



Disability in Nebraska

Demographics and Selected Outcomes

2021

Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Public Health
Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Disability in Nebraska

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Introduction

A disability is any impairment, activity limitation, or participation restriction. Impairment can include an issue in bodily function or structure, while an activity limitation could be a difficulty encountered during task-execution or action. An individual could struggle with participation restriction if they struggle with involvement in typical life situations. Those with disabilities require interventions to remove environmental and social barriers.¹ Disability as a result of physical, emotional, or mental limitations has a direct impact on an individual's quality of life and subsequently becomes a public health concern.

Approximately 15% of the world's population is living with a disability, and one-fifth of the estimated global total experience significant difficulties.² A disability is not only a health problem, but also a complex phenomenon that illustrates an interaction between someone's body and features of society.³

Those who are disabled require the same health screenings and have the same needs as those who are not disabled. People who are living with disabilities face other external struggles like poverty and social exclusion; they are also susceptible to secondary conditions.⁴ In the United States, health disparities are seen between those who are disabled and not disabled. Moreover, 27% of those who are disabled see cost as a barrier to obtaining care, compared to 12.1% of people who are not disabled.⁵ In Nebraska, we continually see those who are living with a disability struggling with obesity, high blood pressure, and several other chronic diseases more than those who are not disabled.

For the purposes of this report card, only those indicators that demonstrated the disparities faced by individuals with a disability are presented. "Disability" is defined as either limited activity due to physical, mental, or emotional problems, or the requirement of special equipment such as canes, wheelchairs, special beds, or telephones.

¹World Health Organization. (2017). Disabilities. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/>

²World Health Organization. (2019). Disability Inclusion Overview. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability>

³Ibid.

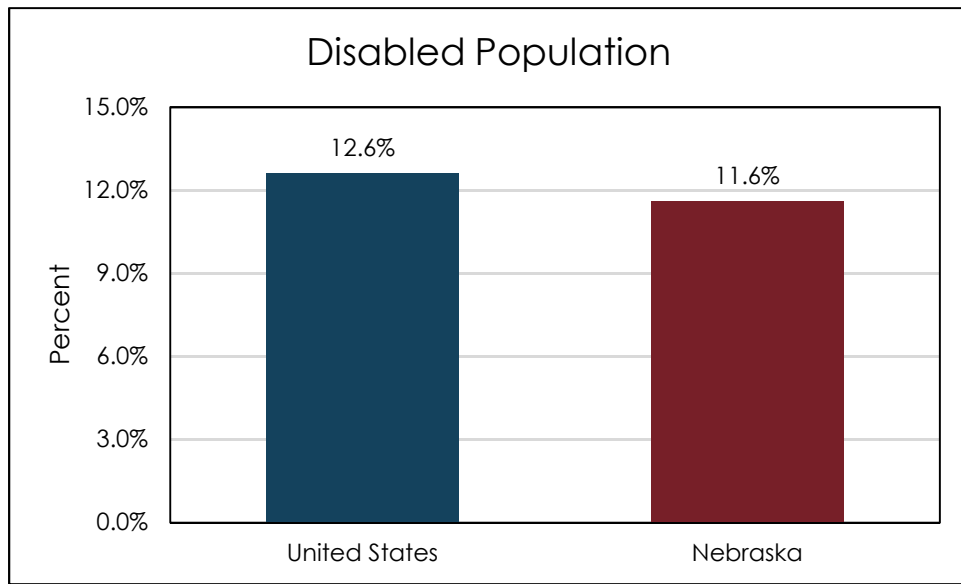
⁴Ibid.

⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Disability & Health - Disability Status Graph. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/features/unrecognizedpopulation-longdesc.html>

Demographics

Prevalence: Total

The chart and table below represent the disabled population in the United States and Nebraska. The percentage of Nebraskans with a disability is slightly lower than the nationwide average. Nebraska has 1% less than the United States estimates of those with a disability. Based on the 2019 ACS 5-Year estimates, there were a total of 218,839 Nebraskans with a disability.

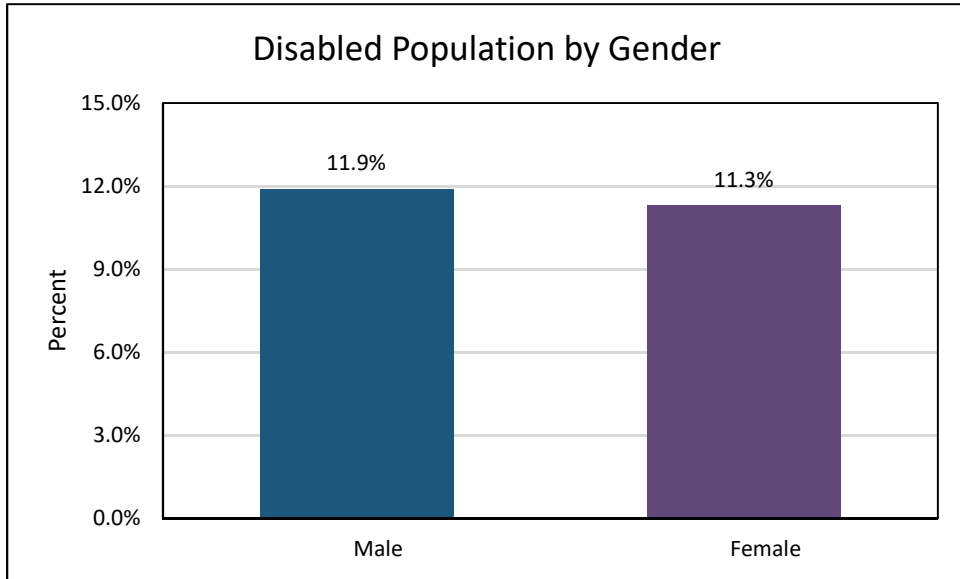


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Disability Population	Estimates	Percentage
United States	40,335,099	12.6%
Nebraska	218,839	11.6%

Prevalence: Gender

The chart and table below represent the proportion of male and female Nebraskans who are disabled. Similar percentages were seen among both genders.

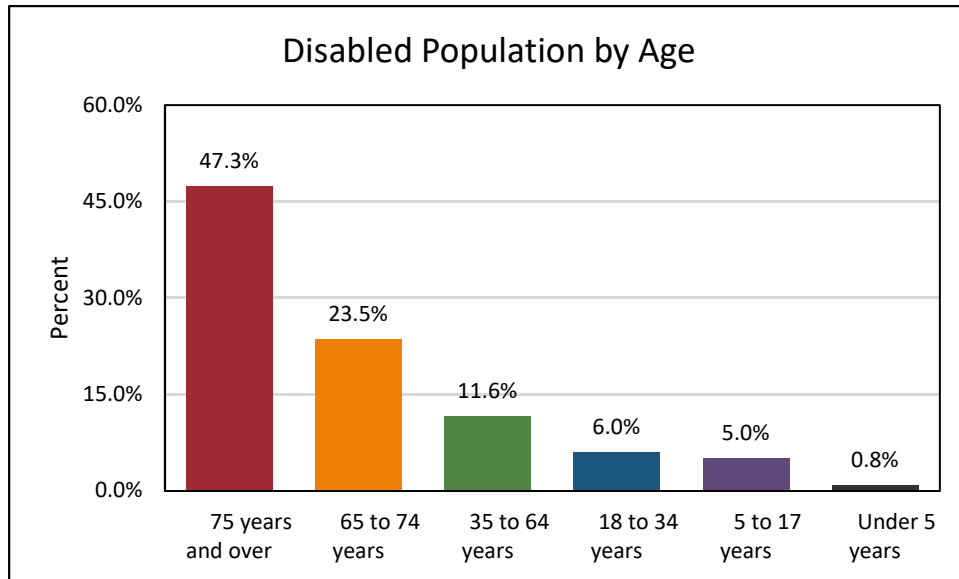


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Gender	Estimates	Percentage
Male	111,476	11.9%
Female	107,363	11.3%

Prevalence: Age

The chart and table below represent the age of Nebraskans with a disability. The majority of disabled Nebraskans were age 75 and older at almost 50%. Nearly a quarter of Nebraskans with a disability were between the ages 65 to 74 and 11.6% were between the ages of 35 and 64.

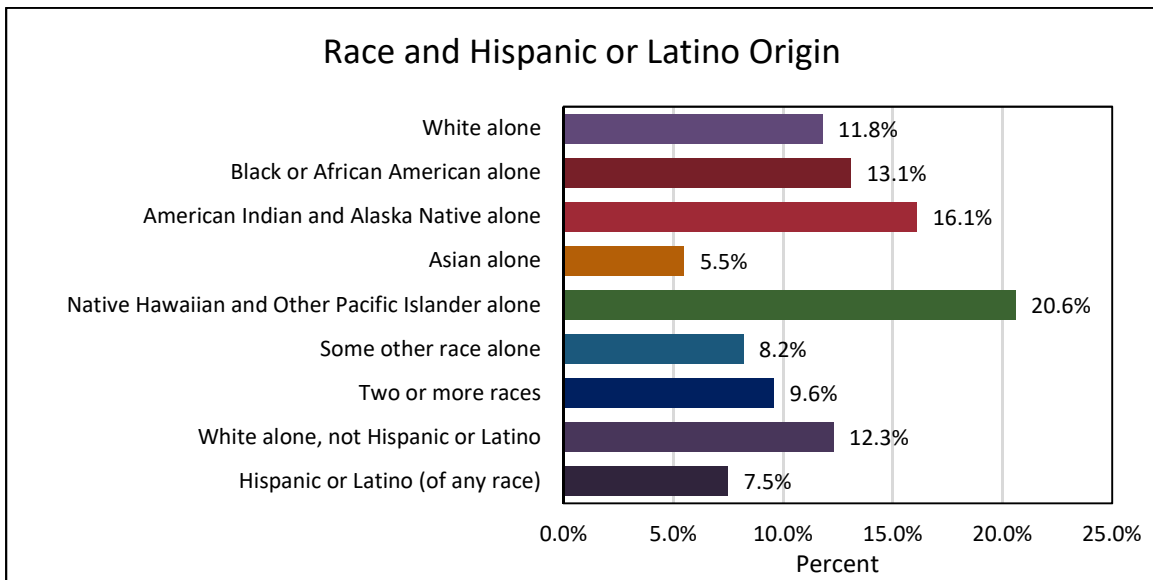


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Age Group	Estimates	Percentage
75 years and over	55,935	47.3%
65 to 74 years	38,469	23.5%
35 to 64 years	80,208	11.6%
18 to 34 years	26,170	6.0%
5 to 17 years	17,048	5.0%
Under 5 years	1,009	0.8%

Prevalence: Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin

The chart and table below represent the race and Hispanic or Latino origin of Nebraskans with a disability. Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders had the highest percentage of disabled individuals at 20.6%. About 16% of American Indians and Alaska Natives and 13% of Black or African Americans were disabled. Asians had the lowest percentage of disabled individuals at only 5.5%.

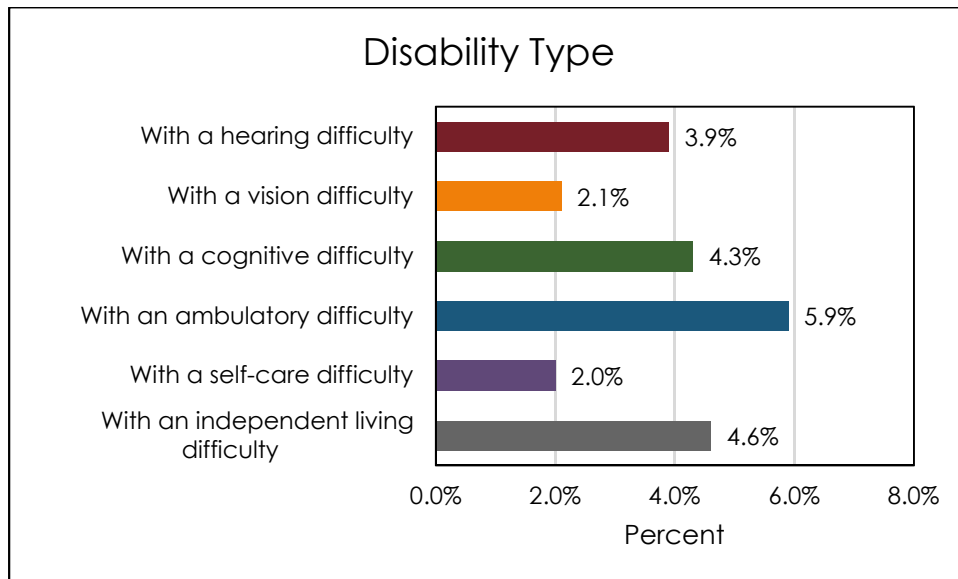


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Estimates	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15,338	7.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	182,775	12.3%
Two or more races	4,719	9.6%
Some other race alone	3,212	8.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	263	20.6%
Asian alone	2,479	5.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,764	16.1%
Black or African American alone	11,657	13.1%
White alone	193,745	11.8%

Type of Disability

The chart and table below represent the type of disability disabled Nebraskans reported having. Hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent difficulty are the types of disabilities included.⁶ Disabled Nebraskans were most likely to have an ambulatory difficulty at about 6%, followed by independent living difficulty (4.6%), and cognitive difficulty (4.3%). Self-care difficulty had the lowest percentage with 2.0% of disabled Nebraskans reporting such.



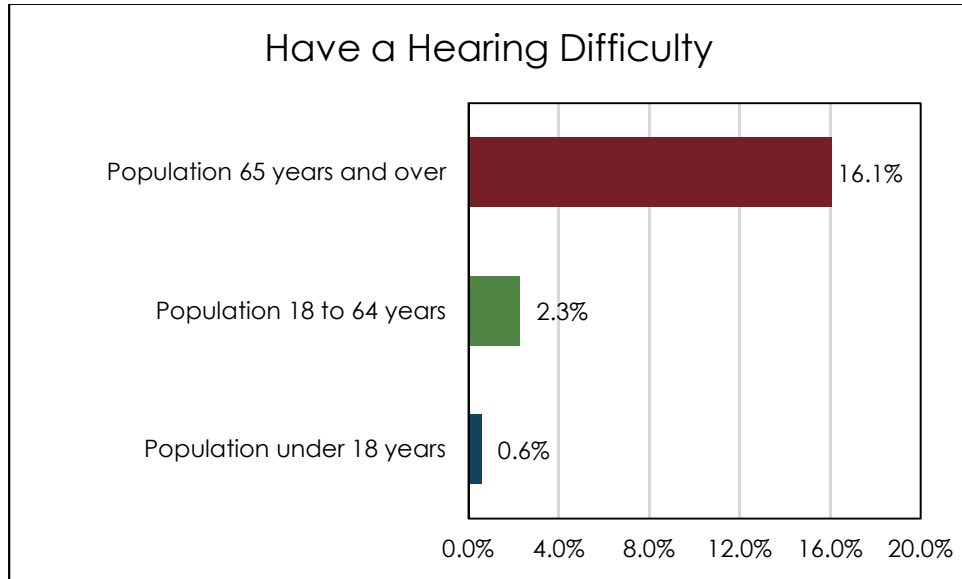
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Disability Type	Estimates	Percentage
With an independent living difficulty	64,264	4.6%
With a self-care difficulty	34,198	2.0%
With an ambulatory difficulty	102,677	5.9%
With a cognitive difficulty	76,071	4.3%
With a vision difficulty	38,662	2.1%
With a hearing difficulty	73,772	3.9%

⁶ Bureau, U. (2021, February 23). How disability data are collected from The American Community Survey. Retrieved May 10, 2021, from [https://www.census.gov/topics/health/disability/guidance/data-collection-ac.html#:~:text=Ambulatory%20difficulty%20Having%20serious%20difficulty,bathing%20or%20dressing%20\(DDRS\)](https://www.census.gov/topics/health/disability/guidance/data-collection-ac.html#:~:text=Ambulatory%20difficulty%20Having%20serious%20difficulty,bathing%20or%20dressing%20(DDRS).).

Hearing Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of Nebraskans with a hearing difficulty by age. Individuals with hearing difficulty include those who are deaf or have a serious difficulty hearing.⁷ About 16% of individuals in the age 65 and older and just over 2% of individuals age 18 to 64 had a hearing difficulty.



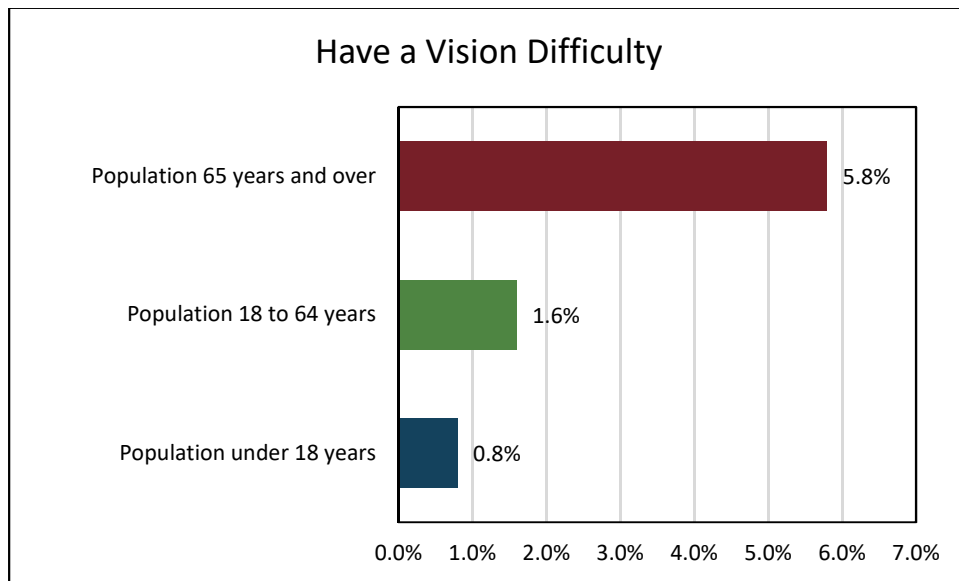
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Hearing Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population under 18 years	2,678	0.6%
Population 18 to 64 years	25,723	2.3%
Population 65 years and over	45,371	16.1%

⁷ Ibid.

Vision Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of Nebraskans with a vision difficulty by age. Individuals with a vision difficulty include those who are blind or have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses.⁸ About 6% of disabled Nebraskans age 65 and older and 1.6% age 18 to 64 years had a vision difficulty.



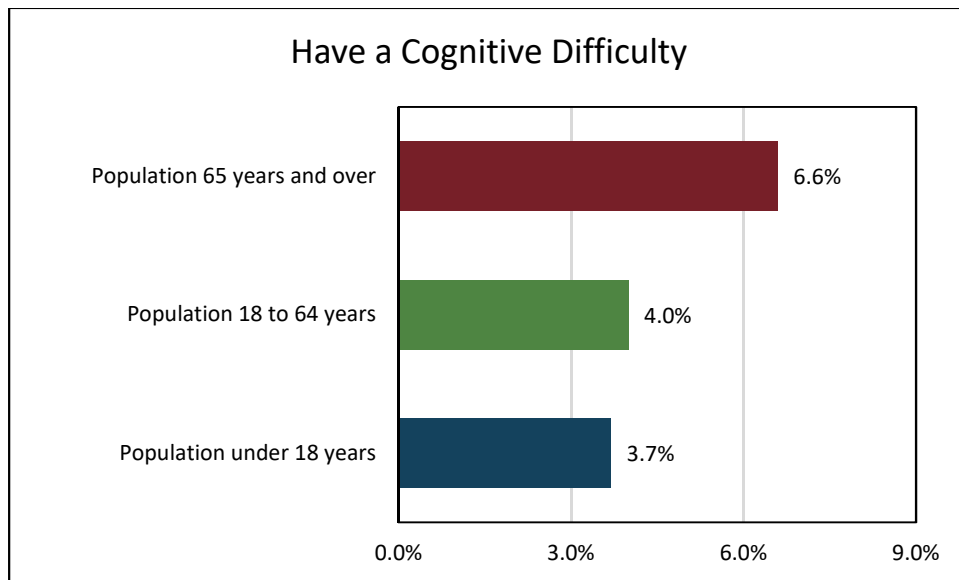
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Vision Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population under 18 years	3,802	0.8%
Population 18 to 64 years	18,548	1.6%
Population 65 years and over	16,312	5.8%

⁸ Ibid

Cognitive Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of disabled Nebraskans with a cognitive disability. Individuals with this type of disability include those who are having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making a decision because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem.⁹ Around 7.0% of disabled Nebraskans age of 65 or older have a cognitive difficulty. Almost similar percentages were seen among those age of 18 to 64 and 18 or younger.



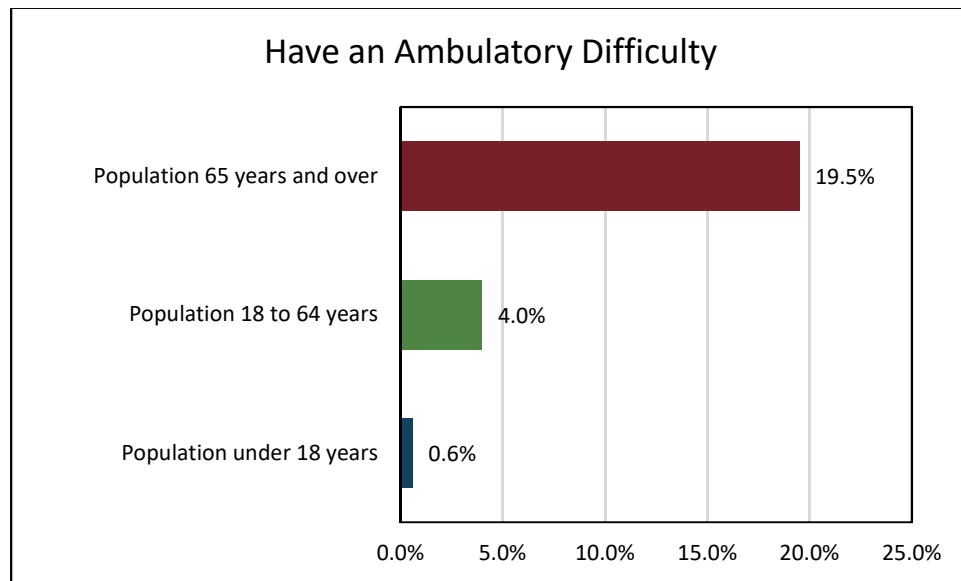
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Cognitive Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population under 18 years	12,561	3.7%
Population 18 to 64 years	44,787	4.0%
Population 65 years and over	18,723	6.6%

⁹ Ibid.

Ambulatory Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of disabled Nebraskans with ambulatory difficulty or difficulty walking by age. Individuals with ambulatory difficulty include those who have severe difficulty walking or climbing stairs.¹⁰ Almost 20% of Nebraskans age 65 or older had an ambulatory difficulty, whereas only 4.0% of those age 18 through 64 reported the same.



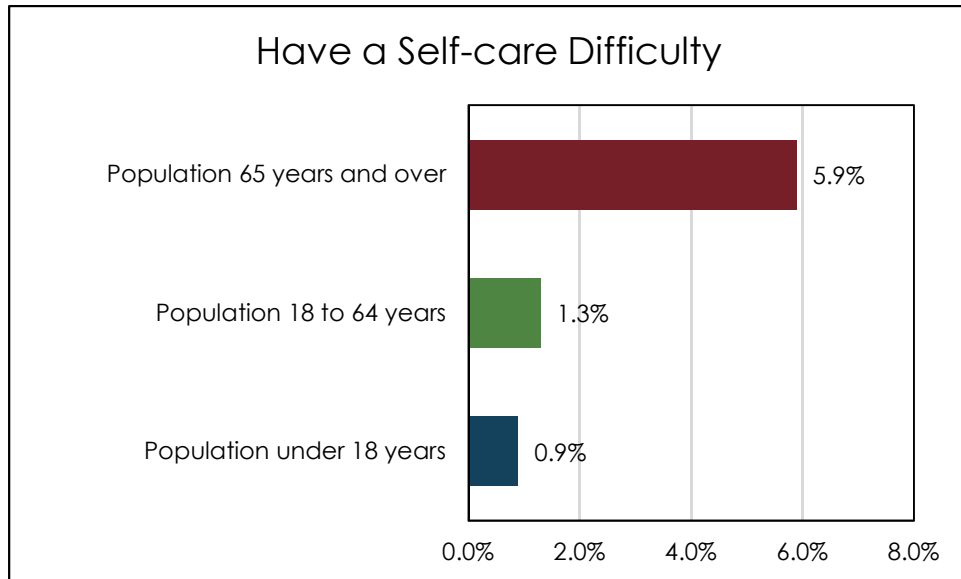
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Ambulatory Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population under 18 years	2,036	0.6%
Population 18 to 64 years	45,488	4.0%
Population 65 years and over	55,153	19.5%

¹⁰ Ibid.

Self-care Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of disabled Nebraskans with a self-care difficulty, including difficulty dressing or bathing.¹¹ Almost 6% of Nebraskans age 65 and older reported having a self-care difficulty.



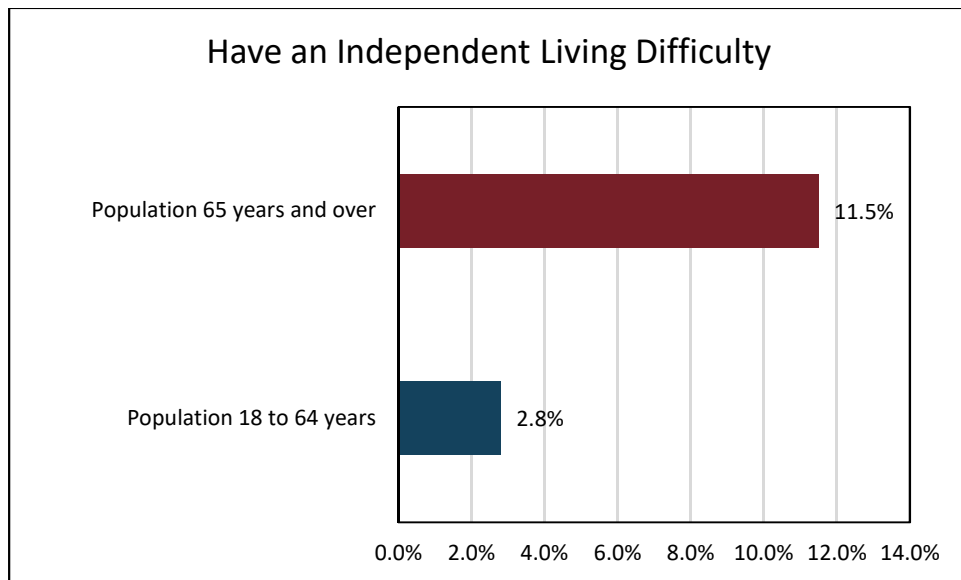
Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Self-Care Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population under 18 years	3,031	0.9%
Population 18 to 64 years	14,594	1.3%
Population 65 years and over	16,573	5.9%

¹¹ Ibid.

Independent Living Difficulty

The chart and table below represent the proportion of disabled Nebraskans with an independent living difficulty. Individuals with this kind of difficulty include those who have difficulties doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping due to physical, mental, or emotional problems.¹² Those who were age of 65 or older were most likely to have an independent living difficulty at 11.5%. Only 2.8% of individuals in the age of 18 through 64 reported the same.



Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

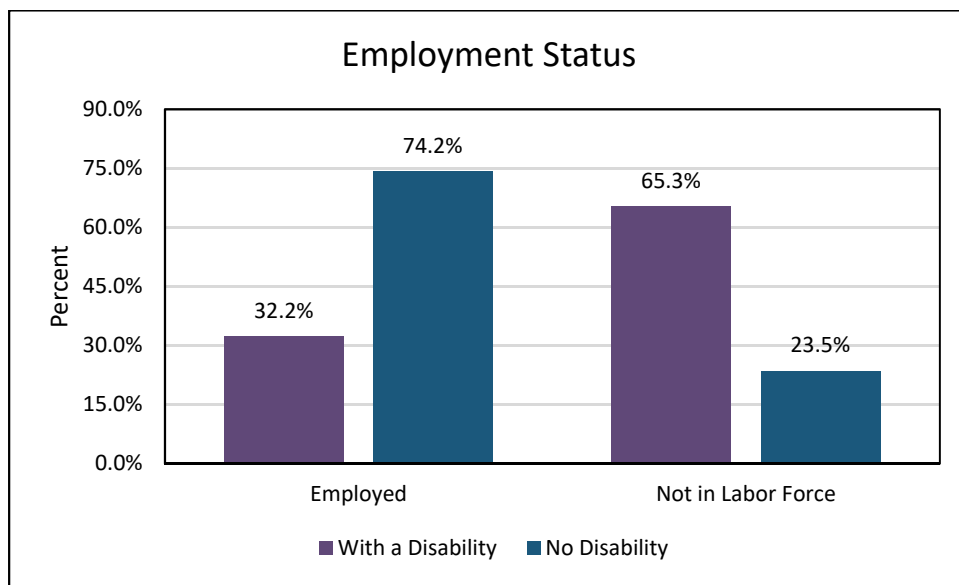
Independent Living Difficulty	Estimates	Percentage
Population 18 to 64 years	31,866	2.8%
Population 65 years and over	32,398	11.5%

¹² Ibid.

Social Determinants of Health

Employment Status

The chart and table below represent the employment status of disabled and non-disabled Nebraskans aged 16 and over. Almost three-quarters of disabled Nebraskans were employed compared to only a third of non-disabled Nebraskans. Almost two-thirds of disabled Nebraskans (65.3%) and almost one-fourth of non-disabled Nebraskans (23.5%) were not in the labor force.

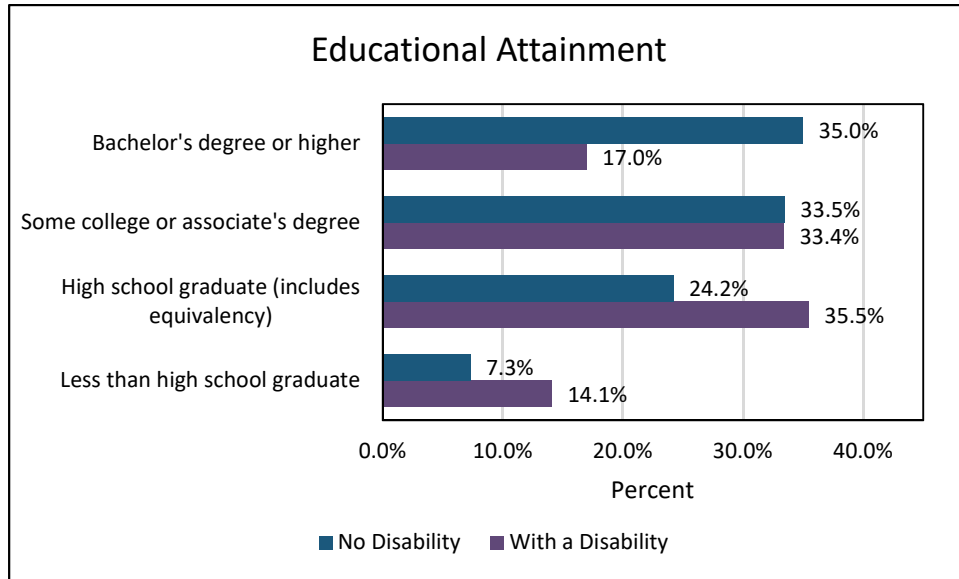


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Employment Status	With a Disability	No Disability
Employed	32.2%	74.2%
Not in Labor Force	65.3%	23.5%

Educational Attainment

The chart and table below represent the educational attainment of disabled and non-disabled Nebraskans ages 25 and over. The percentage of disabled Nebraskans who did not graduate high education was almost 7% higher than the percentage seen on the non-disabled Nebraskans. The disabled population had a higher rate of high school graduates compared to those without a disability. As for those with a bachelor's degree or higher, disabled Nebraskans had half the rate seen among those without a disability. Similar percentages were seen among the disabled and non-disabled population for those with some college or associate's degree.

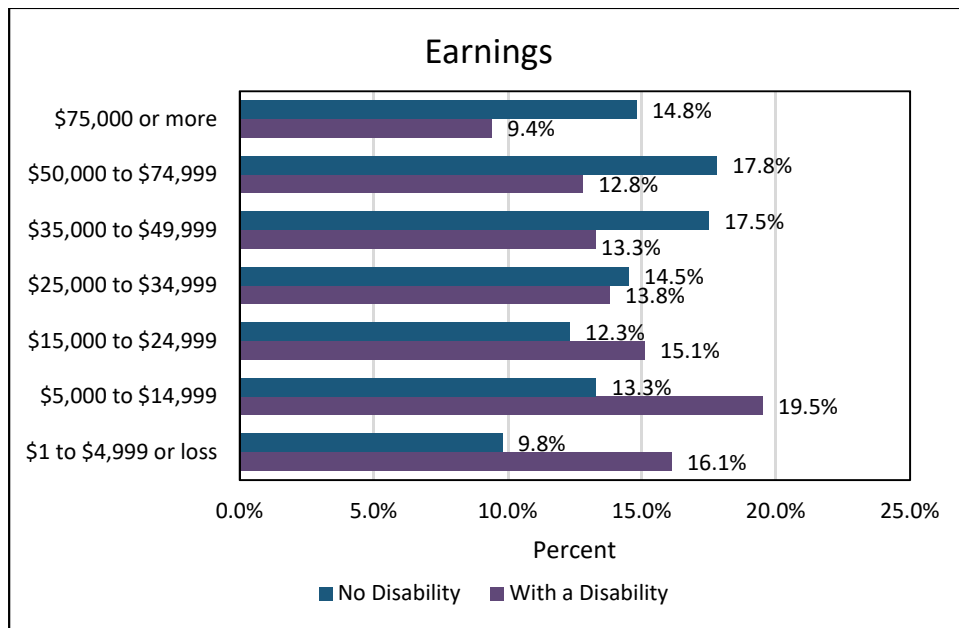


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Educational Attainment	With a Disability	No Disability
Less than high school graduate	14.1%	7.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	35.5%	24.2%
Some college or associate's degree	33.4%	33.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	17.0%	35.0%

Earnings

The chart and table below represent the earnings of the disabled and non-disabled Nebraskans aged 16 or older in the past 12 months based on the 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars. Disabled Nebraskans were more likely to be in the lower earnings groups compared to non-disabled Nebraskans. Over 16% of the disabled population had \$4,999 or lower, including loss in earnings compared to 10% of the non-disabled population. On the opposite side of earnings groups, less than 10% of the disabled population and almost 15% of the non-disabled population saw earnings of \$75,000 or more. Almost similar proportions were seen between disabled and non-disabled Nebraskans who earned \$25,000 to \$34,999. The median earnings of the non-disabled Nebraskans were \$35,087 compared to only \$24,412 made by the disabled Nebraskans.

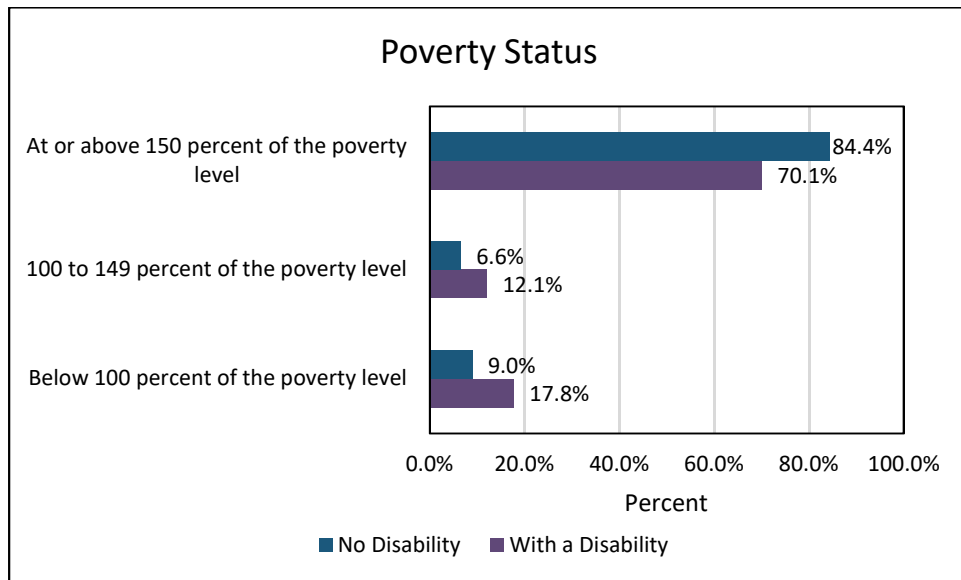


Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Earnings	With a Disability	No Disability
\$1 to \$4,999 or loss	16.1%	9.8%
\$5,000 to \$14,999	19.5%	13.3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	15.1%	12.3%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	13.8%	14.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.3%	17.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.8%	17.8%
\$75,000 or more	9.4%	14.8%

Poverty Status

The chart and table below represent the poverty status in the past 12 months of the disabled and non-disabled Nebraskans aged 16 or older for whom the poverty level is determined. Almost 85% of non-disabled Nebraskans and 70% of disabled Nebraskans were at or above the poverty level. As for those in the 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level and 100 percent or lower, disabled Nebraskans reported double the percentage compared to the non-disabled Nebraskans.



Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Poverty Status	With a Disability	No Disability
Below 100 percent of the poverty level	17.8%	9.0%
100 to 149 percent of the poverty level	12.1%	6.6%
At or above 150 percent of the poverty level	70.1%	84.4%

Conclusion

The purpose of this report card is to provide a more in-depth look at the social determinants of health and the types of disabilities experienced by disabled Nebraskans. In many of the presented factors, those with a disability experienced a higher percentage of negative health outcomes and risk factors when compared to individuals without a disability.

The percentage of Nebraskans with a disability is slightly lower than the nationwide average. Nebraska is 1% less than the United States estimates of those with a disability with no distinctive difference in percentage between genders. Looking at the population age group, most disabled Nebraskans were age 75 and above at almost 50%. Based on the data presented, the percentage of those with disabilities increases with age. The intersection of race/ethnicities and disabilities is often left unrepresented in discussions due to limited data. Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders had the highest percentage of disabled individuals at 20.6%, whereas Asians had the lowest percentage at only 5.5%. As for employment, almost three-quarters of disabled Nebraskans were employed compared to only a third of non-disabled Nebraskans. Around 65% of disabled Nebraskans and 23.5% of the non-disabled Nebraskans were not in the labor force. Looking at the educational achievement of this population, the percentage of disabled Nebraskans who did not graduate high education was almost 7 percentage points higher than the percentage seen in non-disabled Nebraskans. Unlike those with a bachelor's degree or higher, disabled Nebraskans had half the rate seen among those without a disability. Moreover, disabled Nebraskans were most likely to be in the lower earnings groups than non-disabled Nebraskans. Over 15% of the disabled population had \$4,999 or lower, including loss in earnings compared to 10% of the non-disabled population.

Incorporating this data into policies and procedures, as well as implementing and evaluating interventions to address these issues, will help reduce the disparities experienced by Nebraskans who have disabilities.

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