# Including people with disability as a demographic in public health data collection and reporting

**Robyn A. Cree, PhD, Epidemiologist**

Disability and Health Data and Science Team

Disability and Health Promotion Branch

Division of Human Development and Disability

Thursday May 9, 2024

## People with disabilities represent a key demographic

One in four adults in the United States has a disability (2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (27.2%))

## How we think about disability matters

[cartoon showing person in wheelchair at bottom of stairs reading sign that says 'everyone welcome, this way [up the stairs]']

* The ***medical model*** of disability: Her **impairment** is the problem! They should cure her or give her prosthetics.
* The ***social model*** of disability: The **stairs** are the problem! They should build a ramp.

Source: University of Illinois Disability Theory; <https://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=549817&p=3774564> Association of University Centers on Disabilities; https://disabilityinpublichealth.org/1-1/

## COVID-19 pandemic illustrated a dire need for better data on people with disabilities

[picture of a COVID case report form]

* Disability status rarely completed in COVID-19 case report forms
* Paucity of data in the literature

## DATA

Need different, better, and faster...and inclusive… ongoing public health and emergency preparation and response

## Thank you

For more information please contact: Robyn Cree, PhD, nru7@cdc.gov

This project was supported by funds made available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, through cooperative agreement OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services Through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation’s Health award #6 NU38OT000303-04-02. Copyright © 2024 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All rights reserved.