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COMPARISON OF MEASURES: ACS AND WORK LIMITATIONS

What are the Questions?

- Which question set – the ACS or the work limitations - provides the best representation of the population with disabilities for general policy purposes?
- What constitutes measurement bias in these sets?
- Logically those unable or limited in kind or amount of work should be a subpopulation of those with difficulties with physical, mental and emotional functioning. Are they?

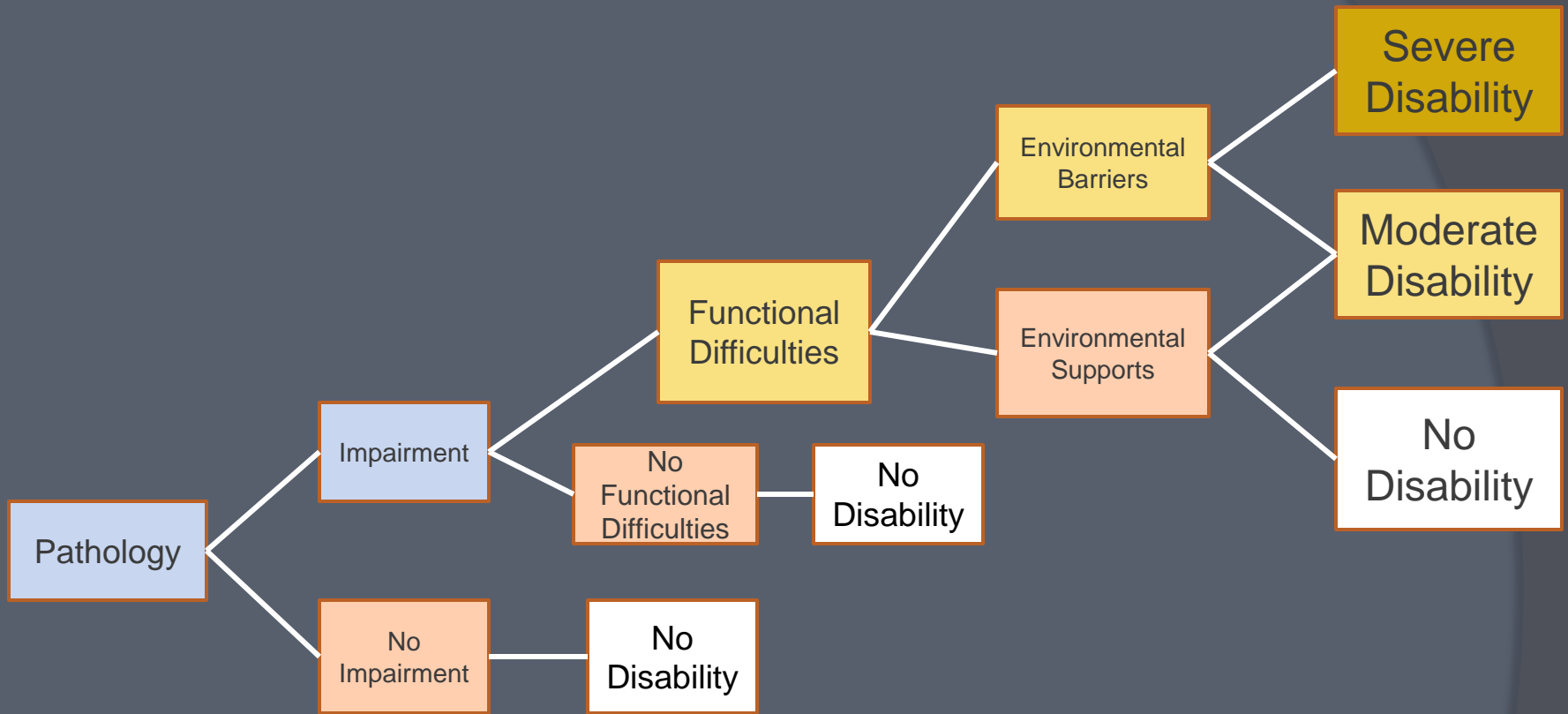


Figure 1: General Development Process for Disability

ACS Population: Persons At Risk of Disability

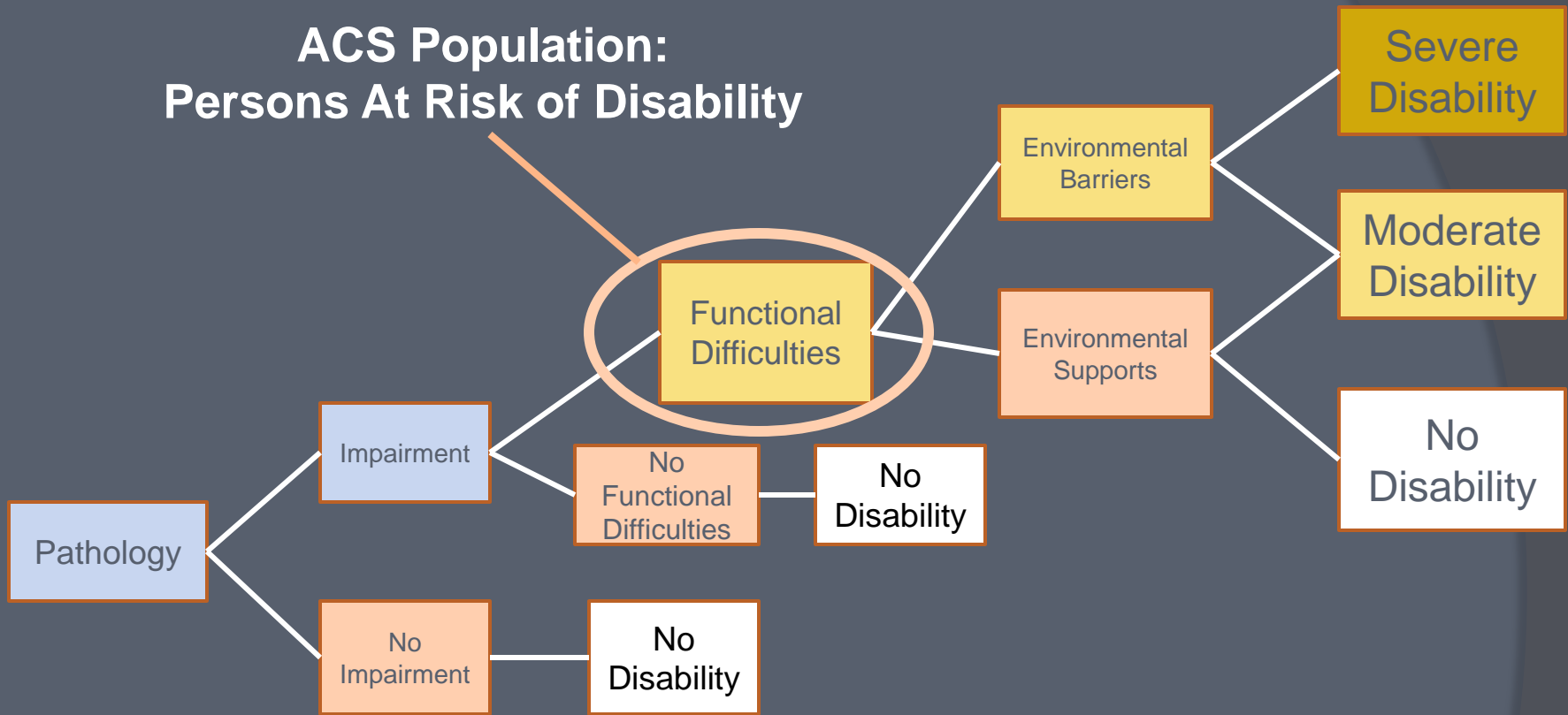
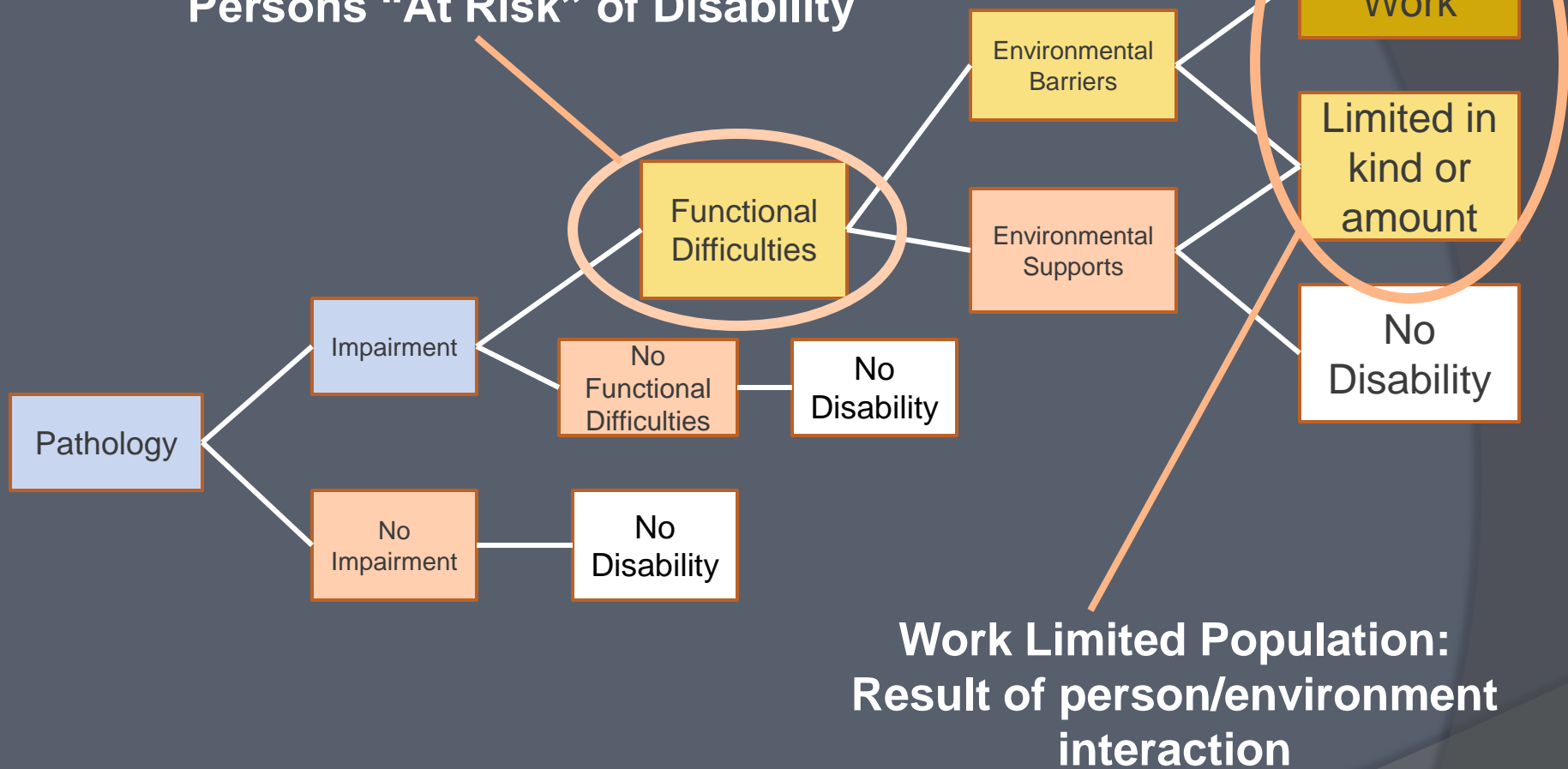


Figure 2: Location of the “AT RISK” Population

ACS Population: Persons "At Risk" of Disability



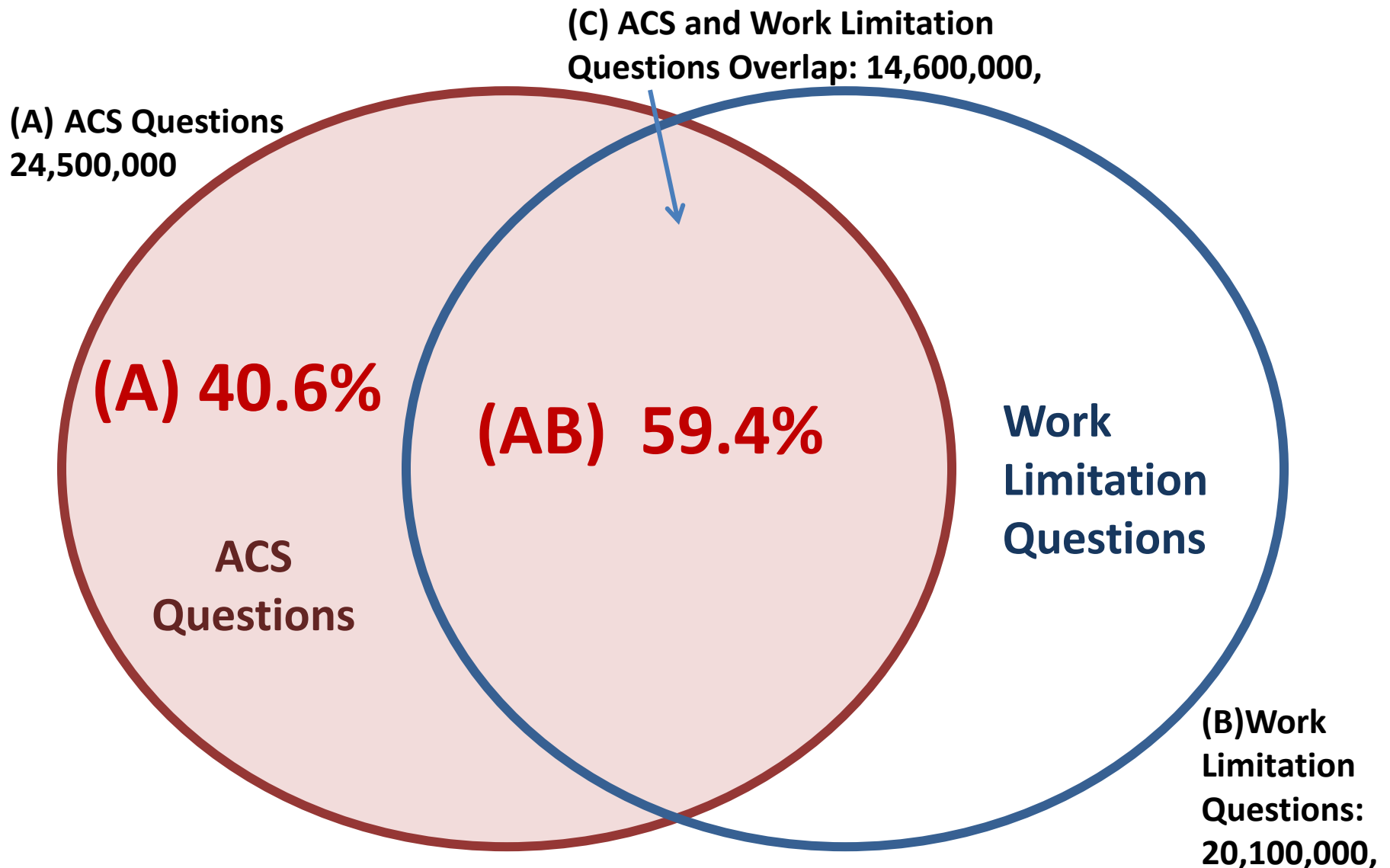
**Work Limited Population:
Result of person/environment
interaction**

Figure 3: Location of Work Limited Population

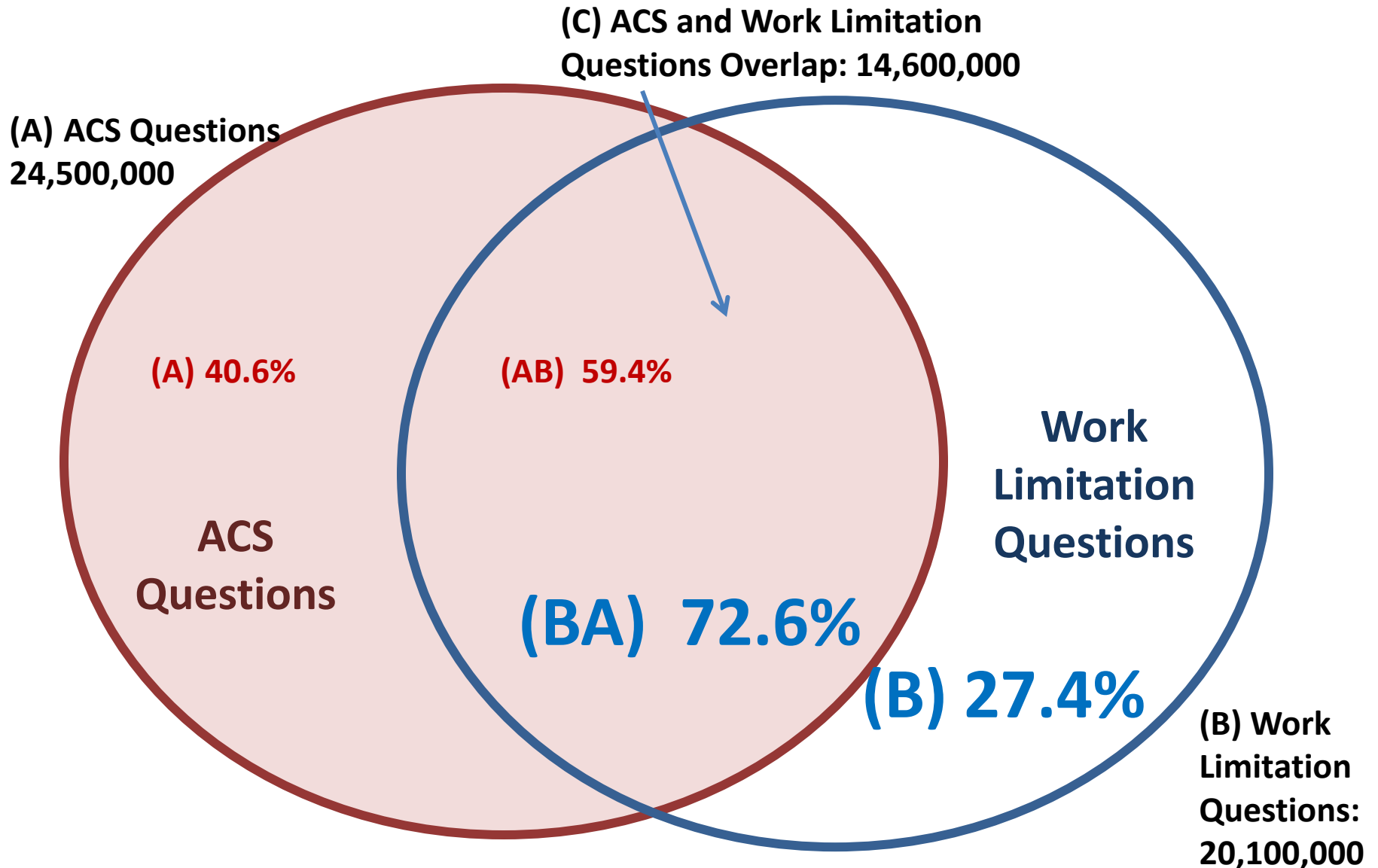
Objectives of the Comparison of Measures

- Examine the relationship between the populations defined by the ACS questions and the work limitation questions.
- Examine the relationship of the populations identified by the ACS and work limitations to applications for and receipt of SSDI and/or SSI.
- Identify the nature of the relationship of the two measures.

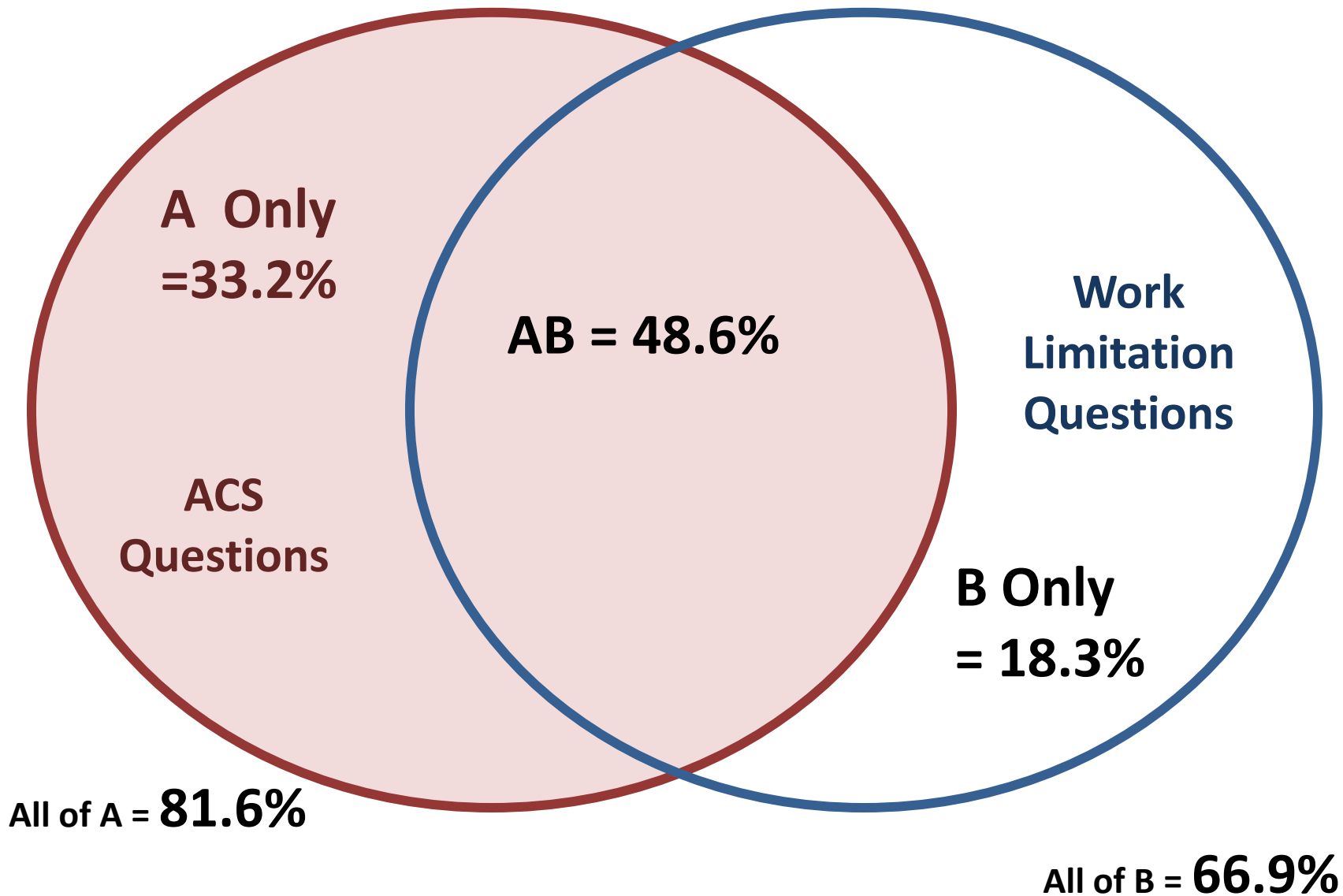
**Total identified by both question sets:
30,000,000, 15.7% of population ages 18-64**



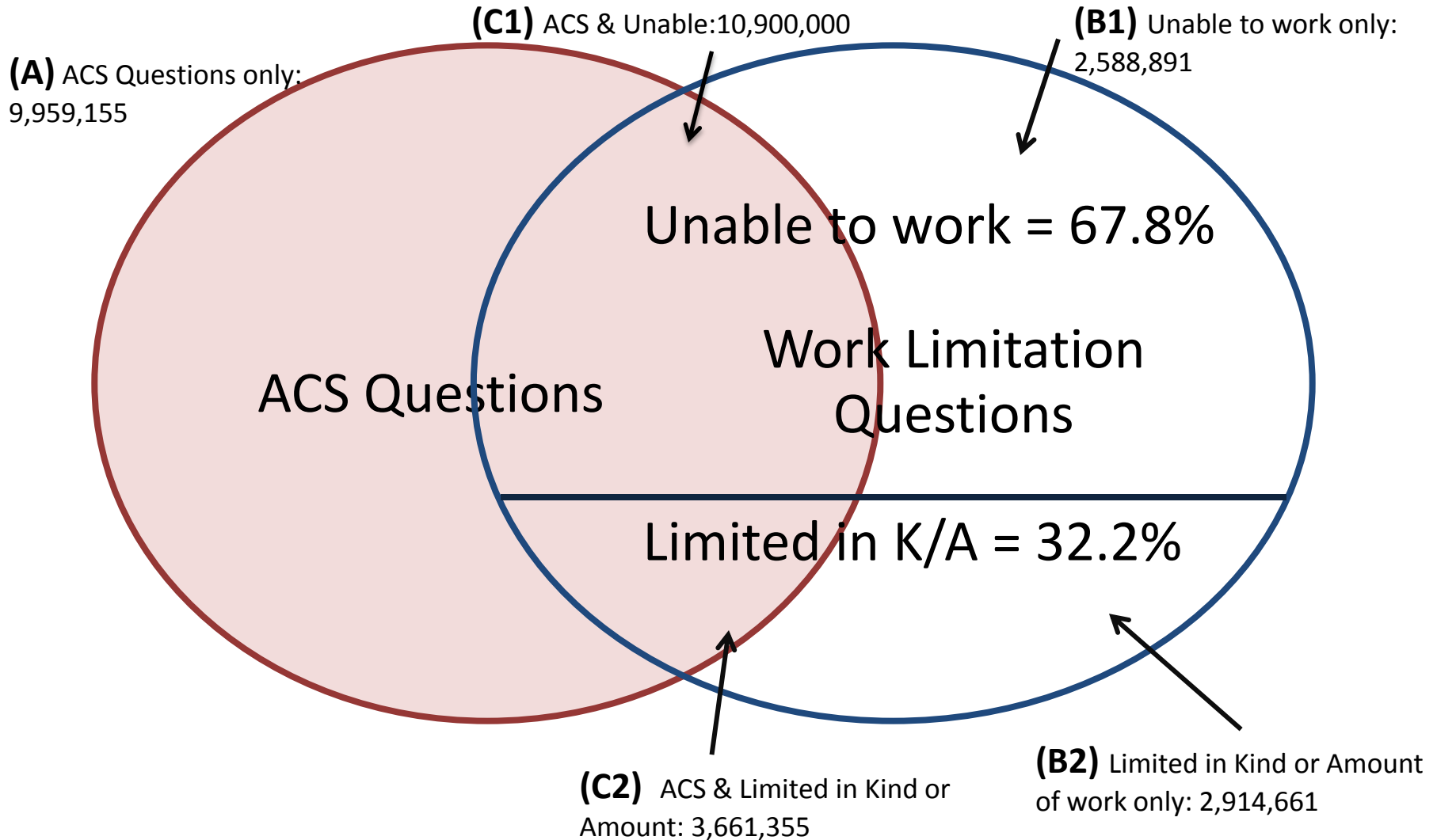
**Total identified by both question sets:
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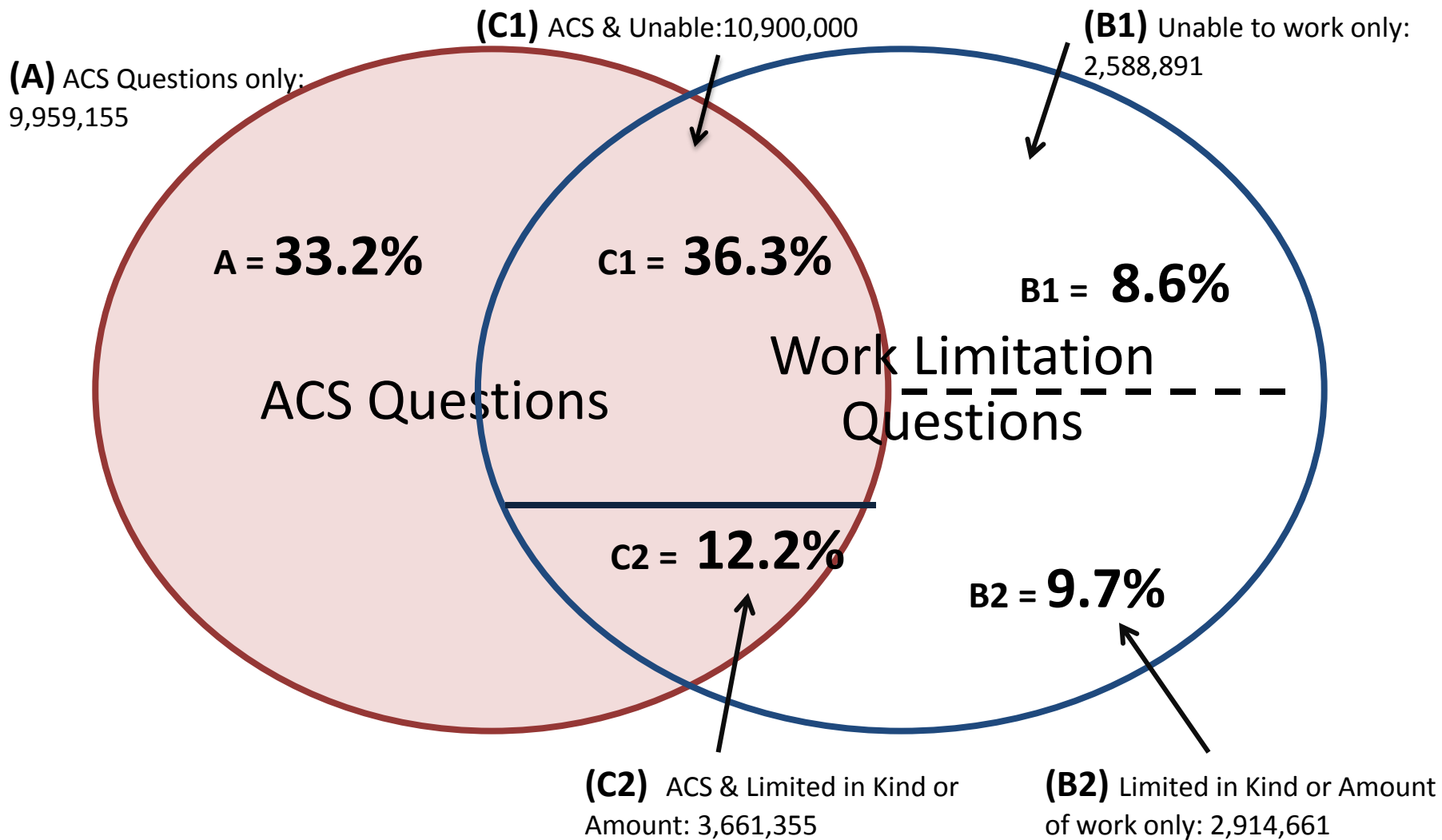
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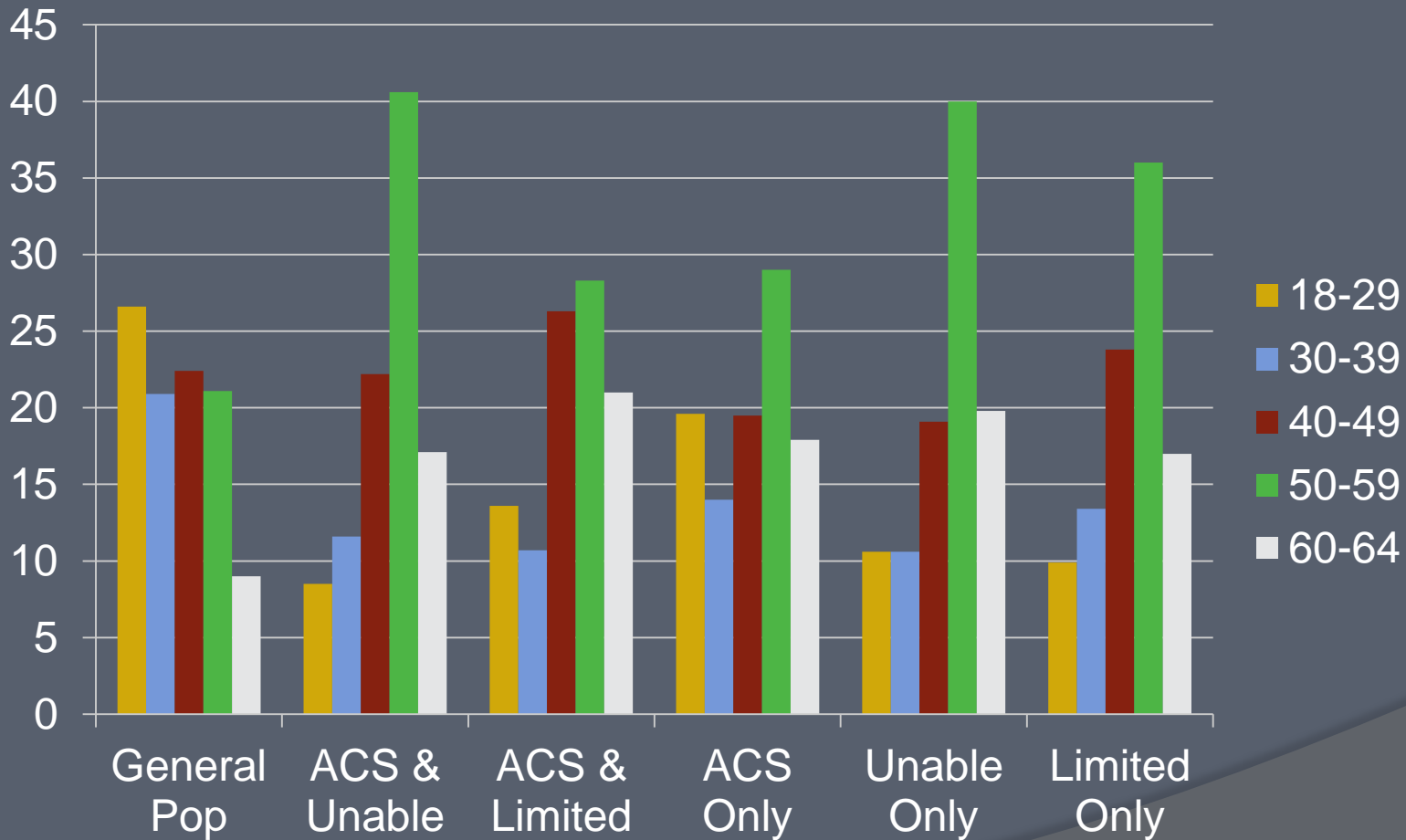
Total identified by both question sets: 30,024,062; 15.7% of population ages 18-64



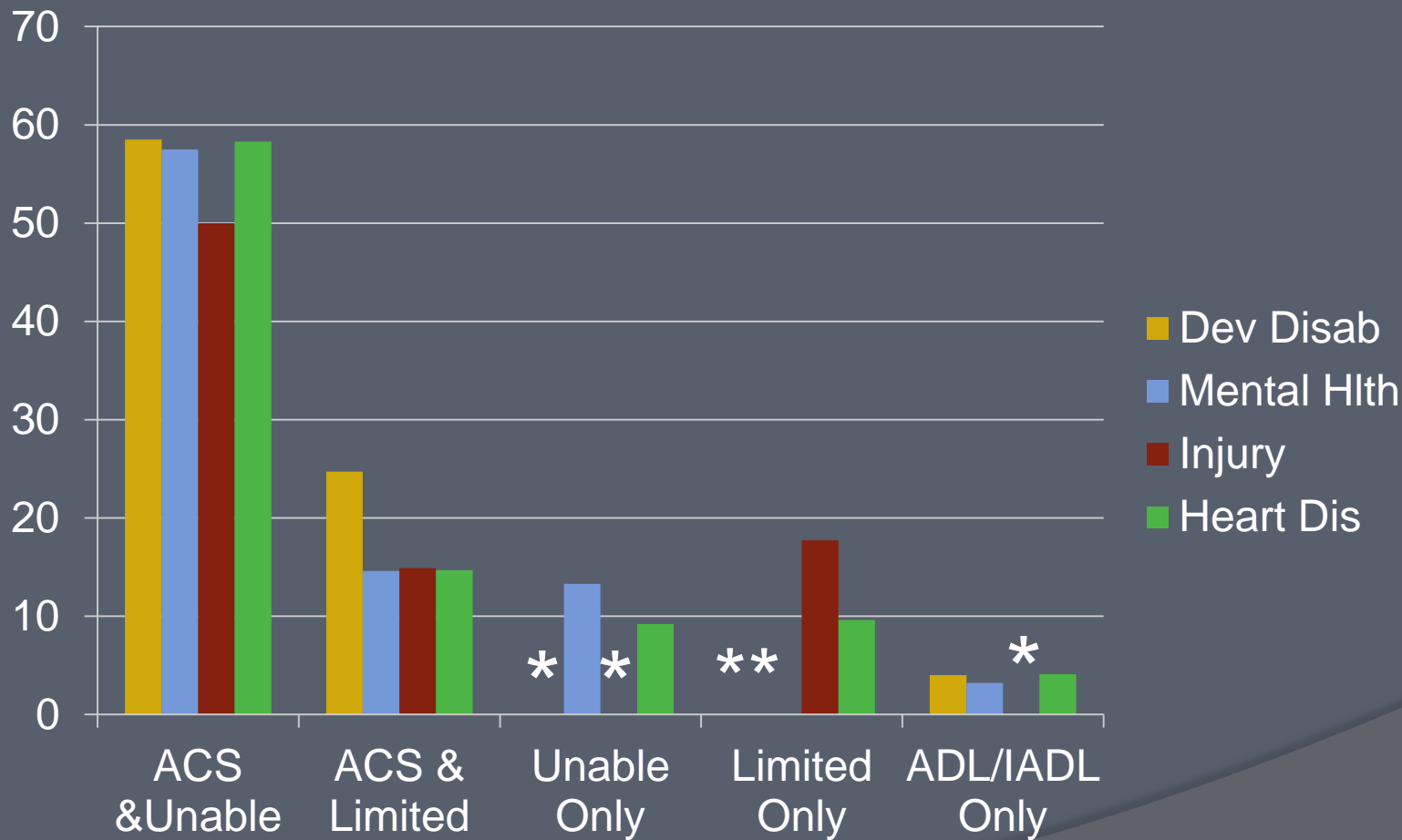
Total identified by both question sets: 30,024,062; 15.7% of population ages 18-64



Functional Difficulties by Age

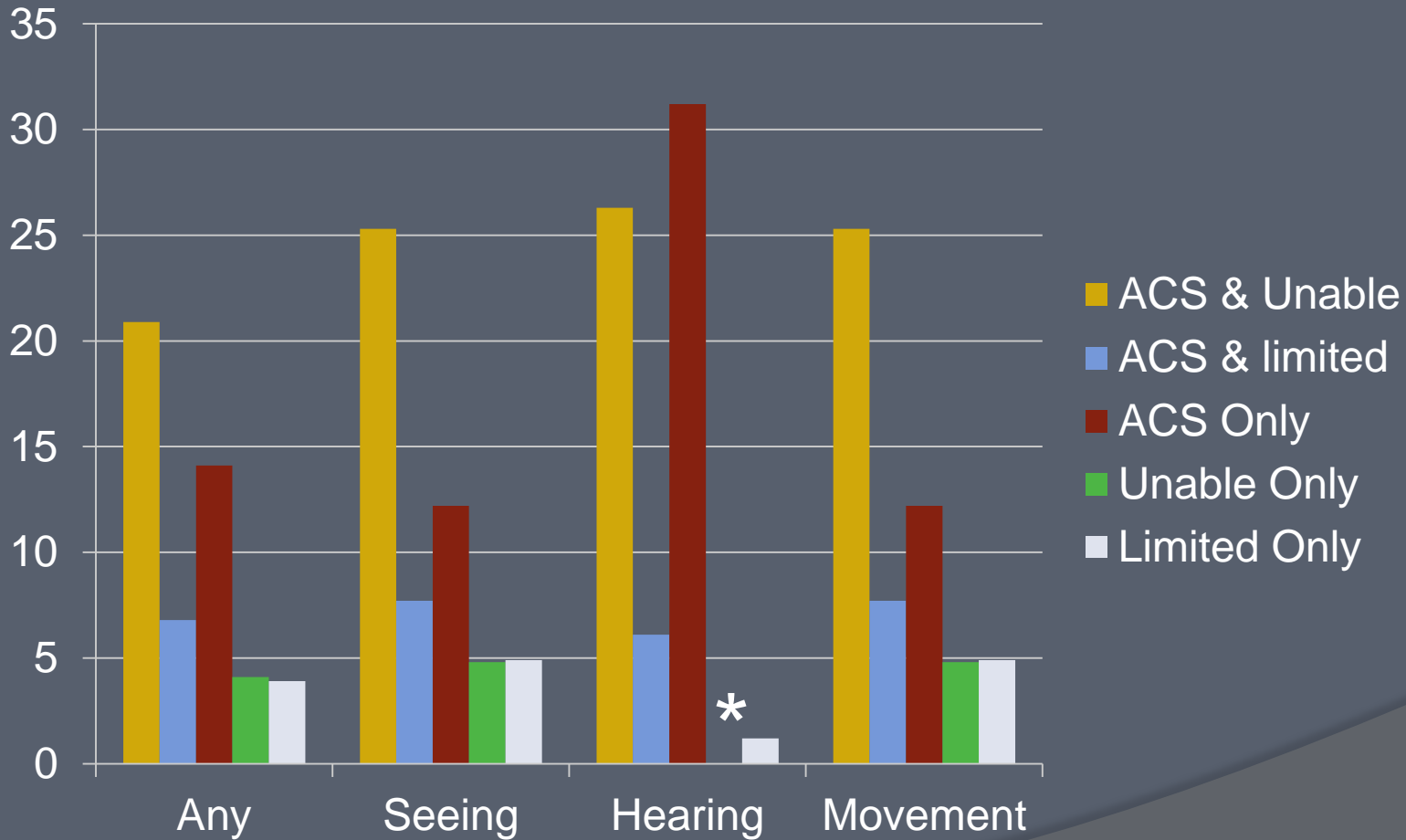


Reported Conditions Causing Work Limitations or ADL/IADLs



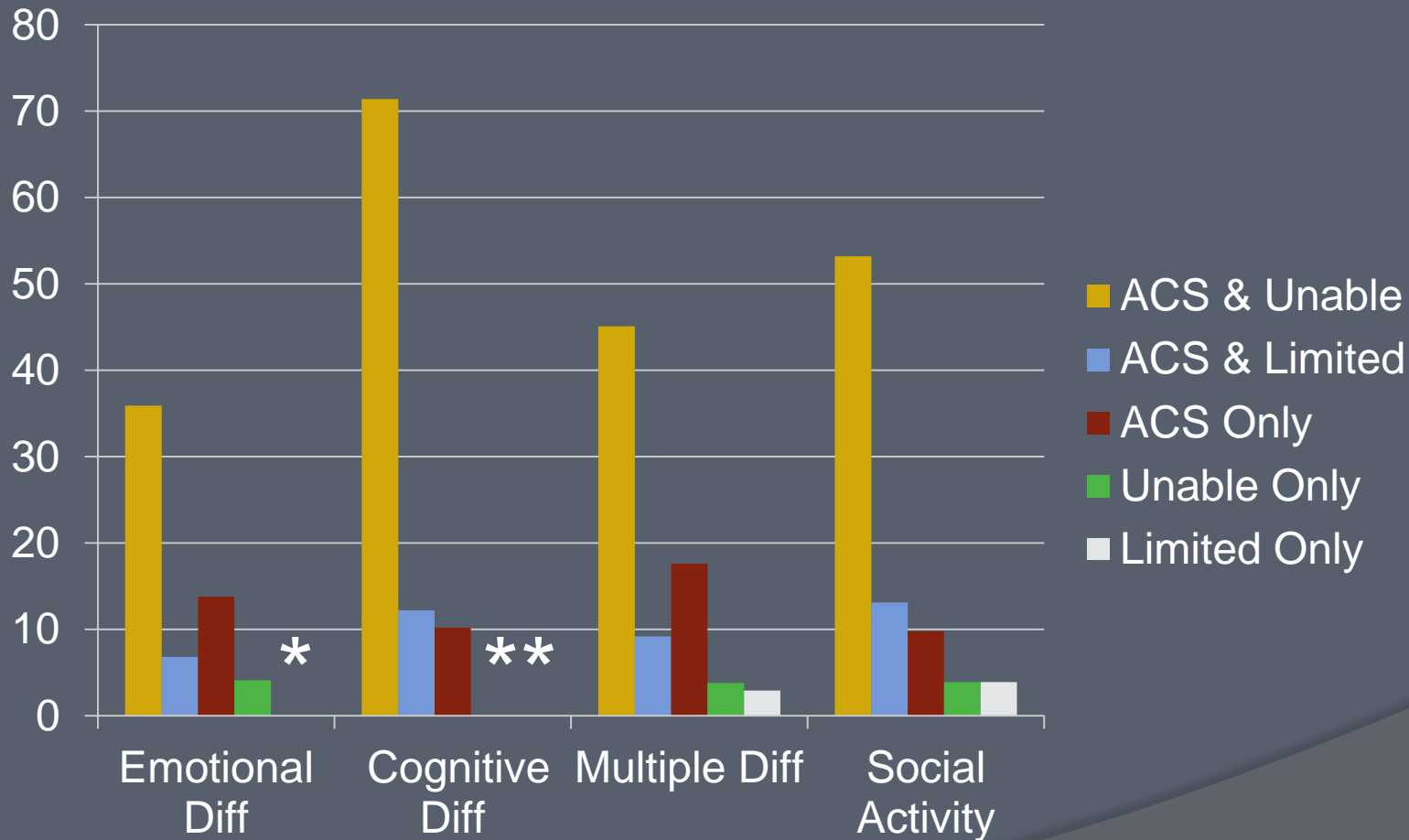
* = RSE > 30%

Basic Action Limitations



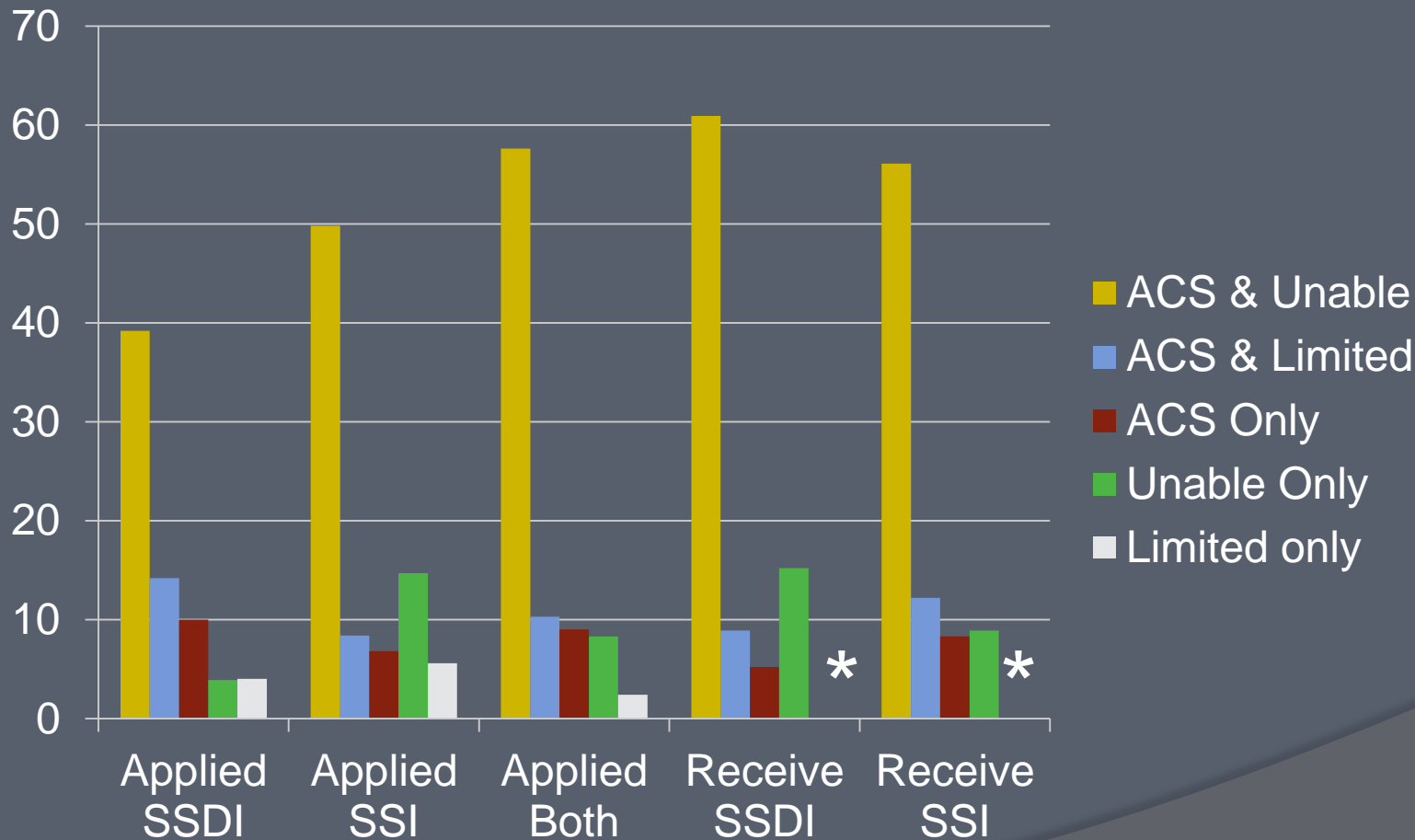
*
= RSE > 30%

Basic Actions, continued & Social Activity Limitations



* = RSE > 30%

Relationship of Measures to Application for, or Receipt of, SSDI/SSI



* = RSE > 30%

Discussion

- ACS questions provide a broader range of persons at risk of disability. For general policy purposes, such a measure is preferred.
- Being unable to work is different from being limited in kind or amount of work and may reflect either different functional difficulties, different sociodemographic characteristics or different environmental experiences.

Discussion

- There does not appear to be any biases in capturing the range of conditions or functioning difficulties with the ACS questions. Adding the work limitation questions will not provide additional representation of any particular group missed by the ACS.
- Persons who report only work limitations without corresponding functional difficulties may represent types of functional limitations not captured by the ACS set. However, except for injuries there is no indicator to confirm that.