

Employment Statistics about the Population with Vision Difficulties

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Statistics were shared from two surveys: the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and the American Community survey (ACS). A limitation of these surveys is that the margins of error are quite high, since persons with vision difficulties make up only 2% of the population. The unemployment rate, labor force participation, and numbers of persons living in and near poverty level was discussed. The employment rate in 2012 was 36.9% and the labor force participation rate was 44.8%. Only 23.4% of the population worked full-time during the entire year in 2012. This percentage ranged from 22.8 to 24.4% in the preceding three years. Those with difficulty seeing have higher levels of unemployment compared to the general population, ranging from 8 to 9.7 points higher in the past four years. There are significant differences in the labor force participation and unemployment rates for the population across the country. A color coded map illustrated these differences by counties. More than half of the population is living in poverty or near poor. The percentages in these categories have risen over the past four years.