



Minnesota Children and the 2000 Census: Children With Disabilities

The 2000 Census asked about the disability status of everyone in a household. Disability was self-reported and defined as, “A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.”

About 5% of Minnesota children age 5 - 15, or 43,780 children, were recorded as having one or more disabilities in the 2000 Census. The majority of these children were boys; 62% of children with disabilities were boys and 38% were girls. These children were all living in households (or in other words, they were “noninstitutionalized”).

Type of Disability

Children were reported as having sensory disabilities, physical disabilities, mental disabilities and/or self-care disabilities. The most common type of disability reported was a mental disability, followed by sensory, physical and self-care disabilities. More than 8,000 Minnesota children had two or more disabilities.

	Number of Children Age 5-15	Percent of Children Age 5-15
One Disability	35,671	4.4%
Mental	30,036	3.7%
Sensory	3,318	0.4%
Physical	1,777	0.2%
Self-care	540	0.1%
Two or More Disabilities	8,109	1.0%

Disability and Poverty

Children with disabilities were almost twice as likely to live in families below the poverty line as were children without disabilities. Sixteen percent of disabled children lived in families below the poverty line compared to nine percent of children without disabilities.

Disability and Race

Children of color and/or Hispanic children accounted for 23% of all disabilities in children 5 – 15 years old. By comparison, these children were 18% of the total population ages 5-15.

County by County Data

Counties do not have large differences in the percentage of children with one or more disabilities. The percentage of children with disabilities ranges from 3% in three counties to 8 or 9% in three other counties. However, the majority of Minnesota counties had between 5-6% of children with one or more disabilities.

Minnesota Counties	Total non-institutionalized children ages 5 to 15	Non-institutionalized children ages 5 to 15 with one or more disabilities	Of children ages 5 to 15, percent with one or more disabilities
Aitkin	2,056	141	7
Anoka	54,637	2,865	5
Becker	5,040	282	6
Beltrami	7,115	400	6
Benton	5,685	372	7
Big Stone	939	42	4
Blue Earth	7,292	397	5
Brown	4,432	229	5
Carlton	5,095	292	6
Carver	13,970	677	5
Cass	4,547	232	5
Chippewa	2,108	137	6
Chisago	7,869	396	5
Clay	8,180	497	6
Clearwater	1,388	41	3
Cook	686	30	4
Cottonwood	1,940	112	6
Crow Wing	8,698	447	5
Dakota	64,959	3,631	6
Dodge	3,317	139	4
Douglas	5,023	376	7
Faribault	2,490	133	5
Fillmore	3,525	144	4
Freeborn	4,975	358	7
Goodhue	7,377	325	4
Grant	959	47	5
Hennepin	166,867	9,075	5
Houston	3,561	175	5
Hubbard	2,909	198	7
Isanti	5,721	258	5
Itasca	6,851	293	4
Jackson	1,781	68	4
Kanabec	2,684	112	4
Kandiyohi	6,887	468	7
Kittson	862	42	5
Koochiching	2,241	94	4
Lac Qui Parle	1,310	38	3
Lake	1,626	81	5
Lake of the Woods	777	44	6
Le Sueur	4,502	271	6
Lincoln	956	60	6
Lyon	4,092	200	5
Mahnomen	924	40	4
Marshall	1,616	79	5
Martin	3,464	281	8

	Total noninstitutionalized children ages 5 to 15	Noninstitutionalized children ages 5 to 15 with one or more disabilities	Of children ages 5 to 15, percent with one or more disabilities
McLeod	6,089	160	3
Meeker	3,852	185	5
Mille Lacs	3,826	201	5
Morrison	5,573	287	5
Mower	6,026	400	7
Murray	1,465	53	4
Nicollet	4,568	276	6
Nobles	3,384	160	5
Norman	1,200	87	7
Olmsted	20,886	1,270	6
Otter Tail	9,062	515	6
Pennington	1,999	93	5
Pine	4,430	200	5
Pipestone	1,613	65	4
Polk	5,165	299	6
Pope	1,831	90	5
Ramsey	81,365	4,827	6
Red Lake	682	39	6
Redwood	2,793	137	5
Renville	2,964	119	4
Rice	8,976	471	5
Rock	1,664	103	6
Roseau	3,051	131	4
Scott	17,272	905	5
Sherburne	12,429	673	5
Sibley	2,637	124	5
St. Louis	28,323	1,525	5
Stearns	21,028	1,050	5
Steele	5,797	295	5
Stevens	1,287	46	4
Swift	1,725	77	4
Todd	4,312	240	6
Traverse	662	27	4
Wabasha	3,869	167	4
Wadena	2,279	141	6
Waseca	3,104	284	9
Washington	37,368	1,740	5
Watsonwan	2,053	158	8
Wilkin	1,256	60	5
Winona	7,220	414	6
Wright	17,534	984	6
Yellow Medicine	1,805	83	5
Minnesota	808,357	43,780	5