How to Use Data to Identify the Financial Needs of People with Disabilities in Local Communities

Data is essential in identifying the nature and scope of the financial situation of people with disabilities. Collecting data for your local area may include conducting focus groups, administering surveys or accessing existing data sources that provide local data on people with disabilities. This Reference Guide provides links to readily available local, state and national level data on people with disabilities.

Data Uses

Motivate Action

• Use local level data to identify the number of people with disabilities in your area and their economic status.

• Use local level data to identify the number of individuals receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits.

Develop Programs

• Use national level data on the financial capability of people with disabilities to identify the needs that you should address in your programs.

• Use local level data to identify specific target audience and location of your program.

Monitor and Evaluate

• Identify people with disabilities served by your program to detect disparities that may indicate access barriers or other barriers to participation.

For more information about this Reference Guide, please send an email to ask@ndi-inc.org.
Data Resources

Local-Level Data Sources

American Community Survey:
- Estimates from a survey of over three million people annually
- Provides access to data tables on a range of characteristics for almost any geographic area (national, state, county, city, metro area and zip code) through a guided search and an advanced search
- Provides data on number of people with disabilities, poverty rate, employment rate, educational attainment and other demographic characteristics
- American Fact Finder: factfinder.census.gov
  - Watch a video on how to download data for your local area at: nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/ec-making-data-work-for-you

Social Security Administration Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Beneficiaries by State and County: ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/

State-Level Data Sources

Disability Statistics from Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability: disabilitystatistics.org
- Provides data on prevalence, employment, earnings, income, poverty, educational attainment
- Easy to use customizable search and printable booklets of state-level data

Prosperity Now Scorecard: scorecard.prosperitynow.org
- Provides disability data for each state

U.S. Department of Labor’s DRIVE Data Site: drivedisabilityemployment.org
- Interesting and easily accessible disability employment data

National-Level Data Sources

FINRA Foundation National Financial Capability Study:
- Survey of over 22,000 Adults, including 5,005 who reported a disability based on six questions
- Provides estimates of a range of financial capability measures related to making ends meet, planning ahead, using financial products and financial knowledge and decision making
- Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities reports all these metrics by disability status at a national level: nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/reports/ndi-finra-report-2017

FDIC Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households
- Provides estimate about banking status, bank and non-bank credit, savings and use of alternative financial services
- Banking Status and Financial Behaviors of Adults with Disabilities reports metrics by disability status at a national level: nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/reports/banking-stat-fin-behav-2017
- Newest FDIC report available at fdic.gov/householdsurvey – disability information is in the Appendix Tables

Webinar

Empowered Cities: Making Data Work for You: nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/webinars/ec-making-data-work-for-you

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