

# A Look at DISABILITY in West Virginia

West Virginia has the  
**HIGHEST RATE**  
of people with disabilities  
**IN THE NATION**

THAT'S  
**1 IN 5**

Among those who have disabilities...  
Over **HALF** have an ambulatory disability.

## AGING POPULATION

2 out of 5 West  
Virginians  
65+ have a disability  
3rd highest rate of  
seniors in the country



**POVERTY**  
**74.6%**  
**unemployed**

**31.2%**  
of  
working-  
aged  
West  
Virginians (18-64 year  
olds) with disabilities  
**live in poverty\***



Adults with

## Disabilities in WV



Have had  
**Arthritis** **60.2%**



Currently have  
**Diabetes** **18.8%**



Are  
**Obese** **46.5%**

Currently  
**Smoke** **40.6%**

Have had  
**High blood pressure** **46.4%**

**MENTAL &  
EMOTIONAL  
HEALTH** **49.4%**  
Have had Depression

\*Poverty - "The U.S. Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14 sets the standards for which poverty is calculated. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty." Page 104 of 2016 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium.

Annual Disability Statistics Compendium: 2016  
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. West Virginia Health Topics by Disability Status State Profile. <https://dhds.cdc.gov/profiles/profile?profileId=24&geoTypeId=1&geoids=54>

# What is CED doing to improve the lives of people with disabilities?

The WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) has a variety of program offerings to help individuals with disabilities be as independent as possible in their own communities. Most programs work with individuals outside of the medical setting to help ensure that they remain as independent as possible and are able to participate fully in their lives.

The CED supports eight programs and four clinical services that work to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

## Our detailed five-year work plan proposes services and activities that represent four areas of need:

### 1. Quality health care

Increase percentage of individuals with disabilities who have access to quality health care services.

### 2. Employment

Increase percentage of individuals with disabilities who are employed in integrative, minimum wage or higher positions.

### 3. Health and wellness

Improve quality of life and health of individuals with disabilities in West Virginia through targeted programming, training, and research designed to increase autonomy, self-efficacy, and choice and reduce unhealthy risk behaviors and select health concerns.

### 4. Transitional planning and supports

Support successful transitions for individuals with disabilities who are transitioning from: 1) a home or school/learning setting; 2) a post-secondary to higher education and/or work setting; OR 3) caregivers who are planning to transition their dependents in the later stages of their lives.

