2024 Annual Disability Infographic: Disability Experiences of Veterans Ages 18-64

Vets with disabilities have higher poverty and lower employment rates.

DEFINING “DISABILITY”

General Disability: The American Community Survey (ACS) asks a sequence of disability-related questions about difficulties with vision, hearing, ambulation, cognition, self-care, and independent living.

Service-Connected Disability: ACS respondents with service-connected (SC) disabilities also report their disability rating as determined by the Veterans Administration (VA). The scale below shows SC disability rating levels and the number of veterans per level.

215,000 360,000 1,322,000
0%* or 10% or 30% or 50% or 70, 80, 90 or 100%
No Disability

*Includes veterans with SC disability who did not report their SC rating.

PERCENT WITH DISABILITIES

Of 8,222,000 veterans ages 18-64, 22.8 percent report a service-connected disability, 8.8 percent report a general disability but not a service-connected disability, and 11.4 percent report both service-connected and general disability.

PERCENT WORKING: FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND

No Disability: 70.5%
Only Service Connected Disability: 67.0%
Both Disability Types: 38.9%
Only General Disability: 38.0%

AVERAGE WAGES PER HOUR*

No Disability: $37.75
Only Service Connected Dis.: $40.70
Both Disability Types: $34.30
Only General Disability: $31.18

PERCENT IN OR NEAR POVERTY

22.0%

Only General Disability

PERCENT RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS

Only SC Disability: 3.1%
Both Disability Types: 18.4%
Only General Disability: 20.2%

*Note: Average wages for full-time year-round workers
For more information on the veterans rating scale visit benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp
Source: 2022 American Community Survey, civilian non-institutionalized veteran population analyzed