

**Participation in safety-net programs and the utilization of employment services  
among working-age persons with disabilities**

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**ABSTRACT**

A comprehensive analysis of the 2009 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement provides the first snapshot of the involvement of people with disabilities in a broad array of government programs. Focusing on the working-age population, this analysis reveals that people with disabilities represent one-third of the persons that participate in safety-net programs. Among persons with disabilities, 65 percent participate in a safety-net program, compared to 17 percent of persons without disabilities. Among Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) beneficiaries, 38 percent participate in safety-net programs other than DI, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, and Medicare. Furthermore, results suggest that only three and eight percent of low income non-working safety-net participants with and without disabilities, respectively, utilize employment services. Improved data collection on the use of employment services is needed to further evaluate the interaction of safety-net and employment services programs.