Double Jeopardy

Disability magnifies other social justice issues such as poverty, low literacy levels, and unemployment.
Disability as a social justice issue

Most people can learn to manage the effects of their disability on their mind and body. A much greater challenge is dealing with the social issues that accompany a disability; social stereotypes, prejudices, minority status and the realities of social inequality.
19.3% The percentage of Americans who are identified as having a disability
17.6%

The percentage of Americans with disabilities living below the poverty line compared to 10.6% for the rest of the population (US Census, 2000)
The percentage of children with disabilities living below the poverty line, compared to 15.7 percent of children without disabilities (US Census, 2000)
86 cents on the dollar

The average earnings of a person with a mild disability compared to a non-disabled person
56 cents on the dollar

The average earnings of a person with a severe disability compared to a non-disabled person
20.2 %

The proportion of African-American children in special education, even though they are only 14.8% of the general population
80%

The percentage of Americans with disabilities who have reading difficulties
Lower, earlier, better, more

Compared to boys with disabilities, girls with disabilities score lower on IQ tests, have their disabilities reported earlier, do better than boys in special education services, and are more likely to be unemployed after graduation.