

## NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 56.7 million people (19% of the population) had a disability in 2010. Furthermore, disability is a broad definition, with more than half of them reporting the disability was severe, according to a comprehensive report on this population.

The report shows that 41% of those age 21 to 64 with any disability were employed, compared with 79% of those with no disability. Along with the lower likelihood of having a job came the higher likelihood of experiencing persistent poverty; that is, continuous poverty over a 24 month period. Among people age 15 to 64 with severe disabilities, 10.8% experienced persistent poverty; the same was true for 4.9% of those with a no severe disability and 3.8% of those with no disability.

The Department of Labor encourage employers to recognize and seek out those individuals with disabilities seeking employment, "recognizing that these individuals represent a highly skilled talent pool"

The American Bar Association is actively participating in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign to celebrate the contributions of workers with 8914684.1

disabilities and educates them about the value of a diverse workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. In recognition of the contributions lawyers and judges with disabilities make to the legal profession and to encourage law firms, judiciaries, and other legal employers to make disability diversity and inclusion a priority.

### Did you know?

- People with disabilities are the most underemployed people in the country.

-The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." the word "physically" was removed in 1962 to allow for the inclusion of all Americans with disabilities. In 1988, the week was extended to a month and changed its name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."



### Sources:

-Photo from U.S. Department of Labor  
Retrieved August 14, 2017

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/ndeam07.htm>

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<http://www.mynoblelife.org/2013/10/celebrating-disability-employment-awareness-month/>

-Census 2010. In Census Report 2010.

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