



# What the Data Show about Students with Disabilities in STEM

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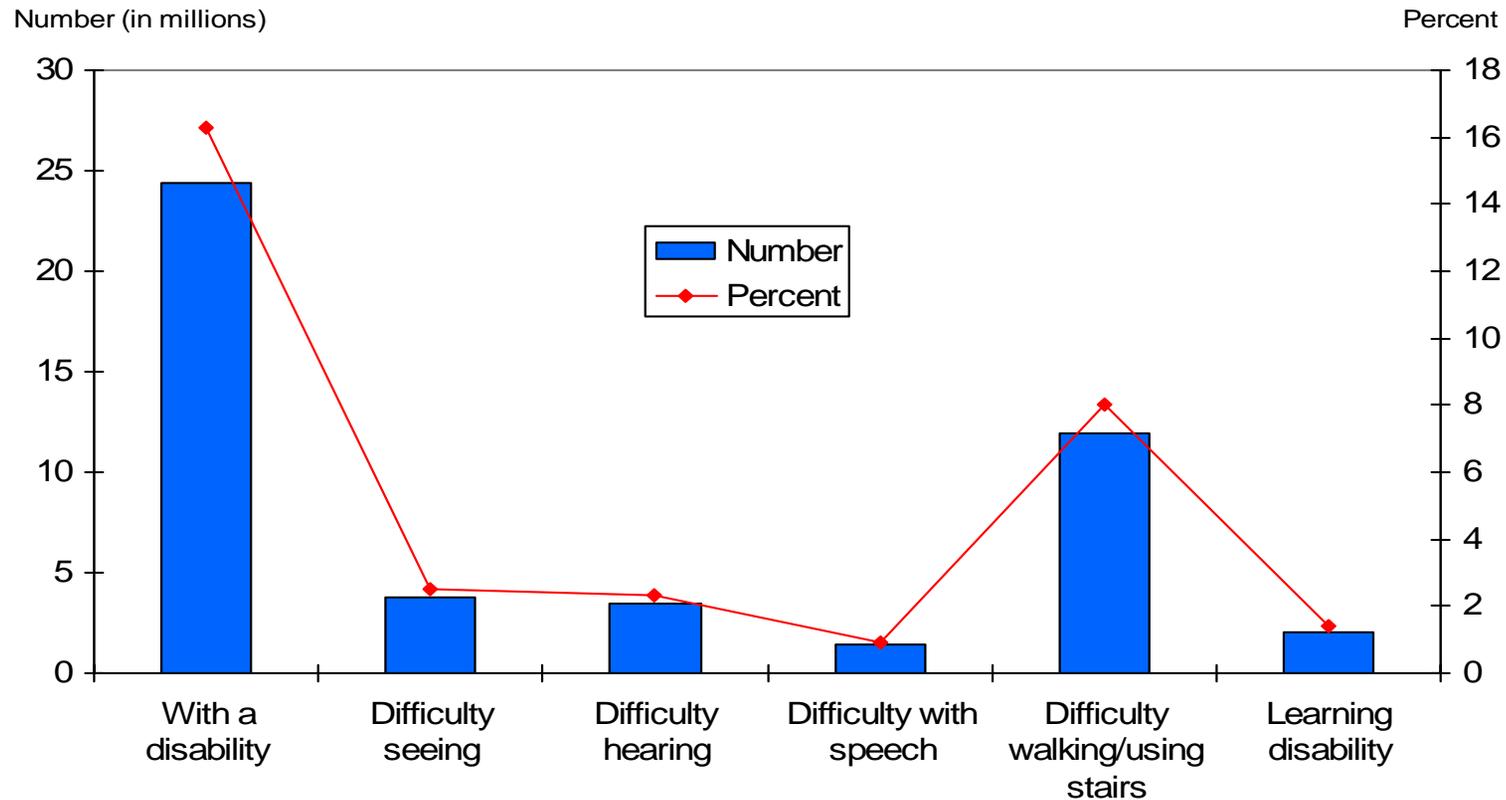
Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering  
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National Science Foundation  
Division of Science Resources Statistics  
[www.nsf.gov/statistics](http://www.nsf.gov/statistics)



# 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



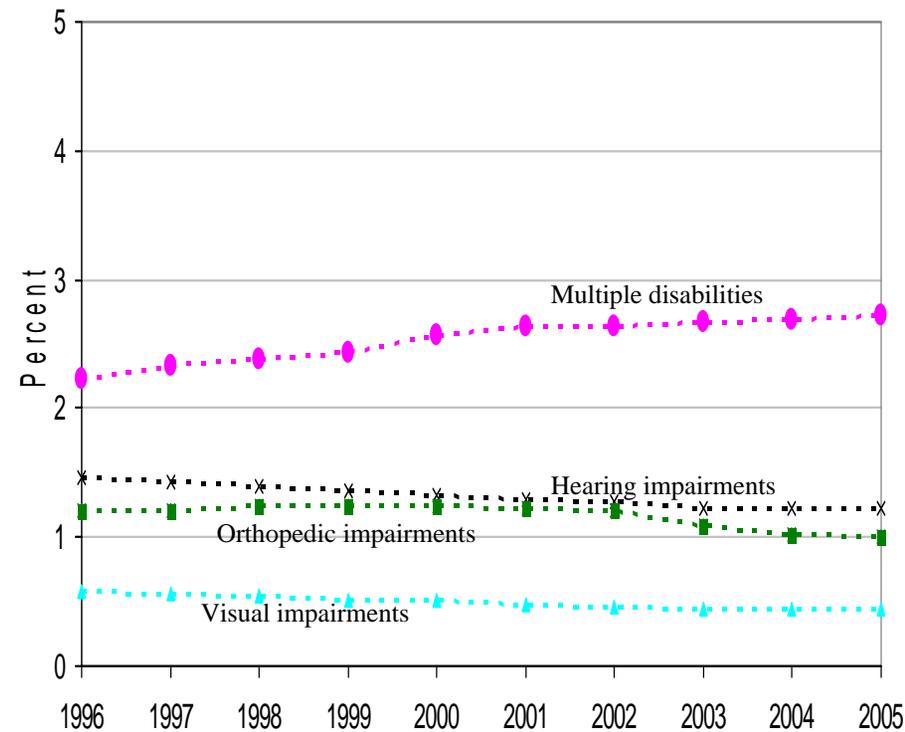
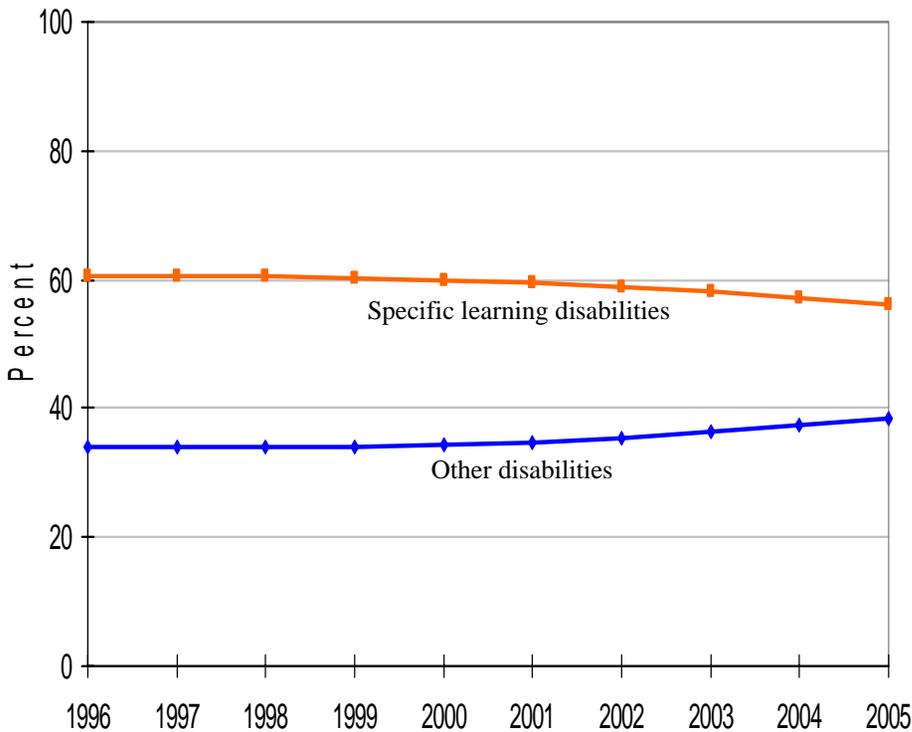
NOTES: "With a disability" includes other disabilities not shown separately. Respondents could report more than one disability.100

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: 1996-2005



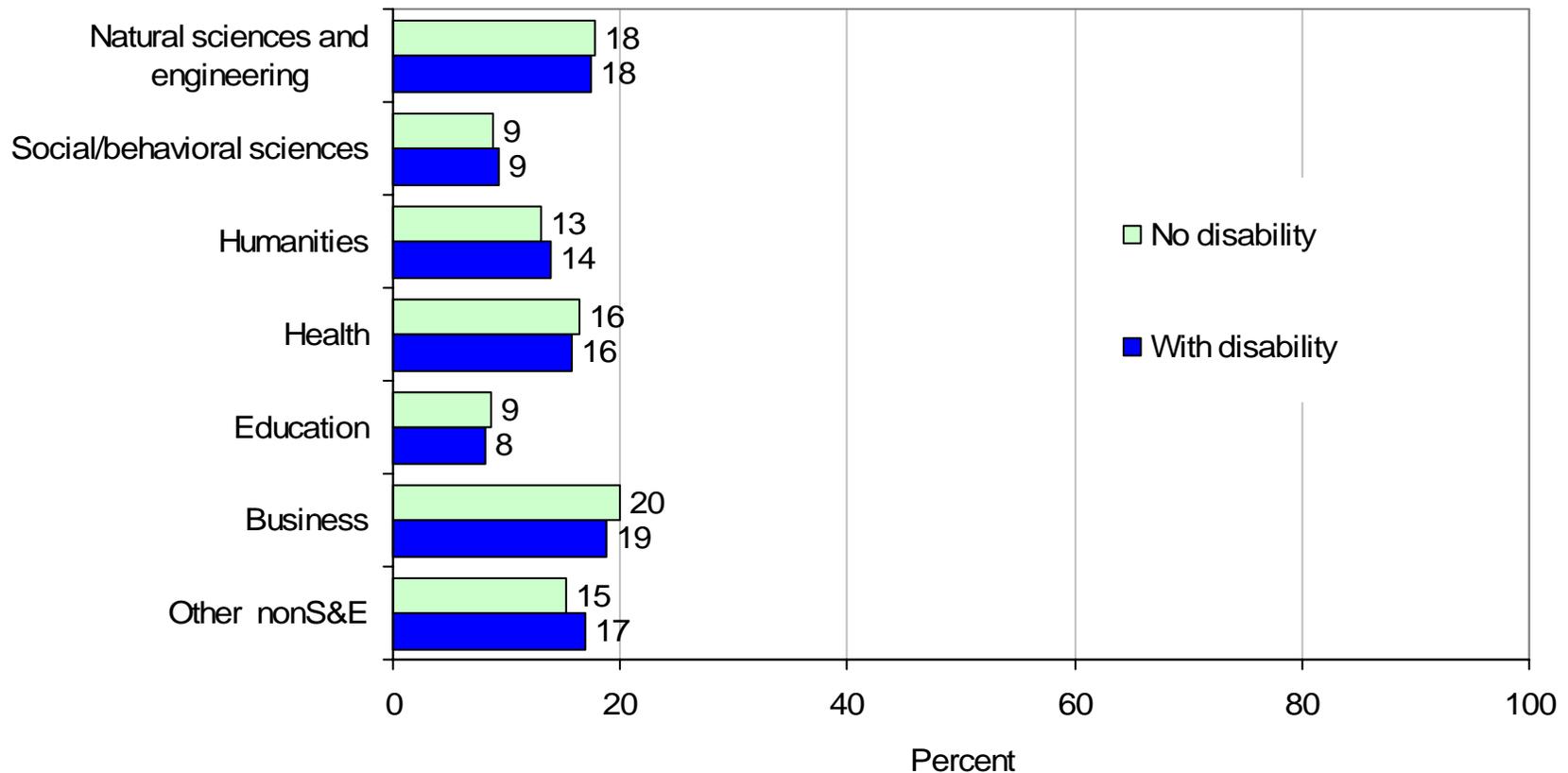
NOTE: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B provides federal assistance for education of children ages 3 through 21. Other disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, developmental delay, speech and language impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, and other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

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



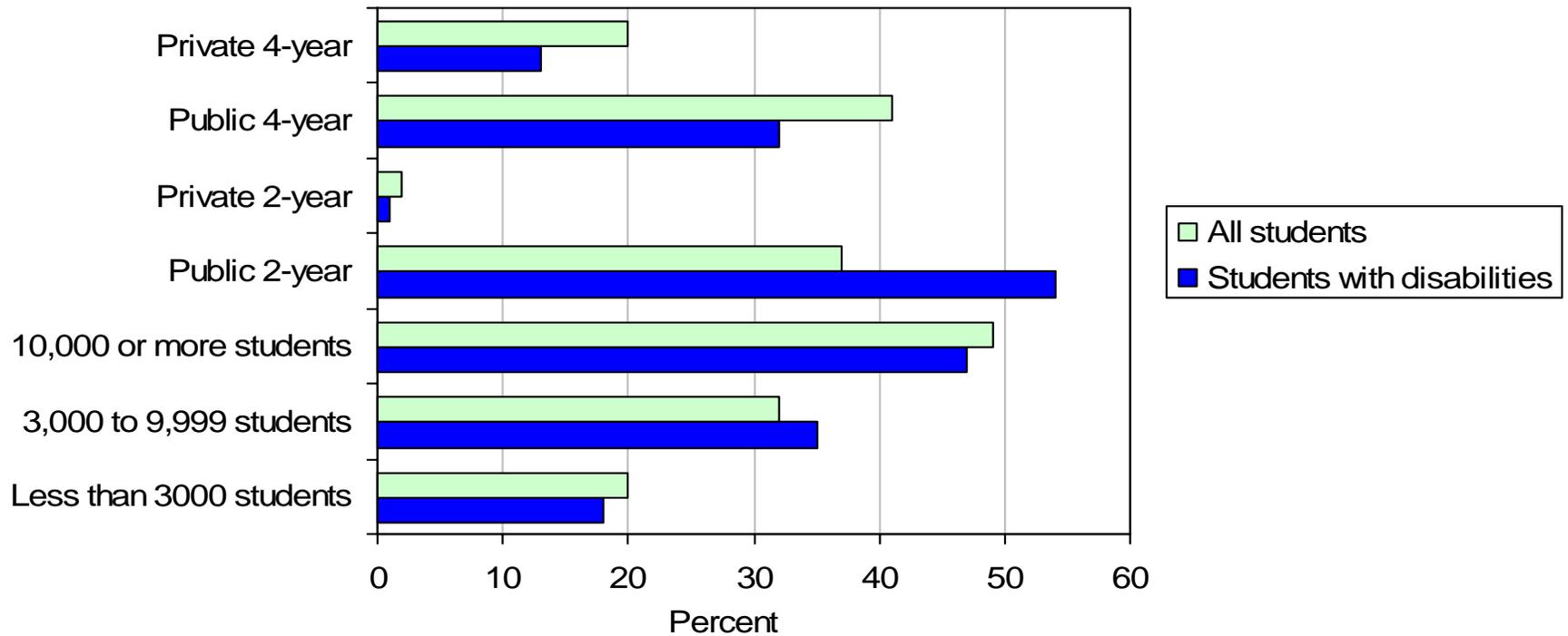
## Undergraduate students with disabilities choose S&E majors at about the same rate as students without disabilities

Undergraduate students, by major and disability status: 2004



## 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

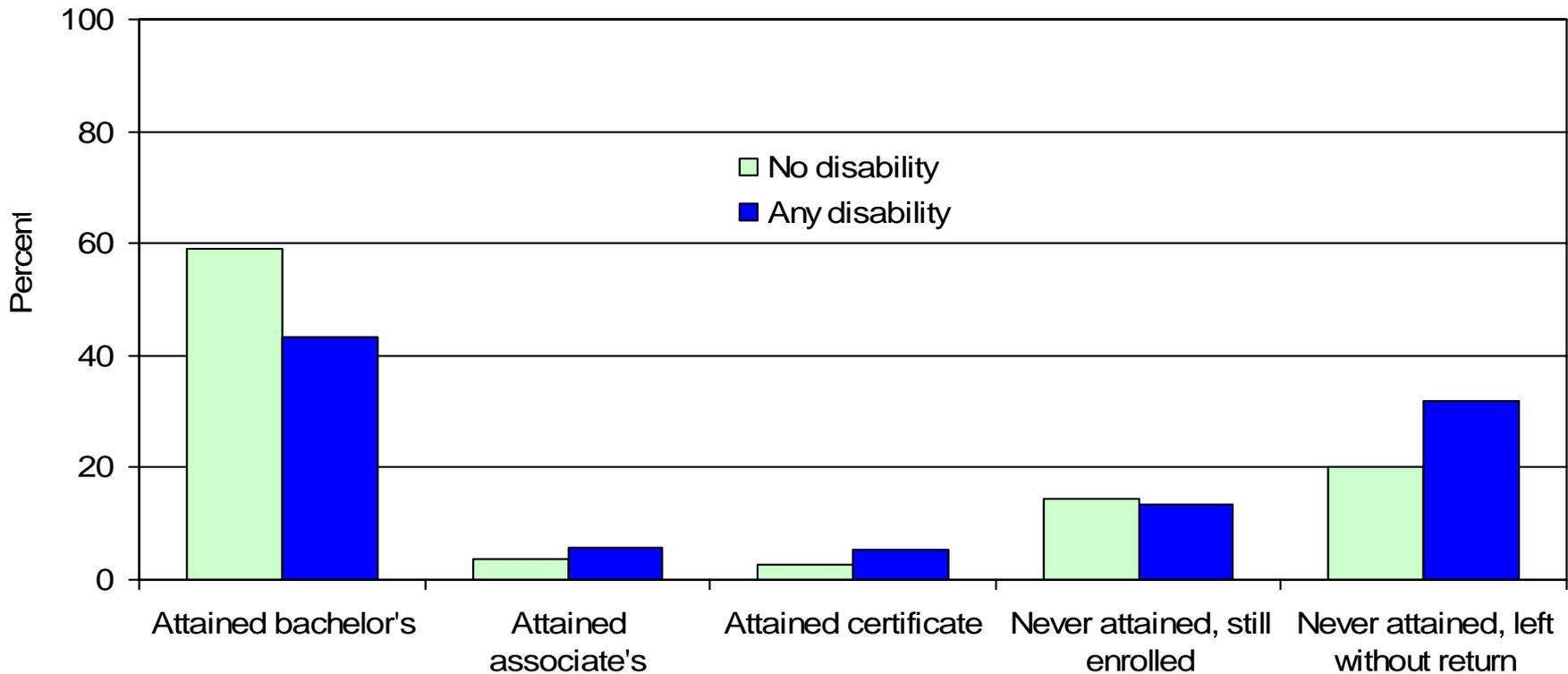


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999. *An Institutional Perspective on Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education*, NCES 1999-046.



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

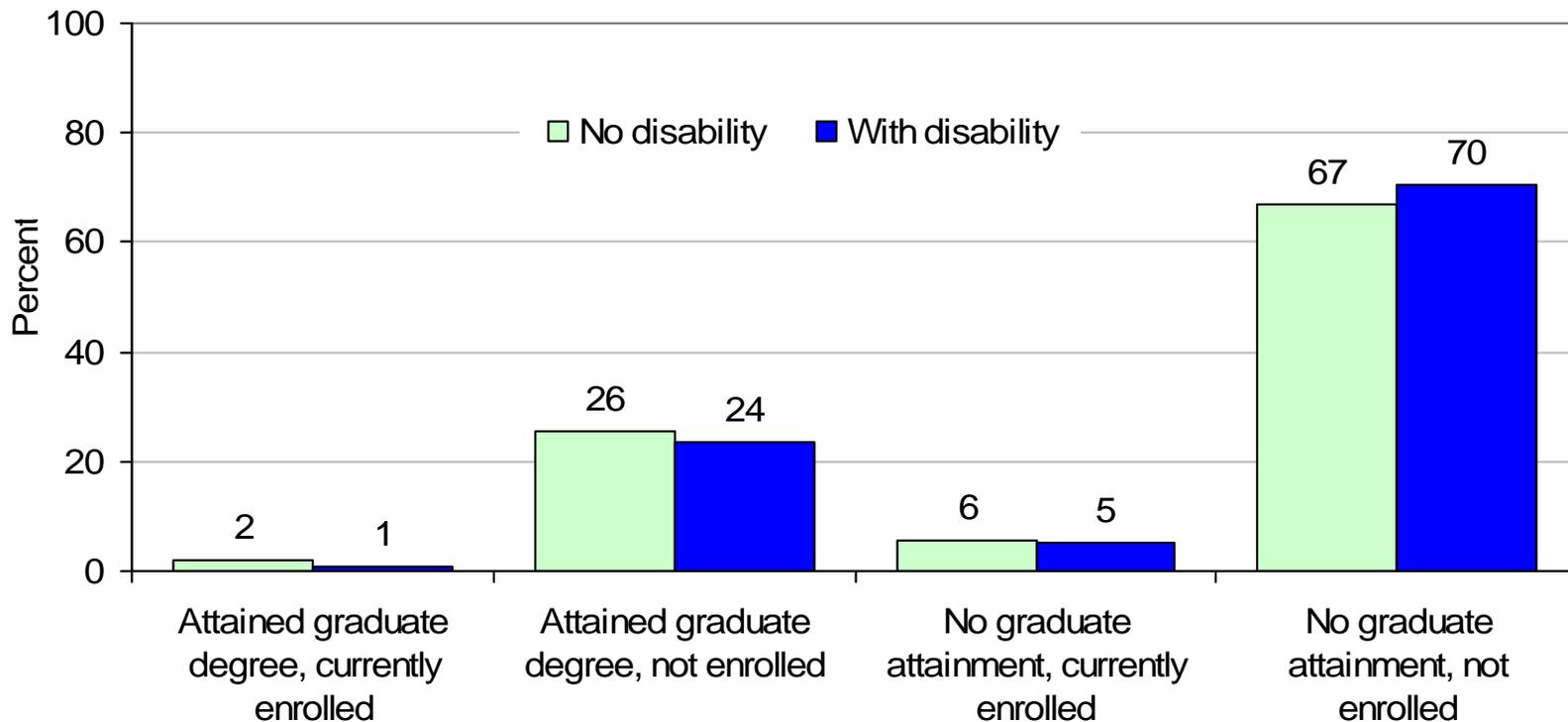
Students who began at 4-year colleges or universities in 1995, by disability status and persistence in 2001





## 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

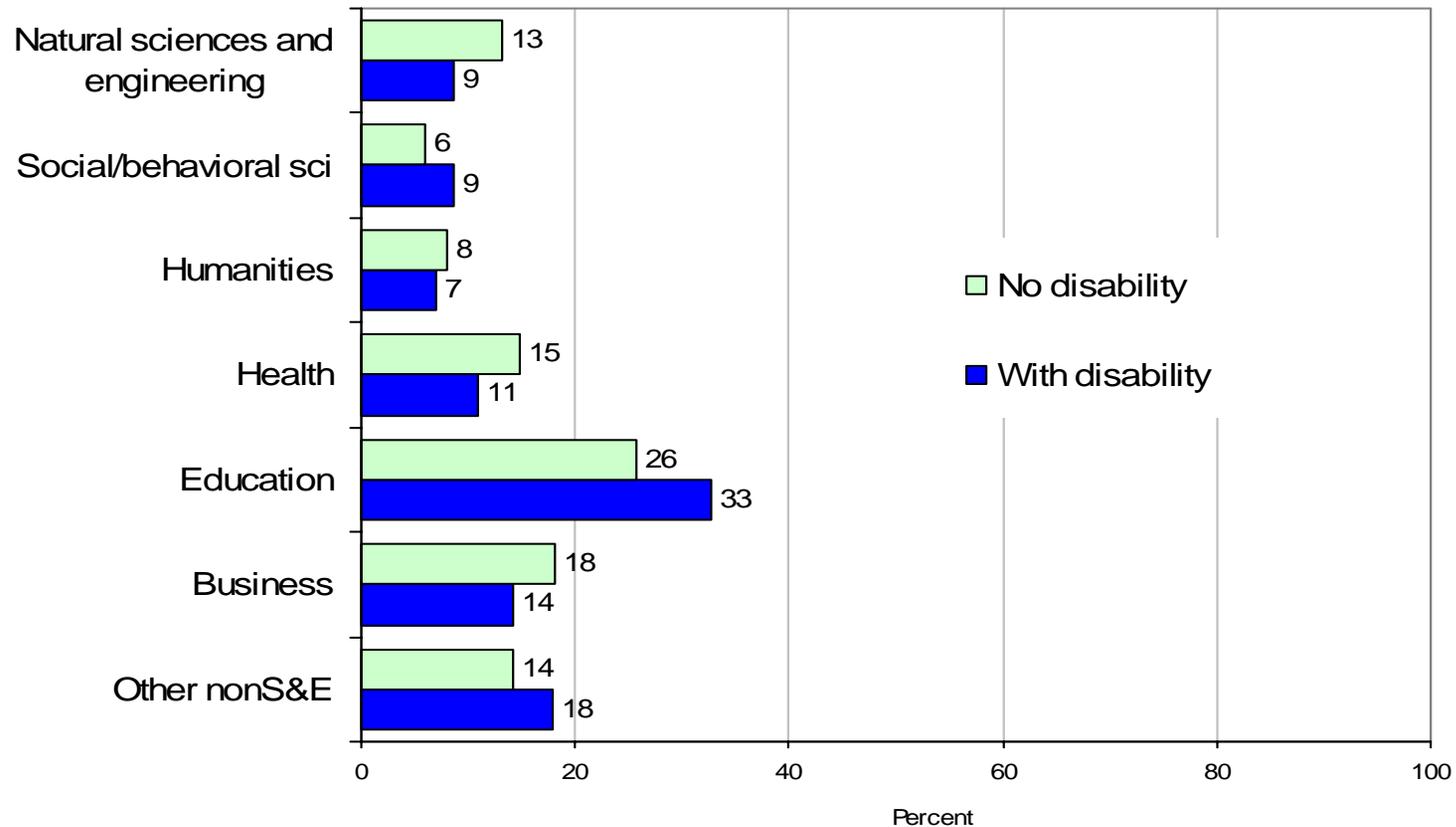


SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study.



## 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: 2004





## 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: 1997–2005**

Disability status	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All S&E doctorate recipients	27,229	27,273	25,931	25,966	25,496	24,582	25,274	26,272	27,974
No disability	26,909	26,951	25,594	25,638	25,156	24,254	24,961	25,986	27,667
With disability	320	322	337	328	340	328	313	286	307
Blind/visually impaired	39	55	54	49	39	26	28	22	24
Deaf/hard of hearing	45	36	40	38	48	42	48	33	40
Learning disabilities	na	na	na	na	83	78	74	99	89
Physical/orthopedic disability	104	92	96	94	99	121	95	88	86
Vocal/speech disability	7	11	6	6	8	8	11	11	14
Other or more than one	98	96	110	110	58	48	52	28	49
Unspecified	27	32	31	31	5	5	5	5	5



## 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	1.1
Seeing	2.5	0.1
Hearing	2.3	0.1
Speech	0.9	0.1
Mobility	8.0	0.3
Learning	1.4	0.3

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 2005.



## Estimates of disability

	Percent with disabilities	Number with disabilities
Population 15-24	11%	4,128,000
Students 6-17	12%	5,708,900
STEM undergraduates	11%	580,000
STEM graduate students	7%	30,000
STEM doctorate recipients	1%	307
Population 25-64	16%	24,350,000
US workforce 21-64	10%	14,313,000
STEM workforce	5%	242,700
STEM doctoral faculty	8%	13,500

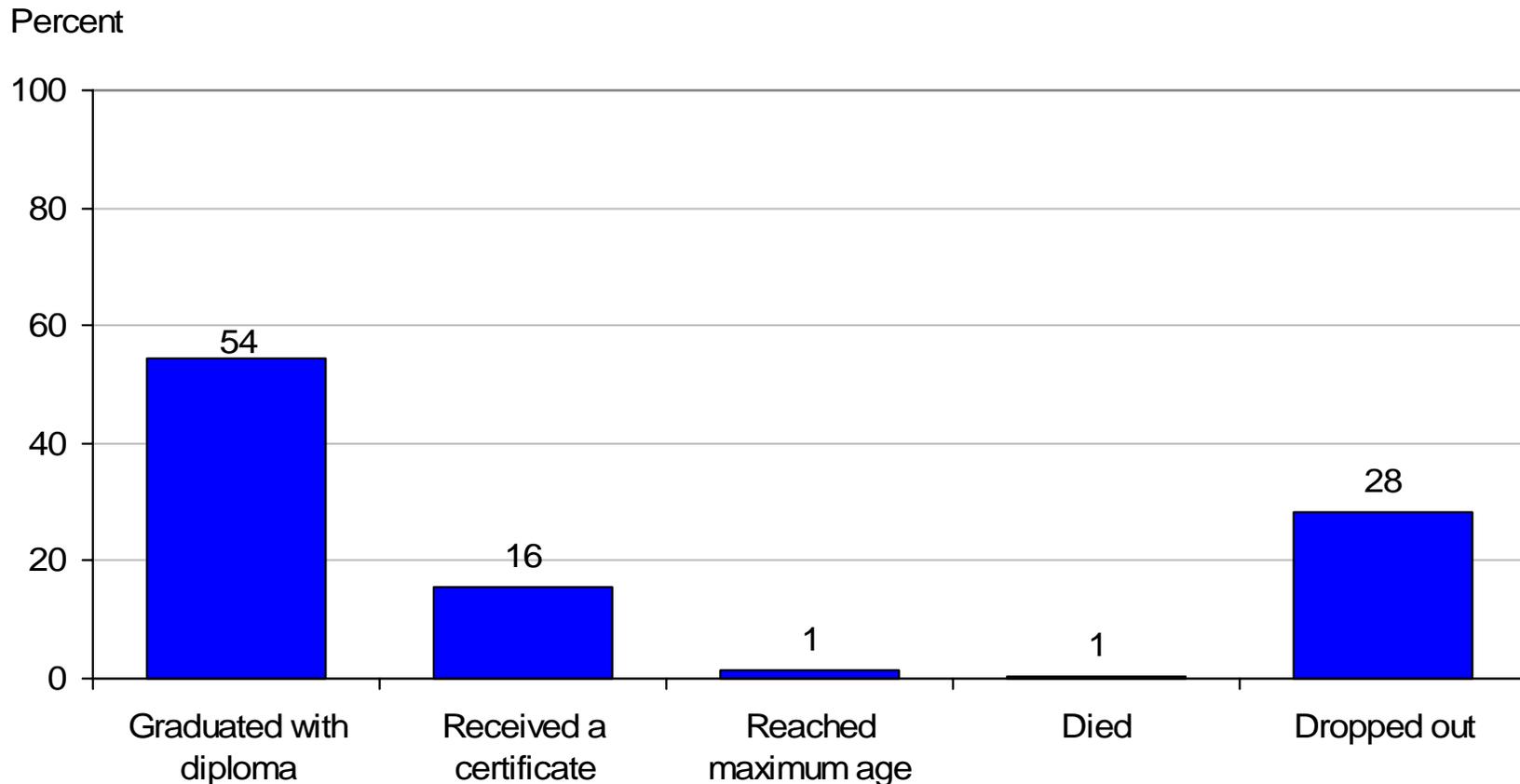
SOURCES: Population and U.S. workforce—U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2002; Students 6-17—U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, 2005; Undergraduate and graduate students—U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2004; STEM doctorate recipients, NSF/SRS, Survey of Earned Doctorates 2005, Workforce and doctoral faculty—National Science Foundation, SESTAT data system, and Survey of Doctorate Recipients.



# EXTRA INFORMATION

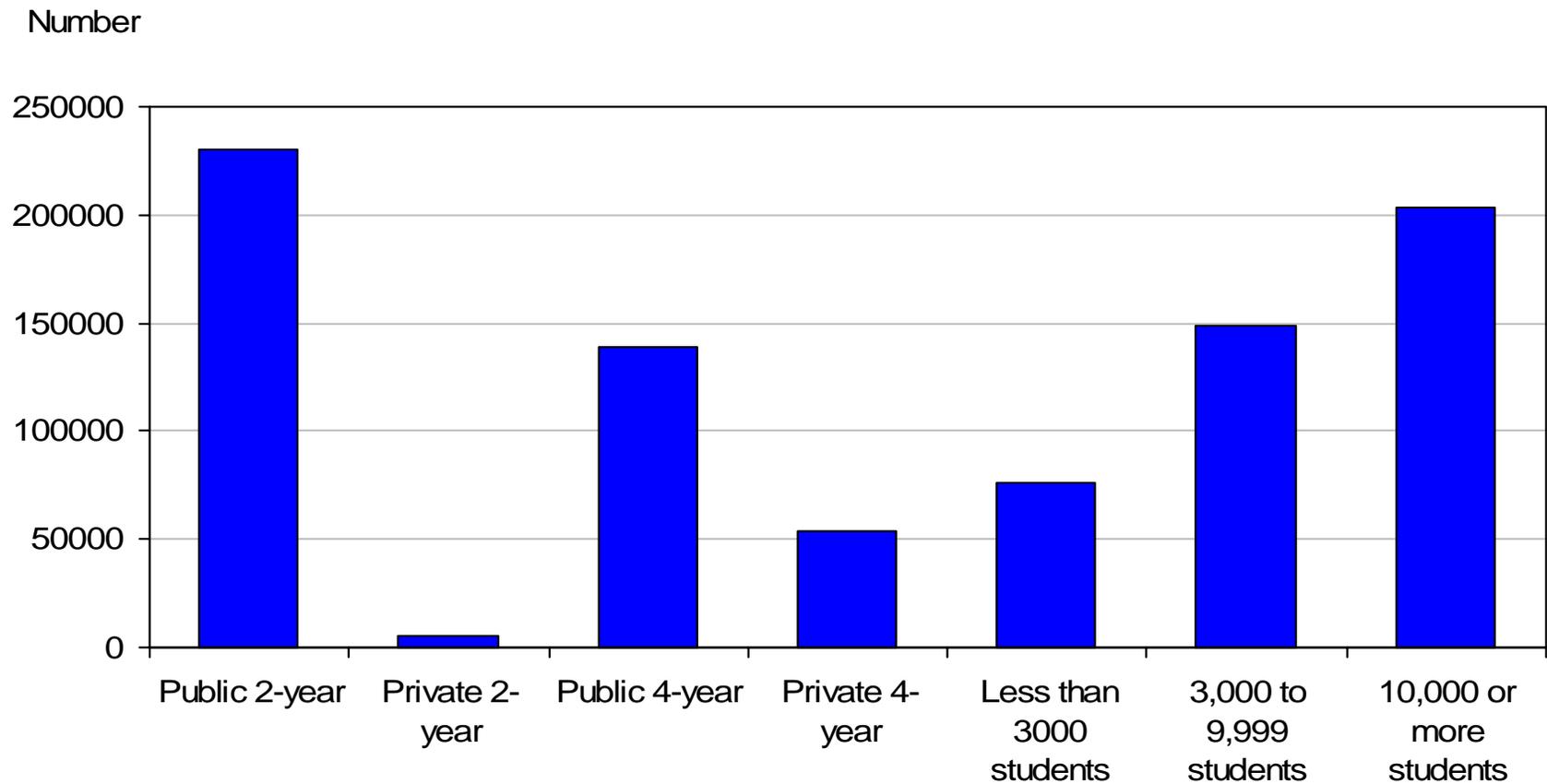


## Students with disabilities age 14 to 21 exiting special education, by exit reason: 2005





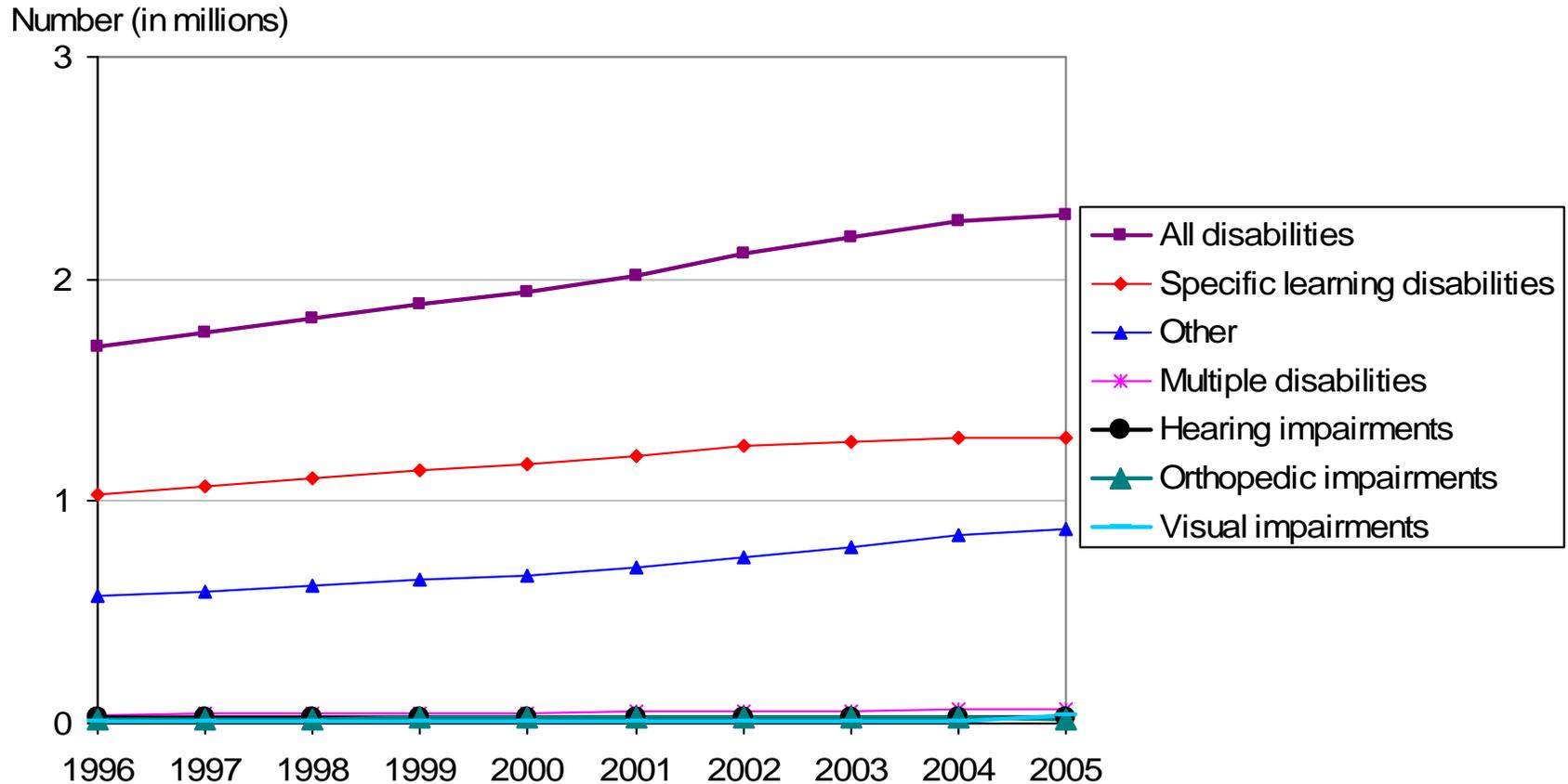
## Postsecondary students with disabilities, by type of institution: 1996-97 or 1997-98



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: 1996-2005

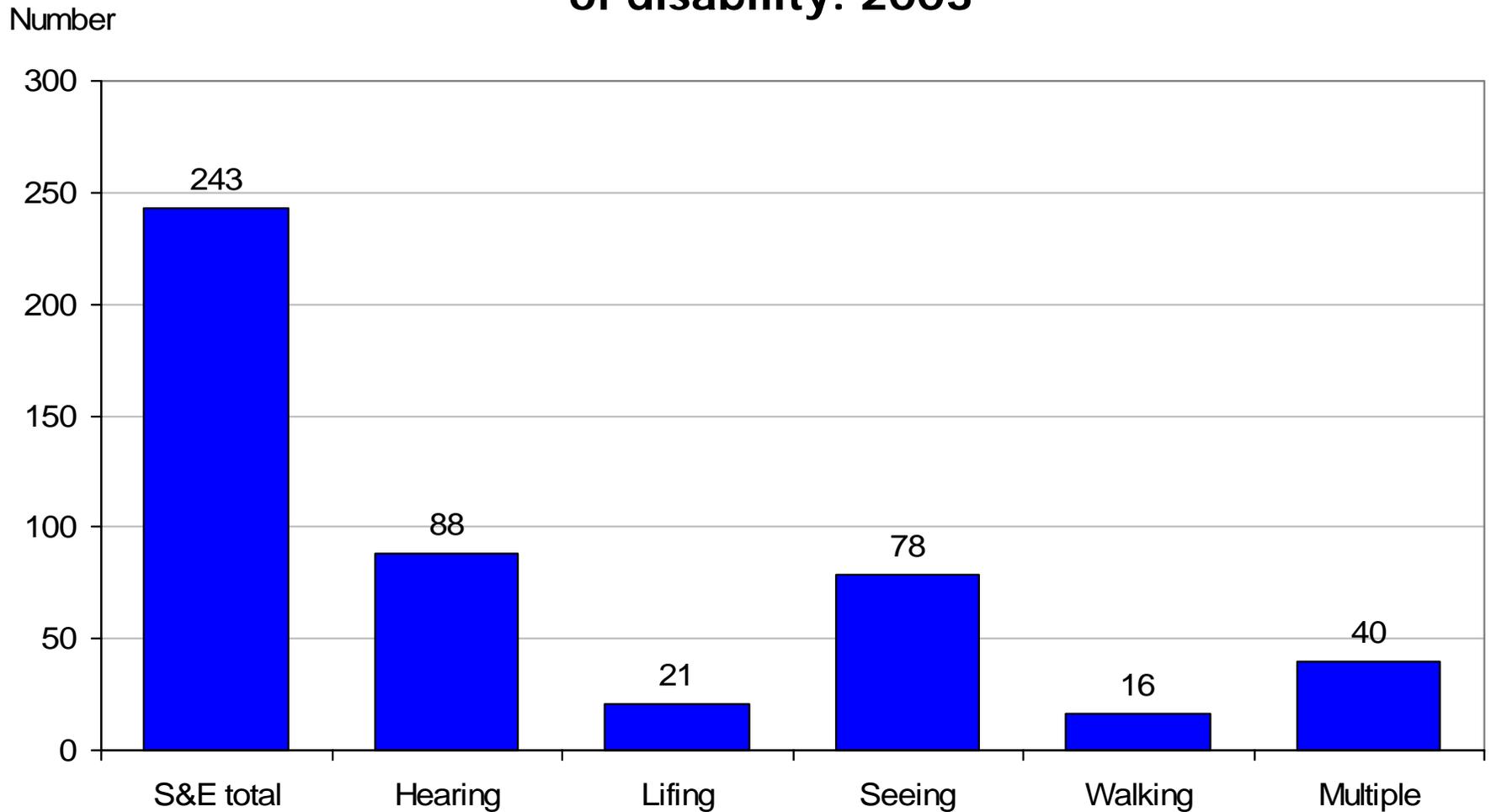


NOTE: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B provides federal assistance for education of children ages 3 through 21. Other disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, developmental delay, speech and language impairment, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, and other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

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, [www.ideadata.org](http://www.ideadata.org)



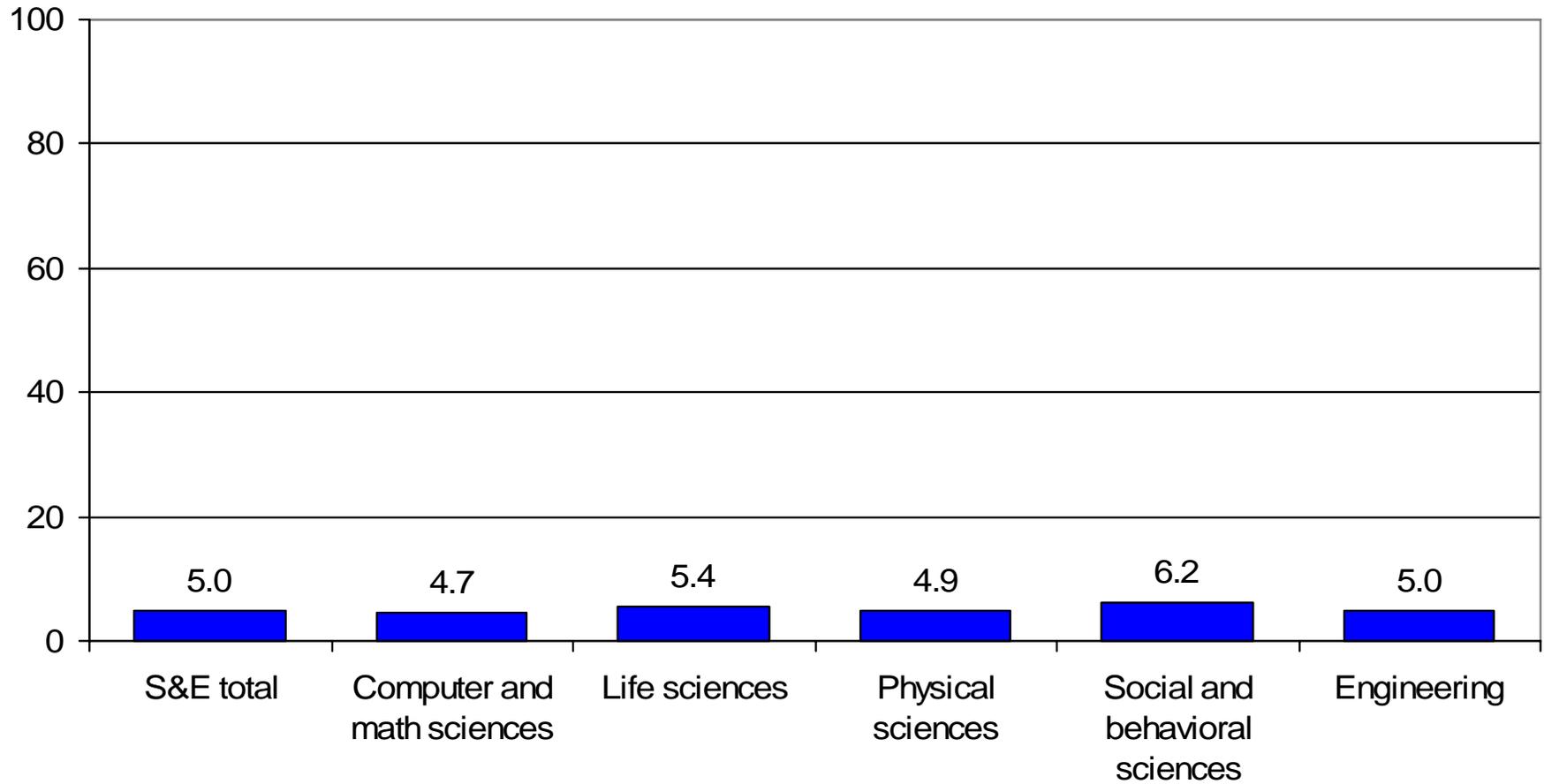
## Employed scientists and engineers with disabilities, by type of disability: 2003





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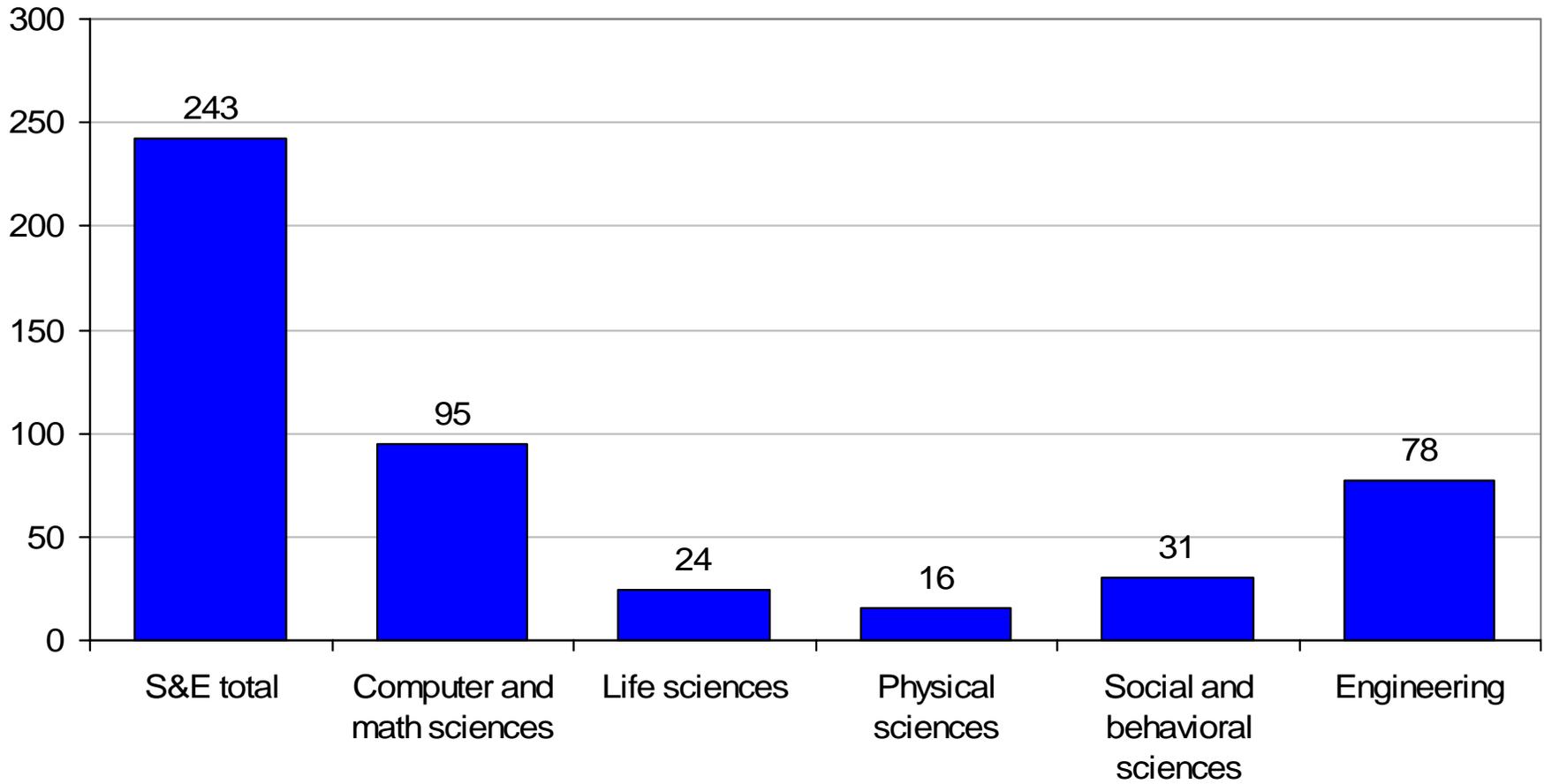
Percent





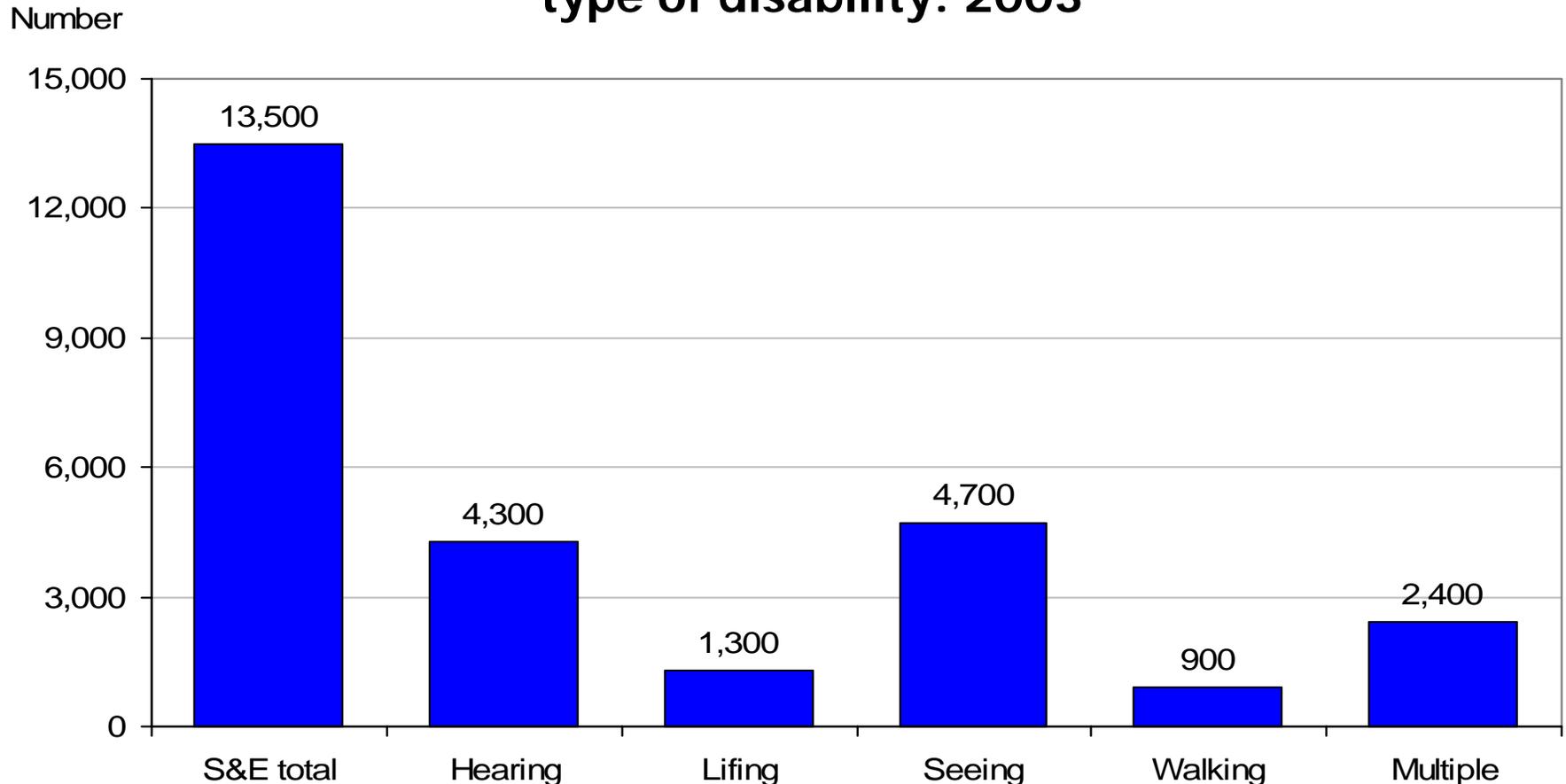
## Employed scientists and engineers with disabilities, by occupation: 2003

Number (in thousands)





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

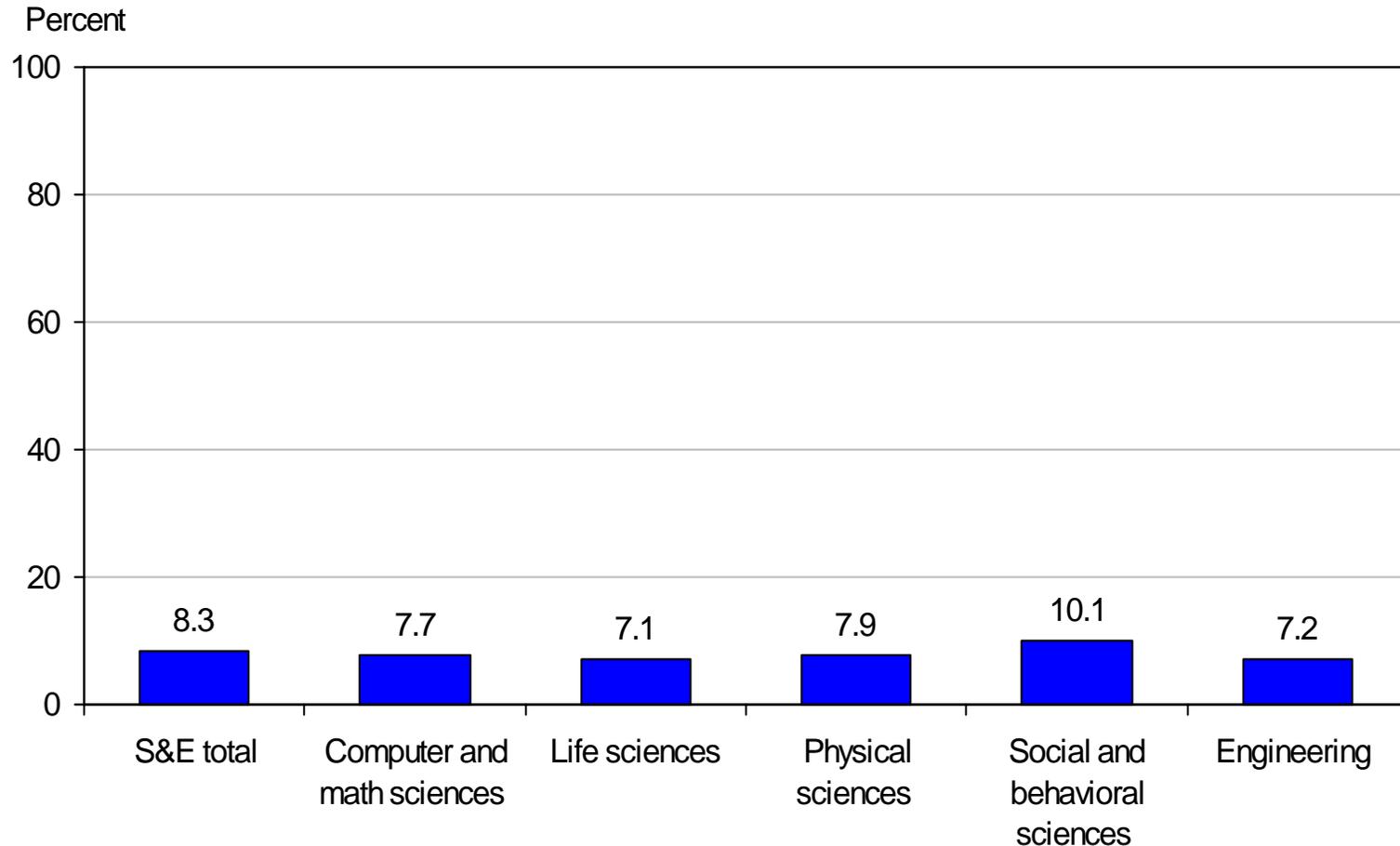


NOTE: Faculty include full, associate, and assistant professors.

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