

Disability Resources

National Center on Health Statistics (NCHS)

The National Center on Health Statistics in 1998 made available national information on assistive devices used by people with disabilities from their National Health Interview Survey on Disability (NHIS-D), conducted in 1994. This is the first time national data on the use of assistive devices by people with disabilities has ever been released. The data covers: anatomical devices (braces, artificial limbs), mobility devices, hearing devices and vision devices. The complete NHIS-D survey is available in NCHS's Website: <<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/index.htm>>. To obtain a print or CD-ROM copy, call (301) 436-7551. A CD-ROM is also available which offers far more disability data than appears either on their Web site or is available in print.

National Organization on Disability (NOD)

The 1998 National Organization on Disability/Harris Poll of Americans with Disabilities, a nationwide survey of 1,000 Americans with disabilities aged 16 and older, was conducted in mid-1998. This survey found that Americans with disabilities continue to lag well behind other Americans in many of the most basic aspects of life. Large gaps still exist between adults with disabilities and other adults with regard to employment, education, income, frequency of socializing and other basic measures of ten major "indicator" areas of life. Furthermore, most of these gaps show little evidence of narrowing. In some cases, the gaps have even widened over time.

Employment continues to be the area with the widest gulf between those who are disabled and those who are not. Forty two percent of those who are disabled and not working believe that attitudinal barriers keep them from working (i.e., that employers are unwilling to recognize that they are capable of taking on a full-time job). A significant majority of people with disabilities who work (64 percent) and people with disabilities who want to work (81 percent) have encountered supervisors and co-workers who are afraid that a person with a disability "cannot do the job."

The study provided some interesting data on the use of technology by persons with disabilities.

Only one in four (25 percent) of individuals with disabilities who work and four out of ten (40 percent) of individuals with disabilities who want to work say they need special equipment or technology to perform effectively the kind of job they prefer.

Half (49 percent) of people with disabilities who work full or part-time use computers at work. Those who work full-time are much more likely (60 percent) to use a computer than those who work part-time (35 percent).

More than a quarter (28 percent) of people with disabilities own special equipment or technology to assist them because of their disability. The number has risen significantly since 1994 when it was 22 percent. Those who describe their disability as very or somewhat severe are more likely (33 percent) to own special equipment than those who characterize their disability as slight or moderate (19 percent).

Fifteen percent of people with disabilities who work full or part-time, or would like to be working, need a personal computer.

For more information on this study visit NOD's Website: <<http://www.nod.org>>

Aging and Disability in America

Explore these resources for background about older adults and people with disabilities living in the U.S.

The [Data & Research](#) section provides data and research about older adults and people with disabilities. These products were created by ACL or its grantees. Most of the information about older adults was compiled by ACL, using data we have collected as well as data from the U.S. Census and other sources. Most of our data and research about people with disabilities is found under the "NIDILRR Publications and Resources" section, which includes links to research conducted by ACL grantees.

The [Reading Room](#) provides links to reports and resources primarily created and maintained by other organizations.

Website: < <https://www.acl.gov/aging-and-disability-in-america> >

Disability Statistics Online Resource for U.S. Disability Statistics

Website: <<http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/>>

The Census Bureau(Surveys and Programs Contributing to Disability)

Listed below are the three surveys and one census that provide Census Bureau's statistics on Disability. Following a general description of each program are specifics related to this topic.

American Community Survey (ACS)

Website: < <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs> >

Current Population Survey (CPS)

Website: < <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html> >

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Website: < <https://www.census.gov/sipp/> >

Decennial Census

Website: < <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html> >

International disability data

United Nations Statistics Division - Disability Statistics This site provides a statistical reference and guide to national sources of disability, basic disability prevalence rates, and questions used in each national survey to identify persons with disabilities. The data available on this site are in the United Nations Disability Statistics Database, version 2 (DISTAT-2).
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/>

World Health Organization - International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. This site does not include disability data, but provides extensive information on WHO's current system for classifying disability. The system is noteworthy for its recognition of disability as an interactional process between the person and his or her environment.
<http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm>