quarters had a disability in 2010.[8] Were this population included in the SIPP, the magnitude of the disability estimates presented in this report would likely be larger.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 56.7 million people (18.7 percent) of the 303.9 million in the civilian noninstitutionalized population had a disability in 2010.[9] About 38.3 million people (12.6 percent) had a severe disability (Table 1). About 12.3 million people aged 6 years and older (4.4 percent) needed assistance with one or more activities of daily living (ADLs) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).[10]

[8] S2601A. Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population in the United States, <factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_1YR/S2601A>.

[9] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[10] For the definition of activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), see Figure 1 or the section ADLs, IADLs, and Need for Assistance on page 9.

Table 1.
Prevalence of Disability for Selected Age Groups: 2005 and 2010
(Numbers in thousands)

Category	2005				2010				Difference	
	Number	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)	Number	Margin of error (±)	Percent	Margin of error (±)	Number	Percent
All ages	**291,099**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	**303,858**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	****12,760**	**(X)**
With a disability	54,425	894	18.7	0.3	56,672	905	18.7	0.3	*2,247	–
Severe disability	34,947	601	12.0	0.2	38,284	654	12.6	0.2	*3,337	*0.6
Aged 6 and older	**266,752**	**84**	**100.0**	**(X)**	**278,222**	**88**	**100.0**	**(X)**	***11,469**	**(X)**
Needed personal assistance	10,996	336	4.1	0.1	12,349	386	4.4	0.1	*1,353	*0.3
Aged 15 and older	**230,391**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	**241,682**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	****11,291**	**(X)**
With a disability	49,069	794	21.3	0.3	51,454	838	21.3	0.3	*2,385	–
Severe disability	32,771	567	14.2	0.2	35,683	631	14.8	0.3	*2,912	*0.5
Difficulty seeing	7,793	350	3.4	0.2	8,077	354	3.3	0.1	284	–
Severe	1,783	129	0.8	0.1	2,010	139	0.8	0.1	*228	0.1
Difficulty hearing	7,809	325	3.4	0.1	7,572	320	3.1	0.1	–237	*–0.3
Severe	993	103	0.4	–	1,096	122	0.5	0.1	103	–
Aged 21 to 64	**170,349**	**185**	**100.0**	**(X)**	**177,295**	**193**	**100.0**	**(X)**	***6,945**	**(X)**
With a disability	28,141	622	16.5	0.4	29,479	705	16.6	0.4	*1,338	0.1
Employed	12,838	495	45.6	1.2	12,115	432	41.1	1.0	*–723	*–4.5
Severe disability	18,705	469	11.0	0.3	20,286	566	11.4	0.3	*1,581	*0.5
Employed	5,738	277	30.7	1.2	5,570	261	27.5	1.0	–167	*–3.2
Nonsevere disability	9,436	403	5.5	0.2	9,193	374	5.2	0.2	–243	*–0.4
Employed	7,100	356	75.2	1.6	6,544	311	71.2	1.6	*–556	*–4.1
No disability	142,208	636	83.5	0.4	147,816	733	83.4	0.4	*5,607	–0.1
Employed	118,707	678	83.5	0.3	116,881	862	79.1	0.4	*–1,826	*–4.4
Aged 65 and older	**35,028**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	**38,599**	*****	**100.0**	**(X)**	****3,571**	**(X)**
With a disability	18,132	324	51.8	0.9	19,234	327	49.8	0.8	*1,102	*–1.9
Severe disability	12,942	273	36.9	0.8	14,138	276	36.6	0.7	*1,196	–0.3

– Represents or rounds to zero.

(X) Not applicable.

* Denotes a statistically significant difference at the 90 percent confidence level.

** Denotes a difference between two controlled estimates. By definition, this difference is statistically significant.

***** Indicates (in margin of error column) that the estimate is controlled to independent population estimates. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.

[1] Estimates of disability prevalence for 2005 may differ from the estimates presented in "Americans With Disabilities: 2005, P70-117" due to changes in the survey weighting since the report's publication. Furthermore, the margins of error in the 2005 report were calculated using the generalized variance formula method. The estimates of variance shown here use the successive differences replication method.

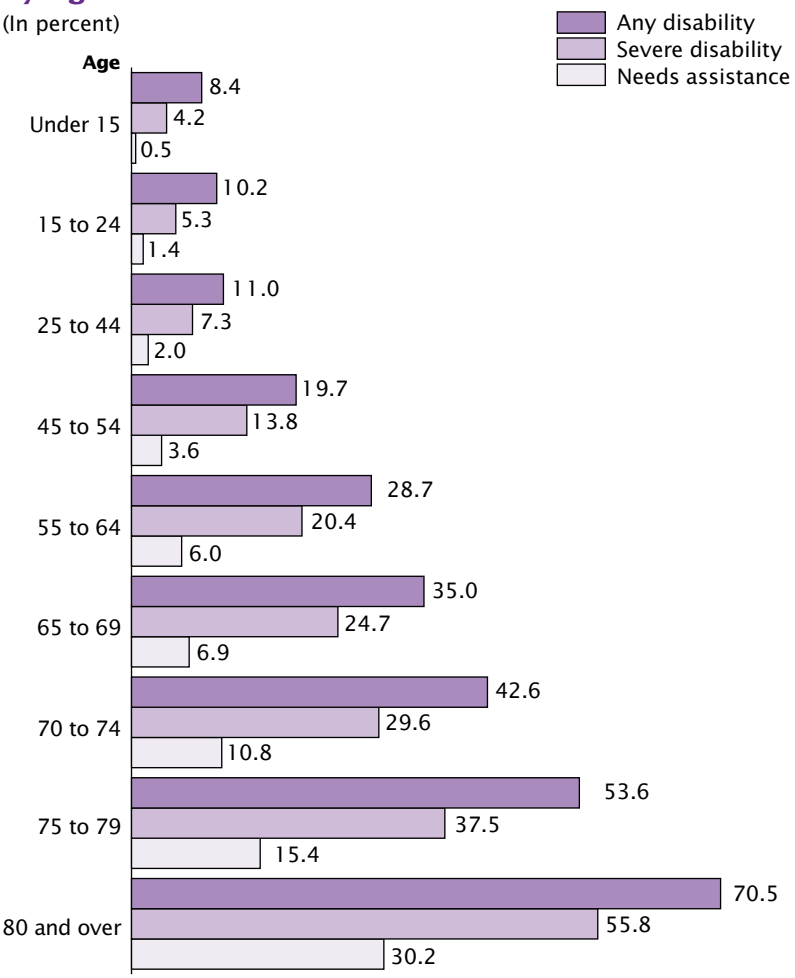
[2] A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margins of error shown in this table are for the 90 percent confidence level. For more information about the source and accuracy of the estimates, including margins of error, standard errors, and confidence intervals, see the Source and Accuracy Statement at <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW6(S&A-13).pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005 and May–August 2010.

Figure 2.

Disability Prevalence and the Need for Assistance by Age: 2010

(In percent)



Note: The need for assistance with activities of daily living was not asked of children under 6 years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, May–August 2010.

- The percentage of people with a disability was statistically unchanged from 2005. However, when adjusted for the aging of the population, the disability rate dropped from 18.6 percent to 18.1 percent (Table 2).
- Four in 10 individuals aged 21 to 64 with a disability were employed (41.1 percent), as shown in Table A-2, compared with 8 in 10 adults without disabilities (79.1 percent).
- At 10.8 percent, adults aged 15 to 64 with severe disabilities were more likely to experience persistent poverty (continuous poverty over a 24-month period) than adults with nonsevere disabilities (4.9 percent) and those with no disability (3.8 percent), as shown in Figure 5b.

DISABILITY PREVALENCE

Approximately 56.7 million people living in the United States had some kind of disability in 2010 (Table 1). This accounted for 18.7 percent of the 303.9 million people in the civilian noninstitutionalized population that year. About 12.6 percent or 38.3 million people had a severe disability. The total number of people with a disability increased by 2.2 million from 54.4 million people in 2005, when disability was last measured in the SIPP, while the percentage remained statistically unchanged. Both the number and percentage with a severe disability increased over that time period. Of people aged 6 years and older, 12.3 million or 4.4 percent needed assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs, an increase from both the number and percentage that needed assistance in 2005.

As a generally accepted understanding of prevalence, the risk of having a disability increased with successively older age groups (Figure 2). At 70.5 percent, people in the oldest age group (people 80 years and older) were about 8 times as likely to have a disability as people in the youngest age group (children less than 15 years old), at 8.4 percent. Between 2005 and 2010, disability rates decreased for people 55 to 64 years old and for people 65 to 69 years old while the change in disability rate was not statistically significant for each of the other age groups.

Severe disability and the need for personal assistance also increased with age. The probability of severe disability was 1-in-20 for people aged 15 to 24, while 1-in-4 for those aged 65 to 69. Among the

Table 2.
Age-Adjusted and Unadjusted Disability Rates by Gender, Race, Hispanic Origin: 2005 and 2010

Category	Age-adjusted disability rate					Unadjusted disability rate				
	2005		2010		Difference	2005		2010		Difference
	Estimate	Margin of error (±)	Estimate	Margin of error (±)		Estimate	Margin of error (±)	Estimate	Margin of error (±)	
All people	**18.6**	**0.3**	**18.1**	**0.3**	***–0.5**	**18.7**	**0.3**	**18.7**	**0.3**	**–**
Male	17.9	0.4	17.6	0.4	–0.3	17.3	0.4	17.4	0.4	0.2
Female	19.0	0.3	18.3	0.4	*–0.7	20.1	0.3	19.8	0.4	–0.2
White alone	17.9	0.3	17.4	0.3	*–0.5	18.6	0.3	18.5	0.3	–
Not Hispanic	18.1	0.4	17.6	0.4	–0.4	19.7	0.4	19.8	0.4	0.1
Black alone	23.2	0.7	22.2	0.7	–1.0	20.4	0.7	20.3	0.7	–0.2
Not Hispanic	23.3	0.7	22.3	0.7	*–1.0	20.7	0.7	20.7	0.7	–
Asian Alone	14.5	1.3	14.5	1.1	–	12.4	1.2	13.0	1.0	0.6
Not Hispanic	14.6	1.3	14.4	1.1	–0.2	12.5	1.2	13.0	1.1	0.5
Hispanic or Latino	18.4	0.9	17.8	0.7	–0.6	13.1	0.7	13.2	0.6	0.1

– Represents or rounds to zero.

* Denotes a statistically significant difference at the 90 percent confidence level.

[1] Age-adjustments followed the methodology described in Anderson and Rosenberg (1998) using the year 2000 standard population by 5-year age groups from Day (1996).

[2] A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margins of error shown in this table are for the 90 percent confidence level. For more information about the source and accuracy of the estimates, including margins of error, standard errors, and confidence intervals, see the Source and Accuracy Statement at <http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A08_W1toW6(S&A-13).pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, June–September 2005 and May–August 2010.

oldest group, more than half (55.8 percent) had a severe disability. Of individuals 55 to 64 years old and nearing retirement, about 6.0 percent needed assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs. The percentage needing assistance for those aged 80 and older was about 5 times as large (30.2 percent).

Groups with high disability rates, like older populations, are likely to be underrepresented in surveys like the SIPP. For individuals with greater assistance needs, their disability is often associated with relocation out of the noninstitutionalized population and into nursing homes or other assisted living facilities.[11] Approximately 1.3 million of the 40.4 million people aged 65 and older were living in nursing facilities in 2010.[12] Were this population included, the disability rates for older age groups, and for people overall, would likely be higher.

Because age plays such an important factor in health and disability measurement, comparisons across other demographic groups and across time should take into account differences in groups' age distributions. One way to account for age differences is to adjust estimates to a standard age distribution using a common methodology in the presentation of health statistics.[13] Age-adjustment effectively revises estimates to what they would have been if all groups had the same age distribution.[14] Table 2 shows both age-adjusted and unadjusted (crude) disability rates for 2010 and 2005, for males and females, and for different race and Hispanic origin groups.

At 18.7 percent, the unadjusted disability rate in 2010 was statistically unchanged from the rate in 2005, however, the aging of the population was a contributing factor in holding the disability rate at this level. Figure 3 shows the age distributions for the 2005 and 2010 populations behind these rates. The 2010 population (light purple line) appears "shifted" to the right of the 2005 population (dark purple line), illuminating the aging of the baby-boom cohort. Consequently, a greater proportion of the population had aged into older groups with higher risks of disability. By standardizing to the *year 2000 standard population* (gray line), the adjusted rates showed that disability decreased from 18.6 percent to 18.1 percent, when controlled for age. The opposing forces of decreased disability and a greater proportion in high-risk

[11] See Greene and Ondrich (1990).

[12] S2601B. Characteristics of the Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type, available at <factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_1YR/S2601B>.

[13] The age-adjustments presented here follow the methodology described in Anderson and Rosenberg (1998) using the year 2000 standard population in 5-year age groups from Day (1996).

[14] For more information on age adjustment in disability and health statistics, see page 475 of NCHS (2011).