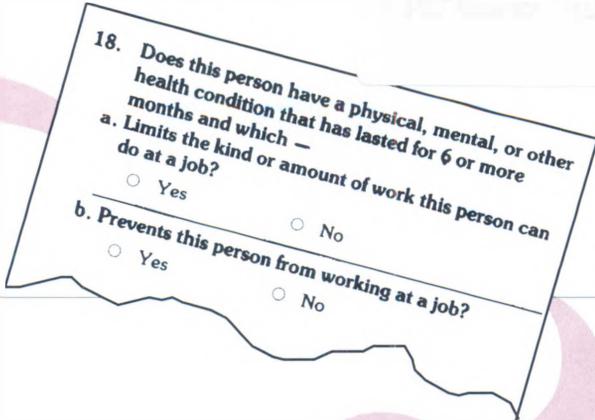


We asked... You told us *Disability*



The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.

Work Disability Status

In question 18 on the 1990 census forms, we asked people if they had a work disability—a condition that had lasted 6 months or longer and which limited the kind or amount of work they could do at a job— and if that disability prevented them from working at a job.

Nearly 13 Million Persons 16 to 64 Years Old Had a Work Disability

From what you told us, we learned that:

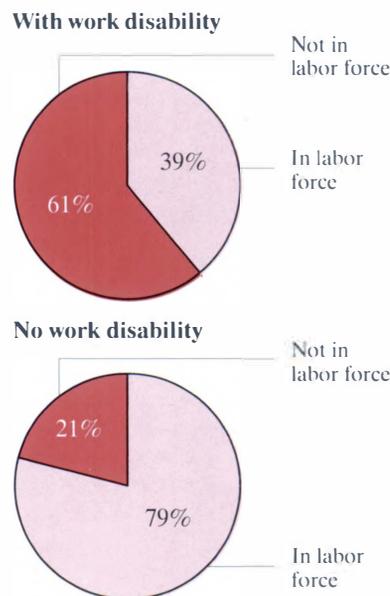
- In 1990, 8 percent of the American population 16 to 64 years old had a work disability, and 4 percent were prevented from working by their disability.
- The percentage of persons with a work disability was slightly higher in 1970— about 10 percent— while the percentage of persons who were prevented from working in 1970 was about the same as the 1990 figure.

Work Disabilities Can Affect Labor Force Participation

- In 1990, about 4 out of 10 Americans with a work disability were in the labor force, compared with about 8 of 10 Americans with no work disability (see pie charts).
- As shown in the map, labor force participation for disabled persons varied widely among States. In six States, at least half of the work-disabled residents were in the labor force. Minnesota led the States with the highest percentage of disabled persons in the labor force (55 percent). West Virginia had the lowest labor force participation rate (25 percent) for disabled persons.

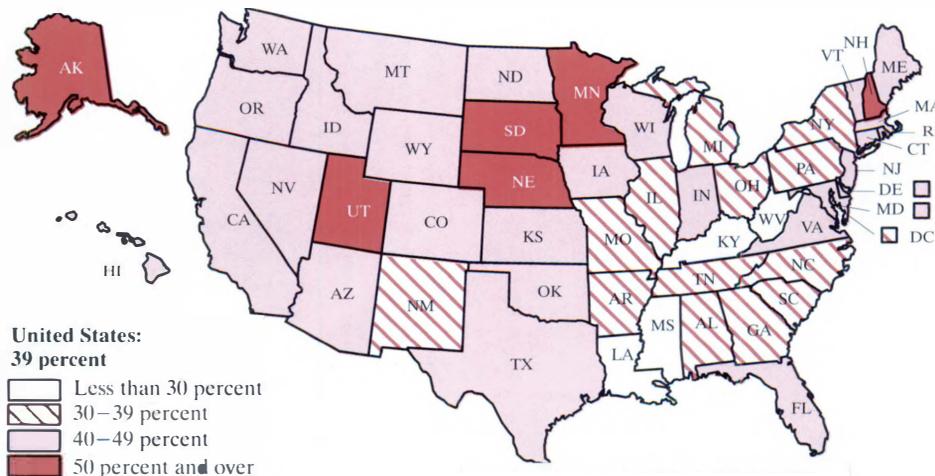
Disabled Persons Less Likely to Participate in Labor Force

Work Disability Status of Persons 16 to 64 Years, by Labor Force Participation: 1990



Lowest Labor Force Participation by Disabled Persons Reported in South

Percent of Persons 16 to 64 Years With a Work Disability Who Were in the Labor Force: 1990



Census Trivia: According to the 1990 census, which State had the highest percentage of persons 16 to 64 years old with a work disability? Which State had the highest percentage of persons who were prevented from working by their disability? (Answer on reverse.)

Mobility and Self-Care Limitation Status

In question 19, we asked people to tell us if they had a *mobility limitation*—a condition that had lasted 6 or more months and which made it difficult to go outside the home alone—or a *self-care limitation*—a condition that made it difficult to take care of their own personal needs, such as dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.

About 7 Million Persons 16 to 64 Years Old Had a Mobility and/or Self-Care Limitation

- You told us that 2 percent of Americans 16 to 64 years old had a mobility limitation in 1990, and 3 percent had a self-care limitation.
- Not surprisingly, the likelihood of difficulty with daily activities increased sharply with advancing age. For persons 16 to 64 years old, 5 percent had a mobility and/or self-care limitation. Among the elderly population, the corresponding figures were 13 percent for persons 65 to 74 years old and 31 percent for persons 75 years and over. As life expectancies continue to increase, we can anticipate a growing number of persons with personal assistance needs.
- Mississippi and the District of Columbia had the highest percentages of persons 16 to 64 years old with a mobility or self-care limitation (7 percent). North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, and Alaska had the lowest percentages (around 2 percent each).

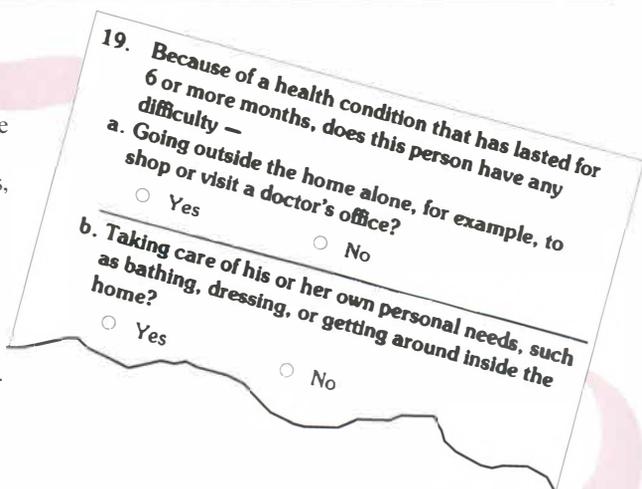
People With Work Disabilities Did Not Necessarily Have Difficulty With Daily Activities

- About 72 percent of persons 16 to 64 years old who had a work disability did not report a mobility or self-care limitation (see pie charts).
- On the other hand, a small portion of persons who did not consider themselves as having a work disability still reported a mobility or self-care limitation (2 percent). This figure suggests that some people who had difficulty getting around outside the home or taking care of their own personal needs may not have reported a work disability, depending on the physical requirements of their job and their employer's accommodation to their disability.

Want to Know More?

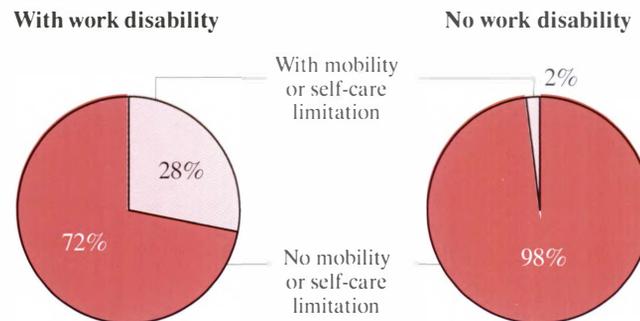
Consult the series of 1990 census reports, CPH-5, *Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics*; and CP-2, *Social and Economic Characteristics*, at a large public or university library. Also for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). Call:

- Customer Services at the Census Bureau, 301-457-4100, for ordering information about the GPO reports listed above or to order copies of CQC bulletins or other Census Bureau products
- Kim Giesbrecht or Karen Mills, 301-457-3953, for general information on CQC bulletins
- Jack McNeil, 301-763-8300, for more information on disability data



Most People With a Work Disability Did Not Have Difficulty With Everyday Activities

Work Disability Status of Persons 16 to 64 Years, by Mobility or Self-Care Limitation Status: 1990



Who Uses This Information?

Just a few examples:

- Federal agencies to establish baseline numbers as the Nation works to reduce employment barriers faced by persons with disabilities
- Federal, State, and local governments to allocate funds for vocational education and rehabilitation programs for disabled workers
- Social Security Administration to forecast the number of persons eligible for disability benefits

Trivia Answer: In 1990, West Virginia recorded both the highest percentage of persons with a work disability (13 percent) and the highest percentage of persons whose disability prevented them from working (8 percent).

Note: The data shown in this bulletin refer to civilian people who did not live in nursing homes or other institutions. Data on disability are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.



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