

Inclusive Library Services

January 27, 2023

My role

- ABLE Library Director
- Library Consultant for Inclusive Services

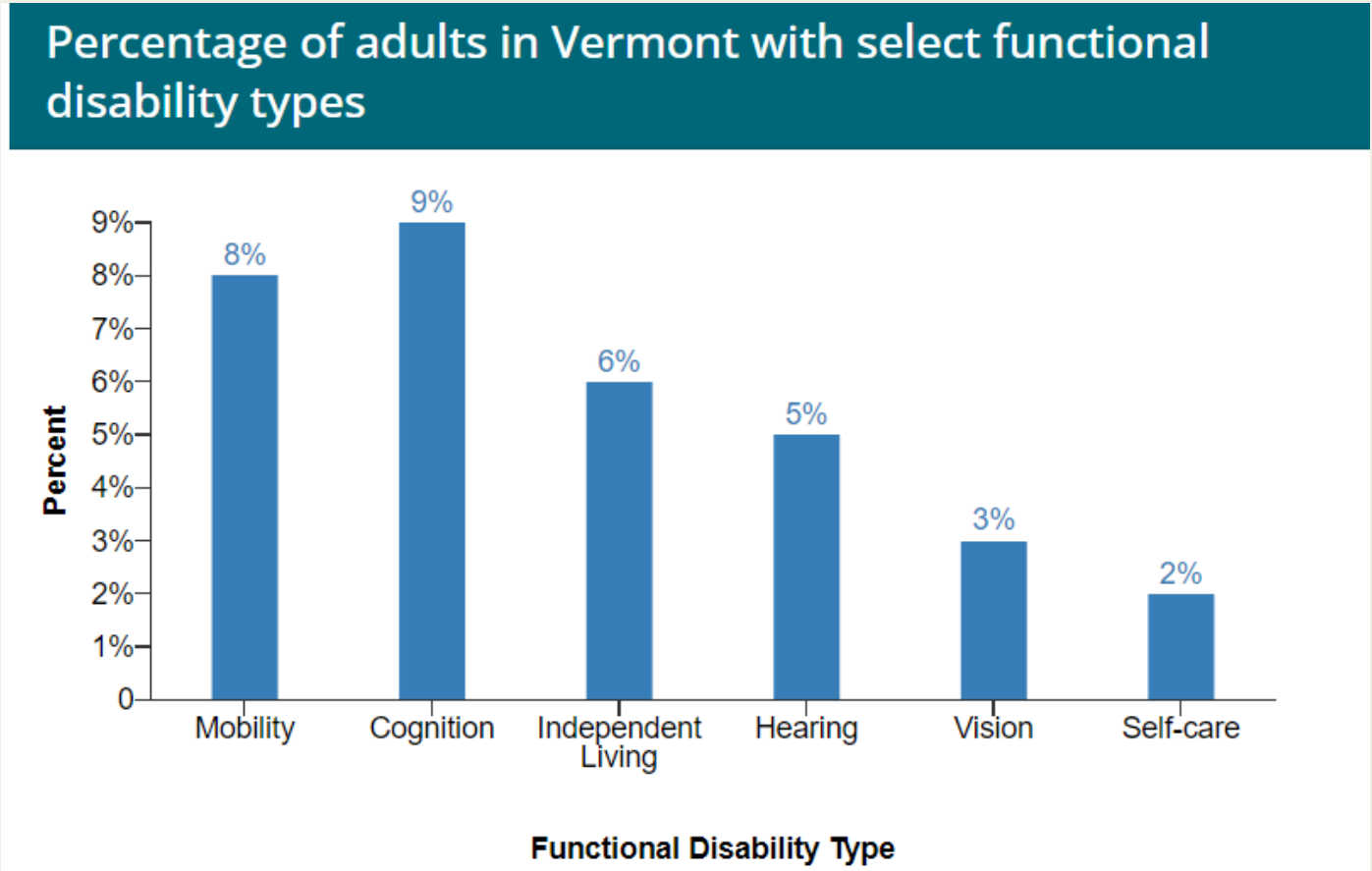
Today's Presentation

- What are inclusive services?
- Library services to people with disabilities
- Other traditionally underserved populations
 - Library services in correctional facilities and other state institutions
 - Services to new Americans
- Best practices in libraries

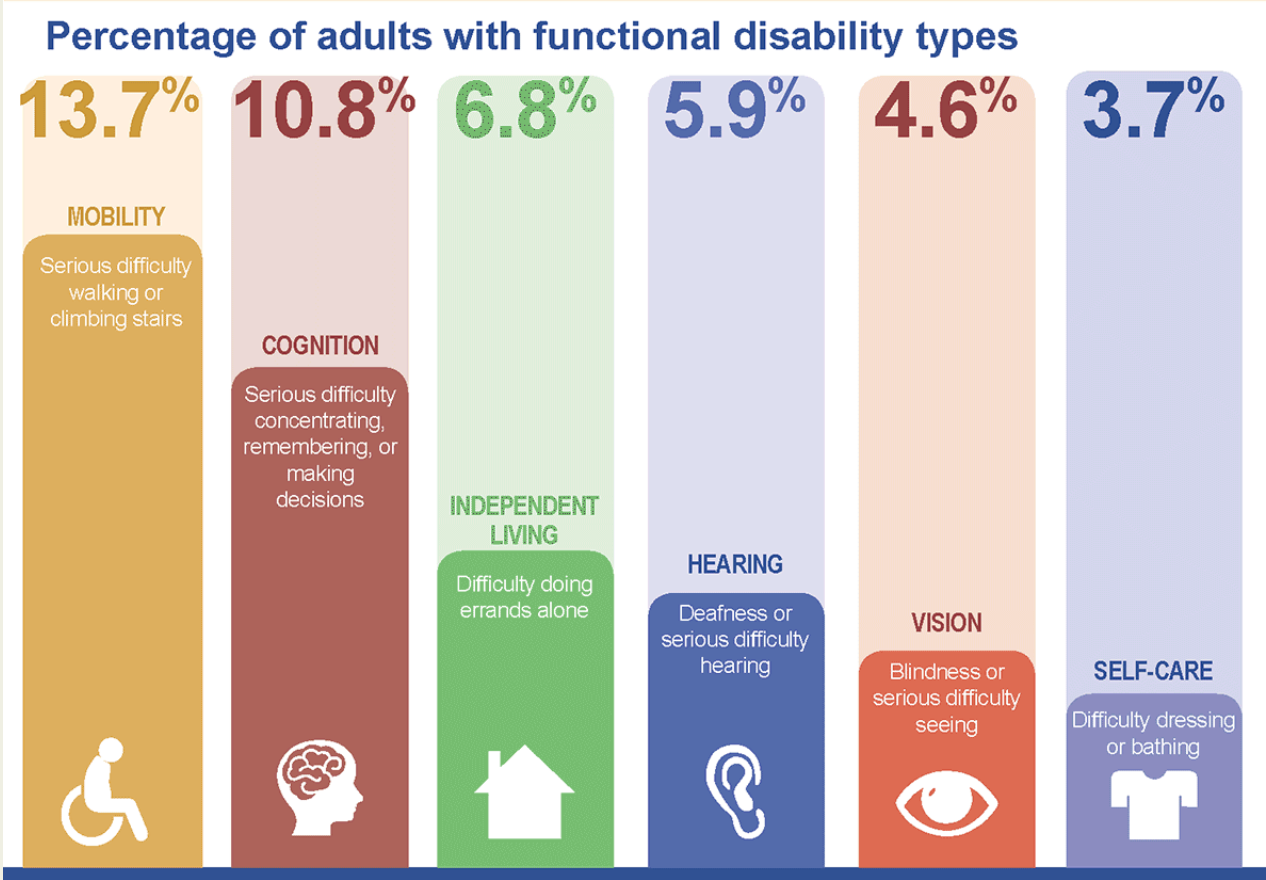
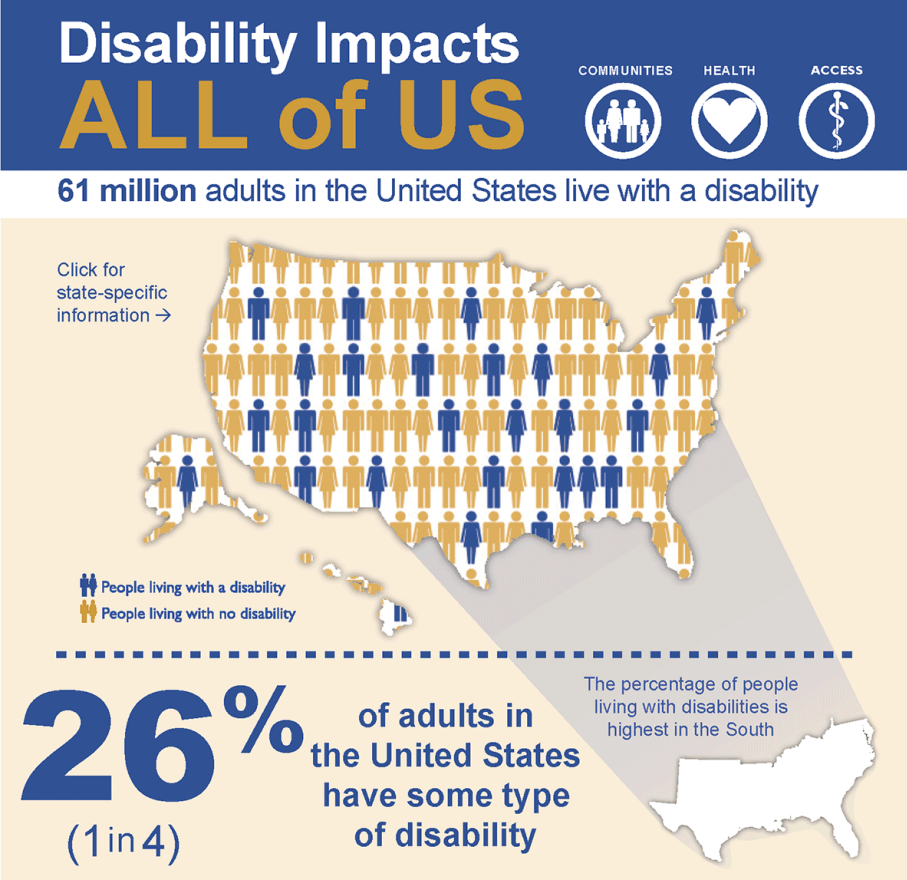
Inclusive Library Services

- Terminology
 - Inclusive services: Inclusive library services are holistic, spanning library policies, collections, space, and services. Inclusive services reflect equity and accessibility for all members of the community by intentionally developing and delivering services to individuals or groups for whom accessing and using the library is difficult, limited, or minimized.
 - Accessible services: Library services that are accessible to people with disabilities
- What data do we have?

VT Disability and Health State Profile (Adults)



National comparison



Children and young adults with disabilities

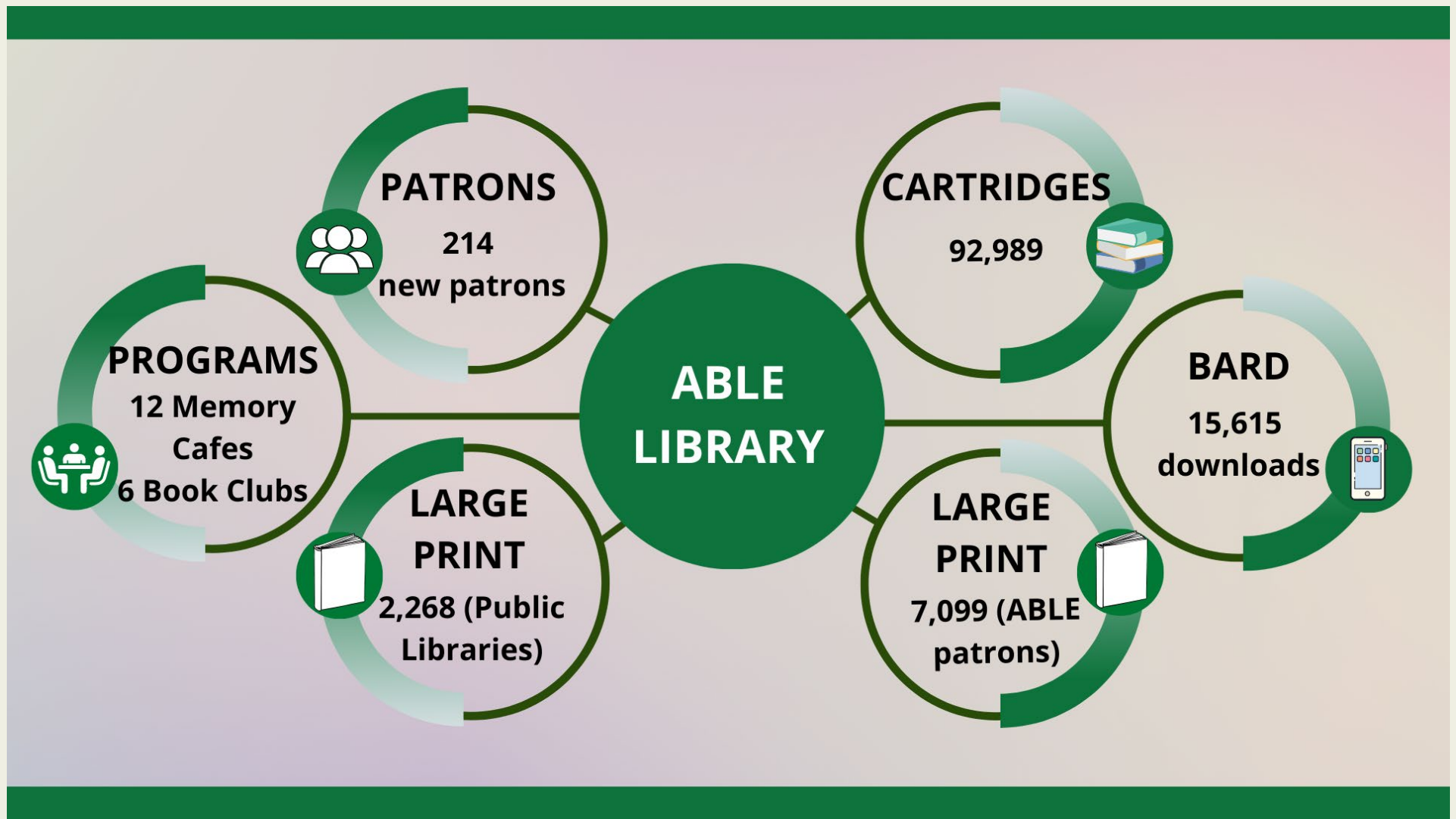
- 13,793 Vermont youth ages 5 through 21 have Individual Education Plans (17% of all students enrolled in public schools)
- Vermont's total public school enrollment was 80,692 students in school year 2021-2022.

National comparison

- 7.2 million people ages 3 through 21 have Individual Education Plans (15% of total public school enrollment).
- Total public school enrollment across the country was 49.4 million students in school year 2019-2020.

ABLE Library

- What is the ABLE Library
- National framework
- Our collections
- Eligibility
- Partnerships with libraries in VT



Centralized library services provided by other states

- ASL and TTY reference services and collections for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
- Books by mail for people with mobility disabilities.
- Collections and library services specific to people with cognitive disabilities and learning differences.
- Collections and library services specific to people with mental health disabilities.

Groups underserved by libraries

- People in poverty: 66,648 people (10.3%)
- Vermonters aged 65 and up: 133,295 people (20.6%)
- BIPOC: 53,059 people (8.2%)
- Veterans: 34,347 people (5.3%)
- LGBTQ+: 33,647 people (5.2%)
- New Americans: 28,471 people (4.4%) were born in other countries

National comparison

- People in poverty: 38,515,660 people (11.6%)
- People aged 65 and up: 55,781,301 people (16.8%)
- BIPOC: 62,753,964 people (18.9%)
- Veterans: 17,431,290 people (5.2%)
- LGBTQ+: 14,941,420 people (4.5%)
- New Americans: 45,156,291 people (13.6%) were born in other countries

Groups underserved by libraries (cont'd)

- Homeschoolers
- People with substance use disorders
- Members of religious minorities
- Homebound individuals
- People experiencing homelessness
- People living in rural areas
- Incarcerated individuals

Library services in state correctional facilities

- Outlined in VT Statutes (§605.6)
- Total incarcerated population (Jan. 20, 2023) – 1,351
- 6 correctional facilities
- 4,077 of books distributed between correctional facilities last year
- \$36,000 current annual allocation for library services

Library services in mental health facilities

- Outlined in VT Statutes (§605.6)
- Total number of beds: 32 beds (10 to be added)
- 2 mental health facilities
- Purchased 598 number of books last year
- \$3,000 current annual allocation for library services

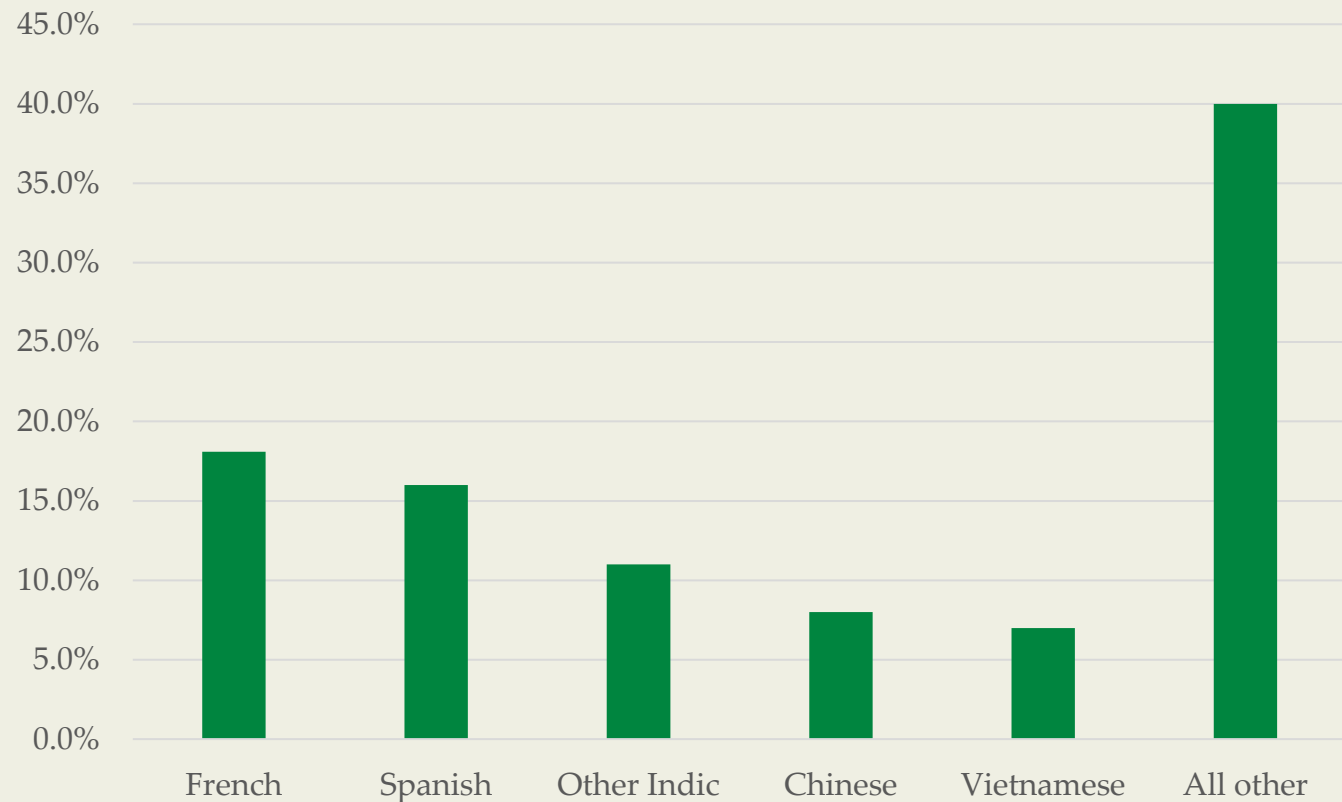
Services to New Americans

- Over 8,000 refugees in VT (estimate)
- 5.5% of Vermonters speak a language other than English
- Welcoming Library kits
- Translated “What is a public library” document
- Webpage with resources for libraries

Linguistic isolation in VT

- 8,541 people in VT speak English “less than very well” (1% of total population)
- 25,148,900 people in the US speak English “less than very well” (8% of the total population).

Percentage of languages spoken in VT



Language access needs in libraries

- Translation services
- Interpretation services
- Collections in other languages (and access to expertise in collection development in other languages)
- Library programs to support people with “limited English proficiency”

Examples of best practices in libraries

- ESL classes, citizenship classes, conversation classes
- Partnerships with food pantries
- Providing specific information for a group (ex. veterans)
- Offering programming and resources for a group (ex. home schoolers)
- Book delivery services (books by mail, bookmobile, etc.)
- Collection audits and development for diversity
- Outreach to different communities
- Focus groups to learn directly from the community about their needs

Inclusive services CE

- [The Americans with Disabilities Act: What Libraries Need to Know](#)
- [ABLE Library Overview & Updates](#)
- [HUD Resources for Libraries & Library Patrons](#)
- Inclusive Arts VT Accessibility in Libraries series
 - [Disability Awareness Overview](#)
 - [The Power of Language & Disability Etiquette](#)
 - [Accessibility Features & Meeting Accommodation Requests](#)
 - [Digital Programs & Events](#)
- [Librarians Connecting Patrons to Vermont 211 Resources](#)
- [Rural Literacy and Public Libraries](#)
- [Library Resources and Services for Veterans](#)

Data sources and resources

- [Definition from Wisconsin Library Inclusive Services Assessment Guide](#)
- [VT Disability and Health State Profile \(Adults\)](#)
- [US disability statistics \(CDC\)](#)
- [Agency of Education Special Education Report \(2020\)](#)
- [Agency of Education Dashboard – Enrollment](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics – Students with Disabilities](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics – Public School Enrollment](#)
- [US Census \(VT\)](#)
- [UCLA LGBT Data & Demographics \(VT\)](#)
- [US Census \(national\)](#)

Data sources and resources

- [UCLA LGBT Data & Demographics \(national\)](#)
- [VT DOC Population Data](#)
- [VPCH beds](#)
- [MTCR beds](#)
- [WCAX \(Future mental health facility\)](#)
- [USCRI VT \(number of refugees\)](#)
- [US Census \(Language spoken at home\)](#)
- [Limited English Proficiency \(VT\)](#)
- [US Census \(Detailed languages spoken at home\)](#)
- [ABLE Library](#)
- [VTLIB inclusive services](#)

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