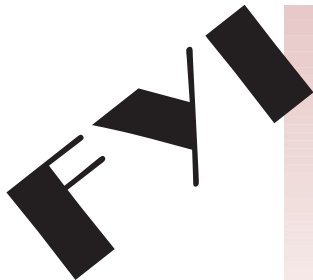


## Employment and Disability

“To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness.”

- John Dewey



Of the 19 million people with a disability that prevents or limits work (aged 16-64), only 30% are actually IN the labor force (vs. 82% of people without disabilities).

- ❖ Approximately 26% of all vocational and day program participants in the US work in supported or competitive employment.
- ❖ In 2000, almost 20% of the working age population of people with disabilities lived on or below the poverty level.
- ❖ The #1 cause of work limitation is back disorders, followed distantly by heart disease and arthritis.
- ❖ The greater the severity of disability, the less likely a person is to be employed.
- ❖ Regardless of disability status, as the level of education increases, so does the level of participation in the labor force.

## What about Virginia?

There are approximately 1.5 million people with disabilities in Virginia.

About 457,500 people with disabilities are in the labor force in Virginia.

The top 3 causes of work limitation in Virginia are:

1. musculoskeletal conditions
2. Arthritis
3. Mental impairment

## Transportation

26% of non-workers with disabilities say that the accommodation they need in order to work is accessible parking or a transportation stop.

*These Disability Fast Facts are a product of the Virginia Board's Policy Fellowship Program.*

*Copies may also be downloaded from the Board's website. Duplication and distribution is encouraged.*