

Table 55. Basic actions difficulty and complex activity limitation among adults 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997-2009

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

Characteristic	18 years and over				18-64 years				65 years and over			
	1997	2000	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009 <sup>1</sup>	1997	2000	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009 <sup>1</sup>	1997	2000	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009 <sup>1</sup>
	Number in millions											
At least one basic actions difficulty or complex activity limitation <sup>2,3</sup> .....	60.9	59.0	71.7	71.4	41.3	39.3	49.5	49.2	19.6	19.7	22.2	22.1
At least one basic actions difficulty <sup>3</sup> .....	56.7	55.2	66.6	66.7	38.1	36.4	45.6	45.6	18.6	18.7	21.0	21.1
At least one complex activity limitation <sup>4</sup> .....	29.0	27.2	33.5	34.3	18.1	16.7	21.4	22.7	11.0	10.5	12.0	11.7
	At least one basic actions difficulty or complex activity limitation <sup>2,3</sup> Percent											
Total, age-adjusted <sup>4,5</sup> .....	32.5	29.9	32.0	31.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, crude <sup>4</sup> .....	31.8	29.5	32.5	32.0	25.8	23.5	26.8	26.4	62.2	60.8	62.2	60.8
	At least one basic actions difficulty <sup>2</sup> Percent											
Total, age-adjusted <sup>4,5</sup> .....	30.1	27.9	29.8	29.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, crude <sup>4</sup> .....	29.4	27.5	30.3	29.9	23.6	21.7	24.7	24.4	58.8	58.1	59.2	58.2
Sex												
Male.....	25.6	23.8	25.7	26.0	20.7	18.9	21.3	21.3	54.5	53.4	51.7	53.2
Female.....	32.9	31.0	34.5	33.7	26.4	24.3	28.0	27.5	61.9	61.5	64.9	62.1
Race <sup>6</sup>												
White only.....	29.6	28.1	30.8	30.4	23.5	21.8	25.0	24.4	58.5	58.0	59.1	58.9
Black or African American only.....	31.4	27.2	30.3	31.0	26.9	22.7	25.9	27.5	64.4	60.6	64.2	57.7
American Indian or Alaska Native only.....	43.8	36.8	27.5	33.5	41.9	34.1	24.7	31.1	66.0	70.2	*52.1	*61.7
Asian only.....	15.5	15.5	18.5	16.3	13.0	12.6	14.1	12.5	46.4	44.7	48.2	43.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	---	*	*	*22.2	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races.....	---	38.0	39.4	39.3	---	34.4	35.6	37.2	---	70.7	71.0	56.2
Hispanic origin and race <sup>6</sup>												
Hispanic or Latino.....	23.8	19.6	23.4	22.7	21.0	16.6	20.2	19.8	54.6	57.5	59.3	56.2
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	30.0	28.5	31.4	31.1	23.9	22.4	25.5	25.3	59.0	58.2	59.2	58.4
White only.....	30.3	29.1	32.3	31.8	23.8	22.5	26.0	25.4	58.7	58.2	59.2	59.0
Black or African American only.....	31.5	27.3	30.4	31.5	27.0	22.9	26.0	28.0	64.4	60.4	64.4	58.5
Percent of poverty level <sup>7</sup>												
Below 100%.....	41.9	38.4	42.1	39.0	36.2	31.9	38.0	34.5	74.1	71.6	73.1	72.3
100%-199%.....	38.2	37.1	40.7	38.5	29.2	26.5	32.0	31.2	66.6	69.4	70.4	66.4
200%-399%.....	28.4	28.2	31.2	31.5	22.0	22.1	24.2	24.3	56.1	53.9	61.1	61.5
400% or more.....	21.0	19.4	21.3	21.7	18.2	16.8	18.2	18.3	45.5	44.7	43.3	44.1
Location of residence <sup>8</sup>												
Within MSA.....	27.7	25.9	28.7	28.5	22.3	20.3	23.4	23.3	56.6	56.7	58.7	57.1
Outside MSA.....	35.6	33.6	37.9	37.0	28.6	26.8	31.7	30.4	65.8	62.6	60.7	62.6

18 years and over

18-64 years

65 years and over

Characteristic	1997	2000	2008	2009	1997	2000	2008	2009	1997	2000	2008	2009
	At least one complex activity limitation <sup>3</sup> Percent											
Total, age-adjusted <sup>4,5</sup> .....	15.6	13.7	14.7	14.8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, crude <sup>4</sup> .....	15.1	13.4	15.1	15.2	11.2	9.8	11.5	12.0	35.1	32.0	33.3	31.5
Sex												
Male.....	13.7	12.0	13.5	14.0	10.6	9.4	10.9	11.4	31.9	28.1	29.1	29.1
Female.....	16.5	14.7	16.5	16.4	11.9	10.3	12.1	12.7	37.4	34.9	36.5	33.4
Race <sup>6</sup>												
White only.....	15.0	13.6	15.2	15.0	10.9	9.8	11.5	11.6	34.3	31.5	32.7	30.9
Black or African American only.....	19.0	15.0	17.0	18.9	15.2	11.7	13.7	16.1	47.1	40.4	42.3	39.3
American Indian or Alaska Native only.....	23.7	20.6	17.5	15.3	22.1	17.8	14.5	14.9	*42.6	*54.9	*44.6	*
Asian only.....	5.7	4.7	6.3	7.4	4.9	3.6	3.8	5.1	*14.8	*15.5	22.9	23.3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races.....	---	22.5	21.9	27.6	---	20.3	18.3	25.0	---	*42.2	50.6	*49.9
Hispanic origin and race <sup>6</sup>												
Hispanic or Latino.....	11.9	9.1	10.6	10.7	9.8	7.3	8.5	9.1	33.9	32.4	33.3	28.2
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15.5	14.0	15.8	16.0	11.4	10.2	12.0	12.6	35.1	32.0	33.3	31.8
White only.....	15.4	14.1	16.0	15.8	11.1	10.1	12.1	12.2	34.4	31.5	32.7	31.1
Black or African American only.....	18.8	15.1	17.2	19.1	15.0	11.7	13.9	16.2	46.8	40.3	42.4	39.9
Percent of poverty level <sup>7</sup>												
Below 100%.....	30.0	26.0	29.6	29.3	25.2	22.0	26.4	26.0	56.9	46.7	53.8	53.4
100%-199%.....	23.3	22.0	23.9	22.6	16.7	15.1	17.8	17.7	43.9	42.8	44.9	40.8
200%-399%.....	13.3	12.8	14.5	15.0	9.3	9.2	10.1	10.9	30.6	27.5	33.0	32.0
400% or more.....	7.3	6.4	7.2	7.3	5.8	5.0	5.6	5.8	20.2	19.6	18.5	17.6
Location of residence <sup>8</sup>												
Within MSA.....	14.1	12.1	13.9	14.2	10.6	8.9	10.6	11.2	32.7	29.8	31.9	30.4
Outside MSA.....	19.0	18.2	21.0	20.5	13.6	13.4	16.3	16.5	42.8	38.8	38.0	36.0

...Category not applicable.

\*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.

<sup>1</sup>Starting with 2007 data, the hearing question, a component of the basic actions difficulty measure, was revised. Consequently, data for basic actions difficulty prior to 2007 are not comparable with 2007 data and beyond. For more information on the impact of the revised hearing question, see Appendix II, Hearing trouble.

<sup>2</sup>A basic actions difficulty is defined as having one or more of the following difficulties: movement, emotional, sensory (seeing or hearing), or cognitive. For more information, see Appendix II, Basic actions difficulty.

Starting with 2007 data, the hearing question, a component of basic actions difficulty, was revised. Consequently, data prior to 2007 are not comparable with data for 2007 and beyond. For more information on the impact of the revised hearing question, see Appendix II, Hearing trouble.

<sup>3</sup>A complex activity limitation is defined as having one or more of the following limitations: self-care (activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living), social, or work. For more information, see Appendix II, Complex activity limitation.

<sup>4</sup>Includes all other races not shown separately.

<sup>5</sup>Estimates 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. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

<sup>6</sup>The 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.

<sup>7</sup>Percent 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 VII.

<sup>8</sup>MSA 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 have been revised and differ from previous editions of *Health, United States*.

Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS,  
National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire.

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