

# Disability in Spokane County

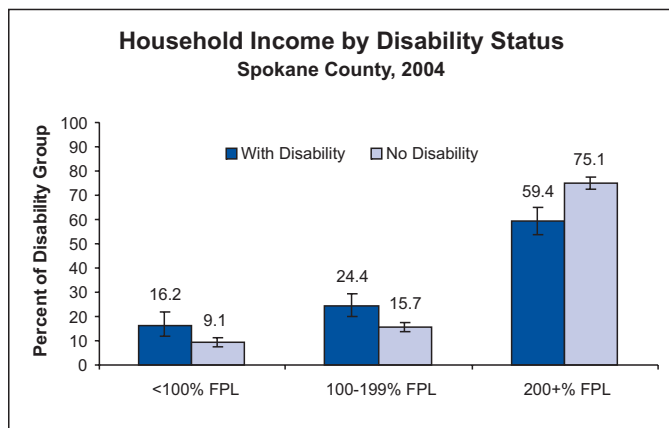
Every other year, the Washington State Office of Financial Management administers the Washington State Population Survey to gather information about Washington State residents in regards to employment, income, health insurance coverage, health status, and demographic characteristics. Survey participants are randomly selected from residences with telephones. One household representative is interviewed, reporting data about all members of the household. As part of the survey, respondents were asked several questions about disability to determine who suffers from a long lasting sensory, physical, or mental condition and if these conditions limit their ability to care for themselves in the home, to go outside alone, or their ability to be employed.

## Percent with a Disability

The total percentage of the Spokane County population with a disability has not significantly changed from 2000 to 2004. Approximately one in five individuals reported a disability; 19.1% in 2000, 16.8% in 2002, and 18.5% in 2004. This means there are currently between 70,870 and 87,340 people in the Spokane County community living with a disability.

## Income

People with disabilities were significantly more likely than people without disabilities to be living on incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The FPL is based on income thresholds for different household sizes and household composition. For a household of four persons in 2004, the poverty income threshold was \$18,850.

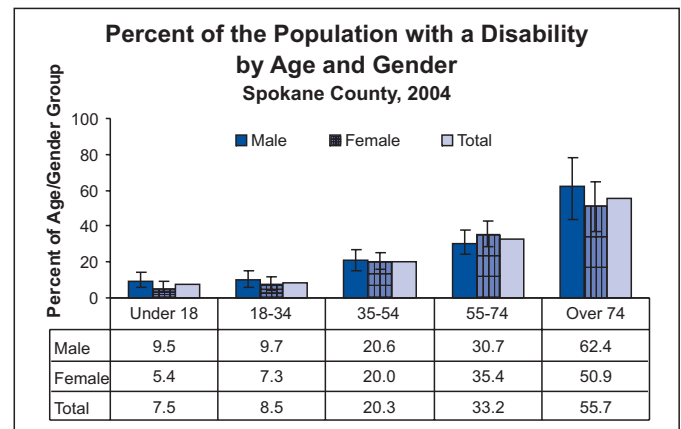


People with disabilities were twice as likely to live on incomes below 200% FPL compared to those with no disabilities.



## Age and Gender

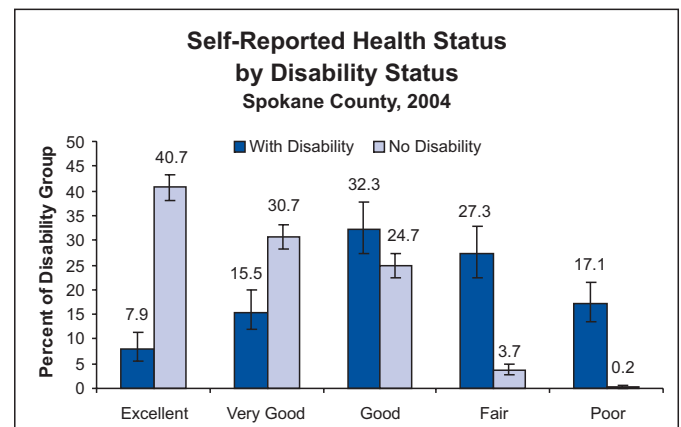
The prevalence of disability was similar for males and females, but increased significantly with age. There was no significant difference within each age and gender group.



An estimated 12,000 ( $\pm 3,700$ ) individuals age 75 years or older are living with some type of disability.

## Self-Reported Health Status

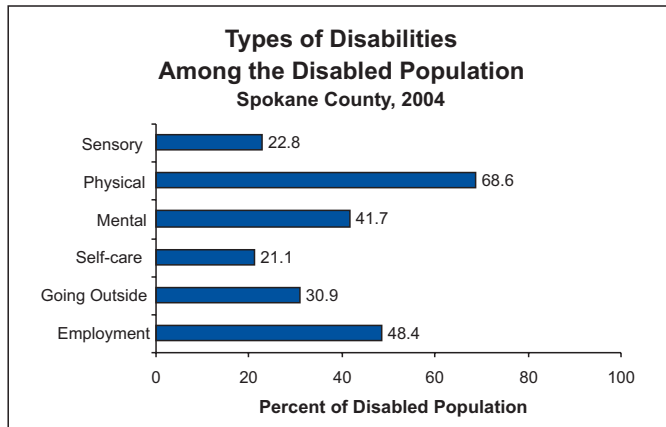
In 2004, survey respondents with a disability were more than seven times less likely than those without a disability to say their health was “excellent” or “very good”. Among people with a disability, 44.4% ( $\pm 5.6\%$ ) reported their general health status as “fair” or “poor”, compared to 3.9% ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) of people with no disabilities.



## Types of Disabilities

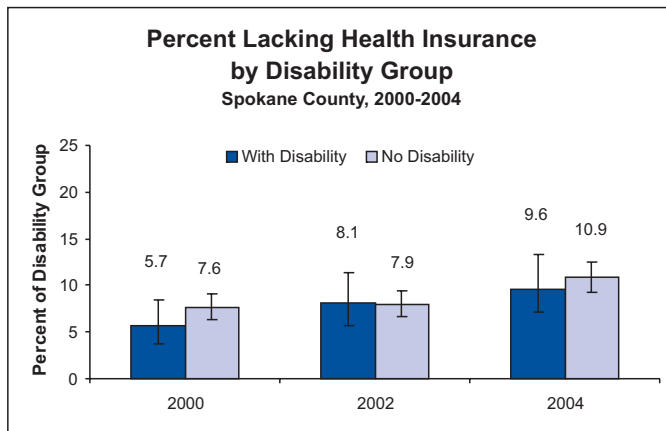
Among people with a disability, physical limitation was the most common disability reported (70%). A person could report more than one type of disability.

When the data were analyzed for those disabled individuals who were aged 15 years or older, nearly half had difficulty working at a job or business because of their condition. This is an estimated total of 34,800 ( $\pm$  2,690) people in our community.



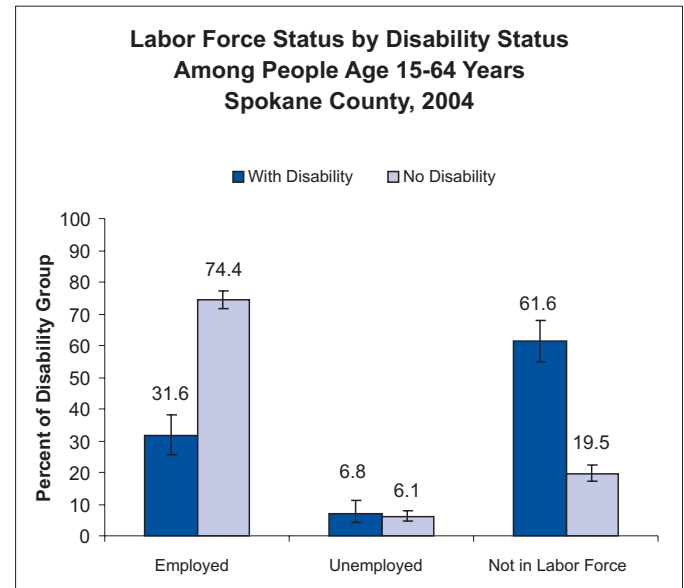
## Health Insurance Coverage

The percentage of the disabled as well as non-disabled that reported no health insurance coverage at the time of the survey has not changed significantly from 2000 to 2004. The percent uninsured was similar between individuals with a disability and those with no disability.



## Labor Force Status

People between the ages of 15 and 64 years with disabilities were more than six times less likely to be employed compared to people in the same age group without disabilities.



More than half of the people with disabilities in this age group were not in the labor force, meaning either they have retired early, are unable to work, or are not looking for work.

In 2004, the unemployment rate of people with disabilities was 16.2% ( $\pm$  7.8%) compared to 7.3% ( $\pm$  1.8%) for people with no disabilities. Those who are not in the labor force are not included in unemployment rates. To calculate the unemployment rate, the number of people who are unemployed is divided by the sum of the number of people employed and unemployed.



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## Community Health Assessment

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Data Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management: Washington State Population Survey 2000/2002/2004.

About the survey: The State Population Survey (SPS) is administered every other year by an independent contractor hired to conduct the survey on behalf of the Office of Financial Management, the governor's budget and policy office. Potential participants are selected at random, which allows us to statistically infer what the whole population of Washington State looks like.

In Spokane County, 752 residences were surveyed in 2000 representing 1,958 people. In 2002, 750 residences were surveyed representing 1,851 people. In 2004, 754 residences were surveyed representing 1,910 people.