

How Serious **are** Learning Disabilities? – How bad can it be?

The following information is representative of information available about learning disabilities in adult learners. It is not an all-inclusive list of such information

- **30 - 50% of the population has undiagnosed learning disabilities.** (Source: National Institute for Literacy)
- **As many as 1 out of every 5 people in the U.S. 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. (Source: 23 rd Annual Report to Congress, U.S. Department of Education, 2001 - National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/factshe/fs7txt.htm>).
- Estimates are that **children with learning disabilities** or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) compose between 10% - 15% 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)
- **27 - 35% of children with learning disabilities drop out of high school.** This is as much as twice the rate of students without LD. Of those who do graduate, **less than 2% attend a four-year college,** despite the fact that many are above average in intelligence. (Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study, 1994 & 23 rd Annual Report to Congress, 2001)
- **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 - <http://novel.nifl.gov/nald/workplac.htm>).
- **25 - 40% of those on government assistance programs may have learning disabilities.** (Source: Bridges to Practice)
- **43% of learning disabled are living at or below the poverty level.** (Source: Bridges to Practice)
- **48% of those with learning disabilities are out of the workforce or unemployed.** (Source: Bridges to Practice)
- By adding poverty and under-employment or unemployment figures with low literacy functioning and educational attainment, the prevalence of learning disabilities doubles, i.e., from 15% to 30%. **Thus, the prevalence rate for adults with LD among TANF recipients was approximately 30%.** (Source: State of Kansas)
- **Approximately 85% of all individuals with learning disabilities have difficulties in the area of reading.** (Source: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development - <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/readbro.htm>)

Sources for the above statistics:

<http://www.floridatechnet.org/bridges/factsandstats.pdf>

<http://www.floridatechnet.org/in-service/bridges/comp1h.html>