COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
State Demography Office

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado in the 2017-2021 ACS

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado in the 2017-2021 ACS

According to the 2021 5-year American Community Survey, 10.8 percent, or 610,000 Colorado residents identified as having a disability. Among counties, the share of persons with disabilities ranges from a low of 4.3 percent in San Juan County and a high of 23.4 percent in Las Animas County. ${ }^{1}$ The share of the population with a disability varies by age, race, ethnicity, and type of disability. In addition, adults age 18-64 with disabilities earn less, are less likely to be employed, and are more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than adults without disabilities. Sixteen percent of persons with disabilities have incomes below the poverty line. The most commonly reported type of disability is an "ambulatory disability" with an estimated 264,600 persons reporting "difficulty climbing stairs."

This analysis presents a summary of Colorado residents identified as having a disability in the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS).

## Disability by Age

The percentage of persons in Colorado with a disability varies by age. Table 1 displays the number and percentage persons with disability by age group. It also shows the share of each age group with disabilities. The share with disabilities increases with age; 0.7 percent of persons under 4 years old and younger have disabilities increasing to 46.2 percent of persons age 75 and older.

In terms of the percentage distribution amongst persons with disabilities, 51.9 percent are working age (between 18 and 64 years old) and 40.3 percent are older than age 65 . In comparison, for the population as a whole, $63.3 \%$ are working age and $14.3 \%$ are older that age 65.

[^0]Table 1 Percentage of population with disabilities by age

|  | Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  | All Persons |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number |  | Share Distribution by Age |  | Number |  | Share Distribution by Age |  |  |
| Age Group | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share of Persons with Disability by Age Group |
| 0 to 4 | 2,260 | 456 | 0.4\% | 0.1\% | 324,246 | 681 | 5.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.7\% |
| 5 to 17 | 45,735 | 1,654 | 7.5\% | 0.3\% | 936,557 | 911 | 16.6\% | 0.0\% | 4.9\% |
| 18 to 34 | 89,138 | 2,558 | 14.6\% | 0.4\% | 1,369,054 | 1,613 | 24.3\% | 0.0\% | 6.5\% |
| 35 to 64 | 227,641 | 4,132 | 37.3\% | 0.6\% | 2,194,642 | 1,658 | 39.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.4\% |
| 65 to 74 | 111,530 | 2,334 | 18.3\% | 0.3\% | 514,189 | 729 | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 21.7\% |
| 75 and older | 134,311 | 2,122 | 22.0\% | 0.3\% | 290,824 | 741 | 5.2\% | 0.0\% | 46.2\% |
| Total | 610,615 | 6,043 | 100.1\% |  | 5,629,512 | 1,384 | 100.0\% |  | 10.8\% |

U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table B18101

## Disability by Age and Race and Ethnicity

Disability status varies by race and ethnicity as well as by age and race and ethnicity and is shown in Table 2. The Asian and Two or More race groups have a lower share than average with a disability (10.8\%) while all other race and ethnic groups had a higher share with American Indians/Alaska Natives the highest at 18\%.

Regardless of racial group, the share of persons with disabilities increases with age.
The groups with the highest share of persons under 17 with disabilities were persons identifying as Asians. The group with the largest share of persons with disabilities across the other age groups were persons identifying as American Indians/Alaska native. The share of people identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native age 65 and older with disabilities was 43.8 percent, the highest among all age groups.

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

Table 2 Disability Status by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group

|  | Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  | All Persons |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Race and Age Group | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Share of Persons with Disability by Age Group |
| Hispanic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 16,920 | 1,263 | 14.3\% | 1.0\% | 399,273 | 248 | 32.4\% | 0.0\% | 4.2\% |
| 18 to 64 | 70,243 | 2,439 | 59.2\% | 1.4\% | 748,811 | 887 | 60.7\% | 0.1\% | 9.4\% |
| 65 and Older | 31,391 | 1,267 | 26.5\% | 0.8\% | 84,657 | 358 | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 37.1\% |
| Total | 118,554 |  | 100.0\% |  | 1,232,741 |  | 100.0\% |  | 9.6\% |
| White, non-Hispanic |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 23,884 | 1,279 | 5.6\% | 0.3\% | 688,106 | 1,609 | 18.3\% | 0.0\% | 3.5\% |
| 18 to 64 | 206,043 | 4,081 | 48.4\% | 0.8\% | 2,414,676 | 2,461 | 64.1\% | 0.0\% | 8.5\% |
| 65 and Older | 195,916 | 2,678 | 46.0\% | 0.3\% | 663,857 | 1,103 | 17.6\% | 0.0\% | 29.5\% |
| Total | 425,843 |  | 100.0\% |  | 3,766,639 |  | 100.0\% |  | 11.3\% |
| Black/African American |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 2,796 | 444 | 10.0\% | 1.5\% | 56,917 | 1,702 | 25.5\% | 0.7\% | 4.9\% |
| 18 to 64 | 18,222 | 1,213 | 65.1\% | 2.9\% | 145,040 | 1,977 | 65.0\% | 0.2\% | 12.6\% |
| 65 and Older | 6,982 | 518 | 24.9\% | 1.4\% | 21,202 | 336 | 9.5\% | 0.1\% | 32.9\% |
| Total | 28,000 |  | 100.0\% |  | 223,159 |  | 100.0\% |  | 12.5\% |
| American Indian Alaska Native |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 812 | 209 | 8.8\% | 2.1\% | 11,567 | 882 | 22.6\% | 1.4\% | 7.0\% |
| 18 to 64 | 5,875 | 722 | 64.0\% | 5.4\% | 33,841 | 1,554 | 66.2\% | 1.3\% | 17.4\% |
| 65 and Older | 2,491 | 312 | 27.1\% | 2.4\% | 5,689 | 442 | 11.1\% | 0.7\% | 43.8\% |
| Total | 9,178 |  | 100.0\% |  | 51,097 |  | 100.0\% |  | 18.0\% |

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

Table 2 Disability Status by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group (Continued)

|  | Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  | All Persons |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Race and Age Group | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Share of Persons with <br> Disability by Age Group |
| Asian |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 1,040 | 221 | 8.3\% | 1.7\% | 36,944 | 1,147 | 20.3\% | 0.6\% | 17.4\% |
| 18 to 64 | 5,882 | 641 | 46.7\% | 3.9\% | 125,404 | 1,401 | 69.0\% | 0.2\% | 4.7\% |
| 65 and Older | 5,677 | 577 | 45.1\% | 3.3\% | 19,364 | 475 | 10.7\% | 0.2\% | 29.3\% |
| Total | 12,599 |  | 100.0\% |  | 181,712 |  | 100.0\% |  | 6.9\% |
| Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 80 | 56 | 7.2\% | 4.7\% | 1,722 | 325 | 21.5\% | 3.6\% | 4.6\% |
| 18 to 64 | 665 | 272 | 60.0\% | 18.5\% | 5,352 | 508 | 66.9\% | 2.7\% | 12.4\% |
| 65 and Older | 363 | 105 | 32.8\% | 3.6\% | 929 | 192 | 11.6\% | 2.2\% | 39.1\% |
| Total | 1,108 |  | 100.0\% |  | 8,003 |  | 100.0\% |  | 13.8\% |
| Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 3,113 | 581 | 10.8\% | 1.9\% | 67,368 | 2,932 | 26.3\% | 0.9\% | 4.6\% |
| 18 to 64 | 16,824 | 1,296 | 58.6\% | 2.7\% | 165,729 | 4,577 | 64.7\% | 0.4\% | 10.2\% |
| 65 and Older | 8,757 | 1,075 | 30.5\% | 3.2\% | 23,049 | 1,349 | 9.0\% | 0.5\% | 38.0\% |
| Total | 28,694 |  | 100.0\% |  | 256,146 |  | 100.0\% |  | 11.2\% |
| Two or More Races |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 to 17 | 7,313 | 763 | 16.1\% | 1.5\% | 171,361 | 4,050 | 36.3\% | 0.6\% | 4.3\% |
| 18 to 64 | 29,322 | 1,770 | 64.4\% | 2.6\% | 273,565 | 5,259 | 58.0\% | 0.5\% | 10.7\% |
| 65 and Older | 8,885 | 669 | 19.5\% | 1.2\% | 26,539 | 1,371 | 5.6\% | 0.3\% | 33.5\% |
| Total | 45,520 |  | 100.0\% |  | 471,465 |  | 100.0\% |  | 9.7\% |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Tables B18101A-I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Type of Disability by Age

Disability questions in the ACS vary by the age of the respondent. The parents of people younger than age 5 are asked whether the child has difficulty hearing or seeing, while results for persons with independent living disabilities are reported for people older than 18.

The most commonly reported type of disability is an "ambulatory disability." An estimated 264,600 persons responded positively to a question asking whether they had "serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs". This is 5.0 percent of the total population over age 5 (see Table 3)

Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

Table 3 Disability Type as a Percentage of Total Population

|  | Number of Persons with Disabilities |  | Percent of Total Population |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Estimate | Margin of Error |  |
| Hearing Disability | 198,413 | 3,261 | $3.5 \%$ |
| Vision Disability | 113,231 | 2,759 | $2.0 \%$ |
| Cognitive Disability | 233,348 | 4,143 | $4.4 \%$ |
| Ambulatory Disability | 264,635 | 4,018 | $5.0 \%$ |
| Self-Care Disability | 94,069 | 2,423 | $1.8 \%$ |
| Independent Living Disability | 188,761 | 3,434 | $4.3 \%$ |

U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table B18102 to B18107

Tables 4 to 6 show the percentage of respondents by type of disability and age. With the exception of persons with hearing disabilities, the age group with the largest share of a particular type of disabilities were between 35 and 64 years old. For people with hearing disabilities, the largest share were person 75 years and older.

Table 4 Disability by Type and Age: Hearing Disability and Vision Disability

|  | Hearing Disability |  |  |  | Vision Disability |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error |
| 0 to 4 | 1,084 | 255 | 0.5\% | 0.1\% | 1,556 | 401 | 1.4\% | 0.4\% |
| 5 to 17 | 5,841 | 663 | 2.9\% | 0.3\% | 7,327 | 639 | 6.5\% | 0.5\% |
| 18 to 34 | 14,061 | 1,093 | 7.1\% | 0.5\% | 16,630 | 1,198 | 14.7\% | 1.0\% |
| 35 to 64 | 58,875 | 1,911 | 29.7\% | 0.8\% | 44,878 | 1,769 | 39.6\% | 1.2\% |
| 65 to 74 | 49,312 | 1,544 | 24.9\% | 0.7\% | 17,031 | 1,019 | 15.0\% | 0.8\% |
| 75 and Older | 69,240 | 1,702 | 34.9\% | 0.6\% | 25,809 | 1,200 | 22.8\% | 0.9\% |
| Total | 198,413 | 3,261 | 100.0\% |  | 113,231 | 2,759 | 100.0\% |  |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table B18102 and B18103 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

Table 5 Disability by Type and Age: Cognitive Disability and Ambulatory Disability

|  | Cognitive Disability |  |  |  | Ambulatory Disability |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Age | Estimate | Margin <br> of Error | Share <br> Distribution <br> by Age | Margin <br> of Error |  | Estimate | Margin <br> of Error | Distribution <br> by Age |
| 0 to 4 |  |  |  |  |  | Margin <br> of Error |  |  |
| 5 to 17 | 33,992 | 1,483 | $14.6 \%$ | $0.6 \%$ | 5,108 | 586 | $1.9 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| 18 to 34 | 54,652 | 2,132 | $23.4 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | 14,649 | 1,140 | $5.5 \%$ | $0.4 \%$ |
| 35 to 64 | 88,072 | 2,594 | $37.7 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | 106,847 | 2,829 | $40.4 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ |
| 65 to 74 | 23,037 | 1,252 | $9.9 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ | 57,778 | 1,835 | $21.8 \%$ | $0.6 \%$ |
| 75 and | 33,595 | 1,458 | $14.4 \%$ | $0.6 \%$ | 80,253 | 1,770 | $30.3 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Older |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 233,348 | 4,143 | $100.0 \%$ |  | 264,635 | 4,018 | $100.0 \%$ |  |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table B18104 and B18105 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 6 Disability by Type and Age: Self-Care Disability and Independent Living Disability

|  | Self-Care Disability |  |  |  | Independent Living Disability |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error |
| 0 to 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 to 17 | 8,782 | 783 | 9.3\% | 0.8\% |  |  |  |  |
| 18 to 34 | 8,277 | 740 | 8.8\% | 0.8\% | 31,510 | 1,766 | 16.7\% | 0.9\% |
| 35 to 64 | 34,369 | 1,619 | 36.5\% | 1.4\% | 69,651 | 2,168 | 36.9\% | 0.9\% |
| 65 to 74 | 14,246 | 810 | 15.1\% | 0.8\% | 29,170 | 1,329 | 15.5\% | 0.6\% |
| 75 and Older | 28,395 | 1,196 | 30.2\% | 1.0\% | 58,430 | 1,487 | 31.0\% | 0.6\% |
| Total | 94,069 | 2,423 | 100.0\% |  | 188,761 | 3,434 | 100.0\% |  |
| U.S. Cens | eau (202) | 2017-202 | American | unity | vey 5-year | ata. Tabl | B18106 and | 8107 |

Employment by Disability for the Working Age Population
Fifty-three percent of people with disabilities age 18 to 64 report being in the labor force compared to persons without disabilities in the labor force, at 84 percent. The number of persons with disabilities in the labor force total is estimated 169,200 persons (see Table 7).

Table 7 Percentage of Labor Force Participation by Disability Status, Age 18 to 64

|  | In Labor force |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error |
| Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 53.4\% | 0.7\% | 46.6\% | 1.0\% |
| Total | 169,217 | 3,600 | 147,562 | 4,007 |
| Persons without Disabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 84.1\% | 0.1\% | 15.9\% | 0.2\% |
| Total | 2,729,565 | 7,800 | 517,352 | 5,845 |
| All Persons |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 81.3\% | 0.2\% | 18.7\% | 0.2\% |
| Total | 2,898,782 | 6,535 | 664,914 | 6,386 |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table C18120 |  |  |  |  |

Among people with disabilities in the labor force, 89 percent report being employed, an estimated 150,700 persons. The percentage unemployed, roughly 11 percent, is nearly three times unemployment rate for people without disabilities (see Table 8).

Table 8 Percentage of Employment by Disability Status, Persons in Labor Force, Age 18 to 64

|  | Employed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error |
| Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 89.1\% | 0.7\% | 10.9\% | 0.7\% |
| Total | 150,699 | 3,392 | 18,518 | 1,206 |
| Persons without Disabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 95.9\% | 0.1\% | 4.1\% | 0.1\% |
| Total | 2,616,365 | 7,151 | 113,200 | 3,115 |
| All Persons |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 95.5\% | 0.1\% | 4.5\% | 0.1\% |
| Total | 2,767,064 | 7,304 | 131,718 | 3,120 |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table C18120 |  |  |  |  |

The percentage of persons with disabilities reporting that they did not work is higher than the percentage for persons without disabilities. The percentage of people with disabilities employed in a full-time position is lower than percentage of people without disabilities ( 30 percent versus 59 percent, respectively), although the percentage employed less than full-time is comparable ( 26 percent versus 28 percent, respectively) as shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Percentage of Work Status by Disability Status, Age 18 to 64

|  | Worked Full Time |  | Worked Less than Full Time |  | Did not Work |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error |
| Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 30.2\% | 0.6\% | 25.9\% | 0.7\% | 43.9\% | 0.9\% |
| Total | 95,695 | 2,486 | 82,159 | 2,619 | 138,925 | 3,761 |
| Persons without Disabilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 59.3\% | 16.3\% | 27.5\% | 7.6\% | 13.2\% | 3.6\% |
| Total | 1,925,495 | 9,033 | 893,963 | 7,514 | 427,459 | 6,077 |
| All Persons |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage | 56.7\% | 0.2\% | 27.4\% | 0.2\% | 15.9\% | 0.2\% |
| Total | 2,021,190 | 8,893 | 976,122 | 7,523 | 566,384 | 6,833 |

## Earnings and Poverty Status by Disability

Earnings vary by disability status. Figure 1 shows the median income of persons with disabilities age 18 to 64. The median earnings estimate for persons with disabilities in the labor force (age18 to 64) is $\$ 29,500$, compared to $\$ 43,500$ for persons without disabilities.

Figure 1 Median Earnings by Disability


According to the 2017-2021 ACS, 9.6 percent of Colorado's population had incomes below the poverty level. ${ }^{2}$ The ACS reports that 16 percent of persons with a disability have incomes below the poverty level, compared to 8.8 percent of persons without disabilities, as seen in Table 10. ${ }^{3}$

[^1]Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

Table 10 Percentage with Incomes below the Poverty Level by Age and Disability

|  | Persons with a Disability |  |  |  | Persons without a Disability |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error | Share Distribution by Age | Margin of Error |
| 0 to 17 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Below Poverty Level | 8,632 | 917 | 18.4\% | 1.8\% | 133,189 | 4,730 | 11.1\% | 0.4\% |
| At or Above Poverty Level | 38,398 | 1,598 | 81.6\% | 1.5\% | 1,065,138 | 5,362 | 88.9\% | 0.4\% |
| Total | 47,030 | 1,767 | 100.0\% |  | 1,198,327 | 2,179 | 100.0\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 to 64 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Below Poverty Level | 64,285 | 2,441 | 20.4\% | 0.7\% | 269,721 | 5,249 | 8.4\% | 0.2\% |
| At or Above Poverty Level | 250,746 | 5,068 | 79.6\% | 0.8\% | 2,943,903 | 7,169 | 91.6\% | 0.1\% |
| Total | 315,031 | 5,480 | 100.0\% |  | 3,213,624 | 5,825 | 100.0\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 65 and Older |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Below Poverty Level | 24,934 | 1,486 | 10.1\% | 0.6\% | 34,731 | 1,446 | 6.2\% | 0.3\% |
| At or Above Poverty Level | 220,907 | 2,889 | 89.9\% | 0.2\% | 524,434 | 3,273 | 93.8\% | 0.2\% |
| Total | 245,841 | 3,259 | 100.0\% |  | 559,165 | 3,302 | 100.0\% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Below Poverty Level | 97,851 | 3,001 | 16.1\% | 0.5\% | 437,641 | 7,212 | 8.8\% | 0.1\% |
| At or Above Poverty Level | 510,051 | 6,049 | 83.9\% | 0.3\% | 4,533,475 | 9,532 | 91.2\% | 0.1\% |
| Total | 607,902 | 6,752 | 100.0\% |  | 4,971,116 | 11,953 | 100.0\% |  |
| U.S. Census Bureau (2022) 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year data. Table C18130 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

For all ages the percentage of persons with disabilities below the poverty level is higher than the percentage of persons without disabilities. For all persons with disabilities, the percentage in poverty is roughly twice that of persons without disabilities. For persons of working age (age 18 to 64 ), 20.4 percent of those with disabilities are below the poverty level, compared to 8.4 of persons without disabilities. The probability that someone of working age with a disability with an income below the poverty level is approximately 2.3 times higher than for someone without a disability. The difference for ages 0 to 17 and 65 and older is lower.

## Conclusion

This summary of disability data in the ACS puts the situation of persons with disabilities in context.

To summarize:

- Persons with disability were 10.8 percent of the total population according to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey. The percentage of persons with disabilities increases with age. For persons age 4 and younger, 0.7 percent of that age groups were identified as having a disability, compares to 46.2 percent of persons 75 and older.
- The White - not Hispanic, Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and persons identifying as an "Other" race have a larger share of their population with a disability than the state average of $10.8 \%$ Regardless of racial group, the general pattern of the share of persons with disabilities increases with age.
- The most common type of disability is an "Ambulatory Disability", measures by a positive response to a question asking if a respondent had "difficulty climbing stairs." These persons are 5.0 percent of persons older than age 5.
- Adults with disabilities earn less, are less likely to be employed, and are more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than adults without disabilities. The median earnings estimate for working age persons with disabilities is $\$ 29,500$, compared to $\$ 43,500$ for persons without disabilities.
- Sixteen percent of persons with disabilities have incomes below the poverty line, compared to 8.8 percent of persons without disabilities.


## Disability in the ACS

The analysis summarizes the total number of Colorado residents identified as having one or more of six general categories of disability ${ }^{4}$ :

- Hearing Disability (ACS question 17a)
- Vision Disability (ACS question 17b)
- Cognitive Disability (ACS question 18a)
- Ambulatory Disability (ACS question 18b)
- Self-Care Disability (ACS questions 18c)
- Independent Living Disability (ACS question 19)

The applicability of these categories vary by age. For example, persons under age 5 are classified as having a disability if they have hearing or vision disabilities only, while only persons over 18 are asked about independent living disabilities.

It is important to note that the data on disability is based on survey responses, not on a clinical diagnosis. In many cases, the respondent to the survey or reference person is reporting about dependents (both children and older adults). While this data may not provide detailed information about specific conditions, it does provide a general sense of the prevalence of "disability" within Colorado's population. ${ }^{5}$

[^2]Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

## Appendix A: ACS tables summarizing disability data

| Table Number | Table Title | Universe | Datasets |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| S1810 | DISABILITY CHARACTERISTICS |  | 1,5 |
| S1811 | SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR <br> THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED <br> POPULATION BY DISABILITY STATUS |  | 1,5 |
| B10052 | DISABILITY STATUS OF GRANDPARENTS <br> LIVING WITH OWN GRANDCHILDREN UNDER <br> 18 YEARS BY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OWN <br> GRANDCHILDREN AND AGE OF <br> GRANDPARENT | Civilian grandparents living with own <br> grandchildren under 18 years | 1,5 |
| B18101 | SEX BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS | Civilian noninstitutionalized <br> population | 1,5 |
| B18101A | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (WHITE ALONE) | White alone civilian <br> noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18101B | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (BLACK OR <br> AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) | Black or African American alone <br> civilian noninstitutionalized <br> population | 1,5 |
| B18101C | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (AMERICAN <br> INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE) | American Indian and Alaska Native <br> alone civilian noninstitutionalized <br> population | 1,5 |
| B18101D | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (ASIAN ALONE) | Asian alone civilian <br> noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18101E | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (NATIVE <br> HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER <br> ALONE) | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific <br> Islander alone civilian <br> noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18101F | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (SOME OTHER <br> RACE ALONE) | Some other race alone civilian <br> noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18101G | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (TWO OR MORE <br> RACES) | Two or more races civilian <br> noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18101H | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS (WHITE ALONE, <br> NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO) | White alone, not Hispanic or Latino <br> $i v i l i a n ~ n o n i n s t i t u t i o n a l i z e d ~$ |  |
| population |  |  |  |
| Hispanic or Latino civilian |  |  |  |
| noninstitutionalized population |  |  |  |$\quad 1,5$

Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

| Table Number | Table Title | Universe | Datasets |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B18107 | SEX BY AGE BY INDEPENDENT LIVING DIFFICULTY | Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 years and over | 1,5 |
| B18120 | EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE | Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years | 1 |
| B18121 | WORK EXPERIENCE BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE | Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years | 1 |
| B18130 | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS BY POVERTY STATUS | Civilian noninstitutionalized population for whom poverty status is determined | 1 |
| B18131 | AGE BY RATIO OF INCOME TO POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND TYPE | Civilian noninstitutionalized population for whom poverty status is determined | 1 |
| B18135 | AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS BY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS | Civilian noninstitutionalized population | 1,5 |
| B18140 | MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) BY DISABILITY STATUS BY SEX FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER WITH EARNINGS | Civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and over with earnings in the past 12 months | 1,5 |
| B21007 | AGE BY VETERAN STATUS BY POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY DISABILITY STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER | Civilian population 18 years and over for whom poverty status is determined | 1 |
| B21100 | SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY-RATING STATUS AND RATINGS FOR CIVILIAN VETERANS 18 YEARS AND OVER | Civilian veterans 18 years and over | 1,5 |
| B22010 | RECEIPT OF FOOD STAMPS/SNAP IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY DISABILITY STATUS FOR HOUSEHOLDS | Households | 1,5 |
| B23024 | POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY DISABILITY STATUS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 20 TO 64 YEARS | Population 20 to 64 years for whom poverty status is determined | 1,5 |
| B26108 | GROUP QUARTERS TYPE (3 TYPES) BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS | Total population | 1,5 |
| B26208 | GROUP QUARTERS TYPE (5 TYPES) BY AGE BY DISABILITY STATUS | Total population | 1,5 |

## Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

## Appendix B: Disability Counts by County

## Percent of People with Disabilities by Age by County

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Table: B18101
Data Set: 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Universe: Population Living in Households

|  |  | Total Population |  | Persons with Disabilities |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FIPS | Geographic Area | Estimate | Margin of Error (+/-) | Estimate | Margin of Error (+/-) | Percent | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| 08 | Colorado | 5,629,512 | 1,384 | 610,615 | 6,043 | 10.80\% | 0.10\% |
| 08001 | Adams County | 511,703 | 605 | 55,788 | 1,863 | 10.90\% | 0.40\% |
| 08003 | Alamosa County | 15,937 | 201 | 2,684 | 364 | 16.80\% | 2.30\% |
| 08005 | Arapahoe County | 645,109 | 567 | 64,303 | 1,799 | 10.00\% | 0.30\% |
| 08007 | Archuleta County | 13,154 | 37 | 1,996 | 287 | 15.20\% | 2.20\% |
| 08009 | Baca County | 3,440 | 40 | 649 | 87 | 18.90\% | 2.50\% |
| 08011 | Bent County | 4,227 | 476 | 895 | 167 | 21.20\% | 3.10\% |
| 08013 | Boulder County | 326,590 | 324 | 27,336 | 1,177 | 8.40\% | 0.40\% |
| 08014 | Broomfield County | 72,334 | 193 | 5,612 | 451 | 7.80\% | 0.60\% |
| 08015 | Chaffee County | 18,099 | 255 | 2,257 | 360 | 12.50\% | 2.00\% |
| 08017 | Cheyenne County | 1,653 | 152 | 175 | 51 | 10.60\% | 2.90\% |
| 08019 | Clear Creek County | 9,307 | 100 | 1,175 | 269 | 12.60\% | 2.90\% |
| 08021 | Conejos County | 7,544 | 18 | 1,445 | 138 | 19.20\% | 1.80\% |
| 08023 | Costilla County | 3,517 | 13 | 837 | 130 | 23.80\% | 3.70\% |
| 08025 | Crowley County | 4,909 | 609 | 1,133 | 247 | 23.10\% | 4.10\% |
| 08027 | Custer County | 4,713 | 16 | 777 | 198 | 16.50\% | 4.20\% |
| 08029 | Delta County | 29,943 | 232 | 5,478 | 452 | 18.30\% | 1.50\% |
| 08031 | Denver County | 700,834 | 718 | 67,782 | 2,017 | 9.70\% | 0.30\% |
| 08033 | Dolores County | 2,288 | 1 | 260 | 86 | 11.40\% | 3.80\% |
| 08035 | Douglas County | 350,173 | 486 | 24,135 | 1,102 | 6.90\% | 0.30\% |
| 08037 | Eagle County | 55,508 | 133 | 3,401 | 536 | 6.10\% | 1.00\% |
| 08039 | Elbert County | 25,812 | 49 | 2,179 | 252 | 8.40\% | 1.00\% |
| 08041 | El Paso County | 688,484 | 1,715 | 85,842 | 2,270 | 12.50\% | 0.30\% |
| 08043 | Fremont County | 38,411 | 930 | 6,948 | 490 | 18.10\% | 1.20\% |
| 08045 | Garfield County | 60,599 | 161 | 5,467 | 579 | 9.00\% | 1.00\% |
| 08047 | Gilpin County | 5,744 | 80 | 644 | 216 | 11.20\% | 3.80\% |
| 08049 | Grand County | 15,578 | 25 | 1,068 | 272 | 6.90\% | 1.70\% |
| 08051 | Gunnison County | 16,802 | 65 | 1,359 | 257 | 8.10\% | 1.50\% |
| 08053 | Hinsdale County | 858 | 102 | 154 | 41 | 17.90\% | 4.30\% |
| 08055 | Huerfano County | 6,658 | 85 | 1,487 | 278 | 22.30\% | 4.20\% |
| 08057 | Jackson County | 1,370 | 145 | 198 | 81 | 14.50\% | 5.70\% |
| 08059 | Jefferson County | 573,927 | 563 | 58,891 | 1,679 | 10.30\% | 0.30\% |

Persons with Disabilities in Colorado

|  |  | Total Pop | ulation |  | Persons wit | Disabilities |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FIPS | Geographic Area | Estimate | Margin of Error (+/-) | Estimate | Margin of Error (+/-) | Percent | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| 08061 | Kiowa County | 1,390 | 145 | 148 | 45 | 10.60\% | 3.10\% |
| 08063 | Kit Carson County | 6,996 | 67 | 1,219 | 163 | 17.40\% | 2.30\% |
| 08065 | Lake County | 7,377 | 19 | 1,039 | 378 | 14.10\% | 5.10\% |
| 08067 | La Plata County | 55,218 | 163 | 5,265 | 503 | 9.50\% | 0.90\% |
| 08069 | Larimer County | 351,839 | 422 | 35,349 | 1,434 | 10.00\% | 0.40\% |
| 08071 | Las Animas County | 14,138 | 126 | 3,438 | 284 | 24.30\% | 2.00\% |
| 08073 | Lincoln County | 3,903 | 193 | 591 | 91 | 15.10\% | 2.20\% |
| 08075 | Logan County | 21,297 | 173 | 3,150 | 379 | 14.80\% | 1.80\% |
| 08077 | Mesa County | 153,606 | 333 | 23,118 | 1,108 | 15.10\% | 0.70\% |
| 08079 | Mineral County | 790 | 125 | 84 | 40 | 10.60\% | 4.70\% |
| 08081 | Moffat County | 13,082 | 97 | 2,008 | 270 | 15.30\% | 2.10\% |
| 08083 | Montezuma County | 25,767 | 92 | 4,367 | 441 | 16.90\% | 1.70\% |
| 08085 | Montrose County | 41,992 | 143 | 5,845 | 454 | 13.90\% | 1.10\% |
| 08087 | Morgan County | 28,490 | 164 | 3,021 | 335 | 10.60\% | 1.20\% |
| 08089 | Otero County | 18,501 | 79 | 3,801 | 416 | 20.50\% | 2.20\% |
| 08091 | Ouray County | 4,850 | 1 | 636 | 135 | 13.10\% | 2.80\% |
| 08093 | Park County | 17,256 | 107 | 1,880 | 333 | 10.90\% | 1.90\% |
| 08095 | Phillips County | 4,426 | 73 | 618 | 128 | 14.00\% | 2.90\% |
| 08097 | Pitkin County | 17,433 | 25 | 1,474 | 429 | 8.50\% | 2.50\% |
| 08099 | Prowers County | 11,836 | 31 | 2,096 | 238 | 17.70\% | 2.00\% |
| 08101 | Pueblo County | 164,193 | 604 | 30,891 | 1,105 | 18.80\% | 0.70\% |
| 08103 | Rio Blanco County | 6,370 | 25 | 943 | 147 | 14.80\% | 2.30\% |
| 08105 | Rio Grande County | 11,339 | 76 | 2,359 | 328 | 20.80\% | 2.90\% |
| 08107 | Routt County | 24,767 | 57 | 1,820 | 305 | 7.30\% | 1.20\% |
| 08109 | Saguache County | 6,340 | 29 | 1,000 | 170 | 15.80\% | 2.70\% |
| 08111 | San Juan County | 698 | 141 | 30 | 42 | 4.30\% | 6.00\% |
| 08113 | San Miguel County | 8,070 | 8 | 440 | 122 | 5.50\% | 1.50\% |
| 08115 | Sedgwick County | 2,432 | 173 | 485 | 81 | 19.90\% | 3.00\% |
| 08117 | Summit County | 30,969 | 45 | 1,852 | 394 | 6.00\% | 1.30\% |
| 08119 | Teller County | 24,468 | 66 | 3,543 | 426 | 14.50\% | 1.70\% |
| 08121 | Washington County | 4,562 | 119 | 499 | 78 | 10.90\% | 1.70\% |
| 08123 | Weld County | 320,067 | 345 | 34,381 | 1,288 | 10.70\% | 0.40\% |
| 08125 | Yuma County | 9,825 | 63 | 870 | 166 | 8.90\% | 1.70\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Compiled by the Colorado State Demography Office |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

See the complete tabulation of persons with disabilities by age by county: 2021 B18101 Persons with
Disabilities by County.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ See the number and percentage of persons with disabilities by age by county: 2021 B18101 Persons with Disabilities by County.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ See U.S. Census Bureau (2022), 2017-2021 American Community Survey, Table S1701
    ${ }^{3}$ In understanding this table, it is important to note that in the ACS poverty status is a household measure, not an individual measure. The assumption made by the Census Bureau is if a household has an income below the poverty level, all individuals in that household have an income below the poverty level. See J. Creamer et al. (2022) Poverty in the United States: 2021. U.S. Census Bureau. https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf

    This means that the interpretation of these percentages varies by respondent age. As mentioned above, respondents younger than 18 are assumed to be too young to participate in the labor force, and the percentages in Table 12 reflect the poverty status of their families. Persons age 18 to 64 are assumed to be in the labor force, while person over 65 are assumed to be retired.

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ See 2021 American Community Survey Subject Definitions, pp 62-64 for a description of the questions used to determine disability. https://www2.census.gov/programssurveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2021_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf The 2021 ACS questionnaire is available here: https://www2.census.gov/programssurveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2021/quest21.pdf ${ }^{5}$ Appendix A lists the tables in the American Community Survey summarizing data on persons with disabilities. These tables can be accessed at https://data.census.gov/

