

# Selected Population Demographics Profile

## Frequently Asked Questions

### American Community Survey Data

#### **1. Why is the American Community Survey (ACS) data different for some counties or not available at all?**

The ACS provides an estimate of people with disabilities by county. Disability data is not currently available for certain smaller communities.

##### For areas with populations over 65,000:

The ACS produces one-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more. One-year estimates include data on disabled populations.

##### For areas with populations between 20,000 and 65,000:

The ACS produces 3-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 – 65,000 residents. The most recent disability information for these areas is from the years 2009-2011.

##### For areas with populations below 20,000:

In 2010, the Census Bureau released the first 5-year estimates for areas smaller than 20,000 residents. The 5 year estimates are based on ACS data collected from the years 2005 through 2009. In 2008 the questions pertaining to disability data changed. This resulted in the 5-year estimates not including the same detailed disability information as larger areas.

#### **2. What should I do if American Community Survey disability information is not available for my area?**

It is suggested that localities without current disability information refer to the disability data of surrounding locations. Rates of disabled populations can be used as a general guideline for determining likely rates of disability for areas within close proximity.

More comprehensive disability data will be released for more areas as it becomes available.

#### **3. Where can I learn more about the American Community Survey data?**

To learn more about the American Community Survey data visit the American Community Survey – U.S. Census Bureau website at:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

**4. Where can I find the definitions of the disability terms used by the American Community Survey?**

The definitions of the disability terms used by the American Community Survey can be found at the American Community Survey – U.S. Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/people/disability/methodology/acs.html>

**Medicaid Data**

**5. How were the categories of services provided by Medicaid determined?**

The categories of Medicaid services in Table 2-**Medical Claims for Select Home Medical Equipment and Service Code** reflect the general Medicaid codes used by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicaid codes describe the type of services and equipment utilized by Medicaid beneficiaries. The codes contained in the demographic profile are believed to be the most likely equipment and services that will require accommodation in emergency shelters.

**6. Does the Medicaid data include people who live in institutionalized settings?**

Yes. At this time, there is no way to separate Medicaid data collected about individuals who reside at home and individuals who reside in an institutionalized setting.

**7. Why do some cells read 1-9 rather than a specific number?**

For nine or less, the specific number is ambiguous to protect the privacy of the individual(s) residing in that zip code.

**8. Why is Medicaid data not available for a specific zip code in my community?**

If a zip code is not listed in the Medicaid Data Chart, then Medicaid data was not reported by the DSHS Center for Health Statistics, indicating that no individuals residing in that zip code were receiving the Medicaid services in question during 2011. The Medicaid data is generated based on self-report zip codes of residence. As with all self-report data, some inherent risk exists with regards to the validity of the data. Additionally, a gap likely exists between the number of individuals receiving these specific Medicaid services in 2011 and those in 2013.

**Census Data**

**9. Why does the Census data not include all the zip codes in my county?**

The US Post Office creates new zip codes and changes zip codes regularly. If all zip codes in your county are not accounted for, the missing zip codes may not have existed when the 2010 Census was conducted.