



NASET's Parent Teacher Conference Handout

Disability and Functioning

Introduction

Many new statistics on children and adults with disabilities are important for parents to know. This PTCH provides parents with a series of important statistics on children and adults with problems in domains of functioning..

Data are for the U.S.

Selected sensory problems

- Number of adults aged 18 and over with hearing trouble: 41.3 million
- Percent of adults aged 18 and over with hearing trouble: 16.5%
- Number of adults aged 18 and over with vision trouble: 32.2 million
- Percent of adults aged 18 and over with vision trouble: 12.9%

Source: [Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2018, Tables A-6b, A-6c pdf icon\[PDF – 147 KB\]](#)

Difficulties in physical functioning

- Number of adults aged 18 and over unable (or very difficult) to walk a quarter mile: 19.4 million
- Percent of adults aged 18 and over unable (or very difficult) to walk a quarter mile: 7.8%
- Number of adults aged 18 and over with any physical functioning difficulty: 40.7 million
- Percent of adults aged 18 and over with any physical functioning difficulty: 16.3%

Source: [Summary Health Statistics Tables for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2018, Tables A-10b, A-10c pdf icon\[PDF – 263 KB\]](#)

Level of reported difficulty in six domains of functioning (seeing, hearing, mobility, communication, cognition, self-care)

- Number of adults aged 18 and over reporting a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all in at least one domain of functioning: 20.7 million (2017)
- Percent of adults aged 18 and over reporting a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all in at least one domain of functioning: 8.7% (2017)
- Number of adults aged 65 and over reporting a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all in at least one domain of functioning: 9.5 million (2017)
- Percent of adults aged 65 and over reporting a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all in at least one domain of functioning: 19.5% (2017)