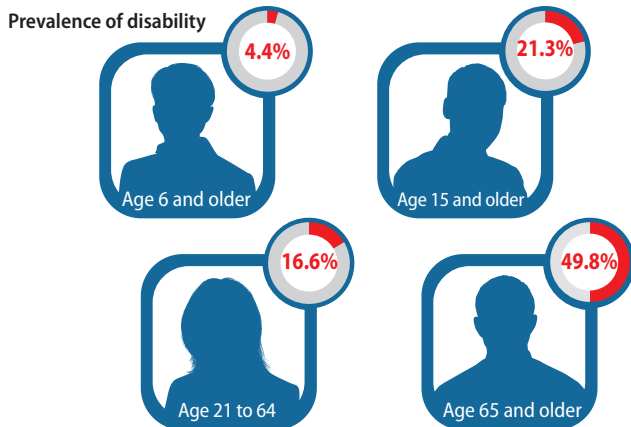


Disability

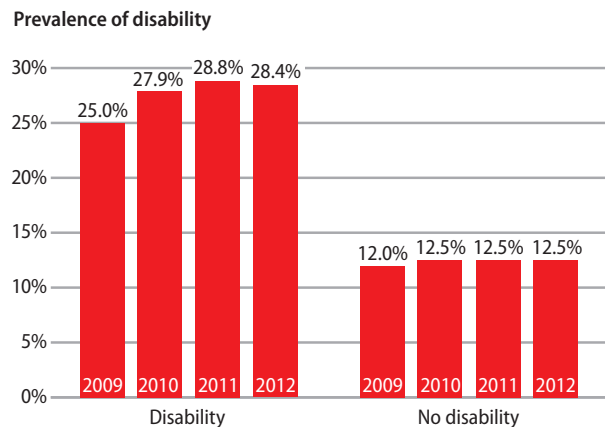
Nearly one in five Americans has a disability, representing 57 million Americans. Disability is a group that any person, regardless of age, economic status, or ethnicity may join, and includes people with physical, intellectual, mental, and developmental disabilities. Although much progress has been made over the past several decades to advance the full participation of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of community living, because of myth, stereotype, and fear about their disability, too many people are denied the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. Moreover, individuals with disabilities disproportionately face economic hardship as families struggle to make ends meet without proper services and supports. In turn, people with disabilities and their families are more susceptible to falling into poverty, which was especially true during the Great Recession and the subsequent recovery. We must bolster, not attack, safety net programs that are already working overtime to ensure that Americans with disabilities have meaningful opportunities to thrive economically and contribute to the nation's shared prosperity.

a *State of disability in America*
Approximately one in five Americans—19 percent of the population—has a disability, with the majority being seniors



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Americans With Disabilities, 2010.

b *Poverty rate*
People with disabilities experience a far higher rate of poverty than people without disabilities, ages 18 to 64



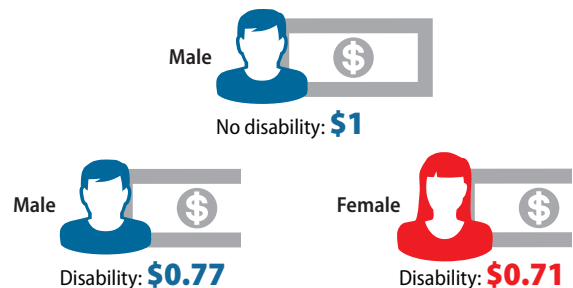
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Income Poverty and Health Insurance in the United States, 2009-2012.

c *Supplemental Security Income, or SSI*
SSI is a vital anti-poverty program for millions of adults, seniors, and especially families with children with disabilities—for many serving as their only or main source of income. Yet only 39 percent of children who applied were found eligible in 2012.



Source: National Academy of Social Insurance, Supplemental Security Income for Child with Disabilities, 2012; Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Report Jan. 2012-Dec. 2012; U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty thresholds, 2012.

d *Disability wage gap*
Men and women with disabilities are paid vastly less than people without disabilities



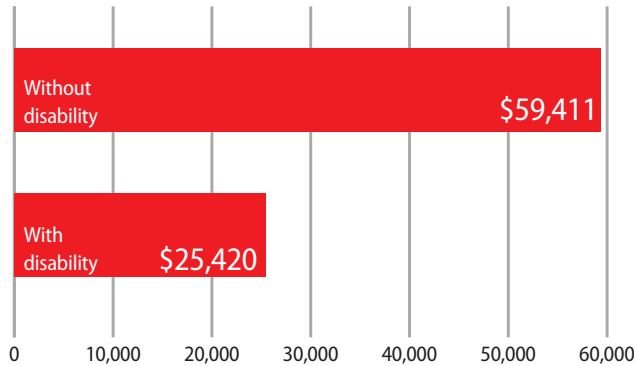
Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Federal Register Vol. 78 No. 185, 2013; National Women's Law Center calculations of U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey 2012.

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Income disparity

People with disabilities have lower incomes and higher unemployment rates than people without disabilities

Median household income for householders with and without a disability, ages 18–64

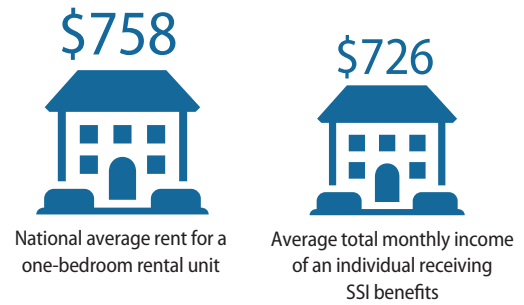


Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Federal Register Vol. 78 No. 185, 2013.

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Lack of affordable housing

People with disabilities are commonly priced out of housing



In 2012, it was virtually impossible for a single adult receiving SSI to obtain decent and safe housing without any form of subsidy, even if they used all of their income. As many as 2 million nonelderly people with disabilities live in homeless shelters, public institutions, nursing homes, and other institutions due to the lack of affordable housing.

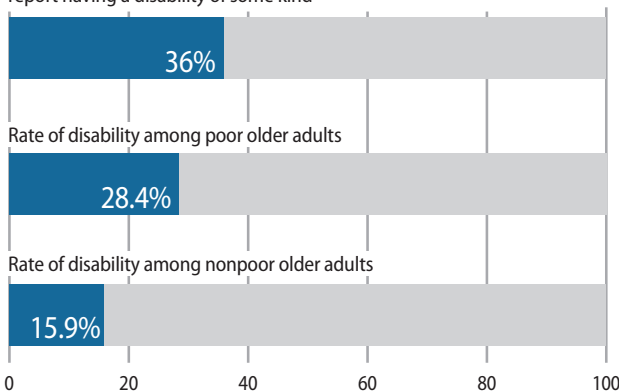
Source: Emily Cooper, Ann O'Hara, and Andrew Zovistoski, Priced Out in 2012: The Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities, 2011.

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Seniors

Poor older adults are more likely than those with higher incomes to have disabilities and/or a limitation that hinders their ability to live independently

36 percent of people aged 65 and older report having a disability of some kind

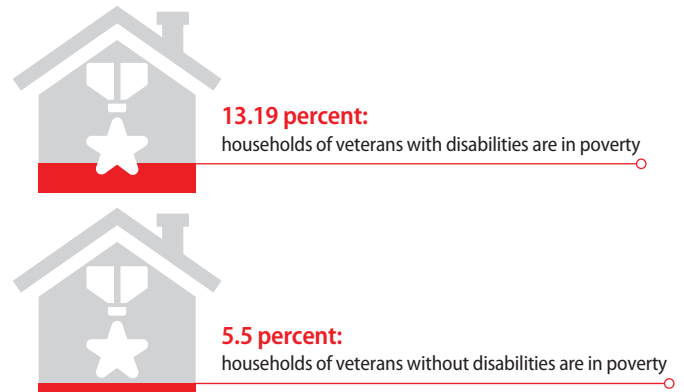


Source: AARP, Older Americans in Poverty: A Snapshot, 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012.

h

Veterans

Despite access to veteran disability benefits and health care, veterans with disabilities struggle with poverty; more than half of all homeless veterans have disabilities



Source: National Poverty Center, Work-Related Disability, Veteran Status, and Poverty: Implications for Family Well-Being, 2011; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Veteran Homelessness: A Supplemental Report to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, 2010.

With roughly 19 percent of Americans living with disabilities and more than a quarter living in poverty, Americans with disabilities struggle to realize their personal or economic potential. Pay equity, income disparities, housing, health care, and education are merely a few areas in which people with disabilities lack necessary supports to overcome economic hardship and make ends meet on a regular basis. As assistance programs such as SSI struggle to provide for even a fraction of low-income children and families with disabilities in need, now is not the time to cut back, but rather to strengthen and reinforce crucial services and supports.

Moving forward, we must set our nation's priorities straight—denying opportunity to children, the elderly, and veterans with disabilities not only falls short of American values, but also is detrimental to the economy as a whole.