

The 2022 Youth Transition Report:

Outcomes for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities

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Acknowledgments

This report was produced by the Institute for Educational Leadership, Inc. (IEL) to examine the persistent gaps in educational and employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities in the United States. The report focuses on comparative data for youth and young adults with and without disabilities between the ages of 14 and 24, including those opportunity youth that education and workforce systems have failed to support adequately, to highlight the needs of this transition-age population. This information can support practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to better understand and serve this population. The authors wish to thank Helen Janc Malone for her quality reviews of the report drafts and support for this work.

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Introduction

About the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) provides national expertise in community-driven leadership development in the intersecting areas of education, employment, and health. The common thread in our work is supporting community and institutional leaders as they build systems around racial, disability inclusion, and economic equity goals. Since 1964, our journey and experiences have resulted in approaches, tools, and practices that reflect the needs of leaders no matter where they sit in communities. The authentic relationships that we build in the process continuously shape the way we engage community leaders, do our work, and provide the foundation for deeper impact as we address systemic challenges in the 400-plus communities that trust us as partners.

Purpose of This Report

The 2022 Youth Transition Report underscores the persistent and pernicious gap between youth and young adults with disabilities and those without disabilities on measures of success in education, employment, opportunity, and poverty. While data and reports exist for the working-age adult population and children with disabilities, IEL recognized a lack of information specific to the youth and young adult population in the 14-24 age group. IEL's Youth Transition Report addresses this need by presenting an annual snapshot of the outcome gaps between youth and young adults with disabilities and those without disabilities, including opportunity youth whom the education and workforce systems have not adequately served and supported. This report consists of the status of the selected population and education, employment, opportunity youth, and poverty indicators.

Methods

Key population, education, employment, and opportunity youth indicators and poverty rates are derived from the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) population file (2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates). IEL conducted a custom analysis of youth and young adults at both the national and state levels. Therefore, the estimates in this report may be slightly different from the estimates presented in the U.S. Census Bureau's pre-made tables. We define youth as ages 14 to 17 years old and young adults as ages 18 to 24 years old. This report explores the descriptive status of education and employment for youth and young adults at national and state levels. Meanwhile, we estimated the gaps in educational and workforce outcomes for youth and young adults with and without disabilities. All gaps displayed in this report are statistically significant gaps. The report also includes calculated data from the National Center for Education Statistics. The structure of the 2022 Youth Transition Report is similar to previous reports.

Suggested Citation

Cheng, L., & Shaewitz, D. (2022). *The 2022 youth transition report: Outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities*. Washington, D.C.: Institute for Educational Leadership.

2022 Report Highlights

This report includes the analysis of key educational and employment indicators for youth and young adults with and without disabilities at both national and state levels. In cases where data is not available or applicable for the under 16 or 18 population, we have noted the age ranges used.

Disability Rates: While the population of youth and young adults with disabilities varies by state, in those states with the highest rates of disability for 14–24 year-olds, the rates were more than twice that of states with the lowest rates of disability. Disability prevalence in this age group ranged from a high of 11.4 percent in Maine to a low of 4.3 percent in Hawaii. The largest category of disability, which is self-reported through the U.S. Census, was cognitive difficulty (70.1 percent of youth with disabilities nationally). Cognitive difficulty is a broad category that includes youth and young adults with autism, Down Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, dementia, attention deficit disorder, specific learning disability, and mental and emotional challenges.

High School Completion: Educational outcomes and attainment gaps between youth and young adults with and without disabilities varied by state. High school completion for students with disabilities ranged from the highest rate in Delaware (86.2 percent) to the lowest rate in Louisiana (68 percent). In addition, there remained a significant gap in high school attainment when comparing students with and without disabilities, with the widest gap at more than 18.6 percent. The trend from 2018 through 2020 showed a decrease in the gap nationally between youth with and without disabilities. However, Delaware was the only state with a high school attainment gap close to zero (0.8 percent) in 2020.

College Enrollment: College enrollment rates for young adults aged 18-24 with disabilities in the U.S. was 27.5 percent compared to the national average of 43.3 percent for young adults without disabilities. States varied from the highest college enrollment rate at 41.1 percent in Rhode Island to the lowest enrollment rate at 12.7 percent in Alaska. The average gap in college enrollment between young adults with and without disabilities was about 15.8 percent nationally; no state has closed this gap. However, California has shown a slight increase in college enrollment for youth with disabilities from 2017 (32.6 percent) to 2020 (36.2 percent).

College Completion: College completion at the bachelor's degree level is another measure of success for young adults with disabilities. Academic success among states varied from the highest completion rate in Washington, D.C. (16.2 percent) to the lowest rate of completion in Wyoming (0.6 percent). The gap between those college students with and without disabilities was 7.5 percent. The narrowest gap in bachelor's degree attainment at 3.3 percent was in Mississippi, but the state also had the highest enrollment rate gap of college students with disabilities at 21.7 percent.

Employment: Nationally, youth and young adults with disabilities (ages 14–24) are about 15 percent less likely to be employed than their peers without disabilities. Wisconsin had the highest employment rates for youth and young adults with disabilities at 38.8 percent compared to the lowest rates of employment in West Virginia at 21.1 percent. Of those youth and young adults with disabilities who were employed, the employment patterns are similar, with young people most likely to be employed by a private for-profit company or business. Nationally, there has been a slight trend over the past three years showing an increase in employment rates for youth with disabilities from 25.9 percent in 2018 to 27.5 percent in 2020. For example, Kansas has shown an increase in employment rates for youth with disabilities while also decreasing the gap between youth with and without disabilities. In the case of Wyoming, the rate of employment for youth with disabilities from 2018 to 2020 decreased by nearly 6 percent.

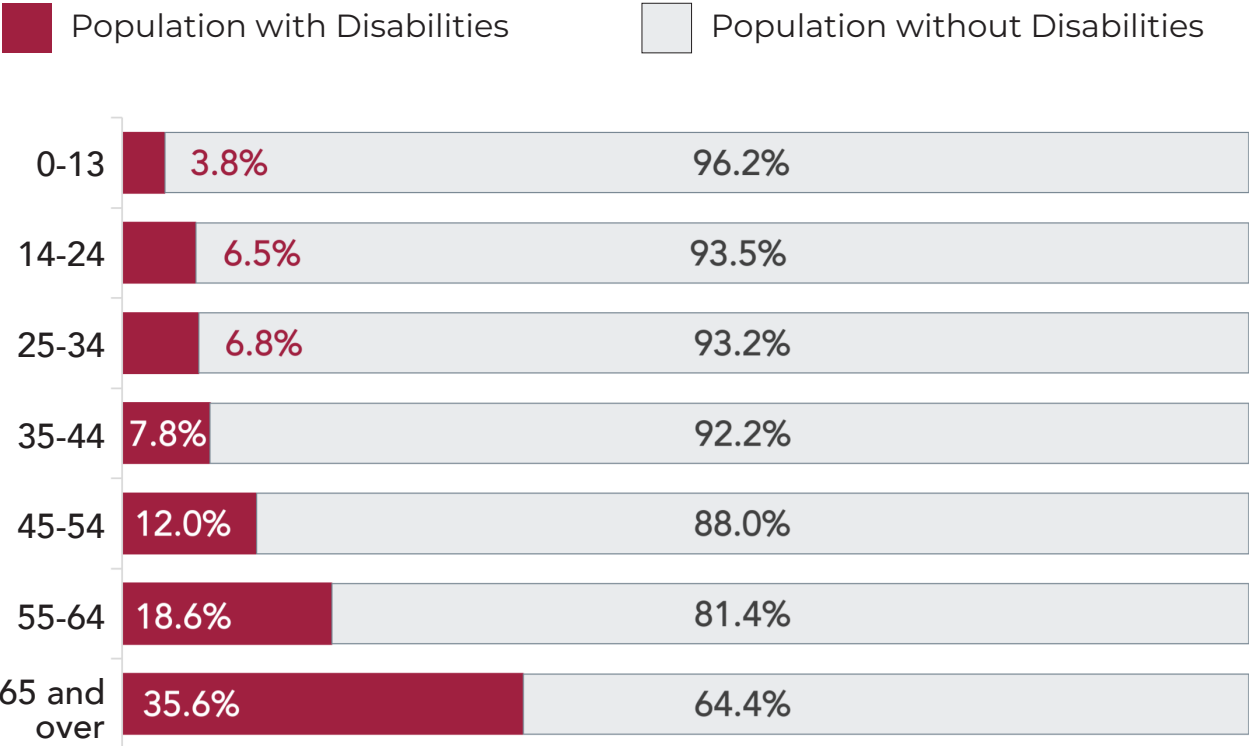
Opportunity Youth: Opportunity youth and young adults are commonly defined as those ages 14-24 who are neither in school nor employed. Our report examines the opportunity youth who are not in school and *not in the labor force*, which represents a true disconnection from systems. Opportunity youth with disabilities represented 19.7 percent of the national population compared to only 5.6 percent of opportunity youth without disabilities.

Poverty: Youth and young adults with disabilities are also more likely to live in poverty than their peers without disabilities. Poverty rates in some states, such as Kentucky, New Mexico, and Mississippi were more than 30 percent compared to a national average of 23.3 percent for youth with disabilities; those rates were also higher than the national average poverty rate for youth without disabilities at 16.9 percent. A few states—Delaware, North Dakota, and South Dakota—showed a narrowing of the gap between youth with and without disabilities living in poverty between 2018 and 2020.

Disability Prevalence

The rate of disability for youth and young adults ages 14-24 is 6.5 percent (see Table A1 in Appendix A for detailed information). Figure 1 demonstrates that the prevalence of disability increases with age as people acquire disabilities over a lifetime. These data are similar to patterns of disability rates in the previous year (see **2021 Youth Transition Report**).

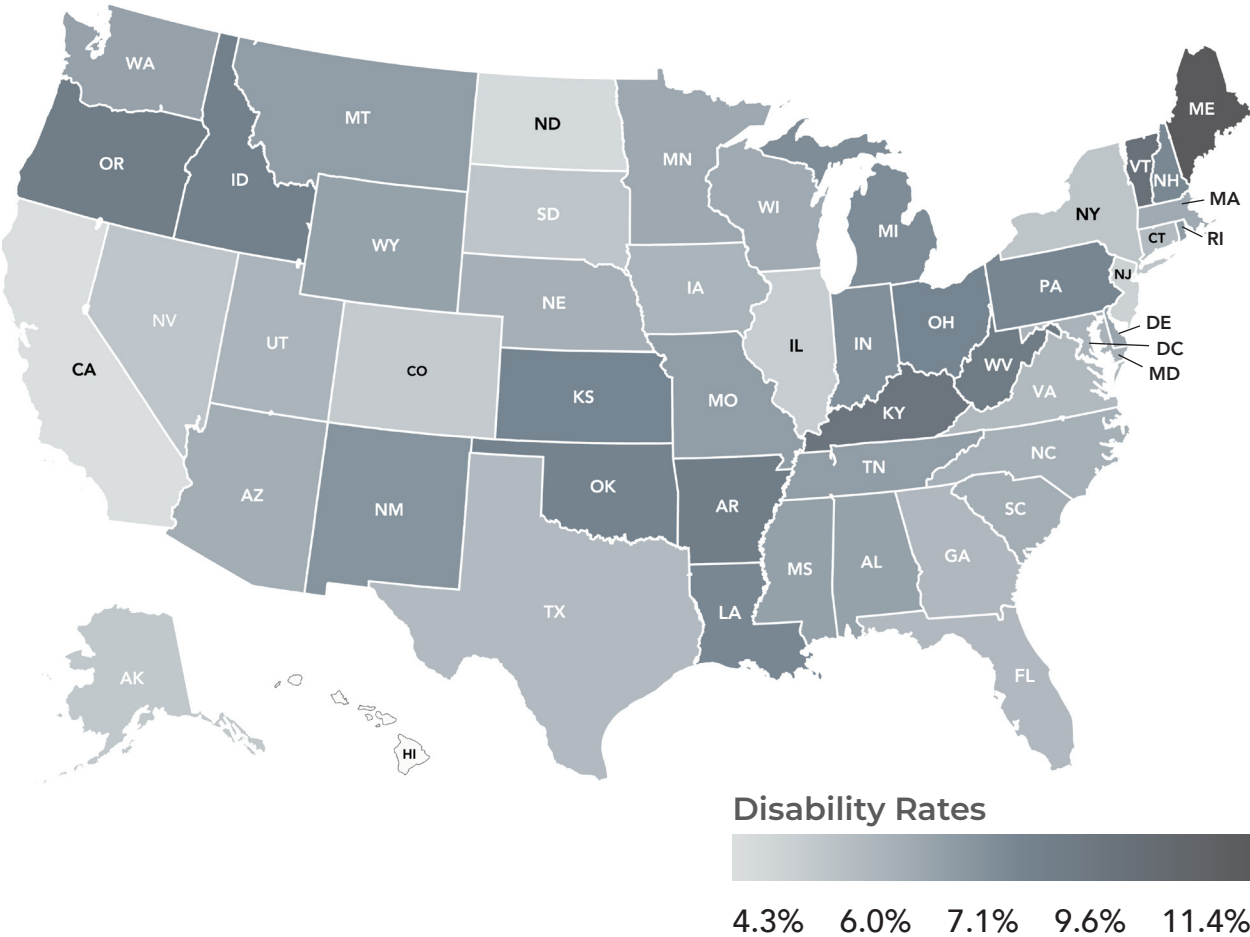
FIGURE 1: Disability Rates by Age in the U.S.: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

The prevalence of disability varies by state. The following map (Figure 2) displays the distribution of disability rates for youth and young adults.

FIGURE 2. Disability Rates of Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

For youth and young adults with disabilities, this prevalence rate ranged from 4.3 percent in Hawaii to 11.4 percent in Maine. As shown in Table 1, states with the highest rates of disability for this age group showed about twice the prevalence as those states with the lowest rates of disability.

TABLE 1. Five Highest and Lowest Disability Rates of Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) by State: 2020

States with Highest Rates of Disability

- 1.** Maine, 11.4%
- 2.** Vermont, 9.4%
- 3.** Kentucky, 9.1%
- 4.** West Virginia, 8.6%
- 5.** Arkansas, 8.4%

States with Lowest Rates of Disability

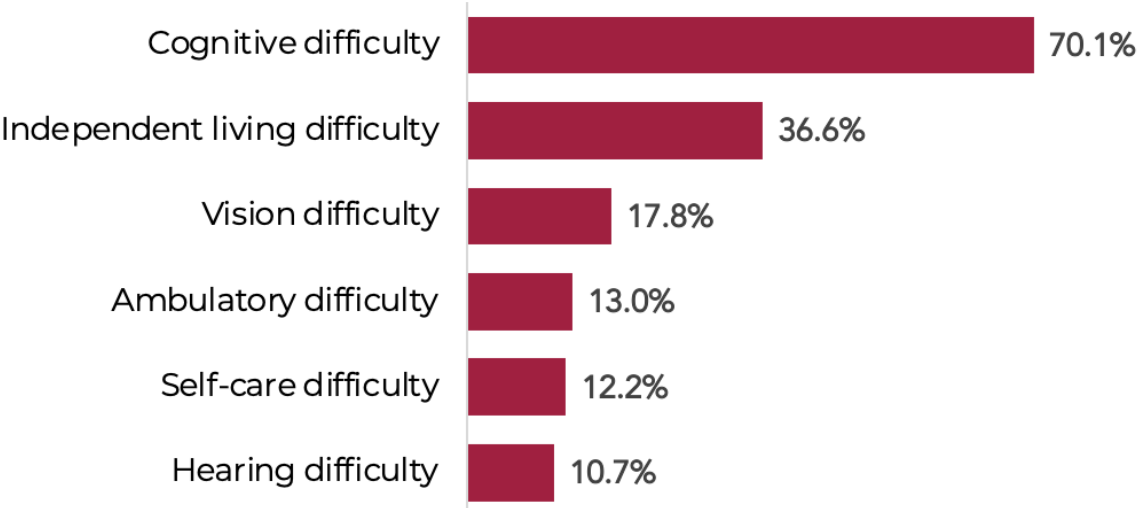
- 1.** Hawaii, 4.3%
- 2.** California, 5.1%
- 3.** North Dakota, 5.3%
- 4.** New Jersey, 5.5%
- 5.** Illinois, 5.7%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

The U.S. Census defines six types of disability, including self-care difficulty, hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, independent living difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, and cognitive difficulty. The highest rates of reported disability were cognitive difficulties (70.1 percent), which may include youth and young adults with autism, Down Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, dementia, attention deficit disorder, specific learning disability, mental and emotional or other challenges.

Among youth and young adults with disabilities, 12.2 percent had a self-care difficulty, 10.7 percent had a hearing difficulty, 17.8 percent had a vision difficulty, 36.6 percent had an independent living difficulty, 13 percent had an ambulatory difficulty, and 70.1 percent had cognitive difficulty. Figure 3 demonstrates the types of disabilities among youth and young adults with disabilities.

FIGURE 3. Types of Disability among Youth and Young Adults (14-24) with Disabilities: 2020



Note: People may have more than one type of disability so that the sum of the percentages will be over 100.

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

Education and Disability

High School Attainment

Young adults with disabilities ages 18 to 24¹ completed high school and postsecondary education at lower rates than those without disabilities. Among young adults with disabilities in the U.S. in 2020, 76.4 percent attained a high school diploma compared to 88.6 percent of their peers without disabilities. The high school attainment rate of young adults with disabilities ranged among states from a low of 68 percent in Louisiana to a high of 86.2 percent in Delaware. Table 2 displays the states with the five highest and five lowest rates of high school attainment for young adults with disabilities in 2020.

TABLE 2. States with Highest and Lowest Rates of High School Attainment for Young Adults (Ages 18-24) with Disabilities: 2020

States with Highest Rates of High School Diploma Attainment

1. Delaware, 86.2%
2. Hawaii, 85.3%
3. Washington, D.C., 85.0%
4. Vermont, 83.7%
5. Maine, 82.4%

States with Lowest Rates of High School Diploma Attainment

1. Louisiana, 68.0%
2. South Dakota, 68.4%
3. Florida, 69.9%
4. Georgia, 70.8%
5. Indiana, 72.5%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

1. Since most of youth ages 14 to 17 may not have high school or postsecondary credential, this section focuses on young adults ages 18-24 when describing educational attainment.

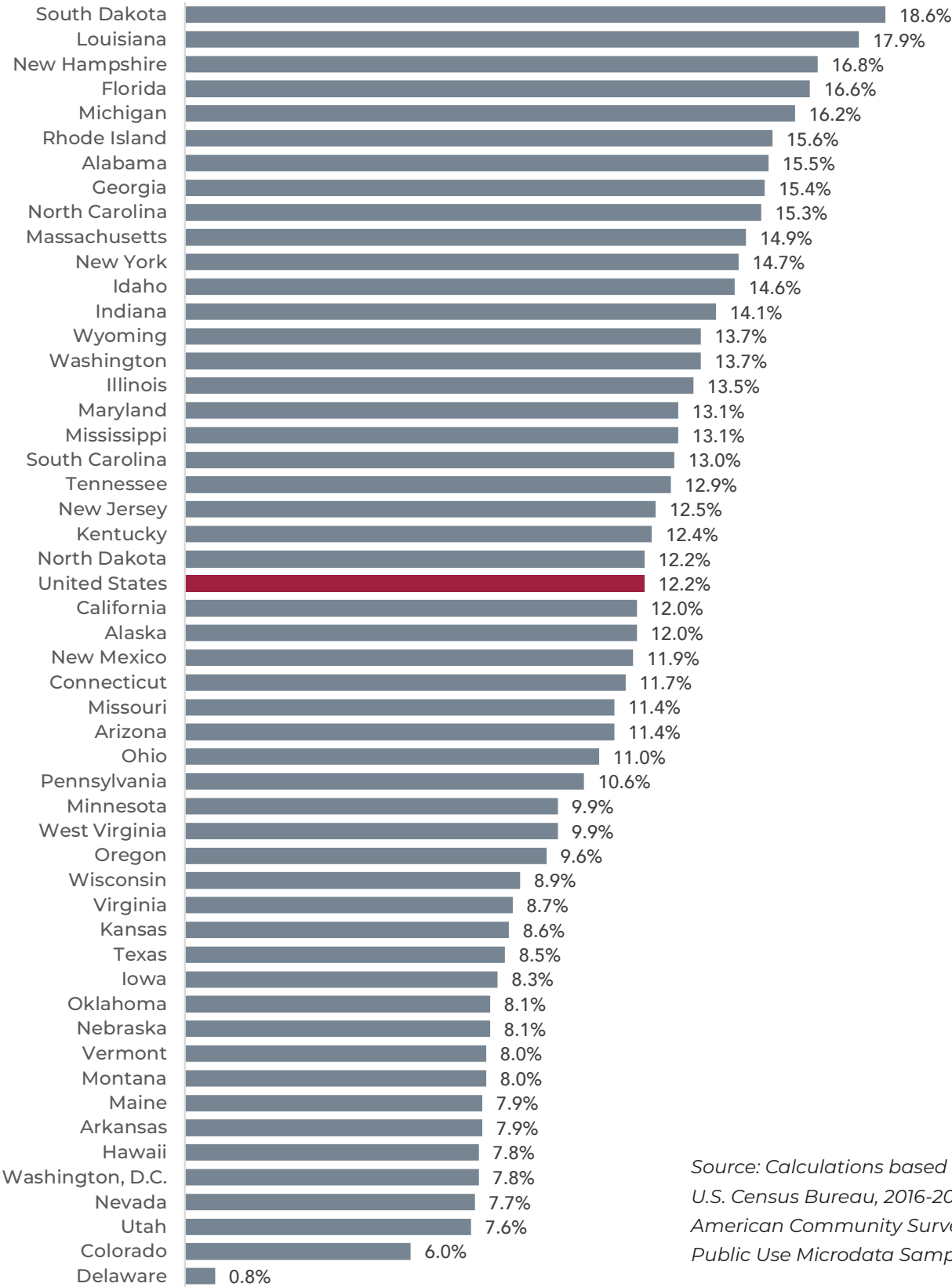
The data also show a gap in high school attainment between young adults with and without disabilities. The national difference in high school attainment was 12.2 percent² in 2020. Comparing the high school attainment for young adults with and without disabilities, we found an attainment gap that ranged from the highest gap of 18.6 percent in South Dakota to the lowest gap of 0.8 percent in Delaware (see Table B1 in Appendix B for detailed information). Figure 4 demonstrates the high school attainment gap between young adults with and without disabilities by state.

In addition, students with disabilities are more likely to drop out before completing high school than their non-disabled peers. The 2019 national dropout rate for students with disabilities was more than double the rate for students without disabilities, 12.1 and 5.0 percent,³ respectively.

2. A percentage point or percent point is the unit for the arithmetic difference of two percentages. The gaps displayed in this report are percentage point differences between individuals with and without disabilities. For ease of reading, we are using the term “percent” throughout the report to represent “percentage point” calculation.

3. McFarland, J., Cui, J., Holmes, J., and Wang, X. (2019). *Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2019* (NCES 2020-117). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved [date] from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.

FIGURE 4. High School Attainment Gap Between Young Adults (Ages 18-24) with and without Disabilities, by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

College enrollment is an early indicator of postsecondary attainment. In our analysis of college data for young adults ages 18-24, we found that students with disabilities have lower rates of entry into college than those without disabilities. The national college entry rate for young adults with disabilities in 2020 was 27.5 percent compared to 43.3 percent of their peers without disabilities. Table 3 shows the differences between states with the highest and lowest levels of college entry. Rhode Island showed the highest rate of college entry at 41.1 percent, and Alaska showed the lowest rate of college entry at 12.7 percent (see Table B2 in Appendix B for detailed information).

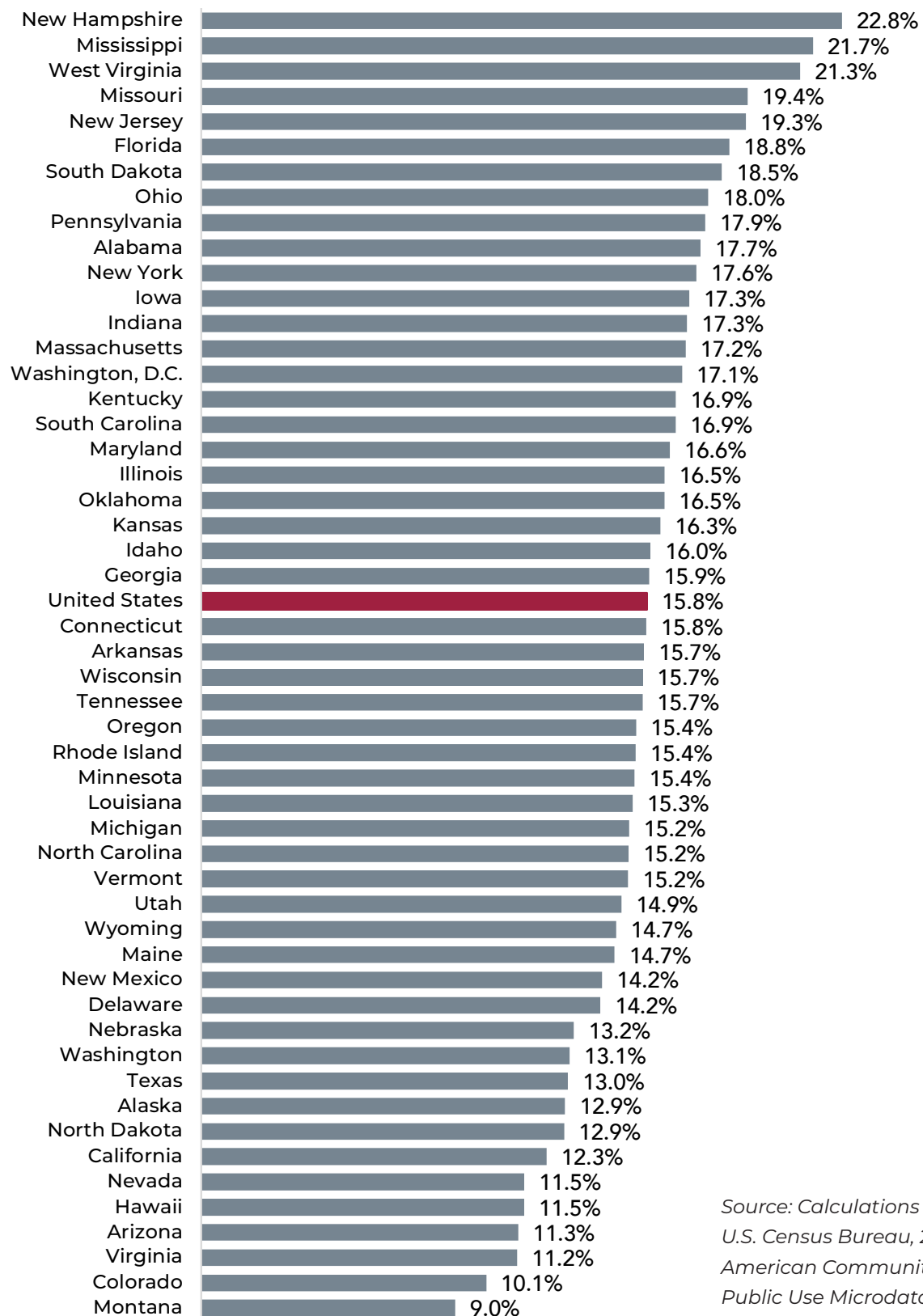
TABLE 3. States with Highest and Lowest Rates of College Enrollment for Young Adults (Ages 18-24) with Disabilities: 2020

States with Highest Rates of College Enrollment	States with Lowest Rates of College Enrollment
1. Rhode Island, 41.1%	1. Alaska, 12.7%
2. Washington, D.C., 37.7%	2. West Virginia, 19.1%
3. Massachusetts, 36.7%	3. Nevada, 19.7%
4. California, 36.2%	4. Idaho, 20.9%
5. Vermont, 35.9%	5. Missouri, 21.3%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

The college enrollment gap between young adults with and without disabilities was 15.8 percent in 2020. Figure 5 demonstrates the college enrollment gap between young adults with and without disabilities by state. The gap ranged from 9.0 percent in Montana to 22.8 percent in New Hampshire.

FIGURE 5. College Enrollment Gap Between Young Adults (18-24) with and without disabilities, by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

In addition to college enrollment, another key educational indicator for earnings and career opportunities is attaining a four-year college degree. The average national rate for college degree attainment remained low for young adults with disabilities at 4.7 percent compared to the rate of their peers without disabilities (12.2 percent). This completion rate for a bachelor’s degree ranged across states from 0.6 percent in Wyoming to 15 percent in Washington, D.C. Table 4 shows the top five states with the highest rates of college completion for students with disabilities and the five states with the lowest rates of college completion in 2020 (see Table B3 in Appendix B for detailed information).

TABLE 4. States with Highest and Lowest Rates of College Degree Attainment for Young Adults (Ages 18-24) with Disabilities: 2020

States with Highest Rates of Post-Secondary Degree Attainment

- 1.** Washington, D.C., 16.2%
- 2.** New York, 7.7%
- 3.** Illinois, 6.2%
- 4.** Colorado, 6.0%
- 5.** Minnesota, 5.9%

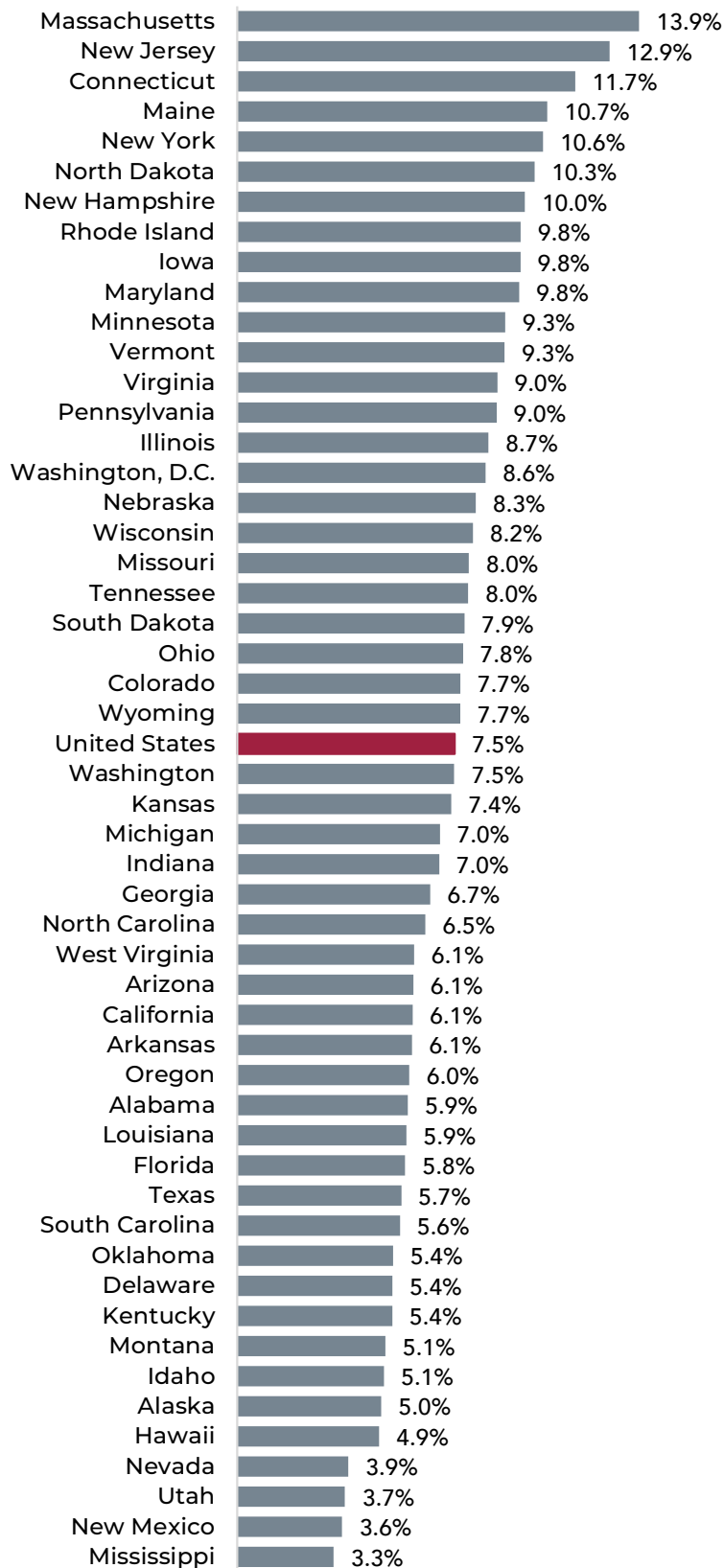
States with Lowest Rates of Post-Secondary Degree Attainment

- 1.** Wyoming, 0.6%
- 2.** Alaska, 1.8%
- 3.** Maine, 2.4%
- 4.** Alabama, 2.5%
- 5.** Oklahoma, 2.6%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

The college degree attainment gap between young adults with and without disabilities in the U.S. was 7.5 percent in 2020. Figure 6 demonstrates the college degree attainment gap between young adults with and without disabilities by state. Massachusetts had the largest attainment gap (13.9 percent), and Mississippi had the smallest attainment gap (3.3 percent).

FIGURE 6. College Degree Attainment Gap Between Young Adults (Ages 18-24) with and without Disabilities, by State: 2020

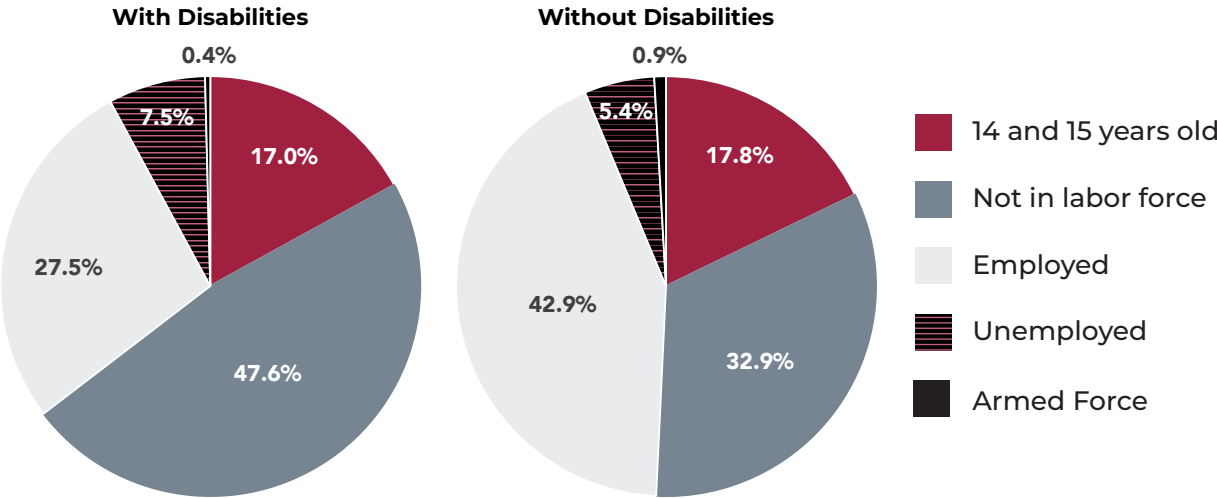


Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

Employment and Disability

Since 2014, federal and state policies have increased their focus on improving employment outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities. Part- or full-time employment, participation in internships and apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities offer youth and young adults with disabilities an entry into employment and self-sufficiency. As Figure 7 shows, youth and young adults with disabilities were employed at 27.5 percent, which is less than the 42.9 percent of their peers without disabilities. Youth and young adults with disabilities were also less likely to be in the labor force and more likely to be unemployed in 2020. The employment gap between youth and young adults with and without disabilities was 15.4 percent. Note that in Figure 7, the employment status is shown for individuals ages 14-24; however, for youth under age 16, employment status is not captured by the U.S. Census Bureau.

FIGURE 7. Employment Status for Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) with and without Disabilities in the U.S., 2020



Source: Calculations based on the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

Although most youth and young adults with and without disabilities are not in the workforce, for those ages 14-24 who were working in 2020, the majority were employed by a private for-profit company or business at 37.5 percent compared to 47.6 percent of their peers without disabilities. Employment other than for-profit companies and nonprofit organizations was less than 3 percent (see Table 5 for detailed information).

TABLE 5. Class of Worker for Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) with and without Disabilities, 2020

Class of Worker	With Disabilities (%)	Without Disabilities (%)
Not in universe	51.4	39.7
Employee of a private for-profit company or business	37.5	47.6
Employee of a private not-for-profit	3.5	3.8
Local government employee (city, county, etc.)	1.6	2.2
State government employee	1.2	1.8
Federal government employee	0.9	1.6
Self-employed in own not incorporated business	1.1	1.2
Self-employed in own incorporated business	0.4	0.4
Working without pay in family business or farm	0.3	0.2

Note about “not in universe”: In addition to individuals between 16 and 24 years old and not in the labor force, the denominator includes youth who are 14 and 15 years old. Employment status for youth under 16 years old is not captured by the Census Bureau.

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

The employment-to-population⁴ rate for youth and young adults (ages 14-24) in the U.S. in 2020 was 27.5 percent. The employment rate by state ranged from a low of 21.1 percent in West Virginia to a high of 38.8 percent in Wisconsin. Table 6 displays the states with the highest and lowest employment rates for youth and young adults with disabilities (see Table C1 in Appendix C for detailed information).

TABLE 6. States with Highest and Lowest Employment Rates for Youth and Young Adults (ages 14-24) with Disabilities: 2020

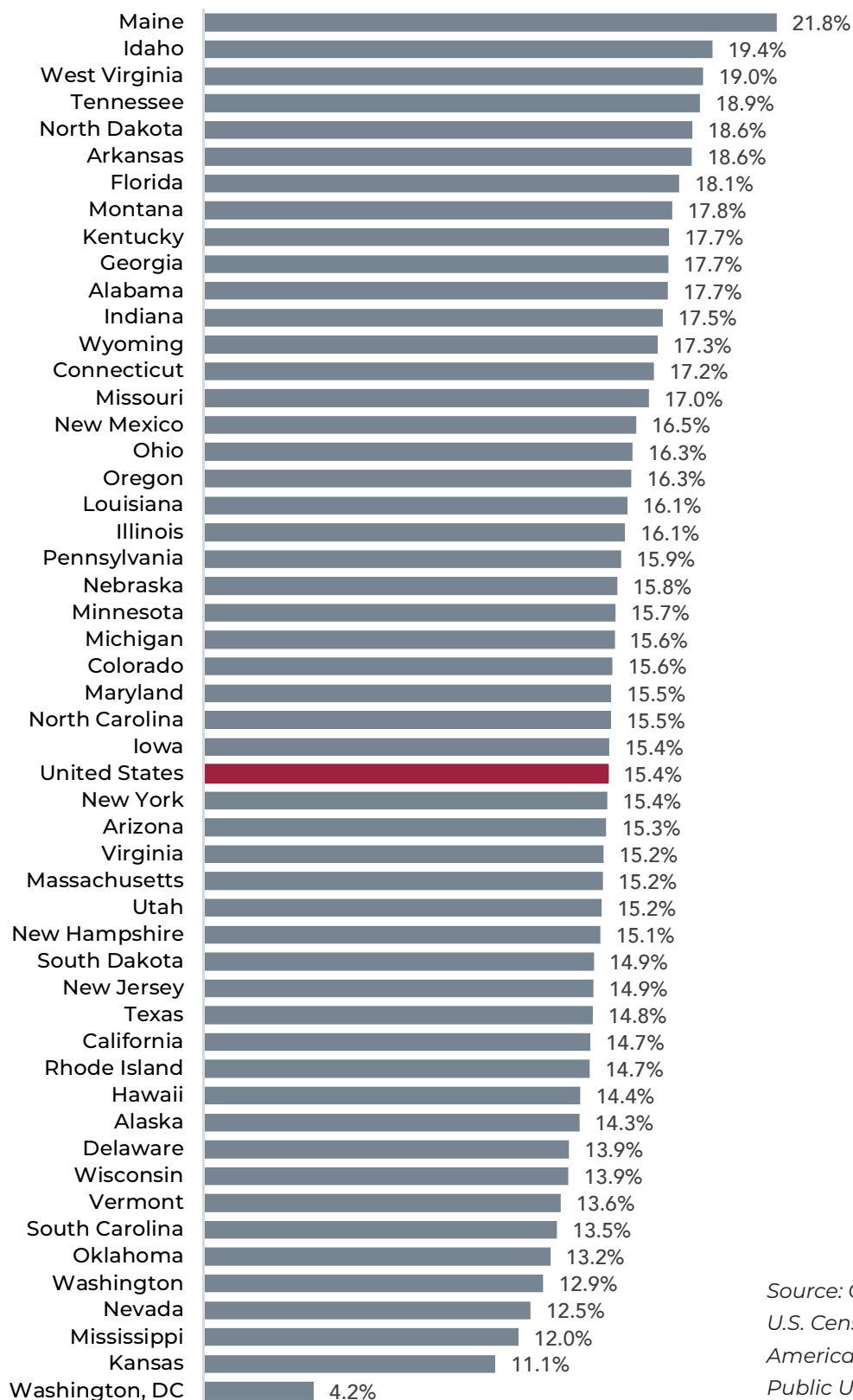
States with Highest Employment Rates	States with Lowest Employment Rates
1. Wisconsin, 38.8%	1. West Virginia, 21.1%
2. Kansas, 38.5%	2. Louisiana, 21.9%
3. Utah, 38.1%	3. Georgia, 22.2%
4. Minnesota, 38.0%	4. Mississippi, 22.4%
5. North Dakota, 37.7%	5. Alabama, 22.7%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

In the U.S. in 2020, the gap between the employment rates for individuals (ages 14-24) with and without disabilities was 15.4 percent. At the state level, the employment rate gap ranged from a low of 4.2 percent in Washington, D.C., to a high of 21.8 percent in Maine for youth and young adults with and without disabilities. Figure 8 displays the gaps by state.

4. The “employment to population rate” is an analysis that takes into account the people who are not in the labor force.

FIGURE 8. Employment Rate Gap between Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) with and without Disabilities, by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

Opportunity Youth with Disabilities

Opportunity youth and young adults are those ages 14-24 who are neither in school nor employed. Given the significant proportion of youth and young adults who are not in the labor force, we present an analysis of opportunity youth who are neither in school nor in the labor force (not in the labor force means those youth are unemployed and *are not currently seeking employment*). This analysis offers a view of the current state of youth disconnection from the labor market and education system.

Opportunity Youth and Young Adults

In the U.S. in 2020, 19.7 percent of youth and young adults (ages 14-24) with disabilities were neither in school nor the labor force, compared to 5.6 percent of their peers without disabilities (see Table D1 in Appendix D). At the state level, the proportion of opportunity youth and young adults with disabilities ranged from 13.3 percent in South Dakota to as high as 27.3 percent in West Virginia. Table 7 displays the highest and lowest disconnected rates for youth and young adults with disabilities.

TABLE 7. States with Highest and Lowest Rates of Opportunity Youth and Young Adults (ages 14-24, not in the labor force) with Disabilities: 2020

States with Highest Rates of Opportunity Youth and Young Adults

- 1.** West Virginia, 27.3%
- 2.** Arkansas, 26.3%
- 3.** Alabama, 26.1%
- 4.** Mississippi, 25.4%
- 5.** New Mexico, 25.2%

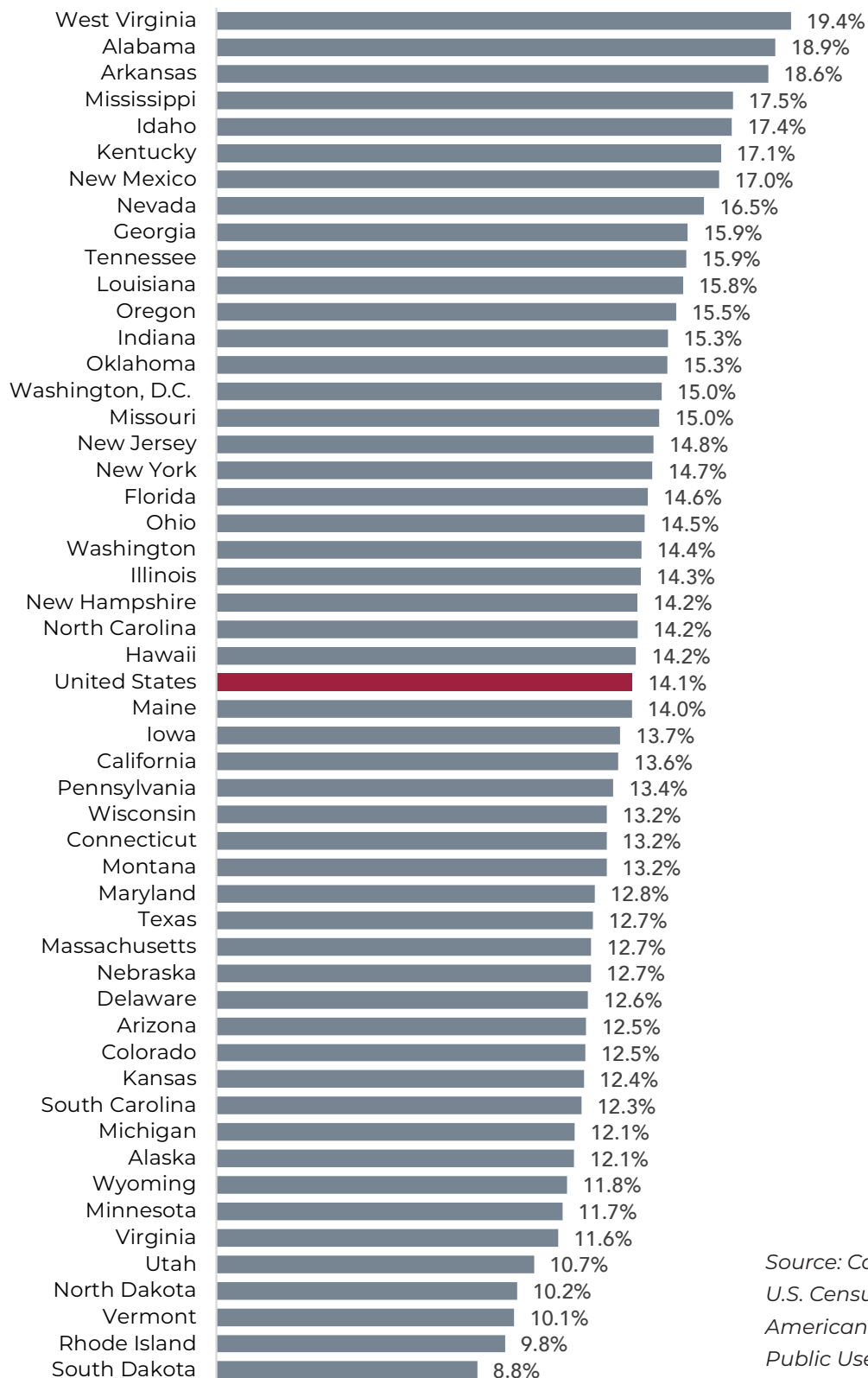
States with Lowest Rates of Opportunity Youth and Young Adults

- 1.** South Dakota, 13.3%
- 2.** Rhode Island, 13.4%
- 3.** Vermont, 13.6%
- 4.** North Dakota, 14.2%
- 5.** Minnesota, 14.8%

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

In a comparison between the opportunity youth and young adults with and without disabilities in 2020, the national gap was 14.1 percent. At the state level, the gap ranged from 8.8 percent in South Dakota to 19.4 percent in West Virginia. Figure 9 displays the gaps by state and the national average.

FIGURE 9. Opportunity Youth Rates Gap between Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14-24) with and without Disabilities, by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

Poverty and Disability

As with education and employment outcomes, the data on poverty by household underscore disparities between youth and young adults with and without disabilities. The poverty rate for households of youth and young adults with disabilities (ages 14-24) in the U.S. in 2020 was 23.3 percent compared to 16.9 percent of their peers without disabilities. The poverty rate for youth and young adults with disabilities by state ranges from a low of 13.9 percent in Delaware to a high of 33.3 percent in New Mexico. Table 8 displays the states with the highest and lowest rates of poverty for youth and young adults with disabilities (see Table E1 in Appendix E for detailed information).

TABLE 8. States with Highest and Lowest Rates of Poverty for Youth and Young Adults (ages 14-24) with Disabilities: 2020

States with Highest Rates of Poverty for Youth and Young Adults

- 1. New Mexico, 33.3%
- 2. Kentucky, 31.8%
- 3. Mississippi, 30.2%
- 4. West Virginia, 29.8%
- 4. Wyoming, 29.8%

States with Lowest Rates of Poverty for Youth and Young Adults

- 1. Delaware, 13.9%
- 2. Maryland, 15.3%
- 3. New Jersey, 16.1%
- 4. Hawaii, 16.9%
- 5. North Dakota, 17.6%

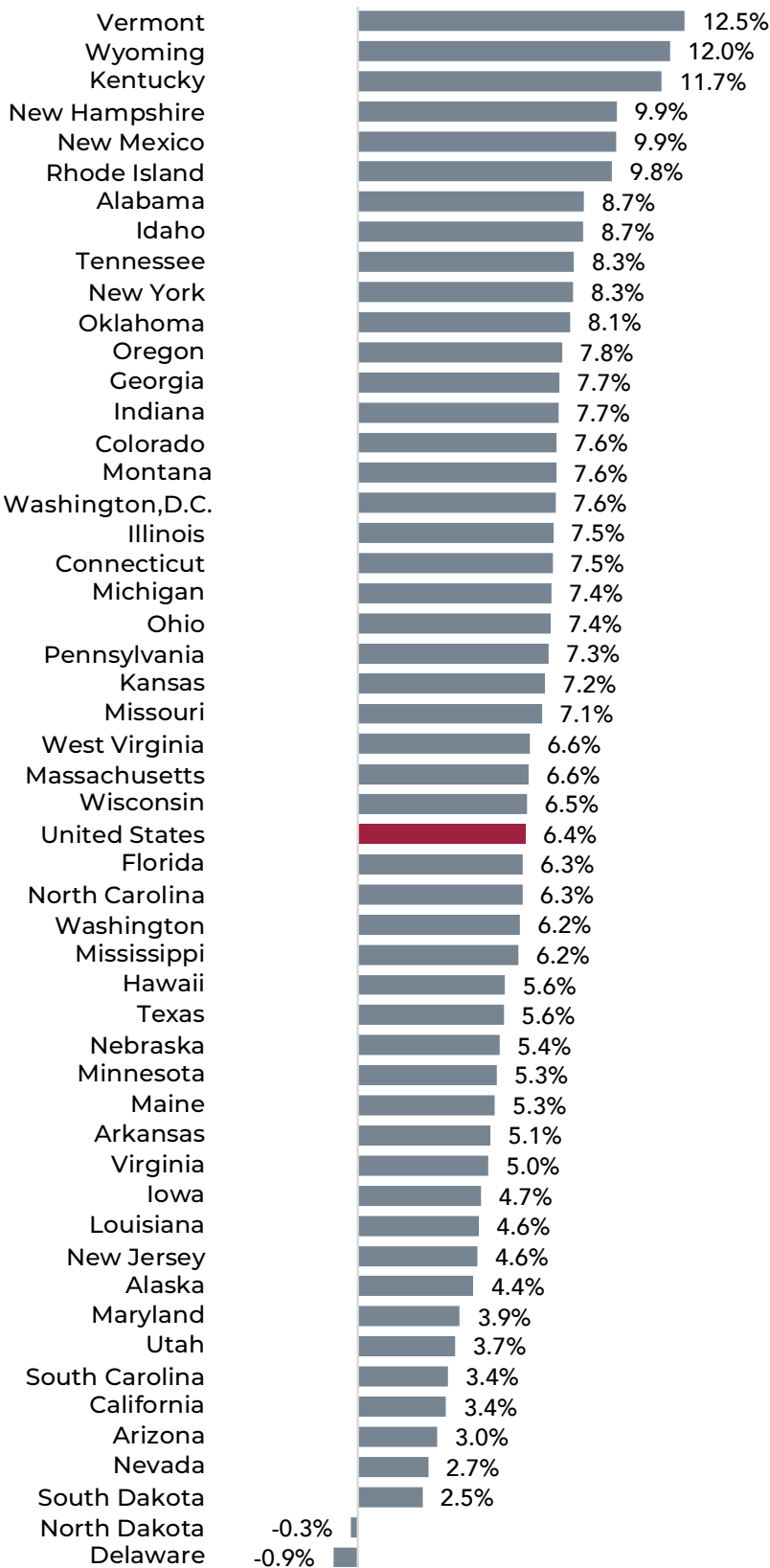
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

In the U.S. in 2020, the gap in poverty rates between households of individuals (ages 14-24) with and without disabilities was 6.4 percent. At the state level, the poverty rate gap ranged from a reverse gap of -0.9 percent in Delaware to a high of 12.5 percent in Vermont. Figure 10 displays the gaps by state. In Delaware and North Dakota, the poverty rate gap between households of youth with and without disabilities (-0.9 and -0.3 percent, respectively) indicates that individuals without disabilities had a slightly higher poverty rate than their peers with disabilities.

Meanwhile, when comparing the poverty gap ranking to the disability population ranking, we discovered that states with higher rates of youth and young adults with disabilities might have larger poverty gaps between households of youth with disabilities and their peers without disabilities.⁵ For instance, Vermont had a high rate of poverty in households of youth and young adults with disabilities (28.2 percent), and the poverty gap (12.5 percent) was the highest among all states. This might indicate that states with higher rates of disabilities require additional resources to address poverty issues statewide.

5. Pearson's Correlation was applied to test if the disability rates of youth and young adults with disabilities correlate with the poverty gaps between youth with and without disabilities. The Pearson correlation coefficient, r , is .04868, which indicates a moderate correlation. The level of statistical significance (p-value) of the correlation coefficient in this test is .0003, which means the correlation is statistically significant of .01 level.

FIGURE 10. Poverty Gap for Youth and Young Adults (14-24) with and without Disabilities, by State: 2020



Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample

Discussion

In this fourth annual Youth Transition report, the gaps between youth and young adults with and without disabilities (ages 14-24) remain significant in almost every state in the U.S. across education, employment, engagement, and poverty indicators. Continued patterns of low high school and college completion lead to lower rates of employment and earnings, which in turn lead to higher rates of poverty for people with disabilities. These patterns continue into adulthood. Youth with disabilities are more likely to be disengaged from school and the workforce, another indicator that these youth are not sufficiently recognized and supported by the systems that are required to serve them. Students with disabilities are more likely to be bullied,⁶ more likely to be suspended,⁷ and more likely to have higher absentee rates and drop out of school altogether.⁸ For those in search of employment, services often fail to provide access to youth with disabilities. For example, an evaluation of American Job Centers in 2016⁹ showed that federally funded employment services were limited by a lack of physical, programmatic, and communication access. The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, exacerbated challenges for youth with disabilities who were in school. Initial research shows that many school districts were unprepared to serve students with disabilities remotely, which led to greater rates of absenteeism

6. Rose, C. A., & Gage, N. A. (2017). *Exploring the involvement of bullying among students with disabilities over time*. *Exceptional Children*, 83(3), 298–314. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0014402916667587>

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8. Hammond, C., Linton, D., Smink, J., & Drew, S. (2007). *Dropout risk factors and exemplary programs: A technical report*. National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University and Communities in Schools. <http://dropoutprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DropoutRiskFactorsandExemplaryProgramsFINAL5-16-07.pdf>

9. Chamberlain, A., Kracker Selzer, A., Magill, K., Matite, M., Poe-Yamagata, E. & Toms Barker, L. (2016). *Evaluating the Accessibility of American Job Centers for People with Disabilities: Final Report*. U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from: <https://impagint.com/work/project-reports/evaluating-accessibility-american-job-centers-people-disabilities-final-report>

and course failure,¹⁰ particularly for students and families that lacked accessible technology and internet access. Similarly, students with disabilities served by the education system on Indian and Native American Lands¹¹ faced a variety of technology barriers. Employment rates for people with disabilities dropped at the onset of the pandemic, and while employment has increased since then, there remains a significant gap between those with and without disabilities. The one exception reflected in employment data since early 2020 has been an increase in remote jobs, which has allowed some people with disabilities to find and maintain employment.¹² This exception does not reflect the many people with disabilities who struggle with transportation, health, and educational barriers that prevent them from entering the workforce and maintaining employment.

Evidence-based policies and practices play important roles in changing the narrative for youth and young adults with disabilities. The education system must ensure that all teachers are prepared to serve all students with and without disabilities. Districts can provide accessible technology, internet access, and training on resources to families of children with disabilities and to the school staff who support them. College campuses have begun to recognize the value of a diverse campus that includes students with disabilities—and must address the physical and social barriers that prevent students from entering and succeeding in higher education.

An example of success found in 2020 data was Delaware, which showed the highest rates of high school attainment for youth with disabilities (86.2 percent) and the lowest gap in high school attainment between youth with and without disabilities (0.8 percent). This reflects a change

10. Morando-Rhim, L., & Ekin, S. (2021). *How has the pandemic affected students with disabilities? A review of the evidence to date*. Center on Reinventing Public Education. https://crpe.org/wp-content/uploads/final_swd_report_2021.pdf

11. National Council on Disability. (2021). *The impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities*. https://ncd.gov/sites/default/files/NCD_COVID-19_Progress_Report_508.pdf

12. National Council on Disability. (2021). *The impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities*. https://ncd.gov/sites/default/files/NCD_COVID-19_Progress_Report_508.pdf

from the previous year (2019) in which 80.6 percent of Delaware youth with disabilities attained a high school diploma, and the gap between youth with and without disabilities was 6.8 percent. One policy that may have made a difference is the High School Graduation Requirements and Diploma Code ([DE H 287](#)), which was amended in 2015 to permit districts to issue diplomas to students who have achieved the standards as articulated in their Individualized Education Plans, an individualized modification of the State graduation requirements that are aligned with their established goals and performance outcomes. As articulated in [DE H 287](#), this code was enacted beginning with the freshman class of 2015-2016 (graduating class of 2019) and would be reflected in outcomes for 2020.

The vocational rehabilitation (VR) system remains the most important workforce system in the U.S. in support of all working age individuals with disabilities. The rates of youth served (those age 24 and younger) are greater than 50 percent of all people served in VR, and pre-employment and training services (Pre-ETS) remain a valuable approach to ensuring youth with disabilities have early exposure to employment opportunities. Research has shown that mentoring (Shandra & Hogan, 2008)¹³ is highly successful in helping youth with and without disabilities to re-engage with school and pursue careers of interest to them.

Young people with disabilities continue to lead the way in reducing the stigma around disability; the ADA Generation (born after the Americans with Disabilities Act was established in 1990) and later generations have expressed greater pride in their disability identity. Old norms of describing disability using the functional classification of disability are falling out of favor among younger generations who view disability as an important aspect of their social identity and not a physical, mental, or emotional difficulty. As these young people move into leadership

13. Shandra, C. L., & Hogan, D. P. (2008). *School-to-work program participation and the post-high school employment of young adults with disabilities*. *Journal of vocational rehabilitation*, 29(2), 117-130.

positions, they will drive organizations and institutions to consider ways to include people with disabilities. However, the country cannot wait for change—educational institutions and employers have a responsibility to lead the way toward greater disability inclusion. There is a cost to society in leaving behind individuals who bring talent and creative ways of thinking to families, communities, schools, and workplaces. In a time of rapid change and global challenges, people with disabilities are needed throughout society to ensure that the future is inclusive.

APPENDIX A: TABLE A1

Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14 to 24) for the U.S. and States, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY		WITHOUT DISABILITY		Population (14-24)
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
US	3,089,450	6.5	44,099,872	93.5	47,189,322
AL	49,047	7.0	655,622	93.0	704,669
AK	6,277	5.8	101,632	94.2	107,909
AZ	70,147	6.6	990,643	93.4	1,060,790
AR	36,965	8.4	403,096	91.6	440,061
CA	295,949	5.1	5,462,530	94.9	5,758,479
CO	46,938	5.7	769,790	94.3	816,728
CT	32,553	6.2	495,186	93.8	527,739
DE	9,041	6.9	122,334	93.1	131,375
DC	7,061	7.4	87,933	92.6	94,994
FL	169,570	6.2	2,547,492	93.8	2,717,062
GA	100,273	6.3	1,496,010	93.7	1,596,283
HI	7,762	4.3	174,182	95.7	181,944
ID	21,762	8.2	245,060	91.8	266,822
IL	103,886	5.6	1,735,572	94.4	1,839,458
IN	76,326	7.5	942,528	92.5	1,018,854
IA	30,885	6.4	450,216	93.6	481,101
KS	35,737	7.8	420,310	92.2	456,047
KY	58,970	9.1	588,140	90.9	647,110
LA	52,052	7.8	619,536	92.2	671,588
ME	19,108	11.4	148,774	88.6	167,882
MD	53,909	6.4	783,097	93.6	837,006
MA	68,581	6.7	954,312	93.3	1,022,893
MI	111,503	7.6	1,358,222	92.4	1,469,725

State	WITH DISABILITY		WITHOUT DISABILITY		Population (14-24)
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
MN	53,252	6.8	732,668	93.2	785,920
MS	31,872	7.0	424,182	93.0	456,054
MO	62,726	7.1	819,969	92.9	882,695
MT	10,791	7.1	140,895	92.9	151,686
NE	19,219	6.5	274,405	93.5	293,624
NV	23,818	5.9	380,843	94.1	404,661
NH	14,583	7.7	173,726	92.3	188,309
NJ	67,303	5.5	1,150,123	94.5	1,217,426
NM	22,815	7.4	286,117	92.6	308,932
NY	160,599	5.9	2,563,660	94.1	2,724,259
NC	99,526	6.5	1,424,931	93.5	1,524,457
ND	6,309	5.3	112,640	94.7	118,949
OH	130,731	7.8	1,538,281	92.2	1,669,012
OK	47,454	8.0	545,533	92.0	592,987
OR	47,258	8.4	515,593	91.6	562,851
PA	137,977	7.8	1,635,712	92.2	1,773,689
RI	11,399	7.1	148,921	92.9	160,320
SC	47,684	6.6	675,053	93.4	722,737
SD	7,737	5.9	123,629	94.1	131,366
TN	68,326	7.1	892,012	92.9	960,338
TX	277,802	6.2	4,187,805	93.8	4,465,607
UT	35,956	6.4	525,779	93.6	561,735
VT	8,819	9.4	84,598	90.6	93,417
VA	76,716	6.2	1,153,530	93.8	1,230,246
WA	71,177	7.0	949,034	93.0	1,020,211
WV	20,872	8.6	221,742	91.4	242,614
WI	56,660	6.7	789,192	93.3	845,852
WY	5,767	7.0	77,082	93.0	82,849

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX B: TABLE B1

Young Adults (Ages 18 to 24) with High School Diploma or Higher Degrees, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
U.S.	2,030,497	1,551,985	76.4	28,405,230	25,170,056	88.6
AL	33,522	24,397	72.8	420,822	371,355	88.2
AK	4,087	3,106	76.0	65,550	57,679	88.0
AZ	47,056	35,129	74.7	640,466	550,835	86.0
AR	23,789	19,133	80.4	257,795	227,640	88.3
CA	196,162	153,677	78.3	3,529,677	3,189,016	90.3
CO	31,344	25,759	82.2	494,189	435,956	88.2
CT	21,945	17,448	79.5	322,757	294,239	91.2
DE	5,707	4,917	86.2	77,594	67,484	87.0
DC	5,562	4,728	85.0	68,426	63,475	92.8
FL	107,087	74,863	69.9	1,642,678	1,420,460	86.5
GA	64,711	45,792	70.8	950,530	819,283	86.2
HI	5,031	4,290	85.3	115,912	107,925	93.1
ID	13,836	10,274	74.3	150,356	133,550	88.8
IL	68,940	51,953	75.4	1,104,874	982,162	88.9
IN	49,224	35,690	72.5	609,803	528,026	86.6
IA	20,641	16,948	82.1	296,611	268,026	90.4
KS	24,032	19,475	81.0	272,538	244,410	89.7
KY	39,434	30,256	76.7	381,495	339,966	89.1
LA	32,982	22,412	68.0	394,540	338,755	85.9
ME	12,192	10,047	82.4	95,168	85,927	90.3
MD	34,144	26,233	76.8	497,458	447,329	89.9
MA	46,530	35,453	76.2	647,737	590,177	91.1
MI	76,575	55,824	72.9	879,668	784,107	89.1
MN	36,761	28,935	78.7	460,974	408,680	88.7

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
MS	20,476	15,166	74.1	270,890	236,056	87.1
MO	40,963	31,849	77.8	526,995	469,627	89.1
MT	7,343	5,961	81.2	92,484	82,450	89.2
NE	13,053	10,670	81.7	176,428	158,505	89.8
NV	15,835	12,400	78.3	233,625	201,017	86.0
NH	9,749	7,324	75.1	115,796	106,398	91.9
NJ	42,950	33,532	78.1	719,489	651,507	90.6
NM	15,343	11,297	73.6	182,352	156,054	85.6
NY	106,574	80,178	75.2	1,688,684	1,518,904	89.9
NC	64,936	47,480	73.1	923,556	816,948	88.5
ND	4,091	3,253	79.5	80,205	73,573	91.7
OH	85,587	66,011	77.1	981,457	865,123	88.1
OK	31,437	24,339	77.4	349,118	298,726	85.6
OR	31,544	24,670	78.2	333,400	292,816	87.8
PA	90,557	70,757	78.1	1,065,136	945,611	88.8
RI	7,649	5,857	76.6	103,548	95,452	92.2
SC	30,493	23,046	75.6	440,135	389,964	88.6
SD	5,130	3,511	68.4	78,336	68,193	87.1
TN	44,032	33,680	76.5	571,261	510,447	89.4
TX	176,317	137,333	77.9	2,629,236	2,270,196	86.3
UT	23,336	19,218	82.4	333,232	299,592	89.9
VT	6,475	5,422	83.7	59,106	54,220	91.7
VA	50,118	41,130	82.1	759,275	688,796	90.7
WA	48,699	35,916	73.8	609,388	532,858	87.4
WV	13,275	10,516	79.2	144,597	128,845	89.1
WI	39,341	31,806	80.8	510,679	458,076	89.7
WY	3,900	2,924	75.0	49,204	43,640	88.7

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX B: TABLE B2

Young Adults (Ages 18 to 24) Enroll in College Undergraduate Years, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
US	2,030,497	558,406	27.5	28,405,230	12,310,067	43.3
AL	33,522	519	24.2	420,822	176,424	41.9
AK	4,087	12,841	12.7	65,550	16,796	25.6
AZ	47,056	5,331	27.3	640,466	246,876	38.5
AR	23,789	71,081	22.4	257,795	98,334	38.1
CA	196,162	9,592	36.2	3,529,677	1,711,966	48.5
CO	31,344	7,427	30.6	494,189	201,258	40.7
CT	21,945	1,796	33.8	322,757	160,263	49.7
DE	5,707	2,097	31.5	77,594	35,421	45.6
DC	5,562	26,109	37.7	68,426	37,483	54.8
FL	107,087	15,789	24.4	1,642,678	708,588	43.1
GA	64,711	1,207	24.4	950,530	383,164	40.3
HI	5,031	2,896	24.0	115,912	41,104	35.5
ID	13,836	19,232	20.9	150,356	55,471	36.9
IL	68,940	11,971	27.9	1,104,874	490,064	44.4
IN	49,224	5,655	24.3	609,803	253,559	41.6
IA	20,641	6,181	27.4	296,611	132,663	44.7
KS	24,032	8,751	25.7	272,538	114,539	42.0
KY	39,434	7,707	22.2	381,495	148,988	39.1
LA	32,982	3,493	23.4	394,540	152,626	38.7
ME	12,192	9,692	28.6	95,168	41,240	43.3
MD	34,144	17,084	28.4	497,458	224,000	45.0
MA	46,530	22,960	36.7	647,737	349,304	53.9
MI	76,575	10,334	30.0	879,668	397,457	45.2
MN	36,761	4,430	28.1	460,974	200,573	43.5

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
MS	20,476	8,727	21.6	270,890	117,463	43.4
MO	40,963	2,128	21.3	526,995	214,533	40.7
MT	7,343	4,165	29.0	92,484	35,153	38.0
NE	13,053	3,114	31.9	176,428	79,654	45.1
NV	15,835	2,347	19.7	233,625	72,760	31.1
NH	9,749	12,210	24.1	115,796	54,236	46.8
NJ	42,950	3,344	28.4	719,489	343,753	47.8
NM	15,343	34,045	21.8	182,352	65,712	36.0
NY	106,574	17,011	31.9	1,688,684	836,450	49.5
NC	64,936	1,263	26.2	923,556	382,164	41.4
ND	4,091	20,615	30.9	80,205	35,098	43.8
OH	85,587	7,071	24.1	981,457	413,199	42.1
OK	31,437	7,948	22.5	349,118	135,966	38.9
OR	31,544	24,530	25.2	333,400	135,499	40.6
PA	90,557	3,145	27.1	1,065,136	479,241	45.0
RI	7,649	7,042	41.1	103,548	58,559	56.6
SC	30,493	1,204	23.1	440,135	175,829	39.9
SD	5,130	9,939	23.5	78,336	32,877	42.0
TN	44,032	45,180	22.6	571,261	218,498	38.2
TX	176,317	6,450	25.6	2,629,236	1,016,253	38.7
UT	23,336	2,322	27.6	333,232	141,832	42.6
VT	6,475	16,390	35.9	59,106	30,161	51.0
VA	50,118	11,323	32.7	759,275	333,508	43.9
WA	48,699	2,534	23.3	609,388	221,381	36.3
WV	13,275	11,153	19.1	144,597	58,376	40.4
WI	39,341	924	28.3	510,679	224,843	44.0
WY	3,900	519	23.7	49,204	18,908	38.4

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX B: TABLE B3

Young Adults (Ages 18 to 24) with Bachelor or Higher Degrees,
by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
US	2,030,497	95,349	4.7	28,405,230	3,474,928	12.2
AL	33,522	828	2.5	420,822	35,292	8.4
AK	4,087	73	1.8	65,550	4,446	6.8
AZ	47,056	1,657	3.5	640,466	61,654	9.6
AR	23,789	728	3.1	257,795	23,496	9.1
CA	196,162	10,818	5.5	3,529,677	409,245	11.6
CO	31,344	1,889	6.0	494,189	67,996	13.8
CT	21,945	1,282	5.8	322,757	56,634	17.5
DE	5,707	280	4.9	77,594	7,978	10.3
DC	5,562	902	16.2	68,426	16,983	24.8
FL	107,087	4,910	4.6	1,642,678	171,048	10.4
GA	64,711	2,433	3.8	950,530	99,323	10.4
HI	5,031	229	4.6	115,912	10,972	9.5
ID	13,836	391	2.8	150,356	11,887	7.9
IL	68,940	4,291	6.2	1,104,874	164,956	14.9
IN	49,224	1,903	3.9	609,803	66,249	10.9
IA	20,641	613	3.0	296,611	37,917	12.8
KS	24,032	1,186	4.9	272,538	33,673	12.4
KY	39,434	1,720	4.4	381,495	37,118	9.7
LA	32,982	985	3.0	394,540	34,909	8.8
ME	12,192	292	2.4	95,168	12,505	13.1
MD	34,144	1,977	5.8	497,458	77,410	15.6
MA	46,530	2,661	5.7	647,737	127,320	19.7
MI	76,575	3,658	4.8	879,668	103,782	11.8
MN	36,761	2,171	5.9	460,974	70,062	15.2

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
MS	20,476	820	4.0	270,890	19,906	7.3
MO	40,963	1,373	3.4	526,995	59,977	11.4
MT	7,343	422	5.7	92,484	10,069	10.9
NE	13,053	601	4.6	176,428	22,703	12.9
NV	15,835	455	2.9	233,625	15,717	6.7
NH	9,749	410	4.2	115,796	16,410	14.2
NJ	42,950	2,461	5.7	719,489	134,103	18.6
NM	15,343	469	3.1	182,352	12,209	6.7
NY	106,574	8,158	7.7	1,688,684	308,260	18.3
NC	64,936	2,997	4.6	923,556	102,864	11.1
ND	4,091	157	3.8	80,205	11,340	14.1
OH	85,587	2,905	3.4	981,457	110,088	11.2
OK	31,437	818	2.6	349,118	27,959	8.0
OR	31,544	1,655	5.2	333,400	37,408	11.2
PA	90,557	4,367	4.8	1,065,136	147,070	13.8
RI	7,649	282	3.7	103,548	13,994	13.5
SC	30,493	1,399	4.6	440,135	45,006	10.2
SD	5,130	178	3.5	78,336	8,885	11.3
TN	44,032	1,542	3.5	571,261	65,725	11.5
TX	176,317	7,354	4.2	2,629,236	259,116	9.9
UT	23,336	837	3.6	333,232	24,411	7.3
VT	6,475	223	3.4	59,106	7,518	12.7
VA	50,118	2,828	5.6	759,275	111,335	14.7
WA	48,699	2,473	5.1	609,388	76,813	12.6
WV	13,275	432	3.3	144,597	13,584	9.4
WI	39,341	1,831	4.7	510,679	65,484	12.8
WY	3,900	25	0.6	49,204	4,119	8.4

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX C: TABLE C1

Employment Rate for Youth and Young Adults (Ages 16 to 24) in U.S., by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Estimate	Population	Percent	Estimate	Population	Percent
US	849,893	3,089,450	27.5	18,921,706	44,099,872	42.9
AL	11,123	49,047	22.7	264,614	655,622	40.4
AK	1,553	6,277	24.7	39,688	101,632	39.1
AZ	19,798	70,147	28.2	431,563	990,643	43.6
AR	8,419	36,965	22.8	166,781	403,096	41.4
CA	69,987	295,949	23.6	2,096,179	5,462,530	38.4
CO	15,099	46,938	32.2	367,546	769,790	47.7
CT	8,581	32,553	26.4	215,496	495,186	43.5
DE	2,464	9,041	27.3	50,365	122,334	41.2
DC	2,394	7,061	33.9	33,501	87,933	38.1
FL	39,531	169,570	23.3	1,055,424	2,547,492	41.4
GA	22,285	100,273	22.2	597,180	1,496,010	39.9
HI	2,009	7,762	25.9	70,079	174,182	40.2
ID	6,439	21,762	29.6	119,999	245,060	49.0
IL	28,105	103,886	27.1	748,265	1,735,572	43.1
IN	22,561	76,326	29.6	443,396	942,528	47.0
IA	11,485	30,885	37.2	236,977	450,216	52.6
KS	13,773	35,737	38.5	208,704	420,310	49.7
KY	16,806	58,970	28.5	271,934	588,140	46.2
LA	11,402	52,052	21.9	235,668	619,536	38.0
ME	5,581	19,108	29.2	75,932	148,774	51.0
MD	14,179	53,909	26.3	327,582	783,097	41.8
MA	21,009	68,581	30.6	437,450	954,312	45.8
MI	34,544	111,503	31.0	632,982	1,358,222	46.6
MN	20,225	53,252	38.0	393,166	732,668	53.7

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Population	Estimate	Percent	Population	Estimate	Percent
MS	7,149	31,872	22.4	145,998	424,182	34.4
MO	19,201	62,726	30.6	390,015	819,969	47.6
MT	3,527	10,791	32.7	71,194	140,895	50.5
NE	7,141	19,219	37.2	145,215	274,405	52.9
NV	7,290	23,818	30.6	163,986	380,843	43.1
NH	5,397	14,583	37.0	90,557	173,726	52.1
NJ	16,619	67,303	24.7	454,822	1,150,123	39.5
NM	5,543	22,815	24.3	116,639	286,117	40.8
NY	36,598	160,599	22.8	978,215	2,563,660	38.2
NC	24,927	99,526	25.0	578,006	1,424,931	40.6
ND	2,378	6,309	37.7	63,424	112,640	56.3
OH	40,704	130,731	31.1	730,412	1,538,281	47.5
OK	14,339	47,454	30.2	236,891	545,533	43.4
OR	13,905	47,258	29.4	235,747	515,593	45.7
PA	39,267	137,977	28.5	725,486	1,635,712	44.4
RI	3,473	11,399	30.5	67,266	148,921	45.2
SC	13,382	47,684	28.1	280,293	675,053	41.5
SD	2,703	7,737	34.9	61,564	123,629	49.8
TN	17,860	68,326	26.1	401,845	892,012	45.0
TX	71,285	277,802	25.7	1,695,280	4,187,805	40.5
UT	13,689	35,956	38.1	279,904	525,779	53.2
VT	3,259	8,819	37.0	42,764	84,598	50.5
VA	20,713	76,716	27.0	487,232	1,153,530	42.2
WA	21,989	71,177	30.9	415,981	949,034	43.8
WV	4,400	20,872	21.1	88,953	221,742	40.1
WI	21,993	56,660	38.8	416,027	789,192	52.7
WY	1,810	5,767	31.4	37,519	77,082	48.7

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX D: TABLE D1

Rates of Opportunity Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14 to 24)
for the U.S. and States, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent
US	608,611	3,089,450	19.7	2,487,878	44,099,872	5.6
AL	12,820	49,047	26.1	47,495	655,622	7.2
AK	1,289	6,277	20.5	8,577	101,632	8.4
AZ	13,617	70,147	19.4	68,441	990,643	6.9
AR	9,708	36,965	26.3	30,688	403,096	7.6
CA	57,332	295,949	19.4	316,090	5,462,530	5.8
CO	7,979	46,938	17.0	34,846	769,790	4.5
CT	5,564	32,553	17.1	19,321	495,186	3.9
DE	1,637	9,041	18.1	6,782	122,334	5.5
DC	1,443	7,061	20.4	4,738	87,933	5.4
FL	34,757	169,570	20.5	150,836	2,547,492	5.9
GA	22,520	100,273	22.5	97,570	1,496,010	6.5
HI	1,552	7,762	20.0	10,115	174,182	5.8
ID	4,863	21,762	22.3	12,056	245,060	4.9
IL	20,130	103,886	19.4	87,317	1,735,572	5.0
IN	15,651	76,326	20.5	49,442	942,528	5.2
IA	5,438	30,885	17.6	17,801	450,216	4.0
KS	6,019	35,737	16.8	18,579	420,310	4.4
KY	14,039	58,970	23.8	39,733	588,140	6.8
LA	12,591	52,052	24.2	52,154	619,536	8.4
ME	3,418	19,108	17.9	5,719	148,774	3.8
MD	9,543	53,909	17.7	38,473	783,097	4.9
MA	10,968	68,581	16.0	31,673	954,312	3.3
MI	19,209	111,503	17.2	69,383	1,358,222	5.1
MN	7,883	53,252	14.8	22,732	732,668	3.1

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent
MS	8,099	31,872	25.4	33,718	424,182	7.9
MO	12,573	62,726	20.0	41,586	819,969	5.1
MT	1,996	10,791	18.5	7,481	140,895	5.3
NE	3,106	19,219	16.2	9,625	274,405	3.5
NV	5,625	23,818	23.6	27,153	380,843	7.1
NH	2,548	14,583	17.5	5,612	173,726	3.2
NJ	13,078	67,303	19.4	53,447	1,150,123	4.6
NM	5,751	22,815	25.2	23,506	286,117	8.2
NY	33,171	160,599	20.7	151,568	2,563,660	5.9
NC	19,738	99,526	19.8	79,773	1,424,931	5.6
ND	895	6,309	14.2	4,533	112,640	4.0
OH	25,264	130,731	19.3	74,550	1,538,281	4.8
OK	10,622	47,454	22.4	38,906	545,533	7.1
OR	9,842	47,258	20.8	27,269	515,593	5.3
PA	25,337	137,977	18.4	80,936	1,635,712	4.9
RI	1,525	11,399	13.4	5,389	148,921	3.6
SC	8,879	47,684	18.6	42,429	675,053	6.3
SD	1,032	7,737	13.3	5,588	123,629	4.5
TN	15,010	68,326	22.0	54,283	892,012	6.1
TX	54,881	277,802	19.8	294,289	4,187,805	7.0
UT	5,546	35,956	15.4	24,649	525,779	4.7
VT	1,200	8,819	13.6	2,991	84,598	3.5
VA	12,356	76,716	16.1	52,556	1,153,530	4.6
WA	13,889	71,177	19.5	48,887	949,034	5.2
WV	5,705	20,872	27.3	17,554	221,742	7.9
WI	9,980	56,660	17.6	34,900	789,192	4.4
WY	993	5,767	17.2	4,139	77,082	5.4

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX D: TABLE D2

Rates for Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14 to 24) in the Labor Force (Unemployed) and Not in School for the U.S. and States, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent
US	144,678	3,089,450	4.7	1,235,809	44,099,872	2.8
AL	2,493	49,047	5.1	20,571	655,622	3.1
AK	266	6,277	4.2	5,112	101,632	5.0
AZ	3,318	70,147	4.7	28,665	990,643	2.9
AR	1,925	36,965	5.2	12,074	403,096	3.0
CA	11,680	295,949	3.9	150,651	5,462,530	2.8
CO	2,463	46,938	5.2	18,994	769,790	2.5
CT	1,953	32,553	6.0	15,035	495,186	3.0
DE	231	9,041	2.6	4,000	122,334	3.3
DC	392	7,061	5.6	3,851	87,933	4.4
FL	8,056	169,570	4.8	68,265	2,547,492	2.7
GA	4,174	100,273	4.2	44,226	1,496,010	3.0
HI	317	7,762	4.1	4,415	174,182	2.5
ID	1,117	21,762	5.1	6,166	245,060	2.5
IL	5,039	103,886	4.9	54,731	1,735,572	3.2
IN	3,339	76,326	4.4	27,257	942,528	2.9
IA	1,456	30,885	4.7	7,918	450,216	1.8
KS	1,659	35,737	4.6	9,491	420,310	2.3
KY	2,859	58,970	4.8	17,950	588,140	3.1
LA	2,443	52,052	4.7	22,008	619,536	3.6
ME	964	19,108	5.0	4,204	148,774	2.8
MD	2,797	53,909	5.2	23,004	783,097	2.9
MA	3,246	68,581	4.7	21,352	954,312	2.2
MI	5,515	111,503	4.9	42,691	1,358,222	3.1
MN	2,206	53,252	4.1	12,823	732,668	1.8

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent	Opportunity youth and young adults	Population	Percent
MS	1,371	31,872	4.3	16,064	424,182	3.8
MO	3,144	62,726	5.0	21,156	819,969	2.6
MT	562	10,791	5.2	3,518	140,895	2.5
NE	949	19,219	4.9	5,481	274,405	2.0
NV	1,195	23,818	5.0	14,972	380,843	3.9
NH	1,007	14,583	6.9	3,591	173,726	2.1
NJ	2,462	67,303	3.7	33,521	1,150,123	2.9
NM	1,782	22,815	7.8	9,299	286,117	3.3
NY	7,793	160,599	4.9	72,034	2,563,660	2.8
NC	5,167	99,526	5.2	42,344	1,424,931	3.0
ND	170	6,309	2.7	1,840	112,640	1.6
OH	6,009	130,731	4.6	42,873	1,538,281	2.8
OK	2,306	47,454	4.9	13,689	545,533	2.5
OR	2,021	47,258	4.3	16,420	515,593	3.2
PA	7,264	137,977	5.3	47,511	1,635,712	2.9
RI	734	11,399	6.4	3,950	148,921	2.7
SC	2,862	47,684	6.0	23,146	675,053	3.4
SD	417	7,737	5.4	2,730	123,629	2.2
TN	3,097	68,326	4.5	29,117	892,012	3.3
TX	11,902	277,802	4.3	112,881	4,187,805	2.7
UT	1,029	35,956	2.9	9,845	525,779	1.9
VT	591	8,819	6.7	2,226	84,598	2.6
VA	3,191	76,716	4.2	27,610	1,153,530	2.4
WA	3,549	71,177	5.0	28,058	949,034	3.0
WV	1,312	20,872	6.3	8,265	221,742	3.7
WI	2,548	56,660	4.5	16,204	789,192	2.1
WY	336	5,767	5.8	2,010	77,082	2.6

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

APPENDIX E: TABLE E1

Rates of Youth and Young Adults (Ages 14 to 24) in Poverty for the U.S. and States, by Disability Status: 2020

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Poverty	Population	Percent	Poverty	Population	Percent
US	720,821	3,089,450	23.3	7,450,877	44,099,872	16.9
AL	14,255	49,047	29.1	133,658	655,622	20.4
AK	1,125	6,277	17.9	13,708	101,632	13.5
AZ	15,306	70,147	21.8	185,992	990,643	18.8
AR	9,418	36,965	25.5	82,166	403,096	20.4
CA	59,569	295,949	20.1	914,632	5,462,530	16.7
CO	10,654	46,938	22.7	115,997	769,790	15.1
CT	6,051	32,553	18.6	54,996	495,186	11.1
DE	1,259	9,041	13.9	18,189	122,334	14.9
DC	2,033	7,061	28.8	18,643	87,933	21.2
FL	39,206	169,570	23.1	427,748	2,547,492	16.8
GA	25,218	100,273	25.1	260,436	1,496,010	17.4
HI	1,314	7,762	16.9	19,649	174,182	11.3
ID	5,808	21,762	26.7	44,199	245,060	18.0
IL	24,457	103,886	23.5	278,300	1,735,572	16.0
IN	19,340	76,326	25.3	166,177	942,528	17.6
IA	6,739	30,885	21.8	76,950	450,216	17.1
KS	8,986	35,737	25.1	75,508	420,310	18.0
KY	18,744	58,970	31.8	118,307	588,140	20.1
LA	14,940	52,052	28.7	149,070	619,536	24.1
ME	3,632	19,108	19.0	20,449	148,774	13.7
MD	8,271	53,909	15.3	89,498	783,097	11.4
MA	12,750	68,581	18.6	114,853	954,312	12.0
MI	29,428	111,503	26.4	257,515	1,358,222	19.0
MN	10,314	53,252	19.4	102,860	732,668	14.0

State	WITH DISABILITY			WITHOUT DISABILITY		
	Poverty	Population	Percent	Poverty	Population	Percent
MS	9,633	31,872	30.2	102,047	424,182	24.1
MO	15,406	62,726	24.6	143,404	819,969	17.5
MT	2,938	10,791	27.2	27,623	140,895	19.6
NE	4,112	19,219	21.4	43,756	274,405	15.9
NV	4,581	23,818	19.2	62,967	380,843	16.5
NH	2,787	14,583	19.1	15,936	173,726	9.2
NJ	10,806	67,303	16.1	131,950	1,150,123	11.5
NM	7,588	22,815	33.3	66,785	286,117	23.3
NY	40,097	160,599	25.0	428,248	2,563,660	16.7
NC	24,101	99,526	24.2	254,987	1,424,931	17.9
ND	1,108	6,309	17.6	20,078	112,640	17.8
OH	32,443	130,731	24.8	267,910	1,538,281	17.4
OK	13,466	47,454	28.4	110,373	545,533	20.2
OR	12,380	47,258	26.2	94,604	515,593	18.3
PA	31,731	137,977	23.0	256,417	1,635,712	15.7
RI	2,635	11,399	23.1	19,892	148,921	13.4
SC	10,326	47,684	21.7	122,918	675,053	18.2
SD	1,690	7,737	21.8	23,932	123,629	19.4
TN	17,801	68,326	26.1	158,402	892,012	17.8
TX	66,530	277,802	23.9	768,312	4,187,805	18.3
UT	6,462	35,956	18.0	74,911	525,779	14.2
VT	2,491	8,819	28.2	13,288	84,598	15.7
VA	14,769	76,716	19.3	164,197	1,153,530	14.2
WA	14,910	71,177	20.9	139,666	949,034	14.7
WV	6,219	20,872	29.8	51,451	221,742	23.2
WI	13,278	56,660	23.4	133,621	789,192	16.9
WY	1,716	5,767	29.8	13,702	77,082	17.8

Source: Calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.



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