

# Why Taking Disability into Account is Essential To Reducing Income Poverty and Expanding Economic Inclusion

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“The relevance of disability in the understanding of deprivation in the world is often underestimated ....”

—*Amartya Sen, Winner of 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics, former honorary president of Oxfam*



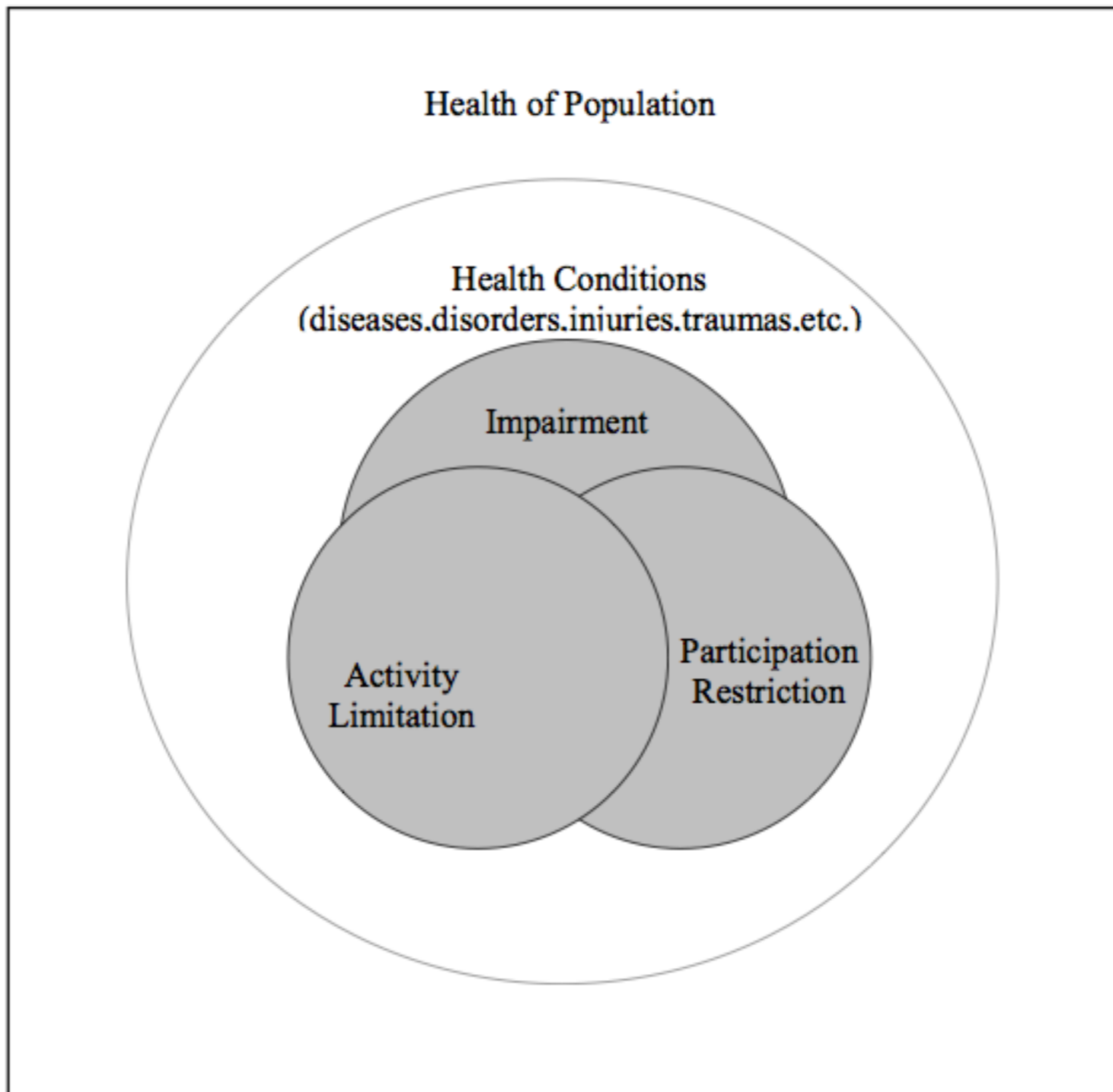
**Health of Population**

**Health Conditions**  
(diseases.disorders.iniuries.traumas.etc.)

**Impairment**

**Activity  
Limitation**

**Participation  
Restriction**



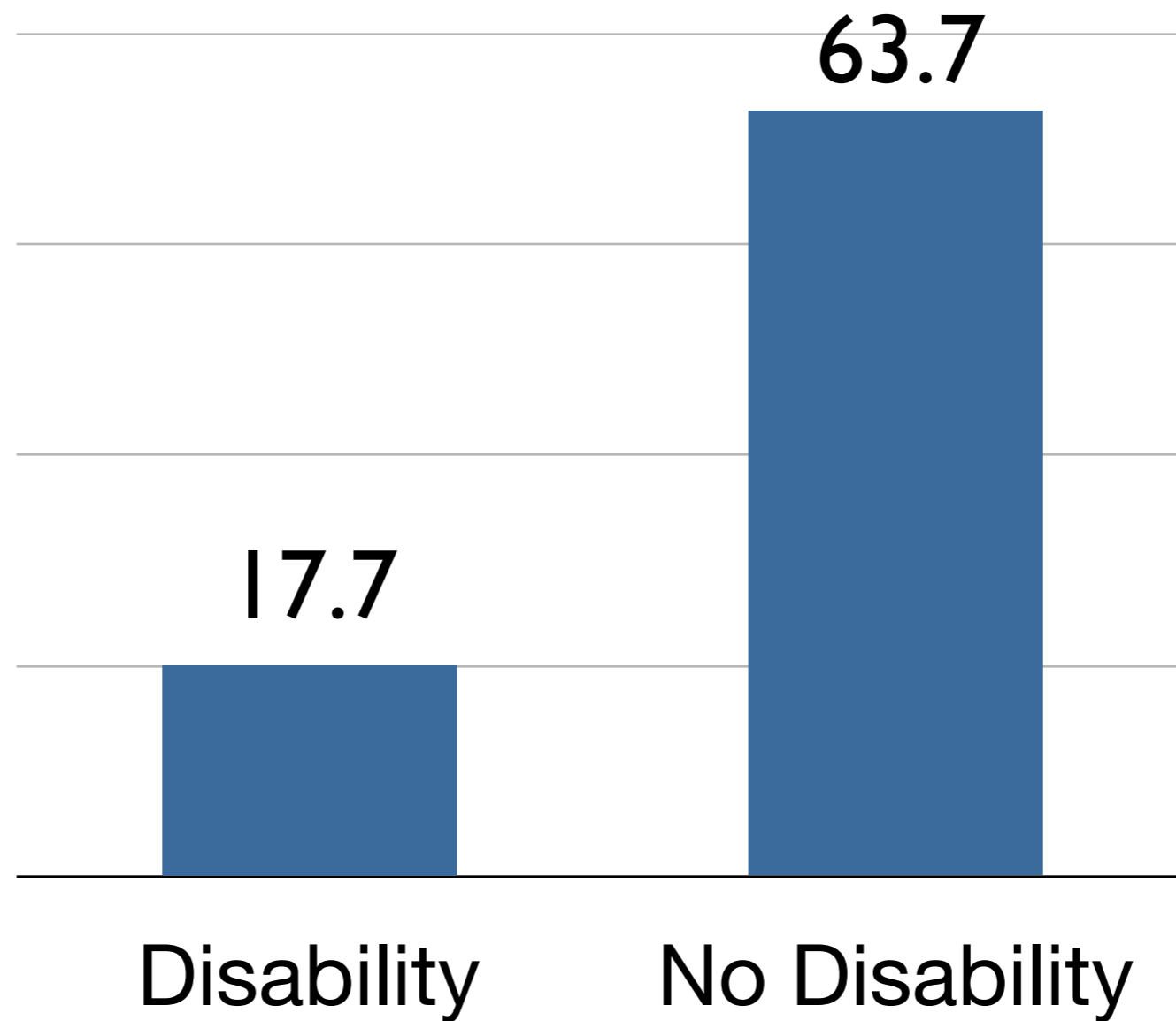
**54.4 million**

**Number of Americans  
with a Disability**

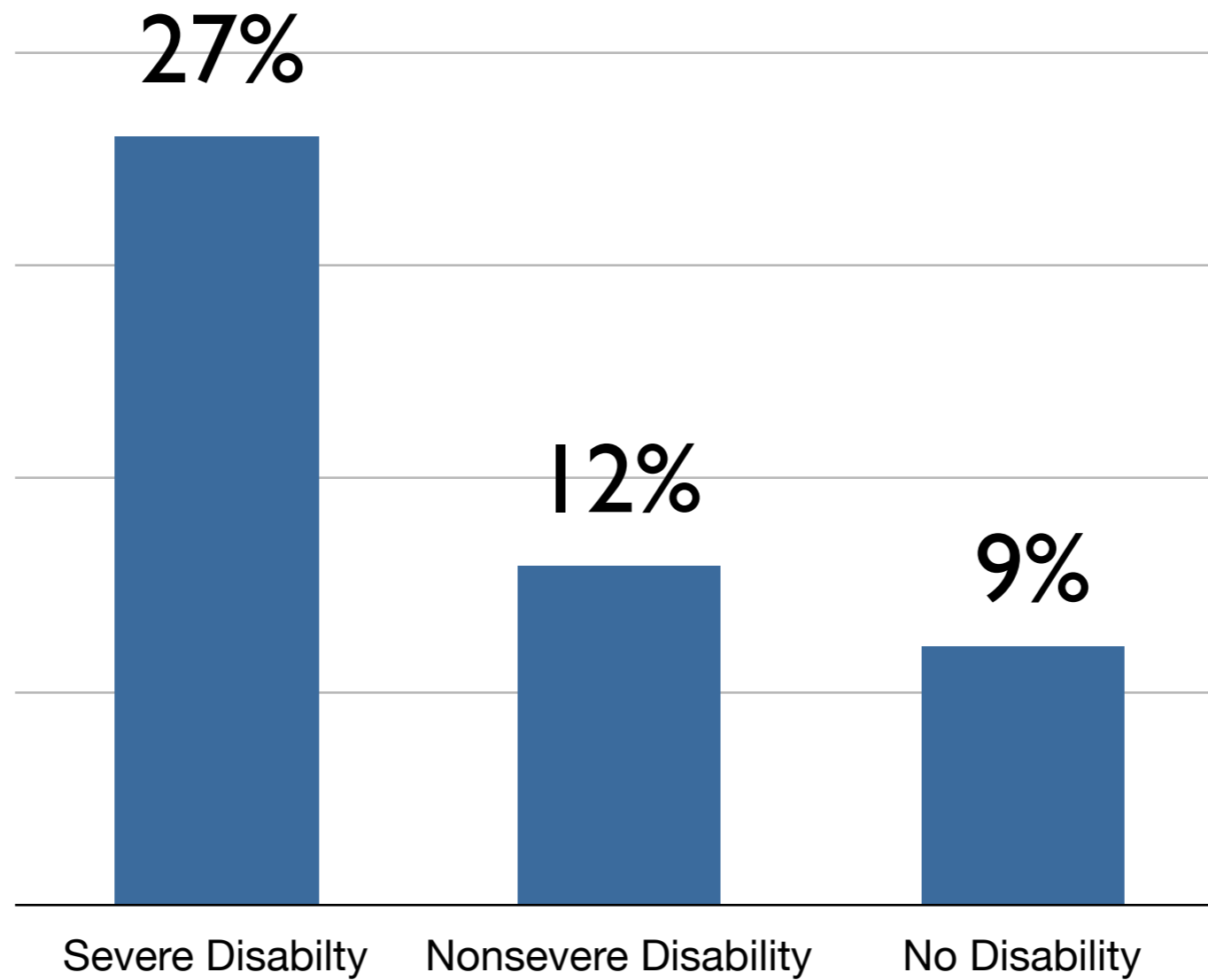
**28.1 million**

**Working-Age Americans  
(21-64) with a Disability**

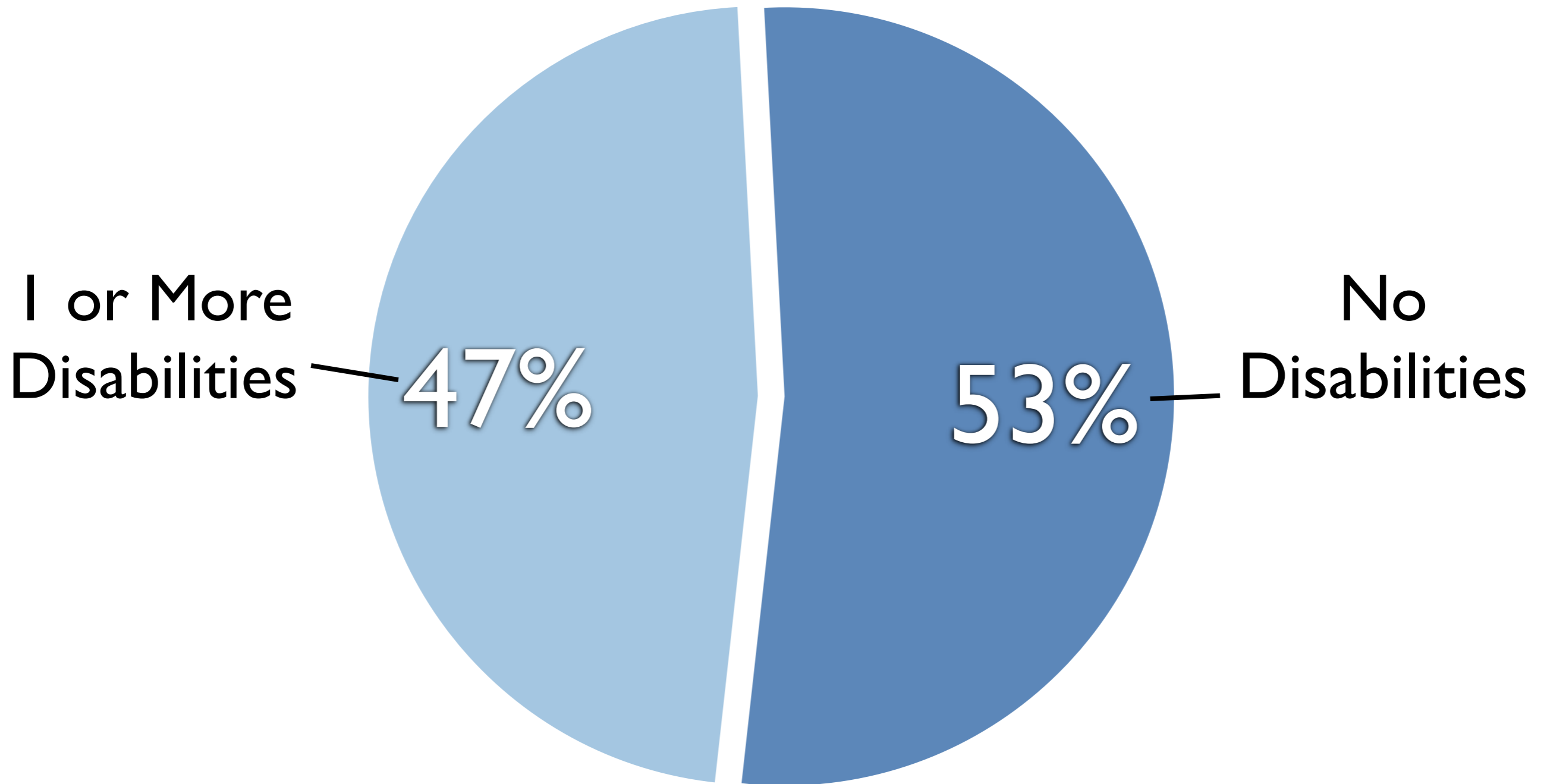
# Employment-to-Population Ratio: April 2011



# Poverty Rates by Disability Status, Ages 25-64: 2005

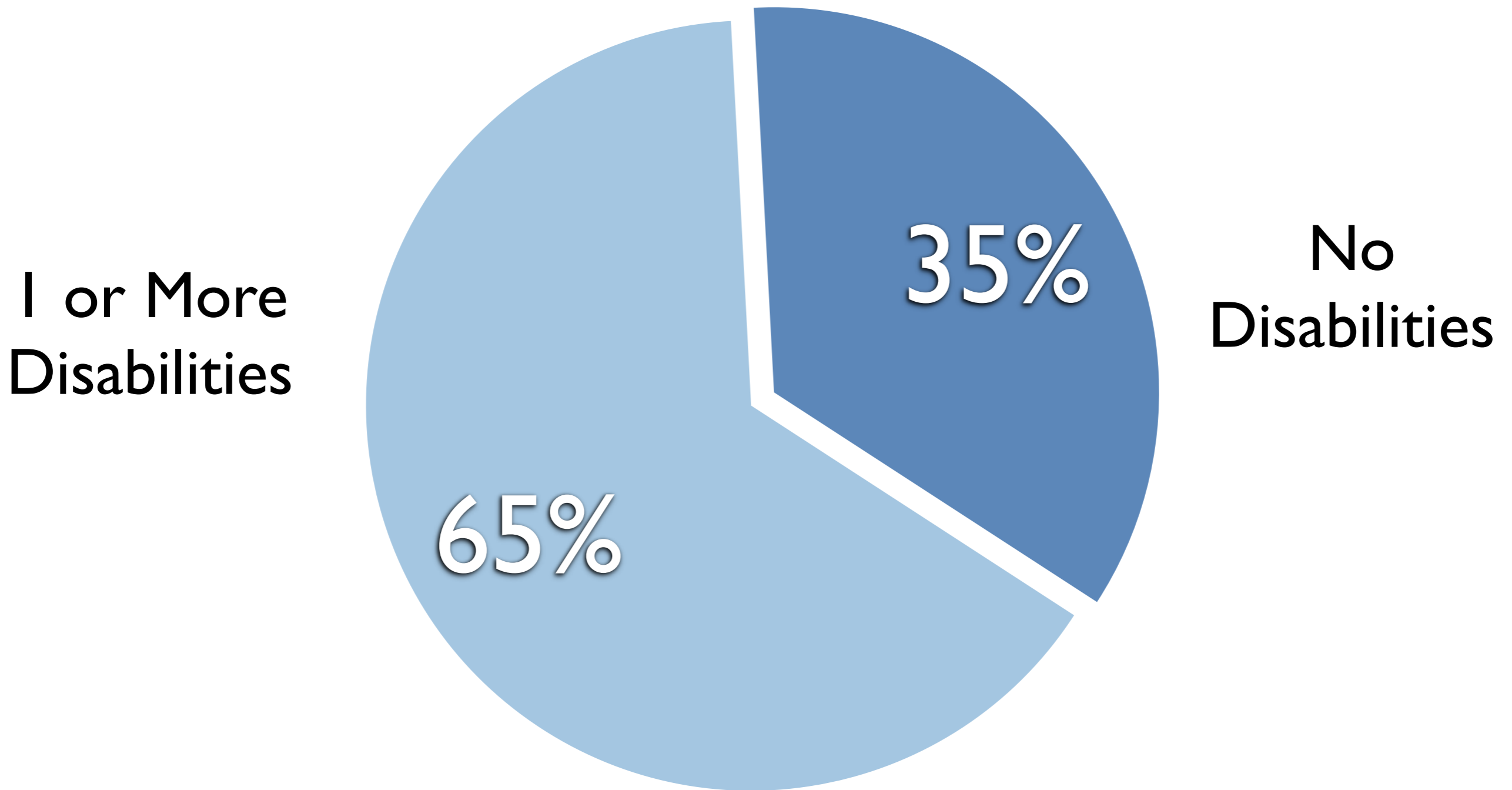


# Working Age People (25-61) with Income Below the Poverty Line By Disability Status



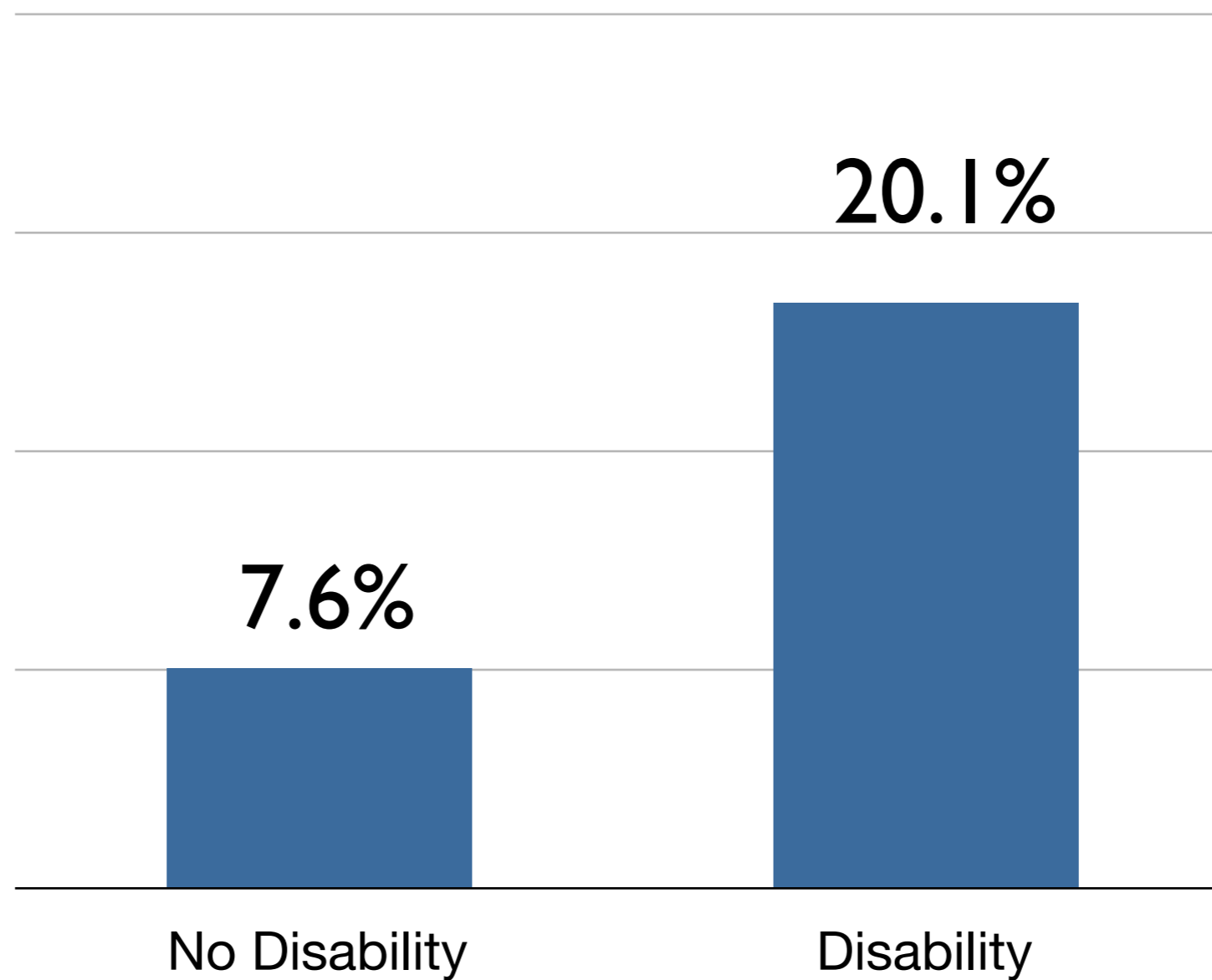
Source: Peiyun She and Gina A. Livermore, "Long-Term Poverty and Disability Among Working-Age Adults," *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* 2009; 19; 244.

Working Age People (25-61) Experiencing **Long-Term Income Poverty** (more than 36 months over a 4 year period) by Disability Status



Source: Peiyun She and Gina A. Livermore, "Long-Term Poverty and Disability Among Working-Age Adults," *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* 2009; 19; 244.

# Prevalence of Hunger Among Working-Age Adults Living Below Poverty Line



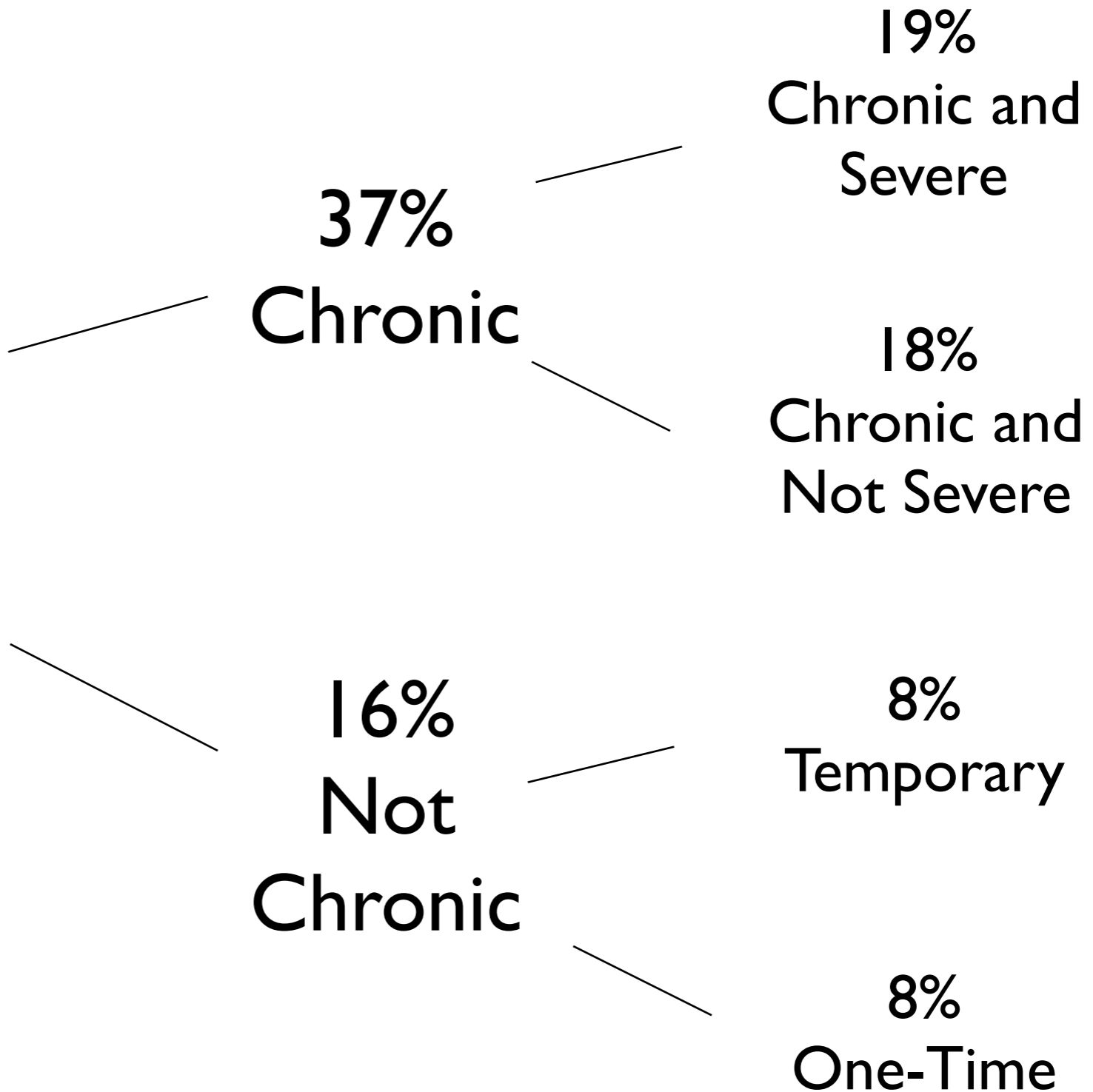
# 53%

Chance of Male Household Head  
Experiencing a Period of  
Disability by Age 56.  
(Excludes those with onset of  
disability under age 18).

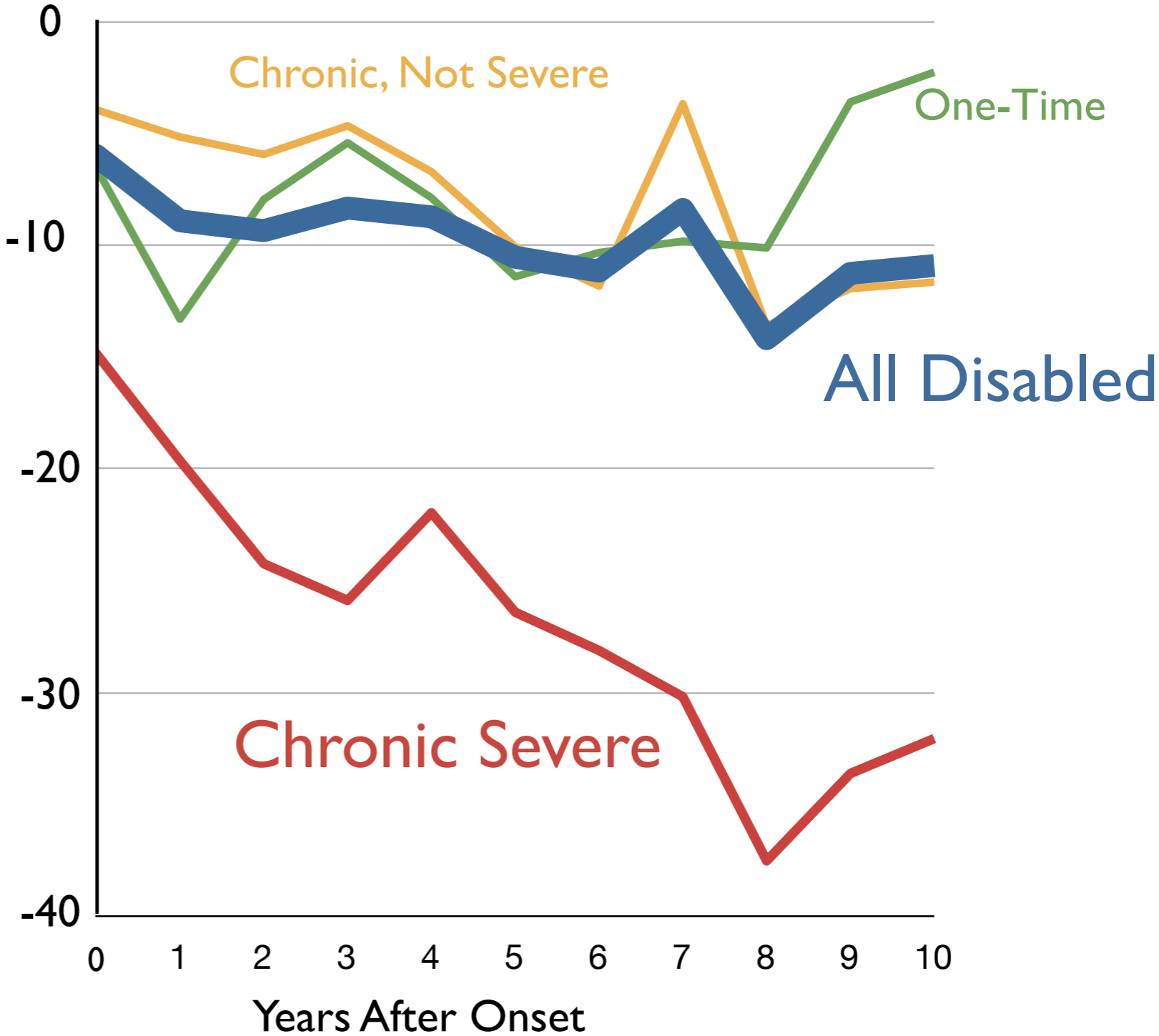
Source: Bruce Meyer and Wallace Mok, Disability, Earnings, Income and Consumption,  
Working Paper, December 2008

# 53%

Chance of Male Household Head Experiencing a Period of Disability by Age 56.



# Change in Income Before and After Disability Onset

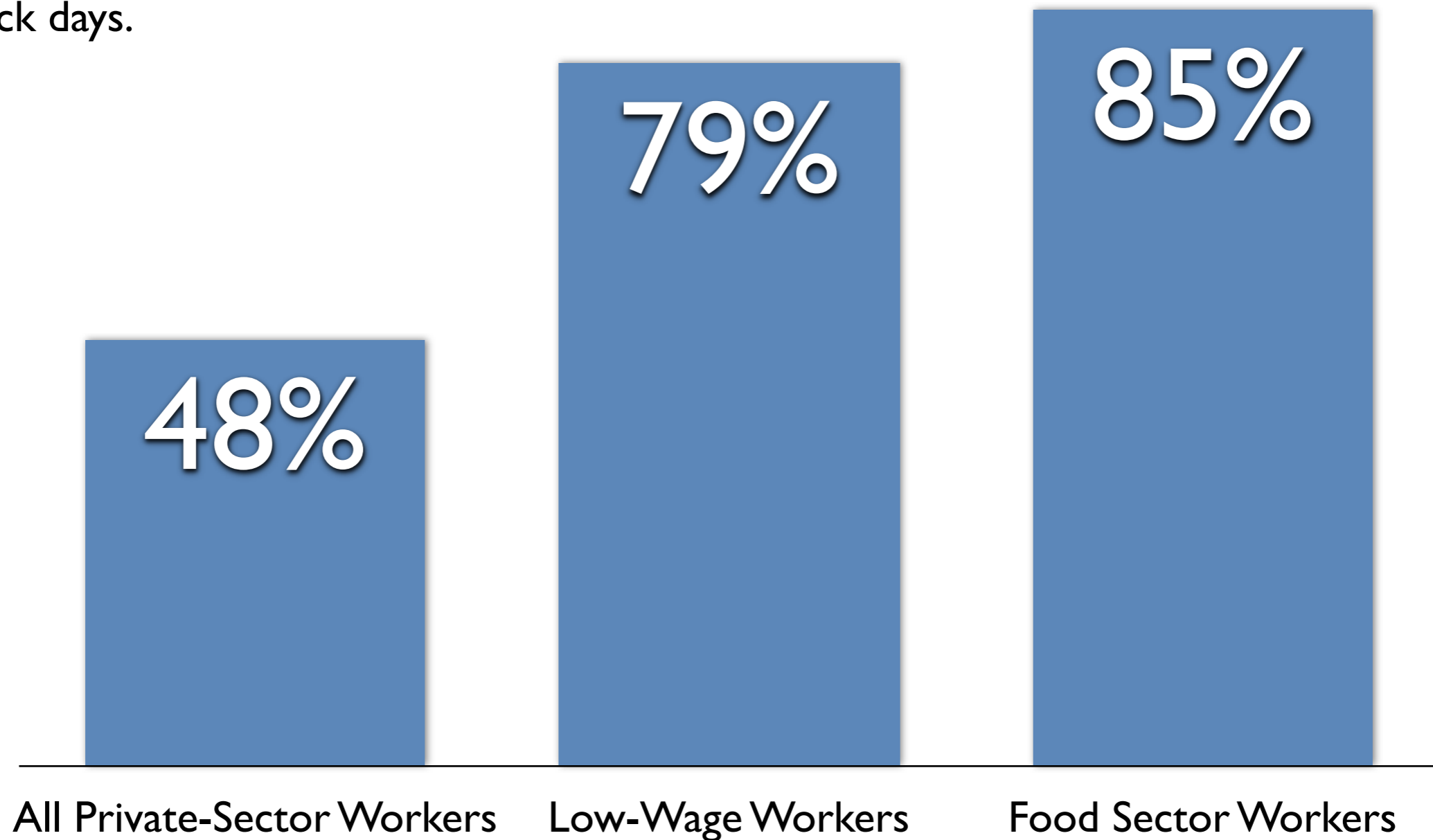


Source: Bruce Meyer and Wallace Mok, Disability, Earnings, Income and Consumption, Working Paper, December 2008

- Accommodations within “mainstream” programs not just separate programs
- Preserving and expanding health care reform
- Paid sick days as a basic guarantee for all workers
- Improving the Earned Income Tax Credit

# Percentage of Workers without Paid Sick Days

Nearly half of all private sector workers are provided with no paid sick days by their employer. Almost 80 percent of low-wage workers are provided with no paid sick days.



**\$457**

**\$3,053**

Worker with No  
Children

Worker with One  
Child

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**Maximum EITC Benefits, 2009**

# 47%

Percent of working-age adults with incomes below annual poverty line who report a disability.

Source: She and Livermore (2009).

# 53%

Chance of male household head experiencing a period of disability by age 56.

Source: Meyer and Mok (December 2008).