

OHIO POPULATION NEWS

Issue 35

Paul Hemez

The Disabled Population in Ohio

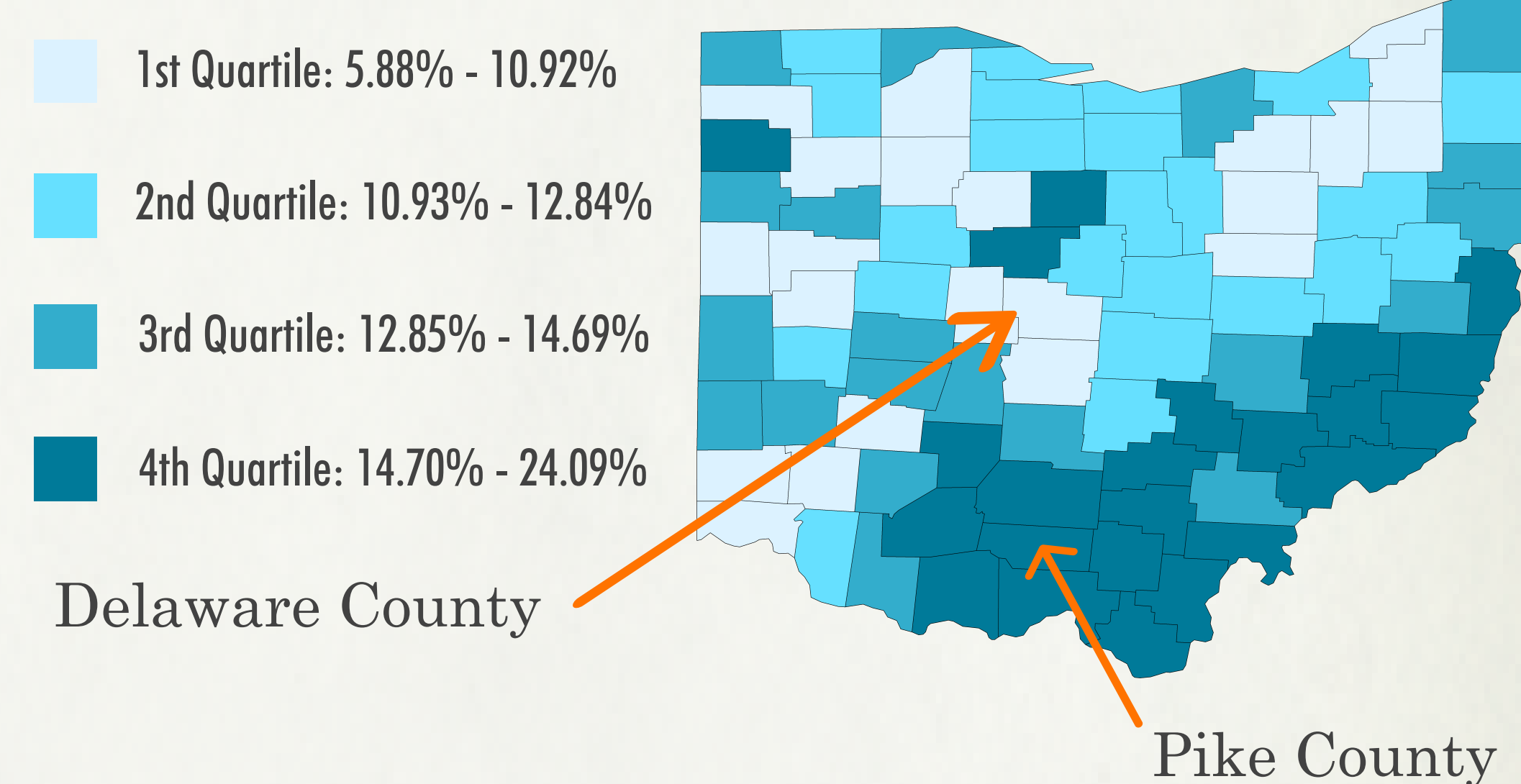
Estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) show that between 2012 and 2016 an estimated 1.6 million Ohioans lived with some type of chronic condition or disability, representing 13.8% of the non-institutionalized civilian population. The ACS asks respondents about a variety of chronic conditions and activity limitations, ranging from hearing, vision, and ambulatory difficulties to cognitive, self-care, and independent living difficulties. Hearing and vision difficulties are asked of all respondents, whereas ambulatory, cognitive, and self-care difficulties only refer to those aged 5 and older; difficulties with independent living are only asked of those aged 15 and older. Respondents were allowed to report more than one limitation.

The most commonly experienced disability was serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs, as over 800,000 (7.6%) of Ohioans aged 5 and older reported such limitations. Cognitive disabilities among those aged 5 and older that made it difficult to concentrate, remember, or make decisions were reported by over 600,000 (5.7%) Ohio residents. Hearing, self-care (among those aged 5 and older), and vision difficulties were slightly less common, with approximately 420,000 (3.7%), 300,000 (2.8%), and 260,000 (2.3%) Ohioans reporting these types of disabilities, respectively. Among Ohio's adult population, difficulty performing activities alone outside of the home was reported by about 550,000 (6.3%) men and women. Finally, nearly 120,000 veterans had a service-related disability, representing about 15.2% of Ohio's veterans and 1.0% of the state's overall population.

Geographic Variation in Ohio's Disabled Working-Age Population

Across the country, there was variation in the share of states' working-age populations with a disability between 2012 and 2016 (not shown). West Virginia had the highest share where over 17% of working-age individuals reported a disability, whereas New Jersey had the smallest share at less than 8%. In Ohio, the percentage of working-age men and women with a disability (12%) was slightly higher than the United States as a whole (10%). Within Ohio, the percentage of residents with a disability ranged from 6 in Delaware County to 24 in Pike County (Figure 1). Counties in the Southeastern part of the state generally had a larger proportion of disabled residents than counties in the Northern and Western parts of Ohio.

Figure 1. Percentage of Working-Age Adults (18-64) with a Disability in 2012-2016, by County

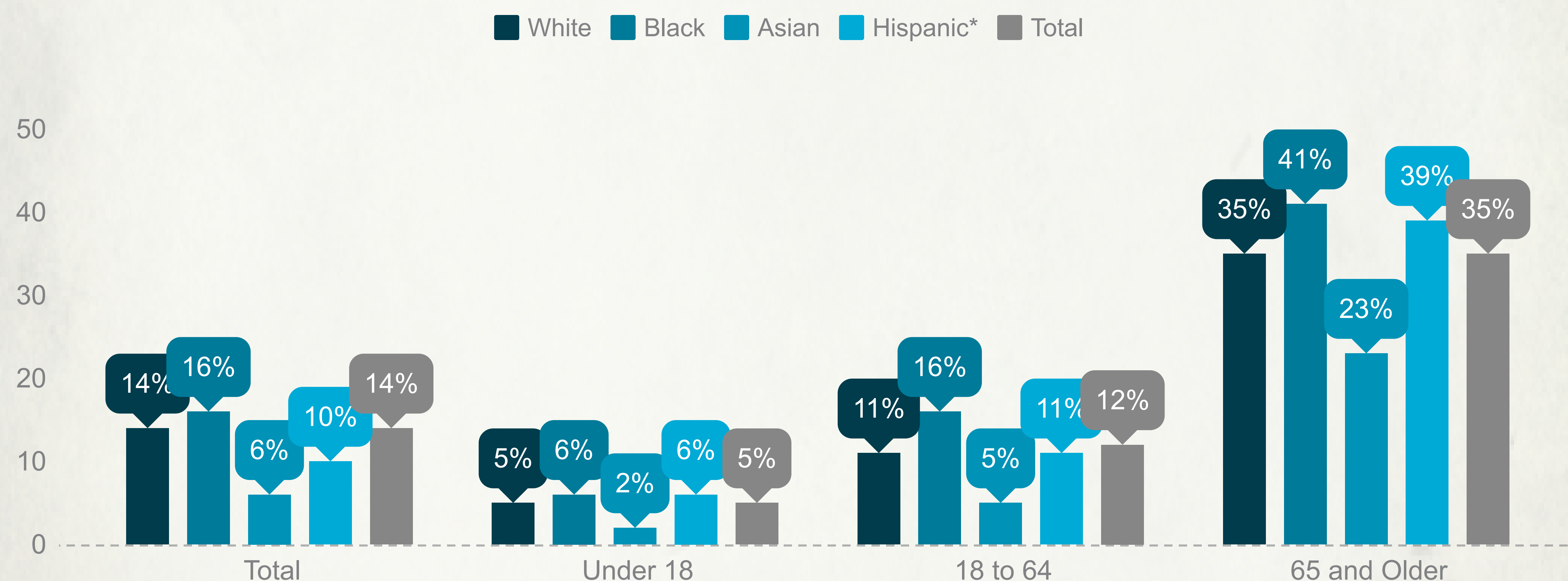


Source: 2016 ACS 5-year from American Fact Finder [Table S1810]

Age and Racial/Ethnic Distribution

The proportion of Ohioans living with a disability was higher at older ages and differed by race and ethnicity (Figure 2). In every age category, disability status was most common among Black Ohioans and least common for Asians. Across all ages, 16% of Blacks reported a disability between 2012 and 2016 compared to 14% of Whites and just 6% of Asians. About one-in-ten Ohioans of Hispanic ethnicity had a disability, slightly less than their non-Hispanic counterparts (14%). Among older Ohioans, one-quarter of men and women aged 65 to 74 reported living with a disability, and slightly less than half (48%) of those aged 75 and older reported a such a condition (not shown).

Figure 2: Percentage of Ohio Residents with a Disability by Race/Ethnicity and Age, 2012-2016



*Those with Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race

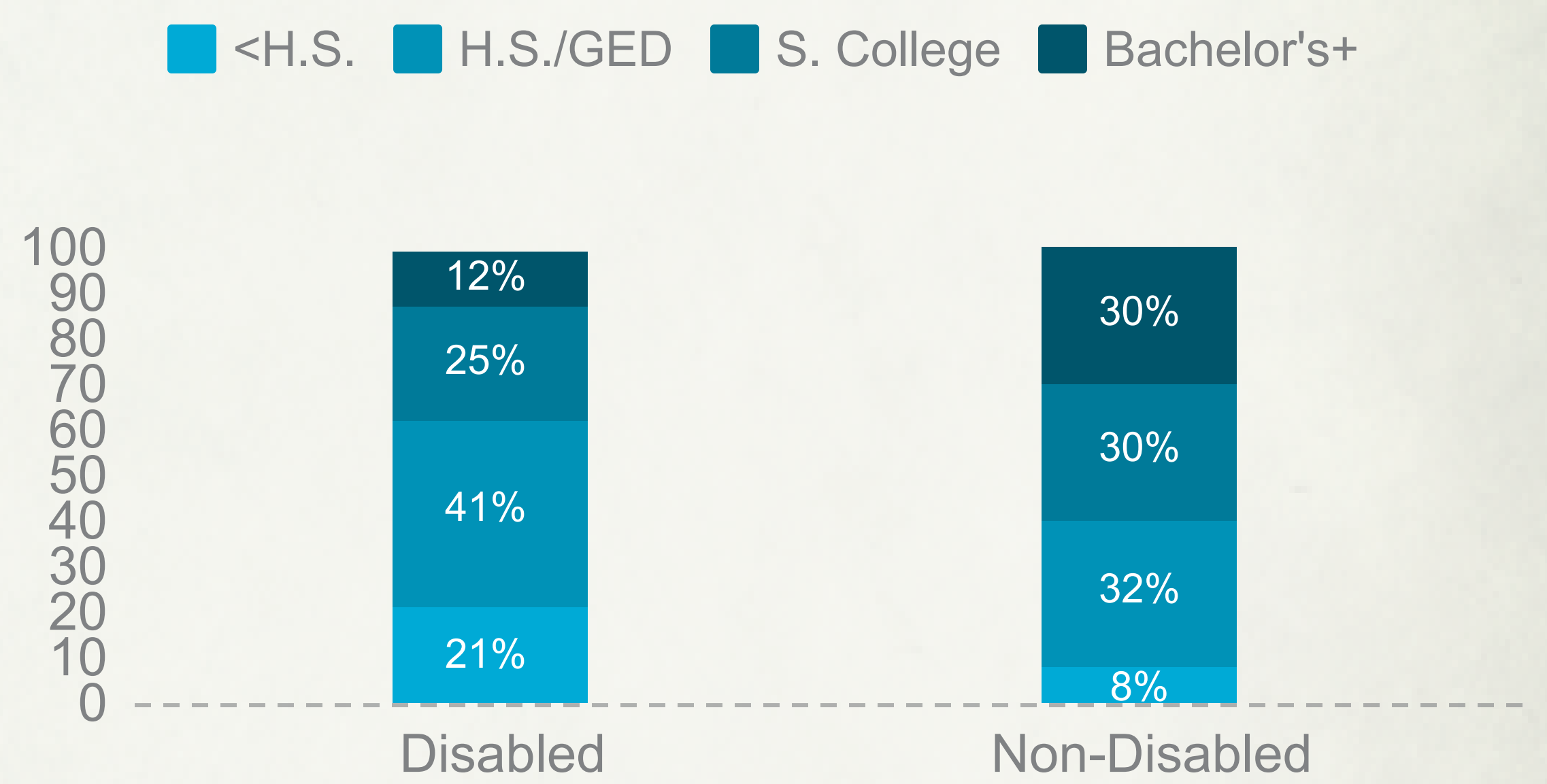
Source: 2016 ACS 5-year from American FactFinder [Tables B18101A, B18101B, B18101D, B18101I, and S1810]

Questions or comments? Email the CFDR at cfdr@bgsu.edu | visit www.bgsu.edu/cfdr for the latest information on upcoming events.

Educational Attainment

Among Ohioans aged 25 or older, about 79% of disabled individuals had at least a high school degree compared to 92% of those with no disability. The share of Ohioans with at least a high school degree was slightly larger than the average share for the United States, where 77% of disabled persons and about 89% of those without a disability had a high school degree or more in 2012-2016 (not shown). Among those aged 25 and older, the most common level of educational attainment – both for disabled and non-disabled residents – was a high school degree but no college experience, although the proportion holding this level of educational attainment was larger for disabled (41%) Ohioans than their nondisabled counterparts (32%). Furthermore, having at least a Bachelor's degree was more than twice as common for Ohioans without a disability than for those who were disabled.

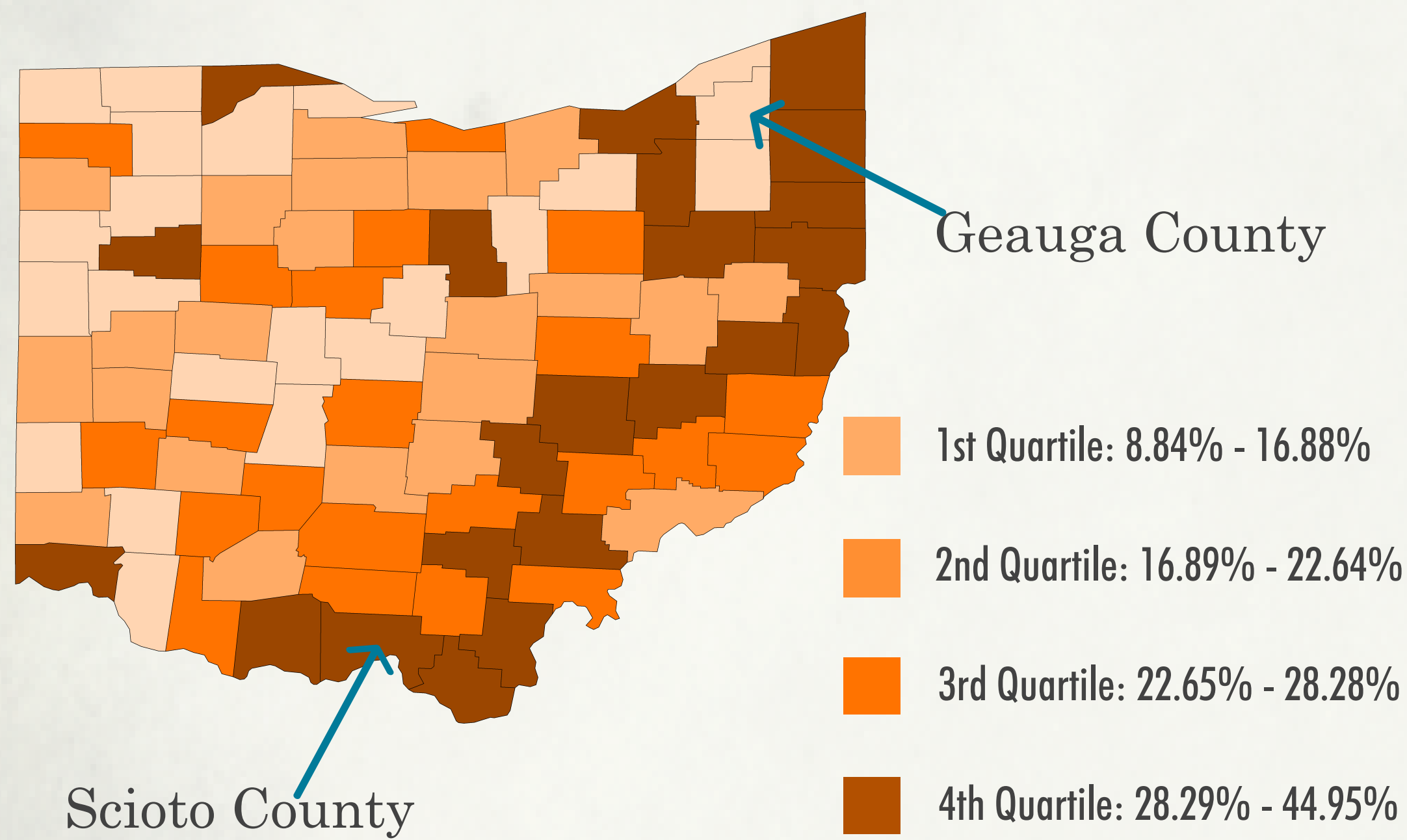
Figure 3: Educational Attainment by Disability Status Among Populations Aged 25 and Older in Ohio, 2012-2016



Note: 25 is used as the youngest age to capture educational attainment levels that are completed. Source: 2016 ACS 5-year from American Fact Finder [Table S1811]

Supplemental Security Income Receipt

Figure 4. Percentage of Working-Age (18-64) Disabled Population Receiving Federal Supplementary Security Income in December 2014, by County



Source: 2016 ACS 5-year from American Fact Finder [Table S1810]; 2014 Social Security Administration Data

In December of 2014, about 219,000 low-income disabled working-age adults in Ohio received federally administered Supplemental Security Income (SSI), representing about 1 in 4 of those who reported a disability between 2012 and 2016. The county with the smallest share of disabled residents receiving Supplemental Security Income was Geauga County (9%), whereas Scioto County had the largest share (45%) (Figure 4). On average, disabled residents (regardless of age) received about \$574 in SSI during the month. However, this varied by county, as SSI recipients in Geauga County received an average of \$440, whereas recipients in Ottawa County received about \$615 on average.

References:
U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (2016). Tables B18101A, B18101B, B18101D, B18101I, C18120, C18130, S1810, S1811; generated by Paul Hemez using American FactFinder, <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (January 8, 2018).

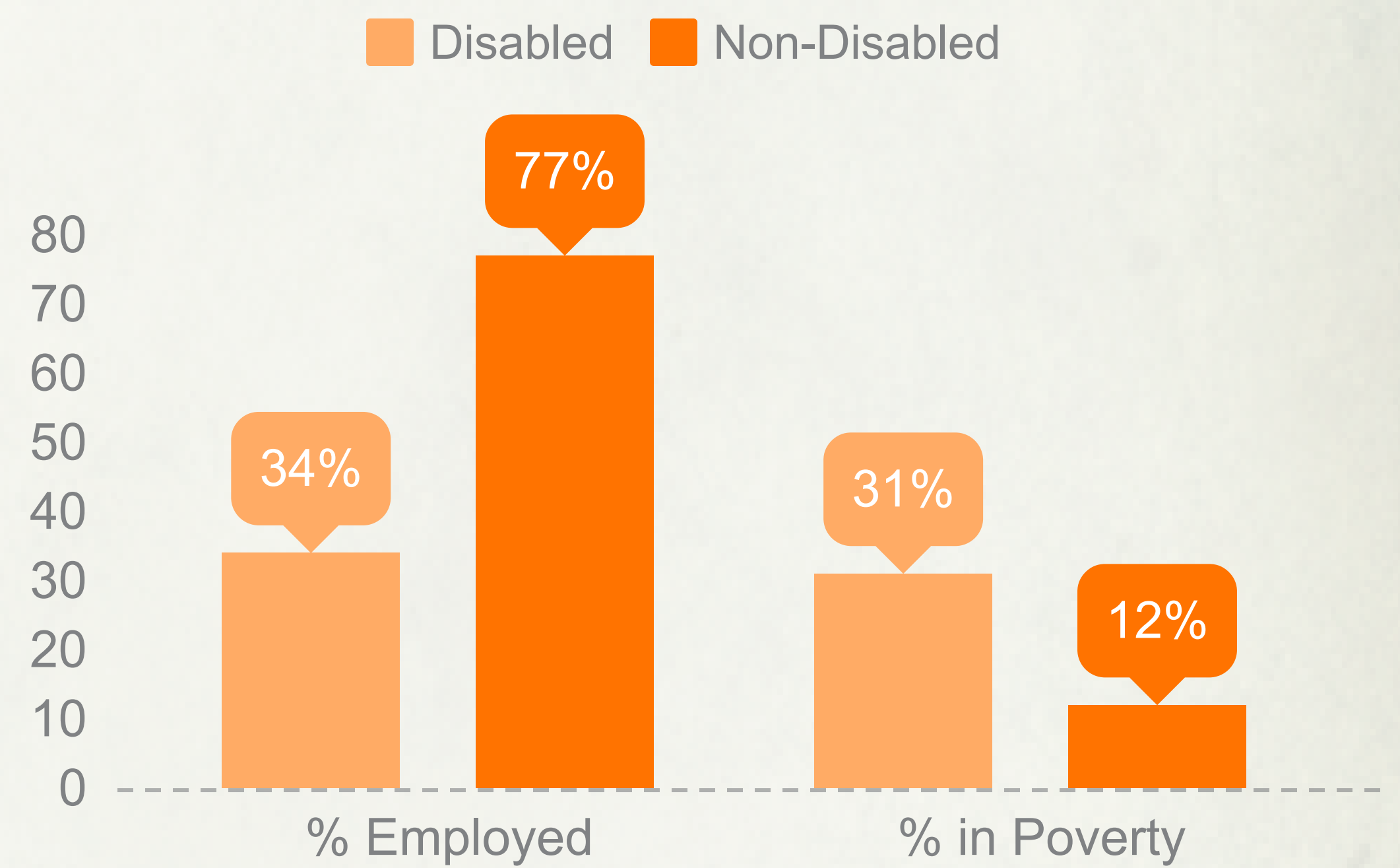
Social Security Administration. (2014). *Master Beneficiary Record and Supplemental Security Record*. [Table 3. Number of recipients in state (by eligibility category, age, and receipt of OASDI benefits) and amount of payments, by county, December 2014]. Retrieved from https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/2014/index.html

Suggested Citation:

Hemez, P. (2017). The disabled population in Ohio. *Ohio Population News*, 35. Bowling Green, OH: Center for Family & Demographic Research. <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/center-for-family-and-demographic-research/documents/OPN/Ohio-Population-News-2018-Disabled-Ohioians.pdf>

Employment and Poverty Statuses

Figure 5. Percentage of Ohio Residents (18-64) Who Were Employed and Who Lived in Poverty During the Past 12 Months by Disability Status, 2012-2016



Source: 2016 ACS 5-year from American Fact Finder [Tables C18120 and C18130]

Among working-age men and women in Ohio, the share who were employed was twice as large for non-disabled individuals than for disabled individuals, as over 3 in 4 non-disabled Ohioans were employed compared to just 1 in 3 disabled Ohioans. Furthermore, living at or below the poverty level over the previous 12 months was more than twice as common for disabled Ohioans between the ages of 18 and 64 than for Ohio residents with no disability.