

Appendix H. Special Populations

Appendix H: Special Populations – Disabilities

Appendix H provides information about special populations with disabilities in Palm Beach County. Table Appendix H-1 provides a breakdown of the civilian, non-institutionalized population with disabilities by Housing Sector, based on 2000 Census data. The disabilities have been categorized and defined as follows:

- **Sensory Disability** – Conditions that include blindness, deafness, or severe vision or hearing impairment.
- **Physical Disability** – Conditions that substantially limit one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- **Mental Disabilities** – Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more, the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.
- **Self-care Disability** – Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months more, the person has difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.
- **G-outside-home Disability** – Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more, the person has difficulty going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office.
- **Employment Disability** – Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more, the person has difficulty working at a job or business.

2000 Census Methodology Regarding Disability Information

The American Community Survey (ACS) was conducted along with the 2000 Census which provided data on a census tract level. The data was then imputed by the Census.

Disability

The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business. In the 2002 American Community Survey, there are six disability questions as described below.

Sensory and Physical Limitations

For 1999-2002, the data on sensory and physical limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire items 15a and 15b, which were asked of people 5 years old and over. Questionnaire items 15a and 15b asked the respondents if they had the following two long-lasting conditions: "blindness, deafness, severe vision, or hearing impairment," or "a condition that substantially limits physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying." The questionnaire items instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had each long-lasting condition by marking "yes" or "no" for

each of the two specific functions. In some of the disability data products such as in ACS Detailed Tables, questionnaire item 15a was labeled as Sensory Disability and item 15b, as Physical Disability.

For the 1996-1998 American Community Survey, the questionnaire item, which was asked of persons 5 years old and over, instructed the respondents to mark each appropriate box if they had difficulty with any of the three specific functions. If the respondents did not have difficulty with any of the three specific functions, the questionnaire item instructed them to mark the box labeled "None of the above." The boxes for the specific functions were labeled "Difficulty seeing (even with glasses)," "Difficulty hearing (even with a hearing aid)," and "Difficulty walking." The respondents could mark as many as three boxes depending on their functional limitation status.

Mental Limitations

For the 1999-2002 American Community Survey, the data on mental limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16a, which was asked of persons 5 years old and over. The questionnaire item asked the respondents if they had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to "learn, remember, or concentrate." The questionnaire item instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no." In some of the disability data products such as in ACS Detailed Tables, questionnaire item 16a was labeled as Mental Disability.

Self-care Limitations

For the 1999-2002 American Community Survey, the data on self-care limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16b, which was asked of persons 5 years and over. The questionnaire item asked respondents if they had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to "dress, bathe, or get around in side the home." The questionnaire items instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no." In some of the disability data products such as ACS Detailed Tables, questionnaire item 16b was labeled as Self-Care Disability.

Going-Outside-Home Limitations

For the 1999-2002 American Community Survey, the data on mobility limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16c, which was asked of persons 16 years and over. The questionnaire item asked respondents if they had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to "go outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office." The questionnaire item instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no." In some of disability data products such as in ACS Detailed Tables, questionnaire item 16c was labeled as Go-outside-home Disability.

For the 1996-1998 American Community Survey, the data on going-outside-home limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16a, which was asked of persons 15 years old and over. The questionnaire item was slightly different from the 1999-2002 item and asked the respondents if they had a long-lasting physical or mental condition that made it difficult to "go outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office." The questionnaire item instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no."

Employment Limitations

For the 1999-2002 American Community Survey, the data on work limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16d, which was asked of persons 16 years and over. The questionnaire item asked the respondents if they had a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to "work at a job or a business." The questionnaire item instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no." In some of disability data products such as ACS Detailed Tables, item 16a was labeled as Employment Disability.

For the 1996-1998 American Community Survey, the data on employment limitations were derived from answers to questionnaire item 16b, which was asked of persons 15 years old and over. The questionnaire item was slightly different from the 1999-2002 item and asked the respondents if they had a long-lasting physical or mental condition that "prevented the person from working at a job or business." The questionnaire item instructed the respondents to indicate whether or not they had this condition by marking "yes" or "no."

Disability Status

The Census Bureau uses the six disability items above to determine individuals' disability status in some of its data products such as in ACS Detailed Tables and the Disability Profile. In ACS 1999-2002, people aged 16-64 were classified as having a disability if they reported at least one of the above six conditions. People aged 5-15 were classified as having a disability if they reported any one of the four conditions: sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, or self-care disability. People over 65 were classified as having a disability if they reported any one of the five conditions: sensory disability, physical disability, mental disability, self-care disability, or go-outside-home disability.

Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Study

Appendix H-1

Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population with Disabilities (By Type of Disabilities), 2000

	One or More Disabilities	Sensory Disabilities	Physical Disabilities	Mental Disabilities	Self Care Disabilities	Go Outside of Home Disabilities	Employment Disabilities
Housing Sector	5 years and over	5 years and over	5 years and over	5 years and over	5 years and over	16 years and over	16 to 64 years
A	7,760	3,080	3,641	3,587	3,655	4,156	3,069
B	1,503	761	794	823	856	843	738
C	7,724	2,945	3,411	3,530	3,624	4,265	3,294
D	3,115	1,401	1,598	1,536	1,670	1,699	1,606
E	10,323	5,298	5,627	5,578	5,915	5,653	4,529
F	20,608	9,698	10,360	10,247	10,917	12,187	8,465
G	6,293	2,839	3,182	3,169	3,290	3,555	3,149
H	7,796	4,106	4,495	4,290	4,389	4,244	3,541
I	16,391	7,237	7,889	7,637	8,198	9,455	6,117
J	19,219	9,814	11,030	10,625	11,159	11,208	9,189
K	12,639	6,053	6,800	6,499	6,832	7,359	4,898
L	20,335	6,505	8,276	7,830	8,482	11,831	4,336
M	181	63	101	104	110	101	56
N	15,091	6,434	7,376	7,338	7,582	8,329	5,299
O	11,284	4,965	5,829	5,448	5,753	6,746	4,701
P	21,001	9,863	11,422	10,895	11,533	12,638	8,447
Q	6,264	3,961	4,269	4,045	4,324	3,645	3,142
R	9,048	3,421	4,087	3,955	4,195	5,413	3,906
Total	196,575	88,444	100,187	97,136	102,484	113,327	78,482

Source: 2000 Census, Strategic Planning Group, Inc., 2006.