



2019

ANNUAL REPORT ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN AMERICA



DISABILITY STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS
REHABILITATION RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER

Institute on Disability/UCED



University of
New Hampshire

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The StatsRRTC is part of the Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The IOD was established in 1987 to provide a university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of people with disabilities and their families and is New Hampshire's University Center for Excellence in Disability (UCED). Located within UNH, the IOD is a federally designated center authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Act. Through innovative and interdisciplinary research, academic, service, and dissemination initiatives, the IOD builds local, state, and national capacities to respond to the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.

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Annual Report on People with Disabilities in America

2019

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on
Disability Statistics and Demographics
A NIDILRR-Funded Center



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Population with Disabilities	3
Living in Institutional Group Quarters	5
Education: High School	7
Education: College	9
Employment	11
Earnings from Work.....	13
Poverty	15
Health Insurance	17
Private Health Insurance	19
Mass Transit to Work	21
Age of Home/Apartment (1990+)	23
Disablement Index.....	25
Appendix: ACS Disability Questions	27
Glossary	28
About the Center	31

Introduction

Make the Call. Statistics are a powerful tool. The National Bureau of Economic Research tracks changes in the national gross domestic product, a key indicator of economic activity, to “make the call” as to whether the economy is in recession. On the first Friday of each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the official unemployment rate to monitor the labor market. Each year during the second week of September, the Census Bureau publishes the official poverty rate and whether an increase or decrease in the poverty rate was detected. The Centers of Diseases Control and Prevention’s Health People program tracks health indicators over the course of each decade. The goal of the Annual Report on People with Disabilities in America is to track the progress of people with disabilities using key social and economic indicators and each make the call (for each indicator) as to whether an increase or decrease was detected.

Topics. The Annual Report will include many of the key indicators identified in a comprehensive 2008 study, Keeping Track: National Disability Status and Program Performance Indicators, conducted by the National Council on Disability (NCD). This NCD report used a systematic approach of stakeholder input to select indicators based on data availability and ability to address key areas of interest to stakeholders. The resulting indicators were in the following areas of interest: employment, educational attainment, health and health care, financial status and security, leisure recreation, personal relationships, and crime/safety. In the coming years, the Annual Report will add more of the NCD indicators in these areas, as well as indicators for which data has only recently become available.

New This Year. Last year Annual Report included indicators related to population size, educational attainment, employment, earnings from work, poverty, and health insurance. This year’s Annual Report also includes indicators related to institutionalization, accessibility of mass transit, accessibility of housing, and the role of the environment in the enablement/disablement process—the “Disablement Index.” At the top of each topic the population being studied is noted in parentheses.

Methods. The current set of indicators is derived from the American Community Survey (ACS). In future years, other data sources will be used to track other indicators. The ACS is an annual survey conducted by the Census Bureau and is well-suited to track indicators over time due to its large sample size, consistent questionnaire over the years, and multitude of variables to examine. The Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files were used to estimate the statistics enclosed. The PUMS files allow data users to conduct custom analyses. At the top of each topic the population being studied is noted in parentheses. It is important to note that because of this, the estimates presented in this report may vary slightly from the pre-tabulated estimates published in the US Census Bureau’s and the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium. Sample weights and replicate sample weights were used to produce nationally representative

statistics that account for sample design effects. Statistical significance is based on a one-tail test using a 95 percent level of confidence.

Findings. An important finding—which may help you work your way through the Annual Report—is that every “gap” between people with and without disabilities is “statistically significant,” meaning that we are certain that it is greater than zero. In other words, we are certain (with at least 95 percent confidence) that a given gap exists. It is also important to note that statistical significance is not the same as the term significance or meaningfulness. Whether the magnitude of any gap is meaningful from a social or policy perspective is a matter for further discussion.

Overall, unlike changes observed between 2016-2017, it appears that there was not a great deal of change between 2017 to 2018 (the most recent year available) in the indicators track in the Annual Report. However, many gaps have changed when comparing the gap in 2018 to 2008, the first year the data became available.

Additional Resources. The Annual Report complements the detailed tables of data which can be found in the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium (www.DisabilityCompendium.org). For reasons discussed previously in methods, the statistics reported in the Annual Report might differ from those reported in the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium and Supplement. Help navigating any of the resources described here can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section at www.DisabilityCompendium.org/faq. Assistance interpreting and locating additional statistics is available via our toll-free number, 886.538.9521, or by email, Disability.Statistics@UNH.edu. For more information about our research project, please visit www.ResearchOnDisability.org.

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Population with Disabilities

(Focus Population: Civilians, all ages)

THE CALL ...

The size of the population with disabilities—percentage-wise—decreased from 2017 to 2018.

When using statistics to track the well-being of people with disabilities and accessibility, it is important to understand the size of the population with disabilities. Table 1 shows that there were 326,155,000 people in the U.S. in 2018. Of these persons, 42,630,000 were people with disabilities. Percentage-wise, people with disabilities comprised 13.1 percent of the U.S. population; i.e., the 13.1 percent of the U.S. civilian population were people with disabilities. The size of the population with disabilities—percentage-wise—decrease from 13.2 percent in 2017 to 13.1 percent in 2018. (The Appendix contains the questions we used in the American Community Survey to define disability.)

Table 1. Number and Percentage with Disabilities

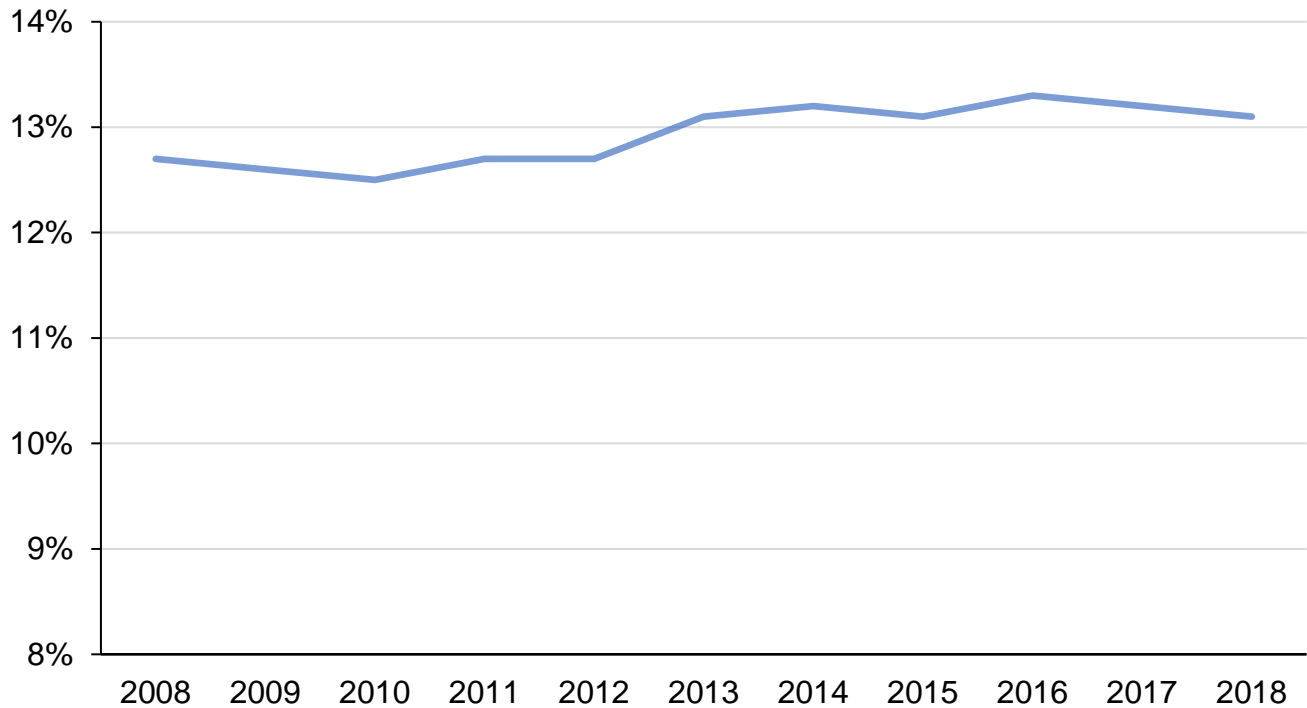
Year	Total Population	Population with Disabilities	Percentage with Disabilities	
	Estimate (#)	Estimate (#)	Estimate (%)	St. Error (% pts)
2008	302,819,000	38,560,000	12.7 [†]	0.03
2009	305,701,000	38,583,000	12.6 ^{††}	0.02
2010	308,291,000	38,463,000	12.5 ^{††}	0.02
2011	310,572,000	39,383,000	12.7 ^{††}	0.02
2012	312,873,000	39,710,000	12.7 [†]	0.02
2013	315,143,000	41,242,000	13.1 [†]	0.03
2014	317,861,000	41,827,000	13.2 ^{††}	0.03
2015	320,399,000	42,050,000	13.1 [†]	0.02
2016	322,110,000	42,940,000	13.3 ^{††}	0.02
2017	324,689,000	42,776,000	13.2 ^{††}	0.02
2018	326,155,000	42,630,000	13.1 [†]	0.02

Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of all ages.

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

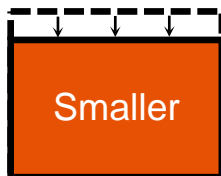
^{††} Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 1. Percentage of People with Disabilities



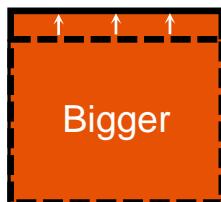
Comparisons & Statistical Significance

Percentage-wise, did the population with disabilities get smaller between 2017 and 2018?



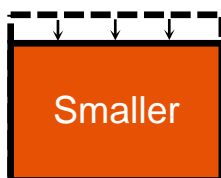
Yes. A statistically significant decrease in the percentage of the population with disabilities was detected between 2017 and 2018, from 13.2 percent to 13.1 percent. This decrease was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2017 and 2018.

Percentage-wise, did the population with disabilities get smaller since the earliest year available, 2008?



No, the opposite occurred. A statistically significant increase in the percentage of the population with disabilities was detected between 2008 and 2017, from 12.7 percent in 2008 to 13.1 percent in 2018.

Percentage-wise, did the population with disabilities get smaller since its highest level in 2016?



YES. A statistically significant decrease in the percentage of the population with disabilities was detected between 2016 and 2018, from 13.3 percent in 2016 to 13.1 percent in 2018.

Living in Institutions

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 64 and under)

THE CALL ...

The “institutional settings gap” increased from 2017 to 2018.

The shutting down of institutions housing large numbers of people with disabilities in inhumane conditions was a major achievement of the 1970s and 1980s. Unfortunately, the ACS public use microdata files do not allow for the identification of people living in disability-related institutions specifically. They do allow the estimation of people living in institutional group quarters, which include nursing facilities/skilled nursing facilities and adult correctional facilities, we are not able to identify disability-specific institutions. We track changes in the degree to which people with disabilities (ages 64 and under) live in such institutions, relative to people without disabilities (ages 64 and under). Table 2 shows 3.58 percent among people with disabilities and 0.69 percent among people without disabilities—an “institutional settings gap” of 2.89 percentage points.

Table 2. Living in Institutional Group Quarter (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	3.97 [‡]	0.048	0.71	0.004	3.26 ^{*‡}	0.048
2009	3.94 [‡]	0.051	0.72 ^{+‡}	0.003	3.22 ^{*‡}	0.051
2010	3.75 ^{+‡}	0.046	0.75 ^{+‡}	0.004	3.00 ^{*‡}	0.046
2011	3.65 [‡]	0.039	0.75 [‡]	0.004	2.90 ^{*‡}	0.039
2012	3.75 ^{+‡}	0.034	0.73 ^{+‡}	0.003	3.02 ^{*‡}	0.034
2013	3.48 ^{+‡}	0.035	0.73 [‡]	0.003	2.75 ^{*‡}	0.035
2014	3.64 [‡]	0.034	0.72 ^{+‡}	0.003	2.92 ^{*‡}	0.034
2015	3.57	0.041	0.71 [‡]	0.004	2.86 [*]	0.041
2016	3.39 ^{+‡}	0.036	0.71 ^{+‡}	0.003	2.68 ^{*‡}	0.036
2017	3.48 ^{+‡}	0.034	0.69	0.003	2.79 ^{*‡}	0.034
2018	3.58 [‡]	0.032	0.69	0.003	2.89 ^{*‡}	0.032

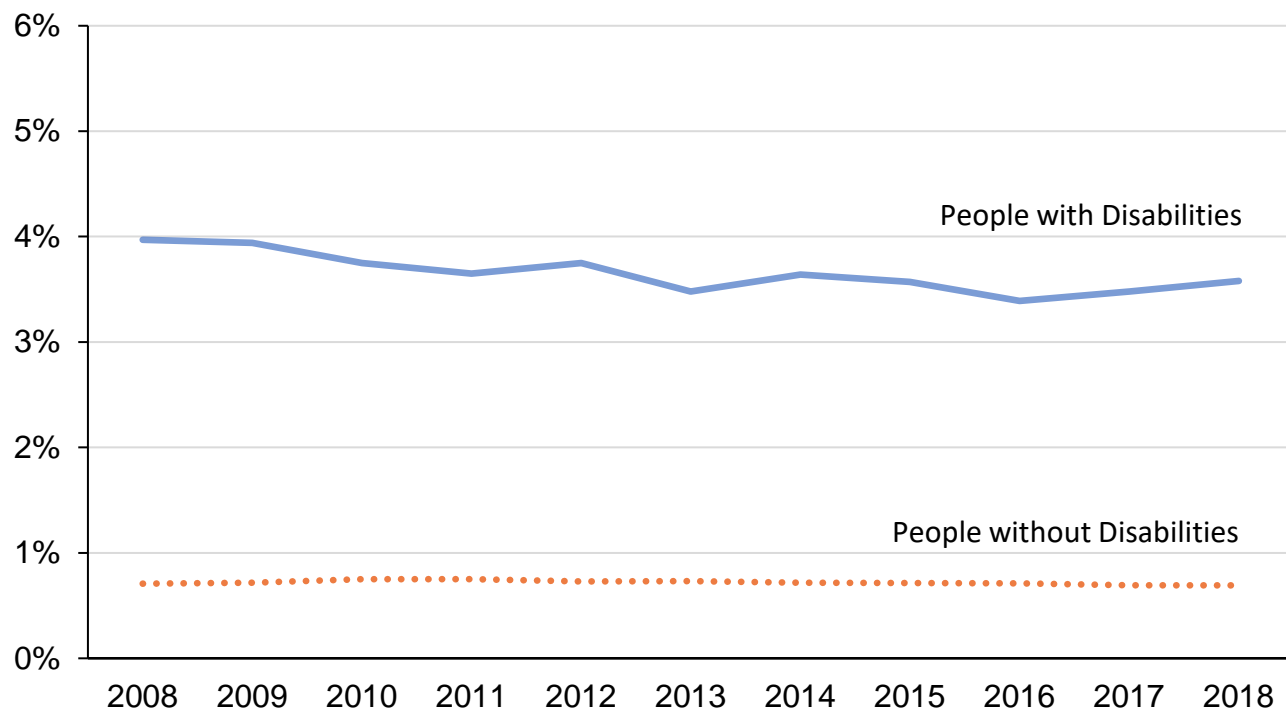
Source: Author’s calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents ages 64 and under.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

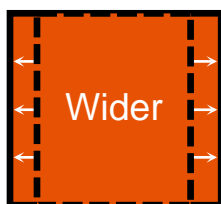
[‡] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 2. Percent Living in Institutional Group Quarters

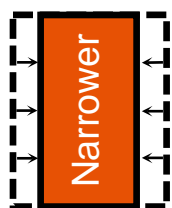


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



Did the institutional settings gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

NO, the opposite occurred. The institutional settings gap widened from 2.79 percentage points in 2017 to 2.89 percentage points in 2018. This widening was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2017 and 2018.



Did the institutional settings gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the institutional settings gap was detected between 2008 and 2018, decreasing from 3.26 percentage points in 2008 to 2.89 percentage points in 2018.

Education: High School

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 25-34 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the “less-than-high-school gap” between young adults with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

Education is widely considered a pathway to independent living. The economics literature has consistently found about a 10 percent increase in wages/salary with each additional year of education. Table 3 shows that in all years, young adults with disabilities are more likely to have *not* attain a high school diploma (including GED or alternative certificate) when compared to young adults without disabilities. In 2018, 16.7 percent of young adults with disabilities had *not* attained a high school diploma, compared to 7.7 percent of their peers without disabilities, reflecting a less-than-high-school gap of 9.0 percentage point. This gap has appears decreased from 9.2 percentage points in 2017 to 9.0 percentage points in 2018, however this decrease was not statistically significantly greater than zero.

Table 3. Less than a High School Diploma (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	23.4 [‡]	0.45	12.7 [‡]	0.09	10.7 ^{*‡}	0.46
2009	24.0 [‡]	0.41	12.0 ^{*‡}	0.09	12.0 ^{*‡}	0.42
2010	22.8 ^{*‡}	0.32	11.9 [‡]	0.09	10.9 ^{*‡}	0.33
2011	22.2 [‡]	0.36	11.1 ^{*‡}	0.08	11.1 ^{*‡}	0.37
2012	22.2 [‡]	0.40	10.6 ^{*‡}	0.08	11.6 ^{*‡}	0.41
2013	20.6 ^{*‡}	0.33	10.5 [‡]	0.08	10.1 ^{*‡}	0.34
2014	19.8 ^{*‡}	0.30	9.8 ^{*‡}	0.07	10.0 ^{*‡}	0.31
2015	19.2 [‡]	0.31	9.4 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.8 ^{*‡}	0.32
2016	19.1 [‡]	0.35	8.9 ^{*‡}	0.07	10.2 ^{*‡}	0.36
2017	17.3 [‡]	0.31	8.1 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.2 ^{*‡}	0.32
2018	16.7	0.28	7.7 ^{*‡}	0.07	9.0 [*]	0.29

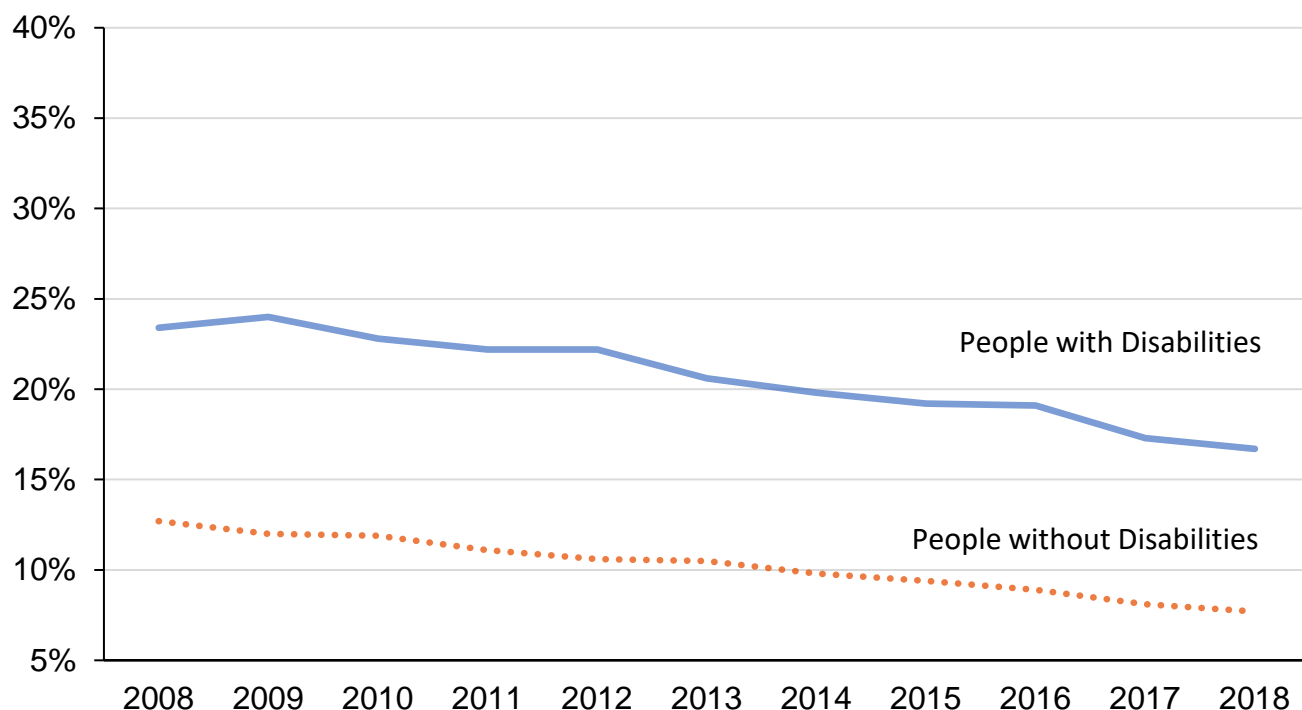
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 25-34 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

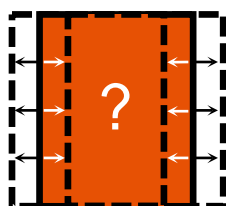
[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 3. Percent with Less High School Diploma

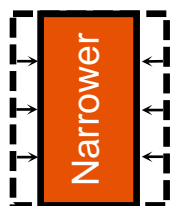


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



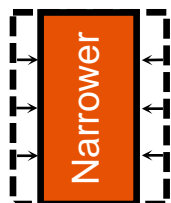
Did the less-than-high-school gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The less-than-high-school gap appears to narrow from 9.2 percentage points in 2017 to 9.0 percentage points in 2018. However, this narrowing is not statistically significant, meaning that it may be due to the estimates being derived from samples of the U.S. populations.



Did the less-than-high-school gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the less-than-high-school gap was detected between 2008 and 2017, decreasing from 10.7 percentage points in 2008 to 9.0 percentage points in 2018. This narrowing was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2008 and 2018.



Did the less-than-high-school gap narrow since its widest point?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the less-than-high-school gap was detected between its widest point in 2009, decreasing from 12.0 percentage points in 2009 to 9.0 percentage points in 2018.

Education: College

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 25-34 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "college-or-more gap" between young adults with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

Education is widely considered a pathway to independent living. The economics literature has consistently found about a 10 percent increase in wages/salary with each additional year of education. Table 4 shows that in all years, young adults with disabilities are less likely to have attained a Bachelor's degree or more when compared to young adults without disabilities. In 2018, 15.6 percent of people with disabilities had *not* attained a high school diploma, compared to 38.4 percent of their peers without disabilities, reflecting a college-or-more gap of 22.8 percentage point. This gap has appeared to have widened from 22.7 percentage points in 2017 to 22.8 percentage points in 2018, however this widening was not statistically significantly greater than zero.

Table 4. Bachelor's Degree or More (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	9.8 [‡]	0.27	31.3 [‡]	0.13	21.5 ^{*‡}	0.30
2009	10.0 [‡]	0.26	32.8 ^{*‡}	0.13	22.8 ^{*†}	0.29
2010	10.5 [‡]	0.24	33.1 ^{*‡}	0.13	22.6 [*]	0.27
2011	11.0 [‡]	0.30	33.6 ^{*‡}	0.14	22.6 [*]	0.33
2012	10.7 [‡]	0.27	34.4 ^{*‡}	0.13	23.7 ^{*‡†}	0.30
2013	12.4 ^{*‡}	0.28	34.8 ^{*‡}	0.14	22.4 ^{*†}	0.31
2014	12.8 [‡]	0.30	35.4 ^{*‡}	0.14	22.6 [*]	0.33
2015	13.5 ^{*‡}	0.28	36.2 ^{*‡}	0.13	22.7 [*]	0.31
2016	13.9 [‡]	0.30	37.1 ^{*‡}	0.14	23.2 [*]	0.33
2017	15.0 [†]	0.26	37.7 ^{*‡}	0.16	22.7 [*]	0.31
2018	15.6	0.30	38.4 [†]	0.14	22.8 [*]	0.33

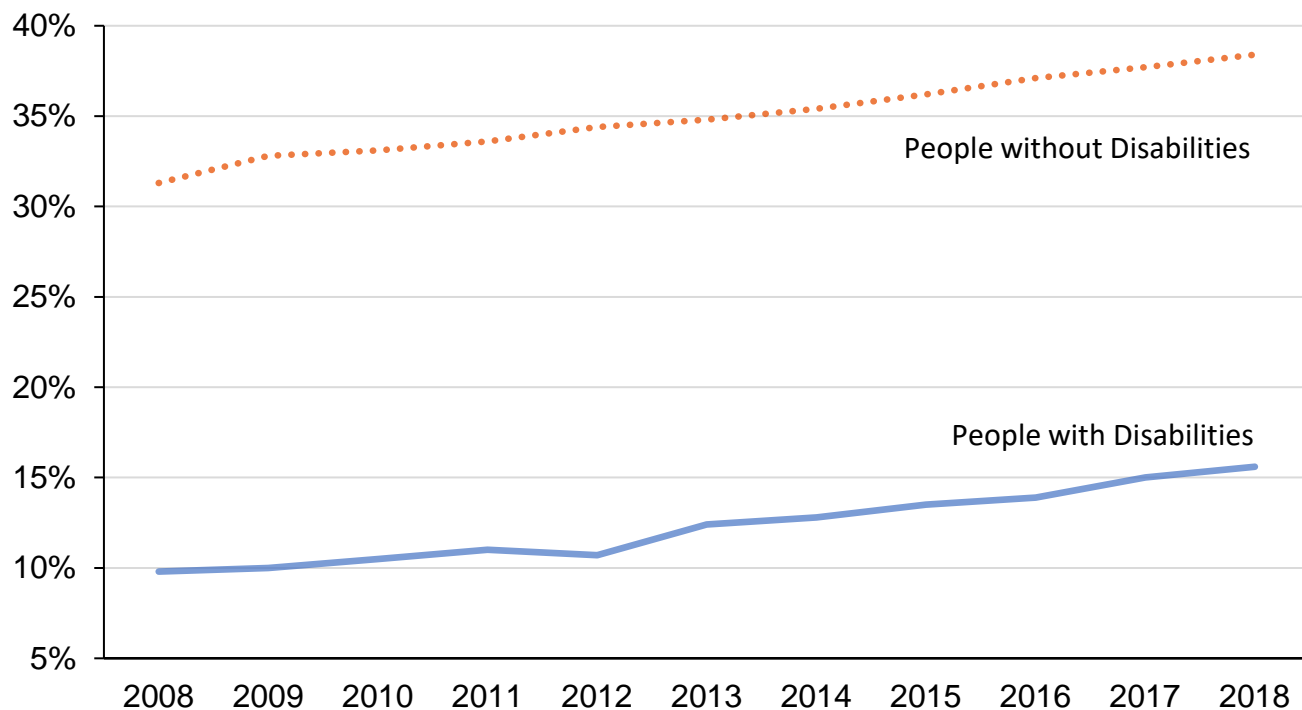
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 25-34 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

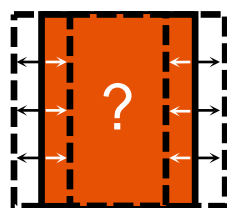
† Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

‡ Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 4. Percent with Bachelor's Degree or More

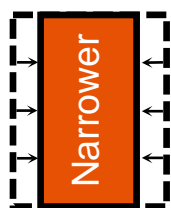


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



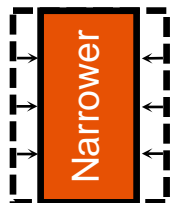
Did the college-or-more gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The college-or-more gap appears to widen from 22.7 percentage points in 2017 to 22.8 percentage points in 2018; however, this widening is not statistically significant, meaning that it is not distinguishable (given these data) from zero widening.



Did the college-or-more gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the college-or-more gap was detected between 2008 and 2018, decreasing from 23.4 percentage points to 21.5 percentage points. This narrowing was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2008 and 2018.



Did the college-or-more gap narrow since its widest point?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the college-or-more gap was detected between its widest point in 2012, decreasing from 23.7 percentage points in 2012 to 21.5 percentage points in 2018.

Employment

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "employment gap" between people with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

Employment and being part of the workforce is an important part of independent living and social integration. The employment-to-population ratio is the percentage of the population that is employed. Table 5 shows, in 2018, the employment-to-population ratio for people with disabilities was 37.5 percent. In contrast, the employment-to-population ratio of people without disabilities was 77.8 percent, nearly double that of people with disabilities. This amounted to an employment gap of 40.3 percentage points. The employment gap appears not to have changed between 2017 and 2018. Looking at more decimal points, there appears to be a small widening from 40.29 percentage points to 40.33 percentage points; however, this widening was not statistically significant. The employment gap was 38.6 percentage points in 2008 at the beginning of the Great Recession. It has yet to recover to that level. See the National Trends in Disability and Employment (nTIDE) Report, which tracks the employment of people with disabilities on a monthly basis using the Current Population Survey.

Table 5. Employment to Population Ratio (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	39.1 [†]	0.15	77.7 [†]	0.04	38.6 ^{*†}	0.16
2009	35.4 ^{††}	0.15	74.3 ^{††}	0.04	38.9 ^{*†}	0.16
2010	33.5 ^{††}	0.12	72.9 ^{††}	0.05	39.4 ^{*††}	0.13
2011	33.0 ^{††}	0.15	73.1 ^{††}	0.05	40.1 ^{*†}	0.16
2012	33.0 [†]	0.13	73.8 ^{††}	0.04	40.8 ^{*††}	0.14
2013	34.1 ^{††}	0.12	74.5 ^{††}	0.04	40.4 ^{*†}	0.13
2014	34.2 [†]	0.14	75.3 ^{††}	0.04	41.1 ^{*††}	0.15
2015	34.8 ^{††}	0.13	76.0 ^{††}	0.04	41.2 ^{*†}	0.14
2016	36.0 ^{††}	0.13	76.8 ^{††}	0.05	40.8 ^{*††}	0.14
2017	36.9 ^{††}	0.14	77.2 ^{††}	0.05	40.3 ^{*†}	0.15
2018	37.5 [†]	0.12	77.8 [†]	0.05	40.3 [*]	0.13

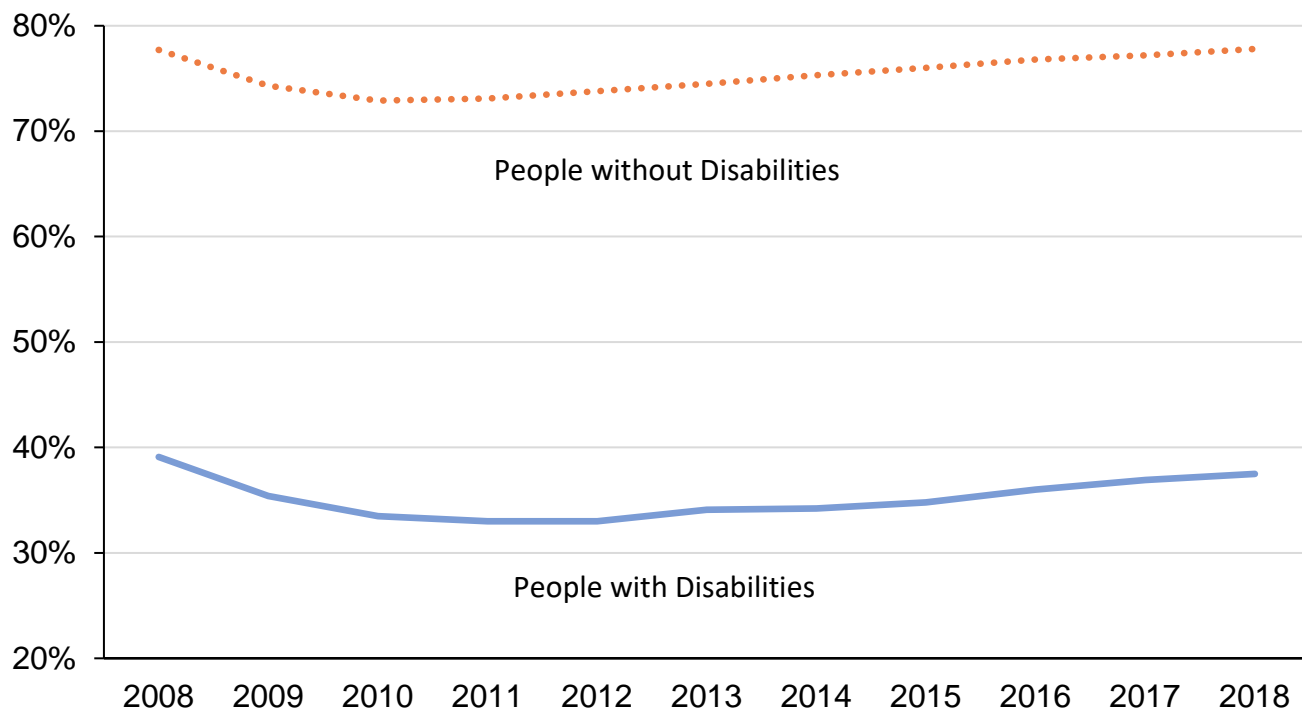
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

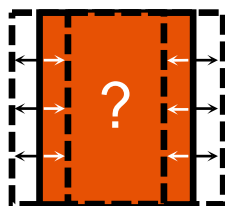
[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

[†] Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 5. Employment to Population Ratio

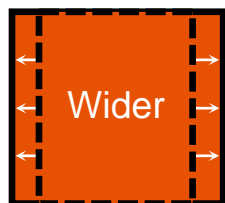


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



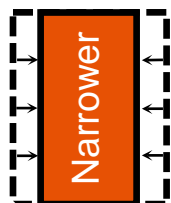
Did the employment gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The employment gap appears not to have changed, remaining at 40.3 percentage points in 2017 and 2018. Looking at more decimal points, there appears to be a small widening from 40.29 percentage points to 40.33 percentage points; however, this widening was not statistically significant.



Did the employment gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

NO, the opposite occurred. A statistically significant widening of the employment gap was detected between 2008 and 2018, decreasing from 38.6 percentage points to 40.3 percentage points. This widening was statistically significant, meaning it was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2008 and 2018.



Did the employment gap narrow since its widest point?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the employment gap was detected between its widest point in 2015, decreasing from 41.2 percentage points in 2015 to 40.3 percentage points in 2018.

Earnings from Work

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings employed full-time/full-year)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "earnings gap" between full-time/full-year workers with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

The ability to live independently and job quality are reflected in one's earnings from work; a.k.a., wage/salary income and hereafter earnings. The earnings of full-time/full-year workers—persons who usually work over 35 hours per week for over 50 weeks per year—are tracked in order minimize the potential that reduced earnings being the result of reduced hours worked, which may differ between workers without disabilities. As Table 6 shows, the median earnings of full-time/full-year workers with disabilities was \$40,454, compared to \$46,250 for their counterparts without disabilities, resulting in an earnings gap of \$5,796. The earnings gap appears to widen between 2017 and 2018, from \$5,216 to \$5,796; however, this decrease is not statistically significant, meaning that it is not distinguishable from zero, given these data.

Table 6. Median Earnings of Full-Time/Full-Year Workers (\$)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	39,097 [‡]	342	46,315	538	7,218 ^{*‡}	637
2009	39,665 [‡]	284	46,719 [‡]	172	7,054 ^{*‡}	332
2010	40,500 [†]	239	46,354	160	5,854 ^{*†}	287
2011	39,724 [†]	368	45,425 ^{*‡}	202	5,701 [*]	420
2012	38,606 ^{*‡}	340	44,178 ^{*‡}	228	5,572 [*]	409
2013	39,088 [‡]	180	43,873 [‡]	153	4,785 ^{*†}	236
2014	39,483 [‡]	230	44,436 ^{*‡}	209	4,953 [*]	310
2015	39,791	312	44,529 [‡]	129	4,738 [*]	337
2016	41,032 [†]	318	46,305 [†]	156	5,273 [*]	354
2017	41,345 [‡]	352	46,561	239	5,216 [*]	426
2018	40,454 [†]	286	46,250	191	5,796 [*]	344

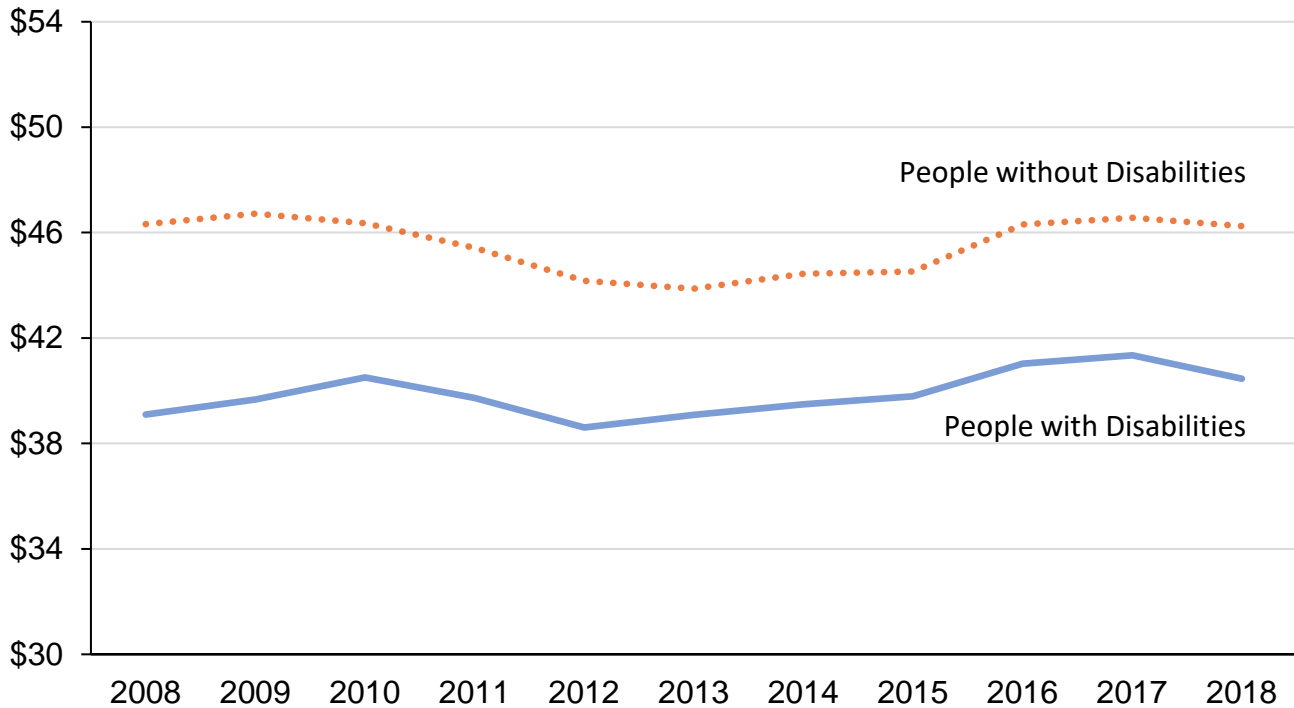
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings and work full-time/full-year. All dollar amounts are inflation-adjusted to 2018 dollars using the Consumer Price Index.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

† Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

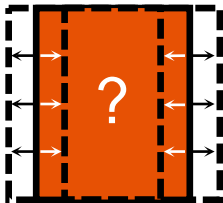
‡ Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 6. Median Earnings (thousands, 2018 dollars)



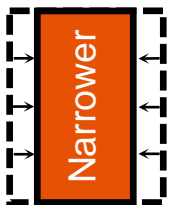
Comparisons & Statistical Significance

Did the earnings gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

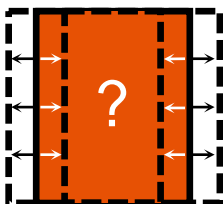


CAN'T TELL. The earnings gap appears to widen between 2017 and 2018, widening from \$5,216 to \$5,796; however, this widening is not statistically significant, meaning that it is not distinguishable (given these data) from zero decrease. Recall that these estimates are based on full-time, full-year workers, which reduced the sample sizes, making it harder to detect changes.

Did the earnings gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?



YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the earnings gap was detected between 2008 and 2017, decreasing from \$7,218 in 2008 to \$5,796 in 2017. This decrease is statistically significant, meaning it is likely not by chance due to the estimates being derived from samples and reflects a non-zero decrease occurring among U.S. civilian noninstitutional full-time, full-year workers 18-64.



Did the employment gap widen since its narrowest point?

CAN'T TELL. The earnings gap appears to widen from \$4,785 in 2013 (its narrowest point) to \$5,796 in 2018; however, this widening is not statistically significant.

Poverty

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "poverty gap" between people with and without disabilities changed between 2017 to 2018.

Earnings and personal income provide insights into the resources associated with an individual. Poverty is a family-level measure. An individual is living in poverty if they are living in a family with income below the poverty line, where the poverty line varies from size and age composition of the family. In 2018, the Census Bureau poverty line for a family of four with two children under age 18 was \$25,465. As Table 7 shows, in 2018, the poverty rate (percentage of individuals living in families with incomes below the poverty line) was 26.9 percent for individuals with disabilities. In contrast, in 2018 the poverty rate of individuals without disabilities was estimated at 12.2 percent. This means that the poverty gap between people with and without disabilities was therefore 14.7 percentage points in 2018. The poverty gap appears to have increase from 14.4 percentage points in 2017; however, this widening of the poverty gap is not statistically significantly greater than zero.

Table 7. Poverty Rate (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	26.2 [‡]	0.13	11.7 [‡]	0.05	14.5 [*]	0.14
2009	27.2 [‡]	0.16	12.9 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.3 ^{*‡}	0.17
2010	27.8 ^{†‡}	0.14	14.1 ^{†‡}	0.05	13.7 ^{*†‡}	0.15
2011	28.6 ^{†‡}	0.12	14.7 ^{†‡}	0.05	13.9 ^{*‡}	0.13
2012	29.3 ^{†‡}	0.14	14.6 [‡]	0.06	14.7 ^{*†}	0.15
2013	29.2 [‡]	0.15	14.8 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.16
2014	28.8 ^{†‡}	0.14	14.4 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.15
2015	27.7 ^{†‡}	0.13	13.7 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.0 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2016	27.4 [‡]	0.14	13.1 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.3 ^{*‡}	0.15
2017	26.8 [‡]	0.15	12.4 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.4 [*]	0.16
2018	26.9	0.15	12.2 ^{†‡}	0.05	14.7 [*]	0.16

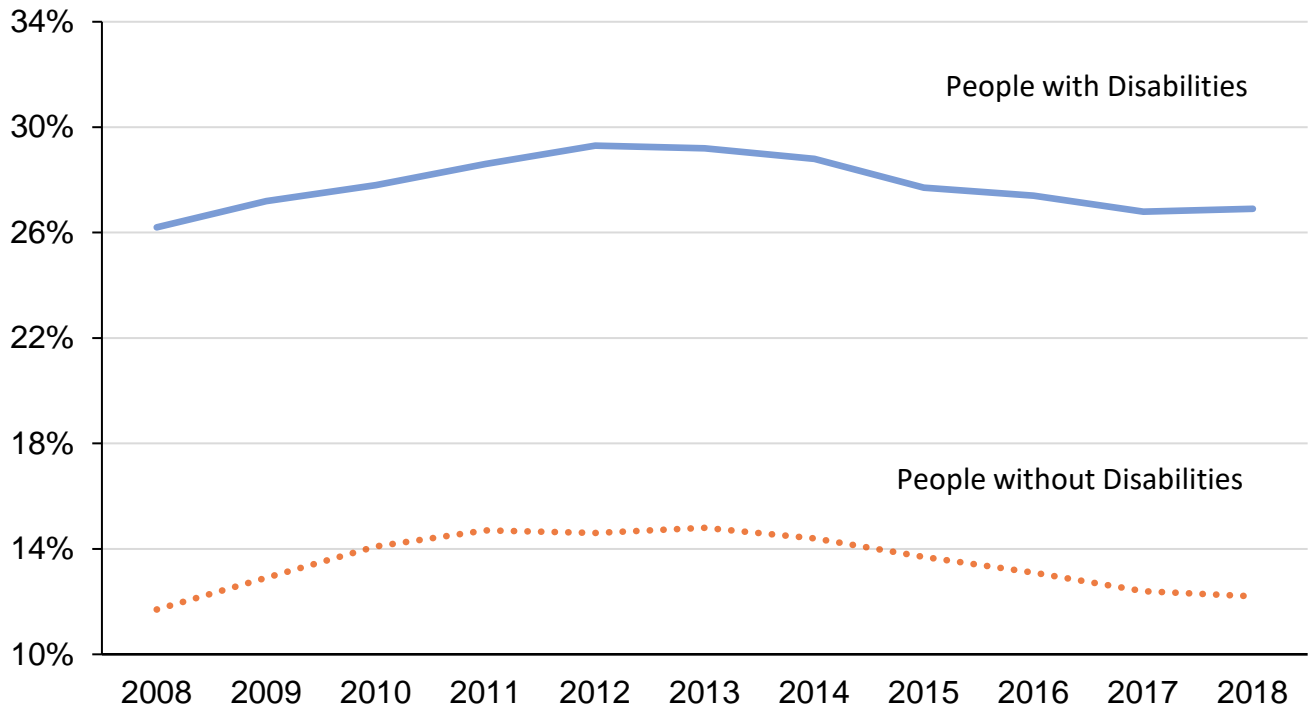
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

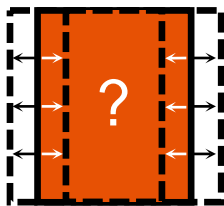
† Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

‡ Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 7. Poverty Rate

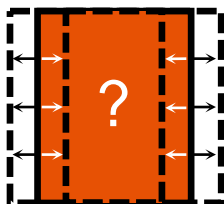


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



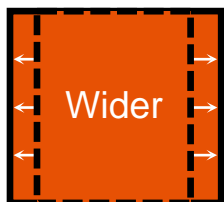
Did the poverty gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The poverty gap appears to widen between 2017 and 2018, increasing from 14.4 percentage points to 14.7 percentage points; however, this widening is not statistically significant, meaning that it is not distinguishable (given these data) from zero increase.



Did the poverty gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

CAN'T TELL. The poverty gap appears to narrow between 2008 and 2017, narrowing from 15.4 percentage points in 2008 to 14.7 percentage points in 2017, but this narrowing was not statistically significant.



Did the poverty gap widen from its narrowest point in 2010?

Yes. A statistically significant widening of the poverty gap was detected between 2010 and 2017, widening from 13.9 percentage points in 2010 to 14.7 percentage points in 2017.

Health Insurance

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "health insurance gap" between people with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

Access to quality health care is an important indicator of well-being. In the U.S., having health insurance is essential to accessing quality health care. Table 8 shows that, in 2018, the percentage of people with disabilities with health insurance coverage was 90.0 percent. Interestingly, the percentage of people without disabilities with health insurance coverage was lower, at 87.4 percent. The health insurance gap between people with and without disabilities with health insurance coverage was -2.6 percentage points in 2018. This gap is likely due to the availability of public health insurance via Medicaid and Medicare. This gap appeared to widen between 2017 and 2018 from -2.5 percentage points to -2.6 percentage points, however, this widening was not statistically significant.

Table 8. Health Insurance Coverage (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	81.6 [‡]	0.12	80.0 [‡]	0.07	-1.6 ^{*‡}	0.14
2009	82.5 ^{†‡}	0.11	79.1 ^{†‡}	0.08	-3.4 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2010	82.0 ^{†‡}	0.12	78.3 ^{†‡}	0.07	-3.7 ^{*‡}	0.14
2011	82.4 ^{†‡}	0.12	78.7 ^{†‡}	0.08	-3.7 ^{*‡}	0.14
2012	82.8 ^{†‡}	0.13	79.0 ^{†‡}	0.07	-3.8 ^{*‡}	0.15
2013	83.0 [‡]	0.10	79.3 ^{†‡}	0.08	-3.7 ^{*‡}	0.13
2014	86.7 ^{†‡}	0.12	83.4 ^{†‡}	0.07	-3.3 ^{*†‡}	0.14
2015	89.6 ^{†‡}	0.10	86.6 ^{†‡}	0.07	-3.0 ^{*‡}	0.12
2016	90.3 ^{†‡}	0.10	87.7 ^{†‡}	0.06	-2.6 ^{*†}	0.12
2017	90.1	0.10	87.6 [‡]	0.07	-2.5 [*]	0.12
2018	90.0	0.07	87.4 [†]	0.06	-2.6 [*]	0.09

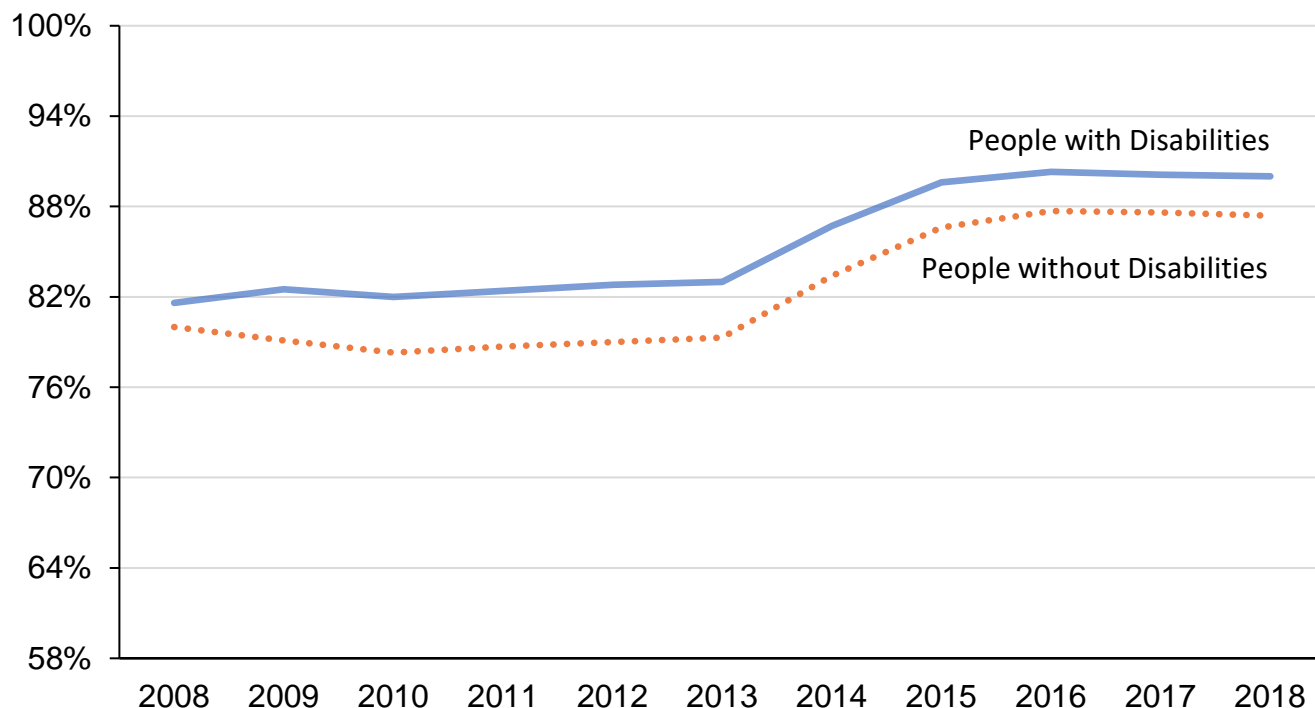
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

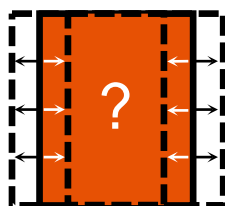
† Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

‡ Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 8. Percent with Health Insurance

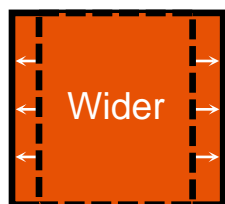


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



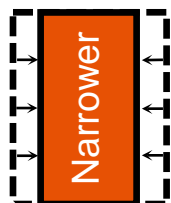
Did the health insurance gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The opposite appears to have occurred. The health insurance gap appears narrow between 2017 and 2018, getting less negative, from -2.5 percentage points to -2.6 percentage points; however, this decrease is not statistically significant, meaning that it is not distinguishable (given these data) from zero decrease.



Did the health insurance gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

NO, the opposite occurred. A statically significant widening of the health insurance gap was detected between 2008 and 2017, making it more negative, from -1.6 percentage points in 2008 to -2.6 percentage points in 2018.



Did the health insurance gap narrow from its widest point in 2012?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the health insurance gap was detected between 2012 and 2018, making it less negative, from -3.8 percentage points in 2010 to -2.6 percentage points in 2018.

Private Health Insurance

(Focus Population: Civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "private health insurance gap" between people with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

The previous section showed that people with disabilities have had a higher estimated health insurance (public & private) coverage percentage than people without disabilities since at least 2008 (Table 8). When only private health insurance coverage is considered, the statistics are quite different (Table 9), and likely reflect the employment gap, since employer provided health insurance coverage is the largest source of private health insurance coverage. In 2018, 45.9 percentage of people with disabilities had private health insurance coverage, compared to 75.9 percent of people without disabilities—for a gap of 30.0. This appears to have not changed since 2015, however, all we can say is that we can't tell if it has changed given these data. With sample statistics, you never rule out that there is another sample out there that would detect a change.

Table 9. Private Health Insurance Coverage (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	47.0 [‡]	0.17	74.6 [‡]	0.08	27.6 ^{*‡}	0.19
2009	44.5 ^{+‡}	0.15	72.5 ^{+‡}	0.09	28.0 ^{*‡}	0.17
2010	42.9 ^{+‡}	0.15	70.9 ^{+‡}	0.08	28.0 ^{*‡}	0.17
2011	42.7 [‡]	0.17	70.9 [‡]	0.08	28.2 ^{*‡}	0.19
2012	41.8 ^{+‡}	0.15	71.1 ^{+‡}	0.08	29.3 ^{*‡‡}	0.17
2013	42.7 ^{+‡}	0.15	71.2 [‡]	0.09	28.5 ^{*‡‡}	0.17
2014	44.2 ^{+‡}	0.14	73.6 ^{+‡}	0.08	29.4 ^{*‡‡}	0.16
2015	45.3 ^{+‡}	0.16	75.3 ^{+‡}	0.08	30.0 ^{*‡}	0.18
2016	46.0 [‡]	0.17	76.0 [‡]	0.08	30.0 [*]	0.19
2017	45.8	0.18	75.8 [‡]	0.09	30.0 [*]	0.20
2018	45.9	0.16	75.9	0.09	30.0 [*]	0.18

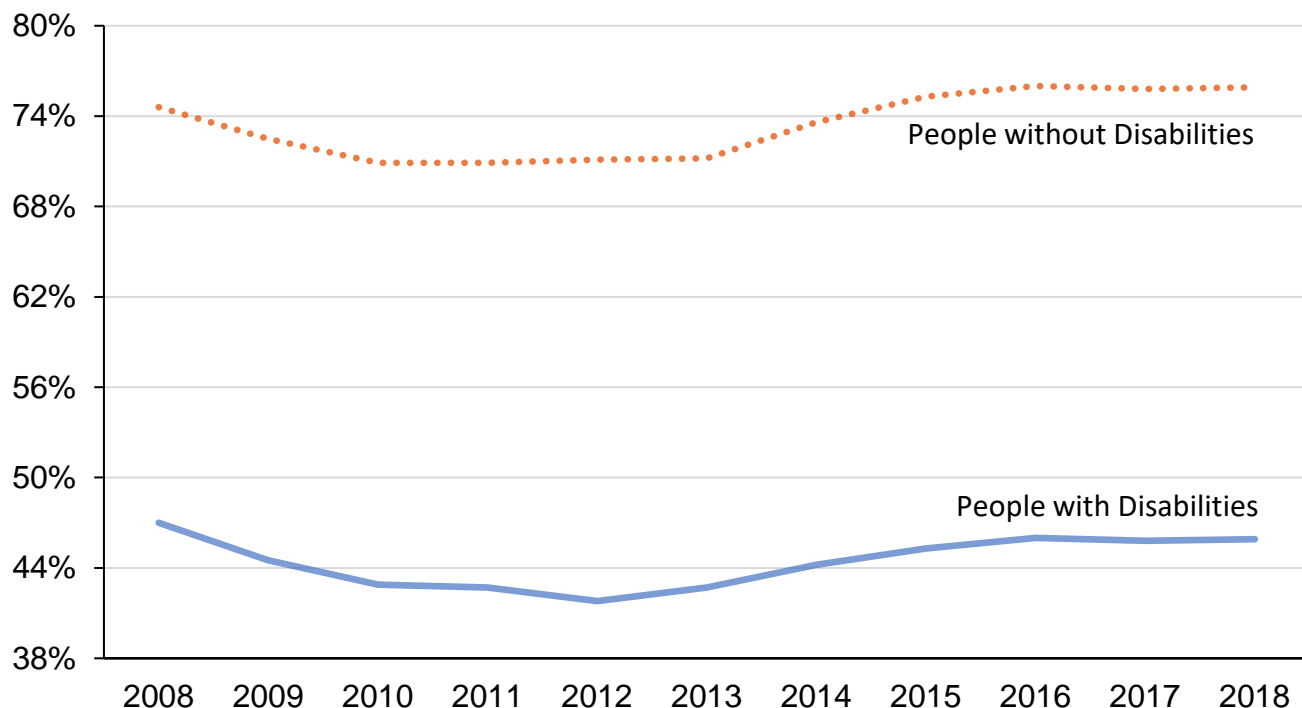
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

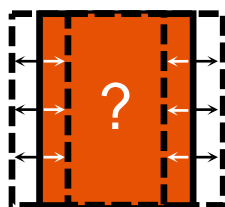
[‡] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

^{‡‡} Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 9. Percent with Private Health Insurance

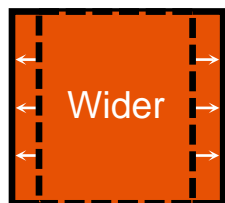


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



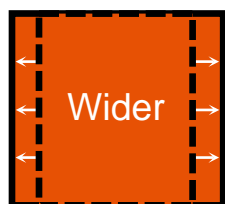
Did the private health insurance gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The private health insurance gap appears to not change, staying 30.8 percentage points in 2017 and 2018 (and 2015). No statistically significant change in the private health insurance gap was detected.



Did the private health insurance gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

NO, the opposite occurred. A statistically significant widening of the private health insurance gap was detected between 2014 and 2017, increasing from 30.2 percentage points in 2014 to 30.8 percentage points in 2017.



Did the private health insurance gap narrow, when comparing 2017 to the year with the nearest smallest private health insurance gap, 2010?

NO, the opposite occurred. A statistically significant widening of the private health insurance gap was detected between 2010 and 2017, increasing from 28.6 percentage points in 2008 to 30.8 percentage points in 2017.

Mass Transit to Work

(Focus Population: Employed civilians ages 18-64 living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the “mass-transit-to-work gap” between workers with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

Monitoring the number of accessible mass transit seats available to workers with disabilities would be informative; however, such statistics are not readily available. The use of mass transit by workers with disabilities in their commutes, compared to workers without disabilities, may indicate the accessibility of the U.S. transportation system. The more workers with disabilities use mass transit the better—so in this case—the widening of the gap is positive. (Although it could also potentially indicate changes in differentials in automobile ownership.) Table 10 shows that, in 2018, 5.3 percent of workers with disabilities and 4.9 percent workers without disabilities used mass transit to go to work, meaning the mass-transit-to-work gap was 0.4 percentage points. While small, this gap is statistically significantly greater than zero. However, we are unable to detect a change in this gap from 2017 to 2018, given these data.

Table 10. Mass Transit to Work (%)

Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	6.1 [‡]	0.13	4.9	0.03	1.2 ^{*‡}	0.13
2009	5.6 ^{+‡}	0.11	5.0 ^{+‡}	0.03	0.6 ^{+‡}	0.11
2010	5.4	0.11	4.9 ⁺	0.03	0.5 [*]	0.11
2011	5.9 ^{+‡}	0.11	5.0 ^{+‡}	0.03	0.9 ^{*+‡}	0.11
2012	5.9 [‡]	0.12	5.0 [‡]	0.02	0.9 ^{*‡}	0.12
2013	5.8 [‡]	0.12	5.1 ^{+‡}	0.02	0.7 ^{*‡}	0.12
2014	6.1 ^{+‡}	0.12	5.2 ^{+‡}	0.02	0.9 ^{*‡}	0.12
2015	5.7 ^{+‡}	0.12	5.2 [‡]	0.02	0.5 ^{*+‡}	0.12
2016	5.6 [‡]	0.11	5.1 ^{+‡}	0.03	0.5 [*]	0.11
2017	5.5	0.11	5.0 ^{+‡}	0.02	0.5 [*]	0.11
2018	5.3	0.11	4.9 ⁺	0.02	0.4 [*]	0.11

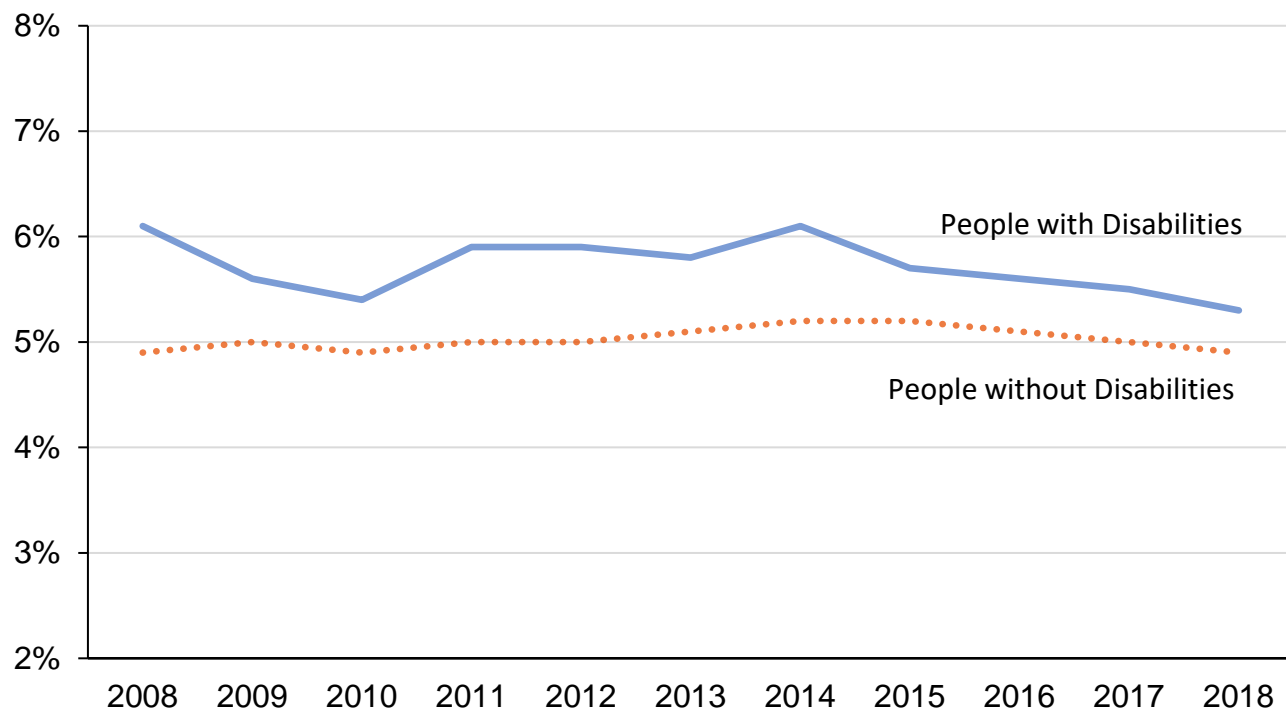
Source: Author's calculation using the data from the 2008-2018 American Community Surveys for civilian respondents of ages 18-64 who live in community settings and are employed.

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

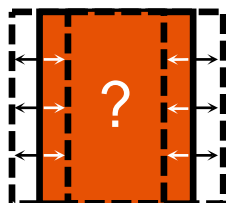
⁺ Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

[‡] Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 10. Percent of Workers using Mass Transit to Work

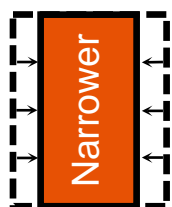


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



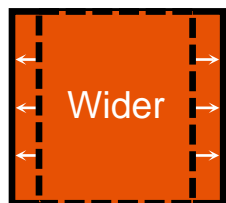
Did the mass-transit-to-work gap widen (a good thing) between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The mass-transit-to-work gap appears to narrow (a bad thing) from 0.5 percentage points in 2017 to 0.4 percentage points in 2018. However, this narrowing is not statistically significant, meaning that it may be due to the estimates being derived from samples of the U.S. populations.



Did the mass-transit-to-work gap widen (a good thing) since the earliest year available, 2008?

NO, the opposite occurred. A statistically significant narrowing (a bad thing) of the mass-transit-to-work gap was detected between 2008 and 2018, increasing from 1.2 percentage points in 2014 to 0.4 percentage points in 2018.



Did the mass-transit-to-work gap ever widen from year to year?

YES. A statistically significant widening (a good thing) occurred between 2010 and 2011, when it increased from 0.5 percentage points to 0.9 percentage points.

Age of Home/Apt (1990+)

(Focus Population: Civilians, ages 64 and under, living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

Can't tell if the "recent construction gap" between people with and without disabilities changed from 2017 to 2018.

While it would be informative to monitor the number of accessible housing units in the U.S. and the percentage of people with disabilities living in accessible housing units, such statistics are not available. The age of U.S. housing units may indicate the degree to which the U.S. housing stock is accessible. To gauge the likelihood that people with disabilities are living in accessible housing units, we estimate the percentage of people with disabilities living in housing units constructed after 1990 and compare it to that of people without disabilities—the "recent construction gap." Table 11 shows that, in 2018, 27.7 percent of people with disabilities and 33.7 percent people without disabilities lived in houses or apartments build in or after 1990, meaning the recent construction gap was 6.0 percentage points.

Table 11. Home/Apt Constructed 1990 or later (%)

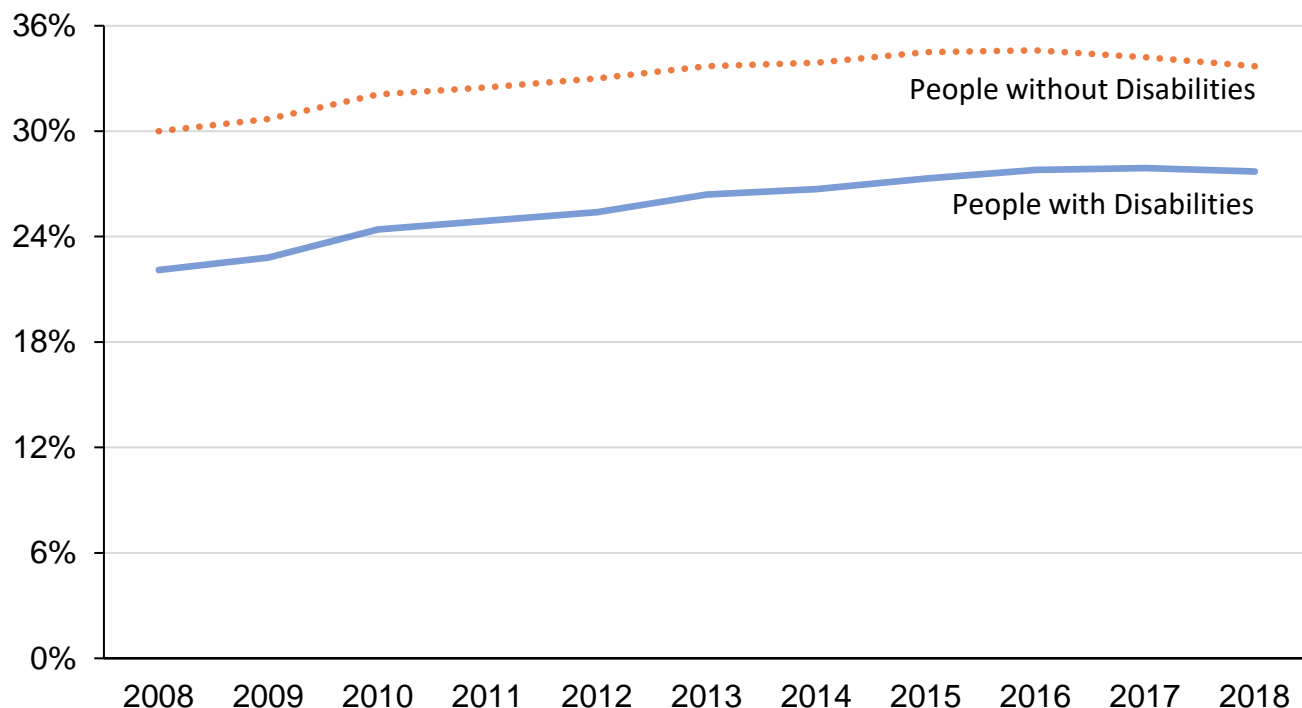
Year	People with Disabilities		People without Disabilities		Gap (% pts)	
	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
2008	22.1 [‡]	0.12	30.0 [‡]	0.07	7.9* [‡]	0.14
2009	22.8 ^{†‡}	0.14	30.7 ^{†‡}	0.06	7.9* [‡]	0.15
2010	24.4 ^{†‡}	0.13	32.1 ^{†‡}	0.06	7.7* [‡]	0.14
2011	24.9 ^{†‡}	0.16	32.5 ^{†‡}	0.07	7.6* [‡]	0.17
2012	25.4 ^{†‡}	0.14	33.0 ^{†‡}	0.06	7.6* [‡]	0.15
2013	26.4 ^{†‡}	0.13	33.7 [†]	0.06	7.3* [‡]	0.14
2014	26.7 ^{†‡}	0.12	33.9 ^{†‡}	0.07	7.2* [‡]	0.14
2015	27.3 ^{†‡}	0.13	34.5 ^{†‡}	0.06	7.2* [‡]	0.14
2016	27.8 [†]	0.12	34.6 [‡]	0.06	6.8* ^{†‡}	0.13
2017	27.9	0.14	34.2 ^{†‡}	0.06	6.3* [†]	0.15
2018	27.7	0.12	33.7 [†]	0.06	6.0*	0.13

* Significant at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

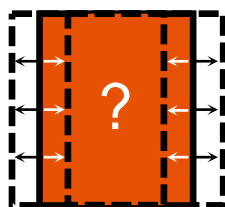
† Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

‡ Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 11. Percent Living in Home Constructed before 1990+

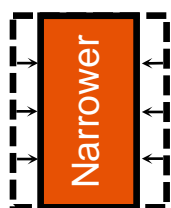


Comparisons & Statistical Significance



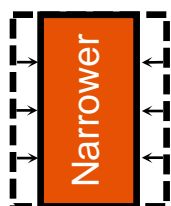
Did the recent construction gap decrease private health insurance gap narrow between 2017 and 2018?

CAN'T TELL. The recent construction gap appears to narrow between 2017 and 2018, from 6.3 to 6.0 percentage points. However, this narrowing is not statistically significant, meaning that it may be due to the estimates being derived from samples of the U.S. populations.



Did the recent construction gap narrow since the earliest year available, 2008?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the recent construction gap was detected between 2008 and 2018, increasing from 7.9 percentage points in 2008 to 6.0 percentage points in 2017.



Did the recent construction gap narrow between 2016 and 2018?

YES. A statistically significant narrowing of the recent construction gap was detected between 2016 and 2018, increasing from 6.8 percentage points in 2008 to 6.0 percentage points in 2017.

Disablement Index

(Focus Population: Civilians with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disabilities, ages 18-64 under, living in community settings)

THE CALL ...

The “Disablement Index” increased from 2017 to 2018.

The environment contributes to what is sometimes called the enablement/disablement process. For instance, being blind or having serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses (i.e., a vision disability) may be more disabling in areas without local mass transit. We have created what we are calling the Disablement Index to take a snapshot at the disabling nature of one’s local environment. This Index is reporting of independent living disability (i.e., difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping, due to a disability physical, mental, or emotional condition) among people with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disability. Table 12 shows that in 2018 an estimated 6,439,000 of the 19,179,000 people with a hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disability reported independent living disability—a Disability Index of 33.6 percent.

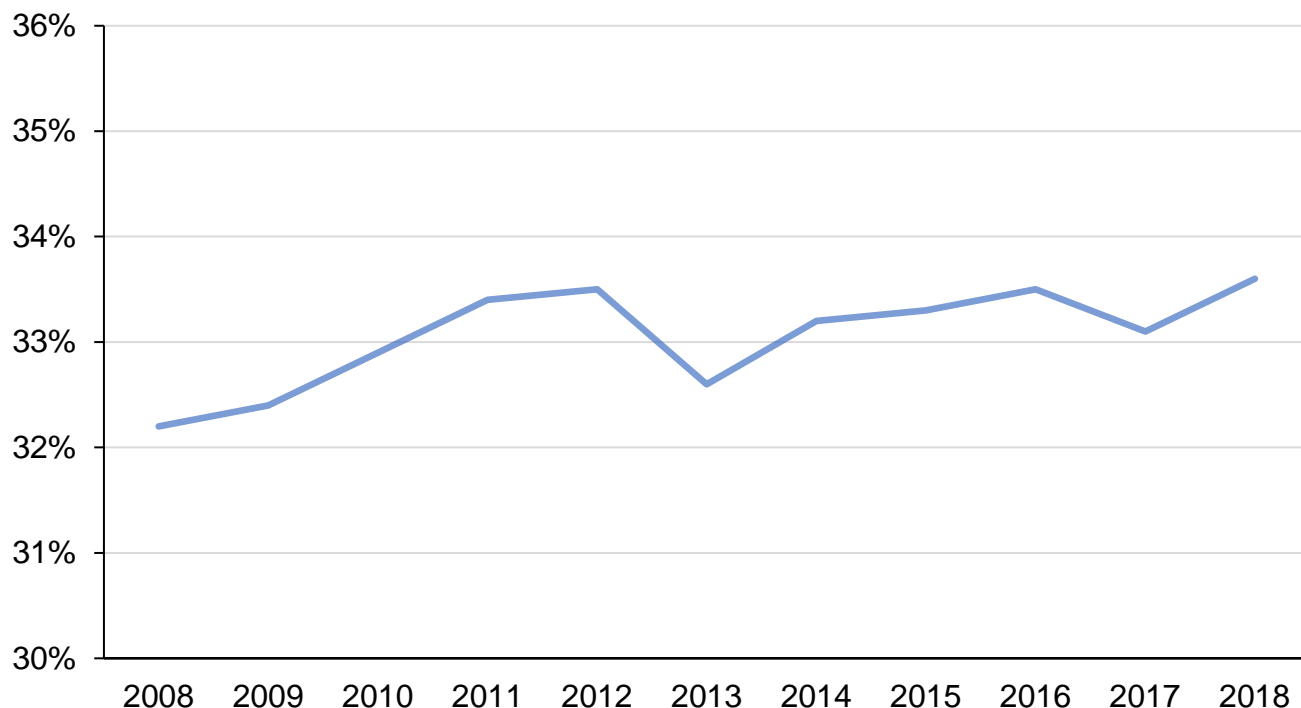
Table 12. Disablement Index

Year	People with Hearing, Vision, Ambulatory, and/or Cognitive Disability			
	Total	Disablement (Reporting of Independent Living Disability)		
	Estimate (#)	Estimate (#)	Estimate (%)	St. Error (% pts)
2008	18,210,000	5,866,000	32.2 [†]	0.15
2009	18,268,000	5,914,000	32.4 [†]	0.16
2010	18,232,000	5,995,000	32.9 ^{††}	0.15
2011	18,748,000	6,263,000	33.4 [†]	0.16
2012	18,749,000	6,285,000	33.5	0.15
2013	19,517,000	6,372,000	32.6 ^{††}	0.14
2014	19,642,000	6,525,000	33.2 ^{††}	0.15
2015	19,540,000	6,515,000	33.3	0.16
2016	19,929,000	6,676,000	33.5	0.15
2017	19,472,000	6,441,000	33.1 ^{††}	0.15
2018	19,179,000	6,439,000	33.6 [†]	0.14

[†] Significantly different from the previous year at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

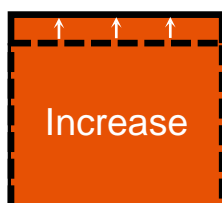
^{††} Significantly different from the 2018 estimate at the 5 percent level and a one-tailed test.

Figure 12. Disablement Index



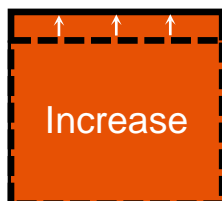
Comparisons & Statistical Significance

Did the Disablement Index increase between 2017 and 2018?



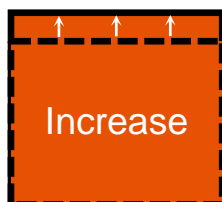
YES. A statistically significant increase in the percentage of persons with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disability that reported independent living disability was detected between 2017 and 2018, from 33.1 percent to 33.6 percent. This increase was statistically significant, meaning that this increase was not likely due to chance because the estimates are derived from samples of the U.S. populations in 2017 and 2018.

Did the Disablement Index increase since the earliest year available, 2008?



YES. A statistically significant increase in the percentage of persons with hearing, vision, ambulatory, and/or cognitive disability that reported independent living disability was detected between 2008 and 2018, from 32.2 percent to 33.6 percent.

Did the Disablement Index increase above the next highest year, 2016?



YES. The increase—from 33.5 percent in 2016 to 33.6 percent in 2018—was statistically significant.

Appendix

The six disability questions in the American Community Survey (ACS) are listed below as they appear in the 2019 English language questionnaire:

G. Answer question 17a if this person is covered by health insurance. Otherwise, SKIP to question 18a.

18. a. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
[yes or no]

b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses? [yes or no]

H. Answer questions 19a – c if this person is 5 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Person 2 on page 12.

19. a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
[yes or no]

b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
[yes or no]

c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing? [yes or no]

I. Answer question 20 if this person is 15 years old or over. Otherwise, SKIP to the questions for Persons 2 on page 12.

20. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?
[yes or no]

Glossary

American Community Survey (ACS) – The American Community Survey (ACS) is a large, continuous demographic survey conducted by the Census Bureau that will provide accurate and up-to-date profiles of America’s communities every year. Annual and multiyear estimates of population and housing data are generated for small areas, including tracts and population subgroups. This information is collected by mailing questionnaires to a sample of addresses. See the Census Bureau website for additional details.

Bachelor’s Degree or More – A person has attained a bachelor’s degree or more, if the person has received a bachelor’s degree (for example, BA and BS), master’s degree (for example, MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA), an advanced professional degree (for example, MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD), and/or a doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD).

Civilian – A person is a civilian, if the person is not in the active-duty military.

Disability – In the ACS, the Census Bureau used responses to six questions to identify whether a person has a disability. These questions ask about difficulties related to vision, hearing, cognition, ambulation, self-care, and independent living. (See Appendix for the wording these six questions.) A person is coded as having a disability, if an affirmative (yes) response is recorded from one or more of these difficulties.

Earnings – Earnings include wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs, before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items. Earnings are reported on an annual basis for the past 12 months reference period. The ACS is fielded over the course of the survey year.

Employed – Individuals were asked a series of questions designed to identify their employment status. Based on the answers, individuals were classified into one of five groups: (1) people who worked at any time during the reference week; (2) people on temporary layoff who were available for work; (3) people who did not work during the reference week but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent (excluding layoff); (4) people who did not work during the reference week, but who were looking for work during the last four weeks and were available for work during the reference week; and (5) people not in the labor force.

Gap – The difference between estimates of a given indicator (such as the percentage of people employed) for two different sub-populations, usually people with and without disabilities.

Full-Time, Full-Year – A person is considered to be a full-time, full-year worker, if the person worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months.

Health Insurance Coverage – A person is covered by health insurance, if it is indicated that the person is covered by: (a) insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member); (b) insurance purchased directly from an insurance

company (by this person or another family member); (c) Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities; (d) Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability; (e) TRICARE or other military health care; (f) VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care); (g) Indian Health Service; and/or (h) Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan.

Income – The ACS asks for income amounts for the following eight categories: (1) wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs (before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items); (2) self-employment income from own nonfarm businesses or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships (after business expenses); (3) interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; (4) Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; (5) Supplemental Security Income (SSI); (6) any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; (7) retirement, survivor, or disability pensions (not including Social Security); and (8) any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support or alimony. The sum of these incomes across all persons in a family is used to determine poverty. See the definition of poverty in this glossary.

Less than a High School Diploma – A person has attained less than a high school diploma, if the person has not received a high school diploma, General Equivalency Degree (GED), or alternative credential.

Living in the Community – A person lives in the community, if the person is not living in an institution, such as jail, prison, nursing home, and hospital. A college dormitory is not considered an institution.

No Difference Detected – No difference detected (i.e., statistical insignificance) is a statement, conveying that the *likelihood* of rejecting a null hypothesis, when it is true, is *above* a certain assumed *threshold*, such as 5 percent. For example, in Table 2, no difference was detected between the 2017 employment gap (41.0% pts) and the 2013 employment gap (40.9% pts). In other words, there is a less than a 95 percent chance that we have not detected a difference. Basically, given the data, we can't tell.

Noninstitutionalized Population – Individuals not living in institutions, such as jails, prisons, nursing homes, and hospitals. College dormitories are not considered institutions.

Population Size – The total number of inhabitants in a defined geographic area including all races, classes, and groups.

Poverty – The Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy, Directive 14 creates income thresholds (i.e., poverty lines) based on the cost of a standard bundle of goods and services that family needs. Different income thresholds are created based family size and age composition (i.e., number of persons under age 18 and number of persons 65 and older). In the ACS, information about income, household size, and household age composition is used to determine whether a person lives in a family with income below the poverty line of the person's family. See the definition of income in this glossary.

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files – The ACS PUMS files contain household- and individual-level data, pertaining to responses to the ACS questionnaire and other variables (such as sample weights). Data are edited to protect anonymity.

Sampling Error – Sampling error occurs when a statistic is estimated using a sample rather than the entire population.

Standard Error – The standard error is a measure of the deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples. It is a measure of how imprecisely a statistic is measured with respect to sampling error. It typically decreases as sample size increases and decreases as the variation in the phenomenon being measured decreases.

Statistical Significance – Statistical significance is a statement, conveying that the *likelihood* of rejecting a null hypothesis, when it is true, is *below* a certain assumed *threshold*, such as 5 percent. For example, in Table 2, the employment gap in 2017 is statistically significant, because based on the data, there is less than 5 percent chance of rejecting the null hypothesis that the employment gap between people with and without disabilities is greater than zero. In other words, we are 95 percent (or more) confident that we detected a gap between the employment-to-population ratio of people with disabilities and the employment-to-population ratio of people without disabilities.

About the Center

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (StatsRRTC)

Policymakers, program administrators, service providers, researchers, advocates for people with disabilities, and people with disabilities and their families need accessible, valid data/statistics to support their decisions related to policy improvements, program administration, service delivery, protection of civil rights, and major life activities. The StatsRRTC supports decision making through a variety of integrated research and outreach activities by (a) improving knowledge about and access to existing data, (b) generating the knowledge needed to improve future disability data collection, and (c) strengthening connections between the data from and regarding respondents, researchers, and decision makers. In this way, the StatsRRTC supports the improvement of service systems that advance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Led by the University of New Hampshire, the StatsRRTC is a collaborative effort involving the following partners: American Association of People with Disabilities, Center for Essential Management Services, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, Kessler Foundation, Mathematica Policy Research, and Public Health Institute.

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