As Landmark Disability Laws Reach Milestones, Experts Reflect on Impact

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the American Disabilities Act and the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. AIR experts—including some who have been following the acts since their passage—commemorate the milestones in an essay. They offer a split picture: While the roughly 56.7 million Americans living with disabilities have made great strides, they still have lower educational attainment and higher unemployment rates. The researchers also described those effects on the livelihood of people with disabilities.

Cash Transfers Offer Security, ‘Resilience’ for Zambia’s Poor, Study Finds

The latest AIR study in a series evaluating a cash-transfer program in Zambia finds that after three years, the initiative continues to reduce poverty and increase economic security, but does little to improve young children’s nutrition and health. “There may be a limit to what demand-side intervention can accomplish for children in a situation with a low supply of services,” the report concludes. The findings come as Zambia is expanding the reach of cash transfer programs.

Latest Indicators of School Crime and Safety Includes College Hate Crime Data

This year’s Indicators of School Crime and Safety features a new section on college hate crimes, which shows that the most common types reported by institutions were destruction, damage and vandalism, followed by intimidation and simple assault. The annual federal report also covers K-12 data and other topics, including gun access, teacher victimization and bullying. AIR has co-written Indicators, which the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics publish, since 1999.

Report Explores U.S. High School Dropout and Completion Trends

Dropout rates among high school students have
trended downward, from 6.1 percent in 1972 to 3.4 percent in 2012, according to new analyses by AIR and the National Center on Education Statistics. Black and Hispanic students had higher dropout rates than their white peers (6.8 percent, 5.4 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively). The report also shows about 91 percent of 18- to 24-year olds not enrolled in high school received a high school diploma or alternative credential.

**Rural Students in Indiana Likelier to Enroll in 2-Year Colleges Than Urban Peers**

Despite having similar college enrollment rates, academic preparation and qualifications, rural high school graduates in Indiana were more likely than their urban peers to enroll in two-year colleges. About a third of rural graduates and a quarter of their non-rural peers enrolled in colleges that were less selective than the students were presumably qualified for. Find these and other findings in a new report published by the Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest at AIR.