

Table 1: Different definitions of the word disability by prominent health and governmental organizations

ORGANIZATION	DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITIES BASED ON VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES
World Health Organization (WHO) <sup>A</sup>	“Disability is part of being human. Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life.” “Disability results from the interaction between individuals with a health condition...with personal and environmental factors”
Center for Disease Control (CDC) <sup>B</sup>	“A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions).”
Social Security Administration (SSA) <sup>C</sup>	“For all individuals applying for disability benefits...the definition of disability is the same. “The law defines disability as the inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity (SGA) by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment(s) which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.” A child under 18 will be considered disabled if he or she has...impairments that causes marked and severe functional limitations.”
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <sup>D</sup>	“individual with a disability” is “a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.”

A. World Health Organization (WHO). “Disability.” *World Health Organization*, 2022, [www.who.int/health-topics/disability#tab=tab\\_1](http://www.who.int/health-topics/disability#tab=tab_1).

B. CDC. “Disability and Health Overview.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, CDC, 16 Sept. 2020, [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html).

C. “Part I - General Information.” *Ssa.gov*, 2020, [www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/general-info.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/general-info.htm).

D. U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. “Guide to Disability Rights Laws.” *ADA.gov*, 19 Nov. 2022, [www.ada.gov/resources/disability-rights-guide/](http://www.ada.gov/resources/disability-rights-guide/).