Diverse disabilities

About 12 percent of students at community colleges indicate that they have some type of disability.

Disabilities among community college students

- Mental illness/depression: 28%
- Attention deficit disorder (ADD): 22%
- Orthopedic or mobility impairment: 16%
- Hearing impairment: 8%
- Specific learning disability or dyslexia: 7%
- Blindness or visual impairment: 6%
- Health impairment or problem: 4%
- Brain injury: 3%
- Developmental disability: 2%
- Speech: 2%


New federal data show no change to the overall percent of students with disabilities at community colleges, but there is some variation within disability categories. About 28 percent of students stated having mental illness/depression, which is a six percent increase from 2007–08 data. Another 22 percent indicated having attention deficit disorder compared to 18 percent in the previous report. The percent of students reporting orthopedic or mobility disability decreased from 17 percent in 2007–08 to 8 percent in 2011–12. About 6 percent had learning disability or dyslexia, which is a slight decrease from nine percent in 2007–08.

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