Facts & Figures

The 2011 Annual Report on Disability in New Hampshire

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Institute on Disability
University of New Hampshire

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10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101
Durham, NH 03824
603.862.4320 | relay: 711 | contact.iod@unh.edu

www.iod.unh.edu

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Facts & Figures

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Introduction

Information drives change. Statistics are a powerful form of information used in policymaking, program evaluation, research, and advocacy. Statistics are frequently used to frame the issues, monitor current circumstances and progress, judge the effectiveness of policies and programs, make projections about the future, and predict the costs of potential policy changes. They are particularly powerful when they address the specific populations in question. For instance, the great benefit of the decennial census is its ability to provide very local information.

Statistics about the population with disabilities and about the government programs that serve people with disabilities—disability statistics—are often difficult to find. Numerous government agencies generate and publish disability statistics, and as a result, disability statistics are scattered and buried in documents and websites all across the federal and state governments.

Facts & Figures is a new annual publication of the Institute on Disability (IOD) at the University of New Hampshire focusing on the population with disabilities in New Hampshire, with comparisons to neighboring states and the nation. Together, *Facts & Figures,* the IOD's *To The Point: An Introduction to Disability in the Granite State* (www.iod.unh.edu), and the *Annual Disability Statistics Compendium* (www.disabilitycompendium.org) are intended to provide a comprehensive picture of important issues related to disability.

Topics

While there are many issues which impact the disability community in New Hampshire, *Facts & Figures* focuses on four key topic areas: demographics, education, economic well-being, and participation in government programs. Demographic statistics provide a basic framing of the size and composition of the population with disabilities in New Hampshire. The education section explores the presence of students with disabilities in a regular classroom setting. Statistics on economic well-being focus on employment and poverty, while government program statistics focus on participation in specific programs as well as costs. In future years, we hope to expand to new topics, such as health behaviors and access.

Layout

For each of these four topics, *Facts & Figures* (a) provides a brief discussion of the topic, (b) highlights a relevant statistic with a figure, and (c) presents a table with additional statistics.

Data Sources

The statistics in *Facts & Figures* are primarily drawn from the *Annual Disability Statistics Compendium*, which in turn draws from the Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey (ACS), as well as administrative reports from government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration. The bottom of each table provides documentation on the *Compendium* tables from which the statistics are drawn and other relevant sources.

Additional Resources

Facts & Figures is designed to serve as a reference guide to government publications. These referenced sources contain additional statistics, as well as information about the way the data were collected and generated. Assistance in interpreting and locating additional statistics is available via our toll-free number, 866-538-9521.

The *Annual Disability Statistics Compendium* may be found at www.DisabilityCompendium.org. The *Compendium* contains a more comprehensive set of statistics related to disability.

Population Statistics

Population Size

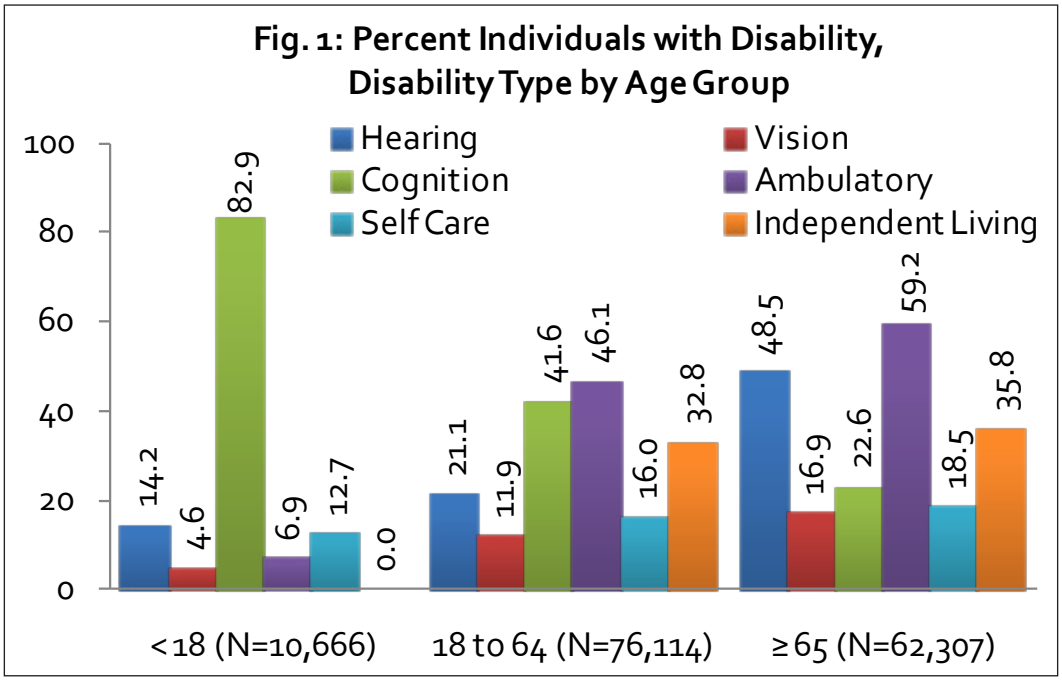
Understanding the size and diversity of the population with disabilities is critically important. Population statistics are an important foundation for such understanding. For instance, they provide insight into the allocation and types of services needed to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities. According to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey (ACS), among the estimated 1,308,729 New Hampshire individuals living in the community, an estimated 149,087 (or 11.4%) reported having one or more disabilities (this does not include people living in institutions or individuals in the Armed Forces, for which statistics are currently unavailable). The percentage of individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire is smaller than the percentage of individuals with disabilities in Vermont (13.6%) and Maine (16.1%) and larger than the percentage of individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts (11.2%).

Age and Disability

The percentage of people reporting disability (i.e., the prevalence of disability) varies across age groups—typically increasing with age. In New Hampshire, in 2009, the prevalence of disability was 4% for individuals under 18 years old, 9% for individuals ages 18 to 64, and 37% for individuals 65 years and over.

Disability Type

The population with disabilities is highly diverse with respect to the type of disability, and this diversity varies with age. Figure 1 depicts the distribution of disability type in New Hampshire for three age groups.[i] Among individuals with disabilities under 18 years old, individuals with cognitive disabilities are the largest group (83%). Among individuals ages 18 to 64 with disabilities, individuals with ambulatory (i.e., mobility) disabilities are the largest group (46%) followed by individuals with cognitive disabilities (42%). Among individuals 65 years and over, individuals with ambulatory disabilities are the largest group (59%) followed by individuals with hearing disabilities (49%).



Additional Statistics

Table 1 provides additional population statistics on people with disabilities in neighboring states and the United States as a whole. The "Highest" column provides information on the state with the highest number or percentage of people within a particular category.

Table 1: Population Statistics*†						
	NH	VT	ME	MA	Highest	U.S.
Population size, by age, 2009						
Total population	1,308,729	615,376	1,300,904	6,495,905	36,376,938[CA]	301,472,074
With disabilities	149,087	83,891	209,772	728,442	3,637,196[CA]	36,150,710
- % of total population	11.4%	13.6%	16.1%	11.2%	18.8%[WV]	12.0%
Total pop., ages 0-4	74,561	32,433	71,361	384,534	2,748,826[CA]	21,206,523
With disabilities	333	363	1,143	3,523	19,511[CA]	158,593
- % of pop., ages 0-4	0.4%	1.1%	1.6%	0.9%	1.6%[ME]	0.7%
Total pop., ages 5-17	214,219	94,049	199,079	1,046,161	6,673,860[CA]	53,151,830
With disabilities	10,333	6,877	15,469	61,218	259,568[TX]	2,748,524
- % of pop., ages 5-17	4.8%	7.3%	7.8%	5.9%	8.6%[DC]	5.2%
Total pop., ages 18-64	850,768	403,446	833,819	4,223,602	22,929,836[CA]	189,181,224
With disabilities	76,114	46,233	115,610	377,390	1,850,664[CA]	19,054,587
- % of pop., ages 18-64	8.9%	11.5%	13.9%	8.9%	17.2%[WV]	10.1%
Total pop., ages 65 & older	169,181	85,448	196,645	841,608	4,024,416[CA]	37,932,497
With disabilities	62,307	30,418	77,550	286,311	1,513,841[CA]	14,189,006
- % of pop., ages 65 & older	36.8%	35.6%	39.4%	34.0%	46.2%[MS]	37.4%
Population size, ages 18-64, by disability type, 2009						
Hearing disabilities	16,060	11,471	26,930	66,724	366,101[CA]	3,914,029
- % of PwD ages 18-64	21.1%	24.8%	23.3%	17.7%	30.0%[AK]	20.5%
Vision disabilities	9,076	6,054	16,408	54,422	333,179[CA]	3,269,773
- % of PwD ages 18-64	11.9%	13.1%	14.2%	14.4%	22.0%[OK]	17.2%
Cognitive disabilities	31,691	21,701	50,815	179,574	786,987[CA]	7,865,243
- % of PwD ages 18-64	41.6%	46.9%	44.0%	47.6%	48.6%[RI]	41.3%
Ambulatory disabilities	35,091	20,670	54,881	180,265	914,921[CA]	9,800,216
- % of PwD ages 18-64	46.1%	44.7%	47.5%	47.8%	57.2%[WV]	51.4%
Self-care disabilities	12,203	6,935	17,035	62,357	354,978[CA]	3,368,117
- % of PwD ages 18-64	16.0%	15.0%	14.7%	16.5%	19.5%[IL]	17.7%
Independent living disabilities	24,975	14,130	34,549	140,624	668,602[CA]	6,555,826
- % of PwD ages 18-64	32.8%	30.6%	29.9%	37.3%	38.2%[MI]	34.4%
Veterans, 2009						
Total veterans	114,796	51,899	132,238	414,595	1,963,556[CA]	21,854,374
Service-connected disabilities (SCD)	14,130	6,021	24,949	57,485	280,616[TX]	3,250,289
- % of total veterans	12.3%	11.6%	18.9%	13.9%	22.0%[NE]	14.9%
Disability rating 70% or above	2,083	1,170	6,728	10,414	64,117[TX]	652,284
- % of veterans with SCD	14.7%	19.4%	27.0%	18.1%	31.1%[NM]	20.1%

*Source: 2010 Disability Statistics Compendium, Tables 1.3-1.13 and 6.1; original source: 2009 American Community Survey.

†Does not include individuals living in institutions or individuals in the Armed Forces.

Employment Statistics

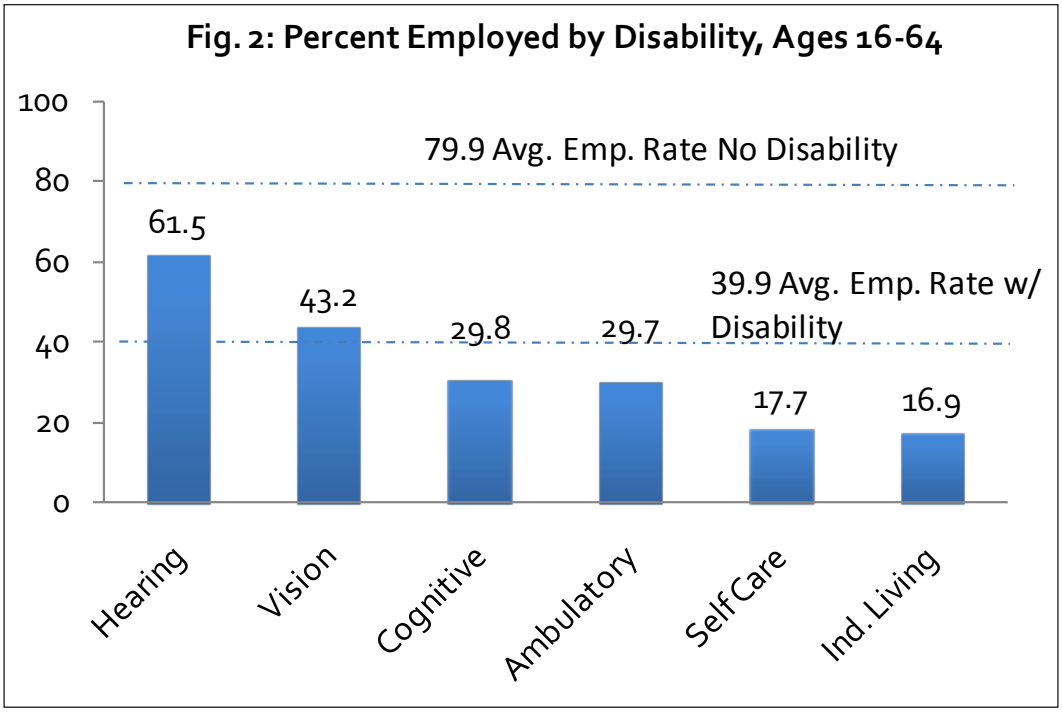
Employment

For many people with and without disabilities, engagement in the workforce is an important part of a fulfilling and valued life, providing opportunities for self-esteem development, autonomy, social contact, income, structured activity, and life satisfaction (Hergenrather, et al., 2003; Eklund, Hansson, & Ahlquist, 2004). Having a job has also been tied to better health, a longer life, and greater satisfaction with life for people with disabilities. And, of course, employment in a good paying job reduces the likelihood that an individual lives below the poverty line.

According to estimates from 2009, among the 448,011 New Hampshire civilians with disabilities ages 18 to 64 living in the community, 30,354 (39.9%) were employed. By comparison, of the 774,654 New Hampshire civilians without disabilities ages 18 to 64 living in the community, 619,284 (79.9%) were employed, for a difference (a.k.a., employment gap) of 40 percentage points.

Disability Type

Figure 2 shows that employment rates in New Hampshire vary considerably based on the type of disability, with the highest employment rate among individuals with hearing disabilities (61.5%) followed by individuals with vision disabilities (43.2%) and the lowest employment rate among individuals with independent living disabilities (16.9%). The employment rates among individuals with cognitive disabilities and individuals with ambulatory disabilities are quite similar: 29.8% and 29.7%, respectively. Similar patterns are seen in Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and nationally.



Additional Statistics

On the following page, Table 2 provides additional New England and U.S. statistics on a range of employment indicators, including the number employed, employment rates, percentage employed full-time/full-year, median earnings, and poverty. The "Highest" column provides information on the state with the highest number or percentage of people within a particular category, with the exception of poverty indicators, for which the lowest values are used.

Table 2: Employment Statistics*†						
	NH	VT	ME	MA	Highest	U.S.
Employment, ages 18-64, 2009						
Total employed	649,638	302,858	610,667	3,107,170	15,752,559[CA]	133,202,340
- % of pop. ages 18-64 (i.e., employment rate)	76.4%	75.1%	73.2%	73.6%	71.3%[ND]	70.4%
With disabilities	30,354	18,594	42,204	132,702	620,928[CA]	6,723,694
- % of people with disabilities, ages 18-64	39.9%	40.2%	36.5%	35.2%	56.3%[ND]	35.3%
Without disabilities	619,284	284,264	568,463	2,974,468	15,131,631[CA]	126,478,646
- % of people without disabilities, ages 18-64	79.9%	79.6%	79.2%	77.3%	82.6%[NE]	74.3%
Employment rate gap	40.1pts	39.4pts	42.6pts	42.2pts	45.4pts[DC]	39.1pts
Employment rate, by disability type, ages 18-64, 2009						
Hearing disabilities	61.5%	61.3%	50.5%	52.5%	70.6%[ND]	51.6%
Vision disabilities	43.2%	36.4%	38.2%	36.1%	62.6%[ND]	38.3%
Cognitive disabilities	29.8%	29.8%	24.5%	25.6%	46.6%[ND]	24.4%
Ambulatory disabilities	29.7%	28.0%	25.3%	26.1%	43.4%[ND]	26.2%
Self-care disabilities	17.7%	15.3%	17.9%	18.1%	45.8%[ND]	17.4%
Independent living disabilities	16.9%	18.7%	16.0%	20.9%	40.9%[ND]	16.9%
Percentage employed full-time/full-year, ages 16-64, 2009						
With disabilities	21.2%	23.3%	20.3%	18.6%	31.5%[ND]	20.4%
Without disabilities	53.1%	52.0%	51.4%	51.5%	57.8%[NE]	50.8%
Median earnings, workers ages 16 and older, 2009						
With disabilities	$18,341	$16,590	$17,222	$21,441	$25,770[AK]	$18,831
Without disabilities	$32,210	$27,827	$26,652	$35,705	$42,439[DC]	$28,779
Poverty rate, all ages, 2009					Lowest	
With disabilities	20.4%	27.2%	27.4%	26.8%	15.0%[AK]	26.4%
Without disabilities	6.8%	9.4%	9.1%	7.9%	6.8%[NH]	11.7%
Poverty rate gap	13.6pts	17.7pts	18.4pts	18.9pts	7.4pts[AK]	14.8pts

*Source: 2010 Disability Statistics Compendium, Tables 2.1-2.12 and 4.1-4.3; original source: 2009 American Community Survey.

†Does not include individuals living in institutions or individuals in the Armed Forces.

Education Statistics

Educational Attainment

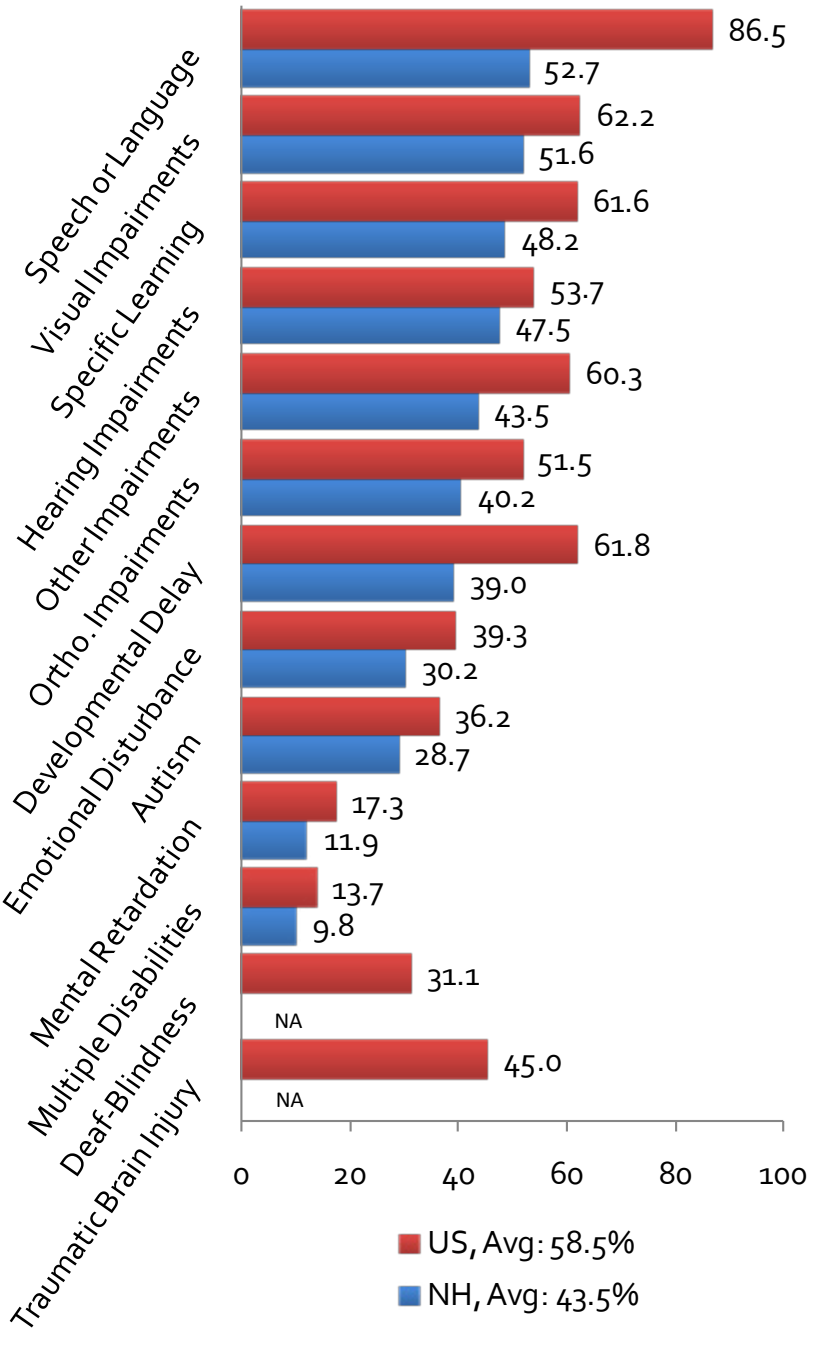
As employment is to adults, education is to youth and young adults. It is an important social role and opens opportunities now and in the future. According to estimates from 2009, among the 76,114 New Hampshire civilians with disabilities ages 18 to 64 living in the community, 22.8% had at least a two-year college degree. By comparison, of the 774,654 New Hampshire civilians without disabilities ages 18 to 64 living in the community, 47.7% had at least a two-year college degree.

Inclusion

To promote educational opportunities available to students with disabilities, inclusive education calls for students with and without disabilities to be taught in the same setting. Spending more time in general education classrooms fosters better attendance, as well as greater engagement, achievement, and social adjustment of students with disabilities at school (Blackorby, et al., 2007; Wagner, et al., 2006).

Based on data from the U.S. Department of Education, Figure 3 provides the percent of individuals with different types of disability who are included in the regular classroom at least 80% of the day. In New Hampshire, only one in ten of those with multiple disabilities or mental retardation are included this often, one in three of those with autism or emotional disturbance, and about one in two (or less) of individuals with other disability types. In general, New Hampshire rates are substantially below the U.S. average across all categories (43% for New Hampshire vs. a 58% inclusion rate for the United States) as well as for each disability type tracked.

Fig. 3: Percent with Disability Inside Regular Classroom at least 80% of the Day



Additional Statistics

On the following page, Table 3 provides additional New England and U.S. data on the indicators described above. The "Highest" column provides information on the state with the highest number or percentage of people within a particular category.

Table 3: Education Statistics						
	NH	VT	ME	MA	Highest	U.S.
Educational Attainment Percentage with two-year degree or higher, ages 18-64, 2009*†						
Individuals, age 18-64	44.7%	43.9%	38.3%	50.2%	53.7%[DC]	38.1%
With disabilities	22.8%	18.0%	18.5%	22.7%	28.2%[ND]	19.0%
Hearing disability	27.7%	25.4%	21.7%	32.4%	36.1%[ND]	23.3%
Vision disability	21.0%	9.9%	16.3%	20.4%	27.0%[HI]	17.2%
Cognitive disability	23.3%	11.3%	17.0%	19.3%	27.3%[ND]	17.5%
Ambulatory disability	14.0%	14.0%	15.0%	17.3%	22.7%[CO]	14.8%
Self-care disability	25.7%	17.3%	18.0%	18.9%	27.1%[HI]	16.9%
Independent living disability	19.7%	20.7%	15.6%	16.8%	26.1%[MT]	15.4%
Without disabilities	47.0%	47.3%	41.8%	53.2%	58.2%[DC]	40.5%
Special Education: Enrollment, ages 6-17, fall 2008**						
Total special education students	25,739	NA	28,044	143,988	565,328[CA]	5,443,977
- % of overall enrollment	12.7%	NA	14.8%	14.9%	14.9%[RI]	11.2%
Inclusion: % of special education students spending 80% of time in regular class, fall 2008**						
Total special education students	43.5%	NA	53.8%	56.4%	81.0%[AL]	58.5%
Specific learning	48.2%	NA	58.4%	64.4%	88.9%[AL]	61.6%
Speech or language	52.7%	NA	75.5%	71.3%	98.8%[NV]	86.5%
Mental retardation	11.9%	NA	7.7%	16.6%	61.8%[IA]	17.3%
Emotional disturbance	30.2%	NA	37.6%	30.2%	71.3%[ND]	39.3%
Multiple disabilities	9.8%	NA	23.2%	24.4%	62.5%[IA]	13.7%
Hearing impairments	47.5%	NA	67.4%	41.4%	72.0%[NE]	53.7%
Orthopedic impairments	40.2%	NA	67.9%	75.2%	75.2%[MA]	51.5%
Other health impairments	43.5%	NA	56.9%	71.1%	81.8%[AL]	60.3%
Visual impairments	51.6%	NA	74.3%	61.6%	87.0%[ND]	62.2%
Autism	28.7%	NA	40.7%	33.4%	62.1%[IA]	36.2%
Deaf-blindness	NA	NA	NA	30.2%	63.8%[NJ]	31.1%
Traumatic brain injury	NA	NA	35.0%	63.0%	63.0%[MA]	45.0%
Developmental delay	39.0%	NA	NA	64.1%	83.3%[WY]	61.8%

*Source: Authors' calculations using the 2009 American Community Survey.

†Does not include individuals living in institutions or individuals in the Armed Forces.

**Source: U.S. Department of Education, www.IDEAdata.org. Also see the 2010 Disability Statistics Compendium, Section 11.

Program Statistics

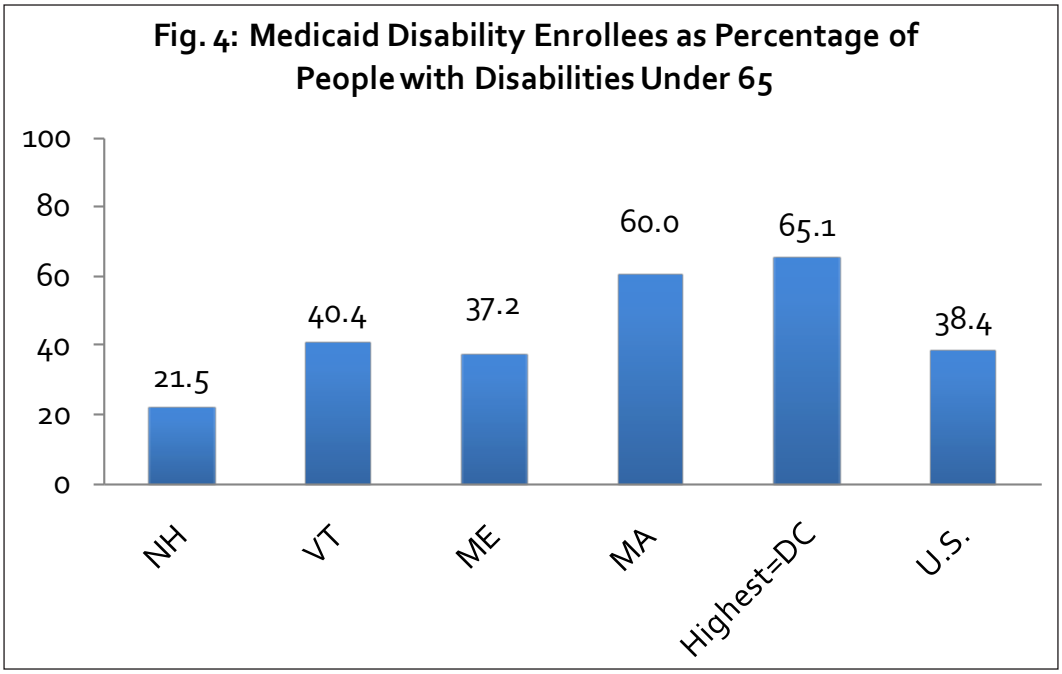
Program Participation

There are a number of programs that provide support and services on the basis of having a disability, including the Medicaid[ii] and Medicare[iii] programs (providing health insurance), Social Security Disability Insurance[iv] (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income[v] (SSI) (providing income support), and vocational rehabilitation[vi] (providing job placement and training).

Medicaid

According to testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Diane Rowland of the Kaiser Family Foundation noted, "Medicaid plays a critical role in providing health care services to people with disabilities" (2008). In federal fiscal year 2007 (Oct. 2007-Sept. 2008), 56.8 million low-income children, working-age adults, people with disabilities, and elderly received health insurance and long-term care assistance from the Medicaid program. In New Hampshire, 126,074 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid, and 14.8% (18,698 individuals) received Medicaid on the basis of disability, which percentage-wise was the same as in the United States as a whole.

With respect to the size of the population, the number of disability-related Medicaid enrollees as a percentage of people with disabilities ages under 65 years is far lower in New Hampshire (21.5%) than in Vermont (40.4%), Maine (37.2%), Massachusetts (60.0%), and nationally (38.4%); see Figure 4.



Additional Statistics

On the following page, Table 4 provides additional New England and U.S. statistics for other programs, including Medicare, SSDI, SSI, and vocational rehabilitation. The "Highest" column provides information on the state with the highest number or percentage of people within a particular category.

Table 4: Program Statistics*						
	NH	VT	ME	MA	Highest	U.S.
Medicaid enrollees, July 1, 2008						
Total Medicaid enrollees	126,074	157,240	300,876	1,193,015	10,386,032[CA]	56,820,750
Enrollees based on disability status	18,698	21,617	49,178	265,389	1,095,359[CA]	8,427,192
- % of total enrollees	14.8%	13.7%	16.3%	22.2%	26.4%[WV]	14.8%
- % of people with disabilities ages under 65	21.5%	40.4%	37.2%	60.0%	65.1%[DC]	38.4%
Medicare enrollees, July 1, 2008						
Total Medicare enrollees	211,657	104,917	253,188	1,018,689	4,491,586[CA]	44,384,954
Enrollees based on disability status	37,871	18,580	53,022	173,822	636,676[CA]	7,336,021
- % with total enrollees	17.9%	17.7%	20.9%	17.0%	25.1%[KY]	16.5%
- % of people with disabilities ages under 65	43.6%	34.7%	40.1%	39.3%	43.6%[NH]	33.4%
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) blind/disability recipients, December 31, 2008						
Total SSI blind/disability recipients	14,940	13,308	31,773	136,630	900,779[CA]	6,316,522
- % of people with disabilities under 65	17.2%	24.9%	24.0%	30.9%	43.2%[DC]	28.8%
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) beneficiaries, December 31, 2008						
Total SSDI beneficiaries	42,297	21,447	59,503	197,562	706,460[CA]	8,325,872
- % of people with disabilities ages 18-64	55.6%	46.4%	51.5%	52.3%	55.6%[NH]	43.7%
Workers	38,133	18,693	52,749	172,992	617,803[CA]	7,259,094
Adult children	3,405	2,288	5,427	20,975	73,186[CA]	842,833
Widowers	759	466	1,327	3,595	16,593[TX]	223,945
Vocational Rehabilitation, Oct. 2007-Sep. 2008						
Total applicants for VR services	2,807	4,032	3,411	11,975	47,340[NY]	615,893
- % of people with disabilities ages 18-64	3.7%	8.7%	3.0%	3.2%	8.7%[VT]	3.2%
Case closed into employment	1,219	1,596	812	3,646	13,886[CA]	202,297
- % of total closures	76.4%	67.2%	50.7%	56.1%	77.1%[MD]	57.8%

*Source: 2010 Disability Statistics Compendium, Tables 9.4, 9.5, 10.2, 10.4, and 12.1; original source: various agencies.

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Endnotes

[i] It is possible for an individual to report more than one disability, thus the percentages do not necessarily add up to 100%.

[ii] To be covered by Medicaid, individuals must meet both income and asset requirements and fall into one of the eligibility categories (including age, pregnancy, disability, and blindness).

[iii] Medicare provides health insurance coverage to people 65 and over as well as those meeting special criteria.

[iv] SSDI provides income supplements to individuals who are restricted in their ability to be employed because of a disability.

[v] SSI provides stipends for individuals with low income, aged 65 or older, blind, or disabled meeting the income eligibility criteria.

[vi] Vocational rehabilitation programs provide rehabilitation services to citizens with disabilities to help them secure suitable employment and financial and personal independence.