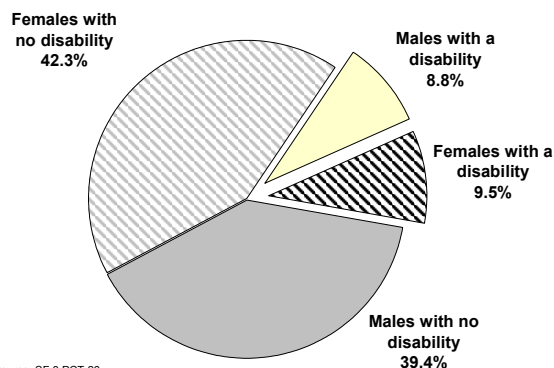


## OHIO POPULATION NEWS: The Disabled Population in Ohio

The 2000 Census counted 1.9 million Ohioans with some type of long lasting condition or disability. This represents roughly 18 percent of the 10.4 million civilian non-institutionalized Ohio residents ages 5 and older. These counts are derived from two new disability questions on the 2000 Census which asked respondents about long-lasting conditions and activity limitations. These questions categorize disability into six types ranging from sensory, physical and mental impairments to employment and self-care limitations to difficulties leaving the home. Respondents were permitted to report more than one—in other words, a person might report that they had both an employment disability along with a sensory disability.

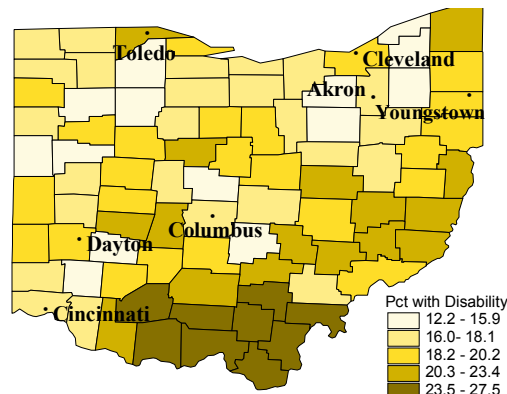
Results indicate that there were **378,760 Ohioans ages 5 and above (or 3.8 percent of the civilian non-institutionalized population over age 5) experiencing blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.** A higher percentage—**8.5 percent—of the population indicated a physical disability** that substantially limits one or more basic activities such as walking, climbing, etc. Additional results from the Census indicate that over **516,000 Ohioans (or five percent) have a mental, physical or emotional condition that makes it difficult to concentrate, remember or learn;** while just over **268,000 (2.6 percent) have a condition that makes it difficult to dress, bathe, or get around inside the home.** Eight percent (or 653,517 individuals) of the non-institutionalized population ages 16 and older have a mental, physical, or emotional condition that limits their ability to go outside the home alone.

**Figure 2: Percentage of the population ages 5 and older by disability status: Ohio 2000**



Source: SF 3 PCT 26

**Figure 1: Percent Disabled Civilian Non-institutionalized Population over age 5—Ohio 2000**



Across the nation there is wide variation in the percent disabled—nearly one in four West Virginians are disabled compared to just over one in seven Utah residents. Within Ohio, disability ranges from a high of 27.5 percent of the population in Lawrence County to a low of 12.2 percent in Delaware County (Figure 1).

### Age

Approximately six percent of Ohioans aged 5 to 15 have a disability compared to more than 52 percent of those aged 75 and older. Disabilities vary by age—younger disabled individuals are more likely to report mental disabilities, working age individuals are more likely to report employment disabilities, and the elderly are more likely to report physical disabilities.

### Education

Census results show that 73.1 percent of disabled individuals have at least a high school degree compared with 86.7% of the non-disabled population ages 18 to 34. (Table 1) **One in five (or 19.5 percent) disabled individuals ages 18-34 are enrolled in school—of these the majority (70 percent) are enrolled in college or graduate school.** The comparable figures for non-disabled individuals are 25.5 and 81.8 percent.

**Table 1: Educational Attainment by Disability Status population ages 18-34 (not currently enrolled in school), Ohio and the US, 2000**

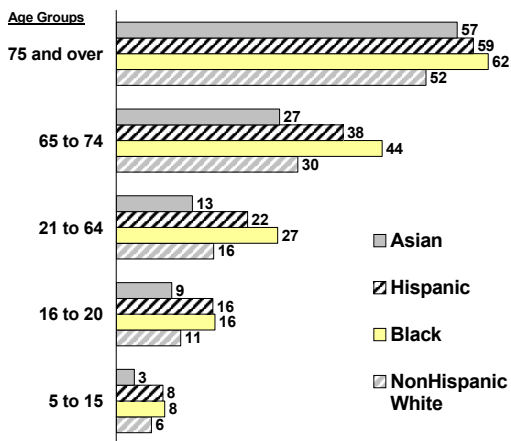
	Ohio		United States	
	Disabled	Non-disabled	Disabled	Non-disabled
Not a HS Grad	26.9	13.3	32.9	18.3
High School Grad	43.3	37.5	35.2	30.5
Some College	21.6	27.5	22.0	27.6
Bachelor's Degree	6.5	17.1	7.8	18.1
Advanced Degree	1.7	4.6	2.1	5.6
<b>At Least a High School Degree</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>81.7</b>

Source: Summary File 3, PCT 33

## POVERTY AMONG THE DISABLED POPULATION

People with a disability, especially disabled women, are more likely to live in poverty – **in fact, poverty rates are twice as high for the disabled population as a whole as they are for the non-disabled population (16.4 percent compared to 8.7 percent)**. Although the percentage of Ohio’s disabled living in poverty is less than the national percentage (17.6), the gap between poverty among the disabled and nondisabled is larger (7.6 percentage points versus the national 6.9 percentage points). Poverty rates are higher among the disabled at every age group (Figure 3). For example, among the disabled population aged 21 to 64, twenty-one percent of the women and fifteen percent of the men are living in poverty. This is roughly two and a half times the rate of the corresponding non-disabled population.

**Figure 4: Percent Disabled by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Ohio 2000.**



Source: Summary File 3, PCT67B, 67D, 67H, 67I.

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Sources Used in this Report:

Disability Status 2000: Census 2000 Brief by J. Waldrop and S.M. Stern.

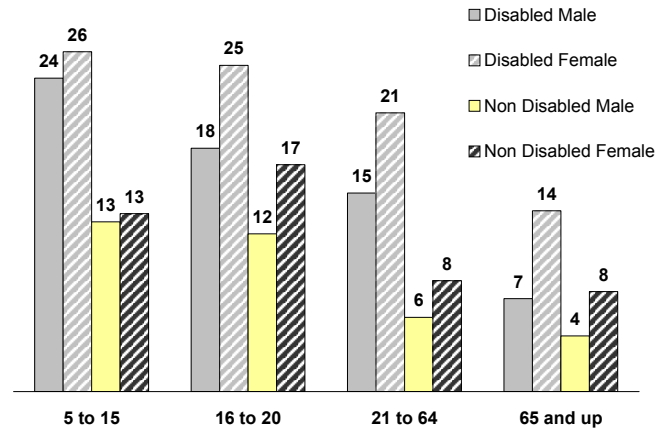
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Kaye, H.S. 2003 “Improved employment opportunities for people with disabilities.” National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

<http://www.dsc.ucsf.edu/pdf/report17.pdf>

Summary File 3, 2000 Census

**Figure 3: Percentage Living in Poverty by Disability Status, Gender and Age: Ohio 2000.**



Source: Summary File 3, PCT34

## Employment among the Disabled

A major goal of the U.S. Disability policy is to increase employment opportunities for the disabled. The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which took effect in 1992, helped to promote employment among the disabled by prohibiting discrimination and requiring accommodations for disabled employees. **Data from the Current Population Survey indicate that national employment rates among disabled individuals who are available to work have increased (Kaye, 2003).** The percentage of this population employed rose from 72 to 81 percent between 1994 and 2000. However, the population unable to work also increased during the 1990s – from 7.8 million Americans in 1990 to 9.9 million in 1996. According to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), back problems, heart disease and mental health conditions are the most common conditions preventing work (Kaye, 2003). The 2000 Census reports that **approximately 10 percent of Ohioans age 16 to 64 have an employment disability – this is lower than the national percentage of 11.9.** A large gap between the percentage of disabled and nondisabled employed Ohioans exists. **Roughly 60 percent of the disabled population aged 21-64 is employed,** compared to 87 percent of the nondisabled. These are higher than the national figures of 57 and 77 percent respectively.



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