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Deaf Statistics

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Deaf people and Social Security

Deaf people and Social Security

For many years, there has been a great deal of speculation about government entitlements and the American population of individuals with hearing loss. Although such statistics are not clearly differentiated by the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program -- they use other categories, which can be seen [here](#) (PDF copy of SSI's 2012 Annual Statistical Report, page 67) -- the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Program does. The following table has been concatenated using information from pages [31](#) and [45](#) in the PDF version of SSDI's 2012 Annual Statistical Report.

Notes to consider while perusing the table below:

- Since SSDI is primarily focused on aiding individuals who are unable to work -- either in a significant capacity, or indeed at all -- it is important to remember that the number of beneficiaries with hearing loss is **not** representative of the general deaf population. Depending on a large number of factors (detailed in the [2014 benefits update](#) (PDF)), the majority of able-bodied deaf individuals may be considered ineligible.
- As with the deaf employment page, these statistics do not account for individuals with additional disabilities.
- The deaf-related statistics are taken from a table (page 45, linked above) that includes statistical information about blind recipients of SSDI; it is important to note that the title of the table states that it is focused on recipients that receive benefits *because of blindness or deafness*; this suggests the possibility that deafblind recipients are included in one group or the other, but there does not appear to be any information on *which* group.

State	Total disabled SSDI beneficiaries per state	Total deaf SSDI beneficiaries per state	Deaf beneficiaries as percentage (%) of total beneficiaries*
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Alabama	264,264	1,837	0.7
Alaska	14,505	132	0.9
Arizona	172,382	1,652	1.0
Arkansas	158,086	989	0.6
California	807,945	6,999	0.9
Colorado	114,528	1,124	1.0
Connecticut	94,879	800	0.8
Delaware	30,631	240	0.8
District of Columbia	16,031	292	1.8
Florida	599,552	5,604	0.9
Georgia	313,442	2,334	0.7
Hawaii	26,846	230	0.9
Idaho	47,745	318	0.7
Illinois	340,098	2,766	0.8
Indiana	233,290	2,052	0.9
Iowa	89,746	730	0.8
Kansas	85,442	765	0.9
Kentucky	238,348	1,576	0.7
Louisiana	182,724	1,427	0.8
Maine	66,896	397	0.6
Maryland	143,284	1,582	1.1
Massachusetts	228,904	1,430	0.6
Michigan	401,225	2,765	0.7
Minnesota	143,174	1,337	0.9
Mississippi	152,822	1,131	0.7
Missouri	248,143	1,706	0.7
Montana	31,609	246	0.8
Nebraska	48,474	394	0.8
Nevada	66,798	541	0.8
New Hampshire	52,390	262	0.5
New Jersey	229,138	1,756	0.8
New Mexico	70,571	536	0.8
New York	601,407	4,411	0.7
North Carolina	371,862	2,662	0.7
North Dakota	16,839	110	0.7
Ohio	400,479	3,249	0.8
Oklahoma	143,281	1,018	0.7
Oregon	119,830	1,105	0.9
Pennsylvania	464,275	3,095	0.7

Puerto Rico	212,124	1,207	0.6
Rhode Island	42,000	267	0.6
South Carolina	201,108	1,324	0.7
South Dakota	22,140	199	0.9
Tennessee	284,243	1,961	0.7
Texas	644,583	6,015	0.9
Utah	53,406	600	1.1
Vermont	25,490	168	0.7
Virginia	240,741	1,673	0.7
Washington	196,272	1,606	0.8
West Virginia	111,618	672	0.6
Wisconsin	183,169	1,421	0.8
Wyoming	14,311	102	0.7
Total	10,088,739	79,063	0.8

* Rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

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