



Disability & Transit: A Healthy Combination

Prevalence

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that there are currently 246.4 million people in the US labor force; 28.5 million (11.6%) have a disability.¹ It is estimated that there are 844,200 individuals with disabilities in the state of Indiana.²
- Currently, the general population has a 63.8% participation rate in the civilian labor force but those with disabilities only have a 20.0% participation rate.¹
- A US Senate committee found: “while all individuals suffered during the recession, working age individuals with disabilities dropped out of the labor force at a rate five times higher than workers without disabilities.”³
- People with disabilities in Indiana had an average healthcare expense of \$11,678 in 2006, which accounted for 26.7% of all healthcare expenditures.²

Impact on Health

- The importance of the disability community having access to their healthcare appointments and providers is of the highest priority for this population.⁴ An increase in the number of transit options throughout Central Indiana would provide this population better access to care.
- Studies have found that a barrier to people

with disabilities working is their access to reliable transportation to their employment. An increase in the amount of transit options would greatly reduce this barrier. Additionally, it has been found that individuals who work tend to be healthier.⁵ The disability community is already a high user of the healthcare system; by helping them find reliable employment, their healthcare expenditures may decrease.

Sources Used

1. The Employment Situation-October 2013. (2013). Bureau of Labor Statistics-U.S. Department of Labor.
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3. Harkin, T. (2012). Unfinished Business: Making Employment of People with Disabilities a National Priority. United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions.
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5. Strully, K. W. (2009). Job loss and health in the U.S. labor market. *Demography*, 46(2), 221-246.

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