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Information you Might Use

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Each year normative statistics are reported about American college freshmen through the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) which is administered by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. The survey of freshmen is usually administered in the fall and gathers data about students' personal backgrounds, high-school experiences, educational and career goals, and opinions. The survey is administered to a sample of college institutions across the United States and the responses are weighted to reflect the cohort of entering freshmen for a given year. In 1991 data from 210,740 freshmen attending 431 universities, four-year, and two-year colleges, was collected. In 1991 the survey asked respondents to indicate whether or not they had a disability, and if so, what type of a disability they had.

College Freshmen with Disabilities by Cathy Henderson profiles the 1991 freshmen who indicated that they had a disability on the CIRP survey. The results indicate that 8.8 percent of all freshmen students have a disability, and that .9 percent of all freshmen have a hearing impairment. The table below shows the percentage of freshmen reporting disabilities.

Percentage of College Freshmen Reporting Disabilities in 1991

Disability	Percent
Hearing	0.9
Speech	0.5
Orthopedic	1.2
Learning disability	2.2
Health-related	1.3
Partially sighted or blind	2.2
Other	1.6
Total	8.8

Source: Henderson, C. (1992) College Freshmen with Disabilities, Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.