



Data Sources for Parents with Disabilities in the United States | 2022

Plain-language version

National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities
Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, Brandeis University

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Authors

Miriam Heyman, Monika Mitra

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Introduction

Knowing about the lives of parents with disabilities is important. The National Council on Disability wrote a report about the need for information about parents with disabilities. Since then, researchers have learned a lot about the health of parents with disabilities. But there is not much information about the whole lives of parents with disabilities. For example, how where you live, work, and play can impact your health. The information also needs to focus on Black and brown parents with disabilities. This information can help improve the lives and health of parents with disabilities.

Finding out more information about parents with disabilities is important for researchers. We have written a list of sources that have information about parents with disabilities. Sources are where information is kept. For example, a source could be the information they got from asking people different survey questions. This list has seventeen different sources. We go to sources to find new information to answer questions we may have. This list will point researchers to where they can find the information they are looking for.

The sources include information about health. The list also includes information about the lives of parents with disabilities. For example, the list includes the American Housing Survey. The American Housing Survey has information about people's housing.

The list is made from different sources. All the sources have information that researchers can use to improve the lives of parents with disabilities.

We will explain what each of the sources are and what information they have. Together, the sources can be helpful for research about parents with disabilities.







Data Sources

American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey is about people that live in the U.S. The survey happens once a year. The U.S. Census Bureau collects information about our communities. They contact 3.5 million people each year. They ask them about housing, education, and work. They also ask about poverty and health insurance, as well as information about the person taking the survey.



They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disability:

1.  Hearing difficulty (they are deaf or have difficulty hearing)
2.  Vision difficulty (they are blind or have difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses)
3.  Cognitive difficulty (they have a hard time remembering, concentrating, or making decisions)
4.  Ambulatory difficulty (they have a hard time walking or climbing stairs)
5.  Self-care difficulty (they have a hard time bathing or getting dressed)
6.  Independent living difficulty (they have a hard time doing errands alone such as going to the doctors or shopping)

This is a common way to learn if someone has a disability. Other surveys in our list also use these six disability types.

The survey also asks if someone is a parent. They ask how old everyone is in the house. They ask how each person is related to one of the people who own or rent the home.

Website <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html>

American Housing Survey (AHS)

The American Housing Survey asks questions about the quality of people's housing. It is a survey made by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is the most complete survey in the United States about housing. The survey asks information about housing over a long time. The survey asks about the quality, cost, and who lives in the home.

They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.



They ask how people in the house are related to the person filling out the survey.

Website <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs.html>

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is about health risks and health conditions that impact people for a long time. The survey asks about people's healthcare. They interview more than 400,000 adults every year. This survey is from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask how many children under age 18 live in the home. They ask how the child is related to the person filling out the survey.

Website <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>

Current Population Survey (CPS)

The Current Population Survey has information about who is working in the U.S. The survey asks about work, pay, and education. Sometimes the survey asks questions about child support, volunteering, and health insurance.



The survey is done by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. They interview people in person or over the phone. They interview about 60,000 households.

People who participate answer the questions every month for four months. Then they wait 8 months and don't respond to the survey. After 8 months, people answer the questions again every month for four more months.

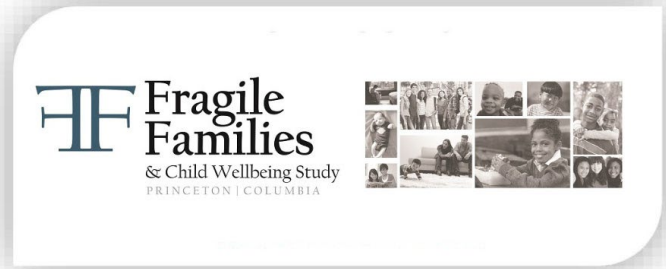
They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask how people in the house are related to the person filling out the survey.

Website <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>

Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS)

The Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study collects information from around 5,000 families about their children. The children were born between 1998 and 2000. The survey studies these children over a long time. The children included a lot of children from low-income families and Black and brown children. They started collecting information about these children right after they were born. They interviewed these families at age 1, 3, 5, 9, 15, and 22.



They collected information about parents who were unmarried—especially fathers. They asked about the relationships of the unmarried parents. They looked at the wellbeing of the children with unmarried parents. They also looked at how policies and environment affected the families.

They ask if someone receives disability income. They also ask if someone isn't working because of a disability.

They only talked to parents in this study.

Website <https://fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/about>

Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)

The Health Information National Trends Survey collects information about health and cancer. They ask questions about health screenings, health communication, and health behavior. The survey is run by the National Cancer Institute at the National Institute of Health.



They ask if someone has a disability. In 2012 and 2013 they ask about six different types of disabilities. In new versions, they ask a few different questions that can help you learn if someone has a disability.

The survey asks how many children under the age of 18 live in the house.

Website <https://hints.cancer.gov/>

Household Pulse Survey (HPS)

The Household Pulse Survey collects information about experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. They ask about a lot of different things that matter to people's lives. This includes about education, employment, food, expenses, health, COVID-19 vaccines, transportation, and more.

The survey asks questions about mental health. It also includes other disability questions.

The survey asks how many children live in the household.

Website <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey collects information about healthcare and health insurance. They interview families and individuals. They ask about what health care services they receive and how often. They ask about the cost of healthcare and how someone pays for health care.

They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

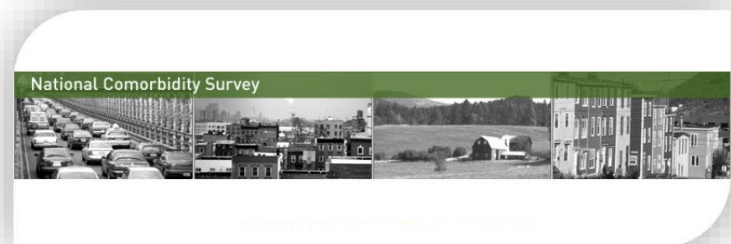
They ask the age of every person in the house and about any parents and children.

Website <https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/index.jsp>



National Comorbidity Survey (NCS)

The National Comorbidity Survey collects information about psychiatric disorders. Psychiatric disorders are related to mental health and behavior. They interview people in their homes with the help of a computer. They talk to 10,000 people about their mental health. They collect information about what can make you more likely to have a psychiatric disorder. They also collect information about the impact of the psychiatric disorder on your health. They look at if you have other health conditions.



They ask multiple questions about disability. They ask about learning disabilities, mental and emotional disabilities, and the impact of the disability on care needs and work.

They ask if you have any children. This includes children you help raise that might be adopted or from a different parent.

Website <https://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/ncs/>

National Core Indicators (NCI)

The National Core Indicators study is a survey for service providers. The survey helps them measure and track the outcomes of their services. Everyone who responds has a disability. The questions ask about employment, rights, services, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety. The survey is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who receive services. Around 20,000 adults with disabilities took part in the survey.

They ask if someone is a parent and if the child lives with the parent.

Website <https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>



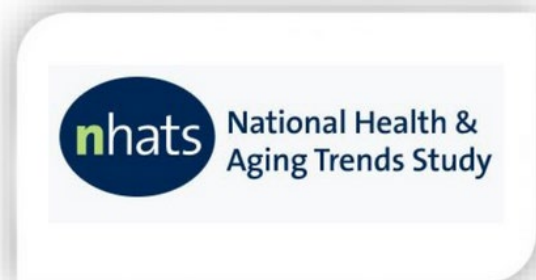
National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS)

The National Health and Aging Trends Study has a survey for people 65 or older who receive Medicare. The survey asks about disability in older adults. The study has information about reducing disability, improving independent living, and improving quality of life.

They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask about who lives in the household with the person being interviewed. For children that don't live in the house, they ask about the relationship, gender, date of birth, and address.

Website <https://www.nhats.org/researcher>



National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

The National Health Interview Survey asks about a household's health and physical conditions. The survey also asks about how much money the household makes and how much money they have. They also ask if the household has health insurance. This survey is made by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The survey is an important survey on health.

They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask the number of children under 18 in the household. They also ask how many children are in the adult's family and you can learn how people are related.

Website https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/about_nhis.htm



National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey looks at the health and nutrition of people in the United States. The survey is from the National Center for Health Statistics. They interview 5,000 people every year. They look at health and nutrition and the questions change each year.



They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities. More recently, they asked about disability function.

They ask about the number of children in the household and their ages. They ask about how the children are related to the person completing the survey.

Website https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/about_nhanes.htm

National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance looks at HIV. HIV is a virus. Gay and bisexual men are more likely to be living with HIV. This study interviews 500 people every year. The people are either 1) men who have sex with other men, 2) drug users, or 3) straight people with a high risk for HIV.



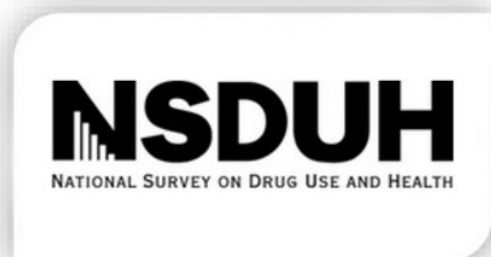
They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask about the people who live in the household of the person being interviewed. They ask if someone has a child.

Website <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/systems/nhbs/about.html>

National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health is about tobacco, alcohol, and drug use and health. They interview about 70,000 people every year. The survey is from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.



They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

They ask about the age and gender of everyone in the household. They ask about how everyone is related to the person being interviewed.

Website <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm>

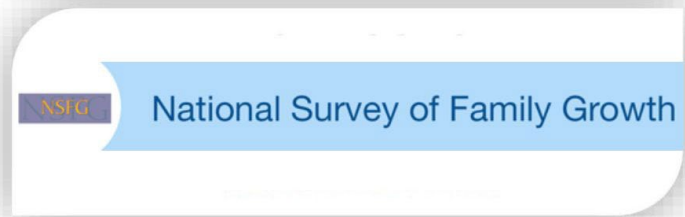
National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)

Funded by the CDC, the National Survey of Family Growth is about family life, marriage, divorce, pregnancy, and the health of the family. They ask people who are between 15 and 49 years old. The survey is from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

They ask if someone has a disability. They ask about six different types of disabilities.

There are questions about the people who live in the house and how they are related. They also ask about any children.

Website https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg/about_nsfg.htm



Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

The Survey of Income and Program Participation is about income and employment and if people participate in government programs. The surveys look at the same people over time.

They ask if someone has a disability. The exact questions they ask about disability change over time.

They ask if someone is a child's parent. They also ask about the relationships of the people living in the household.

Website <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html>

SIPP

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Appendix

The American Community Survey Disability Questions (ACS-6)

All ages:

- 1.) Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing? (Yes/No)
- 2.) Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses? (Yes/No)

Ages 5 years and over:

- 3.) Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? (Yes/No)
- 4.) Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (Yes/No)
- 5.) Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing? (Yes/No)
- 6.) Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (Yes/No)