Building an Equitable Recovery - Solutions for Washingtonians with Disabilities

December 15th, 2021

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)
Disability Statistics in Washington

- Total # of people with disabilities (PWDs) in Washington: 958,138
- Total # of working-age PWDs: 478,673
- # of working-age PWDs with Jobs: 201,400
- Employment Rate: working-age PWDs: 42%
- Employment Rate: working-age Non-PWDs: 79.5%
- Gap in Labor Force Participation Rates between PWDs and non-PWDs: 37.4%
- Poverty Rate of PWDs: 22.1%

Source: Annual Disability Statistics Compendium: 2020 Durham, NH: Univ. of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability
https://disabilitycompendium.org/
Recognizing Racial Disparities in Washington

• There are 20,982 working-age African Americans with disabilities. Out of that number, only 7,105 or 33.9% percent have jobs. (Tables 3.22/3.27)

• Fully 30.7% percent of African Americans with disabilities live in poverty compared to 14.7% percent of African Americans without disabilities. (Tables 6.7/6.12)

• There are 46,579 working-age Latinx people with disabilities. Out of that number, fully 24,647 or 52.9% percent have jobs. (Tables 3.25/3.30)

• Fully 22.7% percent of Latinx people with disabilities live in poverty, compared to only 16.9% Of Latinx people without disabilities. (Tables 6.10/6.15)

• There are 18,563 working-age Asian Americans with disabilities. Out of that number, only 7,612 or 41% percent have jobs. (Tables 3.23/3.28)

• Fully 26.1% percent of Asian Americans with disabilities live in poverty compared to 8% percent of Asian Americans without disabilities. (Tables 6.8/6.13)

Employment Rates for Working-Age Washingtonians w/ & w/o Disabilities, by Race – 2019 (Pre-COVID)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>PWDs</th>
<th>Non-PWDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty Rates for Working-Age Washingtonians w/ & w/o Disabilities, by Race – 2019 (Pre-COVID)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>PWDs</th>
<th>Non-PWDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Percentage & Number of Disability by Type - SWDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Autism</th>
<th>Deaf-blindness</th>
<th>Developmental delay</th>
<th>Emotional disturbance</th>
<th>Hearing disabilities</th>
<th>Intellectual disabilities</th>
<th>Multiple disabilities</th>
<th>Orthopedic Disability</th>
<th>Other health conditions</th>
<th>Specific learning disabilities</th>
<th>Speech or language</th>
<th>Traumatic brain injury (TBI)</th>
<th>Visual disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of SWDs with that Disability</td>
<td>15,383</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8,979</td>
<td>5,633</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>5,010</td>
<td>3,007</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>27,913</td>
<td>48,076</td>
<td>18,143</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of SWDs with that Disability</td>
<td>1.28%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
<td>2.12%</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
<td>1.07%</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In total, there are 134,239 students with disabilities in Washington State’s Public School System today.

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

Unemployment Rates for PWDs in 2020

Source:
As of November 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

Source: https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2021/november/current-labor-market-workers-disability
THANK YOU!

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