National Data on Disabilities: Helpful for the farm population?

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Introduction

Gail Deboy, Paul Jones, William Field, Justin Metcalf, Roger Tormoehlen (2008)

1. Review of literature on farm and ranch population estimates
2. Review of literature on the prevalence of disability in farm and ranch populations
3. Findings: difficulty defining farm population, difficulty getting at disability estimates
What is the issue?
We don’t know the extent of disability within the farm population. There are no farm-specific surveys capturing disabilities.
Introduction

Why do we need better data on the extent of disabilities within the farm population?

1. To realize how many people need assistance
2. To help find ways to better serve this population
3. To help with program funding, foster new partnerships and allocate resources
Introduction

Where I fit in?

Breadth and Depth
Aim of research

1. To examine national survey questions targeting disability.
2. To separate farm and non-farm respondents and view responses.
Defining Farm and Non-farm

1. The farm population includes any survey respondent who classifies him- or herself as employed as a farm or ranch manager, farmer or rancher, or miscellaneous farm worker.

2. The non-farm population includes everyone else of working age, including those no longer in the workforce.
The Data Sets

1. 2008 American Community Survey
2. 2000 Census Public Use Microdata Sample Survey 5%
3. 1994-1995 National Health Interview Survey Supplement on Disability
What is it?

The American Community Survey is an ongoing statistical survey, by the U.S. Census Bureau, sent to approximately 3 million addresses per year. It is the largest survey other than the decennial census that the Census Bureau administers.
ACS Respondents

1. 26,676 farm and 2,973,981 non-farm observations
2. representing a population of: 2,216,722 farmers and 301,843,006 non-farm
ACSC definition of disability

1. Disability: the *restriction* in participation that results from a *lack of fit* between the individual’s *functional limitations* and the *characteristics* of the physical and social environment.

2. The way to capture it in a survey is to measure components that make up the process.
Disability Questions

1. Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing? (hearing)

2. Is this person blind or does she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses? (vision)

3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions? (cognitive)
Disability Questions continued

1. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? (ambulatory)
2. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing? (self-care)
3. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping? (independent living)
2008 ACS Disabled

![Bar chart showing comparison between Farm and Non-Farm categories.](chart.png)
Results

2008 ACS Classified as Disabled by Age Group

- Farmer
- Non-Farmer

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Results

Type of Difficulty by Population Type

- Hearing Difficulty
- Vision Difficulty
- Cognitive Difficulty
- Ambulatory Difficulty
- Self-Care Difficulty
- Independent Living Difficulty

Farmer
Non=Farmer
Results

Male Disability by Age

- Non-Farmer
- Farmer

Data Sets:
- 2008 ACS PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D
Results

Female Disability by Age

- Farmer
- Non-Farmer

Data Sets
- 2008 ACS PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D

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### 2000 Census PUMS 5%

#### PUMS Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>146,758 farm and 14,124,536 non-farm observations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,219,478 farm and 283,011,038 non-farm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Does this person have any of the following long-lasting conditions:

1. blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment?
2. a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying? (ambulatory)
Disability Questions continued

Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more, does this person have any difficulty doing the following:

1. learning, remembering, or concentrating? (cognitive)
2. dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home? (self-care)
3. going outside the home alone to shop or visit the doctor’s office? (independent living)
4. working at a job or business? (employment)
In this analysis, 23.3% of farm population are considered disabled by the Census definition and 14.0% of the non-farm population reported a disability.
Results

Disability by Population Type

- Sensory Difficulty
- Self-Care Difficulty
- Independent Living Difficulty
- Ambulatory Difficulty
- Cognitive Difficulty
- Employment Difficulty

Data Sets
- 2008 ACS PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D

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Disability by Age

- non-farmer
- farmer

Data Sets:
- 2008 ACS
- PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D
Results

Male Disability by Age

- 2008 ACS PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D

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Results

Female Disability by Age

- **farmer**
- **non-farmer**

Data Sets:
- 2008 ACS
- PUMS 5%
- 1994-1995 NHIS-D
1994-1995 NHIS-D

Data

1. 1994: 1,099 farm and 93,992 non-farm observations
2. 1995: 1,290 farm and 106,179 non-farm observations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law in July 1990, is one of the catalysts prompting legal and policy reforms in the area of disability. However, policy-relevant data on disability needed to understand its many aspects and impacts is either very limited or nonexistent, particularly on a national level.
Results

Overall Perception of Health

- Farm: 1994 - 0.98, 1995 - 0.96
- Non-Farm: 1994 - 0.97, 1995 - 0.95
Results
Results

Perception of Disability

- Self-Perceived Disabled
- Other People Perceive Disabled

Farmer vs. Non-Farmer
Next Steps

1. Dig deeper into NHIS-D to paint a better picture of the depth of disability
2. Examine NHANES data for more depth of disability by occupation