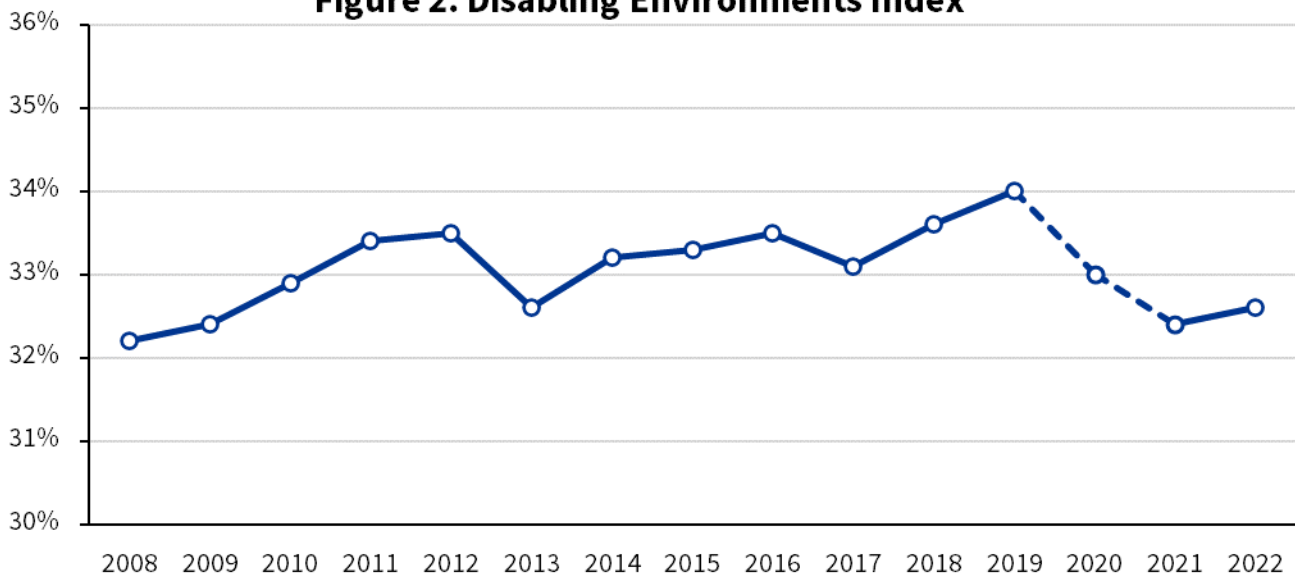
Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disabilities, ages 18-64, living in community settings.

*No tests conducted with 2020 data.

[†]Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

^{††}Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 2. Disabling Environments Index



Living in Institutions

Focus Population: Civilians ages 64 and younger

Table 3. Living in Institutional Group Quarter (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	3.97 [†]	0.048	0.71 [†]	0.004	3.26 ^{*†}	0.048
2009	3.94 [†]	0.051	0.72 ^{††}	0.003	3.22 ^{*†}	0.051
2010	3.75 ^{††}	0.046	0.75 ^{††}	0.004	3.00 ^{*††}	0.046
2011	3.65 ^{††}	0.039	0.75 [†]	0.004	2.90 ^{*†}	0.039
2012	3.75 ^{††}	0.034	0.73 ^{††}	0.003	3.02 ^{*††}	0.034
2013	3.48 ^{††}	0.035	0.73 [†]	0.003	2.75 ^{*††}	0.035
2014	3.64 ^{††}	0.034	0.72 ^{††}	0.003	2.92 ^{*††}	0.034
2015	3.57 [†]	0.041	0.71 [†]	0.004	2.86 ^{*†}	0.041
2016	3.39 ^{††}	0.036	0.71 [†]	0.003	2.68 ^{*††}	0.036
2017	3.48 ^{††}	0.034	0.69 ^{††}	0.003	2.79 ^{*††}	0.034
2018	3.58 ^{††}	0.032	0.69 [†]	0.003	2.89 ^{*††}	0.032
2019	3.50 [†]	0.037	0.69 [†]	0.003	2.81 ^{*†}	0.037
2020	3.13 [×]	0.027	0.71 [×]	0.003	2.42 [×]	0.027
2021	3.12 [†]	0.041	0.67 [†]	0.004	2.45 [*]	0.041
2022	3.01 [†]	0.022	0.57 [†]	0.002	2.44 [*]	0.022

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 64 and younger.

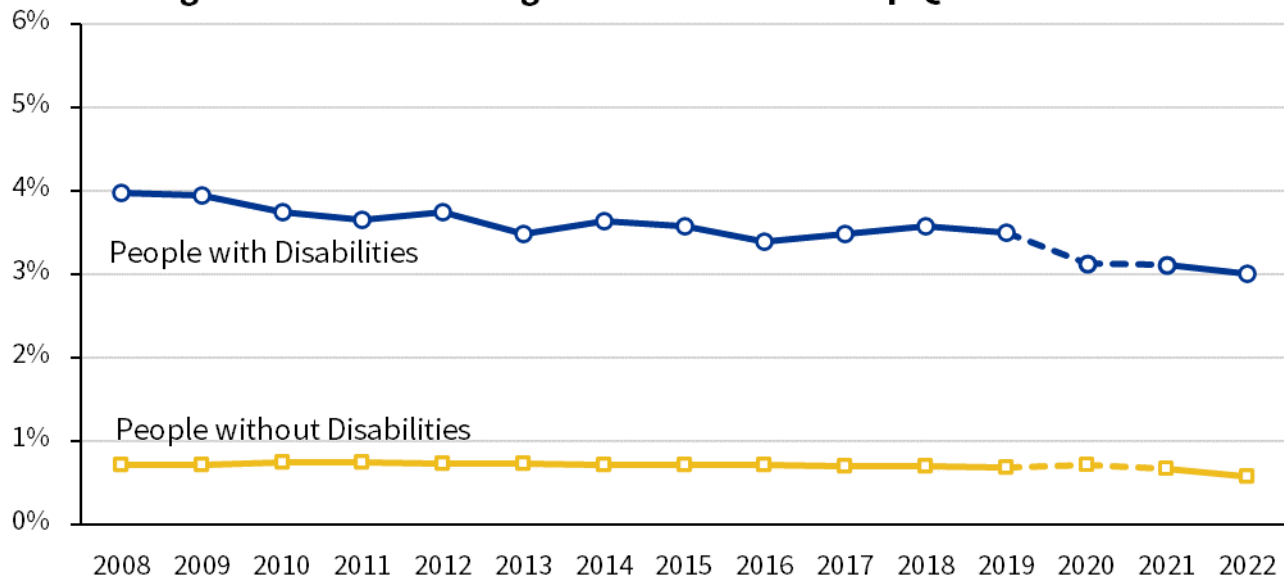
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[†] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 3. Percent Living in Institutional Group Quarters



Education: High School

Focus Population: Civilians ages 25-34 living in community settings

Table 4. Less than a High School Diploma (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	23.4 [‡]	0.45	12.7 [‡]	0.09	10.7 ^{*‡}	0.46
2009	24.0 [‡]	0.41	12.0 ^{*‡}	0.09	12.0 ^{*‡}	0.42
2010	22.8 ^{*‡}	0.32	11.9 [‡]	0.09	10.9 ^{*‡}	0.34
2011	22.2 [‡]	0.36	11.1 ^{*‡}	0.08	11.1 ^{*‡}	0.37
2012	22.2 [‡]	0.40	10.6 ^{*‡}	0.08	11.6 ^{*‡}	0.41
2013	20.6 ^{*‡}	0.33	10.5 [‡]	0.08	10.1 ^{*‡}	0.34
2014	19.8 [‡]	0.30	9.8 ^{*‡}	0.07	10.0 ^{*‡}	0.31
2015	19.2 [‡]	0.31	9.4 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.8 ^{*‡}	0.32
2016	19.1 [‡]	0.35	8.9 ^{*‡}	0.07	10.2 ^{*‡}	0.36
2017	17.3 ^{*‡}	0.31	8.1 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.2 ^{*‡}	0.32
2018	16.7 [‡]	0.29	7.7 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.0 ^{*‡}	0.29
2019	16.4 [‡]	0.32	7.3 ^{*‡}	0.06	9.0 ^{*‡}	0.32
2020	14.6 [×]	0.07	6.6 [×]	0.01	8.0 [×]	0.07
2021	12.9	0.26	6.6 [‡]	0.06	6.3 [*]	0.27
2022	12.3	0.24	6.4 [‡]	0.07	5.9 [*]	0.25

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 25-34 living in community settings.

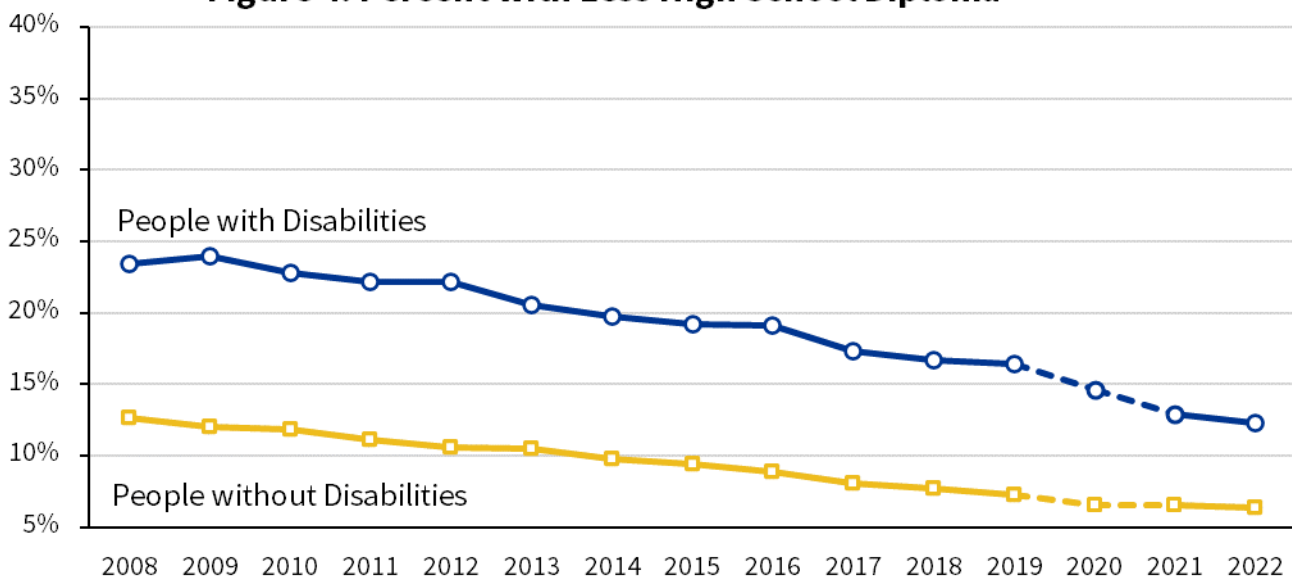
[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

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[‡] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 4. Percent with Less High School Diploma



Education: College

Focus Population: Civilians ages 25-34 living in community settings

Table 5. Bachelor's Degree or Higher (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	9.75 [‡]	0.27	31.3 [‡]	0.13	-21.5 ^{*‡}	0.30
2009	10.0 [‡]	0.26	32.8 ^{†‡}	0.13	-22.8 ^{*†‡}	0.29
2010	10.5 [‡]	0.24	33.1 [‡]	0.13	-22.6 ^{*‡}	0.27
2011	11.0 [‡]	0.30	33.6 ^{†‡}	0.14	-22.6 ^{*‡}	0.33
2012	10.7 [‡]	0.27	34.4 ^{†‡}	0.13	-23.7 ^{*†‡}	0.30
2013	12.4 ^{†‡}	0.28	34.8 ^{†‡}	0.14	-22.4 ^{*†‡}	0.31
2014	12.8 [‡]	0.30	35.4 ^{†‡}	0.14	-22.6 ^{*‡}	0.33
2015	13.5 ^{†‡}	0.28	36.2 ^{†‡}	0.13	-22.7 ^{*‡}	0.31
2016	13.9 [‡]	0.30	37.1 ^{†‡}	0.14	-23.2 ^{*‡}	0.33
2017	15.0 ^{†‡}	0.26	37.7 ^{†‡}	0.16	-22.7 ^{*‡}	0.30
2018	15.6 [‡]	0.30	38.4 ^{†‡}	0.14	-22.8 ^{*‡}	0.33
2019	16.1 [‡]	0.29	39.2 ^{†‡}	0.15	-23.1 ^{*‡}	0.33
2020	19.0 [×]	0.07	41.9 [×]	0.04	-22.9 [×]	0.08
2021	19.8 [‡]	0.30	41.4 [‡]	0.14	-21.5 ^{*‡}	0.33
2022	21.6 [†]	0.30	42.0 [†]	0.14	-20.4 ^{*†}	0.34

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 25-34 living in community settings.

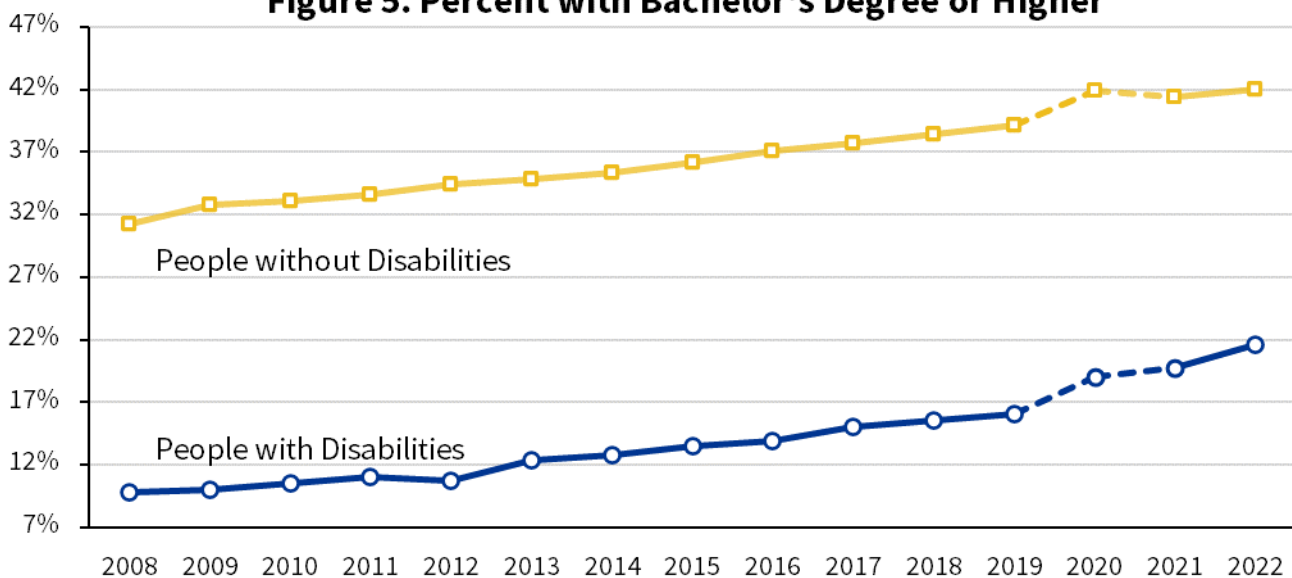
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[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 5. Percent with Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Employment

Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings

Table 6. Employment-to-Population Ratio (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Dis.		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	39.1 [†]	0.15	77.7 [†]	0.04	-38.6 ^{*†}	0.16
2009	35.5 ^{††}	0.15	74.3 ^{††}	0.04	-38.9 ^{*†}	0.16
2010	33.5 ^{††}	0.12	72.9 ^{††}	0.05	-39.4 ^{*††}	0.13
2011	33.0 ^{††}	0.15	73.1 ^{††}	0.05	-40.1 ^{*††}	0.16
2012	33.0 [†]	0.13	73.8 ^{††}	0.04	-40.8 ^{*††}	0.14
2013	34.1 ^{††}	0.12	74.5 ^{††}	0.04	-40.4 ^{*††}	0.13
2014	34.2 [†]	0.14	75.3 ^{††}	0.04	-41.1 ^{*††}	0.15
2015	34.9 ^{††}	0.13	76.0 ^{††}	0.04	-41.2 ^{*†}	0.14
2016	36.0 ^{††}	0.13	76.8 ^{††}	0.05	-40.8 ^{*††}	0.14
2017	36.9 ^{††}	0.14	77.2 ^{††}	0.05	-40.3 ^{*††}	0.15
2018	37.5 ^{††}	0.12	77.8 ^{††}	0.05	-40.3 ^{*†}	0.13
2019	38.9 ^{††}	0.13	78.6 ^{††}	0.05	-39.8 ^{*††}	0.14
2020	38.4 [×]	0.05	75.8 [×]	0.02	-37.4 [×]	0.05
2021	40.7 [†]	0.14	76.6 [†]	0.05	-35.9 ^{*†}	0.15
2022	44.5 [†]	0.14	78.9 [†]	0.04	-34.4 ^{*†}	0.15

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

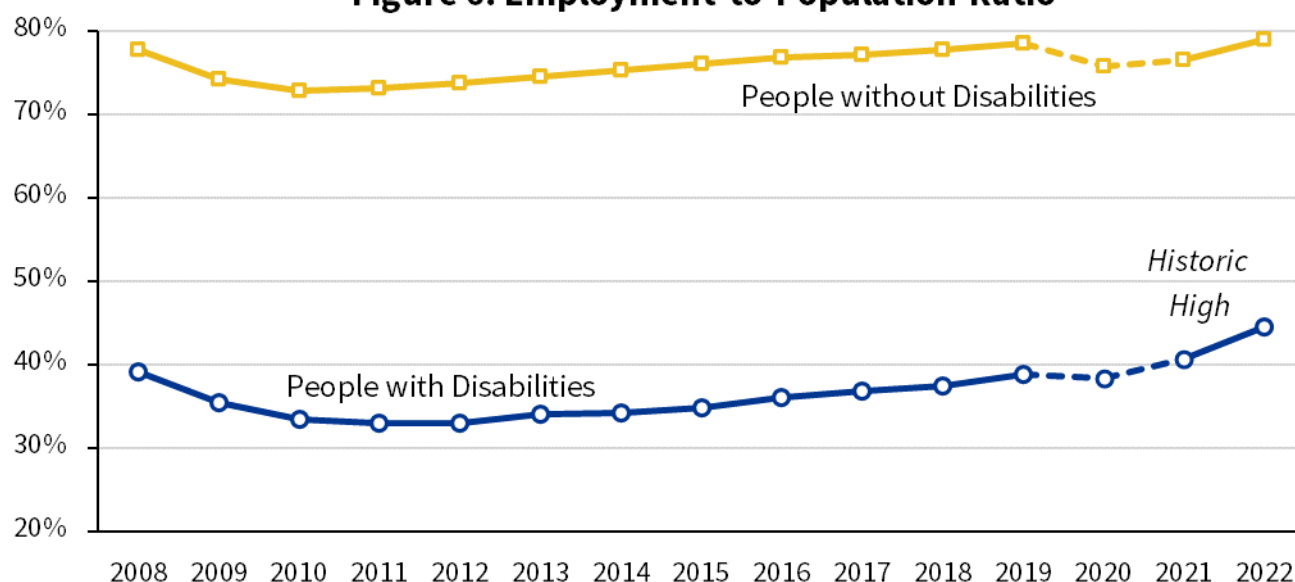
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[†] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 6. Employment-to-Population Ratio



Earnings from Work

Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings employed full-time, full-year

Table 7. Median Earnings of Full-Time, Full-Year Workers (\$)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	45,579 [†]	452	53,997 [†]	599	-8,398*	751
2009	46,237	372	54,449 [†]	204	-8,212*	424
2010	47,207 [†]	333	54,022 [†]	181	-6,815*	379
2011	46,301 [†]	424	52,940 ^{††}	243	-6,639*	489
2012	44,995 ^{††}	396	51,486 ^{††}	268	-6,491*	478
2013	45,561 [†]	247	50,975 [†]	2,230	-5,414*	2,244
2014	46,021 [†]	273	51,709 [†]	303	-5,688*	408
2015	46,707	343	51,893 [†]	150	-5,186*	375
2016	47,835 ^{††}	392	53,954 ^{††}	181	-6,119*	432
2017	48,189 [†]	411	54,263 [†]	272	-6,074*	493
2018	47,150 [†]	332	53,688 ^{††}	164	-6,538*	370
2019	46,204 [†]	324	55,406 [†]	157	-9,202 [†]	360
2020	47,279 [×]	78	56,836 [×]	134	-9,557 [×]	155
2021	48,940 [†]	595	55,765	2,694	-6,825*	2,759
2022	46,887 [†]	339	55,208	319	-8,331*	466

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 who live in the community and work full-time, full-year. Dollar amounts are inflation-adjusted to 2022 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.

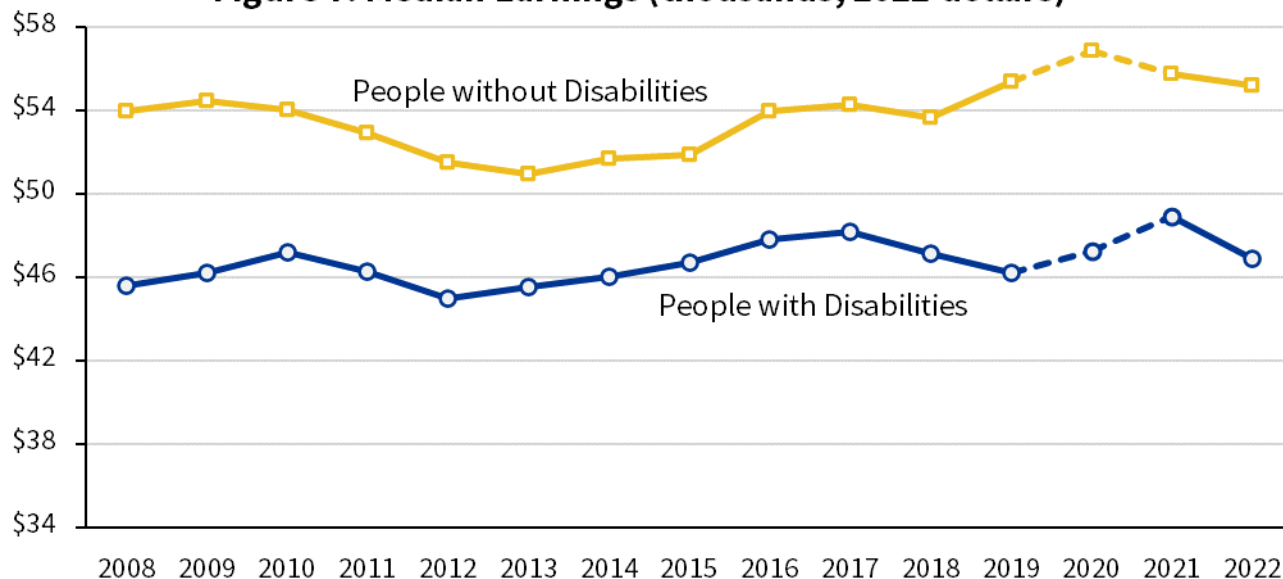
*No tests conducted with 2020 data.

* Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†]Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†]Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 7. Median Earnings (thousands, 2022 dollars)



Poverty

Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings

Table 8. Poverty Rate (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	26.2	0.13	11.7 [†]	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.14
2009	27.2 ^{††}	0.16	12.9 ^{††}	0.05	14.3 [*]	0.17
2010	27.8 ^{††}	0.14	14.1 ^{††}	0.05	13.7 ^{*††}	0.15
2011	28.7 ^{††}	0.12	14.7 ^{††}	0.05	14.0 ^{*†}	0.13
2012	29.3 ^{††}	0.14	14.6 [†]	0.06	14.7 ^{*†}	0.15
2013	29.2 [†]	0.15	14.8 ^{††}	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.16
2014	28.8 [†]	0.14	14.4 ^{††}	0.05	14.5 [*]	0.15
2015	27.7 ^{††}	0.13	13.7 ^{††}	0.05	14.0 ^{*††}	0.14
2016	27.4 ^{††}	0.14	13.1 ^{††}	0.05	14.3 [*]	0.15
2017	26.8 ^{††}	0.15	12.4 ^{††}	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.16
2018	26.9 [†]	0.15	12.2 ^{††}	0.05	14.7 [*]	0.15
2019	25.9 [†]	0.13	11.4 ^{††}	0.05	14.5 [*]	0.14
2020	25.2 [×]	0.05	11.1 [×]	0.01	14.1 [×]	0.05
2021	25.4 [†]	0.14	11.8 [†]	0.05	13.5 [*]	0.14
2022	25.9 [†]	0.13	11.5 [†]	0.05	14.3 ^{*†}	0.14

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

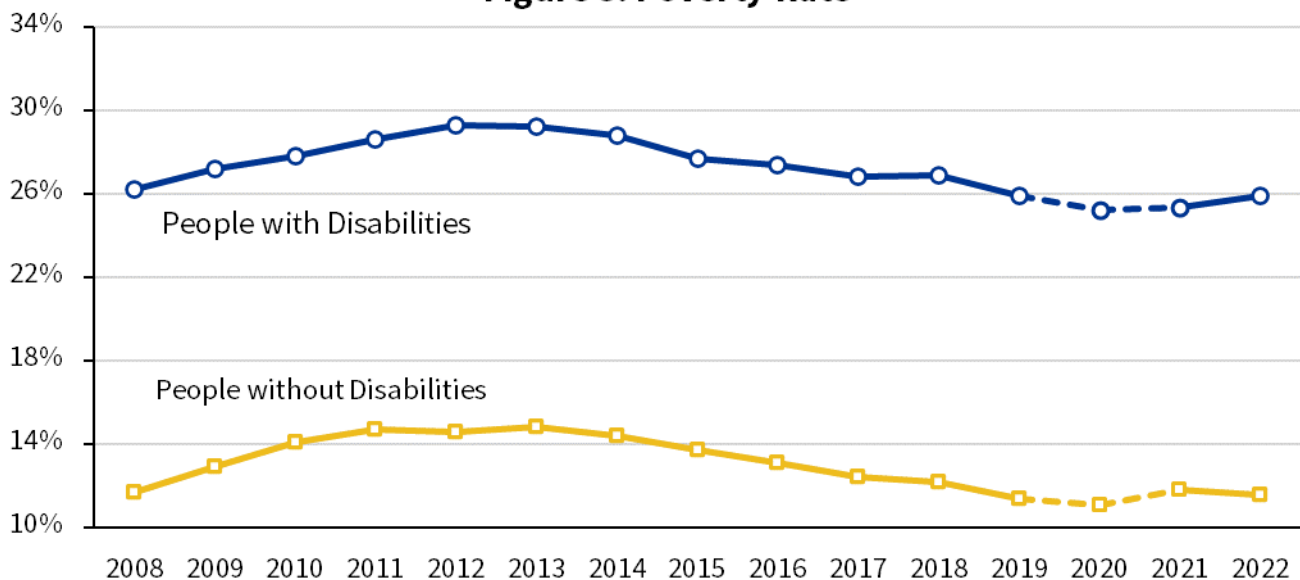
[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

^{*} Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 8. Poverty Rate



Health Insurance

Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings

Table 9. Health Insurance Coverage (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	81.6 [‡]	0.12	80.0 [‡]	0.07	1.6 ^{*‡}	0.14
2009	82.5 ^{†‡}	0.11	79.1 ^{†‡}	0.08	3.4 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2010	82.0 ^{†‡}	0.12	78.3 ^{†‡}	0.07	3.7 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2011	82.4 ^{†‡}	0.12	78.7 ^{†‡}	0.08	3.7 ^{*‡}	0.14
2012	82.8 ^{†‡}	0.14	79.0 ^{†‡}	0.07	3.8 ^{*‡}	0.15
2013	83.0 [‡]	0.10	79.3 ^{†‡}	0.08	3.7 ^{*‡}	0.13
2014	86.7 ^{†‡}	0.12	83.4 ^{†‡}	0.07	3.3 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2015	89.6 ^{†‡}	0.10	86.6 ^{†‡}	0.07	3.0 ^{*‡}	0.12
2016	90.3 ^{†‡}	0.10	87.7 ^{†‡}	0.06	2.6 ^{*†‡}	0.12
2017	90.2 [‡]	0.10	87.6 ^{†‡}	0.07	2.5 ^{*‡}	0.12
2018	90.0 [‡]	0.07	87.4 ^{†‡}	0.06	2.6 ^{*‡}	0.09
2019	89.6 ^{†‡}	0.09	86.9 ^{†‡}	0.07	2.6 ^{*‡}	0.12
2020	89.3 [×]	0.03	87.5 [×]	0.01	1.9 [×]	0.03
2021	89.9 [‡]	0.08	87.7 [‡]	0.05	2.1 ^{*‡}	0.10
2022	90.5 [†]	0.09	88.6 [†]	0.06	1.9 ^{*†}	0.11

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

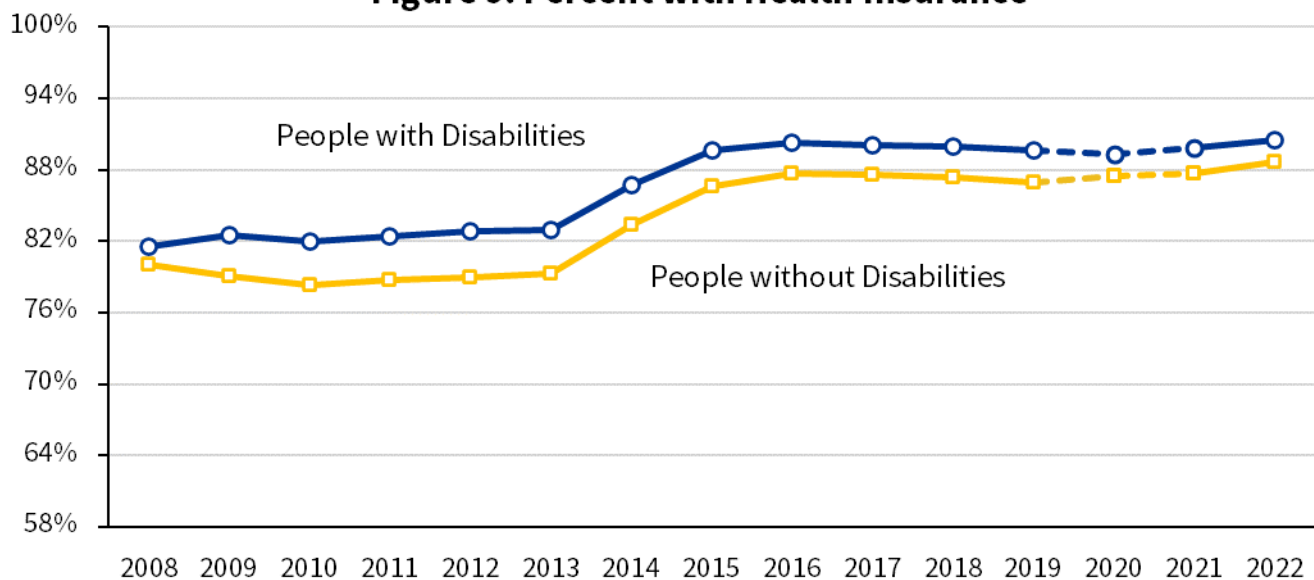
[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

^{*} Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 9. Percent with Health Insurance



Private Health Insurance

Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings

Table 10. Private Health Insurance Coverage (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	47.0 [†]	0.17	74.6 [†]	0.08	-27.6 ^{*†}	0.19
2009	44.5 ^{††}	0.15	72.5 ^{††}	0.09	-28.0 ^{*††}	0.17
2010	43.0 ^{††}	0.15	70.9 ^{††}	0.08	-27.9 ^{*†}	0.17
2011	42.7 [†]	0.17	70.9 [†]	0.08	-28.2 ^{*†}	0.19
2012	41.8 ^{††}	0.15	71.1 ^{††}	0.08	-29.3 ^{*††}	0.17
2013	42.7 ^{††}	0.15	71.2 [†]	0.09	-28.5 ^{*††}	0.17
2014	44.2 ^{††}	0.14	73.6 ^{††}	0.08	-29.4 ^{*††}	0.16
2015	45.3 ^{††}	0.16	75.3 ^{††}	0.08	-30.0 ^{*††}	0.18
2016	46.0 ^{††}	0.17	76.0 [†]	0.08	-30.0 ^{*†}	0.19
2017	45.8 [†]	0.18	75.8 ^{††}	0.09	-30.0 ^{*†}	0.20
2018	45.9 [†]	0.16	75.9 [†]	0.09	-30.0 ^{*†}	0.18
2019	46.0 [†]	0.16	75.8 [†]	0.09	-29.7 ^{*†}	0.19
2020	47.1 [×]	0.05	76.3 [×]	0.02	-29.2 [×]	0.06
2021	48.3 [†]	0.17	75.5 [†]	0.07	-27.2 ^{*†}	0.18
2022	49.9 [†]	0.16	76.2 [†]	0.09	-26.3 ^{*†}	0.18

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

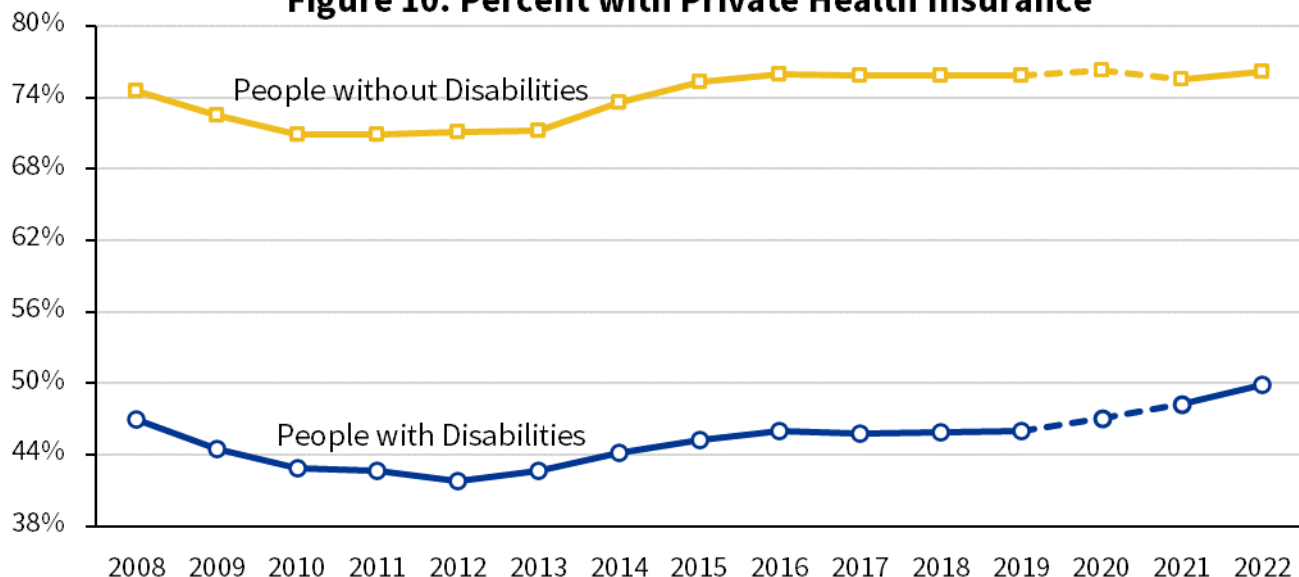
[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

^{*} Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 10. Percent with Private Health Insurance



Mass Transit to Work

Focus Population: Employed civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings

Table 11. Mass Transit to Work (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	6.1 [†]	0.13	4.9 [†]	0.03	1.2 ^{*†}	0.13
2009	5.6 ^{††}	0.11	5.0 [†]	0.03	0.6 ^{*†}	0.11
2010	5.4 [†]	0.11	4.9 ^{††}	0.03	0.5 [*]	0.11
2011	5.9 ^{††}	0.11	5.0 ^{††}	0.03	0.9 ^{*††}	0.11
2012	5.9 [†]	0.12	5.0 [†]	0.02	0.9 ^{*†}	0.12
2013	5.8 [†]	0.12	5.1 ^{††}	0.02	0.7 [*]	0.12
2014	6.1 [†]	0.12	5.2 [†]	0.02	0.9 ^{*†}	0.12
2015	5.7 ^{††}	0.12	5.2 [†]	0.02	0.5 ^{*†}	0.12
2016	5.6 [†]	0.11	5.1 ^{††}	0.03	0.5 [*]	0.11
2017	5.5 [†]	0.11	5.0 ^{††}	0.02	0.5 [*]	0.11
2018	5.3 [†]	0.11	4.9 ^{††}	0.02	0.3 ^{*†}	0.11
2019	5.2 [†]	0.09	5.0 ^{††}	0.02	0.2 [†]	0.09
2020	3.8 [×]	0.02	3.2 [×]	0.01	0.6 [×]	0.02
2021	3.1 [†]	0.10	2.4 [†]	0.02	0.7 [*]	0.10
2022	3.7 [†]	0.08	3.1 [†]	0.02	0.6 [*]	0.08

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

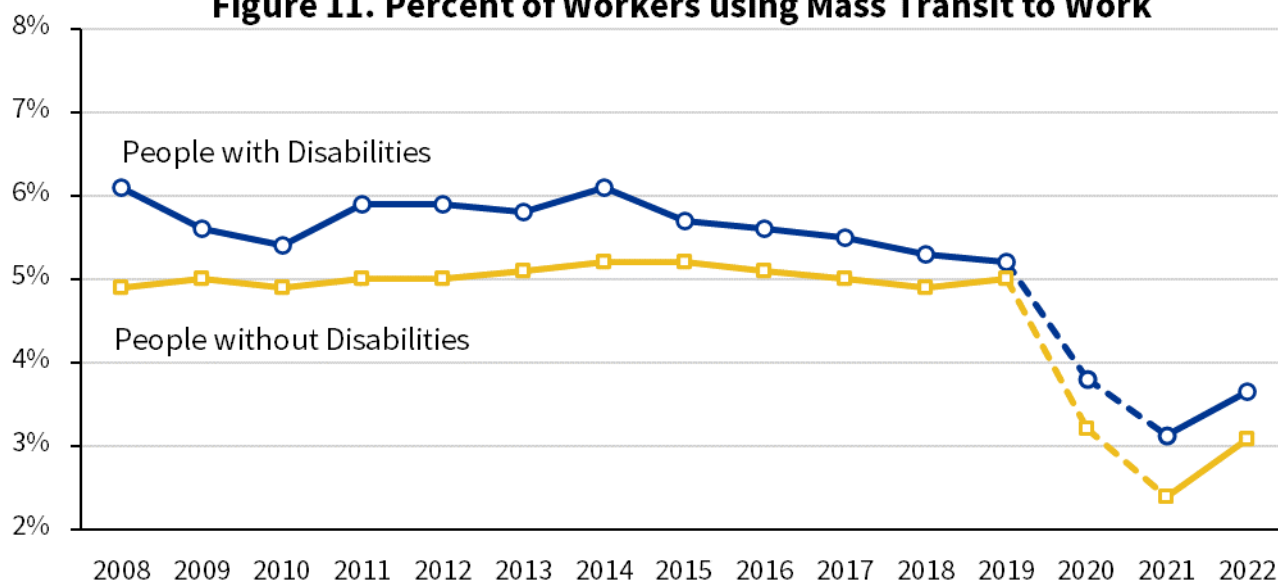
[×]No tests conducted with 2020 data.

^{*} Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

^{††} Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.

Figure 11. Percent of Workers using Mass Transit to Work



Age of Home (1990+)

Focus Population: Civilians, ages 64 and younger, living in community settings

Table 12. Home Constructed 1990 or More Recent (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error	Estimate	St. Error
2008	22.1 [†]	0.12	30.0 [†]	0.07	7.9 ^{*†}	0.14
2009	22.8 ^{††}	0.14	30.7 ^{††}	0.06	7.9 ^{*†}	0.15
2010	24.4 ^{††}	0.13	32.1 ^{††}	0.06	7.7 ^{*††}	0.14
2011	24.9 ^{††}	0.16	32.5 ^{††}	0.07	7.6 ^{*†}	0.17
2012	25.4 ^{††}	0.14	33.0 ^{††}	0.06	7.6 ^{*†}	0.15
2013	26.4 ^{††}	0.13	33.7 ^{††}	0.06	7.3 ^{*†}	0.14
2014	26.7 [†]	0.12	33.9 ^{††}	0.07	7.2 ^{*†}	0.14
2015	27.3 ^{††}	0.13	34.5 ^{††}	0.06	7.2 ^{*†}	0.14
2016	27.8 ^{††}	0.12	34.6 [†]	0.06	6.8 ^{*†}	0.13
2017	27.9 [†]	0.14	34.2 ^{††}	0.06	6.3 ^{*††}	0.15
2018	27.7 [†]	0.12	33.7 ^{††}	0.06	6.0 ^{*†}	0.13
2019	27.7 [†]	0.12	33.1 ^{††}	0.07	5.5 ^{*††}	0.14
2020	26.9 ^{^×}	0.03	31.9 ^{^×}	0.02	5.0 ^{^×}	0.03
2021	32.8 ^{†^}	0.15	39.9 [^]	0.07	7.1 ^{^*}	0.17
2022	34.3 [†]	0.13	41.2 [†]	0.06	6.9 [*]	0.14

Source: Authors' estimates using 2008-2022 ACS data for civilian respondents ages 18-64 living in community settings.

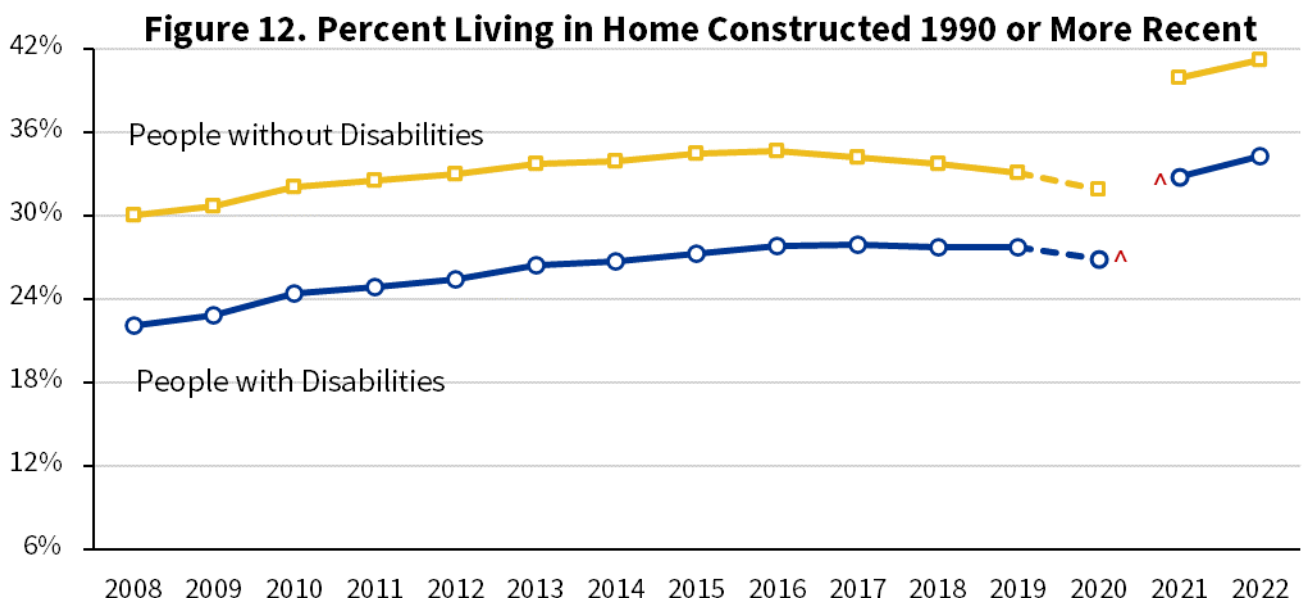
[^]Note: Response options on questionnaire changed, see Appendix for more details.

^{*}No tests conducted with 2020 data.

^{*} Significant at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†]Significantly different from the previous year at the 95 percent confidence level and a one-tailed test.

[†]Significantly different from 2022 at the 95 percent confidence and a one-tailed test.



Appendix

American Community Survey: Six Disability Questions

The six disability questions in the American Community Survey (ACS) are listed below as they appear in the 2019 English language questionnaire:

G. Answer question 17a if this person is covered by health insurance. Otherwise, SKIP to question 18a.

- 18. a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing? [yes or no]
- b. Is this person blind, or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses? [yes or no]

H. Answer questions 19a – c if this person is 5 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 12.

- 19. a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? [yes or no]
- b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? [yes or no]
- c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing? [yes or no]

I. Answer question 20 if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Persons 2 on page 12.

- 20. 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 or no]

American Community Survey: Housing Questions

Response options to the second housing question in the ACS changed from 2020 to 2021. The question remained unchanged. The question is first listed followed by response options as they appear in each of the questionnaires for 2020 and 2021 respectively. Respondents place a check in the box next to the appropriate answer.

The question and corresponding response options are listed on the following page.

2. About when was this building first built?

2020 Housing Question 2 Response Options

2000 or later
1990 to 1999
1980 to 1989
1970 to 1979
1960 to 1969
1950 to 1959
1940 to 1949
1939 or earlier

2021 Housing Question 2 Response Options

2020 or later
2010 to 2019
2000 to 2009
1990 to 1999
1980 to 1989
1970 to 1979
1960 to 1969
1950 to 1959
1940 to 1949
1939 or earlier

Glossary

American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a big survey done by the US Census Bureau every year. It gives accurate info about communities in the US. The survey creates yearly and multiyear estimates of population and housing data for small areas. This includes specific neighborhoods and groups of people. They collect this info by sending questionnaires by mail to some addresses. You can find more details on the Census Bureau website.

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

When we say a person has attained a bachelor's degree or higher, it means if they have earned a bachelor's degree (such as: BA and BS), master's degree (such as: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA), an advanced professional degree (such as: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD), and/or doctorate degree (such as: PhD, EdD).

Civilian

A person who is not in active-duty military. This includes individuals who are civilians, veterans (those who have completed their active-duty status), and reservists or National Guard members who are not currently activated for active duty.

Disability

In the ACS, the Census Bureau used responses to six questions to identify whether a person has a disability. These questions ask about difficulties related to vision, hearing, cognition, ambulation, self-care, and independent living (see Appendix for the wording of these six questions). A person is considered as having a disability if they answer “yes” to having one or more of these difficulties.

Disabling Environments Index

The environment plays a role in what's known as the “enablement/disablement process”. For example, being blind or having serious difficulty seeing (even with glasses) can be more challenging in areas without local mass transit. We created the “Disabling Environment Index” to better understand this. This index gives a snapshot of how disabling one's local environment is. This index focuses on people with independent living disabilities (i.e., difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping, due to a disabling physical, mental, or emotional condition) who also have a hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disability.

Earnings

The term “earnings” means the money you get from jobs like wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips, before any deductions are made. Deductions can include taxes, bonds, dues, or other expenses. Your earnings are reported every year for the last 12 months. The ACS takes place all year to collect information on various aspects of communities and households.

Employment/Employment Status

People were asked many questions designed to determine their employment status. Based on the answers, individuals were classified into one of five groups:

1. Those who worked at any time during the past week.
2. People who were temporarily not working but were ready to work if needed.
3. People who did not work during the past week but who had jobs or businesses they were temporarily away from (not including layoffs).
4. People who did not work last week, but who were actively trying to find a job in the last four weeks and were ready for work if needed.
5. People not in the labor force (didn't have any job and were not looking for a job).

Full-Time, Full-Year

A person is called a full-time, full-year worker, if they worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the last 12 months.

Gap

A gap is the difference between the numbers for two groups. For example, it could be the difference in the percentage of people employed for those with disabilities and those without disabilities.

Health Insurance Coverage

In the American Community Survey health insurance includes both private plans and public coverage. To understand how many people are covered and the types of insurance(s) people may have, respondents are asked to mark "yes" or "no" for the following eight types of insurance listed:

1. Insurance from current or former employer or union (either for themselves or another family member);
2. Insurance bought directly from an insurance company (either by themselves or another family member);
3. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities;
4. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability;
5. TRICARE or other military health care;
6. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care);
7. Indian Health Service; and/or
8. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan.

Income

The ACS asks about income in eight different ways:

1. Money from jobs like wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs (before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items).
2. Money earned from running your own business (after taking out business expenses).
3. Money from things like interest, dividends, rental income, royalties, or income from estates and trusts.
4. Social Security or Railroad Retirement income.
5. Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
6. Any help from the government or the state or local welfare office.
7. Money from retirement, survivor, or disability pensions (not including Social Security).
8. Other regular income like Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support or alimony.

Adding up all these types of income for everyone in the household helps determine if the family is in poverty. You can find the definition of poverty in the glossary.

Less than a High School Diploma

A person has “less than a high school education” if they have not finished high school and haven’t gotten a high school diploma, General Equivalency Degree (GED), or alternative credential.

Living in the Community

A person lives in the community if they are not living in places like prisons, nursing homes, or hospitals. If a person lives in a college dormitory they are living in the community.

No Difference Detected

“No difference detected” means that we couldn’t find a significant change in the numbers between two different years. It’s like saying, when we compared the employment gaps in 2017 and 2013, the numbers were so close that we can’t be sure there’s a real difference. We use a 95 percent chance as a threshold – if there’s less than that chance, we say there’s no significant difference. So, in Table 2, the employment gaps in 2017 (41.0% pts) and 2013 (40.9% pts) were so similar that we can’t confidently say there’s a change based on the data.

Noninstitutionalized Population

This means people who live in the community and not places like jails, prisons, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. People who live in college dormitories are considered as living in the community.

Population Size

The total number of people (including everyone from different races, classes, and groups) in a specific area.

Poverty

The Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy, Directive 14 makes income thresholds, called poverty lines, based on the prices of a standard set of goods and services that families need. Different income thresholds are created based on family size and age of people (like the number of people under age 18 or the number of people over age 65 and older). In the ACS, details about income, family size, and age are used to figure out if someone's family income is below the poverty line. You can find the definition of income in the glossary.

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files

The ACS PUMS files have information about households and individuals. The files include responses to the ACS questionnaire and other variables (such as sample weights). Data are edited to keep sensitive information private to protect respondents' identities.

Sampling Error

Sampling error occurs when a statistic is estimated using a sample (a group of people) rather than the whole population (everyone). A sampling error creates variation in statistics that are calculated by using a sample.

Standard Error

The standard error of a statistic shows how much variation there is in the data that is used to estimate the statistic. It tells us how uncertain, or spread out, a statistic may be, given the current information. Usually, standard error gets smaller when we have more people in the sample and when there's less difference in what we're measuring.

Statistical Significance

Statistical significance is when researchers can say they have discovered something real or significant is happening that isn't by chance, and it falls within a certain threshold, such as five percent. In Table 2 the employment gap in 2017 is statistically significant. This means, based on the data, there's less than a five percent chance of being wrong when we say there is a significant difference in the employment rates between people with and without disabilities. In simpler terms, we are 95 percent or more confident that we found a gap in the employment rates of these two groups.

About the Center

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC)

Policymakers, program administrators, service providers, researchers, advocates for people with disabilities, and people with disabilities and their families need accessible, valid data/statistics to support their decisions related to policy improvements, program administration, service delivery, protection of civil rights, and major life activities. The StatsRRTC supports decision making through a variety of integrated research and outreach activities by (a) improving knowledge about and access to existing data, (b) generating the knowledge needed to improve future disability data collection, and (c) strengthening connections between the data from and regarding respondents, researchers, and decision makers. In this way, the StatsRRTC supports the improvement of service systems that advance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Led by the University of New Hampshire, the StatsRRTC is a collaborative effort involving the following partners: American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for Essential Management Services, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kessler Foundation, Mathematica Policy Research, and Public Health Institute.

The StatsRRTC is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research under grant number 90RTGE0005, from 2023–2028.

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