

Table 55. Vision and hearing limitations among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997-2011

(Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population)

Characteristic	Any trouble seeing, even with glasses or contacts ¹				A lot of trouble hearing or deaf ²			
	1997	2000	2010	2011	1997	2000	2010	2011
18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{3,4}	10.0	9.0	9.1	8.8	3.2	3.2	2.1	2.2
18 years and over, crude ⁴	9.8	8.9	9.4	9.2	3.1	3.1	2.2	2.2
Age								
18-44 years.....	6.2	5.3	6.2	5.5	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.6
18-24 years.....	5.4	4.2	5.8	5.2	*0.5	*0.7	*	*
25-44 years.....	6.5	5.7	6.3	5.6	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.7
45-64 years.....	12.0	10.7	11.6	12.0	3.1	3.0	1.9	1.9
45-54 years.....	12.2	10.9	10.7	11.7	2.6	2.3	1.2	1.5
55-64 years.....	11.6	10.5	12.7	12.4	3.9	4.0	2.7	2.4
65 years and over.....	18.1	17.4	13.9	13.6	9.8	10.5	7.6	7.7
65-74 years.....	14.2	13.6	12.2	12.2	6.6	7.4	4.6	4.6
75 years and over.....	23.1	21.9	16.1	15.2	14.1	14.3	11.1	11.6
Sex ³								
Male.....	8.8	7.9	7.9	7.6	4.2	4.3	2.8	2.7
Female.....	11.1	10.1	10.3	10.1	2.4	2.3	1.6	1.7
Sex and age								
Male:								
18-44 years.....	5.3	4.4	5.2	4.2	1.2	1.1	*0.7	*0.6
45-54 years.....	10.1	8.8	9.1	10.4	3.6	2.9	*1.1	*1.8
55-64 years.....	10.5	9.5	10.7	11.8	5.4	6.2	3.9	3.2
65-74 years.....	13.2	12.8	10.5	9.7	9.4	10.8	6.7	6.0
75 years and over.....	21.4	20.7	15.7	14.9	17.7	18.0	14.5	14.7
Female:								
18-44 years.....	7.1	6.2	7.1	6.9	0.9	0.8	*0.3	0.5
45-54 years.....	14.2	12.8	12.3	13.0	1.7	1.8	*1.3	1.1
55-64 years.....	12.6	11.5	14.6	13.0	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.6
65-74 years.....	15.0	14.4	13.6	14.5	4.4	4.5	2.9	3.3
75 years and over.....	24.2	22.7	16.4	15.4	11.7	12.1	8.9	9.5

Race^{3,5}

White only.....	9.7	8.8	8.8	8.6	3.4	3.4	2.3	2.3
Black or African American only.....	12.8	10.6	12.1	10.8	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.2
American Indian or Alaska Native only	19.2	16.6	15.0	15.0	14.1	*	*	*
Asian only.....	6.2	6.3	5.3	6.3	*	*2.4	*1.0	*1.8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races.....	---	16.2	13.1	12.4	---	*5.7	*	*

Hispanic origin and race^{3,5}

Hispanic or Latino.....	10.0	9.7	9.2	9.4	1.5	2.3	1.4	1.4
Mexican.....	10.2	8.3	9.0	10.4	1.8	3.0	*1.5	1.6
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	10.0	9.1	9.2	8.8	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.3
White only.....	9.8	8.9	8.9	8.6	3.5	3.5	2.4	2.4
Black or African American only.....	12.8	10.6	12.2	10.7	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.2

Education^{6,7}

25 years of age and over:

No high school diploma or GED.....	15.0	12.2	14.1	13.9	4.8	4.6	3.2	3.1
High school diploma or GED.....	10.6	9.5	10.5	10.4	3.7	3.9	2.5	2.8
Some college or more.....	8.9	8.9	8.0	7.9	2.9	2.8	2.0	2.0

Percent of poverty level^{3,8}

Below 100%.....	17.0	12.9	14.8	14.2	4.5	3.7	2.7	2.7
100%-199%.....	12.9	11.6	12.2	11.5	3.6	4.2	2.5	2.5
200%-399%.....	9.1	8.8	9.0	8.7	3.3	3.3	2.1	2.4
400% or more.....	7.3	7.1	6.4	6.0	2.7	2.5	1.8	1.7

Hispanic origin and race and
percent of poverty level^{3,5,8}

Hispanic or Latino:

Below 100%.....	12.8	11.0	10.8	13.9	*1.9	3.3	*	*1.3
100%-199%.....	11.2	9.4	10.8	9.6	*1.5	*2.3	*2.3	*1.8
200%-399%.....	8.1	9.2	8.9	8.3	*	*	*	*1.3
400% or more.....	*8.1	10.5	5.3	5.1	*	*	*	*

Not Hispanic or Latino:

White only:

Below 100%.....	17.9	13.1	16.8	14.4	5.8	4.5	3.7	3.6
100%-199%.....	13.1	12.0	12.6	12.3	4.3	5.0	3.0	2.8
200%-399%.....	9.2	9.2	8.8	9.0	3.7	3.7	2.3	2.8
400% or more.....	7.3	7.0	6.7	5.9	2.7	2.6	2.0	1.8

Black or African American only:

Below 100%.....	17.9	13.6	15.8	15.5	3.3	*1.6	*1.5	*1.6
100%-199%.....	16.0	12.9	14.9	12.3	*2.0	*2.0	*0.7	*1.5
200%-399%.....	9.3	7.7	12.0	8.5	*	*	*	*1.0
400% or more.....	7.7	8.3	6.6	8.6	*	*	*	*

Geographic region³

Northeast.....	8.6	7.4	7.8	7.6	2.2	2.4	1.4	2.3
Midwest.....	9.5	9.6	9.1	8.7	3.5	3.5	2.3	1.9
South.....	11.4	9.2	10.6	9.4	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.4
West.....	9.7	9.9	8.0	9.1	3.4	3.5	1.9	2.1

Location of residence³

Within MSA ⁹	9.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	2.9	3.0	1.9	2.0
Outside MSA ⁹	12.0	11.1	11.6	10.3	4.5	3.9	3.0	3.0

*Estimates are considered unreliable.

Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20%-30%.

Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%.

---Data not available.

¹Respondents were asked, "Do you have any trouble seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses?"

Respondents were also asked, "Are you blind or unable to see at all?"

In this analysis, any trouble seeing and blind are combined into one category.

In 2011, 0.4% of adults 18 years of age and over identified themselves as blind.

²Prior to 2007, respondents were asked, "Which statement best describes your hearing without a hearing aid:

good, a little trouble, a lot of trouble, or deaf?" In this analysis, a lot of trouble and deaf are combined into one category. Starting with 2007, the question was revised to expand the response categories.

Respondents were asked, "Which statement best describes your hearing without a hearing aid: excellent, good, a little trouble, moderate trouble, a lot of trouble, or deaf?" For 2007 and beyond, a lot of trouble and deaf

are combined into one category. The decline from 2006 to 2007 in the estimate of those with hearing trouble is likely due to the addition of the "moderate trouble" response category. Data prior to 2007 are not

comparable with 2007 and later data due to the revised question. For more information on the impact of this revised question, see Appendix II, Hearing trouble. In 2006, 0.3% of adults 18 years of age and over identified

themselves as deaf; in 2007-2009, this estimate was 0.2% and it was 0.3% in 2010 and 0.2% in 2011.

³Estimates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 18-44

years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, and 75 years and over.

Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other

age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

⁴Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown education level.

⁵The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific

Islander, and 2 or more races, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions*

to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable

with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories

plus multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates

are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race.

Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses.

Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin.

See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

⁶Estimates are for persons 25 years of age and over and are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 25-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, and 75 years and over.

See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

⁷GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

See Appendix II, Education.

⁸Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds.

Missing family income data were imputed for 1997 and beyond.

See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VI.

⁹MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2006 data, MSA status is determined using 2000 census data and the 2000 standards for defining MSAs. For data prior to 2006, see Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) for the applicable standards.

NOTES: Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS,

National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire.

See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

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