Census Bureau Data on Vision Difficulty

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Prepared for the Focus on Eye Health National Summit
June 18, 2013

The views and opinions expressed are my own and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Census Bureau
Census Bureau’s Role

• The Census Bureau serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation’s people and economy. (from the *U.S. Census Bureau Mission Statement*)
  – Not health-focused
  – Does not do public health surveillance

• Does collect some disability information
  – Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
  – American Community Survey (ACS)
Conceptual Framework
(Nagi model)

Pathology → Impairment → Functional Limitation → Disability

SIPP/ACS
Survey Questions on Vision Difficulty

- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
  
  “Does … have difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newspaper print even when wearing glasses or contact lenses if … usually wear them?
  [ ] Yes  [ ] No  [ ] Person is blind
  
  “Is … able to see the words and letters in ordinary newspaper print at all?”
  [ ] Yes  [ ] No
Survey Questions on Vision Difficulty

• American Community Survey (ACS)

  “Is … blind or does … have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?”
  [ ] Yes
  [ ] No
Americans with Disabilities: 2010

Highlights

- 56.7 million people (18.7 percent) with disabilities in U.S.

Characteristics for individual types of disability
Vision difficulty prevalence
(Civilian noninstitutionalized population 15 years and older)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel, Wave 6 Adult Functional Limitations Topical Module
ACS and SIPP estimates of vision difficulty

State Estimates of Vision Difficulty
(Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 18 to 64 years)

Legend
Data Classes
Percent
1.0 - 1.3
1.4 - 1.6
1.7 - 2.2
2.3 - 5.1

Boundaries
State
'11 County

Features
Major Road
Street
Stream/Waterbody
Items in grey text are not visible at this zoom level

Modify the map using the options below:

Colors and Data Classes
Transparency: 30%
Number of classes: 4
Color range (select the first and last colors):
Classing method: Quantile

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey
State Estimates of Vision Difficulty
(Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 65 years and older)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey
Employment and Work Experience by Disability Status
Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 18 to 64 years old

- With a disability
- Vision difficulty
- No disability

Employed:
- With a disability: 32.8%
- Vision difficulty: 36.3%
- No disability: 73.1%

Worked full-time, year round:
- With a disability: 19.8%
- Vision difficulty: 22.8%
- No disability: 51.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey, Tables B18130 and B18131
Median Monthly Earnings and Family Income by Disability Status
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 21 to 64 years old

- With a disability
- Vision difficulty
- No disability

Median Monthly Earnings
- $1,961
- $2,281
- $2,724

Median Monthly Family Income
- $2,856
- $2,635
- $4,771

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel, Wave 6 Adult Functional Limitations Topical Module
Disability

The Census Bureau collects data on disability primarily through the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The definitions of disability are not always alike so caution should be taken when making comparisons across surveys. Generally, the SIPP estimates of disability prevalence are broader and encompass a greater number of activities on which disability status is assessed. The ACS has a more narrow definition but is capable of producing estimates for states, counties, and metropolitan areas. Because the ACS has replaced the decennial long-form as the source for small area statistics, there is no disability data in the 2010 Census.

In addition to these recent data sources, the Census Bureau has also produced disability estimates from the 2000 Census, and the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Other Federal agencies also collect and report disability statistics. Depending on your needs, one survey may be more suitable than another.

**Latest Releases**

**Disability Employment Tabulation**

**Disability Characteristics of Income-Based Government Assistance Recipients in the United States: 2011** [PDF - 4.30MB] (ACSBR/11-12)

**Americans with Disabilities: 2010**

- [Report] [PDF - 630.71KB] (P70-130)
- [Tables and Figures]
- [C-SPAN Presentation]

**School-Aged Children With Disabilities in U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2010** [PDF - 4.30MB] (ACSBR/10-12)

**Disability Among the Working Age Population: 2008 and 2009** [PDF - 534.16] (ACSBR/09-12)
Community Facts

Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.

Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code:

Example: Atlanta, GA

Guided Search

Advanced Search

Download Options

American FactFinder provides access to data about the United States, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas. The data in American FactFinder come from several censuses and surveys. For more information see Using FactFinder and What We Provide.

Using American FactFinder

Learn about American FactFinder's functions and features.

What We Provide

The following data are available on American FactFinder:

- American Community Survey
- American Housing Survey
- Annual Surveys of Governments
- Census of Governments
- Annual Economic Surveys
- Decennial Census
- Economic Census

News and Notes

May 16, 2013

2011 County Business Patterns data are now available!

view all news, release schedules, and more

Address Search

Find Census data by entering a street address.

Reference Maps

Reference Maps show selected geographic boundaries for an area along with orienting features, such as roads.

Location:

[United States]

Search
Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:

1. Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

   - **topic or table name**: Vision
   - **state, county or place (optional)**
   - Options: topics, race/ancestry, industries, occupations

   -- or --

2. Select from **Topics**, **Race and Ethnic Groups**, **Industry Codes**, **EEO Occupation Codes**.
   - these are added to 'Your Selections'
   - the Search Results are updated

3. Next, select **Geographies** (states, counties, cities, towns, etc.)
   - these are added to 'Your Selections'
   - the Search Results are updated

Select one or more Search Results and click **View**
## Search

- Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results.

### Your Selections

**Search using:**
- "Vision"

**Geographies**
- (states, counties, places, ...)

**Race and Ethnic Groups**
- (race, ancestry, tribe)

**Industry Codes**
- (NAICS industry, ...)

**EEO Occupation Codes**
- (executive, analysts, ...)

### Search Results: 1-25 of 51 tables and other products match Your Selections

Refine your search results:
- topic or table name
- state, county or place (optional)
- GO

#### Selected:
- View
- Download
- Compare
- Clear All

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Links

- Disability Page
  - http://www.census.gov/people/disability/

- American FactFinder:
  - http://factfinder2.census.gov/
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