



National Science Foundation

Division of Science Resources Statistics

What the Data Show about Students with Disabilities in STEM

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Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering
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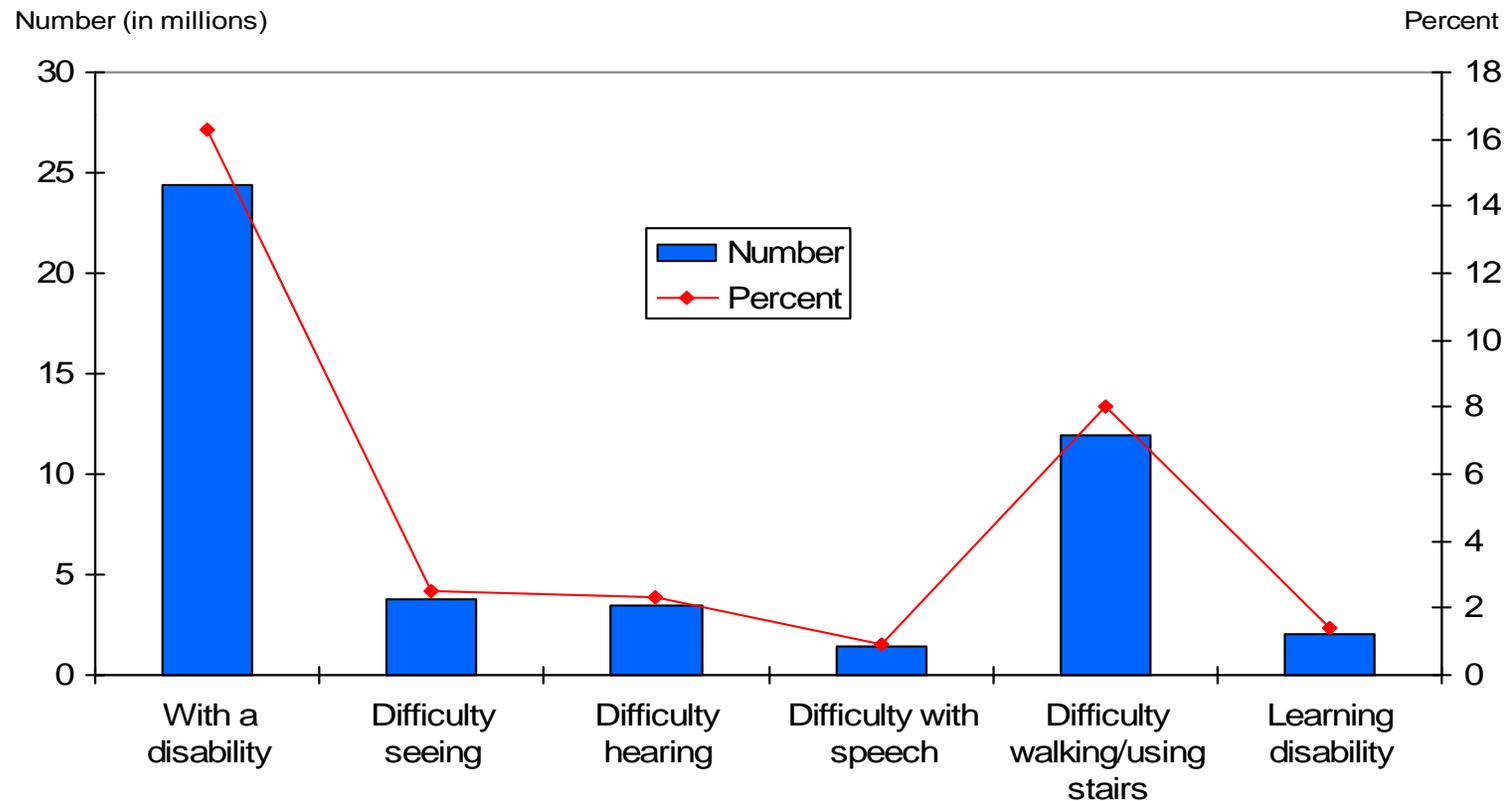
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National Science Foundation
Division of Science Resources Statistics
www.nsf.gov/statistics



About 24 million people, or 16% of the U.S. working age population, have a disability

Population of the United States ages 25 to 64, by disability status and type of disability: 2002

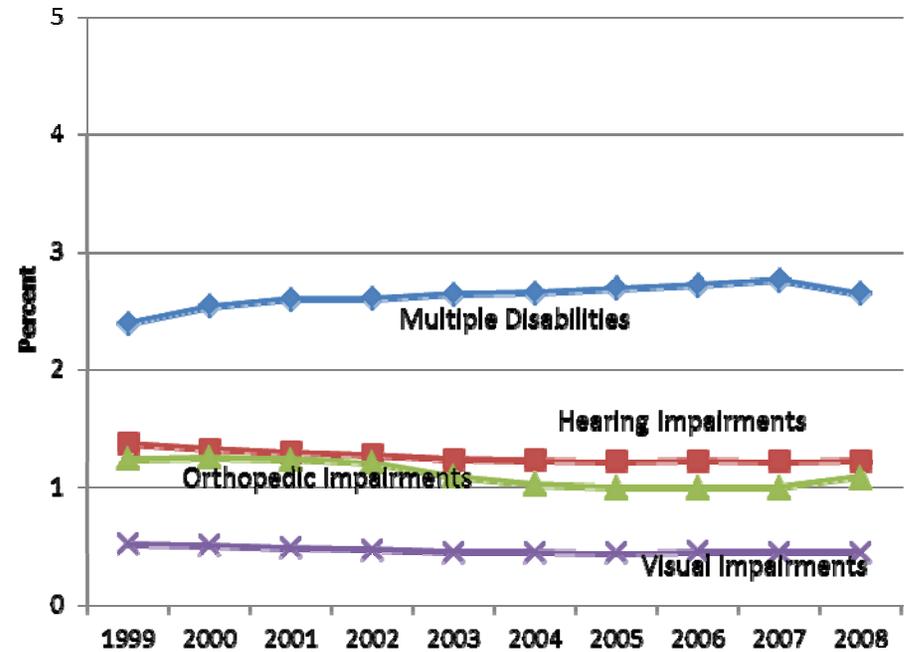
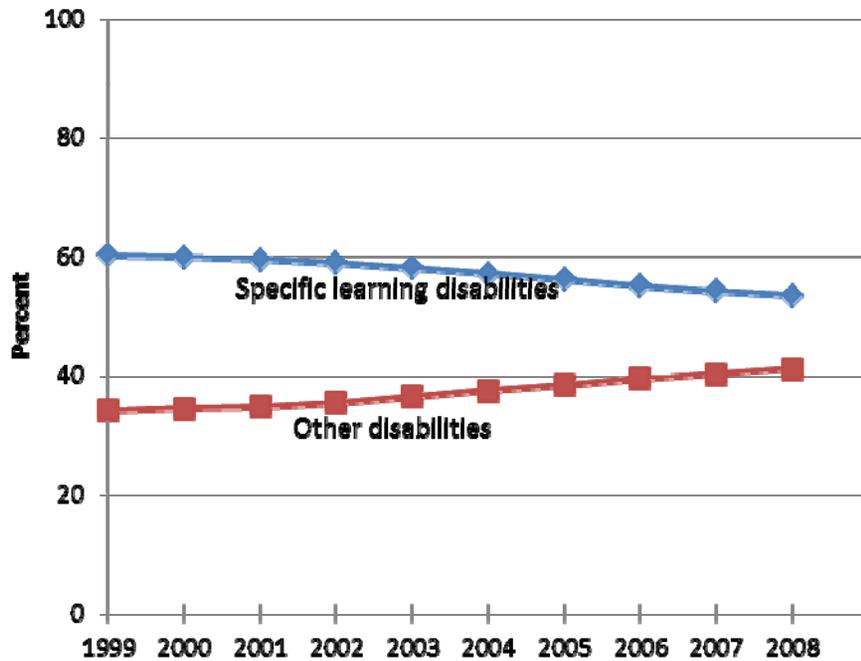


NOTES: “With a disability” includes other disabilities not shown separately. Respondents could report more than one disability. 2
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2002.



Among secondary students ages 14-21, learning disabilities are the most prevalent disability.

Population ages 14 to 21 that are served under IDEA Part B, by type of disability: 1999-2008



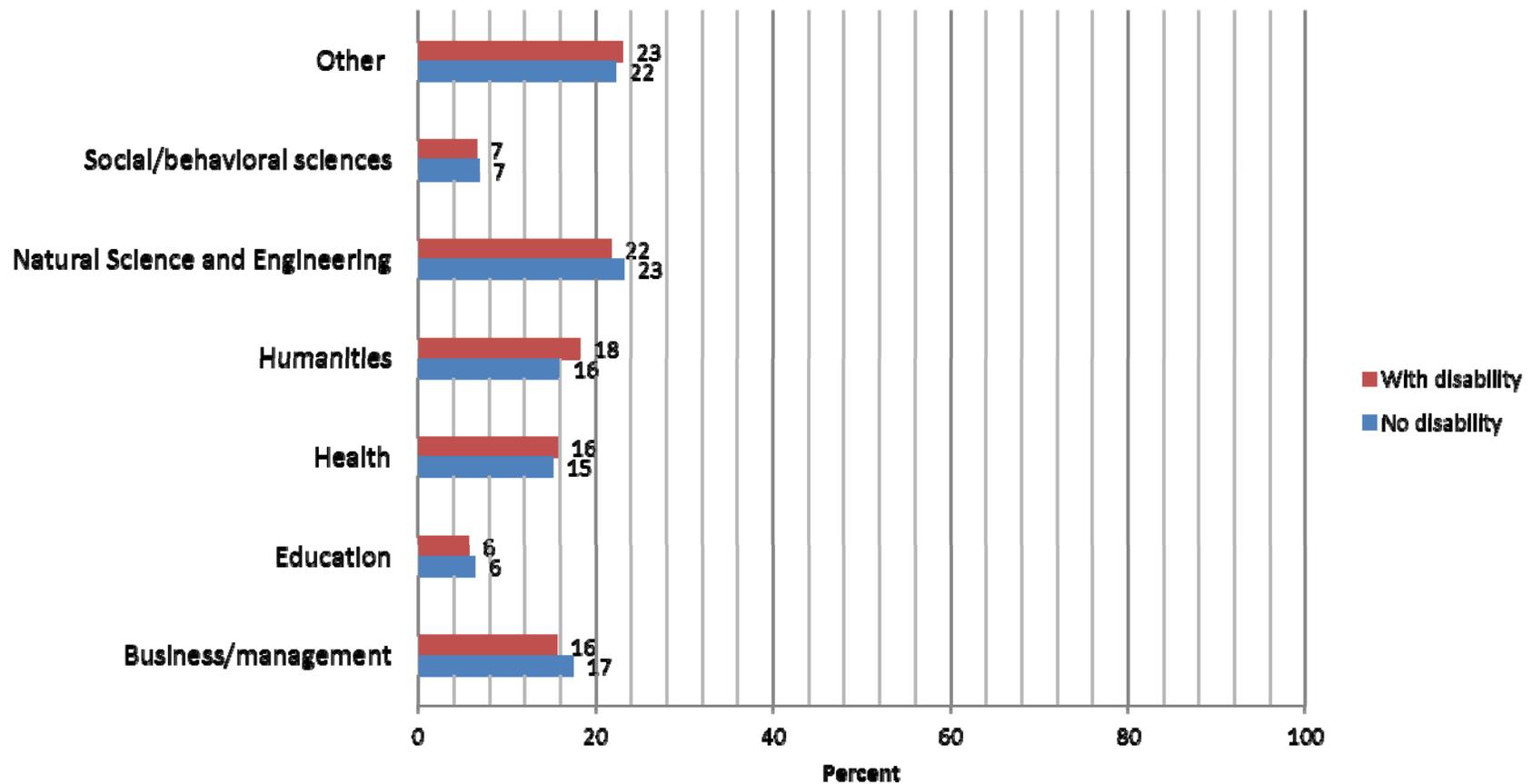
NOTE: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B provides federal assistance for education of children ages 3 through 21. Other disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, developmental delay, speech and language impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, and other health impairment.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.



Undergraduate students with disabilities choose S&E majors at about the same rate as students without disabilities

Undergraduate students, by major and disability status: 2008

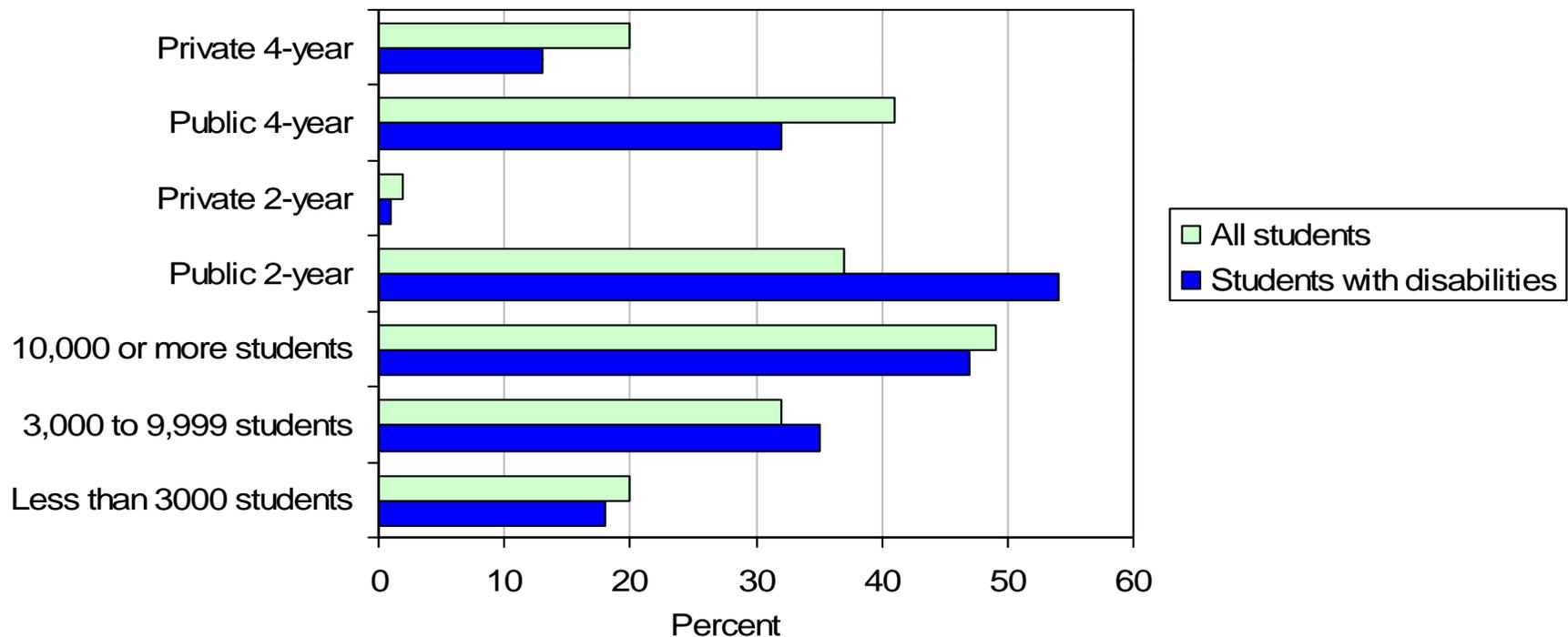


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2008



More than half of postsecondary students with disabilities are in public 2-year schools

Postsecondary students with disabilities, by type of institution: 1966-97 or 1997-98

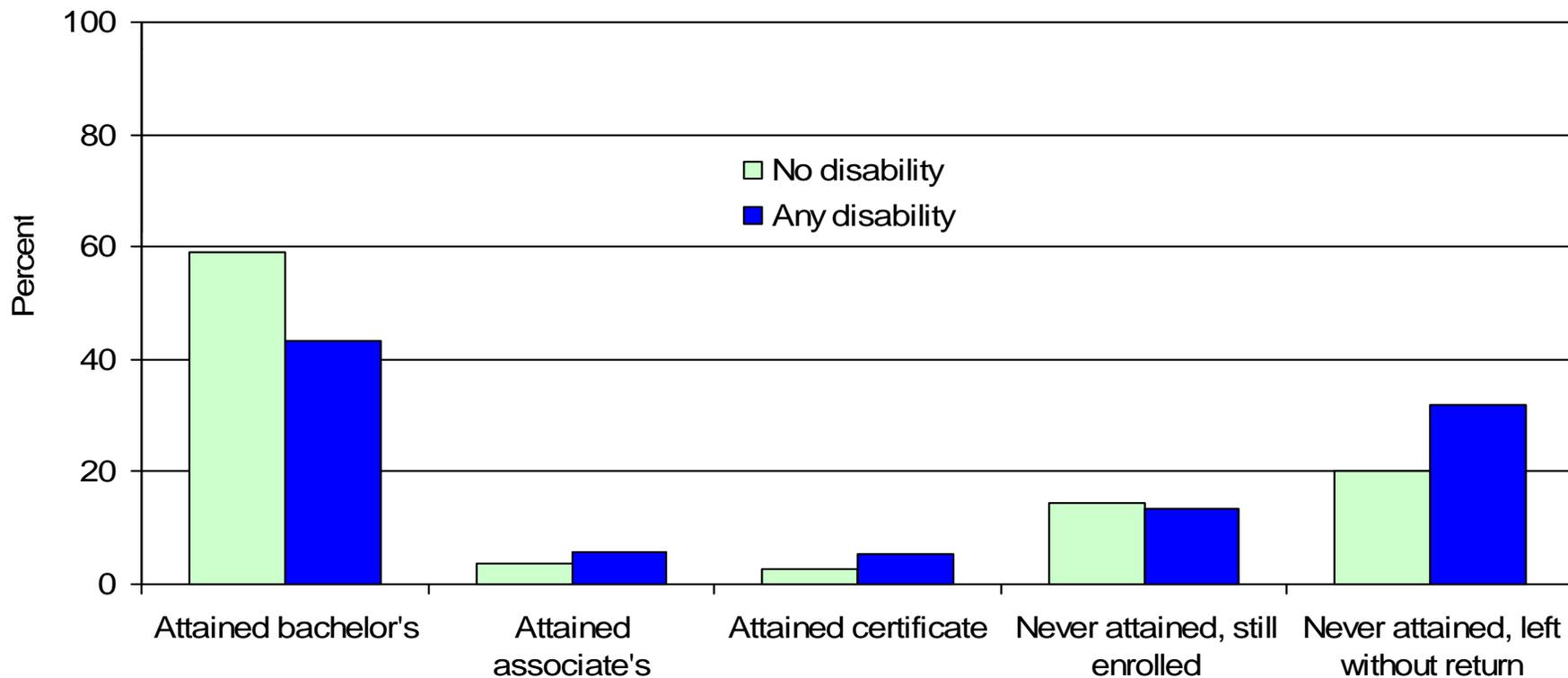


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999. *An Institutional Perspective on Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education*, NCES 1999-046.



Students with disabilities are less likely than those without to complete a bachelor's degree

Students who began at 4-year colleges or universities in 1995, by disability status and persistence in 2001

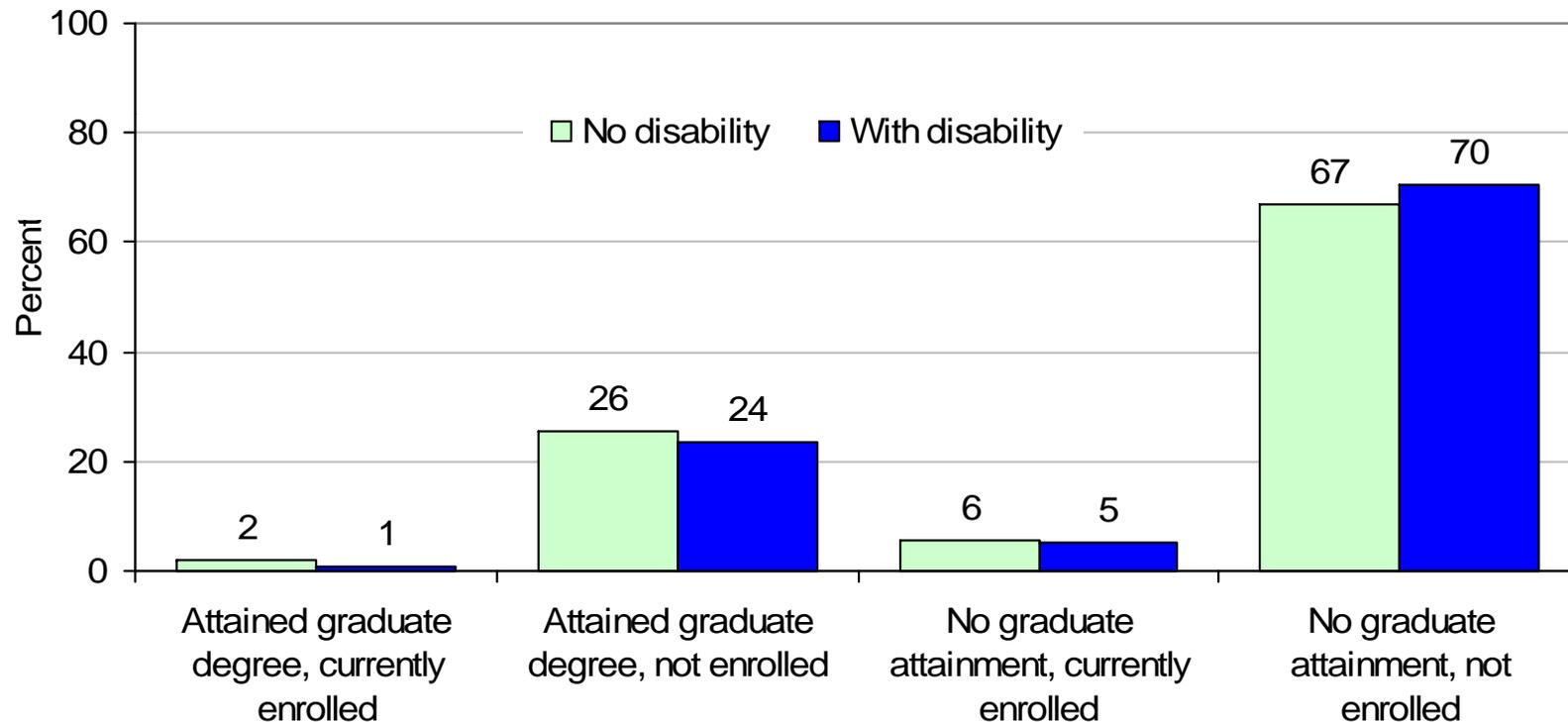


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study.



Bachelor's graduates with and without disabilities enroll in and complete graduate school at about the same rate

1993 bachelor's graduates, by disability status and graduate enrollment and attainment by 2003

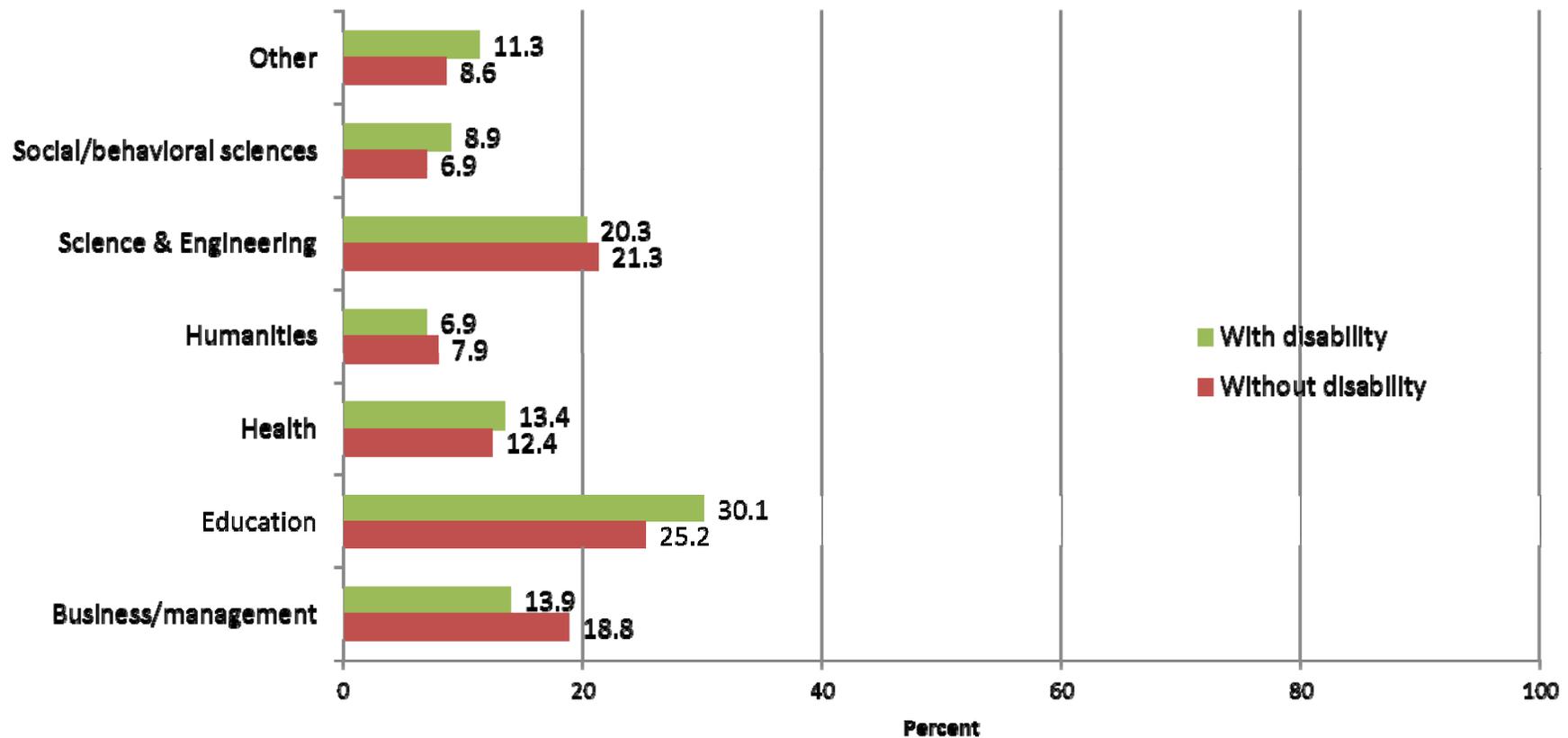


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study.



Graduate students with disabilities are less likely than those without to major in natural sciences and engineering

Graduate students, by majors and by disability status: 2008



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2008



Why we don't have data on bachelor's and master's degrees by disability status

Schools differ in how they count students with disabilities.

Counts can be based on services or accommodations provided, verification of disabilities, self-report to the disability support services office, or external/proxy report to the disability support services office.

Schools differ in availability of records:

- Half of institutions maintain paper records on students with disabilities in the disability support services office
- Only 13% of institutions include data on students with disabilities in the general student record system from which degree data are reported to the Department of Education.



Science and engineering doctorate recipients, by disability status: 1999–2008

Disability status	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All S&E doctorate recipients	25,931	25,966	25,529	24,608	25,282	26,274	27,986	29,863	31,800	32,827
Without disability	25,594	25,637	25,187	24,279	24,968	25,988	27,680	29,558	31,450	32,467
With disability	337	329	342	329	314	286	306	305	350	360
Blind/visually impaired	54	49	39	26	28	22	24	30	29	20
Deaf/hard of hearing	40	38	48	42	48	33	40	42	39	47
Learning disabilities	NA	NA	84	78	74	93	89	84	109	128
Physical/orthopedic disability	96	94	99	121	95	84	85	84	87	81
Vocal/speech disability	6	6	8	8	11	10	14	11	D	9
Other or unspecified	141	142	64	54	58	44	54	54	D	75

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information



Percentage with disabilities, by type of disability

	Population 25 to 64	STEM doctorate recipients
Total	100%	100%
No disabilities	83.7	98.9
With any disability	16.3	1.10
Seeing	2.5	0.06
Hearing	2.3	0.14
Speech	0.9	0.03
Mobility	8.0	0.25
Learning	1.4	0.39

NOTES: Any disability includes other disabilities not shown separately. Respondents could report more than one disability.

SOURCES: Population—U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2002; STEM doctorate recipients, National Science Foundation, Survey of Earned Doctorates 2008.



Estimates of disability

	Percent with disabilities	Number with disabilities
Population 6-14	13%	4,654,000
Students 6-17	11%	5,538,900
STEM undergraduates	10%	461,700
STEM graduate students	7%	49,400
STEM doctorate recipients	1%	355
Population 21-64	17%	28,145,000
US workforce 21-64	10%	12,836,000
STEM workforce	6%	306,000
STEM doctoral faculty	7%	11,700

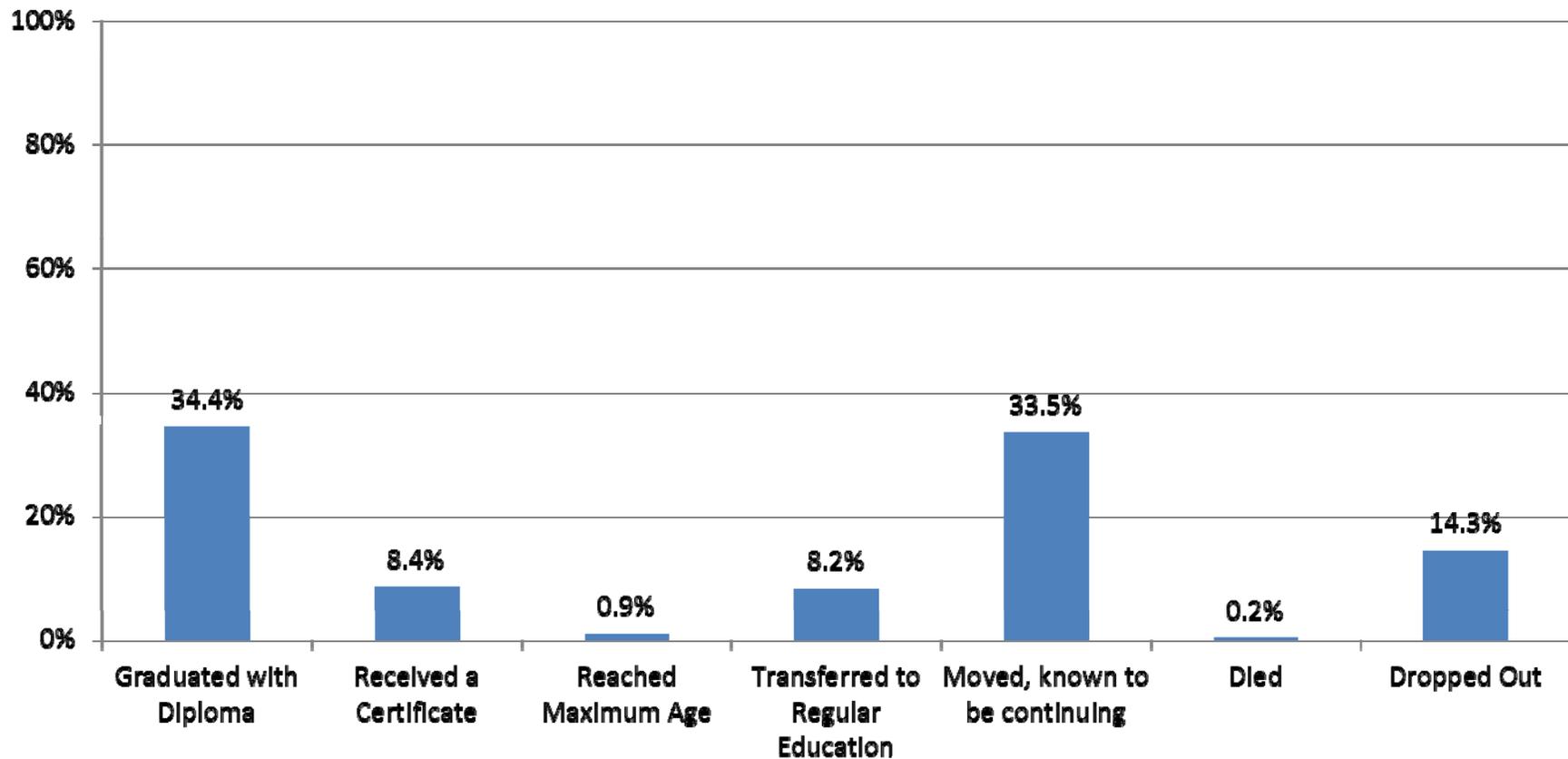
SOURCES: Population and U.S. workforce—U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2005; Students 6-17—U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, 2008; Undergraduate and graduate students—U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2008; STEM doctorate recipients, NSF/SRS, Survey of Earned Doctorates 2008, Workforce and doctoral faculty—National Science Foundation, SESTAT data system, and Survey of Doctorate Recipients, 2006.



EXTRA INFORMATION



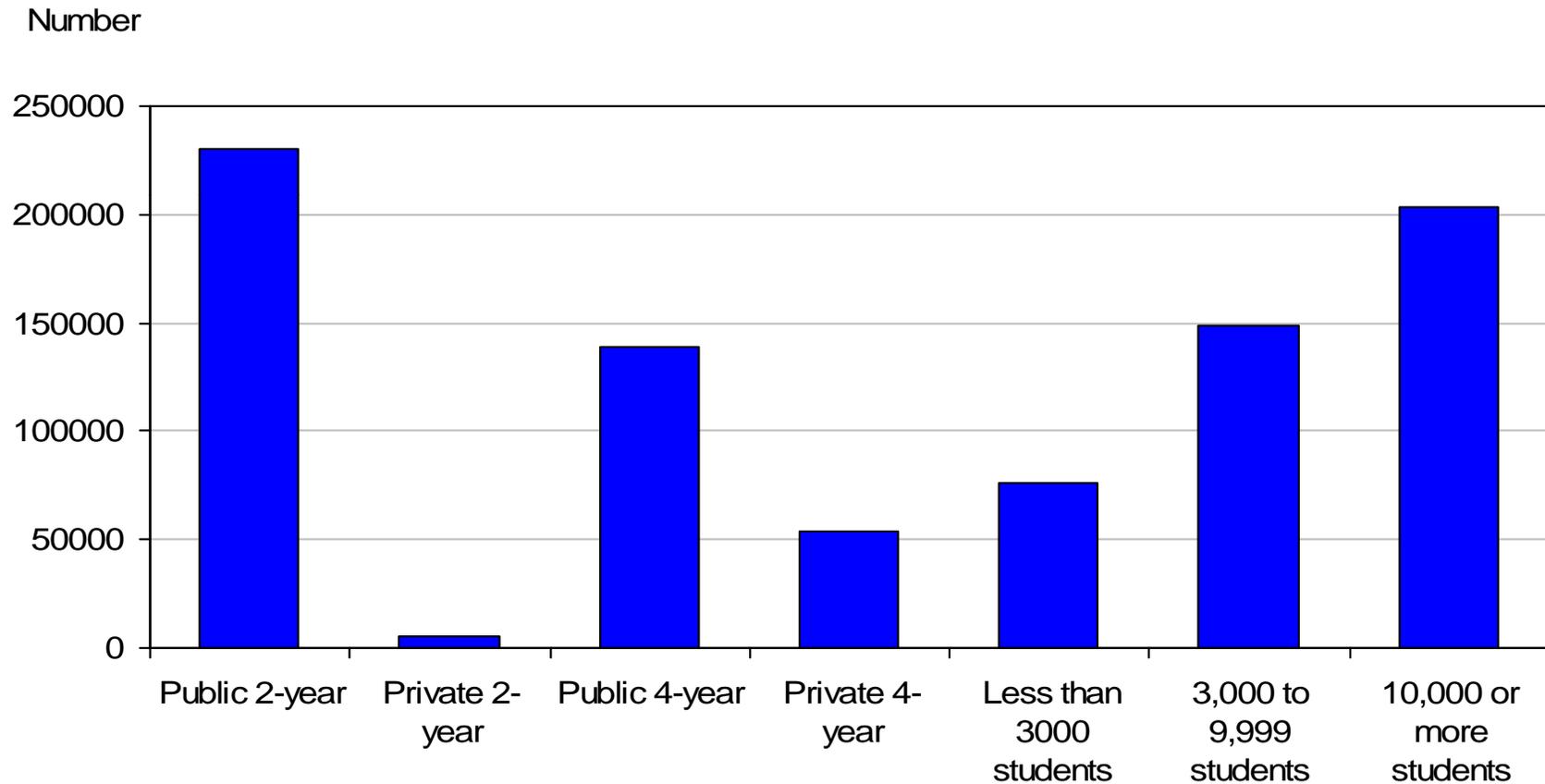
Students with disabilities age 14 to 21 exiting special education, by exit reason: 2008



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, www.ideadata.org



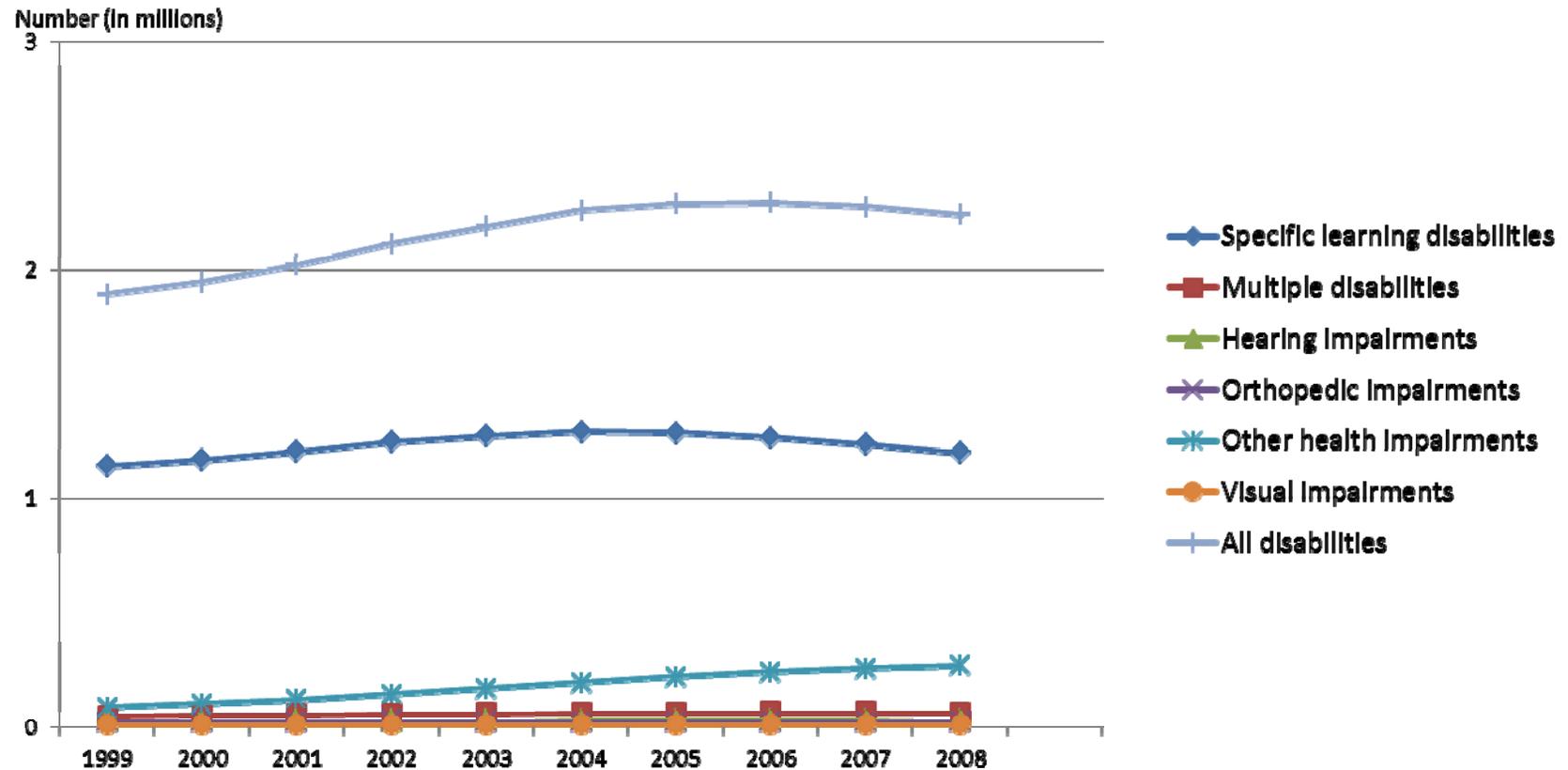
Postsecondary students with disabilities, by type of institution: 1996-97 or 1997-98



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999. *An Institutional Perspective on Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education*, NCES 1999-046.



Population ages 14 to 21 that are served under IDEA Part B, by type of disability: 1999-2008

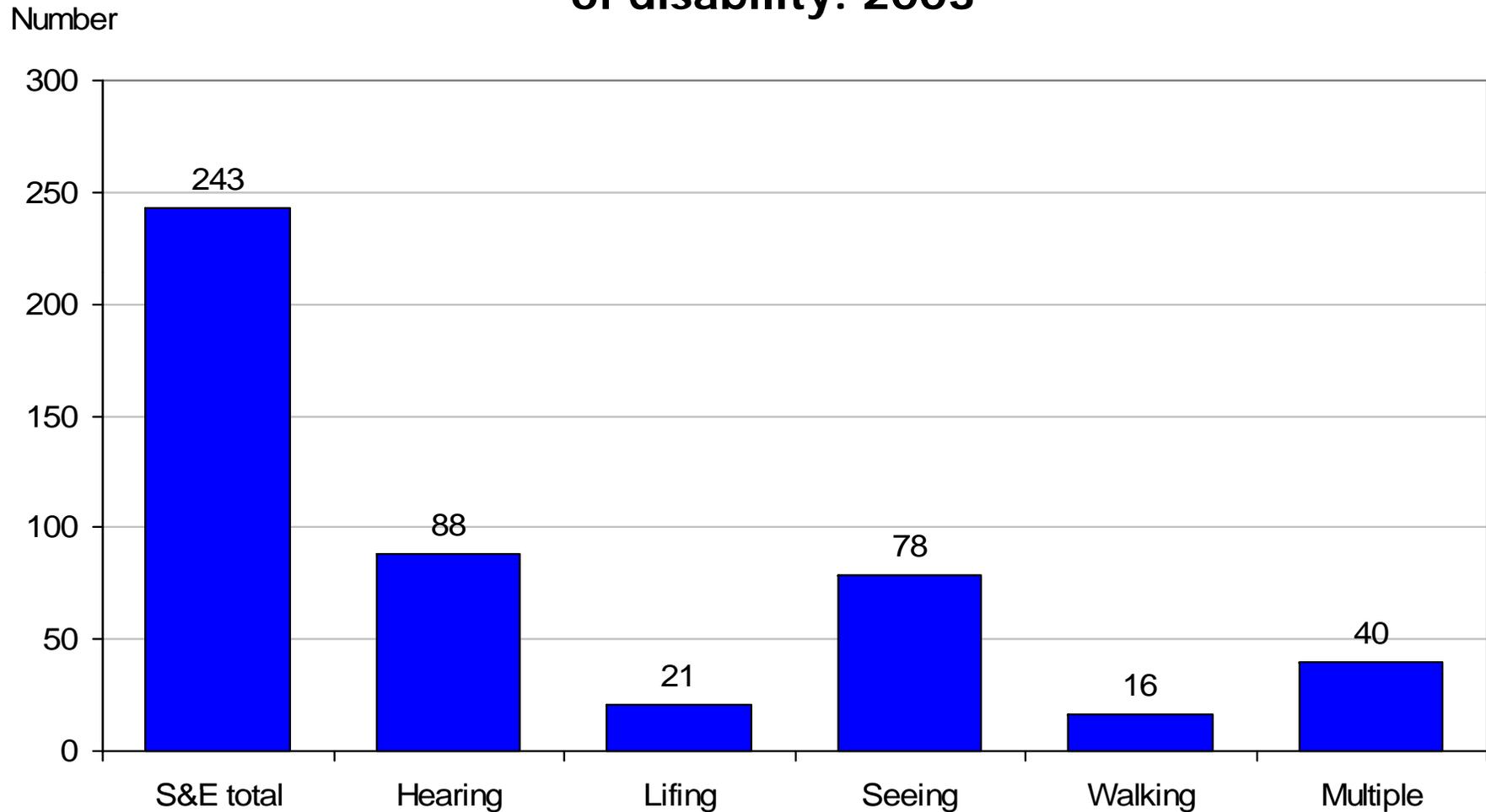


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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, www.ideadata.org

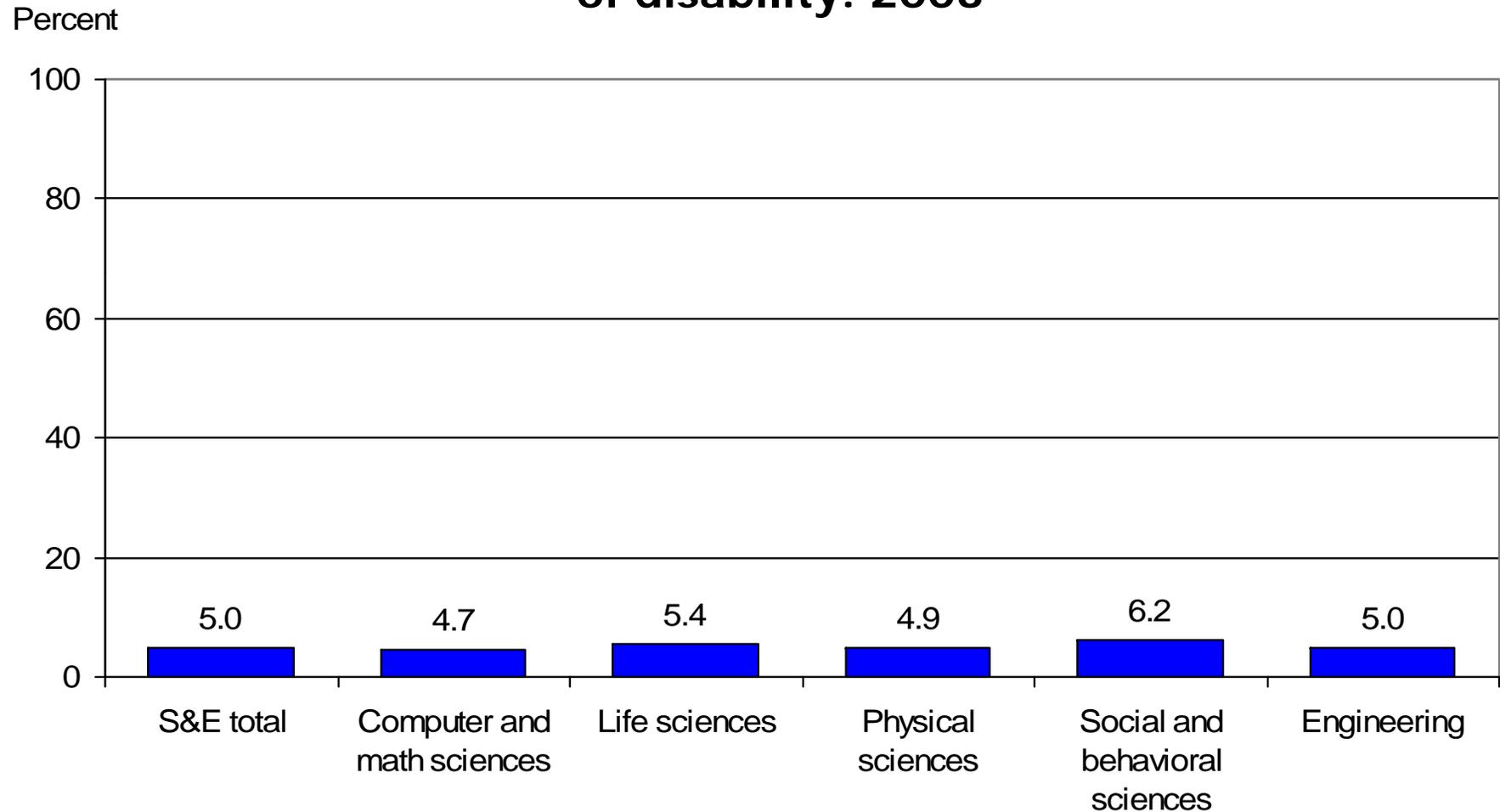


Employed scientists and engineers with disabilities, by type of disability: 2003



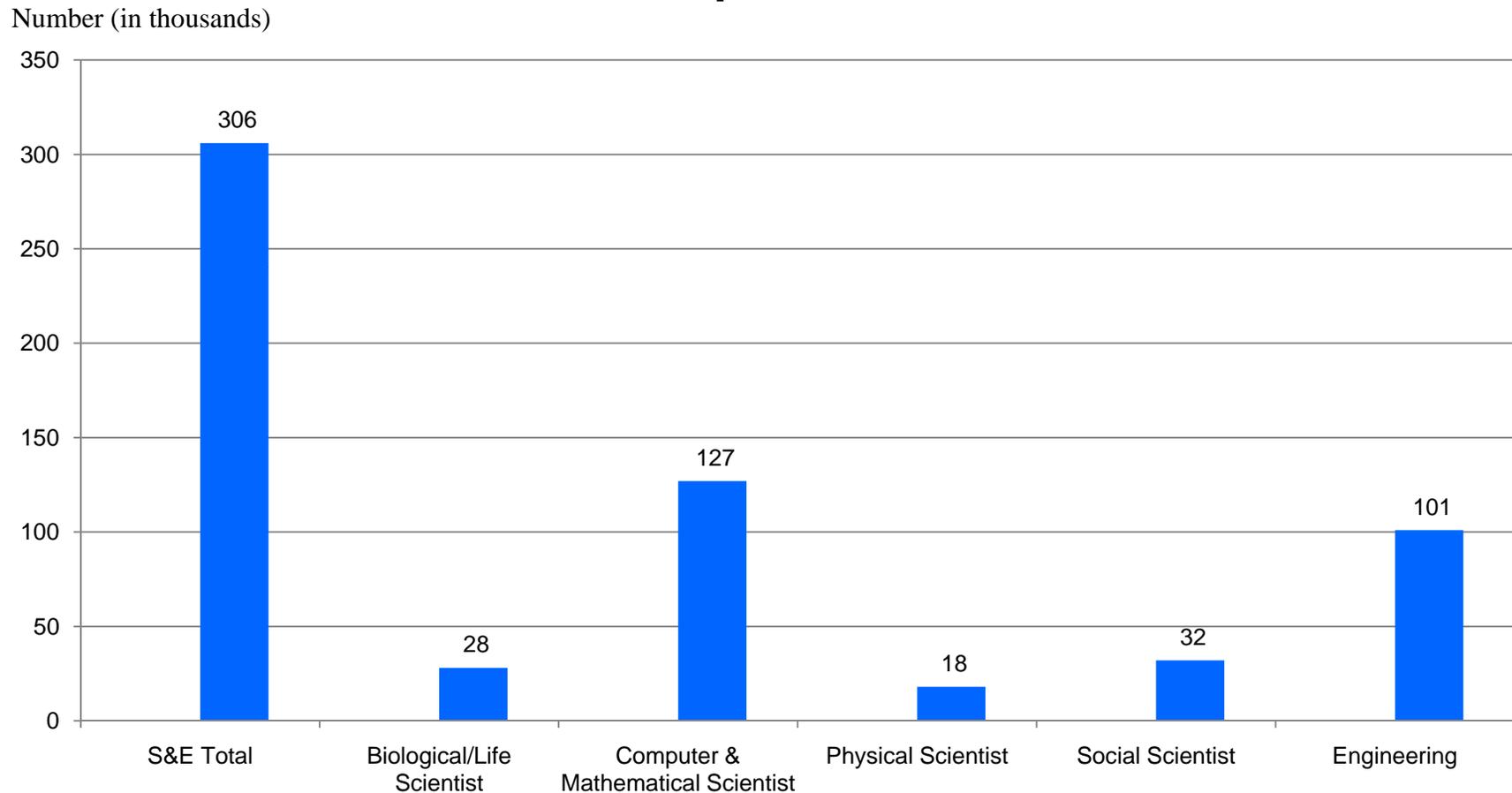


Employed scientists and engineers with disabilities, by type of disability: 2003



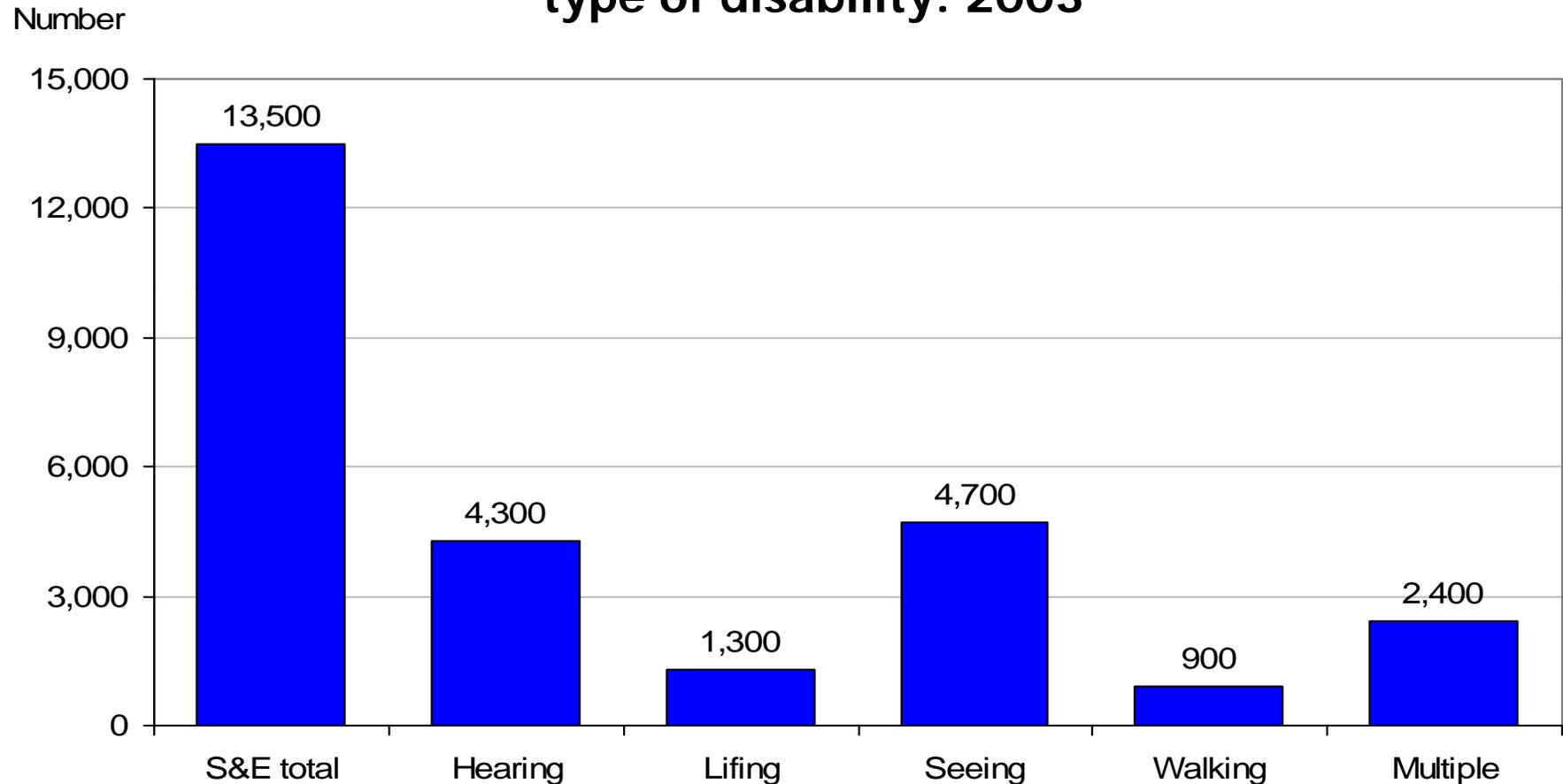


Employed scientists and engineers with disabilities, by occupation: 2006





Doctoral science and engineering faculty with disabilities, by type of disability: 2003

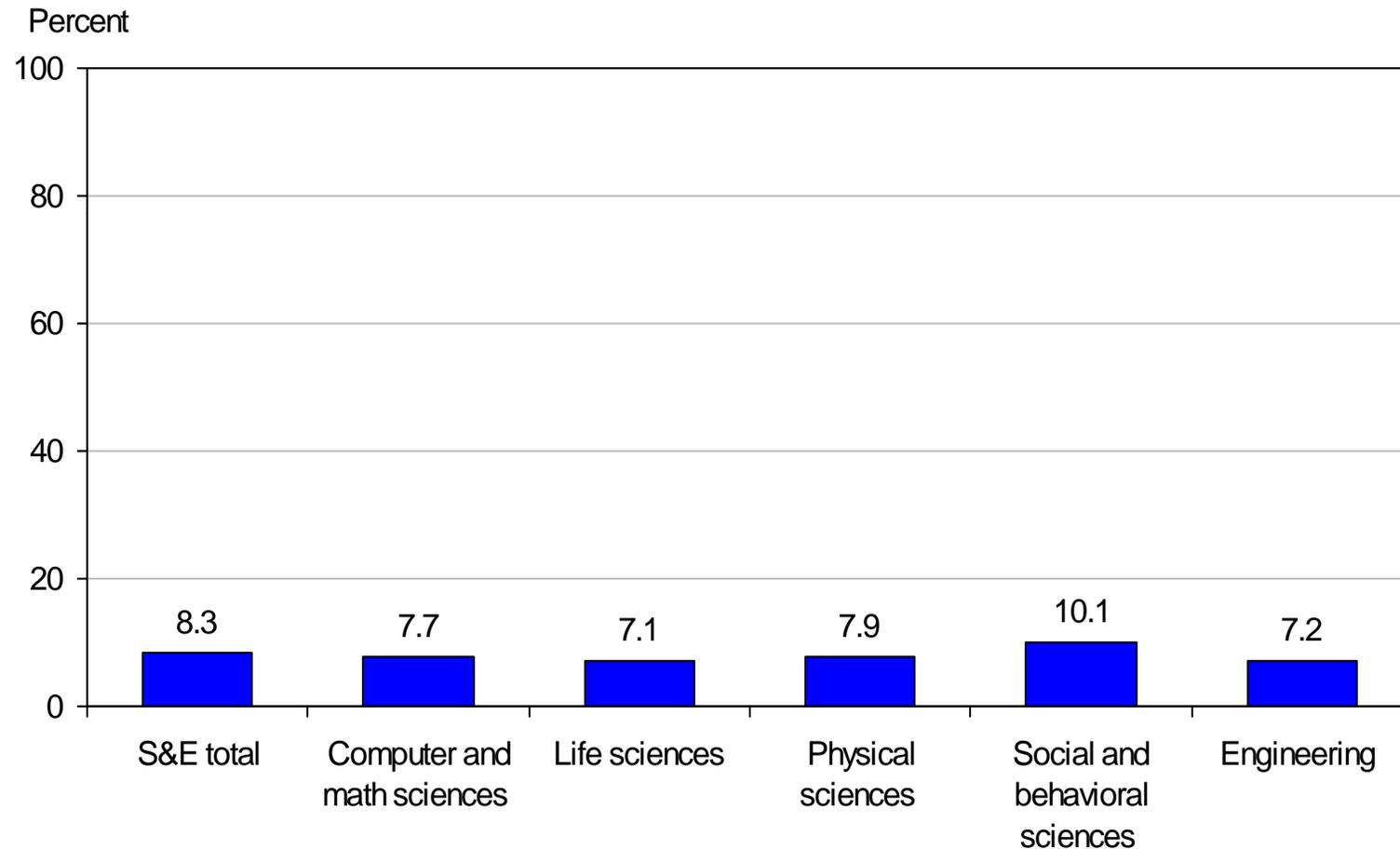


NOTE: Faculty include full, associate, and assistant professors.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients: 2003



Doctoral science and engineering faculty with disabilities, by occupation: 2003



NOTE: Doctoral faculty include full, associate, and assistant professors.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Doctorate Recipients: 2003