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About the Center

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Demographics and Statistics (StatsRRTC) bridges the divide between the sources of disability data and the users of disability statistics. We conduct research exploring the reliability of existing data sources and collection methods, and study the potential to improve current and future data collection efforts.

The StatsRRTC is an interdisciplinary effort of three organizations at Cornell University: the Employment and Disability Institute, the Department of Policy Analysis and Management, and the Institute for Policy Research in Washington, DC. In addition, expertise is drawn from the following collaborating institutions: American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), Center for an Accessible Society, InfoUse, Institute for Matching Person and Technology, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., and The Urban Institute.

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

2004 Disability Status Report New York



SUMMARY



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Housing: The difference in the percentage living in owner occupied housing between working-age people with and without disabilities increased from 10.2 percentage points in 2003 to 11.6 percentage points in 2004.

Age Distribution: The difference in the percentage ages 21-29 between people with and without disabilities decreased from 11.9 percentage points in 2003 to 9.6 percentage points in 2004.

Race Distribution: The difference in the percentage non-white between people with and without disabilities increased from 2.7 percentage points in 2003 to 4.0 percentage points in 2004.

Gender Distribution: The difference in the percentage that are women between people with and without disabilities increased from 0.3 percentage points in 2003 to 1.5 percentage points in 2004.

Education Distribution: The difference in the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more between people with and without disabilities decreased from 20.2 percentage points in 2003 to 19.7 percentage points in 2004.

Employment Across States: The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without disabilities declined the most in Rhode Island—from 45.0 percentage points in 2003 to 40.4 percentage points in 2004.

Employment Trend: The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities decreased from 41.0 percentage points in 2001 to 40.2 percentage points in 2004.

Comparisons

This is a summary of the comparative statistics that appear on the individual 2004 Annual Disability Status Reports. The statistics indicate the social and economic status of working-age people (ages 21-64) with disabilities, using data from the 2003 and 2004 American Community Surveys (ACS). These statistics are available by state at www.DisabilityStatistics.org, where more detailed information may also be found about the ACS.

Employment: The gap between the employment rates of working-age people with and without disabilities increased from 40.1 percentage points in 2003 to 41.9 percentage points in 2004.

Full-Time/Full-Year Employment: The difference in the percentage working full-time/full-year between working-age people with and without disabilities increased from 34.7 percentage points in 2003 to 34.9 percentage points in 2004.

Annual Labor Earnings: The difference in the median labor earnings between working-age people with and without disabilities who worked full-time/full-year decreased from \$8,000 in 2003 to \$5,000 in 2004.

Annual Household Income: The difference in the median household income between working-age people with and without disabilities increased from 28,600 in 2003 to \$30,800 in 2004.

Poverty: The difference in the poverty rate between working-age people with and without disabilities increased from 16.9 percentage points in 2003 to 17.5 percentage points in 2004.

The Annual Disability Status Reports

The Annual Disability Status Reports provide policy makers, disability advocates, reporters, and the public with a summary of the most recent demographic and economic statistics on the working-age (ages 21-64) population with disabilities. They contain information on the population size, prevalence, employment, earnings, poverty, household income, home ownership, and activity limitations of working-age people with disabilities, as well as the composition of this population by age, race, gender, and educational attainment. Comparisons are made to working-age people without disabilities, across types of disabilities, and to the previous year. Additional statistics by state are available at www.DisabilityStatistics.org.

The Status Reports look at the working-age population (21-64) because the employment gap between people with and without disabilities is a major focus of government programming and advocacy efforts. Furthermore, employment is a key factor in the social integration and economic self-sufficiency of working-age people with disabilities. Future Status Reports will address the school- and retirement-age populations and eventually expand to education and health-related issues.

The estimates in the 2004 Status Reports are based on American Community Survey (ACS) data—a survey of the U.S. Census Bureau designed to replace the decennial census long form. In future years, we hope to add information derived from other data sources, such as the Current Population Survey (CPS) and National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). See ACS User Guide on our web site, www.DisabilityStatistics.org for additional disability-related information in the ACS. A Census Bureau report, www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p60-226.pdf, provides a broader discussion of the ACS.

The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant.

Summary

This is a summary of the statistics that appear on the individual 2004 Annual Disability Status Reports. The statistics indicate the social and economic status of working-age people (ages 21-64) with disabilities, using data from the 2003 and 2004 American Community Surveys (ACS). These statistics are available by state at www.DisabilityStatistics.org, where more detailed information about the ACS may also be found.

Prevalence: The percentage of working-age individuals reporting a disability decreased from 10.9 percent in 2003 to 10.8 percent in 2004.

Employment: The employment rate of working-age people with disabilities decreased from 35.4 percent in 2003 to 34.0 percent in 2004.

Full-Time/Full-Year Employment: The percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/ full-year decreased from 21.1 percent in 2003 to 20.9 percent in 2004.

Annual Labor Earnings: The median annual labor earnings of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year increased from \$30,000 in 2003 to \$33,000 in 2004.

Household Annual Income: The median household annual income of working-age people with disabilities decreased from \$35,000 in 2003 to \$33,800 in 2004.

Poverty: The poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities increased from 26.2 percent in 2003 to 27.2 percent in 2004.

Supplemental Security Income: The percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments increased from 18.7 percent in 2003 to 19.7 percent in 2004.

Housing: The percentage of people with disabilities living in owner occupied housing decreased from 48.0 percent in 2003 to 47.7 percent in 2004.

Activity Limitation—Employment: The percentage of working-age people with sensory, physical and/or mental disabilities that report an employment disability (difficulty working at a job or business) increased from 54.6 percent in 2003 to 55.3 percent in 2004.

Age Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage ages 21-29 increased from 8.8 percent in 2003 to 10.7 percent in 2004.

Race Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage non-white increased from 33.5 percent in 2003 to 35.7 percent in 2004.

Gender Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage that are women increased from 52.1 percent in 2003 to 53.1 percent in 2004.

Education Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more increased from 13.4 percent in 2003 to 14.6 percent in 2004.

Prevalence Across States: Arkansas experienced the largest percentage point increase the prevalence of disability among its working-age population—from 17.5 percent to 19.9 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Employment Across States: Vermont experienced the largest percentage point increase the employment rate of working-age people with disabilities—from 46.9 percent to 50.8 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Prevalence Trend: The percentage of working-age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities increased from 9.2 percent in 2001 to 9.7 percent in 2004.

Employment Trend: The employment rate of working-age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities increased from 34.6 percent in 2001 to 35.0 percent in 2004.