INTRODUCTION

This report uses the American Community Survey (ACS), a national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, to provide an overview of employment and educational outcomes for deaf people in your state. Over 204,000 deaf people participate in the survey every year, making it a premier source for identifying improvement opportunities in your state. Due to smaller sample sizes or unstable estimates, some data may not be available for your state. We recommend combining these data with community conversations and local data sources to gain a deeper understanding of what resources deaf people need in your area.

STATE RANKING AMONG DEAF PEOPLE

Bachelor's degree completion
#26 out of 50

Employment
#34 out of 50

KEY FINDINGS: DELAWARE

• 51.3% of deaf people complete at least some college.
• 16.2% fewer deaf people complete bachelor’s degrees than hearing people.
• 52% of deaf people were employed in 2018 - 2022.

In this report, we use the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many people, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting.
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

On the national level, fewer deaf people completed high school or a college degree compared to their hearing peers. The data shown below (Figure 1) shows how your state compares to national averages for educational attainment. More detailed national statistics are available on the NDC Data Dashboard.

Figure 1
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

[Chart showing educational attainment in Delaware compared to national averages]
Figure 2
EMPLOYMENT RATES

NATIONAL

DEAF
- 4% UNEMPLOYED
- 42.8% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
- 53.3% EMPLOYED

HEARING
- 4.1% UNEMPLOYED
- 24.7% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
- 71.2% EMPLOYED

DELAWARE

DEAF
- 5.2% UNEMPLOYED
- 42.8% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
- 52% EMPLOYED

HEARING
- 4% UNEMPLOYED
- 23.6% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
- 72.3% EMPLOYED
METHOD

Where does this data come from?

The data for this report comes from the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual, nationwide survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau. Unlike the Census, which is filled out by everyone, the ACS is filled out by just a sample of people in each community, and their answers are used to generate estimates. More information may be found at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html.

What does the word deaf mean in this report?

The ACS gathers information about functional limitations rather than disability or identity labels. In this report, anyone who answers yes to question 18a “Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?” is considered deaf. Unfortunately, this dataset has no information about sign language use, or type of school attended (e.g., mainstream vs. deaf school).

Why is some data not available in this report?

When examining subgroups within the deaf community, such as deafblind people, there are instances where the sample size is too small or the standard error is too large to reliably present these estimates. In such cases, the data points are excluded from the report. Please feel free to contact us for more information or if you have any specific requests.

For more Frequently Asked Question, visit our website: www.nationaldeafcenter.org/datafaqs

Technical Information

• Dataset: Public Microdata Sample (PUMS), 5-year Estimates (2018-2022)
• Age Range: 16-64 for employment data, 25-64 for educational data
• Weighting: Person Weight (PWGT)
• Sample Size: 500 (Delaware), 204,120 (United States)
• Minimum sample size to report: 351
• Maximum relative standard error to report: 30%

THIS REPORT MAY BE CITED AS:

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