



Accessible
Travel**NYC**

Accessibility Blueprint

Session 1: What is Disability ?

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Photo: Shanita Sims



What is Disability ?

Disability is a physical or mental condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

- The **ADA** bans discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream life.
- **Title II** bans discrimination based on disability by government at all levels.
- **Title III** bans discrimination based on disability by private enterprise in places of public accommodation.
- The ADA is changing history everyday.

Types of Disabilities

- **Visible Disability:** mobility wheelchair and mobility aid users, service dogs and white cane users, users of assistive hearing devices
- **Invisible Disability:** autism and neuroatypical, mental illness, addiction, HIV, learning disabilities such as adhd and dyslexia, lupus
- **Episodic & Chronic Disability:** epilepsy, diabetes, vertigo, chronic pain and fatigue, Long Covid-19
- **Temporary Disability:** injury, acute illness

Models of Disability

- **Medical Model:** Disabilities are treated as sicknesses that need to be cured and cared for through medical intervention.
- **Charity Model:** People with disabilities are viewed as objects of pity, requiring charitable resources for support.
- **Religious/ Moral/ Cultural Model:** Disability is a punishment from God or reflects inferior moral qualities.
- **Social Justice Model:** Disability inequity stems from environmental and attitudinal barriers rather than from the disability itself which is a **natural part of human diversity**.

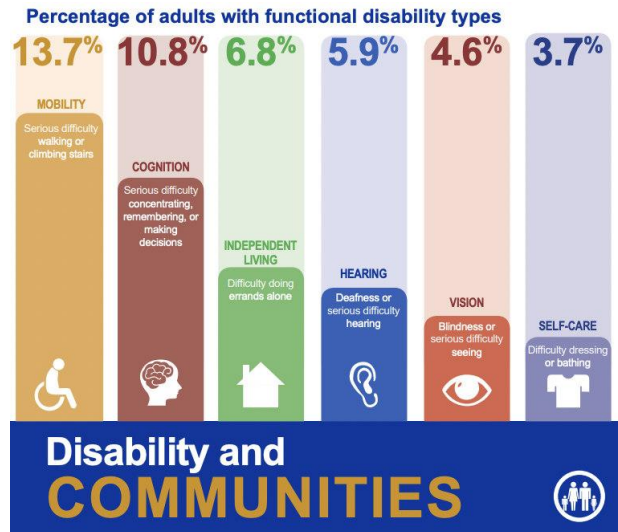
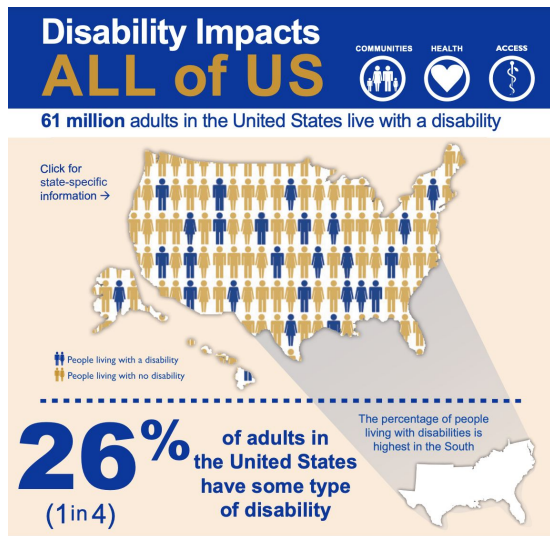
The Contagion Response

- Fear of catching disability: polio; MMR; Covid-19
- Relief/gratitude
- Survivor's guilt
- Acceptance or aversion

Society & Disability



Disability Statistics Overview



Disability is especially common in older adults, women and marginalized communities.

- 2 in 5 adults age 65 years and older have a disability
- 1 in 4 women have a disability

Thank you!

We like questions, ask away.

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