The percentage of people with a disability was statistically unchanged from 2005. However, when adjusted for the aging of the population, the disability rate dropped from 18.6 percent to 18.1 percent (Table 2).

Four in 10 individuals aged 21 to 64 with a disability were employed (41.1 percent), as shown in Table A-2, compared with 8 in 10 adults without disabilities (79.1 percent).

At 10.8 percent, adults aged 15 to 64 with severe disabilities were more likely to experience persistent poverty (continuous poverty over a 24-month period) than adults with nonsevere disabilities (4.9 percent) and those with no disability (3.8 percent), as shown in Figure 5b.

The number and percentage with a severe disability increased over that time period. Of people aged 6 years and older, 12.3 million or 4.4 percent needed assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs, an increase from both the number and percentage that needed assistance in 2005.

As a generally accepted understanding of prevalence, the risk of having a disability increased with successively older age groups (Figure 2). At 70.5 percent, people in the oldest age group (people 80 years and older) were about 8 times as likely to have a disability as people in the youngest age group (children less than 15 years old), at 8.4 percent. Between 2005 and 2010, disability rates decreased for people 55 to 64 years old and for people 65 to 69 years old while the change in disability rate was not statistically significant for each of the other age groups.

Severe disability and the need for personal assistance also increased with age. The probability of severe disability was 1-in-20 for people aged 15 to 24 while 1-in-4 for those aged 65 to 69. Among the

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**DISABILITY PREVALENCE**

Approximately 56.7 million people living in the United States had some kind of disability in 2010 (Table 1). This accounted for 18.7 percent of the 303.9 million people in the civilian noninstitutionized population that year. About 12.6 percent or 38.3 million people had a severe disability. The total number of people with a disability increased by 2.2 million from 54.4 million people in 2005, when disability was last measured in the SIPP, while the percentage remained statistically unchanged. Both the number and percentage of people with a severe disability increased over that time period. Of people aged 6 years and older, 12.3 million or 4.4 percent needed assistance with one or more ADLs or IADLs, an increase from both the number and percentage that needed assistance in 2005.