

POVERTY & DISABILITY: BY THE NUMBERS (2015)

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Nationally

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2015 46.1 million people in the United States (14.7 percent) were living in poverty. During that same year, a comparable proportion of the population (12.9 percent) reported having at least one disability. The median U.S. household income in 2015 was \$55,775. However, among households that included someone with a disability, the median income was about 25 percent lower -- \$40,300. The federal poverty guidelines have increased slightly between 2014 and 2016, but still remain low:

Household Size	2014	2015	2016
1 person household	\$11,670	\$11,770	\$11,880
2 people household	\$15,730	\$15,930	\$16,020
3 people household	\$19,790	\$20,090	\$20,160
4 people household	\$23,850	\$24,250	\$24,300

In Arizona

The poverty rate in Arizona was 2.7 percentage points higher than the national average in 2015; 17.4 percent of Arizona households were living in poverty. In addition, the median income among all households, \$51,492, was \$4,283 below the national average, and more than one in five of families with children 18 and younger (20.3 percent) were living in poverty. In 2014, households with at least one disabled household member earned 31 percent less than households with no disabled members.

A growing percentage, 12.9 percent, or 858,911 Arizonans, reported having at least one disability in 2015, only slightly higher than the national 12.3 percent. Nearly one in ten (9.9 percent) are between the ages of 18-64. Comparing working age adults with and without disabilities, disparities are significant. Between 2012 and 2015 working adults with a disability earned, on average, about 44 percent less than adults without disabilities. In 2015, this difference equated to an average of \$9,283 less each year.

Economic Characteristics of Workers with and without Disabilities, 2015

	With Disability	No Disability	Difference
Employment Rate	21%	61.9%	▼294.8%
Not in Labor Force	75.6%	33.9%	▲223.0%
Median Earnings	\$21,252.00	\$30,535.00	▼\$9,283
Poverty Rate	20.7%	16.9%	▲12.2%

Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2015. S1811: Selected Economic Characteristics for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population by Disability Status.

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