

District of Columbia **STATE DATA CENTER**
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This report is based on data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

Disability in the District of Columbia

Introduction

Over the past three 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 the various surveys. This report presents a snap-shot of the characteristics of individuals with disabilities in the District of Columbia, using data collected by the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates. The disability questions on the ACS, as displayed in Figure 1, address disabilities related to hearing and sight, mobility, and independence of individuals.

Disability Characteristics

Of the total civilian non-institutionalized population in the District, 11 percent or 67,435 individuals reported having some level of disability (Table 1) (Individuals can report having more than one disability).

- Individuals 65 and over had the largest percentage of disabilities, 36.8 percent reported at least one limitation. The most common disability for the elderly was ambulatory difficulty - serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs (25.3 percent).
- Of the population 18 to 64 years, 8.4 percent (36,735) reported a disability, with the most common condition also being ambulatory difficulty (4.4 percent).
- Of the population 5 to 17 years, only 7.8 percent reported any type of disability, with the most common condition being cognitive difficulty - serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions (7.3 percent).
- The population under 5 years had the lowest reported percentage of disability, with only 1.0 percent (355) estimated individuals experiencing hearing difficulty and no reported cases of vision difficulty.

Figure 1 – ACS 2011 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

Table 1. Disability Characteristics of DC Residents, 2011

	Total		With a disability		Percent with a disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error		Margin of Error
Total civilian non-institutionalized population	608,165	+/-325	67,435	+/-3,690	11.1%	+/-0.6
Population under 5 years	36,205	+/-161	355	+/-310	1.0%	+/-0.9
With a hearing difficulty			355	+/-310	1.0%	+/-0.9
With a vision difficulty			0	+/-200	0.0%	+/-0.5
Population 5 to 17 years	69,107	+/-177	5,408	+/-1,234	7.8%	+/-1.8
With a hearing difficulty			607	+/-453	0.9%	+/-0.7
With a vision difficulty			650	+/-469	0.9%	+/-0.7
With a cognitive difficulty			5,064	+/-1,186	7.3%	+/-1.7
With an ambulatory difficulty			787	+/-535	1.1%	+/-0.8
With a self-care difficulty			665	+/-485	1.0%	+/-0.7
Population 18 to 64 years	435,158	+/-685	36,735	+/-3,363	8.4%	+/-0.8
With a hearing difficulty			5,956	+/-1,398	1.4%	+/-0.3
With a vision difficulty			8,583	+/-1,550	2.0%	+/-0.4
With a cognitive difficulty			17,160	+/-2,252	3.9%	+/-0.5
With an ambulatory difficulty			19,032	+/-2,212	4.4%	+/-0.5
With a self-care difficulty			6,451	+/-1,226	1.5%	+/-0.3
With an independent living difficulty			11,869	+/-1,576	2.7%	+/-0.4
Population 65 years and over	67,695	+/-543	24,937	+/-2,118	36.8%	+/-3.1
With a hearing difficulty			7,685	+/-1,288	11.4%	+/-1.9
With a vision difficulty			5,237	+/-1,186	7.7%	+/-1.7
With a cognitive difficulty			7,012	+/-1,364	10.4%	+/-2.0
With an ambulatory difficulty			17,122	+/-1,541	25.3%	+/-2.2
With a self-care difficulty			6,205	+/-1,190	9.2%	+/-1.7
With an independent living difficulty			12,636	+/-1,758	18.7%	+/-2.6
Gender						
Male	285,171	+/-863	29,929	+/-2,888	10.5%	+/-1.0
Female	322,994	+/-788	37,506	+/-2,549	11.6%	+/-0.8
Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin						
One Race	N	N	N	N	N	N
White alone	243,473	+/-3,699	12,798	+/-1,750	5.3%	+/-0.7
Black or African American alone	303,344	+/-2,281	49,849	+/-3,026	16.4%	+/-1.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	N	N	N	N	N	N
Asian alone	22,443	+/-964	1,022	+/-621	4.6%	+/-2.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	N	N	N	N	N	N
Some other race alone	24,192	+/-3,717	2,535	+/-1,067	10.5%	+/-4.0
Two or more races	12,760	+/-1,744	1,095	+/-412	8.6%	+/-3.2
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	214,969	+/-527	10,734	+/-1,433	5.0%	+/-0.7
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	58,394	+/-320	5,060	+/-1,280	8.7%	+/-2.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
 Margin of Error (MOE) - A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. All published margins of error for the American Community Survey are based on a 90 percent confidence level.

- Individuals aged 18 to 64 represent over half of all individuals with a disability (54 percent), followed by the 65 years and over (37 percent), 5 to 17 years (8 percent), and children under 5 years (1 percent) (Figure 2).
- Females in the District had a higher rate of disability compared to males, 11.6 percent for women compared to 10.5 percent for men.

Disability by Race

With regards to race and ethnicity, the Black alone population had the highest portion of individuals reporting a disability at 16.4 percent or 49,849 individuals (Table 1). Some other race (SOR) had the second highest portion with 10.5 percent or 2,535 individuals. The White population had 5.3 percent or 12,798 individuals reporting disabilities, and the Asian population with 4.6 percent or 1,022 individuals. Hispanics (of any race) had 8.7 percent or 5,060 individuals reporting a disability.

The Black population comprised 50.0 percent of the total civilian non-institutionalized population, however represented 74.1 percent of the individuals reporting at least one disability (Figure 3). On the other hand, the White population comprised 40.2 percent of the total population and 19.0 percent of the population with a disability.

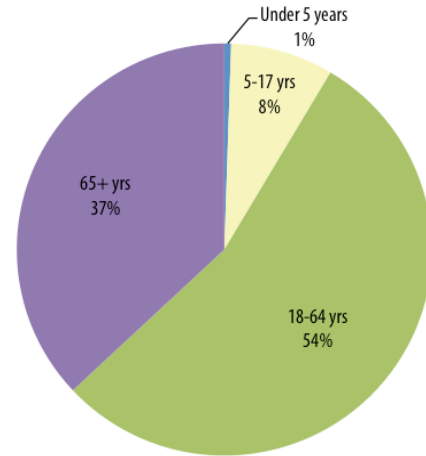
Disability and Poverty

There are more individuals with disabilities living at or above the poverty level (21,260), than those living below the poverty level (13,850) (Table 2).

Disability and Work Status

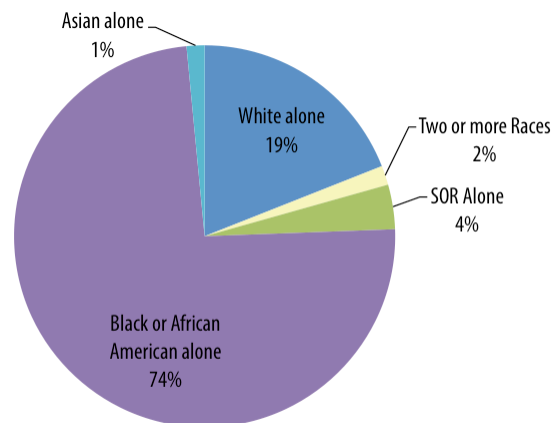
Of the individuals with a disability, 54.8 percent (19,254) were not in the labor force, compared to 15.0 percent (54,961) of individuals with no disability (Table 3). Among individuals with a disability, the unemployment rate for 2011 was 14.8 percent, whereas for individuals with no disability, the unemployment rate was 8.4 percent.

Figure 2. Individuals with a Disability by Age



Source: 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Figure 3. Individuals with a Disability by Race



Source: 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
Sample size was too small for "American Indian and Alaska Native alone" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone"

Table 2. Disability by Poverty Level, Population 20 to 64 Years

	Number	Percent
Population 20 to 64 years:	400,746	100.0%
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:	64,464	16.1%
With a disability:	13,850	3.5%
No disability:	50,614	12.6%
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level:	336,282	83.9%
With a disability:	21,260	5.3%
No disability:	315,022	78.6%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 1-Year Estimates.

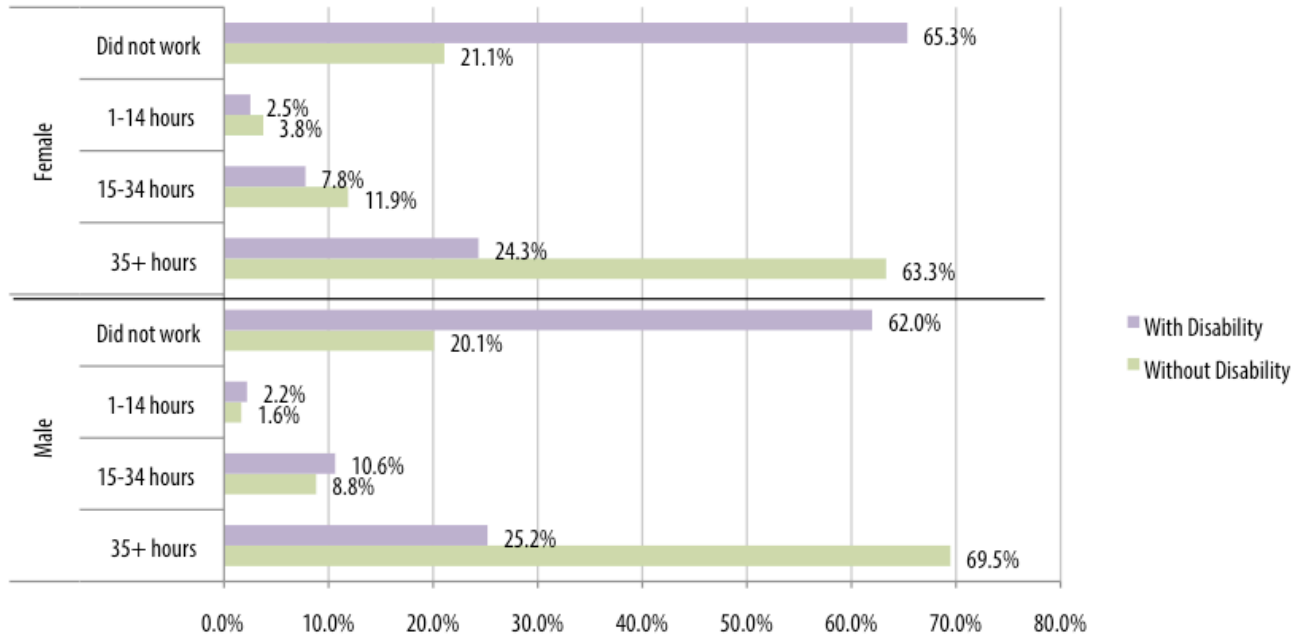
Table 3. DC Employment Status for Individuals with Disability, Population 20 to 64 Years

With a disability:	35,110	100.0%
In labor force:	15,856	45.2%
In Armed Forces	0	0.0%
Civilian:	15,856	45.2%
Employed	10,674	30.4%
Unemployed	5,182	14.8%
Not in labor force	19,254	54.8%
No disability:	365,636	100.0%
In labor force:	310,675	85.0%
In Armed Forces	988	0.3%
Civilian:	309,687	84.7%
Employed	279,072	76.3%
Unemployed	30,615	8.4%
Not in labor force	54,961	15.0%

Source: 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

The American Community Survey also looks at the number of hours individuals with and without a disability worked per week within the last 12 months, by gender (Figure 4). For both males and females, the largest percentage of individuals with a disability did not work (62.0 percent and 65.3 percent, respectively) and the largest percentages of individuals without a disability worked more than 35 hours per week (69.5 percent and 63.3 percent, respectively).

Figure 4. DC Work Status in the Past 12 months, by Hours Worked per Week
Population 16 to 64; Worked and Did not work



Source: 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

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