



District of Columbia

# STATE DATA CENTER MONTHLY BRIEF

June  
2015



By Coleen Duncan &  
Joy Phillips, Ph.D.

These indicators were derived from data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

## Disability in the District of Columbia: 2013

### Introduction

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, commercial facilities, telecommunications, and state and local government services. Over the past two decades, the accepted definitions of disability have been changing. As the definitions change, the U.S. Census Bureau has updated the way in which the disability questions have been asked on its various surveys. The disability questions on the American Community Survey (ACS), as displayed in Figure 1, address disabilities related to hearing, sight, mobility, and independence of individuals.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, this report presents a snap-shot of the characteristics of individuals with disabilities in the District of Columbia, using data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates.

### Disability by Age and Sex

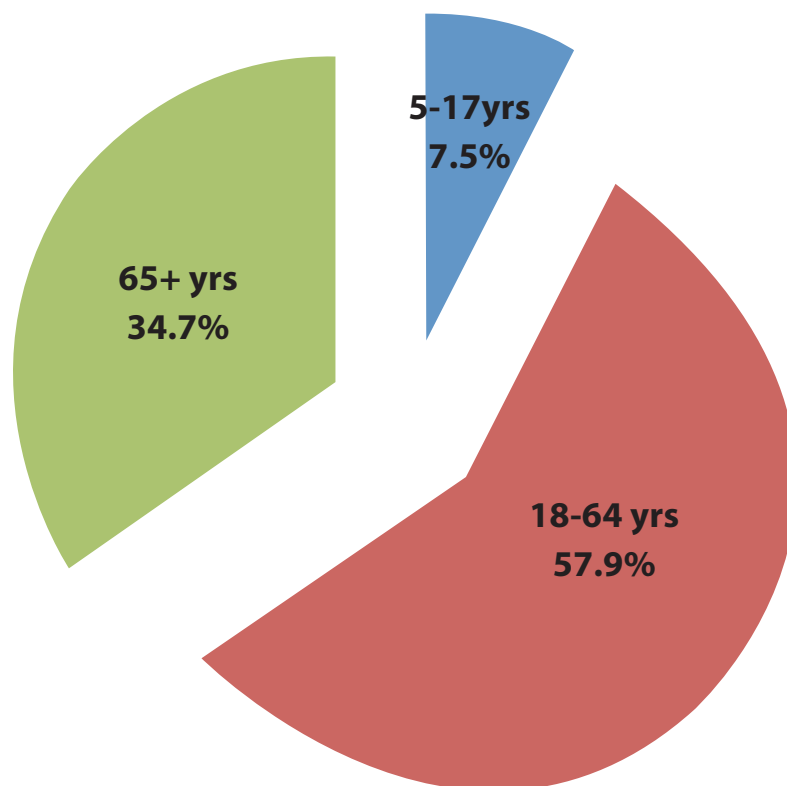
Of the total civilian non-institutionalized population in District, 10.8 percent or 68,830 individuals reported having some level of disability (Table 1). Individuals can report having more than one disability.

Figure 1 - ACS 2013 Disability Questions

- 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
- G** Answer question 18a - c if this person is 5 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 12.
- 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
- H** Answer question 19 if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 12.
- 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

- Individuals 65 and over had the largest percentage of disabilities; 33.4 percent reported at least one limitation. The most common disability for the elderly was ambulatory difficulty - serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (23.4 percent).
- Of the population 18 to 64 years, 8.8 percent (39,825) reported a disability, with the most common condition also being ambulatory difficulty (4.6 percent).
- Of the population 5 to 17 years, only 7.3 percent reported any type of disability, with the most common condition being cognitive difficulty - serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions (5.7 percent).
- There was no disability reported for the population under 5 years.
- Individuals aged 18 to 64 represent over half of all individuals with a disability (57.9 percent), followed by the 65 years and over (34.7 percent), and 5 to 17 years (7.5 percent) (Figure 2).
- Females in the District had a higher rate of disability compared to males, 11.8 percent for women compared to 9.7 percent for men.

**Figure 2 - Percent of Individuals with Disability by Age Group:  
District of Columbia 2013**



Source: 2013 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

**Table 1...Disability Characteristics for District of Columbia Residents: 2013**

Subject	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total civilian noninstitutionalized population	635,833	+/-581	68,830	+/-4,646	10.8%	+/-0.7
<b>Population under 5 years</b>	41,061	+/-270	0	+/-203	0.0%	+/-0.4
With a hearing difficulty			0	+/-203	0.0%	+/-0.4
With a vision difficulty			0	+/-203	0.0%	+/-0.4
Population 5 to 17 years	70,226	+/-150	5,132	+/-1,164	7.3%	+/-1.7
With a hearing difficulty			386	+/-272	0.5%	+/-0.4
With a vision difficulty			552	+/-366	0.8%	+/-0.5
With a cognitive difficulty			4,036	+/-1,084	5.7%	+/-1.5
With an ambulatory difficulty			786	+/-499	1.1%	+/-0.7
With a self-care difficulty			949	+/-487	1.4%	+/-0.7
Population 18 to 64 years	453,153	+/-857	39,825	+/-3,440	8.8%	+/-0.8
With a hearing difficulty			5,514	+/-1,171	1.2%	+/-0.3
With a vision difficulty			7,984	+/-1,421	1.8%	+/-0.3
With a cognitive difficulty			17,797	+/-2,181	3.9%	+/-0.5
With an ambulatory difficulty			20,918	+/-2,307	4.6%	+/-0.5
With a self-care difficulty			7,437	+/-1,352	1.6%	+/-0.3
With an independent living difficulty			11,799	+/-1,821	2.6%	+/-0.4
Population 65 years and over	71,393	+/-513	23,873	+/-1,626	33.4%	+/-2.3
With a hearing difficulty			5,566	+/-1,066	7.8%	+/-1.5
With a vision difficulty			4,272	+/-1,048	6.0%	+/-1.5
With a cognitive difficulty			7,293	+/-1,194	10.2%	+/-1.7
With an ambulatory difficulty			16,690	+/-1,374	23.4%	+/-1.9
With a self-care difficulty			5,733	+/-1,199	8.0%	+/-1.7
With an independent living difficulty			10,718	+/-1,379	15.0%	+/-1.9
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	298,312	+/-741	28,958	+/-2,466	9.7%	+/-0.8
Female	337,521	+/-821	39,872	+/-3,205	11.8%	+/-1.0
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>						
One Race	N	N	N	N	N	N
White alone	260,484	+/-4,797	12,878	+/-1,821	4.9%	+/-0.7
Black or African American alone	309,173	+/-3,267	53,281	+/-3,882	17.2%	+/-1.3
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	N	N	N	N	N	N
Asian alone	22,569	+/-1,408	578	+/-308	2.6%	+/-1.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	N	N	N	N	N	N
Some other race alone	21,506	+/-4,426	942	+/-638	4.4%	+/-3.0
Two or more races	20,725	+/-3,323	1,041	+/-652	5.0%	+/-3.3
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	227,266	+/-897	11,704	+/-1,770	5.1%	+/-0.8
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	64,842	+/-419	2,854	+/-829	4.4%	+/-1.3

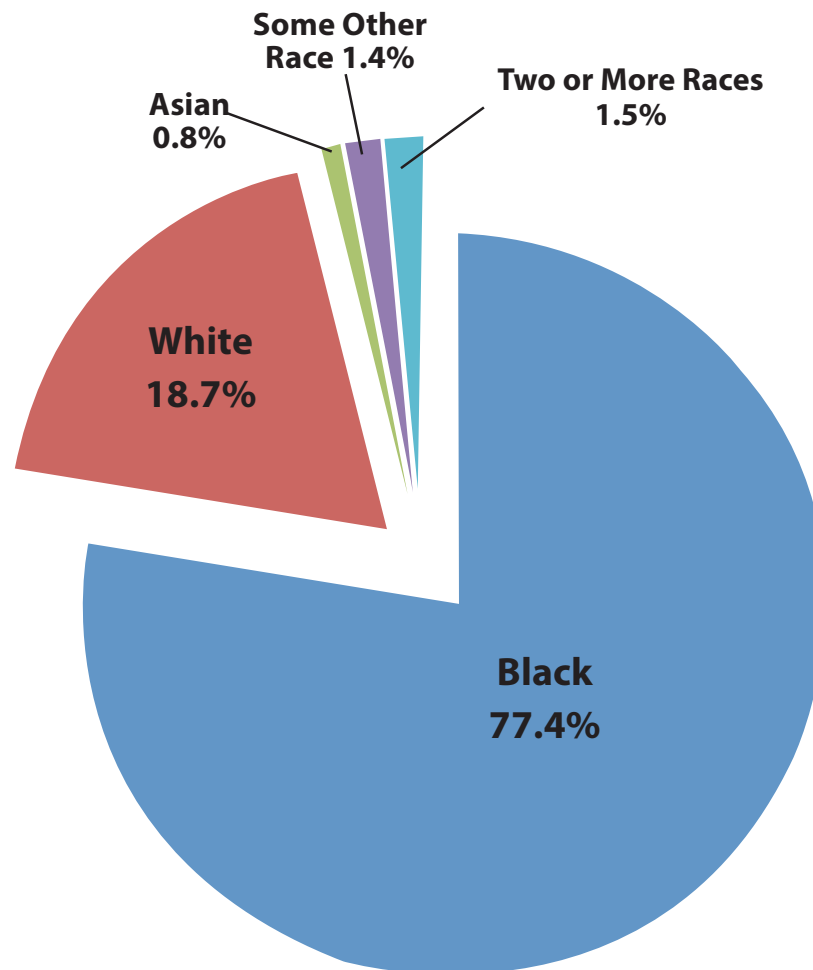
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates

Margin of Error (MOE) - A The difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. All published MOE for the ACS are based on a 90 percent confidence level.

## Disability by Race

- The Black population had the highest portion of individuals reporting a disability at 17.2 percent or 53,281 individuals (Table 1).
- The White population had the second highest portion with 4.9 percent or 12,878 individuals.
- The Asian and Some Other Race population had disabilities of 2.6 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively.
- Hispanics (of any race) had 4.4 percent or 2,854 individuals reporting a disability.
- The Black population comprised 48.6 percent of the total civilian non-institutionalized population, however, represented 77.4 percent of all individuals reporting at least one disability (Figure 3).
- The White population comprised 41.0 percent of the total population and 18.7 percent of the population with a disability.

**Figure 3 - Percent of Individuals with Disability by Race:  
District of Columbia 2013**



Source: 2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates  
Note: Sample size was too small for the other race groups.

## Disability and Poverty

- There are more individuals with disabilities living at or above the poverty level (24,214), than those living below the poverty level (13,798) (Table 2).

<b>Table 2...Disability by Poverty Level, Population 20 to 64 Years: District of Columbia 2013</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Population 20 to 64 years:</b>	421,728	100.0%
<b>Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:</b>	69,442	16.5%
With a disability:	13,798	3.3%
No disability:	55,644	13.2%
<b>Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level:</b>	352,286	83.5%
With a disability:	24,214	5.7%
No disability:	328,072	77.8%
<i>Source: 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates.</i>		

## Disability and Work Status

- Of the total 18-64 years population, 13,506 or 3.0 percent were employed with a disability. 0.8 percent were unemployed with a disability.
- Of the 39,825 individuals age 18 to 64 years with a disability, 56.7 percent (22,570) were not in the labor force, compared to 18.3 percent (75,679) of individuals with no disability that were also not in the labor force (Table 3).

<b>Table 3...Employment Status by Disability Status: District of Columbia 2013</b> <i>Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years</i>		
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total:</b>	453,153	100.0
<b>In the labor force:</b>	354,904	78.3
Employed:	317,187	70.0
With a disability	13,506	3.0
No disability	303,681	67.0
<b>Unemployed:</b>	37,717	8.3
With a disability	3,749	0.8
No disability	33,968	7.5
<b>Not in labor force:</b>	98,249	21.7
With a disability	22,570	5.0
No disability	75,679	16.7
<i>Source: 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates.</i>		

For more information contact:  
D.C. Office of Planning State Data Center  
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650, Washington, DC 20024  
202.442.7600 ph 202.442.7638 fax  
www.planning.dc.gov