

DO YOU KNOW?

Learning Disability-Related Statistics

- It is estimated that 15 - 20% of the United States population may be affected by learning disabilities. (Source: National Center for Learning Disabilities - <http://www.ldastl.org/EducationalOpportunities/ClassroomTips/FactsAboutLD/tabid/80/Default.aspx>)
- As many as 1 out of every 5 people in the United States has a learning disability. Almost 3 million children (ages 6 through 21) have some form of a learning disability and receive special education in school. In fact, over half of all children who receive special education have a learning disability (Source: National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities - *Twenty-fourth Annual Report to Congress*, U.S. Department of Education, 2002 - <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs7txt.htm>)
- Current estimates are that children with learning disabilities or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) compose between 10 percent and 15 percent of the school-age population and represent over half the children who receive special education services in the United States. (Source: National Institutes of Health - http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/05_20_97/story06.htm)
- Specific learning disabilities now account for more than half of all students enrolled in special education, an increase of 22 percent over the past 25 years. In the past decade, the number of students ages six to 21 years identified with specific learning disabilities has increased by 38 percent. At the same time, efforts at remediation are not effective for most children. (Source: National Institutes of Health, 2002 - <http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-02-031.html>)
- Varying estimates of the number of American adults with learning disabilities range from 3 to 15 percent of the general population. An even greater incidence of learning disabilities is likely to be found among the population of adults with low-level literacy skills. Research has yet to determine just what that proportion is; estimates range from 30 to 80 percent. (Source: *Bridges to Practice: A Research-Based Guide for Literacy Practitioners Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities*, page 13, A Project of the National Institute for Literacy, 1999 - http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/ld/reports/bridges_pt1.pdf)

- Nearly 36 percent of students with learning disabilities drop out of school. Only 57 percent graduate with a standard diploma. Two-thirds of high school graduates with learning disabilities were rated entirely unqualified to enter a four-year college, compared to 37% of non-disabled graduates. (Source: 26th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2004; Students With Disabilities in Postsecondary Education: A Profile of Preparation, Participation, and Outcomes, NCES, 1999 - <http://www.nclld.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=287>)
- 50 – 80% of students in ABE and literacy programs with low reading skills (below 5th – 7th grade level) may have either a suspected or diagnosed learning disability (Source: Bridges to Practice, 1999)
- 25 – 40% of those on government assistance programs may have learning disabilities (Source: Bridges to Practice. 1999)
- 43% of learning disabled are living at or below the poverty level (Source: Bridges to Practice. 1999)
- 48% of those with learning disabilities are out of the workforce or unemployed (Source: Bridges to Practice, 1999)