



Use of Assistive Technology: Findings from National Surveys

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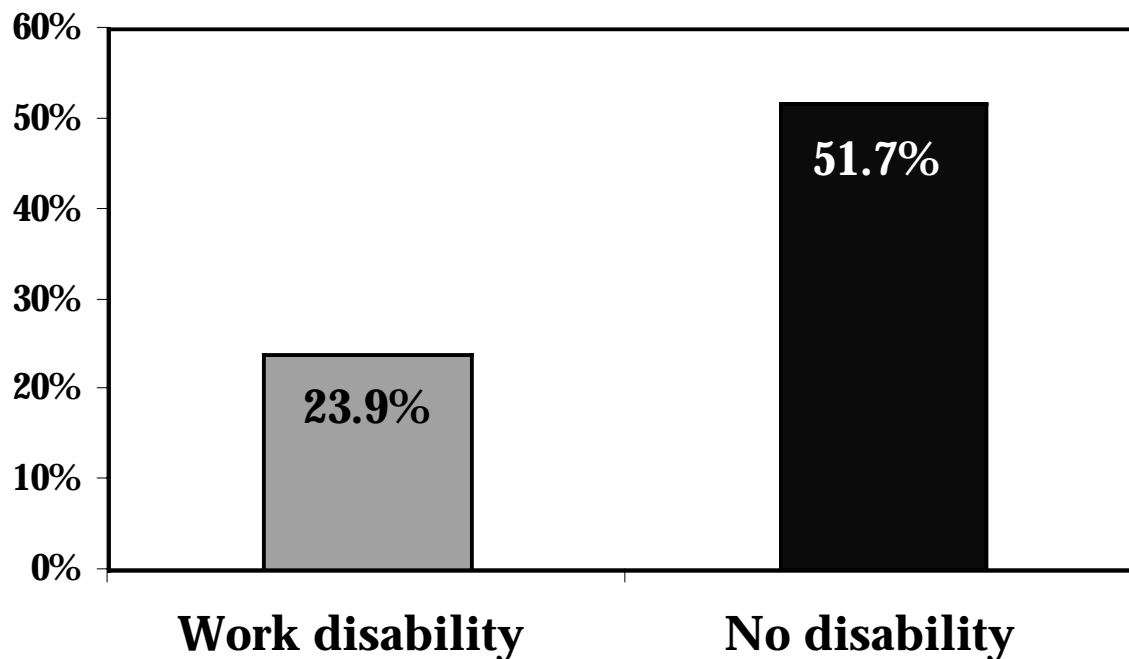
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Less than 1/4 of people with a work disability have a computer at home, compared to more than 1/2 of people with no disability.



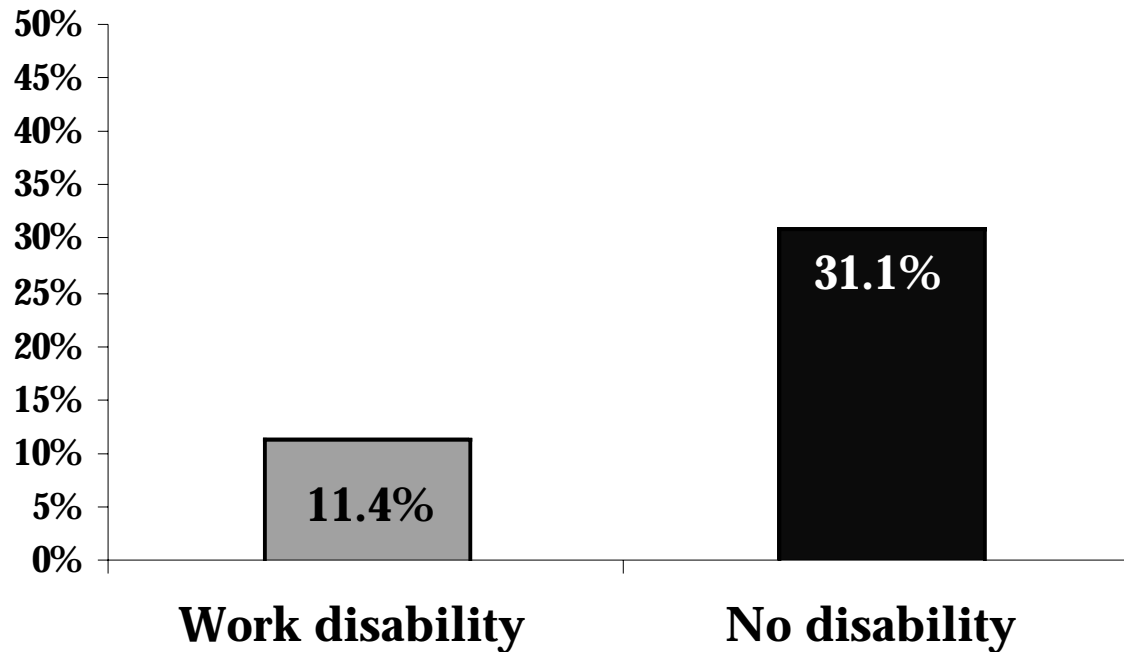
Use of computer at home, by people with and without work disability

Source: Kaye (2000) Survey: CPS, 1998-99

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Non-disabled people have Internet access at nearly three times the rate of people with a work disability.



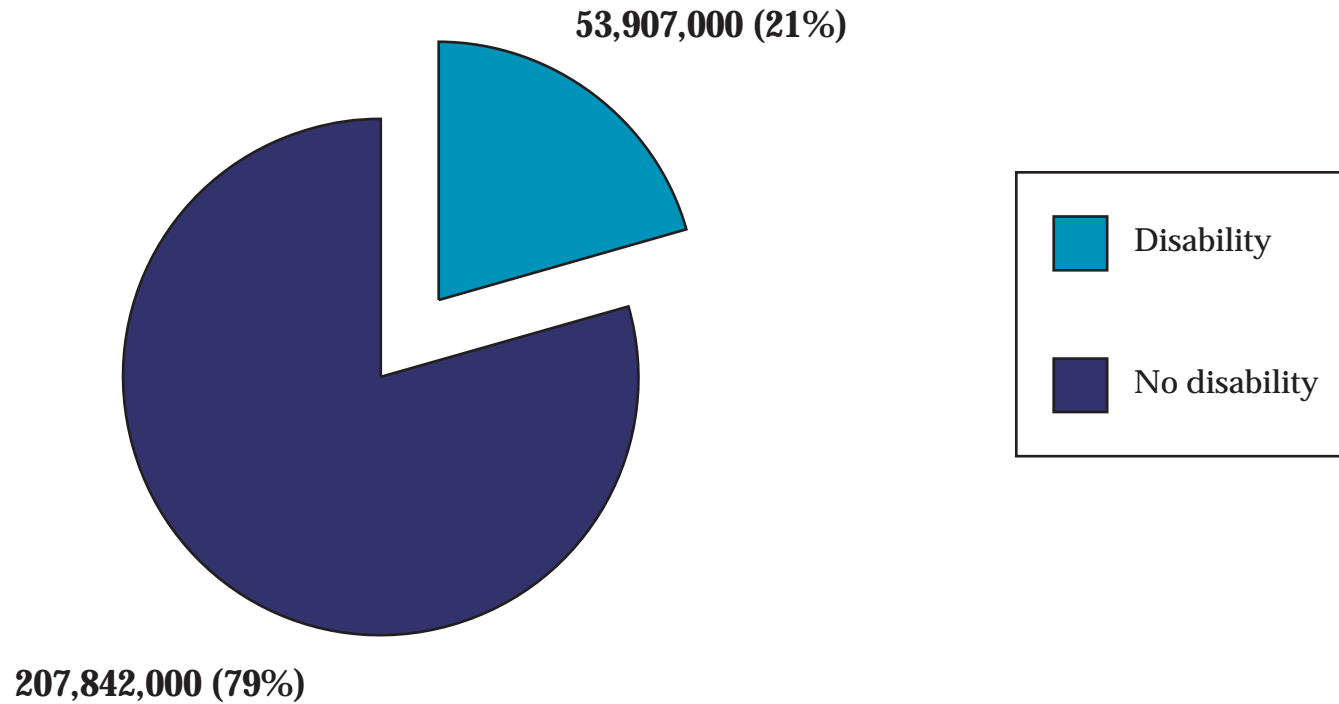
Internet access from home by people, with and without work disability

Source: Kaye (2000) Survey: CPS, 1998-99

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One in five Americans has a disability.



Americans with disability

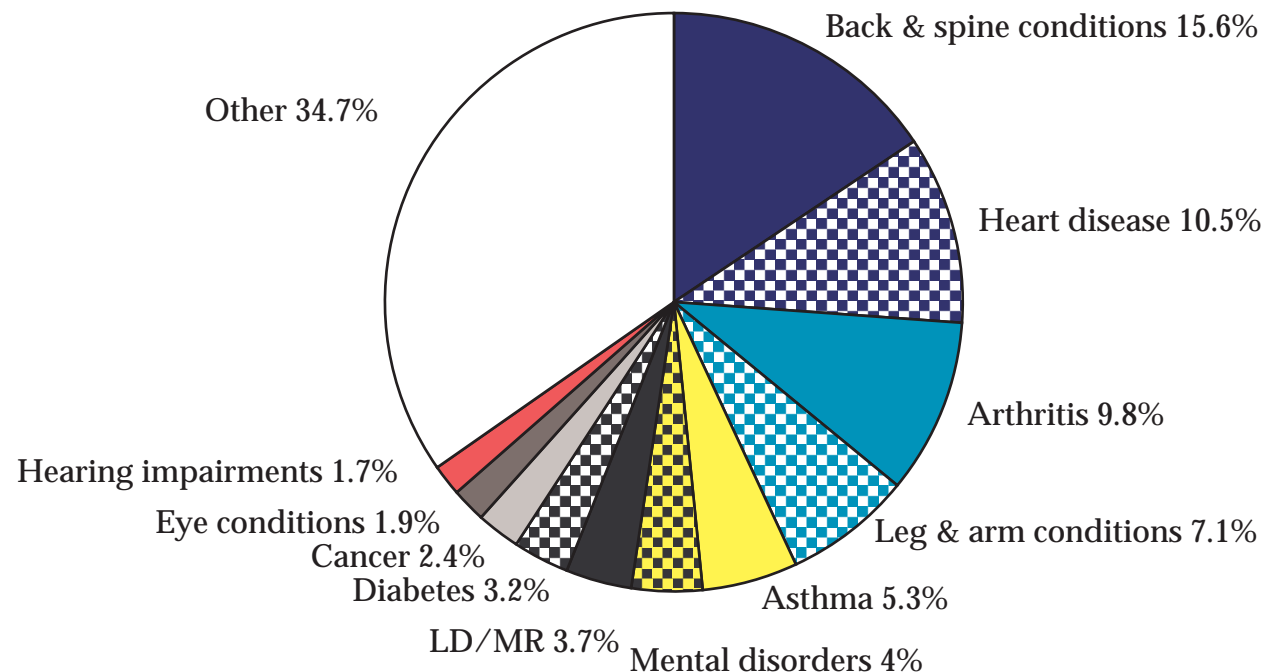
Source: McNeil (1997)

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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The most prevalent main causes of activity limitation are back conditions, heart disease, and arthritis.



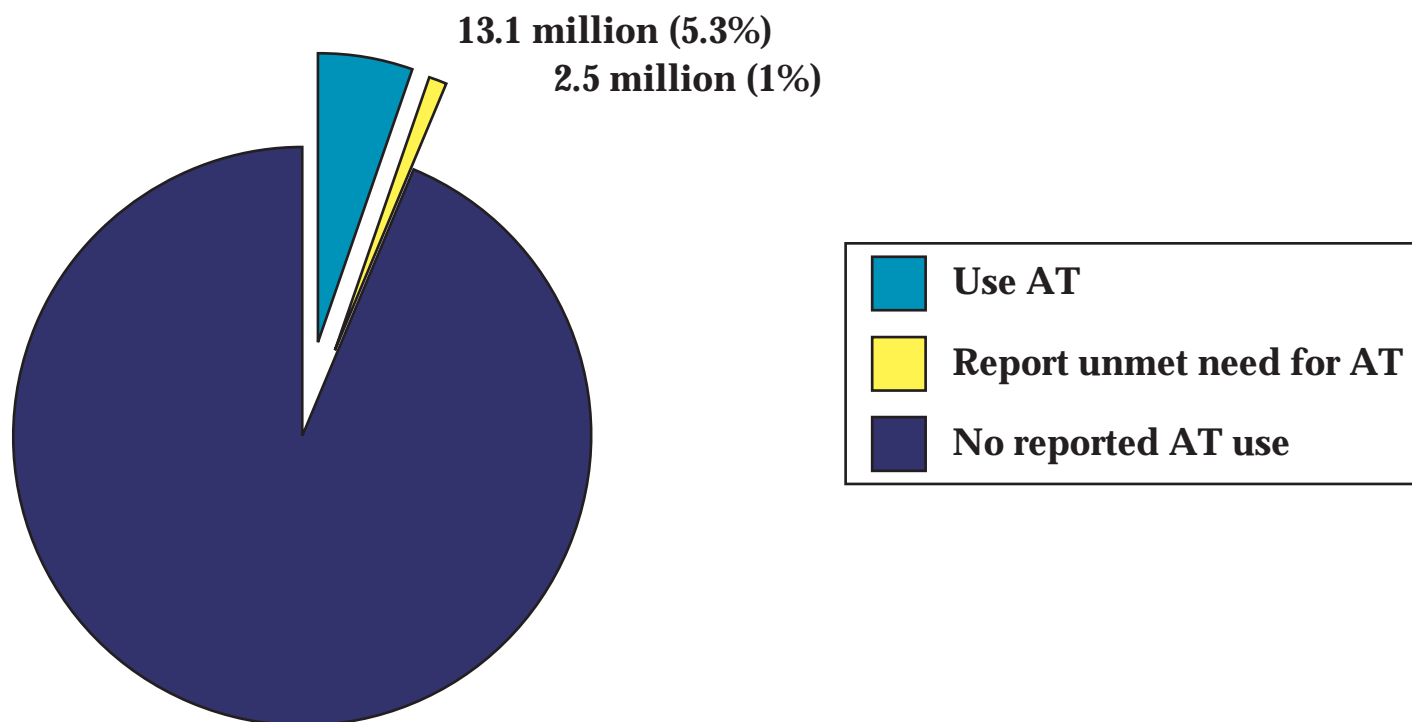
Highest prevalence conditions that were main causes of limitation

Source: LaPlante & Carlson, 1996 Survey: NHIS, 1992

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In 1990, only 5% of the total population (or about 1/4 of people with disabilities) used any assistive devices.



Prevalence of assistive devices

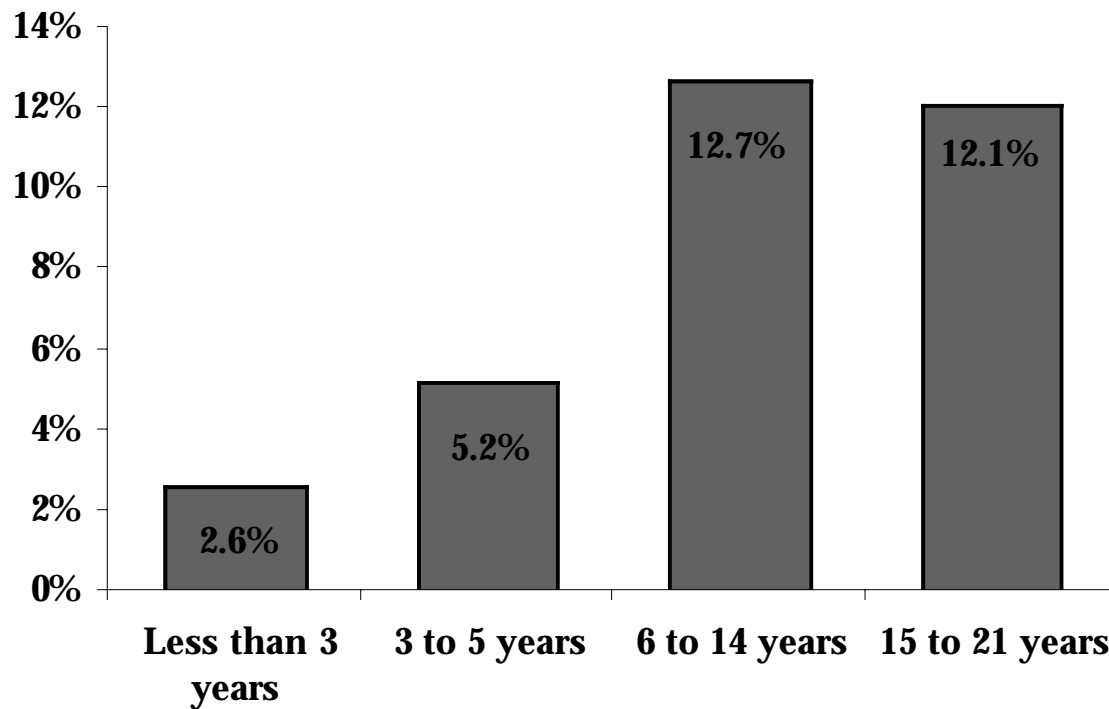
Source: LaPlante, Hendershot, & Moss (1997)

Survey: NHIS-AT supplement, 1990

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About 8.5 million children have a disability, with higher rates for older children and youth.



Children and youth with disability, ages 0-21 years

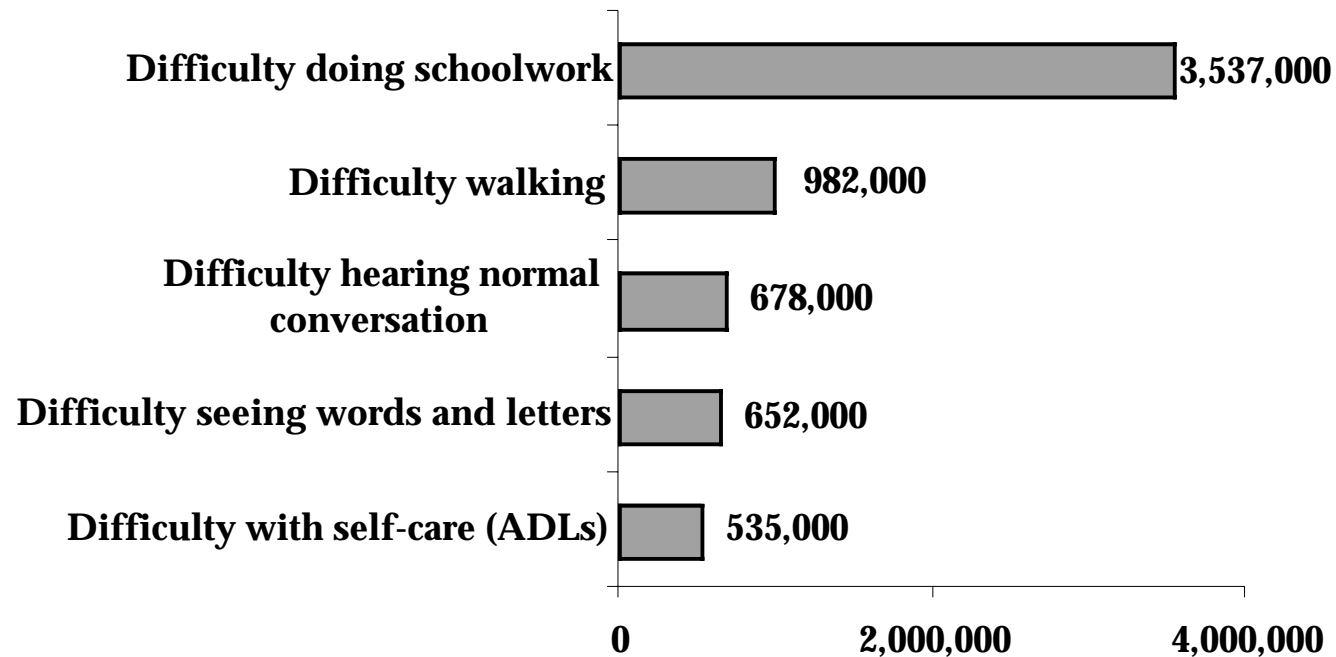
Source: McNeil (1997)

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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Difficulty doing schoolwork is the most common limitation for children and youth, 6 to 21 years.



Limitations among children with disabilities, 6 to 21 years

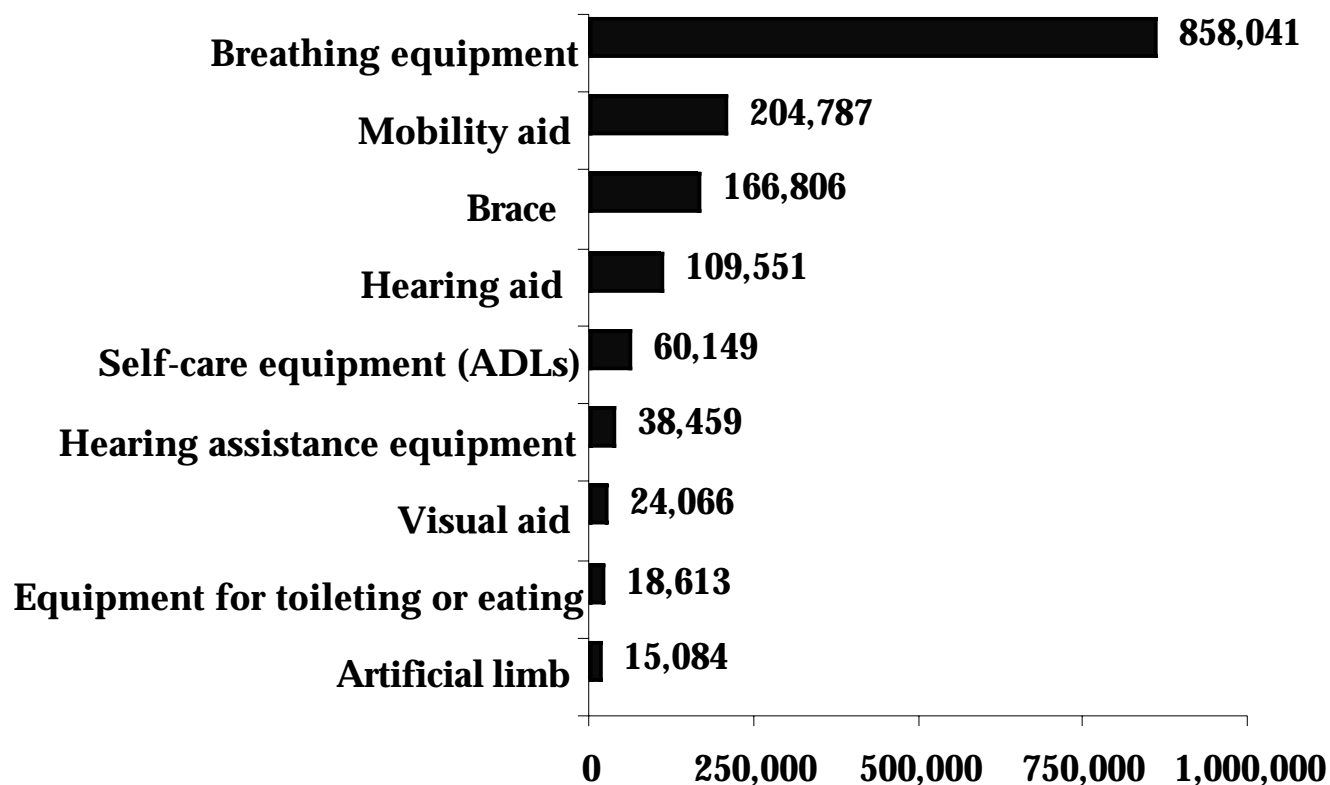
Source: McNeil (1997)

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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Relatively few families report that their children with special health care needs are using assistive devices.



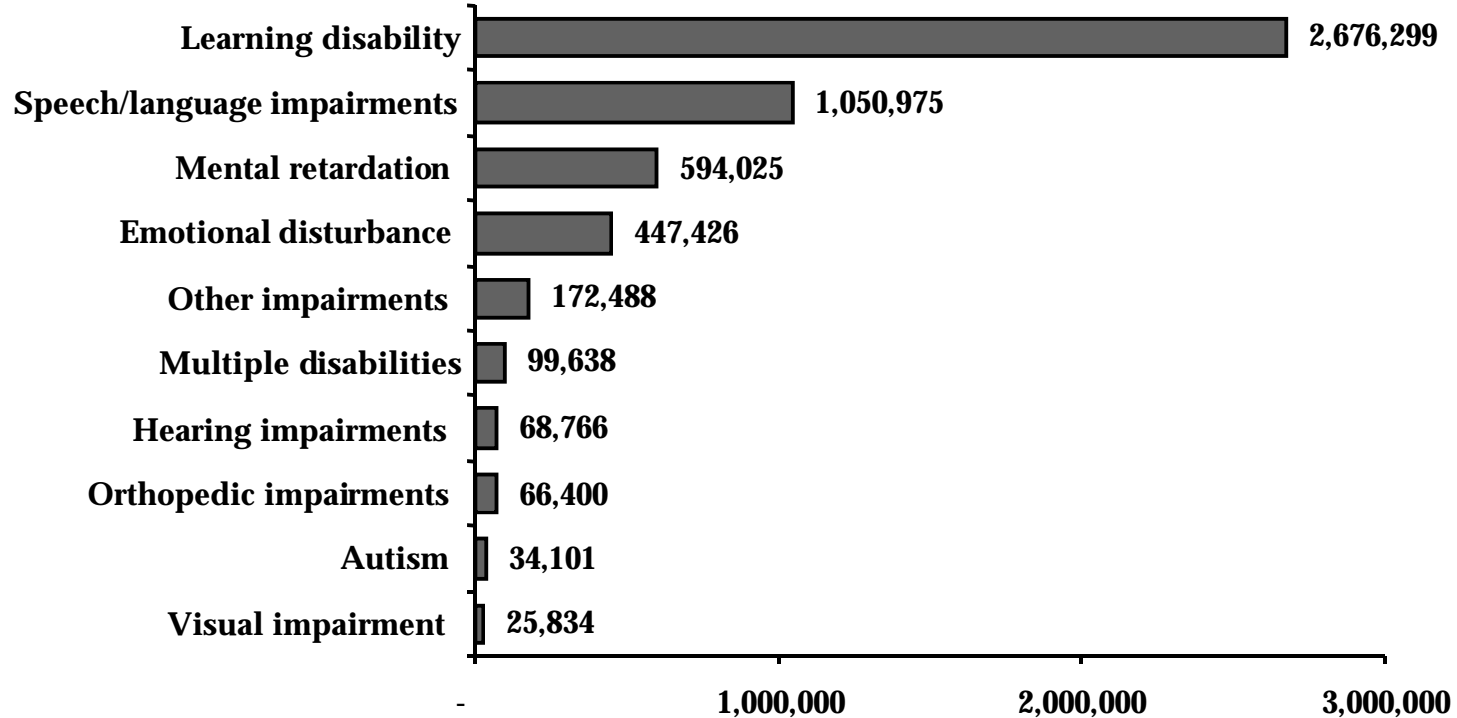
Equipment use by children with special health care needs

Source: Newacheck, Strickland, et.al. (1998). Survey: NHIS-D, 1994-95

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Learning disabilities are the most common disabilities among children (6 to 21 years) served under IDEA.



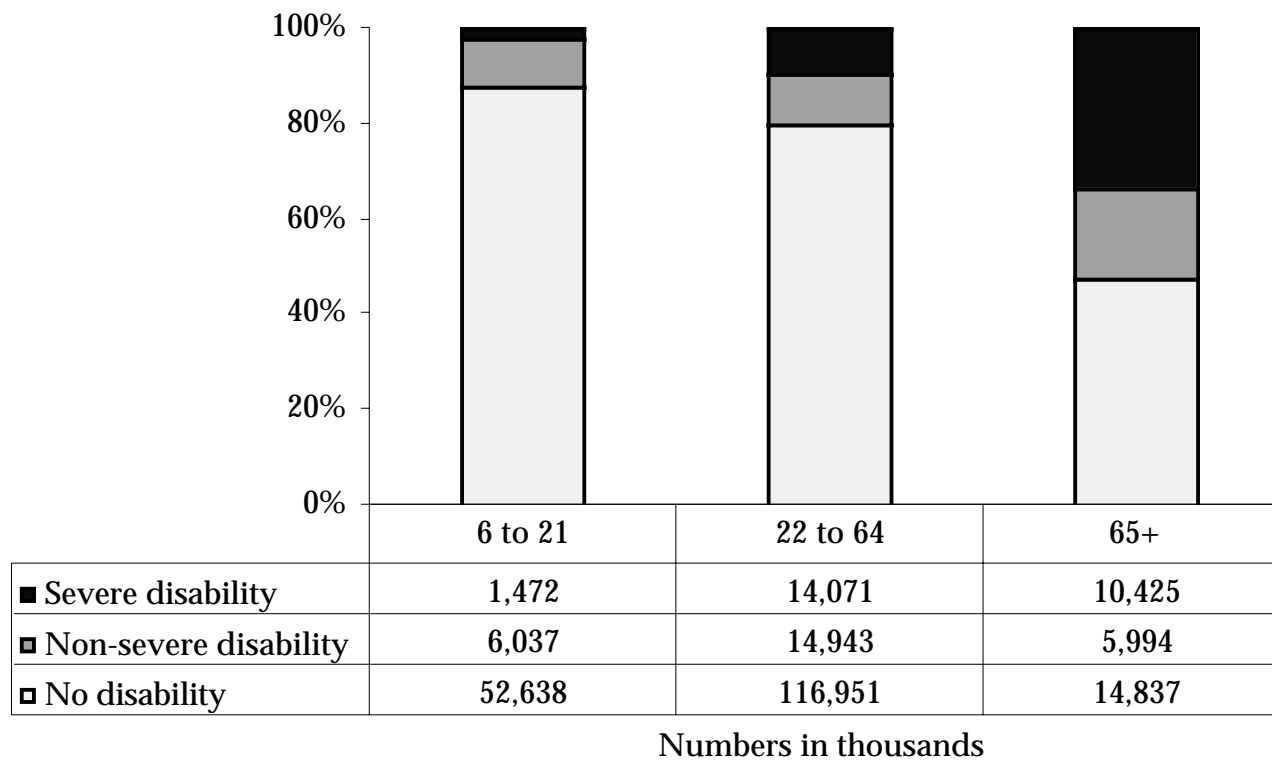
Disabilities of children and youth served under IDEA

Source: US Dept of Ed, OSERS (1998) Data: OSEP Data Analysis System

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Disability and severity of disability increase with age.



Americans with disability

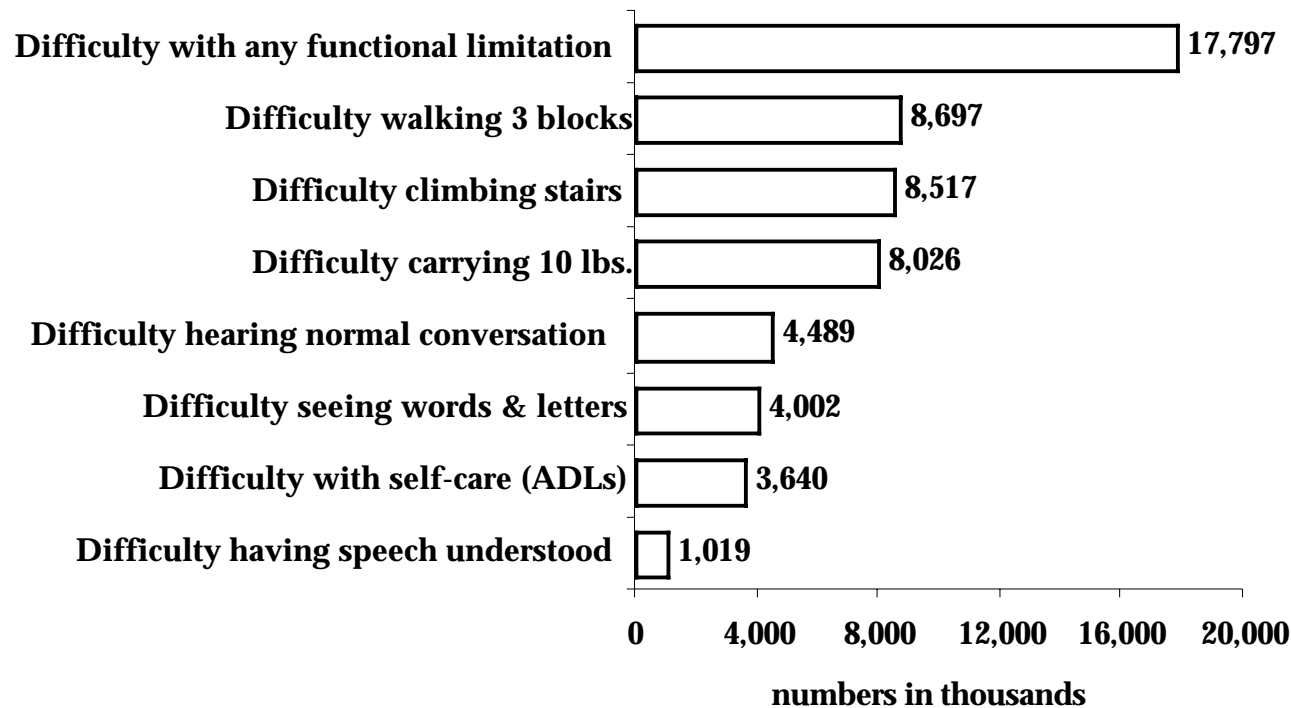
Source: McNeil (1997)

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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Among working-age people, mobility-related limitations are more common than sensory and self-care limitations.



Functional limitations of adults with disabilities, 21 to 64 years old

Source: McNeil (1997)

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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Among working-age people, AT promotes personal independence and better work outcomes.

According to a National Council on Disability study of people who received assistive technology:

- 62% of working-age people reduced their dependence on their families;**
- and 58% reduced their need for paid personal assistance.**
- 90% of employed people said that they could work better or faster;**
- and 83% reported that they earned more money.**

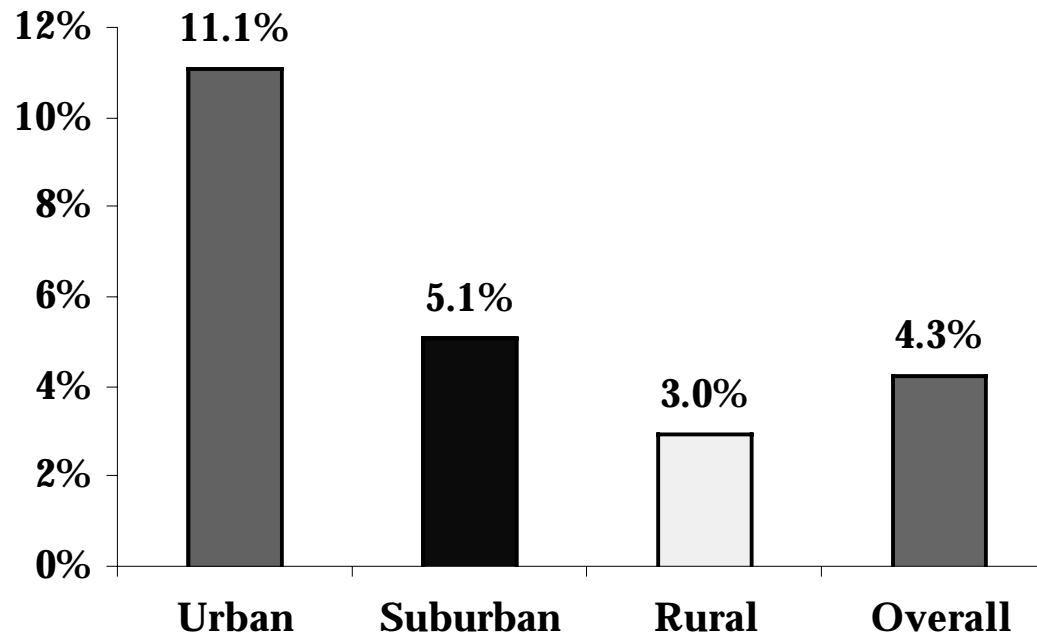
Source: Galvin & Langton (1997).

Survey: NCD, 1993

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In 1997, only 4.3% of libraries nationwide provided public access to software or hardware for people with disabilities.



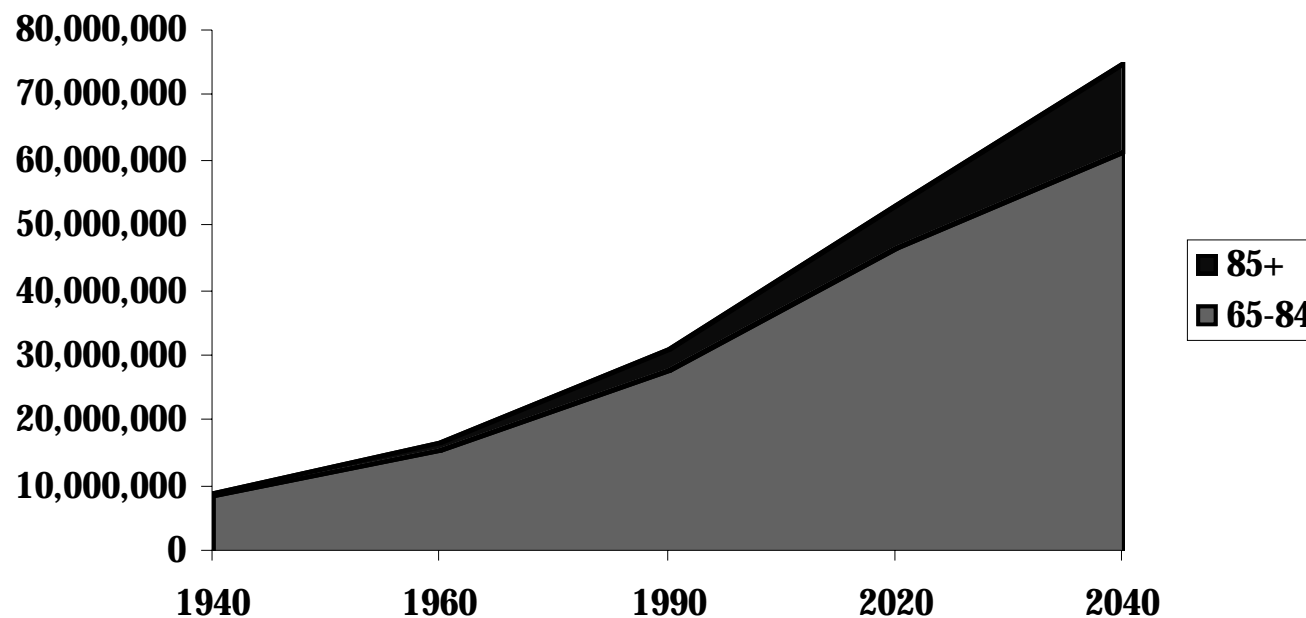
Source: Bertot, McClure & Fletcher (1997)

Survey: Nat' l Survey of US Public Libraries & Internet

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The growth of the senior population is expected to increase even more rapidly in the next few decades.



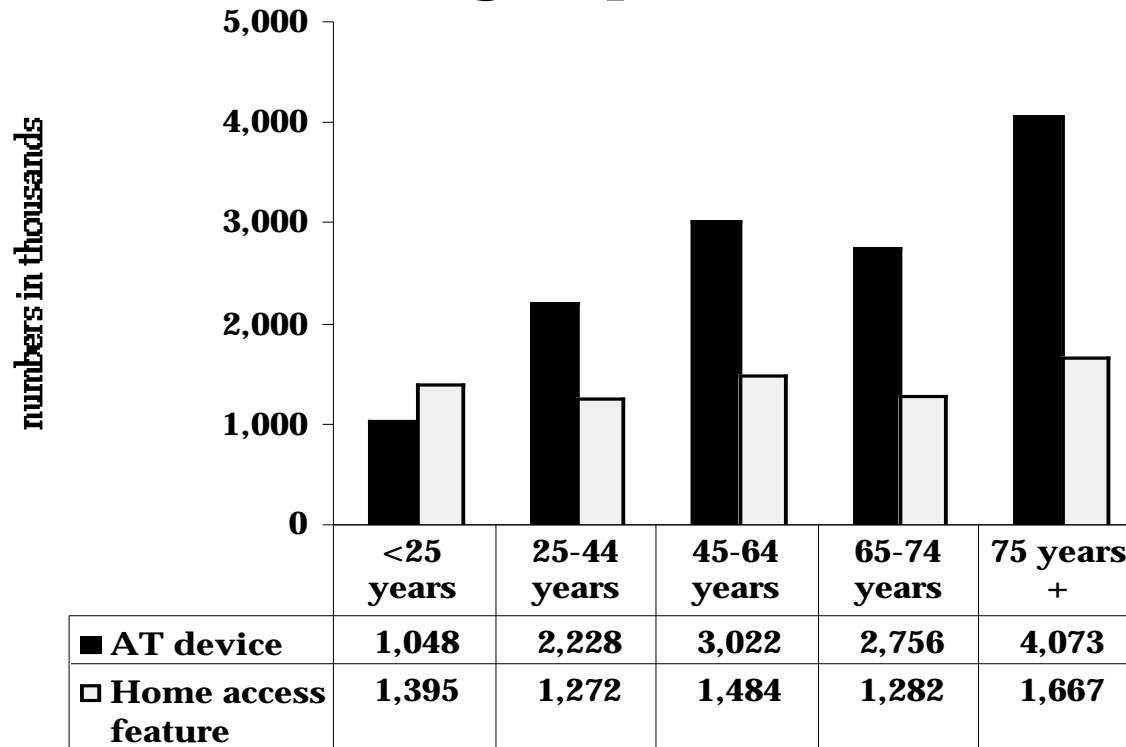
Source: Day (1996); Jans & Stoddard (1999)

Survey: Bureau of Census statistics and projections

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Seniors use more assistive technology than other groups.



Source: LaPlante, Hendershot & Moss, 1997

Survey: NHIS-AT, 1990

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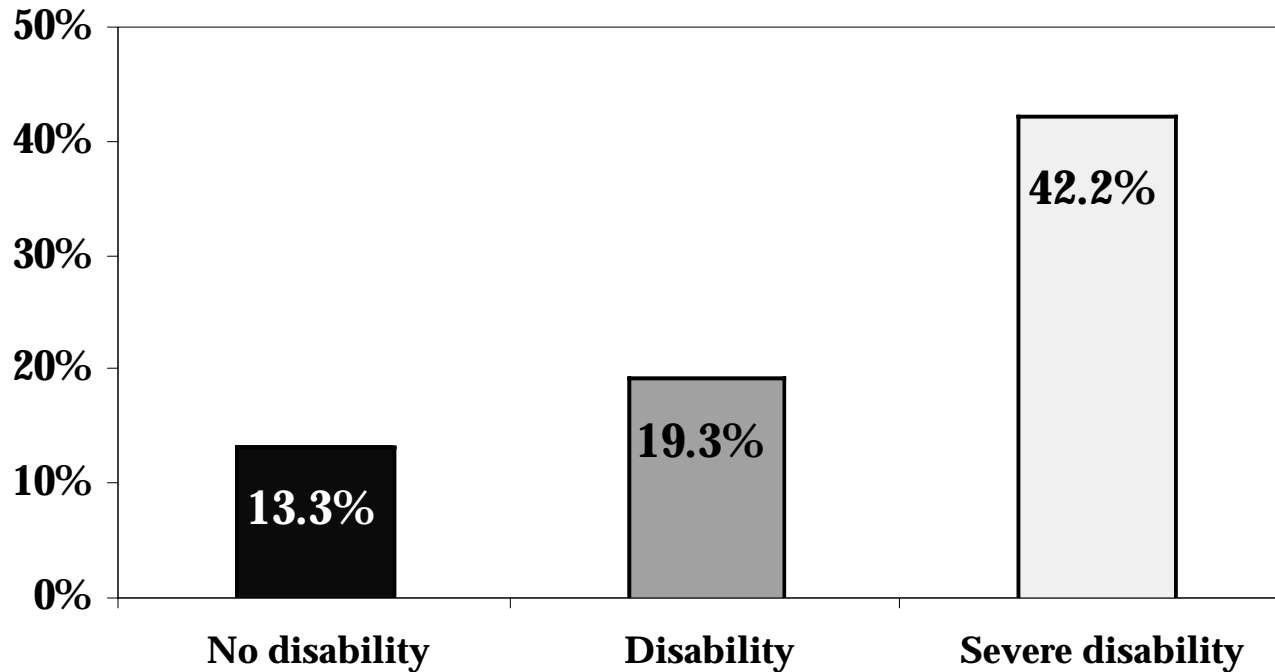
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Older Americans profit greatly from AT, but many do not have access to information about AT.

Studies on seniors with disabilities have found that:

- Older people often wish that they could still do leisure activities, many of which are possible with AT (Mann, 1997).
- People who used assistive devices often experienced more functional independence (Mann, Hurren, et.al., 1995).
- Many older people do not have access to basic, up-to-date information about assistive devices that could improve the quality of their lives (Mann, Tomita, et.al., 1994)
- In 1996, Tech Act Programs were more likely than State Units on Aging or Area Agencies on Aging to provide information about AT to seniors (Cavanaugh & Emerman, 1997).

People with a disability are more likely to have low income, especially those with a severe disability.



Percentage of people, ages 22 to 64 years, with low relative income

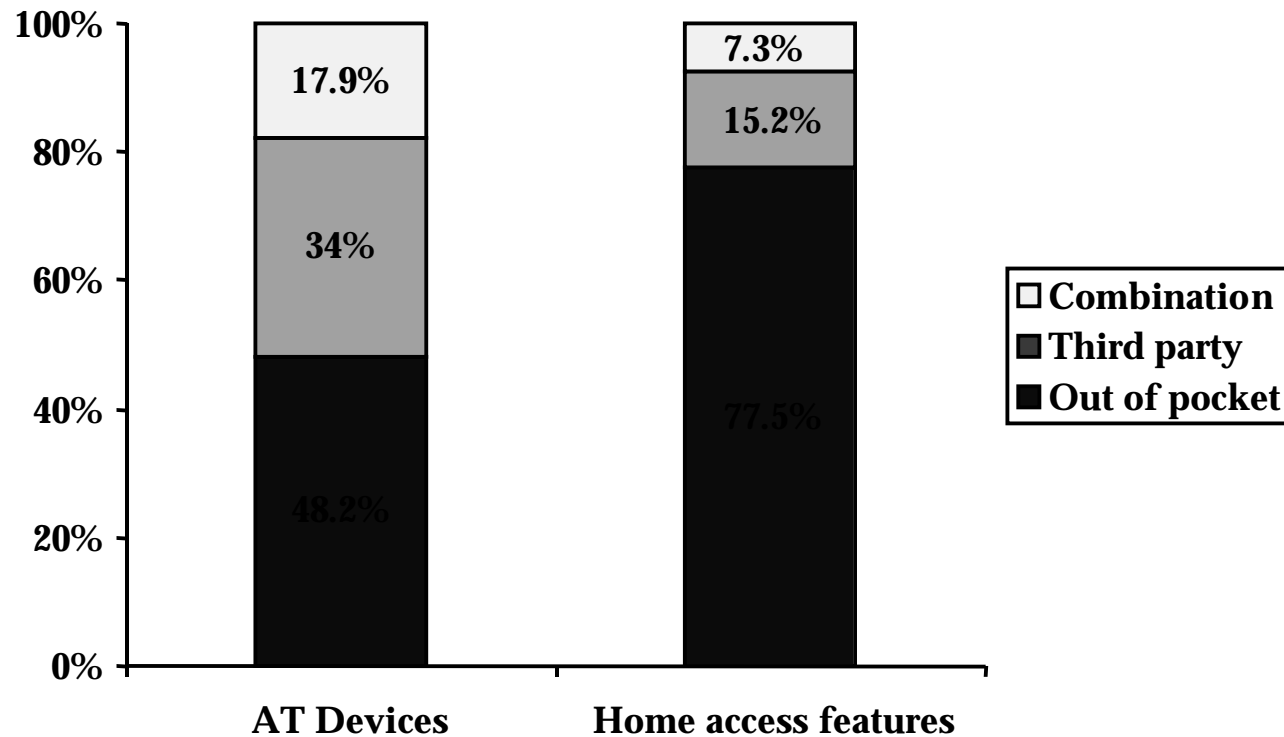
Source: McNeil, 1997

Survey: SIPP, 1994-95

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People with disabilities often pay for AT and home accessibility features out of pocket.



Source: LaPlante, Hendershot & Moss (1997) Survey: NHIS-AT, 1990

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