

Table FxLimit. Functional limitation in adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 2010–2019

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2020-2021.htm#Table-FxLimit>

[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			
	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019
Level of difficulty					Number (millions)							
A lot of difficulty or cannot do at all	18.8	18.0	24.8	22.7	10.8	10.7	13.8	12.5	8.0	7.3	11.0	10.2
Some difficulty	61.6	69.9	81.0	80.3	46.8	52.8	58.3	55.5	14.7	17.1	22.7	24.7
No difficulty	130.4	140.5	137.1	147.9	117.9	124.0	120.8	129.6	12.4	16.5	16.4	17.9
Percent of population reporting a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all												
Total, age adjusted ^{1,2}	8.6	7.5	9.5	8.2	5.7	5.3	6.7	5.8	23.1	18.5	23.0	20.2
Total, crude ²	8.9	7.9	10.2	9.0	6.2	5.7	7.2	6.3	22.6	17.9	21.9	19.3
Sex												
Male	7.5	6.6	9.3	8.1	5.3	4.6	6.7	5.7	20.0	16.9	20.1	17.9
Female	10.2	9.1	11.1	9.9	7.0	6.8	7.6	6.9	24.8	18.8	23.5	20.4
Race ³												
White only	8.9	7.8	10.3	9.4	5.9	5.5	7.2	6.5	22.5	17.1	21.2	19.0
Black or African American only	10.5	9.8	11.1	9.0	8.9	7.4	8.0	6.8	21.1	24.7	28.5	20.7
American Indian or Alaska Native only	*	*	12.5	13.3	*	*	9.1	9.5	*	*	*	37.4
Asian only	*4.5	*4.3	6.7	3.5	*	*	4.0	2.1	*21.8	*19.8	20.9	10.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
2 or more races	*7.0	*13.3	9.8	11.6	*	*13.3	8.4	9.2	*	*	19.9	28.3
Hispanic origin and race ³												
Hispanic or Latino	7.4	7.4	8.3	7.9	5.3	5.9	6.0	5.8	31.0	24.0	26.9	24.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	9.1	8.0	10.6	9.3	6.3	5.7	7.4	6.4	22.0	17.5	21.4	18.8
White only	9.2	7.9	10.7	9.7	6.1	5.5	7.5	6.7	21.9	16.5	20.5	18.7
Black or African American only	10.5	9.5	11.4	9.0	8.8	7.2	8.1	6.7	21.4	23.8	28.8	20.9
Percent of poverty level ⁴												
Below 100%	15.6	14.7	19.1	18.4	13.3	11.5	15.1	14.8	33.7	39.6	39.4	35.5
100%–199%	14.3	12.2	15.9	13.8	9.5	8.5	11.1	9.9	32.0	26.4	31.2	26.5
200%–399%	7.7	7.2	10.5	8.5	4.8	4.7	7.2	5.5	18.2	16.0	21.7	19.1
400% or more	4.8	3.4	5.3	4.5	3.1	2.6	3.5	2.8	17.0	7.9	13.1	11.3
Location of residence ⁵												
Within MSA	8.1	7.1	9.6	8.2	5.5	5.0	6.7	5.7	22.5	17.2	21.5	18.4
Outside MSA	13.2	11.9	14.3	13.9	10.2	9.4	10.9	10.4	23.1	20.9	24.1	23.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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Characteristic	18 years and over				18–64 years				65 years and over			
	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019
Percent of population reporting some difficulty												
Total, age adjusted ^{1,2}	28.8	29.7	32.2	30.6	26.1	27.1	29.4	27.2	42.0	41.9	45.6	47.1
Total, crude ²	29.2	30.6	33.3	32.0	26.7	28.2	30.2	28.1	42.0	41.7	45.4	46.8
Sex												
Male.....	28.3	30.8	33.2	31.8	25.6	28.3	29.9	28.0	43.4	43.9	47.4	47.8
Female.....	30.1	30.4	33.4	32.2	27.7	28.1	30.5	28.2	40.8	39.9	43.8	46.0
Race ³												
White only.....	29.4	31.0	34.5	33.4	26.7	28.4	31.2	29.1	41.8	41.9	46.3	47.7
Black or African American only.....	29.7	29.0	29.5	31.2	27.1	27.1	27.9	28.6	46.3	40.9	38.5	44.6
American Indian or Alaska Native only.....	*27.4	*27.2	39.4	29.8	*27.6	*24.7	39.2	28.5	*	*	*	38.5
Asian only.....	24.5	24.8	23.8	24.1	23.6	22.7	20.3	20.5	*32.4	39.2	42.5	42.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	*	*	*	24.7	*	*	*	19.8	*	*	*	*
2 or more races.....	31.8	42.6	35.9	33.3	30.0	43.1	34.3	30.9	*55.2	*	47.0	49.7
Hispanic origin and race ³												
Hispanic or Latino.....	24.5	21.7	29.6	25.0	23.6	20.4	28.4	23.3	35.1	35.6	39.2	38.4
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	30.0	32.2	34.1	33.4	27.2	29.7	30.6	29.2	42.5	42.1	46.0	47.6
White only.....	30.3	32.9	35.8	34.8	27.4	30.3	32.0	30.3	42.2	42.3	47.1	48.2
Black or African American only.....	29.9	29.5	28.9	31.2	27.1	27.5	27.2	28.6	47.4	41.4	38.2	44.8
Percent of poverty level ⁴												
Below 100%.....	28.6	31.4	33.6	35.1	27.3	31.4	32.3	33.0	39.2	31.9	39.9	44.5
100%–199%.....	31.0	31.2	35.6	35.4	28.1	28.2	32.9	31.8	41.9	42.4	44.0	47.4
200%–399%.....	31.2	30.7	35.5	32.3	27.8	27.6	32.1	27.8	44.0	42.2	47.3	48.3
400% or more.....	26.8	29.8	30.8	29.3	25.0	27.3	27.4	25.2	39.9	43.4	45.8	45.7
Location of residence ⁵												
Within MSA.....	29.0	29.2	32.7	31.2	26.5	26.7	29.7	27.5	42.5	41.1	45.1	46.0
Outside MSA.....	30.5	37.8	37.4	36.8	27.6	36.0	34.1	31.8	40.0	44.0	47.1	50.4

See footnotes at end of table.

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Characteristic	18 years and over				18–64 years				65 years and over			
	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019	2010	2012	2018	2019
Percent of population reporting no difficulty												
Total, age adjusted ^{1,2}	62.6	62.8	58.3	61.2	68.2	67.6	63.9	67.1	35.0	39.7	31.4	32.7
Total, crude ²	61.9	61.5	56.4	58.9	67.2	66.1	62.6	65.6	35.4	40.4	32.7	33.9
Sex												
Male.....	64.2	62.5	57.5	60.1	69.2	67.1	63.4	66.3	36.6	39.2	32.6	34.3
Female.....	59.7	60.6	55.5	57.9	65.2	65.2	61.9	64.8	34.4	41.3	32.8	33.6
Race ³												
White only.....	61.7	61.3	55.2	57.1	67.4	66.1	61.6	64.5	35.6	41.0	32.5	33.3
Black or African American only.....	59.8	61.2	59.4	59.8	64.0	65.5	64.1	64.6	32.6	34.4	33.0	34.7
American Indian or Alaska Native only.....	55.6	65.7	48.1	57.0	61.2	72.0	51.7	62.0	*	*	*	24.1
Asian only.....	71.0	71.0	69.5	72.4	73.8	75.3	75.7	77.4	45.8	41.0	36.6	46.6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	*	*	*	65.9	*	*	*	72.2	*	*	*	*
2 or more races.....	61.3	44.1	54.4	55.1	64.7	43.6	57.3	59.9	*	*61.4	33.0	22.0
Hispanic origin and race ³												
Hispanic or Latino.....	68.0	70.9	62.1	67.2	71.2	73.7	65.6	70.9	34.0	40.5	34.0	37.1
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	60.9	59.9	55.3	57.3	66.4	64.6	61.9	64.4	35.5	40.4	32.6	33.6
White only.....	60.5	59.2	53.5	55.5	66.5	64.1	60.4	63.0	35.8	41.1	32.4	33.0
Black or African American only.....	59.5	61.0	59.7	59.8	64.0	65.3	64.7	64.6	31.2	34.8	33.0	34.3
Percent of poverty level ⁴												
Below 100%.....	55.8	53.9	47.3	46.5	59.4	57.2	52.6	52.2	27.1	28.5	20.7	20.0
100%–199%.....	54.6	56.6	48.5	50.8	62.4	63.4	56.1	58.3	26.1	31.2	24.8	26.1
200%–399%.....	61.1	62.1	54.0	59.2	67.4	67.7	60.7	66.7	37.8	41.8	30.9	32.6
400% or more.....	68.5	66.7	63.8	66.2	72.0	70.1	69.1	71.9	43.1	48.8	41.1	43.0
Location of residence ⁵												
Within MSA.....	62.9	63.7	57.7	60.6	68.0	68.3	63.7	66.8	34.9	41.7	33.4	35.6
Outside MSA.....	56.3	50.3	48.3	49.2	62.2	54.6	55.0	57.8	36.9	35.1	28.8	26.3

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* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates is assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Before 2016 data, the reliability of estimates was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSEs). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Sources and Definitions, Relative standard error (RSE); Statistical reliability of estimates.

¹ 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. Estimates for adults aged 18–64 are age adjusted to three groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, and 55–64 years. Estimates for adults aged 65 and over are age adjusted to two groups: 65–74 years and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See Sources and Definitions, Age adjustment.

² Includes all other races not shown separately and those with unknown sex.

³ The race groups White, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People 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- and multiple-race categories shown follow the 1997 standards. The race-specific estimates are for people who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes people who reported more than one racial group. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race are treated as missing, and then race is imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all people with a race response of other race are of Hispanic origin. See Sources and Definitions, Hispanic origin; Race.

⁴ 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 are imputed for 1997 and beyond. See Sources and Definitions, Family income; Poverty.

⁵ MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2016 data, MSA status is determined using 2010 census data and the 2010 standards for defining MSAs. For more information, including the definition applied before 2016, see Sources and Definitions, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

NOTES: Functional limitation is defined by the reported level of difficulty in six domains of functioning: seeing (even if wearing glasses), hearing (even if wearing hearing aids), mobility (walking or climbing stairs), communication (understanding or being understood by others), cognition (remembering or concentrating), and self-care (such as washing all over or dressing). Respondents with answers to one or more of the six questions are included in one of three mutually exclusive categories. Adults who respond “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all/unable to do” to at least one question are classified in the “a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all” category. Of the remaining respondents, adults who respond “some difficulty” to at least one question are classified in the “some difficulty” category, and adults who respond “no difficulty” to all questions are classified in the “no difficulty” category. Adults who respond “don’t know” or “refused” to all six questions are excluded. During 2010–2019, 0%–8% of respondents were missing data and excluded. See Sources and Definitions, Functional limitation. In 2019, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) questionnaire was redesigned and other changes were made to weighting and design methodology. Data for 2019 have not been fully evaluated for comparability with earlier years. For more information on the 2019 NHIS redesign and evaluation of the redesign on selected indicators, see: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/2019_quest_redesign.htm. Standard errors and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey. See Sources and Definitions, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).