



Cover

# respect ability

FIGHTING STIGMAS. ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES.

**RespectAbility Comments**

**Presented by: Nelly Nieblas and  
Philip Kahn-Pauli**

<https://www.respectability.org/>



**61 Million**  
people in the US  
have a disability.\*

People with disabilities  
want  
**opportunities**  
Just like anyone else.

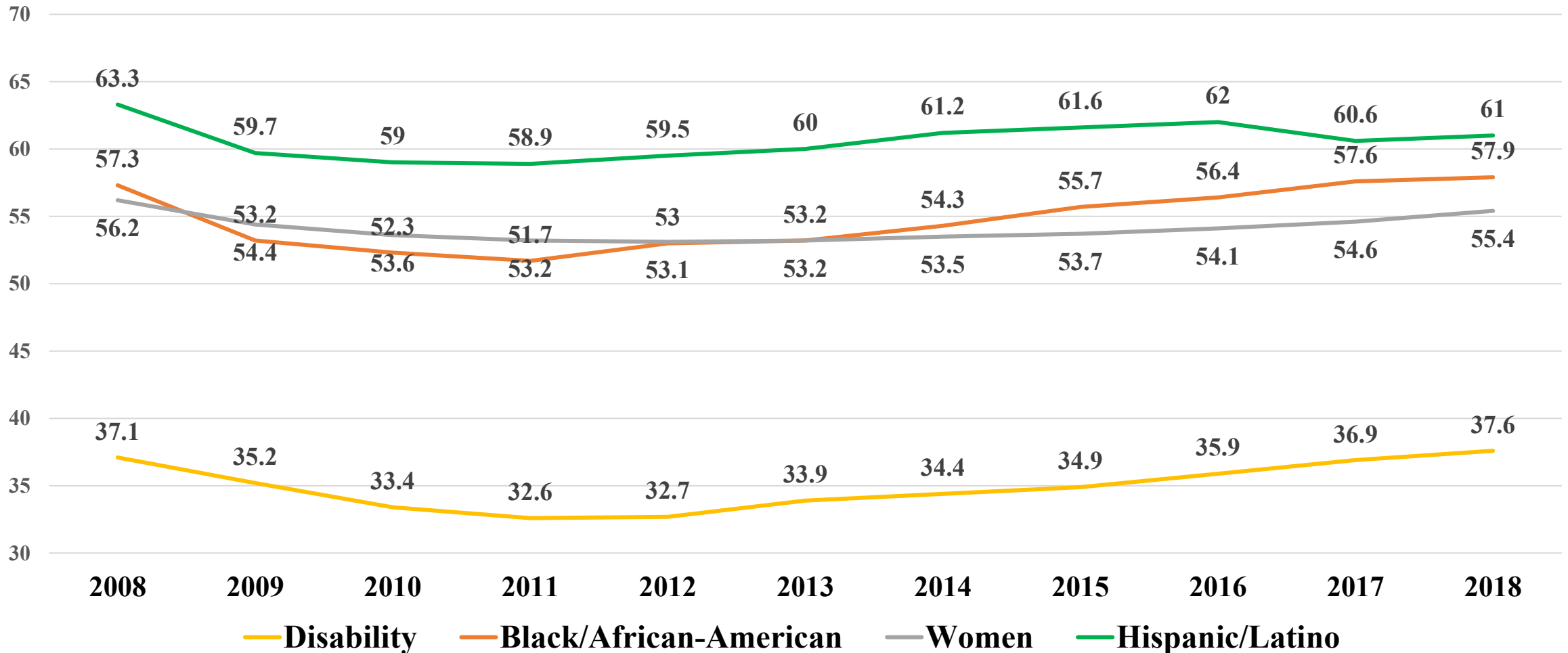
\* Source: US Census



**1 in 4**  
adults have a  
disability  
(physical, sensory, cognitive,  
mental health or other)

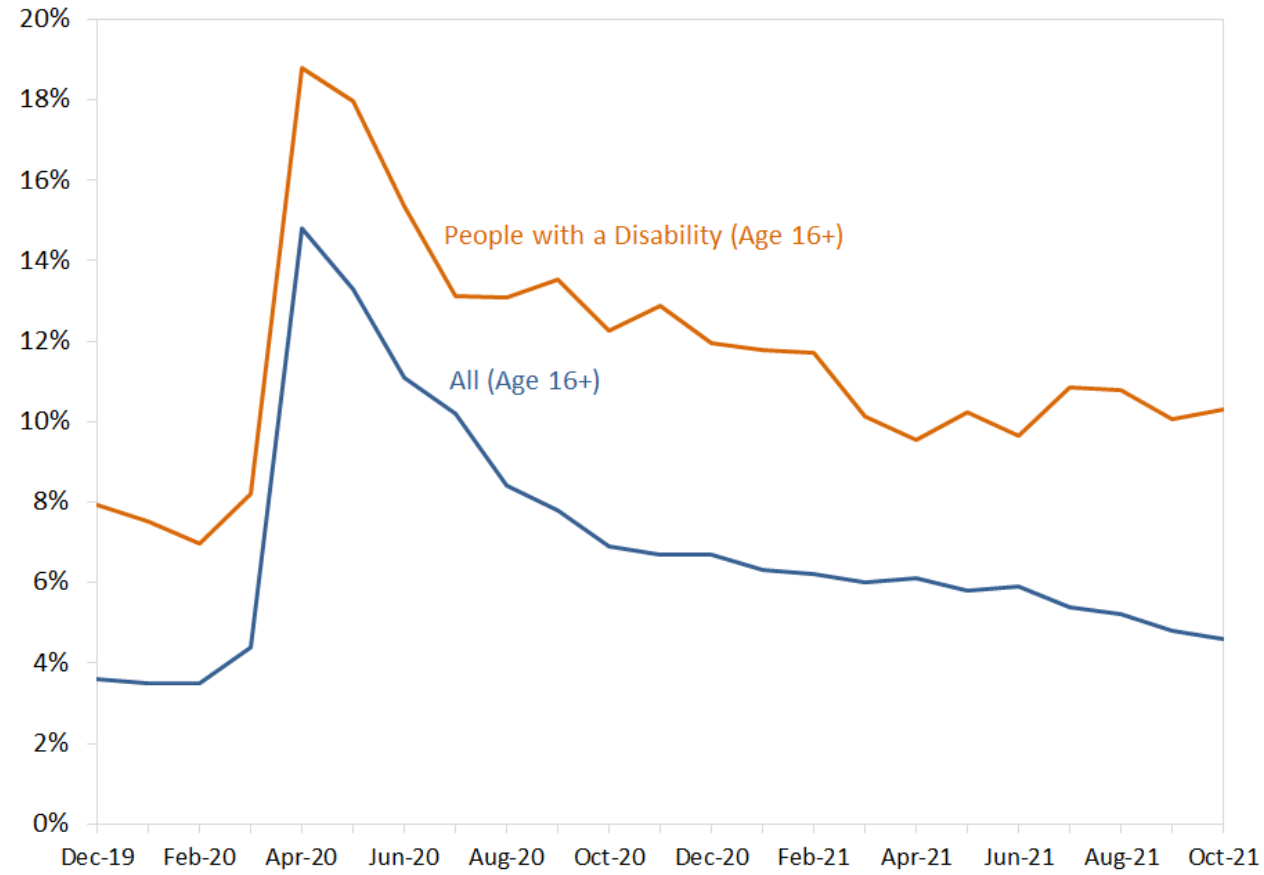


# Employment Rates of Minority Populations (Percentage of population) – 2008 to 2018



SOURCES: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/793961/employment-among-disabled-us-adults/>  
<https://www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/employment-population-ratio.htm>

# Unemployment Rates for PWDs in 2020



■ FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

Source:  
<https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2021/november/current-labor-market-workers-disability>

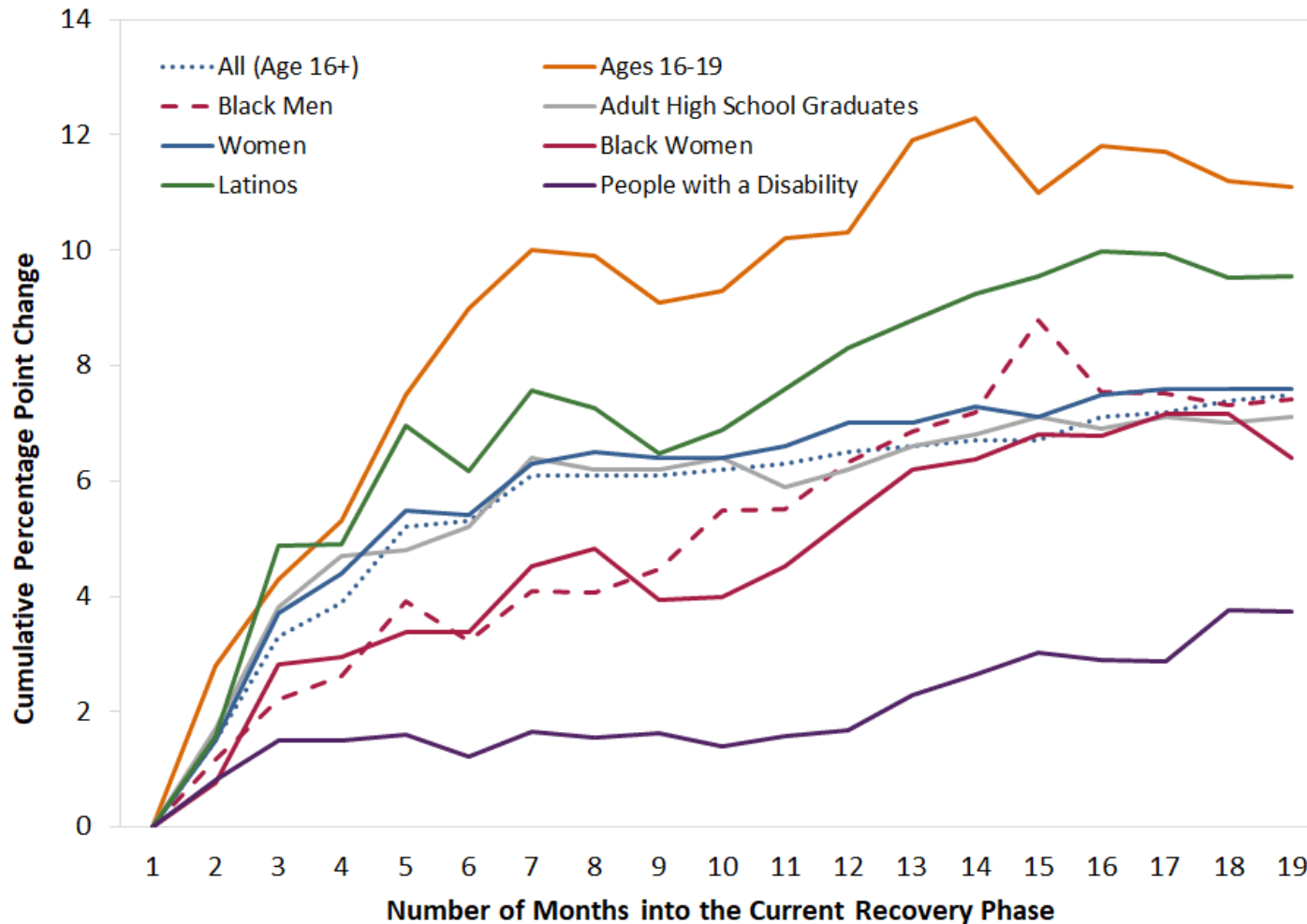
# Labor Force Participation Rate in October 2021

- As of October 2021, the labor force participation rate for working-age people with disabilities is now 2 full percentage points higher than it was before COVID-19.
- **This means that people with disabilities are engaging with the labor force in higher numbers than before the pandemic.**





# Rebound in the Employment-to-Pop Ratio for Vulnerable Groups during the Recovery

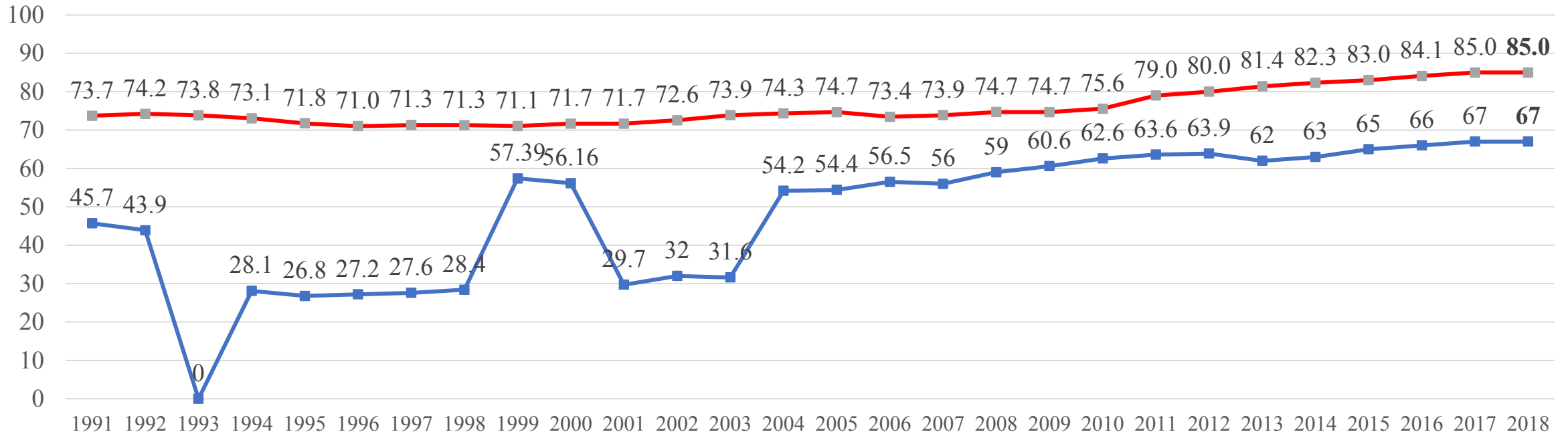


■ FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

Source:

<https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2021/november/current-labor-market-workers-disability>

# High School Graduation Rates for Students w/ & w/o Disabilities – 1990 to 2020



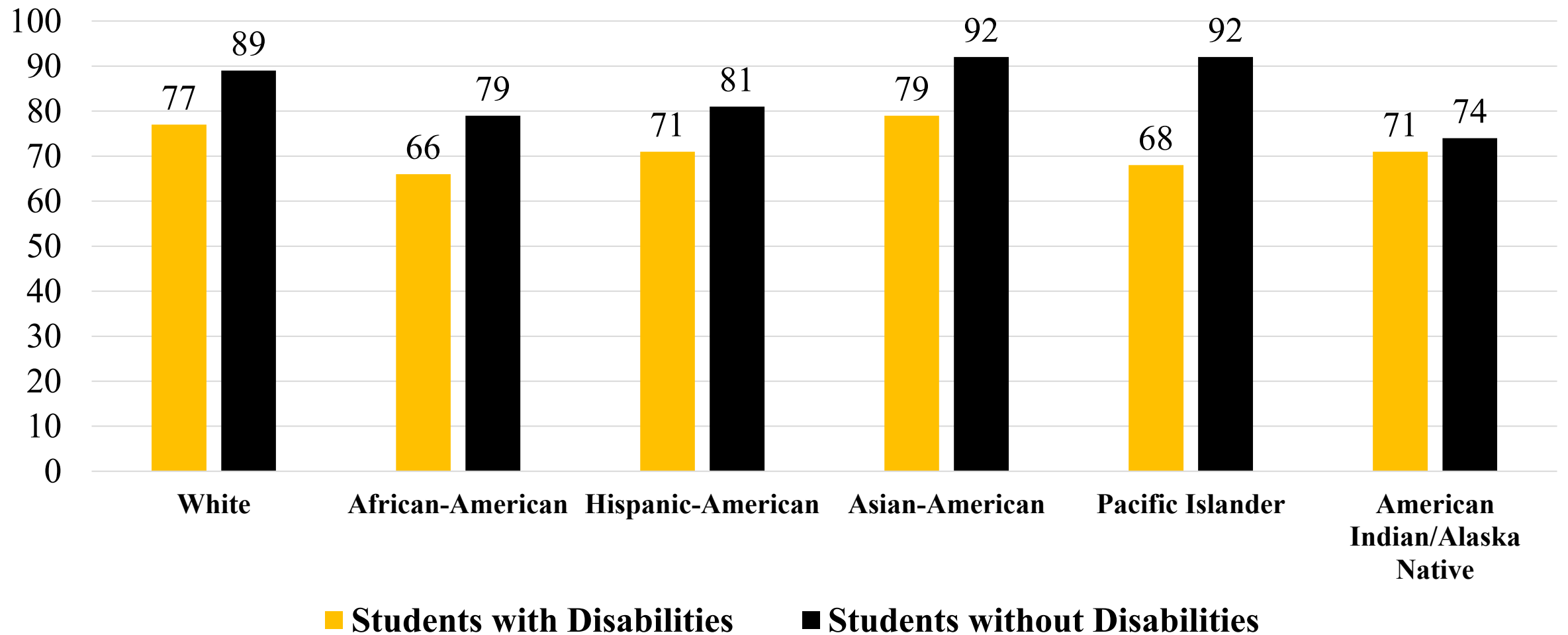
**NOTE: PWD Data Unavailable for class of 1993.**

- HS Graduation Rate for Students with Disabilities 1990 to 2020
- HS Graduation Rate for Students without Disabilities 1990 to 2020

Source: Digest of Education Statistics 1991 to 2018 <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/> / <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=091#061>



# National HS Graduation Rates for Students w/ & w/o Disabilities by Race – Class of 2018



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 618 Data Products [https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator\\_cgg.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cgg.asp)

# Recommendations

- *Focus on Closing the Gap in Labor Force Participation Rates Between Oregonians With and Without Disabilities.*
- *Look at Strategies to Close the Gap in High School Graduation Rates.*
- *Expand on the Use of Online, Cohort-Based Apprenticeships for Workers in the Knowledge Economy and the Nonprofit Sector*
- *Look at Expanding Access to Entrepreneurship as a Workforce Solution*
- *Focus on Encouraging Disability-Owned Businesses by Utilizing Best Practices from Other States.*
- *Building the Caring Economy Through Proven Models of Disability Employment.*

# Recommendations – Part 2

- *Improving Pre-ETS and Continuing to Offer Virtual Services*
- *Leveraging Federal Contractors and Section 503 to Drive Employment Opportunities for Workers with Disabilities*
- *Ensuring Family Engagement is an Element of Workforce Development Planning to Support Transition-Aged Youth with Disabilities*
- *Adopting a “No-Wrong-Door” Approach to Connect Jobseekers With and Without Disabilities to Workforce Services*
- *Work with Subject Matter Experts and Learn from Past Implementation of Best Practices.*





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**THANK YOU!**

**Nelly Nieblas**  
**Manager of Policy, Advocacy and**  
**Engagement**  
**RespectAbility**  
[NellyN@RespectAbility.org](mailto:NellyN@RespectAbility.org)