



Disability Facts you should know:

Disability is more common than you think and can happen to anyone:

- **51.2 million Americans were classified as disabled in 2002.** "Americans With Disabilities: 2002," U.S. Bureau of the Census, May 2006
- **A person suffers a disabling work injury every nine seconds.** National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2004 Ed.
- **Over 90% of disabling accidents and illnesses are not work related.** National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2004 Ed.

Disability often keeps people out of work:

- **Almost 3 in 10 workers entering the work force today will become disabled before retiring.** Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet, Jan. 31, 2007
- **43% of all 40-year olds will suffer a disability for at least 90 days prior to age 65.** 2007 Field Guide to Financial Planning, Donald Cady
- **About 1 in 7 people can expect to be disabled for five years or more before retirement** "Commissioners Disability Table, 1998," Health Insurance Association of America, the New York Times, Feb. 2000
- **The average disability absence is two and a half years.** Commissioner's Individual Disability Table A

Disability can cause financial hardship:

- **Disability causes nearly 50% of all mortgage foreclosures, compared to 2% caused by death.** Health Affairs, The Policy Journal of the Health Sphere, Feb. 2, 2005
- **Half of all personal U.S. bankruptcies, affecting 2 million people annually, were attributable to illness or medical bills.** MarketWatch: Illness And Injury As Contributors To Bankruptcy, *Health Affairs* Web Exclusive, Feb. 2, 2005
- **Four-in-ten U.S. workers often or always live paycheck to paycheck.** Careerbuilders.com Survey 2007

Most Americans can't afford to become disabled:

- **The most recent Federal Reserve study showed that 44% of U.S. families spent more than they earned.** Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances 2004
- **The average household credit card debt is \$9,300 - an all-time high.** Parade Magazine, April 23 2006
- **The savings rate for Americans is the lowest it has been in 73 years.** Parade Magazine, April 23, 2006
- **A third of Americans have no retirement savings and most are not eligible for a pension.** Social Security Administration Basic Facts, July 2004
- **72% of Americans don't have enough savings to meet short-term emergencies.** National Investment Watch Survey, A.G. Edwards Inc. 2004
- **52% of the workforce has no private pension coverage.** Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet, Jan. 31, 2007

Social Security and Workers' Compensation may not be adequate:

- **The average monthly Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit is only \$978.** Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet, Jan. 31, 2007
- **More than 1.3 million workers who applied for SSDI benefits in 2005 were denied coverage.** Social Security Administration, Office of Disability and Income Security Programs
- **Less than half - 39% - of the 2.1 million workers who applied for SSDI benefits were approved in 2005.** Social Security Administration, Office of Disability and Income Security Programs

Most Americans are not covered by disability insurance:

- **70% of private sector workforce has no long-term disability insurance.** Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet, Jan. 31, 2007
- **More than 80% of working Americans don't have disability income insurance or aren't covered adequately.** National Underwriter magazine, May 2001