

October Facts of the Day 2013



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Disability (October) Facts of the Day 2013		
Date	Fact	Source
1	"Because We Are EQUAL to the Task" is the theme of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Chosen by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, the theme reflects the reality that people with disabilities have the education, training, experience, and desire to be successful in the workplace.	http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20131020.htm
2	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." In 1962, "physically" was removed 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
3	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. The ADA is considered the most important civil rights law since Title 504 and has cross-disability support, bringing disability-specific organizations, advocates, and supporters together for the same cause.	U.S. Census Bureau
4	Despite the strides made in disability rights since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act 23 years ago, 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.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff15.html
5	The Americans with Disability Act 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 regarded as having such an impairment.	http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/disability_law

6	Disability.gov is a federal website that exists to connect people with disabilities, their family members, veterans, caregivers, employers, and service providers 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
7	According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 56.7 million people live with a disability in the United States, representing 19 percent of the noninstitutionalized population.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff15.html
8	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
9	People with disabilities represent the single largest minority group seeking employment in today's marketplace.	http://www.disabilityfunders.org/disability-stats-and-facts
10	One of the common misconceptions about individuals who are visually impaired or blind is the belief that they can read and write Braille. In actuality, only about ten percent of people who are blind can read and write Braille.	http://brailleinstitute.org/About_Sight_Loss/Common_Misconceptions.aspx
11	Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics in 1962 to provide athletic training and competition for persons with intellectual disabilities. The organization grew into an international program, enabling more than one million young people and adults to participate in Olympic-type sporting events each year. The first International Special Olympics Games were held in Chicago in 1968.	http://www.specialolympics.org/
12	In 2004, a coalition of disability rights advocates and organizations held the first Disability Pride Parade. Organizers expected 500–600 people to attend the event, which was 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 supporters attended.	http://www.ncldeyouth.info/Downloads/disability_history_timeline.pdf

13	<p>The National Council on Disability was established in 1978, as an advisory board within the Department of Education. Its purpose is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all people with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability, and to empower them to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.</p>	<p>http://www.ncd.gov/about</p>
14	<p>The U.S. Department of Labor estimated that the military discharged 160,000 active Service members and 110,000 Reserve and National Guard members in 2011. Statistically, about 32,000 of those veterans joined the ranks of nearly 1 million veterans already unemployed. For young, male veterans (aged 18–24), one out of every three was looking for work, almost double the unemployment rate of their nonveteran peers.</p>	<p>http://www.hireheroesusa.org/</p>
15	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.dav.org/membership/ForgetMeNot.aspx</p>
16	<p>Veterans with a service-connected disability had an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent in August 2012, about the same as the rate for veterans with no disability at 7.1 percent.</p>	<p>https://www.hireheroesusa.org/about-us/fact-sheet/</p>
17	<p>The last "Ugly Law" was 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.</p>	<p>http://www.ncldyouth.info/index.php?id=61#</p>
18	<p>Disability discrimination occurs when an employer or other entity covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act treats a qualified individual with a disability who is an employee or applicant unfavorably because he or she has a disability.</p>	<p>http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability.cfm</p>

19	<p>The National Institute of Mental Health reported that each year, one in four Americans experience a mental health disorder. The U.S. Surgeon General reported that ten percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from emotional and mental disorders that cause significant impairment in their day-to-day lives at home, in school, and with peers.</p>	<p>http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=about_mental_illness</p>
20	<p>In August 2012, 34 percent of employed veterans with a disability worked in federal, state, or local government, compared with 19 percent of veterans with no disability and 14 percent of nonveterans. The federal government employed 19 percent of veterans with a disability, compared with 7 percent of veterans with no disability and 2 percent of employed nonveterans.</p>	<p>http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm</p>
21	<p>Section 4214 of Title 38, United States Code, called upon agencies to establish a separate affirmative action program for disabled veterans as part of the agencies' efforts to hire, place, and advance persons with disabilities under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.</p>	<p>http://us-code.vlex.com/vid/employment-individuals-disabilities-19215856</p>
22	<p>The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first major legislative effort to secure an equal playing field for individuals with disabilities. This legislation provided a wide range of services for persons with physical and cognitive disabilities. Those disabilities can create significant barriers to full and continued employment, the pursuit of independent living, self-determination, and inclusion in American society.</p>	<p>http://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm#anchor65610</p>
23	<p>In 1975, the Supreme Court ruled in O'Connor v. Donaldson that people cannot be institutionalized in a psychiatric hospital against their will unless they are determined to be a threat to themselves or to others. Justice Potter Stewart stated, "That the State has a proper interest in providing care and assistance to the unfortunate goes without saying. But the mere presence of mental illness does not disqualify a person from preferring his home to the comforts of an institution."</p>	<p>http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/422/563/case.html</p>

24	The Road-to-Freedom tour kicked off on November 15, 2006. This 50-state bus tour and photographic exhibit chronicled the history of the grassroots “people’s movement” that led to passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).	http://www.nclde-youth.info/Downloads/disability_history_timeline.pdf
25	The first Special Olympics Global Development Summit was held in 2013 to explore ways to "End the Cycle of Poverty and Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities." Participants in the summit included government officials and human rights activists, as well as leaders from the sports and business world. There's no easy answer to the questions raised. But, as one activist noted, "When we bring our skills together, we are unstoppable."	http://www.specialolympics.org/News_and_Stories/Stories2013/World_Games_2013/INFO_CENTER_2013_Global_Development_Summit.aspx
26	Talking Books is a free library service available to U.S. residents and citizens living abroad whose low vision, blindness, or other physical handicap makes it difficult to read a standard printed page. Cooperating libraries mail audio books, magazines, and audio equipment directly to enrollees at no cost. Braille books and magazines are also available at no cost. To speak to a librarian in your service area during normal business hours, call 1-888-NLS-READ (toll free).	https://www.nlstalkingbooks.org/talkingbooksform/
27	The National Institute of Mental Health reported that every year, one in four adults—approximately 57.7 million Americans—is diagnosed with a mental health disorder. Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion, or income, and are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character, or poor upbringing.	http://www.nami.org/template.cfm?section=about_mental_illness
28	The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.	http://idea.ed.gov/

29	<p>According to the U.S. Department of Labor's July 2013 statistics, the labor force participation for people with disabilities was 20.3 percent, compared to 69.7 percent for people without disabilities. The unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 14.7 percent, compared to 7.4 percent for people without disabilities.</p>	<p>http://www.dol.gov/odep/</p>
30	<p>In 2010, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13548 to increase federal employment of people with disabilities. The Office of Personnel Management released model strategies to help agencies meet their obligations. The DoD employs about 52,000 individuals with disabilities, defining them as current employees who have elected to identify themselves as an individual with a disability.</p>	<p>http://www.defense.gov/news/new_sarticle.aspx?id=120605</p>
31	<p>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.</p>	<p>http://www.disabilitymuseum.org</p>