



## World Court of Women Disability and Poverty in the US: Sources

**Fact:** The National Center on Disability and Journalism defines disability as a functional limitation that affects "one or more of the major life activities, including walking, lifting, learning, breathing, etc."

**Source:** National Center on Disability and Journalism: Style Guide;  
<http://ncdj.org/style-guide/#general>

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**Fact:** Measures of income poverty that fail to take disability into account likely underestimate the income people with disabilities need to meet basic needs.

**Source:** Center for Economic Policy and Research

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**Fact:** People with disabilities are much more likely to experience various forms of material hardship—including food insecurity, are denied needed medical or dental care, and unable to pay typical rent, mortgage, and utility bills—than people without disabilities, even after controlling for income and other characteristics.

**Source:** Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Unemployment Among Persons with a Disability, 2011*;  
[http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted\\_20120625.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20120625.htm)

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### Facts:

- Almost half of working-age adults who experience income poverty for at least a 12-month period have one or more disabilities.
- Nearly two-thirds of working-age adults who experience consistent income poverty—more than 36 months of income poverty during a 48-month period—have one or more disabilities.
- Male household heads reaching their mid-50s have a 53% chance of having been disabled at least once and a 19% chance of having begun a chronic and severe disability.
- Workers who provide care to people with disabilities are among the lowest paid. The median wage for nursing aides (including orderlies and attendants) was \$11.46 an hour in May 2008 (\$23,850 if working full time, year round); for home health aids, it was \$9.84 an hour (\$20,460 if working full-time, year-round). In 2007, the median annual earnings for all direct care workers was just \$17,000, less than the official poverty threshold that year for a family of three.

**Source:** Center for Economic Policy and Research.

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**Fact:** In the United States, women with disabilities make up a disproportionately large portion of those living in poverty.

**Source:** Parish, Susan, Roderick Rose, and Megan Andrews. "Income Poverty and Material Hardship among U.S. Women with Disabilities." *Social Service Review*. 83.1 (2009): 33-52.

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**Fact:** Men and women with disabilities have similar rates of unemployment; men with disabilities make up a slightly higher percentage (15.3% rate of unemployment) than their female counterparts (14.7% rate of unemployment).

**Source:** Bureau of Labor Statistics: *Labor Force Characteristics of Persons with a Disability in 2010*; [http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2011/ted\\_20110628.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2011/ted_20110628.htm)

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**Fact:** Women with disabilities are less likely to marry, which result in less access to the resources of a wage-earning spouse.

**Source:** Parish, Susan, Roderick Rose, and Megan Andrews. "Income Poverty and Material Hardship among U.S. Women with Disabilities." *Social Service Review*. 83.1 (2009): 33-52.