

PARALYSIS AND SPINAL CORD INJURY STATISTICS

How many people are affected?

- Approximately 5.6 million people or 1.9% of the population have difficulty or inability to move one or more upper or lower extremities
- More than 1.2 million people have a spinal cord injury

What ethnic groups are affected?

- For all forms of paralysis, 77.8% are Caucasian, 17.2% African American, and 3.7% Native American
- In spinal cord injury, 77.1% are Caucasian, 15.6% African American, and 7.3% Native American

What are the leading causes of paralysis?

- Stroke – 29%
- Spinal Cord Injury – 23%
- Multiple Sclerosis – 17%
- Cerebral Palsy – 7%
- Post Polio Syndrome – 5%
- Other – 19%

What are the leading causes of spinal cord injury?

- On-the-job Accidents – 28%
- Motor Vehicle Accidents – 24%
- Sporting/Recreation Accidents – 16%
- Falls – 9%
- Other – 23%

How does paralysis affect annual household income?

- 59.2% of the paralyzed population reports household income of less than \$25,000, compared to 27.1% of the US population as a whole
- With spinal cord injury, 62.7% report household income of less than \$25,000

Source: Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center.
One Degree of Separation: Paralysis and Spinal Cord Injury in the United States.
<http://www.christopherreeve.org>