



The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the country's largest cross-disability membership organization, organizes the disability community to be a powerful voice for change – politically, economically, and socially.

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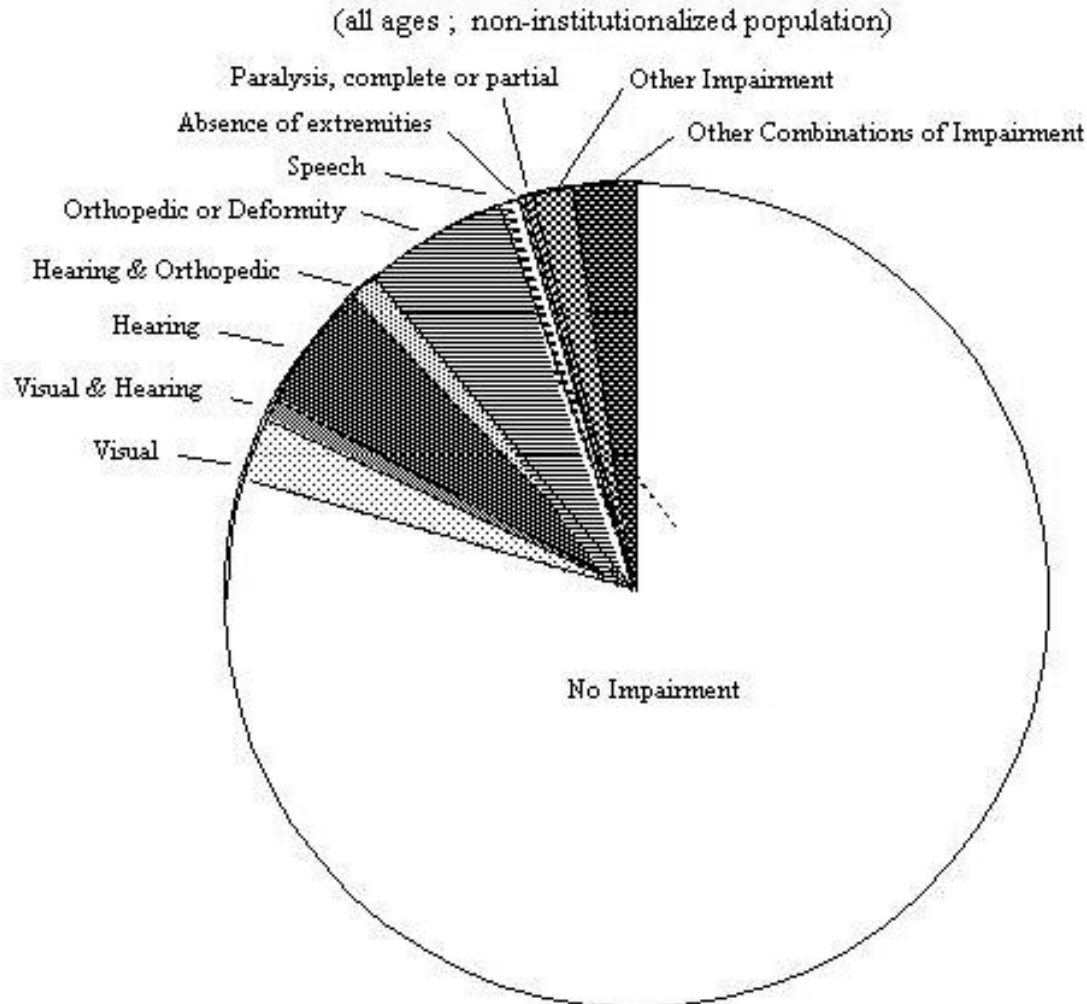
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What is Disability?

“Disability” is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment

Disabilities in the United States

Percent of U.S. Population with Selected Impairments



Source: 1979 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Most
Disabilities
are Invisible

“Invisible” Disabilities Include...

- Learning Disabilities
- Epilepsy
- Hearing Impairments
- Vision Impairments
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Psychiatric Disabilities
- Chronic Illnesses (Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes, etc.)

The Illiteracy-Disability Connection

- Approximately 40% of illiterate adults in the US have one or more disabilities
- Roughly 90% of students with multiple disabilities never acquire functional literacy skills

Disability, Poverty's Invisible Twin

- The poorer the community the greater the percentage of people with disabilities
- In Mississippi, the poorest state, 38% of the citizens are people with disabilities

The Help America Vote Act

- Requires People with Disabilities be able to vote privately and independently ... in the same time and manner as other voters
- One accessible voting device in every polling place
- Appropriated \$750 million for to buy accessible machines
- Requires a 10% state match in funds

Best Practices For Accommodating Voters with Disabilities

- The United States Department of Justice provides a detailed Survey Tool to assist Election Administrators with making polling places accessible at <http://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.htm>
- The Election Assistance Commission has a quick start guide available at [http://www.eac.gov/News/press/eac-releases-three-quick-start-management-guides/base view](http://www.eac.gov/News/press/eac-releases-three-quick-start-management-guides/base_view)
 - A new chapter on accessibility to be included in the Election Management guidelines will be available in the Fall of 2010

Voting System Manufacturers

- **Sequoia Voting Systems**

USSales@sequoiavote.com

717 17th Street, Suite 310

Denver, CO 80202

800.550.4621

Fax: 303.446.3047

- **Election Systems & Software**

Software@essvote.com

800.247.8683

11208 John Galt Blvd

Omaha, NE 68137

- **Dominion Voting Systems Corporation**

215 Spadina Ave, Suite 200,

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 2C7

866.654.VOTE (8683)

contact@dominionvoting.com

- **Hart InterCivic**

15500 Wells Port Drive

Austin, TX 78728

800.223.HART

FAX: 512.252.6466

info@hartic.com

- **EVERYONE COUNTS**

4445 Eastgate Mall, Suite 407

San Diego, CA 92121

contact@everyonecounts.com

866.843.4668

Fax: 858.876.1606

- **Premier Election Solutions**

- Recently Acquired by ES&S

- Products still available at

http://www.premierelections.com/secure_solutions/voting_equipment.html

2008 Presidential Election

- 14.7 million people with disabilities voted
- Turnout was 7% below the able-bodied population
- **[For a Full Report](#) on Disability Turnout in the 2008 Election**

Poll Worker Training to Accommodate People with Disabilities

- Disability Etiquette Guide:
<http://www.unitedspinal.org/pdf/DisabilityEtiquette.pdf>
- People First Language:
<http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/pfanguage.asp>
- Overall Poll Worker Training Guides:
 - North Carolina's *State Board of Elections Accessibility Videos*
<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/content.aspx?id=57>
 - Oregon's *Assisting Voters with Disabilities Training Video*
http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/HAVA/avwd_captions.wmv

Voter Participation by Type of Disability

	<u>Percent voting</u>	<u>Number who voted in mill.</u>
Overall	63.6%	131.1
People without disabilities	64.5%	116.4
People with disabilities	57.3%	14.7
Hearing impairment	63.1%	4.3
Visual impairment	56.8%	2.2
Mental or cognitive impairment	46.1%	3.5
Difficulty walking or climbing stairs	56.8%	8.8
Difficulty dressing or bathing	46.4%	2.0
Difficulty going outside alone	45.7%	4.0

Other Resources

- The Full Text of the Help America Vote Act:
http://www.justice.gov/crt/voting/hava/HAVA_2002.php
- The US Census Community Participation Survey for Elections Taken in Nov. 2008:
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/socdemo/voting/index.html>
- GAO Polling Place Accessibility Report
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09941.pdf>
- AAPD www.aapd.com
- American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging Voting and Cognitive Impairments
<http://new.abanet.org/aging/Pages/voting.aspx>

Other Resources Continued

- Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) <http://www.votingaccess.org/>
- United States Access Board has standards for physical access: <http://www.access-board.gov>
- A Tool to check Website Accessibility “Cynthia Says”: www.contentquality.com/
- A list of Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools by the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/RC/tools/>