

Chapter 31 Lesson 4

Disabilities

Physical & Mental Challenges

Disability

Disability – any physical or mental impairment that limits activities

Can effect seeing, hearing, walking, speaking

54 Million Americans Living with a Disability

Physical Challenges

Impairment – deterioration, destruction, damage to an ability

- **Sight Impairment**

- **Hearing Impairment**

- **Motor Impairment**

Sight/Visual Impairment

- **Moderate (impaired) to severe (blind)**
- **7 Million Americans Living with a Vision Impairment**

Causes: Injury, Infection, Cataracts, Complications of Diabetes, Glaucoma, Cancer, Macular degeneration

Hearing Impairment

- **Partial or total inability to hear**
- **Can be mild, moderate, or severe**
- **36 million Americans living with hearing loss**
- **Causes: Genetics, Maternal Infections, Ear/Brain Infection, Injury, Obstructions**

Motor Impairment

- **Affects movement and coordination**

Causes: injury to the brain, disorder of the nervous system, bodily injury

Treatment: physical therapy, leg braces, wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs

Mental Challenges

Can affect a persons ability to live independently

Impaired intellectual ability

Can cause difficulty with learning and socializing

Can be mild, moderate, severe, profound

Cause: heredity, complications during pregnancy, infection, injury

Eliminating Barriers

- **Americans with Disabilities Act – (1990) – a law prohibiting discrimination against people with physical or mental disabilities in the workplace, transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications**
 - Wheelchair access to all public organizations**
 - Evaluations based on merit**
 - Inclusion in mainstream society**