

Interim standards for the collection of data on disability status

Reference guide

Note: This document aligns with Utah Code 26B-7-114, Office of Health Equity duties.

This document serves as a reference guide for the standards for the collection of data on disability status. Additional information on the collection of data on disability status is outlined in the [Utah DHHS Guidelines for the collection of data on disability status](#).

The following are considered interim data collection standards until more comprehensive and inclusive standards have been developed. It is appropriate to use either the American Community Survey (ACS-6) (Figure 1) and/or the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) (Figure 2).

Figure 1: DHHS interim disability status data collection standard, ACS-6¹

1. Are you deaf, or do you have serious difficulty hearing?
☐ Yes
☐ No
2. Are you blind, or do you have serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses?
☐ Yes
☐ No
3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions? (5 years old or older)
☐ Yes
☐ No
4. Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (5 years old or older)
☐ Yes
☐ No
5. Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing? (5 years old or older)
☐ Yes
☐ No
6. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? (15 years old or older)
☐ Yes
☐ No

Figure 2: DHHS interim disability status data collection standard, WG-SS²**1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?**

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

5. Do you have difficulty with self-care (such as washing all over or dressing)?

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

6. Do you have difficulty communicating?

- ☐ No difficulty
- ☐ Some difficulty
- ☐ A lot of difficulty
- ☐ Cannot do entirely

Note: The WG-SS questions are designed to collect information on the population aged 5 years and above, with a knowledgeable proxy respondent providing information for children. The WG-SS was not specifically designed for use among children, as it does not include key aspects of child development important for identifying disability in children and the wording of certain domains may not be relevant (or suitable) for children and adolescents.³

References

1. ASPE. *HHS implementation guidance on data collection standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status*. (2011, October 30). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/hhs-implementation-guidance-data-collection-standards-race-ethnicity-sex-primary-language-disability-0>
2. Washington Group on Disability Statistics. *WG short set on functioning (WG-SS)*. Retrieved July 2024, from <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>
3. Washington Group on Disability Statistics. (2022). The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS). Retrieved August 14, 2024, from https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/fileadmin/uploads/wg/Washington_Group_Questionnaire__1_-_WG_Short_Set_on_Functioning__October_2022_.pdf