

Disability Facts of the Day 2011

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Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

October Facts of the Day

Date	Fact	Source
1	President George H.W. Bush, in 1990, signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. The law guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.	U.S. Census Bureau
2	The theme for this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities."	deomi.org
3	The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Association members first began selling Forget-Me-Nots in 1926 to support DAV services needed by veterans who were disabled in World War I. The blue flower signifies the spring flowers that grew on the graves of comrades killed during the first World War. The tradition continues today.	http://www.dav.org/membership/ForgetMeNot.aspx
4	The effort to educate the American public about disability and employment began in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." The word "physically" was removed in 1962 to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of all individuals with disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."	http://www.dol.gov/odep/faqs/ndeam.htm
5	Section 4214 of Title 38, United States Code, calls upon agencies to establish a separate affirmative action program for disabled veterans as part of the agency efforts to hire, place, and advance persons with disabilities under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.	http://us-code.vlex.com/vid/employment-individuals-disabilities-19215856
6	The Disability History Museum provides visitors an array of tools to help deepen the understanding of human variation and difference, and to expand appreciation of how vital to our common life the experiences of people with disabilities have always been. The website is located at disabilitymuseum.org .	http://www.disabilitymuseum.org
7	The Disability History Museum's mission is to foster a deeper understanding about how changing cultural values, notions of identity, laws, and policies have shaped and influenced the experience of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities overtime. The website is located at disabilitymuseum.org .	www.military.com/veteran-jobs/content/serach/government-jobs/federal-latino-diversity

8	There are 36 million people who have at least one disability, about 12 percent of the U.S. population.	http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/statistics/census-figures.php
9	People with disabilities constitute the nation's largest minority group, and the only group any of us can become a member of at any time.	http://www.disabilityfunders.org/disability-stats-and-facts
10	People with disabilities represent the single largest minority group seeking employment in today's marketplace.	http://www.disabilityfunders.org/disability-stats-and-facts
11	Despite the strides made in disability rights in the past 25 years, the majority of people with disabilities are poor, under-employed, and under-educated, largely due to unequal opportunities. People with disabilities are a diverse group, crossing lines of age, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.	http://www.disabilityfunders.org/disability-stats-and-facts
12	According the 2010 Census, 54 million people live with a disability, representing 19 percent of the civilian population.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb10-ff13.html
13	The Wounded Warrior Program, established in 2008, offers employment opportunities in the House of Representatives for wounded and disabled service members to work with members of Congress, committees, leadership offices, and in support services.	http://www.cao.house.gov/wwwp-about.shtml
14	An estimated one in four soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan with service-related disabilities. Common types of injuries include traumatic brain injuries, amputations, and blindness.	http://www.hireheroesusa.org/
15	The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its Paralympics Program website as part of the VA's ongoing commitment to support the rehabilitation and recovery of disabled veterans through participation in adaptive sports. The website is located at www.va.gov/adativesports .	http://www.dav.org/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=456
16	The National Veterans Wheelchair Games was held in August 2011 in Pennsylvania. The largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world, the games offered 17 different sports to veterans who use wheelchairs due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, and neurological diseases. The games promote rehabilitation through rigorous competition.	http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/wcg/index.asp

17	The National Veterans Golden Age Games is a national event and the only sports competition program designed to improve the quality of life for older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It is one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world, offering 14 different sports and recreational activities.	http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/gag/index.asp
18	The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Association was founded in 1920 by disabled veterans from World War I to represent their special interest. In 1932, the DAV was congressionally chartered as the official voice of the nation's wartime disabled veterans.	http://www.dav.org/
19	Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) served three terms as President of the United States. Due to polio, FDR could not walk unassisted. Unfortunately, he felt he had to hide the extent of his disability from the American public. Regardless of his disability, he helped pull the country out of the depression through social programs and led the U.S. through World War II.	http://www.archive.org/stream/healthofthepresi028239mbp/healthofthepresi028239mbp_djvu.txt
20	The number of veterans rated at 100 percent disabled as of June 30, 2011 was 315,748 according to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.	http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Quick_Facts.asp
21	According to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, 3.30 million veterans were receiving VA disability compensation as of June 30, 2011.	http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Quick_Facts.asp
22	Disability.gov is a federal website whose mission is to connect people with disabilities, their family members, veterans, caregivers, employers, service providers, and others with the resources they need to ensure that people of all abilities can fully participate in the workplace and in their communities.	https://www.disability.gov/home/about_us
23	Nearly seven million children with disabilities rely on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that they receive the same educational rights as all children. IDEA guarantees access to a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment to every child with a disability.	http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/index.html
24	President Barack Obama stated, "The federal government has an important interest in reducing discrimination against Americans living with a disability, in eliminating the stigma associated with disability, and in encouraging Americans with disabilities to seek employment in the federal workforce."	http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/executive-order-increasing-federal-employment-individuals-with-disabilities

25	The last "Ugly Law" is repealed in Chicago, Illinois in 1974. These laws allowed police to arrest and jail people with "apparent" disabilities for no reason other than being disfigured or demonstrating some type of disability.	http://www.ncld-youth.info/index.php?id=61#
26	The talking-book program was established by an act of Congress in 1931 to serve blind adults. It was expanded in 1952 to include children, in 1962 to provide musical materials, and again in 1966 to include individuals with other physical impairments that that prevent the reading of standard print.	http://www.local.gov/nls/faq.html
27	In 2004, disability rights advocates organize the first Disability Pride Parade. Organizers expected 500 people to attend the event, designed to "change the way people think about and define disability, to break down and end the internalized shame among people with disabilities, and to promote the belief in society that disability is a natural and beautiful part of life." Almost 2,000 attended the event.	http://www.ncld-youth.info/index.php?id=61#
28	Disability discrimination occurs when an employer or other entity covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, or the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, treats a qualified individual with a disability who is an employee or applicant unfavorably because he/she has a disability.	http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability.cfm
29	The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) defines a disability as any of the following: a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of such impairment, or being regard as having such an impairment.	http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/disability_law
30	Under the Fair Housing Act, it is unlawful to discriminate in any aspect of selling, renting, or denying housing because of an individual's disability. Owners are further required to make reasonable exceptions in their housing policies to afford equal housing opportunities to those with disabilities.	http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/disability_law
31	The Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, programs receiving federal financial assistance, federal employment, and the employment practices of federal contractors. Its standards mirror those of the ADA.	http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/disability_law