

Estimated Disability in Population-Based Surveys

Several nationwide household surveys collect information about health, functional status, and disability. Each of these uses different methods to collect information and asks different questions, and therefore each sheds light on unique aspects of these circumstances. Here are some results:

Current Population Survey (CPS)

Jointly conducted by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this survey asks whether household members age 18-64 "have a health problem or disability which prevents them from working or which limits the kind or amount of work they can do." Those who do are flagged as having a "work limitation." State-specific prevalence rates are calculated by the CPS and reported here:

Work limitation due to a health problem or disability, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with Limitation	Percent with Limitation	95% CI*
Persons age 18-64 reporting a work limitation	3,475,000	254,000	7.3%	±1.6%

* A 95% confidence interval shows how much an estimated value is likely to vary. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2008.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Administered by the Centers for Disease Control in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, this survey asks whether any adult in a household is "limited in any activity because of physical, mental, or emotional problems," and whether any adult "has a health problem that requires the use of special equipment." State-specific prevalence rates are calculated by the CDC and reported here:

Activity limitation due to physical, mental, or emotional problem, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with Limitation	Percent with Limitation	90% CI*
Age 18-24	559,181	47,530	8.5%	4.0%
Age 25-34	724,311	81,847	11.3%	3.6%
Age 35-44	773,437	105,187	13.6%	2.7%
Age 45-54	881,865	176,373	20.0%	3.0%
Age 55-64	652,570	174,236	26.7%	3.4%
Age 65+	756,456	209,538	27.7%	2.9%

Health problem(s) requiring the use of special equipment, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number needing equipment	Percent needing equipment	90% CI*
Age 18-24	559,181	8,947	1.6%	1.6%
Age 25-34	724,311	10,140	1.4%	1.1%
Age 35-44	773,437	24,750	3.2%	1.5%
Age 45-54	881,865	50,266	5.7%	1.7%
Age 55-64	652,570	55,468	8.5%	2.1%
Age 65+	756,456	117,251	15.5%	2.3%

* A 90% confidence interval shows how much an estimated value is likely to vary. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Sources: Prevalence of limitation: CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2008. Population estimates by age: DHS Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Population Estimates, 2008.

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Conducted by the Census Bureau, the SIPP includes a supplemental questionnaire on adult and child functional limitations. This supplement, last run in 2005, asks questions about household members' ability to perform a range of activities, and follows up with detailed questions about severe and nonsevere limitations and disabilities. In the tables below, national prevalence rates from SIPP 2005 are applied to Wisconsin population estimates for 2008.

Persons with any disability and severe disability, by age, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with Disability	Percent with Disability	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any disability	4,550,332	969,221	21.3%	0.4%
Age 15+ with severe disability	4,550,332	646,147	14.2%	0.3%
Age 21-64 with any disability	3,321,665	548,075	16.5%	0.4%
Age 21-64 with severe disability	3,321,665	365,383	11.0%	0.3%
Age 65+ with disability	750,146	388,576	51.8%	1.2%
Age 65+ with severe disability	750,146	276,804	36.9%	1.1%

Persons with difficulty seeing, by age, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with difficulty	Percent with difficulty	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any difficulty seeing	4,550,332	154,711	3.4%	0.2%
Age 15+ with severe difficulty seeing	4,550,332	36,403	0.8%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with difficulty <i>seeing words, letters</i>	3,321,665	79,720	2.4%	0.2%
Age 21-64 with severe difficulty <i>seeing words, letters</i>	3,321,665	16,608	0.5%	0.1%
Age 65+ with difficulty seeing	750,146	75,765	10.1%	0.7%
Age 65+ with severe difficulty seeing	750,146	21,004	2.8%	0.4%
Note that the information provided here for those age 21-64 is somewhat different than for other age groups.				

Persons with difficulty hearing, by age, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with difficulty	Percent with difficulty	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any difficulty hearing	4,550,332	154,711	3.4%	0.2%
Age 15+ with severe difficulty hearing	4,550,332	18,201	0.4%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with any difficulty hearing	3,321,665	73,077	2.2%	0.2%
Age 21-64 with severe difficulty hearing	3,321,665	9,965	0.3%	0.1%
Age 65+ with difficulty hearing	750,146	84,016	11.2%	0.7%
Age 65+ with severe difficulty hearing	750,146	11,252	1.5%	0.3%

Persons with difficulty walking, by age, Wisconsin, 2008				
	Population Estimate	Number with difficulty	Percent with difficulty	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any difficulty walking	4,550,332	445,933	9.8%	0.3%
Age 15+ with severe difficulty walking	4,550,332	250,268	5.5%	0.2%
Age 21-64 with any difficulty walking	3,321,665	219,230	6.6%	0.4%
Age 21-64 with severe difficulty walking	3,321,665	109,615	3.3%	0.2%
Age 65+ with difficulty walking	750,146	237,796	31.7%	1.1%

Age 65+ with severe difficulty walking	750,146	150,779	20.1%	0.9%
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Persons using adaptive equipment, by age, Wisconsin, 2008

	Population Estimate	Number using equipment	Percent using equipment	90% CI*
Age 15+ using a wheelchair	4,550,332	63,705	1.4%	0.1%
Age 15+ using cane/crutches/walker less than 6 months	4,550,332	200,215	4.4%	2.0%
Age 15+ using cane/crutches/walker 6 months+	4,550,332	168,362	3.7%	0.2%
Age 21-64 using a wheelchair	4,550,332	36,403	0.8%	0.1%
Age 21-64 using cane/crutches/walker less than 6 months	4,550,332	104,658	2.3%	0.2%
Age 21-64 using cane/crutches/walker 6 months+	4,550,332	n/a	n/a	n/a
Age 65+ using a wheelchair	750,146	39,008	5.2%	0.5%
Age 65+ using cane/crutches/walker less than 6 months	750,146	134,276	17.9%	0.9%
Age 65+ using cane/crutches/walker 6 months+	750,146	114,022	15.2%	0.8%

Persons with a "mental disability," by age, Wisconsin, 2008

	Population Estimate	Number with Disability	Percent with Disability	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any mental disability	4,550,332	318,523	7.0%	0.2%
Age 15+ with a learning disability	4,550,332	72,805	1.6%	0.1%
Age 15+ with mental retardation	4,550,332	27,302	0.6%	0.1%
Age 15+ with Alzheimer's, senility, or dementia	4,550,332	40,953	0.9%	0.1%
Age 15+ with other mental/emotional condition	4,550,332	86,456	1.9%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with any mental disability	4,550,332	282,121	6.2%	0.3%
Age 21-64 with a learning disability	4,550,332	68,255	1.5%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with mental retardation	4,550,332	27,302	0.6%	0.8%
Age 21-64 with Alzheimer's, senility, or dementia	4,550,332	18,201	0.4%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with other mental/emotional condition	4,550,332	95,557	2.1%	0.2%
Age 65+ with any mental disability	750,146	85,517	11.4%	0.8%
Age 65+ with a learning disability	750,146	4,501	0.6%	0.2%
Age 65+ with mental retardation**	750,146	2,250	0.3%	0.1%
Age 65+ with Alzheimer's, senility, or dementia	750,146	28,506	3.8%	0.5%
Age 65+ with other mental/emotional condition	750,146	10,502	1.4%	0.3%

** For the 65+ age group, the number with mental retardation is too small to be statistically accurate.

Persons with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) limitations, by age, Wisconsin, 2008

	Population Estimate	Number with Limitation	Percent with Limitation	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any ADL limitation	4,550,332	168,362	3.7%	0.2%
Age 15+ needing ADL assistance	4,550,332	91,007	2.0%	0.1%
Age 21-64 with any ADL limitation	3,321,665	79,720	2.4%	0.2%
Age 21-64 needing ADL assistance	3,321,665	36,538	1.1%	0.1%
Age 65+ with ADL limitation	750,146	93,768	12.5%	0.8%
Age 65+ needing ADL assistance	750,146	53,260	7.1%	0.6%

Note: ADLs include getting around, getting into/out of bed, transferring, bathing, dressing, eating, and toileting.

Persons with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) limitations, by age, Wisconsin, 2008

	Population Estimate	Number with Limitation	Percent with Limitation	90% CI*
Age 15+ with any IADL limitation	4,550,332	268,470	5.9%	0.2%
Age 15+ needing IADL assistance	4,550,332	204,765	4.5%	0.2%
Age 21-64 with any ADL limitation	3,321,665	129,545	3.9%	0.2%
Age 21-64 needing ADL assistance	3,321,665	93,007	2.8%	0.2%
Age 65+ with IADL limitation	750,146	143,278	19.1%	0.9%
Age 65+ needing IADL assistance	750,146	113,272	15.1%	0.8%

Note: IADLs include going out, managing money, preparing meals, doing housework, taking prescriptions, and using the telephone.

* A 90% confidence interval shows how much an estimated value is likely to vary. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2005 (as published in U.S. Census Bureau, "Americans With Disabilities: 2005," December, 2008).
Population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Population Estimates (states, single-year-of-age file).

Prepared by Cindy Ofstead, DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, 12/2009