

**THE DISABLED POPULATION IN ARIZONA:  
DATA FROM THE 2000 PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE**

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## SUMMARY

A total of 20.1 percent (a little more than 900,000) Arizonans aged five or older reported one or more disabilities in the 2000 census. Given the increase in population since April 2000, the number of Arizona residents aged five or older with a disability in 2003 likely is nearly 1 million.

Six types of disabilities were included in the 2000 census long-form questionnaire. Many people with a disability suffer from multiple conditions:

- One or more disabilities: 20 percent
- One disability: 10 percent
- Two disabilities: 5 percent
- Three disabilities: 2 percent
- Four disabilities: 2 percent
- Five disabilities: 1 percent
- All six disabilities: less than 0.5 percent.

Of the six disabilities, a work disability was most common. The percentage of the population reporting a particular disability alone or in combination with other disabilities follows:

- Sensory: 4.2 percent of those aged five or older
- Physical: 8.8 percent of those aged five or older
- Mental: 5.0 percent of those aged five or older
- Self care: 2.8 percent of those aged five or older
- Go-out-on-own: 7.0 percent of those aged 16 or older
- Work: 11.0 percent of those aged 16 or older.

For each of the disabilities, an extremely strong relationship exists with age. The lowest incidence occurs either among children or young adults, depending on the disability, with the highest incidence among the very elderly. While the elderly have the highest percentages with disabilities, the number of Arizonans with disabilities is greatest among the baby-boom generation (ages 35 to 54 in 2000) because of the large number of people in this age group.

The percentage of the population with one or more disabilities rises steadily with age. Less than 5 percent of children five-to-nine years old have a sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability. A little more than 15 percent of those 20-to-29 years old have any of the six disabilities. This percentage gradually rises, reaching 30 percent of those 60-to-69 years old and more than half of those 75 or older. The median age of people with a disability is 50, compared to 34 for those without a disability.

Even after adjusting for age, the disabled population's socioeconomic, household, and housing profiles differ from those who are not disabled. In particular, the disabled population has a lower average income, with a lower labor force participation rate and a higher unemployment rate.

## DATA DESCRIPTION

Every 10 years, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau conducts the decennial census of population and housing. The most recent census date was April 1, 2000. The census attempts to count all people living in the country, whether they live in housing units or group quarters (broadly defined to include the homeless). Most of the population is counted by a questionnaire mailed to each housing unit in the country while others are counted via personal visits by Census Bureau personnel. About five-sixths of the households receive the standard "short-form" questionnaire, which in 2000 included questions only on age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, household relationship, and homeownership. The remaining one-sixth received the much more extensive "long-form" questionnaire.

The U.S. Census Bureau releases decennial census data in an already tabulated format, mostly as simple tables (frequency distributions), though some cross-tabulations also are provided. If a user is interested in a cross-tabulation of two characteristics not produced by the Census Bureau or in other statistical analyses, the primary option is to use the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). (Some cross-tabulations can be run through the Census Bureau's "Advanced Query" option on its website.)

Two versions of the PUMS are produced, each created by subsampling the population that completed the long-form questionnaire (15.8 percent of the population nationally). The 1-percent PUMS includes records of 1 percent of all census returns, providing full characteristic detail but limited geographic detail (states and substate areas of at least 400,000 residents). The 5-percent PUMS includes more geographic detail (states and substate areas of at least 100,000 residents), but less characteristic detail (the Census Bureau recoded responses into a smaller number of categories for some census questions). The 5-percent file for Arizona — released in September 2003 — was used for this analysis of the disabled population living in Arizona.

Identifying information (name and address) is excluded from the PUMS by the Census Bureau, but otherwise the file provides data from the long-form questionnaire. A "housing" record is included for each of the sampled housing units selected for inclusion in PUMS. A "person" record exists for each person living in these households as well as for a sample of people living in group quarters. Person and housing records can be linked through a serial number assigned by the Census Bureau.

The "raw" data included in the PUMS do not exactly match the questionnaire responses provided by individuals who filled out the census forms. Many respondents left one or more questions blank. If too many questions were not completed, the Census Bureau contacted respondents to get more information. However, the Census Bureau accepted as "complete" survey forms with a number of unanswered questions. The Census Bureau generally imputed a value for unanswered questions. For Arizona, 5-to-10 percent of the responses were allocated for many characteristics. For most income questions, 15-to-20 percent were allocated, with 29 percent of the records allocated for total income for persons.

In addition to this allocation of data, the Census Bureau changes responses as necessary to protect respondents' identities in the PUMS. An example is modifying the ages of members of very large households.

Since the PUMS presents data for just 5 percent of the population, calculations made from this file do not exactly match complete counts from Summary File 1 (the short-form questionnaire) or sampling estimates from Summary File 3 (the long-form questionnaire). For example, 20.1 percent of the persons included in the PUMS for Arizona have a disability, compared to 19.3 percent according to Summary File 3. Based on Summary File 3, the disabled proportion of the population varied somewhat across the state in 2000: 18.0 percent in Maricopa County, 20.1 percent in Pima County, and 22.2 percent in the balance of the state. All subsequent data presented in this report are from the 5-percent PUMS for Arizona.

As with any sample, the results from the PUMS are subject to sampling error. This error is complicated by extensive data allocation and changes to the data employed to protect confidentiality. Even at the state level, sampling error is substantial for less populous subsets of the population (for example, disabled females who work in the construction sector).

### **METHODOLOGY**

The long form of the decennial census, sent to one in six households, included the following questions regarding disabilities (all have yes/no responses):

“Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

- a. Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment?
- b. A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying?

Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more, does this person have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

- a. Learning, remembering, or concentrating?
- b. Dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home?
- c. Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor’s office?
- d. Working at a job or business?”

The first four of these six questions applied to all individuals aged five years or older. The last two questions were asked only of those 16 or older. If the respondent replied “yes” to any of the six questions, that person is considered to be disabled.

As a standard product, the Census Bureau presents sampling estimates specific to the disabled population in the form of frequency distributions and selected cross-tabulations. It does not, however, produce most of the cross-tabulations desired for this report. Thus, the first step of this analysis was to calculate disabled and non-disabled data from the PUMS. Because of the inconsistencies in results between the summary file and the PUMS, all data presented in this report are from the PUMS, even if more accurate data are available from the summary file for certain items.

Using the SAS statistical analysis package, cross-tabulation tables by disability status were run for a large number of characteristics (for example, disabled/not disabled by place of birth). These socioeconomic, household and housing characteristics (see the list in Table 1) were selected from

the complete list available from the PUMS.<sup>1</sup> Many of the results were recoded into a smaller number of categories. Some questions such as income were answered in exact dollars, necessitating that the responses be collapsed into a manageable number of categories; the large number of categories for some questions was unnecessarily detailed for this analysis; and the small number of responses in certain categories of some questions dictated that categories be combined.

The second step of the analysis was to look at the disabled and not disabled populations in more detail than in the first step. Because of the strong correlation between disability status and age, the cross-tabulations produced in the first step were created for each of four age groups: less than 16, 16 to 34, 35 to 64, 65 or older. The chi-square statistic was calculated for each cross-tabulation table to determine the significance of the differences between the disabled and not disabled populations.

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<sup>1</sup> The housing records were attached to each appropriate person record using the serial number, causing many of the housing records to be duplicated. To have used the housing records independently would have required first linking the housing and person records together to determine the disability status of household members. For those households with both disabled and non-disabled members, several possible rules could have been applied to determine whether a housing unit should be considered as disabled.

**TABLE 1**  
**DECENNIAL CENSUS CHARACTERISTICS SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS**

| <b>Person Characteristic</b>        | <b>Universe</b>  | <b>Categories</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Gender                              | All  | Male, female  |
| Age                                 | All  | Recoded to five-year age groups, except for the last category of 75 or older  |
| Hispanic Origin                     | All  | Recoded to Latino, not Latino   |
| Race                                | All  | Recoded to white alone, American Indian alone, black alone, Asian or Pacific Islander alone, some other race alone, two or more major race groups |
| Marital Status                      | All (includes children)  | Married, widowed, divorced, separated, never married  |
| School Enrollment                   | 3 years and older  | No, yes – public school, yes – private school   |
| Grade Level Attending               | 3 years and older attending school                               | Recoded to preschool to kindergarten, grade 1 to 4, grade 5 to 8, grade 9 to 12, college  |
| Educational Attainment              | 3 years and older  | Recoded to less than high school, high school but no diploma, high school graduate, some college, bachelor's degree, advanced degree              |
| Speak other than English at Home    | 5 years and older  | Yes, no   |
| Language Spoken at Home             | 5 years and older speaking a language other than English at home | Recoded to Spanish v. other   |
| English Ability                     | 5 years and older speaking a language other than English at home | Very well, well, not well, not at all   |
| Place of Birth                      | All  | Recoded to Arizona, elsewhere in U.S., Mexico, elsewhere in western hemisphere, other   |
| Citizenship                         | All  | Recoded to native (born in U.S., U.S. territory, or to American parent), naturalized, not a citizen   |
| Year of Entry to U.S.               | All but those born in U.S.                                       | Recoded to before 1960, 1960-79, 1980-89, 1990-94, 1995-2000  |
| Mobility (Residence in 1995)        | 5 years and older  | Same house, different house in U.S., outside the U.S.   |
| Migration State (Residence in 1995) | 5 years & older who moved between 1995 & 2000                    | Recoded to Arizona, elsewhere in U.S., Mexico, elsewhere in western hemisphere, other   |
| Military Service                    | 17 years and older   | Now on active duty, active duty in past, training for reserves/National Guard, no active service  |
| Employment Status                   | 16 years and older   | Recoded to employed (includes armed forces), unemployed, not in labor force   |
| Means of Transportation to Work     | 16 years and older employed and at work                          | Recoded to car (or truck or van), other, worked at home   |

(continued)

**TABLE 1 (continued)**

| <b>Person Characteristic</b>                                | <b>Universe</b>   | <b>Categories</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| Carpool   | 16 years and older employed, at work, traveling by car    | Recoded to drove alone, 2 people, 3 or more people  |
| Time Leaving for Work                                       | 16 years and older employed, at work, not working at home | Recoded to midnight to 5:59am, 6am to 7:59am, 8am to 11:59am, noon to 3:59pm, 4pm to 11:59pm  |
| Travel Time to Work   | 16 years and older employed, at work, not working at home | In minutes, recoded to 1-14, 15-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60 or more  |
| Layoff from Job   | 16 years and older not at work (much missing data)        | Yes, no   |
| Temporarily Absent from Work                                | 16 years and older not at work (much missing data)        | Yes, no   |
| Return to Work Recall                                       | 16 years and older not at work (much missing data)        | Yes, no   |
| Looking for Work  | 16 years and older not at work (much missing data)        | Yes, no   |
| Back to Work (If job offered, could have returned to work?) | 16 years and older not at work (much missing data)        | Yes, no   |
| Last Year Worked  | 16 years and older  | 1995-2000, 1994 or earlier (or never worked)  |
| Industry  | 16 years and older who had worked since 1995              | Recoded to 2-digit NAICS industries   |
| Occupation  | 16 years and older who had worked since 1995              | Recoded to management, business and financial operations; professional; services; sales; office and administrative support; farming; construction, extraction, installation, maintenance and repair; production; transportation and material moving; military |
| Class of Worker   | 16 years and older who had worked since 1995              | Private-for-profit company, private-nonprofit organization, local government, state government, federal government, self-employed – unincorporated, self-employed – incorporated, unpaid family worker  |
| Worked in 1999  | 16 years and older  | Yes, no   |
| Weeks Worked in 1999  | 16 years and older who worked in 1999                     | Recoded to less than 26, 26-49, 50-52   |
| Usual Hours per Week in 1999                                | 16 years and older who worked in 1999                     | Recoded to less than 20, 20-34, 35-40, more than 40   |

(continued)

**TABLE 1 (continued)**

| <b>Person Characteristic</b>                            | <b>Universe</b>  | <b>Categories</b>  |
|---|--|--|
| Wage and Salary Income in 1999                          | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Self-employment Income in 1999                          | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Interest Income in 1999                                 | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Social Security Income in 1999                          | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Supplemental Security Income in 1999                    | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Public Assistance Income in 1999                        | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Retirement Income in 1999                               | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Other Income in 1999                                    | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Total Income in 1999                                    | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Total Earnings in 1999                                  | 15 years and older   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Poverty Status (Income as a Percentage of Poverty Rate) | All, except those in institutions and certain other group quarters | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| <b>Housing Characteristic:*</b>                         |  |  |
| Unit Type   | All  | Housing unit, institutional group quarters, other group quarters                             |
| Tenure  | All housing units  | Mortgaged, owned free and clear, rented for cash rent, occupied without payment of cash rent |
| Size of Building  | All housing units  | Recoded to mobile home, detached single family, attached single family, apartment, other     |
| Year Built  | All housing units  | 1999-2000, 1995-98, 1990-94, 1980-89, 1970-79, 1960-69, 1950-59, 1940-49, before 1940        |
| Year Moved In   | All housing units  | 1999-2000, 1995-98, 1990-94, 1980-89, 1970-79, before 1970                                   |
| Rooms   | All housing units  | 1 through 8, 9 or more   |
| Bedrooms  | All housing units  | 0 through 4, 5 or more   |
| Telephone Availability                                  | All housing units  | Yes, no  |
| Number of Vehicles Available                            | All housing units  | Recoded to 0 through 3, 4 or more  |
| Monthly Rent  | Units rented for cash rent   | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |

(continued)

**TABLE 1 (continued)**

| <b>Housing Characteristic*</b>                                   | <b>Universe</b>                    | <b>Categories</b>  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Property Tax Amount  | Owned units                        | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Property Value   | Owned units                        | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Selected Monthly Owner Costs                                     | Owned units                        | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income | Owned units                        | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Gross Rent (Includes utility costs)                              | Units rented for cash rent         | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income                   | Units rented for cash rent         | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |
| Household Type   | All housing units                  | Married-couple family, family – no wife present, family – no husband present, male living alone, male living with unrelated others, female living alone, female living with unrelated others |
| Household Language   | All housing units                  | English only, Spanish, other Indo-European, Asian or Pacific Island, other   |
| Linguistic Isolation   | All housing units                  | Not isolated, isolated   |
| Number of Workers in Family                                      | Housing units occupied by families | 0, 1, 2, 3 or more   |
| Family Type and Employment Status                                | Housing units occupied by families | 8 categories of married couple v. other family and householder/spouse work force status  |
| Family Type and Work Experience                                  | Housing units occupied by families | 15 categories of married couple v. other family and householder/spouse work status in 1999   |
| Household Total Income   | All housing units                  | Recoded, but primarily used mean and median  |

\* Rather than having one record per household, housing data were attached to each individual in a household.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISABLED POPULATION IN ARIZONA**

Of the six types of disabilities included in the 2000 census long-form questionnaire, a work disability was most common. The percentage of the population reporting a particular disability alone or in combination with other disabilities follows:

- Sensory: 4.2 percent of those aged five or older
- Physical: 8.8 percent of those aged five or older
- Mental: 5.0 percent of those aged five or older
- Self care: 2.8 percent of those aged five or older
- Go-out-on-own: 7.0 percent of those aged 16 or older
- Work: 11.0 percent of those aged 16 or older

A total of 20.1 percent of the population aged five or older reported one or more disabilities. In 2000, a little more than 900,000 Arizonans aged five or older had a disability. Given the increase in population since April 2000, the number of Arizona residents aged five or older with a disability in 2003 likely is nearly 1 million.

Many people with a disability suffer from multiple conditions:

- One or more disabilities: 20 percent
- One disability: 10 percent
- Two disabilities: 5 percent
- Three disabilities: 2 percent
- Four disabilities: 2 percent
- Five disabilities: 1 percent
- All six disabilities: less than 0.5 percent

The most common disability combinations are listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 2  
MOST COMMON DISABILITIES IN ARIZONA, 2000**

|                        |      |  |      |
|------------------------|------|--|------|
| Work (alone)           | 4.4% | Sensory and Physical                     | 0.4% |
| Physical (alone)       | 2.5  | Physical, Self Care, Go Out On Own, Work | 0.4  |
| Go Out On Own and Work | 1.8  | Physical and Go Out on Own               | 0.4  |
| Sensory (alone)        | 1.4  | All six                                  | 0.3  |
| Go Out On Own (alone)  | 1.1  | Physical, Go Out On Own & Work           | 0.3  |
| Physical and Work      | 1.1  | Physical and Mental                      | 0.3  |
| Mental (alone)         | 0.7  | Physical, Mental and Work                | 0.3  |
| All but Sensory        | 0.4  |  |      |

As disabilities pertain to universal home design, physical disability is of prime interest. In addition, it may be reasonable to include the small percentage of those with a self-care limitation who did not indicate they had a physical disability. Thus, about 9 percent of the Arizona population aged five or older (about 420,000 people in 2000) could benefit from this home design. This percentage is virtually certain to increase as the large number of baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) become elderly.

### Age

For each of the disabilities, an extremely strong relationship exists with age. Depending on the disability, the lowest incidence occurs either among children or young adults, with the highest among the very elderly. Table 3 shows the age groups with the lowest and highest incidences of disability.

**TABLE 3  
INCIDENCE OF DISABILITY BY AGE IN ARIZONA, 2000**

| Disability    | Lowest Incidence |           | Highest Incidence |           |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
|               | Age Group        | Incidence | Age Group         | Incidence |
| Sensory       | 5-9 & 10-14      | 1.2%      | 90+               | 49%       |
| Physical      | 5-9              | 1.0       | 90+               | 67        |
| Mental        | 25-29            | 2.6       | 90+               | 41        |
| Self Care     | 15-19            | 0.7       | 90+               | 43        |
| Go Out on Own | 25-29            | 5.0       | 90+               | 62        |
| Work          | 16-19            | 7.8       | 90+               | 51        |
| TOTAL         | 5-9              | 4.7       | 90+               | 83        |

While the elderly have the highest percentages with disabilities, the number of Arizonans with disabilities is greatest among the baby-boom generation (ages 35 to 54 in 2000) because of the large number of people in this age group.

The percentage of the population with one or more disabilities rises steadily with age. Less than 5 percent of children five-to-nine years old have a sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability. A little more than 15 percent of those 20-to-29 years old have any of the six disabilities. This percentage gradually rises, reaching 30 percent of those 60-to-69 years old and more than half of those 75 or older. The median age of people with a disability is 50, compared to 34 for those without a disability.

Chart 1 shows the incidence of physical disability by age. In 2000, the percentage of baby boomers with a physical disability ranged from 5 to 11 percent. In 2025, this generation will be in age groups that currently have physical disability rates of 18 to 30 percent.

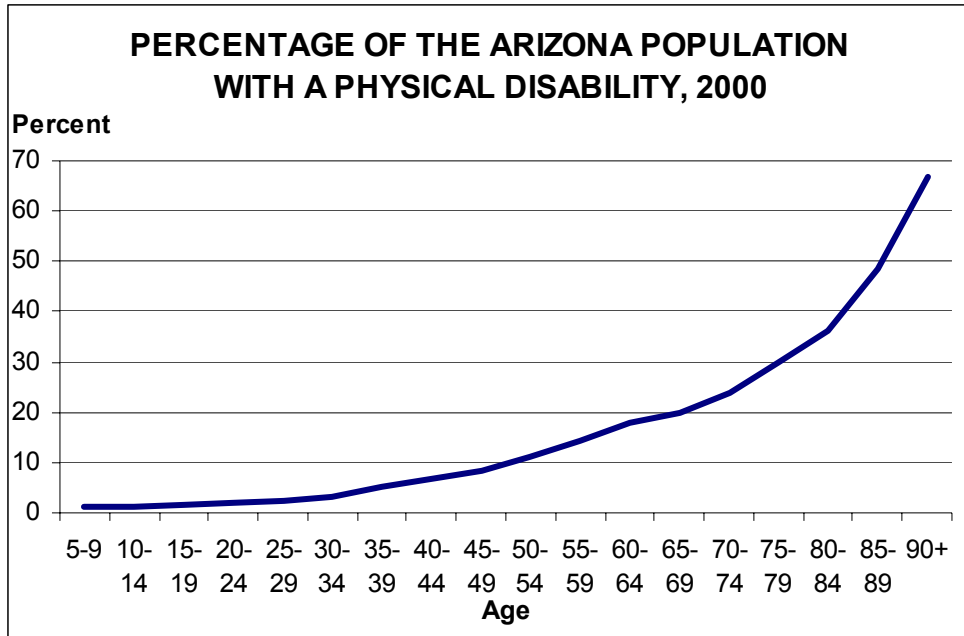
The strong relationship between age and incidence of disability confounds simple cross-tabulations of disability with many socioeconomic and other factors. Thus, these relationships were examined by age group: less than 16, 16 to 34, 35 to 64, and 65 or older.

### Other Socioeconomic Characteristics

**Gender and Marital Status.** A somewhat higher proportion of males than females are disabled. Among senior citizens, however, a slightly higher proportion of females are disabled, probably related to their greater longevity.

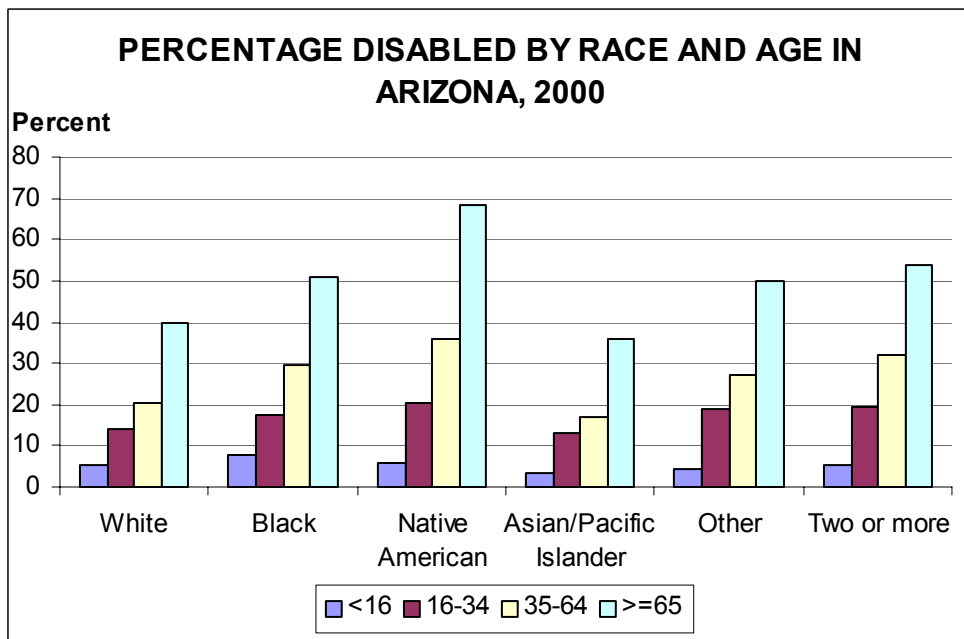
In each of the adult age groups, the incidence of disability is lowest among those who are married and highest among those who are widowed or separated.

**CHART 1**



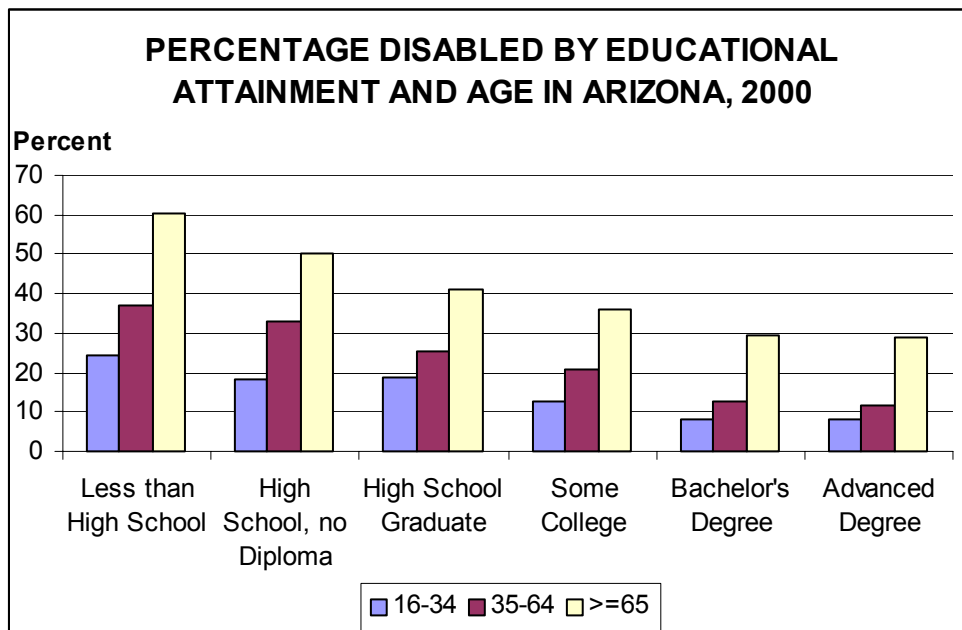
**Race and Hispanic Origin.** The lowest incidence of disability in each age group occurs among those who indicate their race to be Asian or Pacific Islander. Among children less than 16 years old, Blacks have the highest incidence (8 percent v. less than 4 percent for Asians/Pacific Islanders). Native Americans have the highest incidence in the older age groups (see Chart 2). Those who indicate a Latino origin have higher incidences of disability than non-Latinos among those 16 or older, but a marginally lower rate among children.

**CHART 2**



**Education.** The incidence of disability is directly related to educational attainment. In each of the adult age groups, disability rates are highest for those with the least educational attainment (i.e. did not attend high school) and lowest among those with a college degree (see Chart 3). The difference is substantial, with the disabled proportion more than twice as high among those with the least attainment than those with college degrees. In each age group, a lower percentage of the disabled population are enrolled in school.

**CHART 3**



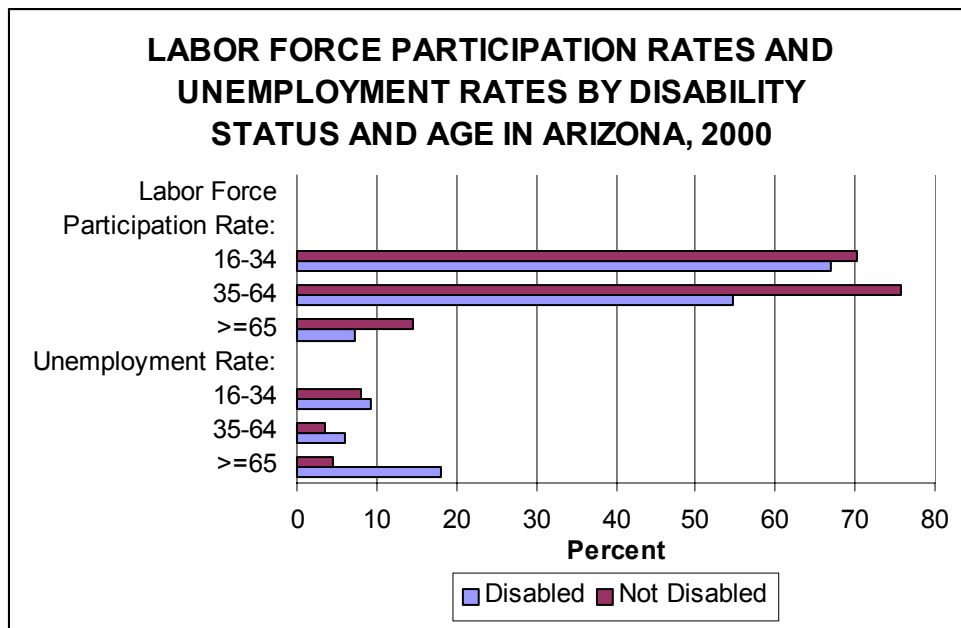
**Language Spoken.** Those who speak a language other than English at home have higher rates of disability in each adult age group, but a slightly lower rate among children. Among those who speak another language at home, the lowest incidence of disability is among those who speak English “very well” and the highest is among those speaking English less than “well.”

**Mobility and Immigration.** Among adults, the incidence of disability is highest among those born in Mexico followed by those born in Arizona and is least among those born in foreign countries other than Mexico. Among those 16-to-64 years old, noncitizens have the highest disability rate. The percentage disabled was about the same among those who moved between 1995 and 2000 as among those who stayed in the same dwelling.

**Employment Status.** Those who were employed at the time of the decennial census had a lower rate of disability than those who were unemployed or not part of the labor force, in each adult age group. Similarly, those who last worked between 1995 and 2000 had a lesser incidence of disability than those who left the workforce earlier or never worked. Those who worked the entire year in 1999 had a somewhat lower incidence of disability than those who worked only part of the year. The relationship between hours worked per week and disability status was weak, though those averaging more than 40 hours per week in 1999 had somewhat fewer disabilities.

Thus, the labor force participation rate of the disabled population is lower, and the unemployment rate is higher, than that of the not disabled population. The differences in labor force participation rates and unemployment rates increase with age (see Chart 4).

**CHART 4**

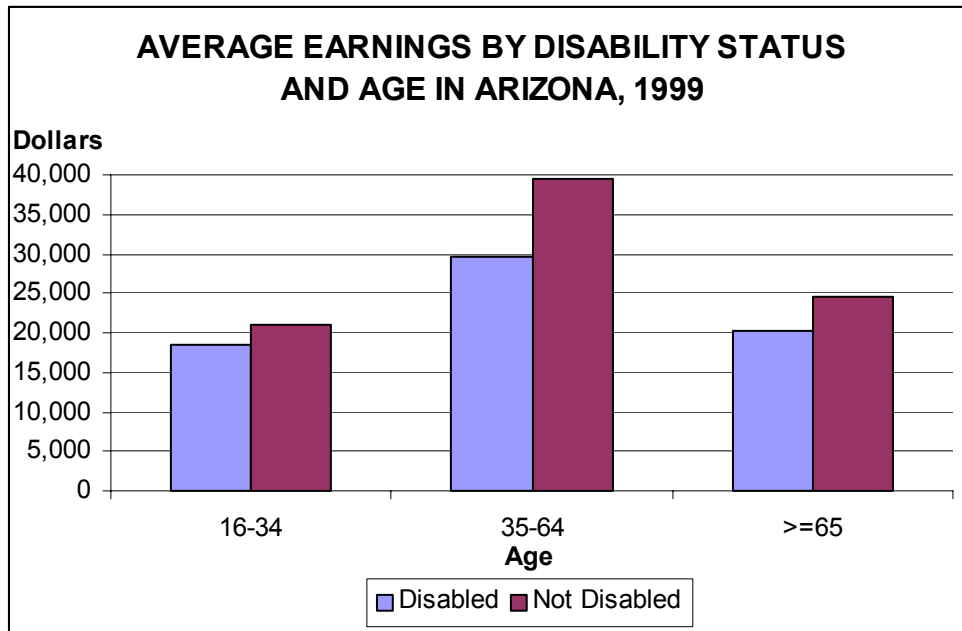


**Industry and Occupation.** Among those who worked at some point between 1995 and 2000, the occupational mix of those with a disability was somewhat different from those not disabled. A higher proportion of those working in “blue-collar” occupations were disabled, with the lowest percentages of disabled in management, business and financial operations occupations and in professional occupations. The industrial mix varied similarly, with the lowest percentage disabled in various professional services sectors and in the armed forces. The disability rate of those actively serving in the military is much lower than average.

**Travel to Work.** A higher proportion of disabled workers travel to work by a means other than car/truck/van. Among those traveling by the latter means, a higher percentage of disabled carpool. Disabled people are no more likely to work at home than others. Travel time to work is little different for disabled workers than others, though the disabled make up a somewhat higher share of those commuting more than one hour one way.

**Income and Poverty.** Among those employed, the average wage and salary income in 1999 of disabled people was lower than that of others (by 25 percent among those 35-to-64 years old). For those self-employed, incomes also were lower among the disabled population. Earnings — a combination of wage and salary and self-employment income — are shown in Chart 5. Retirement income also was lower among the disabled, but social security income among those 16-to-64 years old was somewhat higher for disabled persons.

**CHART 5**



Relative to those not disabled, total income of disabled persons in 1999 was 14 percent lower among those 16-to-34 years old, 34 percent lower among those 35-to-64, and 24 percent less among those 65 or older. Poverty rates therefore were higher among the disabled. Overall, average income as a percentage of the poverty level was 264 percent among disabled people and 305 percent among others.

### **Household Characteristics**

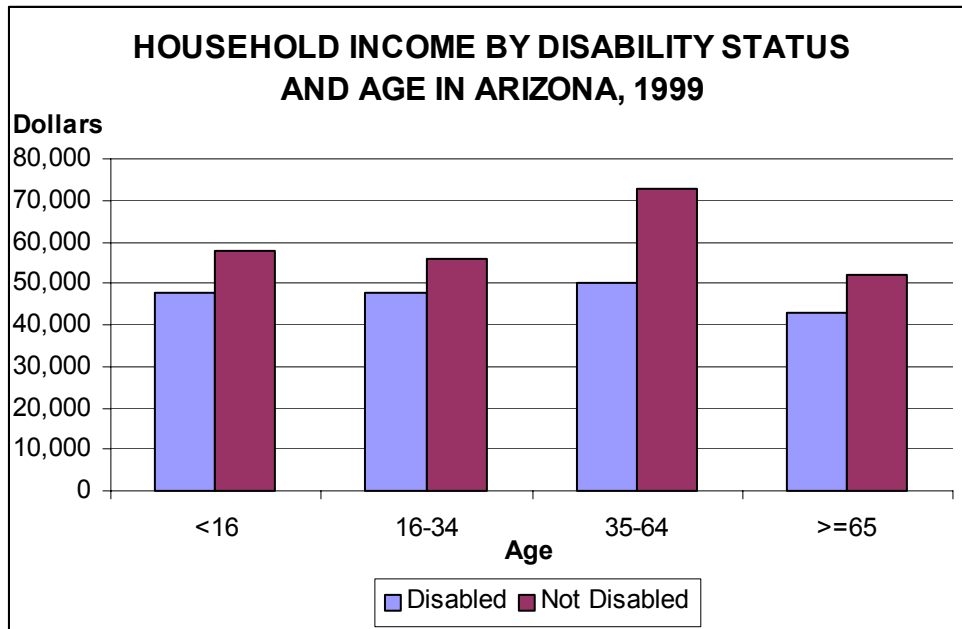
**Income.** Overall, average household income of disabled people was 24 percent lower than that of others in 1999. It was 14 percent less among those 16-to-34 years old, 18 percent less among children under 16, also 18 percent less for those 65 or older, and 31 percent lower among those 35-to-64 years old (see Chart 6). (The differentials in median income were nearly the same as those of average income.)

**Household Type.** A disproportionate share of disabled young adults live in family households in which one of the spouses is not present. Among older adults, a lower than average percentage of disabled people live in married-couple families.

**Language.** A higher proportion of disabled individuals than others live in linguistically isolated households, defined by the Census Bureau as those in which none of the members 14 or older speak English “very well.” The disabled proportion is particularly high in households speaking Spanish or in a language other than Indo-European or Asian (mostly Native American tongues).

**Employment Status.** A disproportionately high share of the disabled under the age of 65 live in families in which no one is working. The Census Bureau combined family type and employment status into eight categories. Disproportionately high shares of the disabled live in families in which one spouse is missing and the other spouse does not work, while relatively few live in married-couple families in which both spouses work or the male householder works.

CHART 6



### Housing Characteristics

**Housing Type.** About 98 percent of the population live in housing units; 19.5 percent of these people have a disability. The percentage of the population who live in group quarters that have a disability is much higher: 46 percent of those in institutions and 39 percent of those in other group quarters. About 90 percent of the senior citizens living in group quarters are disabled, compared to 39 percent of senior citizens living in housing units.

Among those living in housing units, a higher than average proportion of those living in multifamily units or mobile homes are disabled, with a below average share in single-family detached housing. A higher than average proportion of those living in older and smaller housing units have disabilities. More than a fourth of disabled people do not have access to a telephone, compared to less than a fifth of those not disabled.

**Tenure.** Homeownership is a bit lower among disabled people than others (70 percent v. 72 percent), with fewer disabled having a mortgage. The disabled population moves less frequently than others.

**Finances.** Among those of working age who rent, the monthly rent of disabled people is about 13 percent less than that of others. However, because of lower incomes, the disabled pay a higher proportion of their income in rent. Similarly, among those who own their house, monthly costs of the disabled is less than that of others, but the costs as a share of income are somewhat higher for the disabled (see Chart 7).

The median value of owned houses is lower among the disabled population than others. In 2000, the median value of disabled homeowners was less than \$90,000 compared to more than \$100,000 for those not disabled. Because of the lower values, the disabled population on average paid lesser property taxes.

CHART 7

**HOUSING COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF  
HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY DISABILITY STATUS  
AND AGE IN ARIZONA, 1999**

