

The Washington State Population Survey gathers information about Washington State residents regarding employment, income, health insurance coverage, health status, and demographic characteristics. One representative per household is interviewed, answering questions about all members of the household. Several questions are asked about disability to determine if an individual suffers from a long lasting sensory, physical, or mental condition and to determine if these conditions limit their ability to care for themselves in the home, to go outside alone, or their ability to be employed.

Percent of Population with a Disability

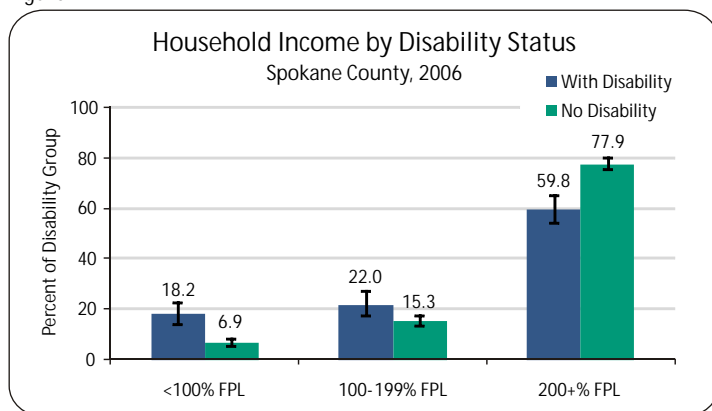
The total percentage of the Spokane County population with a disability has not significantly changed from 2000 to 2006. Each year, approximately one in five individuals reported a disability; 19.1% in 2000, 16.8% in 2002, 18.5% in 2004 and 19.7% in 2006. This means there are currently between 77,201 and 87,340 people in the Spokane County community living with a disability.

Income

Individuals with disabilities were significantly more likely than those without disabilities to be living on incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). People with disabilities were nearly two and a half times more likely to live on incomes below 200% FPL compared to those with no disabilities (Figure 1).

The FPL is based on income thresholds for different household sizes and household composition. For a household of four persons, the poverty income threshold was \$20,000 in 2006.

Figure 1

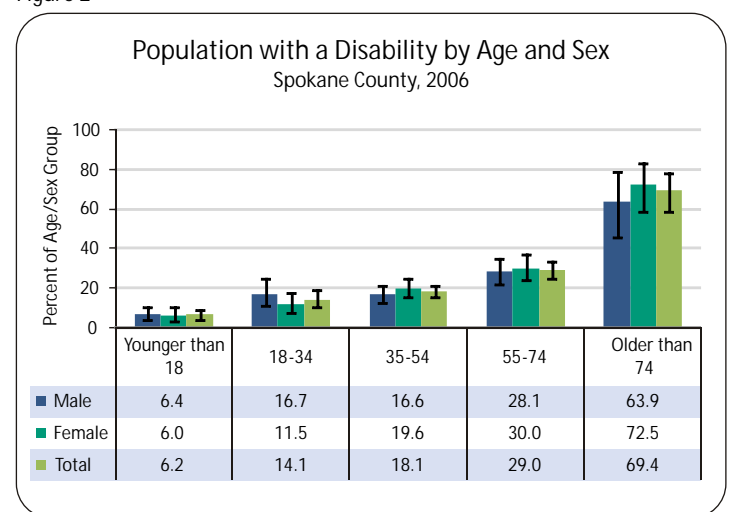


Age and Gender

There was no difference in the prevalence of disability between males and females, but disability significantly increased with age. There was no significant difference within each age and gender group (Figure 2).

An estimated 22,800 ($\pm 6,000$) individuals over 75 years of age are living with some type of disability.

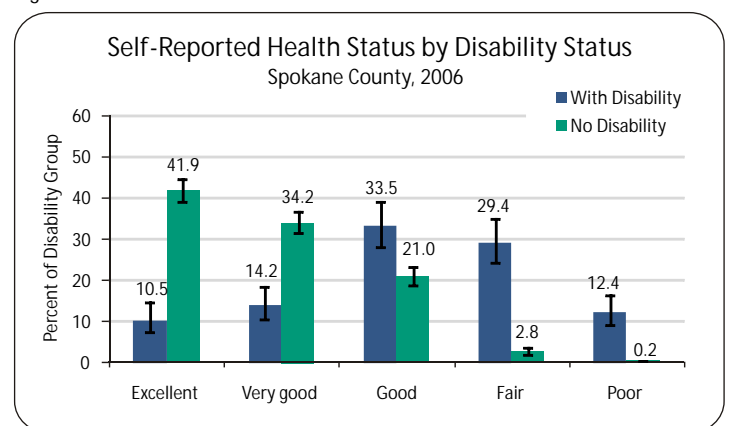
Figure 2



Self-Reported Health Status

In 2006, individuals with a disability were nearly ten times less likely to say their health was “excellent” or “very good,” compared to those without a disability. Among individuals with a disability, 41.8% ($\pm 5.6\%$) reported general health status as “fair” or “poor,” compared to 3.0% ($\pm 0.9\%$) of individuals with no disabilities.

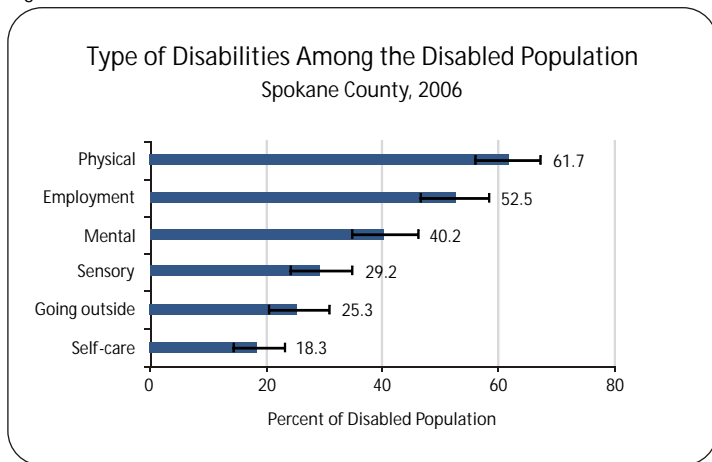
Figure 3



Types of Disabilities

Among individuals with a disability, physical limitation was the most commonly reported disability (62%). A person could report more than one type of disability (Figure 4).

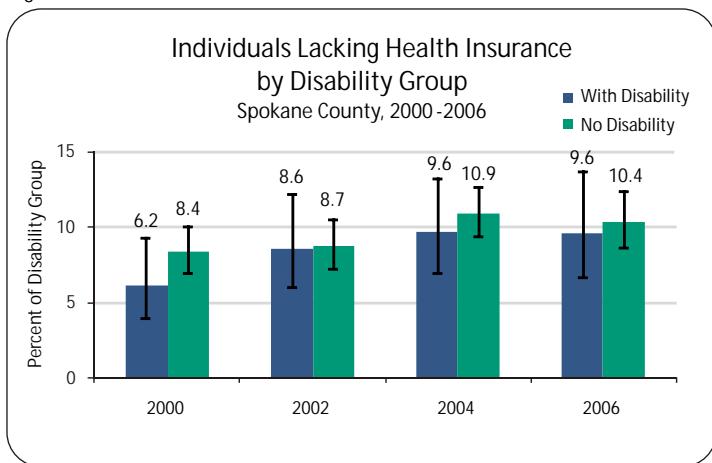
Figure 4



Health Insurance Coverage

The percentage of both disabled and non-disabled individuals that reported no health insurance coverage at the time of the survey has not changed significantly from 2000 to 2006. The percentage of uninsured between the two populations was similar.

Figure 5

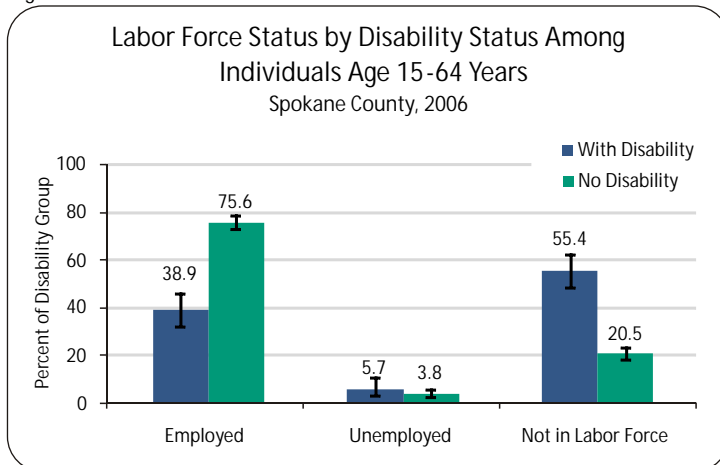


Labor Force Status

Individuals between the ages of 15 and 64 years of age with disabilities were nearly five times less likely to be employed compared to people in the same age group without disabilities.

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

Figure 6



Nearly half of disabled individuals 15 years of age or older had difficulty working at a job or business because of their condition. This is an estimated total of 42,100 ($\pm 6,750$) individuals in our community.

In 2006, the unemployment rate of individuals with disabilities was 12.3% ($\pm 7.1\%$) compared to 4.7% ($\pm 1.7\%$) for individuals without disabilities. Those who are not in the labor force are not included in the unemployment rates. To calculate the unemployment rate, the number of individuals who are unemployed is divided by the sum of the number of people both employed and unemployed.

About the State Population Survey

The State Population Survey 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 to statistically derive a conclusion of the characteristics of the whole population of Washington State.

In 2000, 752 Spokane County residents were surveyed, representing 1,985 individuals.

In 2002, 750 Spokane County residents were surveyed, representing 1,851 individuals.

In 2004, 754 Spokane County residents were surveyed, representing 1,910 individuals.

In 2006, 755 Spokane County residents were surveyed, representing 1,914 individuals.

