

National Beneficiary Survey Fact Sheet

Interesting Facts from SSA's National Beneficiary Survey (NBS)

What is the educational attainment of SSA disability beneficiaries? How did educational attainment change from 2005 to 2015?

- Educational attainment of SSA disability beneficiaries increased from 2005 to 2015.
 - ◊ The percentage of beneficiaries with less than a high school education decreased from 37 percent to 28 percent. There was an increase in the percentage of beneficiaries obtaining a high school level of education and an increase in the percentage completing some college or postsecondary vocational work.
- SSDI-only beneficiaries are better educated on average than SSI-only and concurrent beneficiaries.
- SSI-only beneficiaries saw relatively large increases in the proportion of beneficiaries obtaining a high school level of education. Although concurrent beneficiaries saw a similar increase, it was not statistically significant.
- In both 2005 and 2015, relatively small numbers of beneficiaries have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Educational attainment in 2005 and 2015, by type of beneficiary

Highest Grade in School (%)	All Beneficiaries		SSI-only		SSDI-only		Concurrent	
	2005	2015	2005	2015	2005	2015	2005	2015
Did not complete high school or GED	37.2	28.3*	51.8	41.1*	26.1	19.8*	44.4	36.6*
High school	38.1	42.6*	35.7	43.7*	40.0	41.8	36.8	43.8
Diploma	28.6	30.8	25.1	29.5	31.4	32.1	26.8	28.6
GED	6.4	7.7	6.4	7.6	6.6	7.4	6.0	9.0
Certificate	3.1	4.1*	4.2	6.6*	2.0	2.3	4.0	6.2
Some college/postsecondary vocational	11.2	13.7*	6.1	8.6	14.0	16.6	11.9	12.3
Associate's or vocational diploma	6.5	7.5	3.3	3.3	9.5	10.5	3.1	4.1
Bachelor's degree	4.0	4.9	1.5	1.9	5.8	7.1	3.3	2.5
Graduate or professional work/degree	3.0	2.9	1.6	1.5	4.6	4.2	0.5	0.7
Sample size (unweighted)	4,864	4,062	2,045	1,563	1,781	1,666	1,038	833
Estimated population (weighted)	9,339,633	12,896,735	2,907,217	3,604,355	4,833,241	7,347,758	1,599,175	1,944,622

Source: 2015 and 2005 National Beneficiary Surveys.

*Difference from 2005 value is statistically significant at the 5% level.