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Bureau of
Statistics

DISABILITY, AGEING & CARERS

Disability & Disabling Conditions

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**DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS, AUSTRALIA
DISABILITY AND DISABLING CONDITIONS
1993**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication, and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Elisabeth Davis on (06) 252 7430.*
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INTRODUCTION

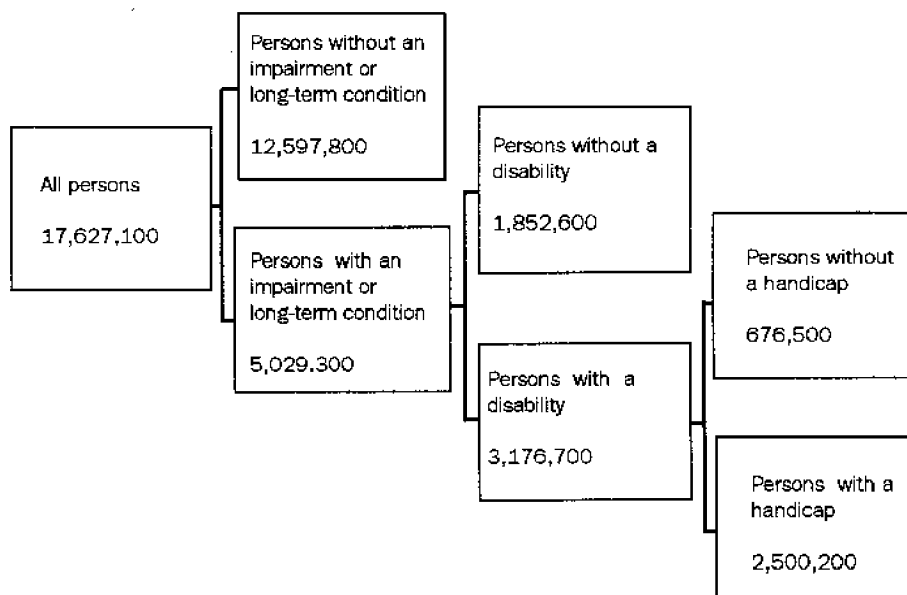
It is accepted in our society that people with disabilities may need assistance from others to participate in the various aspects of community life. Information on the numbers of people with disabilities and their support needs assists government and non-government agencies to plan appropriate types and numbers of services.

An individual may have an impairment, a disability and a handicap. Impairment involves damage to, or poor functioning in, any part of the body or mind, such as loss of sight or a limb. Impairment may result from genetic or birth circumstances, disease or injury. Impairments may be categorised as physical, sensory, psychological (or psychiatric) or intellectual types (see Impairment type in the Glossary). These categories are specifically identified in the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement 1991.

Having an impairment can, but does not necessarily, lead to a disability. A disability occurs when the impairment restricts people from performing their usual activities. For example, incomplete use of arms may make it difficult to get dressed.

A disability may lead to a handicap and this happens when, as a result of their disability, people are limited in performing certain tasks. As a result they have difficulty performing one or more activities of daily living such as eating, showering, dressing, moving around and/or communicating. They may take longer to perform these activities, or require assistance from an aid or help from another person.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONDITIONS, IMPAIRMENT, DISABILITY AND HANDICAP, 1993



A classification of broad impairment types has been developed from the 1993 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. These are:

- physical impairment (involving loss of, or damage to, internal or external parts of the body). This includes incomplete use of limbs, difficulty walking, bending, carrying/gripping or holding things;
- sensory impairment (loss of sight which is not corrected by glasses, or loss of hearing);
- psychological impairment including nervous and emotional conditions (for which people are receiving treatment), blackouts, fits, or mental illnesses which require supervision; and
- intellectual impairments including slowness at learning or understanding things.

People with disabilities can have one or more impairments and there can be many different combinations of impairment types. For example, a person may have two impairments — sight loss and hearing loss. Both of these are categorised to the sensory impairment type. Another person may be receiving treatment for a nervous condition, and also have difficulty gripping or holding things. This person also has two impairments, but they are categorised to two different impairment types, psychological and physical. To assist discussion of characteristics of people with impairments, groups were constructed so that each person with a disability fitted into one group only (see Explanatory Notes, p. 38). Each group reflected a particular impairment type or combination of impairment types (see table 3).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DISABILITY

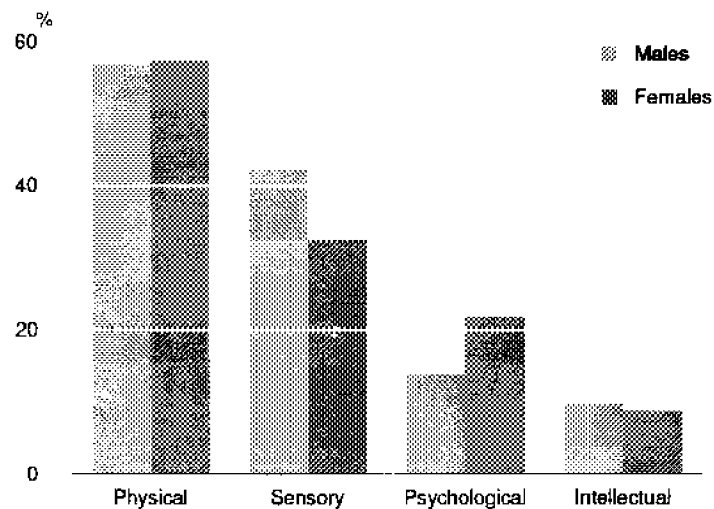
In 1993, there were just over 5 million people, or 29% of the Australian population, who had one or more impairments or long-term health conditions. Many of these people were not restricted by their condition but almost 3.2 million people had one or more disabilities (18%) as a result of their condition. There were 2.5 million people with a handicap (14%) as a result of their disability.

The most common difficulties experienced by people with a disability included restrictions in physical activities or work, hearing loss and restricted use of feet or legs. The most common type of handicap involved mobility limitations (73%) (tables 1, 6, 7).

Impairment type

Over half of all people with a disability had a physical impairment, either alone (30%) or in combination with other impairments (27%). More than one-third (37%) had a sensory impairment, around half of these (18%) having a sensory impairment only. Other types of impairment were less common, 18% with psychological and 9% with intellectual impairment.

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IMPAIRMENT TYPES



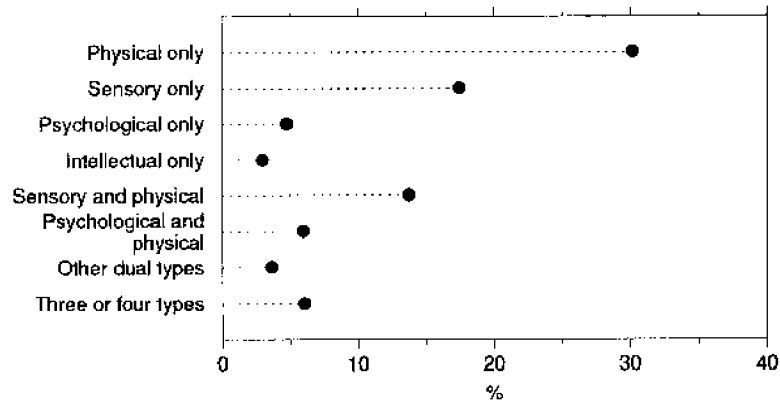
The likelihood of having one or more impairments that restrict activity increases with age. A smaller proportion of people aged 0–59 years (12%) had a disability compared with those aged 60 years and over (51%). Younger people with disabilities are more likely to have physical or intellectual impairments while older people are most likely to have physical or sensory impairments that restrict activities.

Men (8% of all men) are more likely than women (6% of all women) to develop sensory impairments, particularly hearing loss. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of men aged 25–59 years with a disability had a sensory impairment only compared with 13% of women with a disability in this age group (table 3).

Impairment groups

Around half (48%) of people with a disability were in the groups which have a physical or sensory impairment type only. Around 30% were in groups with a combination of impairment types (table 3).

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: PROPORTION BY IMPAIRMENT GROUPS

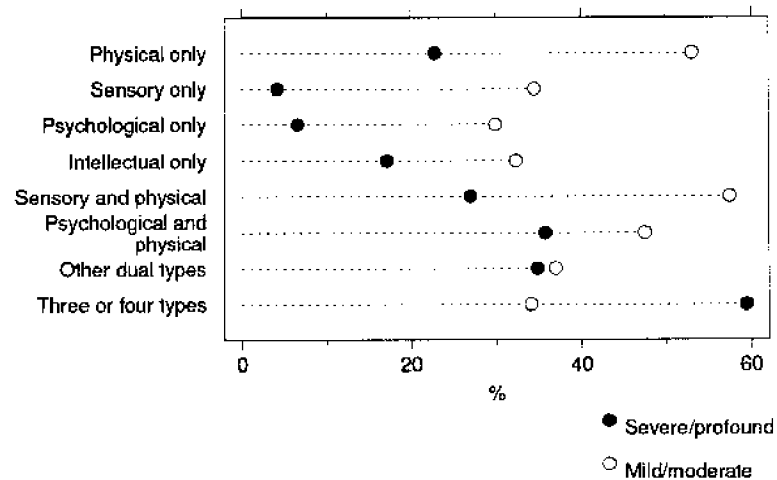


Severity of handicap

People are classified as having a handicap when their impairment, and consequent disability, makes it difficult or impossible, without assistance, to perform everyday activities such as dressing, showering, eating, walking, talking or going to school or work. Almost all people in the group with three or four impairment types had a handicap, as did over 90% of those in groups with two impairment types, or with intellectual impairment only. Sensory impairment (mainly hearing loss) by itself was least likely to give rise to a handicap (47%).

The level of handicap is classified as mild, moderate, severe or profound, based on the amount of support required. People with a mild handicap are usually able to manage their daily activities using an aid, without difficulty, whereas those with a profound handicap always need help from others. People in groups with combinations of impairment types were much more likely to rely on others sometimes (severe level of handicap), or always (profound level of handicap), for their personal care, for moving around, or for communicating with others. Almost 60% of those in the group with three or four impairment types had a severe or profound level of handicap.

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IMPAIRMENT GROUPS BY SEVERITY OF HANDICAP



People with physical impairments only were more likely to have a mild handicap (34%), having no difficulty if they used aids; or moderate handicap (19%), not needing assistance from others but having difficulty even when using aids. A smaller proportion of those with a physical impairment only had a profound (9%) or severe (14%) handicap. However the number of people involved, 213,800, is a significant proportion of all people with a severe or profound handicap.

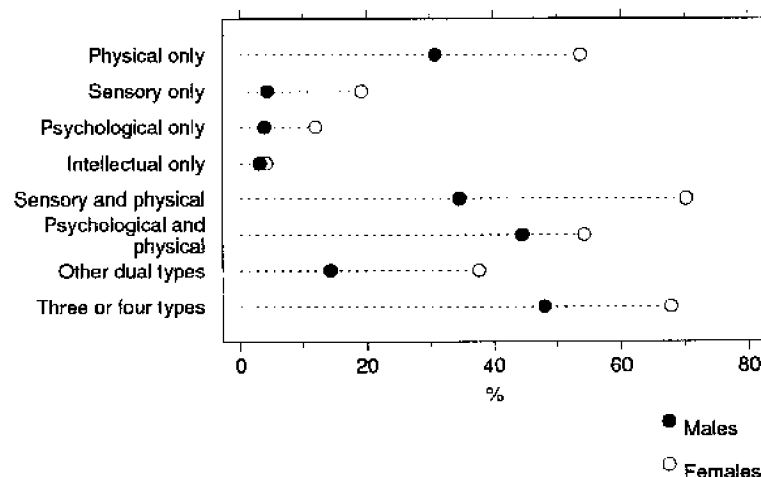
Intellectual impairment in combination with other impairments produced high levels of support needs or difficulty in the areas of self-care, mobility and communication, as well as in studying or working. Where a person had an intellectual impairment only, it was more likely to result in mobility and schooling difficulties (table 7).

The number and combination of impairment types influence the level of handicap and consequent support needs. More than half of the people with a profound handicap were in groups which had some combination of impairment types (table 6). Correspondingly, 74% of those with mild handicap had a single impairment type or other condition. However, having a physical impairment only can also result in high support needs. People with a physical impairment only were the largest single group among people with profound (29%) or severe (42%) handicap.

Assistance required

Women with disabilities are more likely to need some form of assistance than men with disabilities, across most impairment groups. More than half of all women with disabilities, who lived in households, needed help (60%) compared with 39% of men. Home maintenance was the most common form of assistance required by both women (42%) and men (22%).

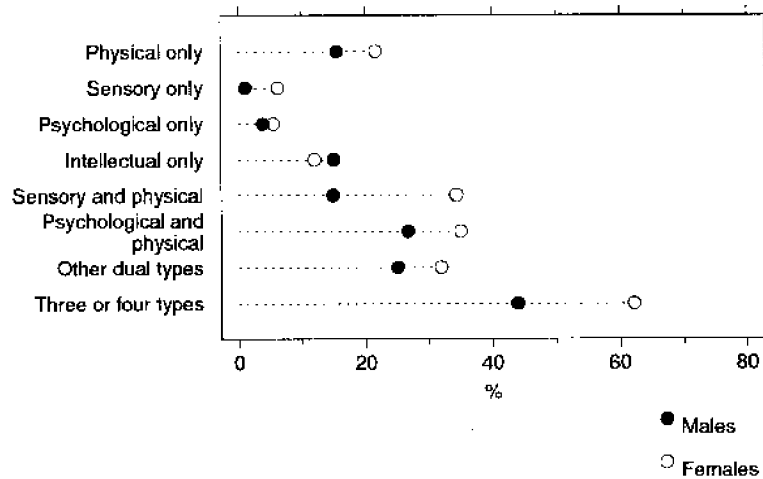
PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: NEED FOR HELP WITH HOME MAINTENANCE



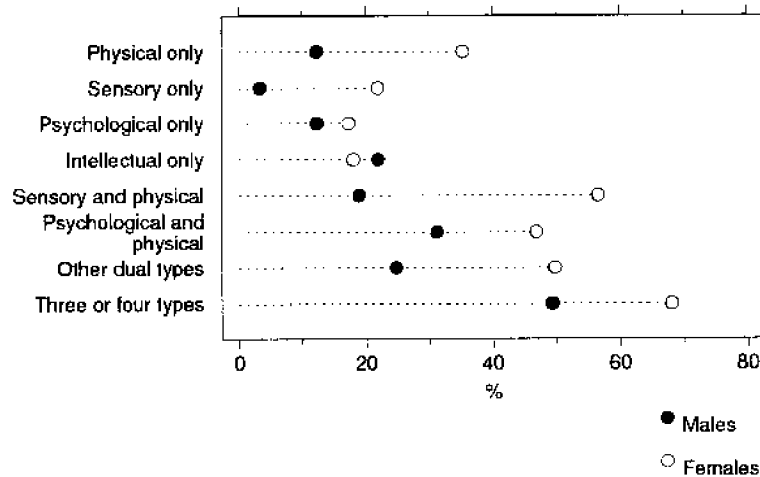
Difficulty moving around becomes increasingly common as people grow older. One-third of all people aged 60 years and over had a mobility handicap (tables 7 and 24), and many required some form of assistance because of this. In addition, over 200,000 men (14%) and nearly half a million women (34%) needed help with transport (table 11).

Two-thirds of the people in impairment groups with two, three or four types of impairment needed some kind of assistance. People in groups with only one impairment type were less likely to need help, but that varied according to the type of impairment. For example, one-fifth of people with hearing or vision loss only needed assistance (21%) compared with nearly half those who had a physical (58%) or intellectual (41%) impairment only (table 10).

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: NEED FOR HELP WITH MOVING AROUND



PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: NEED FOR HELP WITH TRANSPORT

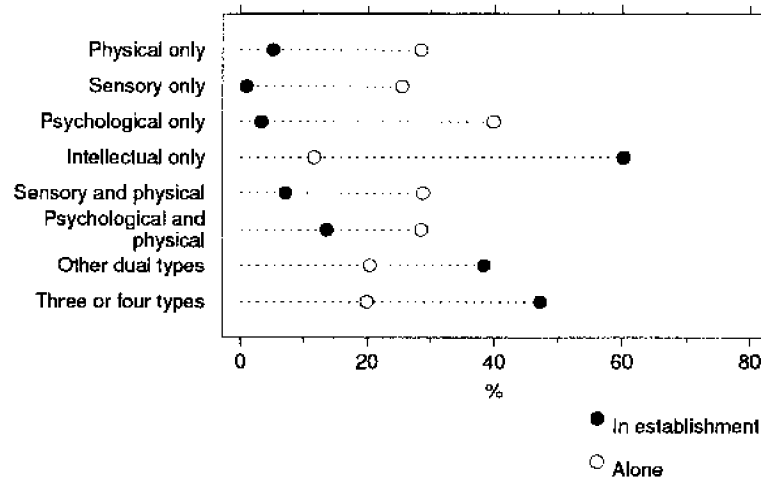


Public transport Nearly one-third of women with disabilities who lived in households had difficulties using public transport (30%) compared with one-fifth of men (table 12). People with physical impairments were most likely to have problems using public transport, particularly if they had other impairments as well. Almost one-third of those in the group with three or four types of impairment, and around a quarter of those with both physical and one other type of impairment, experienced difficulty getting into vehicles and/or carriages (table 13).

Living arrangements

People's living arrangements vary depending on the number and type of impairments they have. People in the group with three or four impairment types are less likely to live alone once they are over 60 (20%) compared with those who have fewer impairment types, and are more likely than others to live in a health establishment, particularly as they grow older. The number of people with intellectual impairments only in this age group is too small to provide reliable information (table 5).

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY AGED 60 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY IMPAIRMENT GROUP



DISABLING CONDITIONS

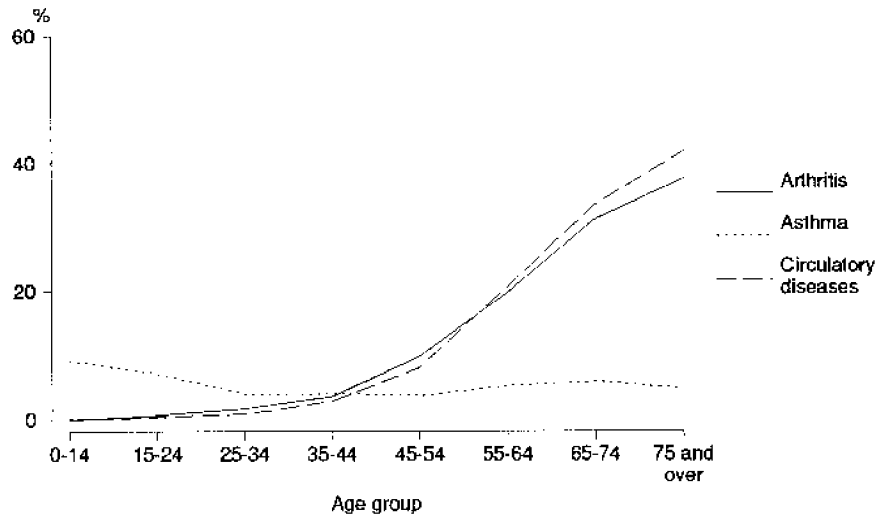
People may have a variety of diseases or health conditions during their lives. For some people, a condition produces a disability which makes it difficult for them to carry out certain activities. Some conditions, such as arthritis, may not result in a disability immediately, but may do so later as the effects worsen with age. The number of people with this type of condition can be a useful indicator of the number of people who may develop a disability. Other conditions, like asthma, are less likely to cause a disability and are therefore less likely to restrict people's lifestyles.

All disabling conditions

In 1993, about 5 million people had a long-term health condition. A number of these were quite prevalent in the community — three conditions accounted for nearly two-thirds of those with a long-term condition, arthritis (27%), circulatory diseases (27%) and asthma (21%). Asthma is more common among children under 15 years (9%), its prevalence declining to around 4% for those aged 25–54, and rising a little in older age groups. Arthritis and circulatory disease are much more likely to occur in mid to later life. The prevalence of both these diseases increases rapidly, and with a very similar pattern, from 45 years onward.

Almost two-thirds of those with a long-term condition had a disability (63%), just under 3.2 million people. Over half of these had arthritis, asthma or circulatory diseases either on their own or combined with other conditions (54%). Similar proportions of the 2.5 million people with a handicap, also, had arthritis, asthma and/or circulatory diseases (59%), which may have contributed to their difficulty or requirement for support.

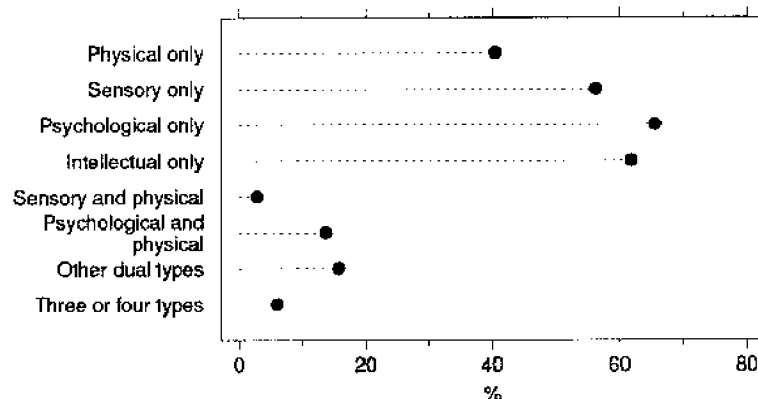
ALL PERSONS: PREVALENCE OF SELECTED CONDITIONS



Number of conditions

Generally, the more conditions a person has, the more likely they are to have more than one type of impairment. It is possible for one condition to produce several types of impairment. Diabetes, for example, can produce physical, sensory and/or psychological impairments. There are around 69,000 people who have combinations of impairment types arising from a single condition, 2% of all people with disabilities. It is much more common, however, for one or two conditions to be associated with one impairment type. The majority of people with a single impairment type (80%) had no more than two conditions, and many had only one. More than half of those in the sensory only (56%) or psychological only (66%) impairment had one condition. In contrast, almost half of those in the group with three or four types of impairment had five or more conditions (46%) (table 20).

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: PROPORTION WITH ONE CONDITION ONLY

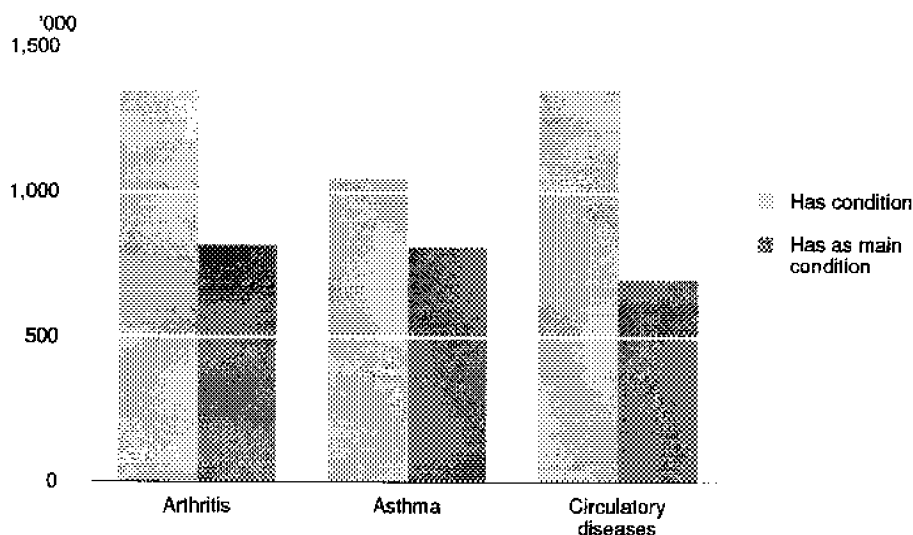


Main conditions

People can be affected by more than one condition and this is more likely to be the case as they grow older. For those with one condition, it is considered to be their main disabling condition. If they have more than one condition, the one they report as causing them the most problems is said to be the main disabling condition (see table 19 for the relationship between impairment group and main disabling condition).

When people were asked what condition caused them the most problems almost half identified one of the following: arthritis (16%), asthma (16%) or circulatory diseases (14%). Of these conditions more women had arthritis than asthma or circulatory diseases and more men had asthma (table 21).

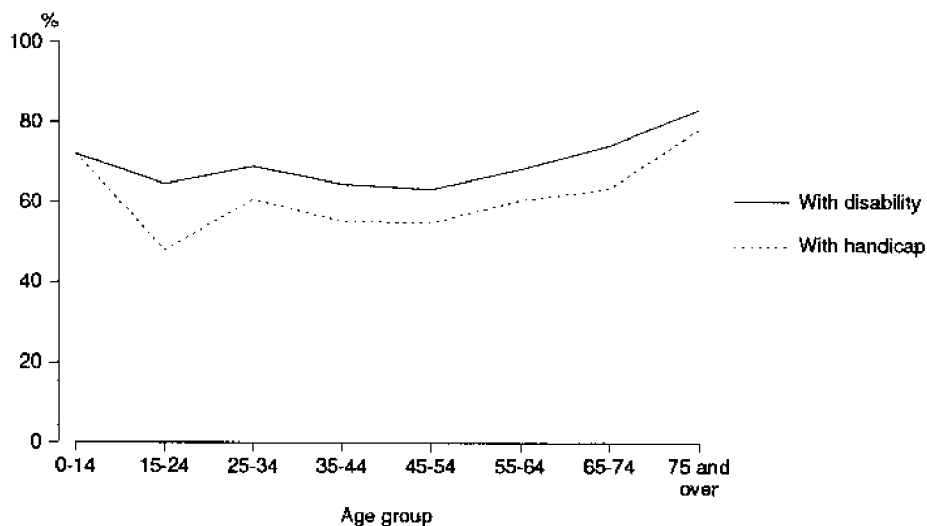
ALL PERSONS: NUMBER WITH SELECTED CONDITIONS



Arthritis In 1993, over 800,000 women had arthritis and more than half a million nominated it as their main condition, compared with 285,000 men. Arthritis was more common in the older age groups for both men and women. Of all people aged 60 years and over 22% of women and 13% of men gave arthritis as their main condition.

It is common for people with arthritis to experience restrictions or limitations (i.e. a disability). More than half of the men (67%) and women (59%) who had arthritis as their main disabling condition had a disability (table 21). This was particularly common amongst those aged 70 years and over (79% for men and 71% for women).

PERSONS WITH ARTHRITIS: DISABILITY STATUS BY AGE

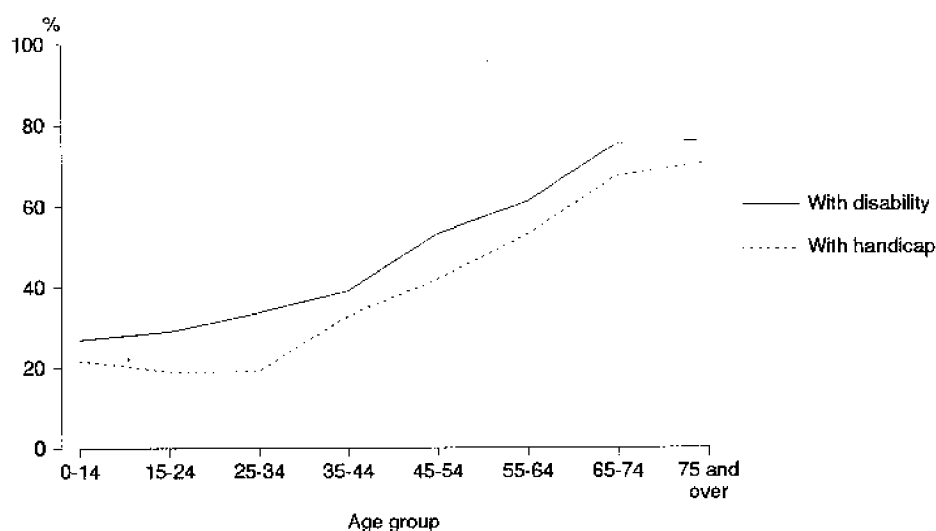


The majority of those with a disability also had a handicap (87%) (table 21), and this rate did not vary much by age. Two-thirds of people with a handicap needed to use an aid or had difficulty performing a task such as showering, dressing, walking, or talking to others.

Although a greater proportion of men with arthritis had a disability, women were more likely to be handicapped by their disability and to experience more severe levels of handicap than men (table 21). Women aged 75 years or more with a handicap, who had arthritis, were particularly likely to need assistance from others. More than one-third of this group always needed help or supervision with one or more activities such as getting out of bed, bathing, cutting up food or eating, (30,000 or 35%) compared with 13% of men in this group who needed such assistance.

Asthma In 1993, just over one million people had asthma. Around 800,000 gave it as their main condition. Asthma is more common in the younger age groups with 9% of boys and 7% of girls aged 0–14 years having it as their main condition compared with 3% of men and women aged 60 years and over.

PERSONS WITH ASTHMA: DISABILITY STATUS BY AGE



Asthma is one of the most common childhood conditions but for the majority of people, particularly young people, it is not usually restricting. Of those aged 0–24 years, with asthma as their main disabling condition, close to 400,000 (80%) did not have a disability.

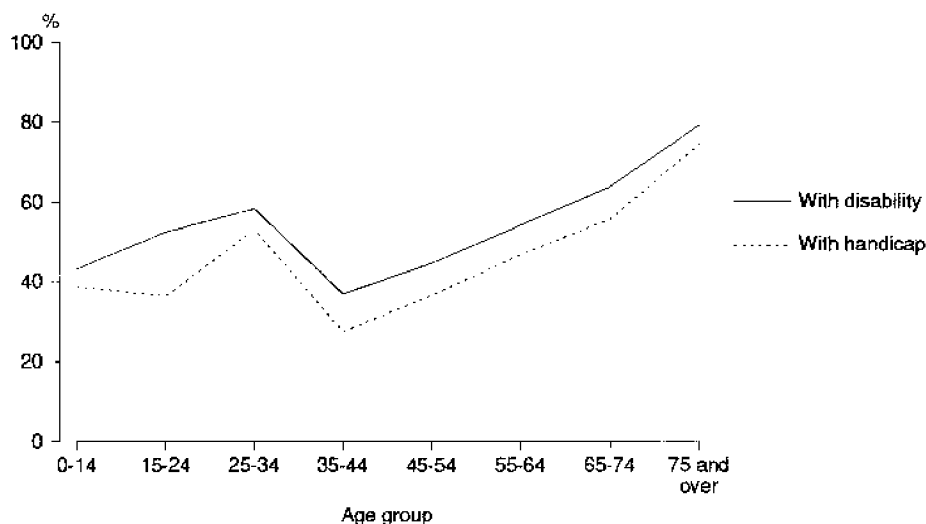
Two-thirds of those with a disability also had a handicap (147,000), but more than half of these (55%) did not need help from others to perform daily tasks. They could manage these tasks using an aid, but may have had some difficulty (table 21).

Circulatory diseases Around 1.3 million people had circulatory diseases, such as high blood pressure or angina. Similar proportions of men and women gave a circulatory disease as their main condition (both around 350,000 or 4% of all men and women). Circulatory diseases were more common in the older age groups with 17% of men and 15% of women aged 60 years and over having it as their main condition.

Less than half of those with a circulatory disease as their main condition were restricted by it (40%), although it was more likely for men to have a disability (44%) than women (35%). Men with circulatory diseases were also more likely to have heart disease (43% of those with a circulatory disease) than women (29%).

Although the majority of those with a disability also had a handicap, less than 10% overall had a severe or profound handicap and needed any help or supervision in their daily activities (table 21).

PERSONS WITH CIRCULATORY DISEASES: DISABILITY STATUS BY AGE



One or more conditions

Patterns of disability and handicap varied depending on whether people had one condition only or two or more conditions. These patterns were similar for both men and women and for any of the selected conditions. The majority of people, with asthma or circulatory diseases as their only disabling condition, did not have a disability (83% and 85%, respectively) and this was also the case for more than half of those with arthritis (61%).

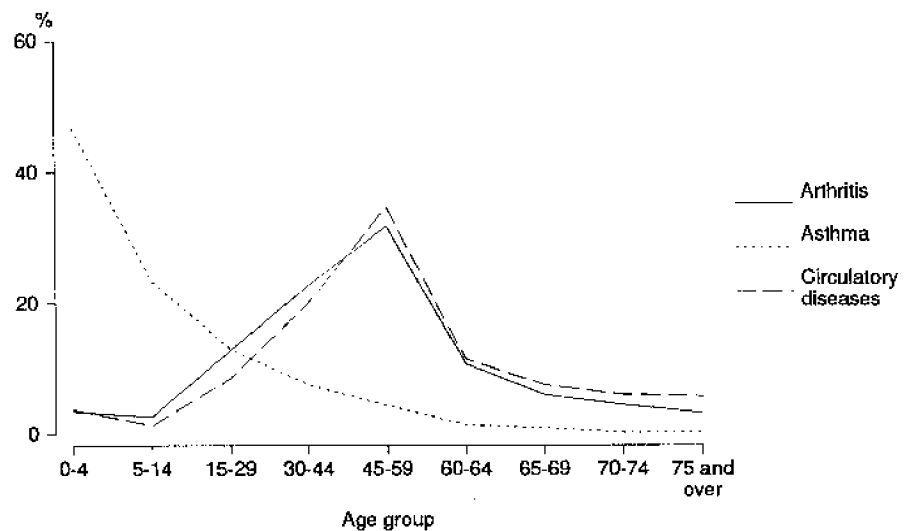
In contrast, those who had two or more conditions were more likely to experience restrictions because of these conditions. Of this group, people with arthritis were more likely to have a disability than those with asthma or circulatory diseases (81% compared with 72% and 73%).

People with arthritis or circulatory diseases as their main condition were more likely to need assistance if they also had other conditions. More than one-fifth of those with arthritis (21%) and 17% with circulatory diseases, who had other conditions as well, sometimes or always needed help with one or more daily activities compared with those who had either arthritis or circulatory diseases only (6% and 2%, respectively).

This suggests that by themselves these conditions are less likely to restrict activities, and it is the combination of conditions, or the other conditions that people develop, that increase their difficulties. With arthritis or circulatory diseases, however, the resulting restrictions usually become more severe with age, and increasingly restrictive, at the same time as eyesight or hearing begin to fail and other conditions develop (table 22).

Age of onset Arthritis and circulatory diseases are more likely to develop in the middle years with two-thirds of these conditions starting when people were aged between 30 and 64 years. In comparison, nearly half of all asthma sufferers were aged between 0 and 4 years when their condition first became evident (49%), and 70% were aged between 0 and 14 years.

AGE OF ONSET OF MAIN CONDITION



Children aged 0-4 years The majority of children aged 0-4 years are healthy and many of those who have a condition are not restricted by it, and can lead normal lives. In 1993, there were about 125,500 children (10%) aged 0-4 years who had a condition which had the potential to lead to a disability. Most of these children had a physical condition (97%) and more than half were not restricted by it (56%).

Respiratory diseases were the most common condition (59%) among young children, and most of them had asthma (98%). Less than one-fifth of the children with asthma were restricted by the condition (19%). In contrast, most of the children who had ear or eye disorders, nervous system diseases or congenital anomalies were restricted by their condition, that is, had disabilities (table 28).

Boys (58%) were more likely to have a condition than girls (42%), with some conditions more common to one sex. More boys had asthma (63%) than girls (52%) whereas greater proportions of girls had eye, ear and associated disorders, and congenital anomalies, than was the case for boys.

1

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: AGE GROUP BY IMPAIRMENTS AND CONDITIONS

<i>Impairments and conditions¹</i>	<i>0-24 years</i>	<i>25-59 years</i>	<i>60 years and over</i>	<i>All ages</i>
	%	%	%	%
MALES				
Loss of sight	5.3	6.9	10.6	8.2
Loss of hearing	14.8	33.5	49.0	36.8
Speech problems	22.4	4.5	4.9	7.6
Fits or loss of consciousness	6.9	4.9	4.9	5.2
Slow at learning or understanding	32.2	6.2	4.9	9.9
Restricted in physical activity or work	18.7	43.6	48.0	41.3
Restricted use of feet or legs	5.7	13.1	20.8	15.1
Restricted use of arms or fingers	5.2	10.5	12.0	10.2
Difficulty gripping or holding things	5.5	8.1	11.7	9.2
Disfigurement or deformity	6.4	6.0	4.6	5.5
Treatment for nerves or an emotional condition	3.9	10.2	7.9	8.3
Mental illness	5.2	2.7	2.9	3.2
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	7.7	8.0	9.5	8.6
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s) ²	26.4	33.1	42.8	36.0
Other long-term restricting condition(s) ²	10.7	16.3	21.1	17.4
Total males ('000)	266.0	685.8	667.6	1 619.3
FEMALES				
Loss of sight	4.8	3.3	15.7	9.4
Loss of hearing	15.6	19.1	34.5	25.9
Speech problems	13.1	3.1	4.9	5.3
Fits or loss of consciousness	13.2	5.3	7.0	7.2
Slow at learning or understanding	23.3	5.3	7.7	8.8
Restricted in physical activity or work	23.0	36.2	46.4	39.3
Restricted use of feet or legs	4.8	10.0	27.6	17.6
Restricted use of arms or fingers	5.4	8.6	17.2	12.3
Difficulty gripping or holding things	6.0	14.5	19.3	15.7
Disfigurement or deformity	8.8	4.2	6.6	5.9
Treatment for nerves or an emotional condition	7.3	18.3	12.5	14.1
Mental illness	5.8	2.5	4.6	4.0
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	8.8	5.6	8.5	7.4
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s) ²	29.7	34.5	44.1	38.4
Other long-term restricting condition(s) ²	17.1	22.9	27.6	24.4
Total females ('000)	206.3	612.9	738.2	1 557.4

¹ People may have more than one impairment or condition therefore columns do not add to 100%.

² Includes conditions such as arthritis, asthma, heart disease, epilepsy, diabetes and untreated stress or depression.

2

ALL PERSONS: PREVALENCE OF IMPAIRMENTS AND CONDITIONS

Impairments and conditions	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 years	All
	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	and over	ages
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES									
Loss of sight or hearing	1.4	1.8	3.6	4.8	9.4	16.4	29.0	43.0	7.8
Speech problems	2.3	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.9	4.8	1.4
Slow at learning or understanding	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.8	5.5	1.8
Restricted in physical activities, gripping, incomplete use of limbs	1.6	2.2	4.5	7.6	10.7	23.7	27.9	40.9	9.1
Nervous condition, fits or mental illness	1.0	1.3	2.1	1.8	3.5	4.0	6.6	10.5	2.6
Disfigurement or deformity	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.8	2.3	2.9	1.0
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.6	3.0	4.7	7.8	1.6
Treated long-term restricting condition(s)	2.3	1.8	2.4	4.4	7.7	16.9	21.5	30.0	6.6
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	1.0	0.6	0.9	2.2	4.4	6.7	11.9	15.3	3.2
Total males ('000)	1 964.6	1 403.5	1 415.5	1 334.6	1 041.9	737.9	576.7	306.1	8 780.8
FEMALES									
Loss of sight or hearing	1.3	1.3	2.2	3.0	4.1	7.1	17.5	36.5	5.7
Speech problems	1.0	0.6	*0.5	*0.3	*0.6	*0.4	1.4	5.0	0.9
Slow at learning or understanding	1.4	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	*0.6	1.6	8.7	1.6
Restricted in physical activities, gripping, incomplete use of limbs	1.1	2.6	3.8	5.4	9.3	16.0	24.2	43.3	8.7
Nervous condition, fits or mental illness	1.0	2.1	2.4	3.6	4.1	5.9	8.1	14.5	3.8
Disfigurement or deformity	0.6	*0.5	*0.4	*0.6	0.8	1.2	2.2	5.8	1.0
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	*0.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.4	3.1	7.1	1.3
Treated long-term restricting condition(s)	1.6	2.3	3.2	3.8	7.6	10.6	19.4	31.7	6.8
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	0.9	1.4	1.6	2.5	5.2	7.8	11.4	20.4	4.3
Total females ('000)	1 864.0	1 348.2	1 411.7	1 329.7	996.6	732.1	655.8	508.1	8 846.2
PERSONS									
Loss of sight or hearing	1.3	1.5	2.9	3.9	6.8	11.8	22.9	38.9	6.7
Speech problems	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.9	1.6	4.9	1.2
Slow at learning or understanding	2.2	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.7	7.5	1.7
Restricted in physical activities, gripping, incomplete use of limbs	1.3	2.4	4.1	6.5	10.0	19.9	25.9	42.4	8.9
Nervous condition, fits or mental illness	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.8	5.0	7.4	13.0	3.2
Disfigurement or deformity	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.2	4.7	1.0
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	2.2	3.9	7.4	1.4
Treated long-term restricting condition(s)	1.9	2.1	2.8	4.1	7.6	13.8	20.4	31.0	6.7
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	0.9	1.0	1.3	2.4	4.8	7.2	11.6	18.5	3.7
Total persons ('000)	3 828.7	2 751.7	2 827.2	2 664.3	2 038.6	1 469.9	1 232.5	814.2	17 627.1

3

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: AGE GROUP BY IMPAIRMENT GROUP¹

Impairment group	0-24 years	25-59 years	60 years and over	All ages
	%	%	%	%
MALES				
Three or more impairments	4.0	4.3	6.8	5.3
Dual impairments				
Sensory and physical	2.5	12.0	25.2	15.9
Psychological and physical	2.3	5.9	5.1	5.0
Other	9.4	2.8	2.2	3.6
Single impairment				
Sensory	11.6	23.2	22.6	21.1
Intellectual	19.3	1.8	**0.2	4.0
Physical	19.0	35.2	28.0	29.6
Psychological	4.6	3.5	1.3	2.8
Other				
Speech loss only	8.6	*0.5	*0.5	1.8
Other conditions	18.7	10.9	8.0	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total males ('000)	266.0	685.8	667.6	1 619.3
FEMALES				
Three or more impairments	7.0	3.4	9.7	6.9
Dual impairments				
Sensory and physical	2.4	4.9	20.0	11.7
Psychological and physical	4.5	8.4	6.5	7.0
Other	5.8	3.5	3.3	3.7
Single impairment				
Sensory	12.6	13.3	14.7	13.9
Intellectual	11.6	*0.7	*0.3	2.0
Physical	21.2	35.1	30.0	30.8
Psychological	9.8	9.7	3.6	6.8
Other				
Speech loss only	*3.4	*0.4	**0.2	0.7
Other conditions	21.5	20.8	11.7	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total females ('000)	206.3	612.9	738.2	1 557.4

¹ People are in one group only. 'Sensory' refers to loss of sight or hearing. 'Physical' includes incomplete use of limbs, restrictions in physical activity, difficulty gripping, and those people with brain damage or deformity who had not indicated another impairment type. 'Intellectual' covers 'slow at learning or understanding'. 'Psychological' includes nerves or emotional condition, treatment for mental illness, and fits or loss of consciousness. People in the 'Speech loss only' group have not indicated any other impairment type, but may have another long-term condition. See Explanatory Notes for further information.

4

ALL PERSONS: PREVALENCE OF IMPAIRMENT GROUPS

Impairment group	0-14	15-34	35-54	55-64	65 years	All ages
	years	years	years	years	and over	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES						
Three or more impairments	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.7	4.2	1.0
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	*0.2	*0.4	2.1	7.8	15.5	2.9
Psychological and physical	**0.1	*0.5	1.2	1.8	2.9	0.9
Other	0.8	0.5	0.5	*0.5	1.6	0.7
Single impairment						
Sensory	0.7	1.9	4.1	7.2	13.9	3.9
Intellectual	2.0	0.7	*0.2	**0.1	**0.1	0.7
Physical	1.2	2.6	6.3	14.2	14.5	5.5
Psychological	*0.3	0.5	0.6	*0.7	0.6	0.5
Other conditions including speech loss only	2.2	1.5	2.6	4.1	5.3	2.5
Total males ('000)	1 964.6	2 819.0	2 376.5	737.9	882.8	8 780.8
FEMALES						
Three or more impairments	0.4	0.5	0.5	*0.9	5.8	1.2
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	*0.2	*0.2	0.8	2.4	11.8	2.1
Psychological and physical	*0.1	0.6	1.4	2.3	3.6	1.2
Other	*0.2	0.5	0.5	*0.7	1.9	0.7
Single impairment						
Sensory	0.8	1.2	2.0	3.7	8.1	2.4
Intellectual	0.8	0.4	*0.1	—	*0.2	0.3
Physical	1.0	2.4	5.5	11.9	15.4	5.4
Psychological	0.4	1.0	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.2
Other conditions including speech loss only	1.7	2.9	4.9	7.4	7.4	4.1
Total females ('000)	1 864.0	2 759.9	2 326.4	732.1	1 163.9	8 846.2

5

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Impairment group	Living in a household			Living in an establishment		Persons '000
	With relatives %	Alone %	Total ¹ %	%	Total %	
0-59 YEARS						
Three or more impairments	62.5	16.3	87.1	12.9	100.0	75.6
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	79.8	17.5	99.9	**0.1	100.0	123.9
Psychological and physical	78.8	14.3	97.5	**2.5	100.0	107.6
Other	73.5	15.7	93.4	*6.6	100.0	77.2
Single impairment						
Sensory	85.8	9.1	100.0	—	100.0	297.6
Intellectual	90.2	*4.6	98.5	**1.5	100.0	91.6
Physical	82.3	12.1	99.7	**0.3	100.0	550.2
Psychological	82.3	12.3	99.0	*1.0	100.0	116.1
Other						
Speech loss only	92.0	*5.7	99.9	**0.1	100.0	35.4
Other conditions	90.9	5.4	99.9	**0.1	100.0	295.7
Total	83.3	10.8	98.8	1.2	100.0	1 770.9
60 YEARS AND OVER						
Three or more impairments	32.3	19.9	52.8	47.2	100.0	116.7
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	63.4	28.8	92.9	7.1	100.0	316.0
Psychological and physical	56.6	28.5	86.4	13.6	100.0	81.7
Other	41.3	20.4	61.7	38.3	100.0	39.5
Single impairment						
Sensory	72.0	25.4	99.0	*1.0	100.0	259.5
Intellectual	**28.1	**11.7	*39.8	*60.2	100.0	*3.6
Physical	65.1	28.5	94.8	5.2	100.0	409.0
Psychological	56.9	39.8	96.7	*3.3	100.0	35.0
Other						
Speech loss only	56.5	*38.8	95.3	**4.7	100.0	*5.1
Other conditions	75.1	19.3	96.1	*3.9	100.0	139.6
Total	62.8	26.4	90.3	9.7	100.0	1 405.8

¹ People 'living in a household' may be living with relatives, alone, or with people who are not related to them. Components do not add to total because total includes those living with others who are not related to them.

6

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: SEVERITY OF HANDICAP BY IMPAIRMENT GROUP

Impairment group	Severity of handicap					Total with handicap %	No handicap %	Total %
	Profound %	Severe %	Moderate %	Mild %	Not determined %			
MALES								
Three or more impairments	18.7	6.7	7.4	2.4	*1.7	5.3	**	4.0
Dual impairments								
Sensory and physical	16.7	21.2	23.9	21.2	10.6	19.2	6.1	16.0
Psychological and physical	12.4	6.4	6.6	4.7	4.9	6.1	*1.1	4.8
Other	9.9	*3.7	3.7	2.1	5.3	4.0	*1.2	3.3
Single impairment								
Sensory	*3.0	*2.1	5.7	19.3	14.1	12.1	51.0	21.7
Intellectual	*6.2	*3.2	3.7	2.5	11.6	4.9	*1.5	4.1
Physical	28.3	45.0	36.4	34.6	26.6	33.9	18.5	30.1
Psychological	**1.2	**0.8	*1.8	*1.4	5.4	2.2	4.8	2.8
Other								
Speech loss only	**1.2	**0.4	*1.8	*0.6	5.2	1.7	2.4	1.9
Other conditions	*2.4	10.6	9.1	11.3	14.6	10.5	13.5	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total males ('000)	120.5	133.4	221.4	479.8	224.7	1 179.7	385.8	1 565.5
FEMALES								
Three or more impairments	17.0	8.5	3.7	*1.7	*2.3	5.4	**0.2	4.4
Dual impairments								
Sensory and physical	22.3	14.9	15.1	11.4	5.4	13.4	3.3	11.5
Psychological and physical	11.0	12.0	10.0	5.3	*4.2	7.8	*2.7	6.9
Other	6.1	*3.6	*2.1	2.8	*3.7	3.4	*1.8	3.1
Single impairment								
Sensory	5.2	4.7	2.8	17.6	10.5	10.2	34.4	14.8
Intellectual	*2.4	**	*1.6	*1.3	6.9	2.1	*1.3	1.9
Physical	30.2	39.7	45.0	33.1	29.5	35.4	17.5	32.0
Psychological	**0.8	*3.6	5.3	4.7	13.5	5.3	15.5	7.2
Other								
Speech loss only	**0.3	**0.6	**0.2	**0.4	*2.5	*0.6	*1.2	0.7
Other conditions	4.6	12.4	14.3	21.6	21.6	16.4	22.1	17.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total females ('000)	175.8	167.6	222.8	454.2	157.1	1 177.5	275.4	1 452.9

7

PERSONS WITH A HANDICAP LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY AREA OF HANDICAP BY AGE

Impairment group	Area of handicap ¹					Aged less than 5 years %	Persons '000
	Self care %	Mobility %	Communication %	Schooling %	Employment %		
0-59 YEARS							
Three or more impairments	63.5	88.9	41.8	19.5	74.6	*3.2	65.3
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	34.9	75.1	15.0	*3.9	77.3	**1.2	110.5
Psychological and physical	48.2	77.9	*3.4	*3.6	87.0	**0.1	96.7
Other	39.0	66.2	27.4	29.8	62.9	*3.8	65.8
Single impairment							
Sensory	4.6	24.3	43.4	11.3	45.1	7.9	104.6
Intellectual	12.5	40.5	22.7	60.6	28.8	*3.8	80.9
Physical	40.5	73.7	3.4	4.6	75.3	2.3	467.1
Psychological	13.5	47.3	**0.5	8.6	50.3	*8.1	66.4
Other							
Speech loss only	*7.0	28.5	28.1	37.3	**4.9	39.4	25.9
Other conditions	22.8	62.7	**0.5	0.4	46.9	6.1	209.5
Total	32.1	64.4	11.9	12.3	63.0	4.4	1 292.8
60 YEARS AND OVER							
Three or more impairments	70.2	93.2	41.3	..	91.1	..	61.6
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	50.5	85.9	32.7	..	70.2	..	274.4
Psychological and physical	56.5	92.8	*5.7	..	82.4	..	67.1
Other	43.4	77.5	*23.5	..	60.0	..	21.2
Single impairment							
Sensory	11.6	53.6	54.7	..	27.7	..	158.3
Intellectual	**22.9	*70.6	—	..	*52.3	..	**1.4
Physical	48.3	89.0	2.9	..	71.8	..	350.0
Psychological	12.6	73.8	**4.1	..	44.0	..	21.2
Other							
Speech loss only	**19.7	**36.7	—	..	83.0	..	*2.0
Other conditions	28.2	79.6	*4.6	..	55.5	..	107.3
Total	42.3	81.8	21.3	..	64.2	..	1 064.5

¹ People may have a handicap in more than one area.

8

PERSONS WITH A HANDICAP LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY AREA OF HANDICAP

Impairment group	Area of handicap ¹					Aged less than 5 years %	Persons '000
	Self care %	Mobility %	Communication %	Schooling %	Employment %		
MALES							
Three or more impairments	60.2	88.3	41.3	*9.1	84.1	**1.7	63.0
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	39.8	78.5	27.0	*1.0	71.2	**0.3	226.9
Psychological and physical	45.8	78.1	*5.6	**2.2	89.7	—	71.6
Other	41.6	61.2	31.3	30.4	55.0	*4.9	47.1
Single impairment							
Sensory	6.0	32.1	52.3	*3.5	34.8	*2.7	143.2
Intellectual	*12.1	40.9	24.4	62.7	28.3	**1.7	57.8
Physical	39.1	78.8	2.3	3.1	76.7	1.1	400.3
Psychological	10.0	45.0	**2.0	*7.8	55.0	*8.1	25.5
Other							
Speech loss only	**5.9	*24.2	27.9	41.7	**7.7	35.1	20.3
Other conditions	26.3	61.7	**1.2	8.9	46.7	7.4	124.0
<i>Total</i>	33.0	67.5	18.0	8.4	63.7	2.7	1 179.7
FEMALES							
Three or more impairments	73.2	93.7	41.8	*10.9	81.1	**1.6	63.8
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	55.0	88.9	28.6	*1.2	73.7	**0.4	158.0
Psychological and physical	56.1	88.6	*3.4	*2.1	81.5	**0.1	92.2
Other	38.4	78.1	20.7	*13.2	70.6	**0.5	39.9
Single impairment							
Sensory	12.1	53.7	47.8	*5.6	34.4	*3.7	119.7
Intellectual	*14.2	41.2	*17.4	52.2	31.4	*8.6	24.6
Physical	48.4	81.7	4.0	2.1	71.0	*1.5	416.8
Psychological	14.6	57.3	**1.1	*6.0	46.3	*5.3	62.1
Other							
Speech loss only	**13.3	*42.2	*21.1	**15.5	**18.1	*40.3	*7.6
Other conditions	23.6	72.8	*2.4	5.6	51.9	*1.9	192.8
<i>Total</i>	40.4	77.0	14.3	5.1	63.4	2.1	1 177.5

¹ People may have a handicap in more than one area.

9

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: WHETHER WENT OUT AS OFTEN AS LIKED AND MAIN REASON DID NOT

	Males %	Females %	Persons %
Whether went out as often as liked			
Did not go out ¹	2.6	3.5	3.0
Yes	77.3	70.6	74.1
No	20.0	25.9	22.9
Total persons with a disability living in households ('000)	1 565.5	1 452.9	3 018.4
Main reason did not go out as often as liked			
Own illness or condition	47.2	49.1	48.2
Others illness or condition	6.1	6.9	6.6
Too expensive	19.8	13.3	16.3
Not enough time	5.8	4.4	5.0
Transport difficulties	4.0	7.7	6.0
Frightened or no-one to go out with	4.8	8.9	7.1
Other reasons	12.1	9.7	10.8
Total persons who did not go out as often as liked ('000)	313.6	376.3	689.9

¹ People who said they did not go out were not asked whether they went out as often as liked.

10

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY HELP NEEDED

Activities for which help was needed ¹	Three or more impairments %	Dual impairments			Single impairment					Total %
		Sensory and physical %	Psycho-logical and physical %	Other %	Sensory %	Intel-lectual %	Physical %	Psycho-logical %	Other ² %	
Self care	41.5	14.9	20.0	20.5	*0.9	*6.1	13.0	*3.1	5.2	11.0
Mobility	53.1	22.7	31.4	28.2	3.2	14.1	18.6	*5.1	7.9	16.4
Verbal communication	23.7	2.2	*3.5	15.9	2.1	17.1	1.0	**0.7	1.9	3.6
Health care	45.8	27.7	26.2	17.9	4.5	*2.4	17.7	5.5	8.5	15.9
Home help	52.8	34.0	37.2	21.2	3.9	*3.8	27.4	*3.6	13.4	21.4
Home maintenance	58.0	48.9	50.0	25.1	10.0	*3.4	42.2	9.5	21.5	31.8
Meal preparation	32.5	9.2	13.4	10.5	0.8	*3.5	4.7	*0.6	*1.0	5.6
Personal affairs	45.5	12.6	17.6	28.8	3.1	20.0	6.4	*5.1	2.3	9.4
Transport	58.8	34.0	40.0	36.3	10.5	20.8	23.8	15.8	13.3	23.5
Total needing any help	85.7	64.1	71.7	63.6	20.5	41.0	57.9	30.5	37.7	49.0
Total persons with a disability living in households ('000)	127.5	417.4	175.5	96.5	554.5	91.7	936.6	148.8	469.9	3 018.4

¹ People may need help with more than one activity therefore the components may not add to total needing any help.

² Includes people with speech loss only.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WHO NEEDED HELP¹: SELECTED ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH HELP WAS NEEDED BY AMOUNT OF HELP PROVIDED

Help provided/needed	Self care	Mobility	Verbal communication	Health care	Home help	Home maintenance	Meal preparation	Personal affairs	Transport
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES									
Help provided, no more needed	90.0	82.3	..	87.0	84.5	73.2	88.5	89.4	84.6
Help provided, not known if more needed	..	..	75.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Help provided, more needed	6.1	6.7	..	7.7	7.8	15.3	3.6	4.6	5.9
Help needed, none provided	3.8	11.0	24.9	5.3	7.7	11.5	7.8	6.0	9.5
Total males who needed help ('000)	155.5	200.6	62.3	198.2	245.4	342.6	85.9	135.9	213.8
FEMALES									
Help provided, no more needed	84.9	81.9	..	83.4	66.5	79.0	78.4	88.1	88.6
Help provided, not known if more needed	..	..	79.1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Help provided, more needed	7.6	9.3	..	7.4	13.7	15.3	3.6	4.4	5.5
Help needed, none provided	7.5	8.8	20.9	9.2	19.8	5.8	17.9	7.5	5.8
Total females who needed help ('000)	175.7	293.8	45.4	280.6	399.1	616.3	84.5	148.0	494.5

¹ The need for help had to be because of disability.

12

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: TYPE OF DIFFICULTY USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Type of difficulty ¹	Had difficulty using public transport				Persons with a disability living in households
	Used all forms	Used some forms	Did not use	Total ²	
	%	%	%	%	
MALES					
Difficulty getting to stops and/or stations	20.4	36.3	43.8	29.2	6.0
Sight and/or behavioural problems	16.7	26.1	24.4	20.2	4.1
Difficulty getting into vehicles and/or carriages	45.1	62.1	52.5	49.5	10.1
Crowds, poor ventilation and/or lack of seating	34.4	35.1	36.3	35.1	7.2
Don't know or other	27.1	*15.1	23.6	24.4	5.0
Total males ('000)	184.9	43.8	90.8	319.5	1 565.5
FEMALES					
Difficulty getting to stops and/or stations	20.8	35.6	52.6	34.1	10.3
Sight and/or behavioural problems	12.1	16.7	19.4	15.3	4.7
Difficulty getting into vehicles and/or carriages	57.0	75.1	65.4	62.7	18.9
Crowds, poor ventilation and/or lack of seating	25.1	34.4	38.1	31.0	9.4
Don't know or other	22.5	13.2	21.4	20.7	6.2
Total females ('000)	219.0	68.4	151.4	438.8	1 452.9

¹ People may experience more than one type of difficulty, so columns may not add to 100%.

² Excludes people who did not go out as they were not asked whether they had difficulty using public transport.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY DIFFICULTY USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Impairment group	Difficulty using public transport ¹					Persons with a disability, living in households '000
	Getting to stops and/or stations	Sight and/or behavioural problems	Getting into vehicles and/or carriages	Crowds, poor ventilation and/or lack of seating	Other ²	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Three or more impairments	27.2	29.7	31.6	23.0	17.5	127.5
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	12.1	7.8	25.8	12.3	6.2	417.4
Psychological and physical	12.9	*3.6	23.3	16.2	12.0	175.5
Other	12.1	15.8	10.1	*7.4	*7.2	96.5
Single Impairment						
Sensory	*0.8	2.4	2.2	*0.9	*1.3	554.5
Intellectual	*2.7	17.9	**0.3	**1.2	*5.5	91.7
Physical	10.8	*0.5	20.8	11.2	6.4	936.6
Psychological	*2.4	*1.3	**0.8	*2.8	*5.0	148.8
Other						
Speech loss only	**1.4	**2.7	**1.5	**1.4	**1.1	40.3
Other conditions	2.5	*0.6	6.0	3.8	2.9	429.7
Total persons	8.0	4.4	14.4	8.2	5.6	3 018.4

¹ People in a particular impairment group may not all experience difficulty using public transport, and some may experience more than one kind of difficulty, therefore categories may not add to 100%. Excludes people who did not go out as they were not asked whether they had difficulty using public transport.

² Includes pain when travelling, fears associated with travelling and other reasons.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: TYPE OF CHANGES MADE TO DWELLING AND WHETHER RECEIVED REBATES

Type of change(s) made to dwelling ¹	Males	Females	Persons
	%	%	%
Type of change(s) made to dwelling¹			
Rails, bars, straps	47.6	51.7	50.0
Doors widened, door swing changed	*3.8	*3.9	3.8
Ramps, changes to floors, steps, paths, drives	24.4	20.5	22.1
New/changed heating or airconditioning	*2.4	*3.0	*2.8
New/changed furniture or fittings, raising or lowering things	26.5	28.7	27.8
Structural changes, new rooms	*6.8	10.0	8.7
Changes to reduce allergies	9.2	7.3	8.1
Other	18.2	12.6	14.8
Whether financial assistance or rebates obtained for changes made to dwelling			
Yes	18.2	22.5	20.8
No	81.9	77.5	79.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total persons who made change(s) to dwelling ('000)	95.2	144.6	239.8
Persons with a disability living in households ('000)	1 565.5	1 452.9	3 018.4

¹ People may have made more than one change to their dwelling, therefore categories may not add to 100%.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: AIDS USED AND WHETHER RECEIVED REBATES

	Males %	Females %	Persons %
Aids used¹			
Self care	22.7	44.6	34.1
Washing aids, shaving seat, rails	18.5	33.9	26.5
Toilet use aids	2.5	4.1	3.4
Mobility	50.4	48.4	49.4
Sticks, frames and crutches	34.2	34.3	34.2
Pushers, wheelchairs and scooters	4.3	6.2	5.3
Communication	44.2	40.5	42.3
Hearing aids	34.6	22.9	28.5
Telephone attachment	6.1	5.0	5.5
Glasses, talking books, braille books and other reading aids	7.7	15.8	11.9
Medical care	5.9	6.0	5.9
Car modifications	*1.4	*0.9	1.1
Other aids and appliances	3.9	5.2	4.6
<i>Total using any aids²</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Whether received rebates for aids used			
Received rebates or financial assistance	39.6	29.7	34.4
Did not receive rebates or financial assistance	60.4	70.3	65.6
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total persons who used aid(s) ('000)</i>	409.1	445.3	854.5
Persons with a disability living in households ('000)	1 565.5	1 452.9	3 018.4

¹ The specific aids listed are the most commonly used aids in their category. The remainder are too varied to list but are included in the category totals.

² People may use more than one aid, so components may not add to 100%.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) AID NEEDED

Type of (additional) aid needed	0-59 years %	60 years and over %	All ages %	Number '000
MALES				
Self care	1.3	1.3	1.3	20.4
Mobility	1.3	*1.2	1.3	20.1
Communication	3.2	4.0	3.5	54.8
Other aids and appliances	*1.1	*0.3	*0.8	11.8
<i>Total males ('000)</i>	939.4	626.2	1 565.5	1 565.5
FEMALES				
Self care	2.5	4.0	3.1	45.5
Mobility	2.0	2.5	2.2	32.6
Communication	1.8	2.6	2.1	31.2
Other aids and appliances	*1.0	*0.6	*0.8	11.8
<i>Total females ('000)</i>	809.9	643.0	1 452.9	1 452.9

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PERSONS AGED 15-64 WITH A DISABILITY LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY IMPAIRMENT GROUP

Impairment group	In the labour force			Not in the labour force	Total	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
	Employed	Unemployed	Total				
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
MALES							
Three or more impairments	8.9	*2.2	11.1	23.3	34.4	32.2	19.9
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	53.6	*7.6	61.2	54.7	115.9	52.8	12.4
Psychological and physical	14.1	*4.7	18.8	33.1	51.8	36.2	24.8
Other	9.7	*2.7	12.4	12.1	24.4	50.6	21.5
Single impairment							
Sensory	155.4	26.4	181.7	21.7	203.4	89.3	14.5
Intellectual	9.4	*5.1	14.5	*6.6	21.1	68.7	35.0
Physical	138.6	39.8	178.4	144.7	323.1	55.2	22.3
Psychological	16.7	*5.5	22.2	8.5	30.7	72.2	24.7
Other							
Speech loss only	*5.3	**1.0	*6.3	**1.7	8.0	78.6	15.2
Other conditions	65.2	10.0	75.2	20.9	96.2	78.2	13.3
Total males	476.9	104.8	581.7	327.2	909.0	64.0	18.0
FEMALES							
Three or more impairments	*3.4	**1.1	*4.5	21.7	26.2	17.2	24.3
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	12.6	*3.0	15.6	26.1	41.7	37.5	19.2
Psychological and physical	16.8	*4.4	21.3	41.0	62.3	34.2	20.9
Other	*6.1	*2.5	8.7	18.6	27.2	31.9	29.3
Single impairment							
Sensory	56.3	*6.8	63.1	42.8	106.0	59.6	10.8
Intellectual	*4.9	*2.2	*7.1	*2.4	9.5	75.1	31.4
Physical	108.7	23.7	132.5	145.7	278.2	47.6	17.9
Psychological	25.1	11.1	36.2	41.1	77.3	46.8	30.7
Other							
Speech loss only	**1.0	**0.1	**1.1	**1.2	*2.2	47.1	8.1
Other conditions	73.2	10.1	83.3	76.0	159.4	52.3	12.2
Total females	308.2	65.2	373.4	416.5	790.0	47.3	17.5

EMPLOYED PERSONS AGED 15-64 LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT BY IMPAIRMENT GROUP

	<i>Length of time in current employment</i>		<i>Length of time in continuous employment</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>0-9 years</i>	<i>10 years or more</i>	<i>0-9 years</i>	<i>10 years or more</i>	
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Persons with a disability</i>					
Three or more impairments	*1.4	*1.8	*1.9	*1.4	1.6
Dual impairments					
Sensory and physical	7.2	10.8	7.4	9.2	8.4
Psychological and physical	4.1	3.7	4.8	3.4	3.9
Other	1.9	*2.3	*2.0	2.0	2.0
Single impairment					
Sensory	25.6	29.6	24.5	28.6	27.0
Intellectual	2.3	0.9	*2.4	*1.4	1.8
Physical	33.2	28.2	33.8	30.0	31.5
Psychological	5.3	5.4	5.9	5.0	5.3
Other					
Speech loss only	*0.8	*0.8	**0.4	*1.0	*0.8
Other conditions	18.2	16.6	16.9	18.1	17.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Total persons with a disability ('000)</i>	513.7	271.5	311.6	473.6	785.1
<i>Total employed persons ('000)</i>	5 606.2	1 933.8	2 805.4	4 734.6	7 540.0

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY MAIN DISABLING CONDITION

Main disabling condition	Three or more Impairments %	Dual impairments			Single impairment				Other conditions %	Total %
		Sensory and physical %	Psycho-logical and physical %	Other %	Sensory %	Intel-lectual %	Physical %	Psycho-logical %		
Mental disorders										
Intellectual	4.7	—	**0.7	7.5	—	31.8	—	—	**0.3	1.6
Psychoses	13.4	**0.2	8.5	10.4	—	**1.7	**0.1	6.9	*0.5	2.2
Other	7.7	**0.4	21.9	20.6	**0.1	44.1	*0.7	54.4	3.6	7.3
<i>Total</i>	25.9	*0.6	31.2	38.4	**0.2	77.5	0.9	61.3	4.4	11.1
Physical conditions										
Disorders of the eye and adnexa	*3.5	8.4	0.4	*5.3	10.9	**0.6	*0.6	**0.2	*0.8	3.8
Disorders of the ear and mastoid process	4.4	9.7	**0.7	8.2	68.5	**1.4	**0.2	**0.3	*0.6	14.2
Nervous system diseases	17.1	3.9	11.0	11.0	*0.5	**1.5	5.5	14.5	3.1	5.6
Circulatory diseases	7.8	11.5	10.2	5.0	4.4	**0.1	10.2	5.5	11.5	8.7
Respiratory diseases	*3.3	8.5	5.4	4.1	1.8	*3.4	8.3	*4.6	27.7	9.1
Arthritis	10.3	23.7	11.5	*5.5	5.5	**0.4	23.7	*2.3	19.0	15.9
Other musculoskeletal disorders	5.3	12.9	10.4	*4.2	1.8	**0.6	23.1	*1.3	7.0	11.3
Head injury, stroke and other brain damage	5.1	*0.9	*3.8	*3.3	*0.6	**1.0	2.8	*1.5	**0.3	1.9
All other diseases and conditions	17.3	19.9	15.5	15.0	5.7	13.4	24.8	8.5	25.5	18.4
<i>Total</i>	74.1	99.4	68.8	61.6	99.8	22.5	99.1	38.7	95.6	88.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Persons with a disability ('000)</i>	192.3	439.9	189.3	116.7	557.1	95.3	959.2	151.1	475.7	3 176.7

<i>Impairment group</i>	<i>One condition</i> %	<i>Two conditions</i> %	<i>Three conditions</i> %	<i>Four conditions</i> %	<i>Five or more conditions</i> %	<i>Total</i> %	<i>Persons with a disability</i> '000
Three or more impairments	6.1	8.4	15.9	23.4	46.2	100.0	192.3
Dual impairments							
Sensory and physical	2.9	23.9	32.3	19.9	21.0	100.0	439.9
Psychological and physical	13.8	30.4	25.5	15.1	15.2	100.0	189.3
Other	15.8	29.4	21.9	16.9	16.0	100.0	116.7
Single impairment							
Sensory	56.3	27.8	10.9	3.5	*1.4	100.0	557.1
Intellectual	61.9	29.3	*7.7	**0.9	**0.3	100.0	95.3
Physical	40.5	32.0	16.1	6.8	4.6	100.0	959.2
Psychological	65.7	24.4	7.1	*1.7	**1.0	100.0	151.1
Other							
Speech loss only	69.1	27.6	**2.1	**1.2	**0.1	100.0	40.5
Other conditions	61.6	25.5	8.9	3.6	*0.4	100.0	435.2
Total	38.6	27.1	16.4	9.0	8.9	100.0	3 176.7

Disability status and severity of handicap	Arthritis %	Asthma %	Circulatory diseases		Total with these conditions %	All persons '000
			Heart disease %	Other %		
MALES						
Disability status						
No disability	32.6	74.9	32.7	72.7	56.9	7 161.5
Disability without handicap	11.7	8.8	7.9	5.6	8.9	392.6
Severity of handicap						
Profound	4.4	*0.6	*5.2	*2.4	2.6	160.0
Severe	6.8	*1.9	*4.5	*2.6	3.7	133.5
Moderate	14.2	*1.6	7.2	*3.9	6.3	226.2
Mild	25.8	7.3	34.6	9.9	16.7	482.1
Not determined	4.6	4.9	7.9	*2.8	4.8	224.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	8 780.8
Total males ('000)	284.7	408.3	144.8	194.6	1 032.4	8 780.8
FEMALES						
Disability status						
No disability	41.2	71.9	35.8	77.0	57.3	7 288.9
Disability without handicap	5.8	8.0	5.5	5.2	6.3	283.9
Severity of handicap						
Profound	8.3	2.1	12.1	*2.8	5.6	259.9
Severe	8.0	2.4	*5.2	*3.1	5.1	167.6
Moderate	12.6	2.8	14.2	*2.8	7.8	229.2
Mild	20.7	8.4	23.8	7.9	14.6	459.6
Not determined	3.3	4.5	*3.4	*1.2	3.3	157.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	8 846.2
Total females ('000)	531.7	399.7	105.1	254.1	1 290.6	8 846.2
PERSONS						
Disability status						
No disability	38.2	73.4	34.0	75.1	57.1	14 450.4
Disability without handicap	7.9	8.4	6.9	5.4	7.5	676.5
Severity of handicap						
Profound	6.9	1.4	8.1	2.6	4.3	419.9
Severe	7.6	2.1	4.8	2.9	4.5	301.1
Moderate	13.2	2.2	10.1	3.3	7.1	455.5
Mild	22.5	7.8	30.1	8.8	15.6	941.8
Not determined	3.8	4.7	6.0	1.9	4.0	382.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	17 627.1
Total persons ('000)	816.4	808.0	250.0	448.6	2 323.0	17 627.1

ALL PERSONS: SELECTED MAIN DISABLING CONDITION AND NUMBER OF CONDITIONS BY DISABILITY STATUS AND SEVERITY OF HANDICAP

Disability status and severity of handicap	Arthritis			Asthma			Circulatory diseases		
	Only condition	At least one other condition	Total	Only condition	At least one other condition	Total	Only condition	At least one other condition	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES									
Disability status									
No disability	58.6	15.1	32.6	84.3	26.6	74.9	83.7	20.9	55.6
With disability	41.4	84.9	67.4	15.7	73.4	25.1	16.3	79.1	44.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Severity of handicap									
Profound	**1.1	6.6	4.4	**0.1	*3.1	*0.6	**0.3	7.7	3.6
Severe	*4.7	8.2	6.8	*1.1	*5.8	*1.9	**0.8	6.6	3.4
Moderate	9.8	17.1	14.2	**0.5	*7.2	*1.6	**0.5	11.3	5.3
Mild	13.8	34.0	25.8	4.5	21.4	7.3	7.7	36.3	20.5
Not determined	*3.6	5.2	4.6	2.9	15.2	4.9	3.2	7.2	5.0
<i>Total with handicap</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>71.0</i>	<i>55.7</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>52.8</i>	<i>16.3</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>69.1</i>	<i>37.8</i>
Total males ('000)	114.7	170.1	284.7	341.4	66.9	408.3	187.7	151.7	339.4
FEMALES									
Disability status									
No disability	62.5	21.4	41.2	80.8	28.5	71.9	85.6	34.2	64.9
With disability	37.5	78.6	58.8	19.2	71.5	28.1	14.4	65.8	35.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Severity of handicap									
Profound	*1.9	14.2	8.3	*0.7	*9.1	2.1	**0.6	12.8	5.5
Severe	4.8	11.0	8.0	*1.0	*9.4	2.4	*1.3	7.2	3.7
Moderate	6.9	18.0	12.6	*1.3	*9.9	2.8	**0.6	14.3	6.1
Mild	14.0	27.0	20.7	5.8	21.1	8.4	6.3	21.9	12.6
Not determined	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.8	*8.1	4.5	*1.3	*2.7	*1.8
<i>Total with handicap</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>73.2</i>	<i>52.9</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>58.9</i>	<i>29.8</i>
Total females ('000)	256.8	274.9	531.7	331.9	67.8	399.7	214.8	144.5	359.2

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR AGED 60 YEARS AND OVER, LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: SELECTED MAIN DISABLING CONDITION BY ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH HELP WAS NEEDED

Activities for which help was needed ¹	Arthritis %	Asthma %	Circulatory diseases %	Total with these conditions %	Total %
MALES					
Self care	8.4	7.3	4.8	6.7	8.3
Mobility	9.3	*5.5	7.9	8.0	10.8
Verbal communication	**0.4	**0.6	*1.1	*0.7	3.3
Health care	15.6	*3.4	8.3	10.3	10.6
Home help	13.2	7.8	15.4	13.1	12.0
Home maintenance	22.9	10.0	21.2	19.8	18.9
Meal preparation	*2.8	*1.5	4.0	3.0	4.2
Personal affairs	3.7	2.7	5.6	4.3	8.5
Transport	6.5	5.7	9.7	7.7	10.7
<i>Total needing any help at all²</i>	37.5	19.7	30.8	31.4	32.1
Total males ('000)	244.2	113.7	249.2	607.2	2 189.1
FEMALES					
Self care	9.9	7.6	5.9	8.3	10.1
Mobility	17.2	10.5	11.1	14.2	15.9
Verbal communication	*0.9	**0.1	*1.0	*0.8	2.8
Health care	20.8	7.6	13.3	16.4	15.1
Home help	26.9	10.7	20.6	22.3	19.0
Home maintenance	47.2	18.4	43.6	41.4	33.3
Meal preparation	3.2	*1.5	*2.8	2.8	3.7
Personal affairs	7.6	*2.5	7.5	6.7	10.6
Transport	35.1	20.0	36.0	33.0	29.0
<i>Total needing any help at all²</i>	63.5	37.4	60.8	58.5	54.0
Total females ('000)	435.2	132.4	254.8	822.4	2 337.3
PERSONS					
Self care	9.3	7.5	5.3	7.6	9.3
Mobility	14.3	8.2	9.5	11.6	13.4
Verbal communication	*0.7	**0.3	*1.1	0.8	3.0
Health care	19.0	5.6	10.8	13.8	12.9
Home help	22.0	9.4	18.1	18.4	15.6
Home maintenance	38.5	14.5	32.6	32.3	25.4
Meal preparation	3.0	*1.5	3.4	2.9	3.9
Personal affairs	6.2	*2.6	6.5	5.7	9.6
Transport	24.8	13.4	23.0	22.2	20.1
<i>Total needing any help at all²</i>	54.2	29.2	46.0	47.0	43.3
Total persons ('000)	679.4	246.1	504.0	1 429.5	4 526.4

¹ Only people with a disability were asked whether they needed help with self care, mobility, communication and health care.

² People may need help with more than one activity therefore the components may not add to total needing any help.

Age and selected main disabling condition	Living in a household			Living in an establishment %	Total %	Persons '000
	With relatives %	Alone %	Total ¹ %			
0-24 YEARS						
Arthritis	80.6	**5.4	100.0	—	100.0	15.7
Asthma	93.9	*1.3	99.9	—	100.0	480.9
Circulatory diseases	95.6	—	100.0	—	100.0	14.6
<i>Total with these conditions</i>	93.5	*1.4	99.9	—	100.0	511.2
All persons ²	92.9	1.1	99.4	*0.1	99.5	6 580.4
25-59 YEARS						
Arthritis	85.2	11.8	99.9	**0.1	100.0	295.2
Asthma	84.2	9.8	100.0	—	100.0	253.5
Circulatory diseases	87.5	10.5	99.8	**0.2	100.0	248.1
<i>Total with these conditions</i>	85.6	10.8	99.9	**0.1	100.0	796.8
All persons	87.2	7.4	99.8	0.2	100.0	8 283.7
60 YEARS AND OVER						
Arthritis	64.8	30.4	95.9	4.1	100.0	505.5
Asthma	69.1	28.1	97.8	**2.2	100.0	73.6
Circulatory diseases	70.4	25.5	96.8	3.2	100.0	435.9
<i>Total with these conditions</i>	67.5	28.1	96.4	3.6	100.0	1 015.1
All persons	68.4	25.2	94.8	5.2	100.0	2 763.0

¹ People 'living in a household' may be living with relatives, alone, or with people who are not related to them. Components do not add to total because total includes those living with others who are not related to them.

² Excludes boarding school pupils.

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PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY OR AGED 60 YEARS AND OVER, LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: SELECTED MAIN DISABLING CONDITION BY WHETHER WENT OUT AS OFTEN AS LIKED

<i>Whether went out as often as liked¹</i>	<i>Arthritis %</i>	<i>Asthma %</i>	<i>Circulatory diseases %</i>	<i>Total with these conditions %</i>	<i>Persons '000</i>
MALES					
Yes	84.0	84.3	81.6	83.1	1 742.4
No	15.0	15.7	18.4	16.9	350.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2 093.3
Total males ('000)	239.5	103.8	243.1	586.4	2 093.3
FEMALES					
Yes	79.0	76.1	81.0	79.1	1 736.8
No	21.0	23.9	19.0	20.9	443.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2 180.0
Total females ('000)	412.0	124.5	242.2	778.7	2 180.0
PERSONS					
Yes	80.8	79.8	81.3	80.8	3 479.3
No	19.2	20.2	18.7	19.2	794.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4 273.4
Total persons ('000)	651.5	228.4	485.3	1 365.2	4 273.4

¹ Excludes people who did not go out as they were not asked whether they went out as often as liked.

PERSONS WITH SELECTED MAIN DISABLING CONDITIONS¹, AGED 15-64, LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS: AREA OF HANDICAP BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Area of handicap ²	Employed				Not employed			
	Arthritis %	Asthma %	Circulatory diseases %	Total %	Arthritis %	Asthma %	Circulatory diseases %	Total %
MALES								
Self care	15.9	**0.4	**1.6	5.2	31.2	*5.7	11.4	16.8
Mobility	32.7	5.8	9.9	14.8	55.1	22.2	51.0	44.9
Communication	**1.0	**0.6	**0.1	*0.5	*7.0	—	*3.1	*3.7
Employment	22.8	*4.0	11.1	11.7	67.8	26.9	53.8	51.6
Total males ('000)	99.0	134.4	114.6	348.0	60.2	45.4	66.7	172.2
FEMALES								
Self care	16.2	*2.3	*2.6	7.3	23.4	*7.9	*5.2	13.7
Mobility	22.6	7.2	*7.8	12.7	41.8	23.9	20.0	30.4
Communication	**0.4	—	**0.6	**0.3	*3.5	—	**0.3	*1.6
Employment	14.1	*3.3	*4.1	7.3	38.0	23.1	16.8	27.5
Total females ('000)	103.5	120.1	70.4	294.1	147.2	93.7	104.3	345.2
PERSONS								
Self care	16.0	*1.3	*1.9	6.2	25.7	7.2	7.6	14.7
Mobility	27.5	6.4	9.1	13.8	45.7	23.4	32.1	35.2
Communication	**0.7	**0.3	**0.2	*0.4	4.5	—	*1.3	2.3
Employment	18.4	3.7	8.4	9.7	46.7	24.3	31.2	35.6
Total persons ('000)	202.5	254.5	185.1	642.1	207.3	139.1	171.0	517.4

¹ People may have other conditions, besides their main disabling condition, which contribute to particular areas of handicap.

² People may have no handicap, or may have a handicap in more than one area, therefore columns may not add to 100%.

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CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS: MAIN DISABLING CONDITION

<i>Main disabling condition</i>	<i>Males</i> '000	<i>Females</i> '000	<i>Persons</i> '000
Mental disorders	**1.1	*2.2	*3.3
Physical conditions			
Disorders of the eye and adnexa and disorders of the ear and mastoid process	*2.9	*5.2	8.1
Nervous system diseases including epilepsy/cerebral palsy	*3.2	**1.8	*5.0
Respiratory diseases	48.2	28.3	76.5
Congenital anomalies/Downs syndrome	*2.5	*4.7	*7.2
Speech disorders	*5.4	*2.0	*7.3
All other diseases and conditions	11.7	9.8	21.4
<i>Total with physical conditions</i>	73.8	51.7	125.5
Children aged 0-4 ('000)	662.3	628.8	1 291.1

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CHILDREN AGED 0-4 YEARS: MAIN DISABLING CONDITION BY DISABILITY STATUS

<i>Main disabling condition</i>	<i>Disability</i> '000	<i>No disability</i> '000	<i>Total</i> '000
Mental disorders	*3.3	—	*3.3
Physical conditions			
Disorders of the eye and adnexa and disorders of the ear and mastoid process	*6.8	**1.3	8.1
Nervous system diseases including epilepsy/cerebral palsy	*4.7	**0.3	*5.0
Respiratory diseases	14.9	61.6	76.5
Congenital anomalies/Downs syndrome	*6.1	**1.0	*7.2
Speech disorders	*7.3	—	*7.3
All other diseases and conditions	13.3	8.2	21.4
<i>Total with physical conditions</i>	53.1	72.4	125.5
Children aged 0-4 ('000)	56.4	1 234.7	1 291.1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains information on disability and disabling conditions from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers which was conducted throughout Australia from February to April 1993.

2 The survey identified persons with a disability, those aged 60 years or more, and persons most responsible for providing care to people with severe or profound handicap. Information about the presence and severity of handicap, and help needed and received in relation to various activities of daily living, was sought from persons with a disability and those aged 60 years or more. Additional information on the type of assistance provided and the impact of the caring role was obtained from carers.

3 Information was obtained from approximately 42,000 persons living in households and a further 4,800 living in health establishments.

SCOPE

4 The survey was conducted by interviews of all usual residents in households except:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia; and
- residents of some non-private dwellings such as gaols.

Residents in hospitals, nursing and other homes, and retirement villages with supported accommodation were surveyed by mailback forms completed by staff of these establishments.

DATA INTERPRETATION

5 In some instances a person may be counted in more than one cell of a table. For example, a person with a disability may have loss of sight, difficulty gripping or holding things, and be receiving treatment for nerves and an emotional condition. However, each person is only counted once in the table total. Therefore the figures for individual categories will add to more than the total.

IMPAIRMENTS

6 People were recognised as having a disability if they were restricted in any way by one or more of the following 15 impairments or long-term conditions. These were used in screening questions for the survey (table 1):

- has loss of sight; cannot see normally wearing glasses or contact lenses;
- has loss of hearing;
- has something wrong with speech;
- has blackouts or fits, or loses consciousness;
- is slow at learning or understanding things;
- does not have full use of arms or fingers;
- has difficulty gripping or holding things, such as a cup or pen;
- does not have full use of feet or legs;
- is receiving treatment for a nervous or emotional condition;
- is restricted in physical activity or work;
- has a disfigurement or deformity;
- needs help or supervision in doing things because of a mental illness;
- has suffered head injury, stroke or other brain damage, with long-term effects;
- is having treatment or medication for a long-term condition or ailment, and is restricted by it; and/or
- has other long-term conditions that lead to restrictions.

7 Screen question categories are not exclusive. As well as the possibility for people to have independent impairments or conditions, such as hearing loss and arthritis, it is also possible for the same disabling condition to give rise to more than one impairment. A person could have a positive response to speech loss, incomplete use of legs, and treatment for nerves or an emotional condition, all related to brain damage (see Appendix table A1). The screen questions were designed to ensure that all people who should be asked questions about the difficulties they experienced and the help they needed would be identified.

Impairment types **8** Some impairments may be clearly classified as physical, sensory, intellectual or psychological impairment types, but others can not. For example, brain damage, disfigurement or deformity, and the other conditions categories can lead to a number of types of impairments.

9 The following table shows the grouping of screen questions into impairment types:

<i>Impairment type</i>	<i>Screening questions</i>
Sensory	Loss of sight Loss of hearing
Intellectual	Slow at learning or understanding
Psychological	Receiving treatment for nerves or an emotional condition Needs help or supervision in doing things because of a mental illness Blackouts, fits and loss of consciousness
Physical	Restriction in physical activity or work Difficulty gripping or holding things Lacking full use of arms or fingers Lacking full use of feet or legs

Impairment groups **10** Almost one-third of people with disabilities have multiple impairments. Analysing a population by a single impairment type when there are multiple impairments can be misleading. Their difficulties and need for assistance may relate to an impairment other than the one being considered. A single category of multiple impairment is very diverse. The difficulties experienced by people with paralysis and a limited ability to make judgments are likely to be quite different from those of people with arthritis and hearing impairment. Therefore, categories have been created which group people by their particular type or combination of types of impairment, as follows:

- People with all four impairment types (identified above)
- People with any combination of three impairment types:
 - Intellectual, psychological and physical
 - Sensory, physical and psychological
 - Sensory, intellectual and physical
 - Sensory, intellectual and psychological
- People with any combination of two impairment types
 - Sensory and physical
 - Sensory and intellectual
 - Sensory and psychological
 - Intellectual and physical
 - Intellectual and psychological
 - Psychological and physical
- People with one impairment type only
 - Sensory
 - Intellectual
 - Physical
 - Psychological

11 At this stage, people who only had positive responses to the remaining five screen questions were not allocated to groups of impairment types (see 12 below). The initial proportions in each of the impairment group categories are given in Appendix table A2. Because some of these categories are too small for further analysis, they have been aggregated. Those with all four types, or with any three combinations of types, have been grouped together. The sensory and physical group and the physical and psychological group are large enough to analyse reliably, but the other combinations of two impairment types have been aggregated into a single group. Appendix table A3 shows the proportions in the aggregated impairment categories, which are used through the remainder of the publication.

12 People with disfigurement or deformity, head injury, stroke or other brain damage, speech loss, treatment for other long-term conditions, or any other restricting long-term condition were not allocated to categories on the basis of these conditions, but on the basis of information provided about other impairments. If there were no other impairments, those with head injury, stroke or brain damage, or disfigurement/deformity, were combined with the physical only group; those with speech loss were left as speech loss only; and those left in the two other conditions groups were combined as one group (see Appendix table A3). People with sight or hearing loss who had other long-term conditions but no other specific impairments were classified to the sensory and physical group, because the conditions were mostly musculo-skeletal, circulatory and respiratory. Similarly, those who had only indicated a psychological impairment, but had other conditions, were classified to the psychological and physical group.

DEFINITIONS

13 The glossary at the end of this publication contains definitions of concepts relating to the subject matter of this survey.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

14 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

15 Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:
Focus on Families: Caring in Families: Support for Persons who are Older or have Disabilities, 1995 (4423.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 1993 (4430.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: User Guide, 1993 (4431.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Data Reference Package, 1993 (4432.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Visual Impairment, 1993 (4434.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Hearing Impairment, 1993 (4435.0)
Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Brain Injury and Stroke, 1993 (4437.0)

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- * estimate is subject to a relative standard error greater than 25% but less than 50%
- ** estimate is subject to a relative standard error equal to or greater than 50%
- .. not applicable
- nil occurrences or rounded to zero

TECHNICAL NOTE ON DATA RELIABILITY

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE Estimates from this survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensured that they conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and area of State, rather than to the age, sex and area of State distribution among respondents.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES Estimates in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

Non-sampling errors Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. Non-sampling errors can be introduced through: inadequacies in the questionnaire; non-response; inaccurate reporting by respondents; errors in the application of survey procedures; incorrect recording of answers; and errors in data entry and processing.

It is difficult to measure the size of the non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effect of these errors.

Sampling errors Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

ESTIMATES OF SAMPLING ERROR One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the *standard error* (see tables on pages 50 and 51).

There are about two chances in three (67%) that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all persons had been included in the survey. There are about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Linear interpolation should be used to calculate the standard error of estimates falling between the sizes of estimates listed in the table.

The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the *relative standard error* (RSE). The RSE is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = \frac{100SE(x)}{x}$$

(where x is the estimate). The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling.

Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error of a proportion or percentage is:

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

For all tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with relative standard errors greater than 25% have been included, preceded by the symbols * or ** to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

A

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES - PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLDS

Estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	*	*	*	*	*	120	150	80	*	*
200	*	*	*	*	*	180	200	120	*	*
300	*	*	*	310	350	230	240	140	*	*
400	*	*	430	360	400	260	270	160	400	100.4
500	*	540	480	400	450	290	300	180	460	91.2
600	*	590	530	440	490	320	320	190	510	84.3
700	700	640	570	480	520	350	350	210	550	78.7
800	750	690	610	510	560	370	370	220	590	74.1
900	800	730	650	540	590	390	390	230	630	70.4
1 000	840	770	680	570	620	430	430	250	710	64.3
1 200	920	840	750	620	680	450	440	260	740	61.9
1 300	960	880	780	640	700	460	460	270	780	59.6
1 400	990	910	810	670	730	480	480	280	810	57.7
1 500	1 050	940	830	690	750	490	490	290	840	55.9
1 600	1 050	970	860	710	770	510	510	300	870	54.2
1 700	1 100	1 000	880	730	800	520	520	310	900	52.7
1 800	1 100	1 050	910	750	820	530	530	320	920	51.3
1 900	1 150	1 050	930	770	840	550	550	320	950	50.1
2 000	1 200	1 100	960	790	860	560	560	330	980	48.9
2 100	1 200	1 100	980	810	880	570	570	340	1 000	47.8
2 200	1 250	1 150	1 000	820	900	580	600	350	1 050	45.8
2 400	1 300	1 200	1 050	860	930	610	610	360	1 100	44.9
2 500	1 300	1 200	1 050	870	950	620	620	360	1 100	44.5
3 000	1 450	1 350	1 150	1 000	1 100	710	720	420	1 300	37.5
4 000	1 650	1 500	1 350	1 100	1 200	750	770	440	1 400	35.2
4 500	1 750	1 600	1 400	1 150	1 250	780	810	460	1 500	33.2
5 000	1 800	1 700	1 450	1 200	1 300	820	850	490	1 600	31.5
6 000	2 000	1 850	1 600	1 300	1 400	880	930	520	1 750	28.8
8 000	2 250	2 100	1 800	1 450	1 600	980	1 050	590	2 000	25.0
10 000	2 500	2 350	2 000	1 600	1 750	1 050	1 150	640	2 250	22.3
20 000	3 400	3 150	2 750	2 150	2 350	1 350	1 600	840	3 100	12.6
40 000	4 600	4 250	3 650	2 900	3 150	1 700	2 250	1 100	4 300	10.8
50 000	5 000	4 700	4 000	3 150	3 450	1 800	2 500	1 200	4 800	9.6
100 000	6 700	6 200	5 300	4 100	4 500	2 150	3 450	1 550	6 500	6.5
200 000	8 800	8 200	7 000	5 300	5 900	2 550	4 800	1 950	8 800	4.4
300 000	10 300	9 500	8 200	6 200	6 800	2 800	*	2 250	10 400	3.5
400 000	11 400	10 600	9 100	6 800	7 600	2 950	*	*	11 600	2.9
500 000	12 400	11 500	9 900	7 400	8 200	3 100	*	*	12 700	2.5
1 000 000	15 900	14 700	12 600	9 300	10 500	*	*	*	16 700	1.7
2 000 000	20 200	18 000	16 000	*	*	*	*	*	21 600	1.1
3 000 000	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	24 900	0.8
4 000 000	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	27 600	0.7
5 000 000	27 300	24 900	21 700	11 600	13 300	*	*	*	29 700	0.6
10 000 000	35 800	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	37 400	0.4
20 000 000	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	46 500	0.2

B

STANDARD ERRORS FOR ESTIMATES — PERSONS IN ESTABLISHMENTS

Estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	Relative
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	standard error %
100	75	57	44	36	40	26	27	15	50	54.6
200	120	92	71	58	64	41	44	25	80	40.3
300	150	115	89	73	80	51	55	31	100	33.4
400	180	138	106	87	96	62	65	37	120	29.1
500	195	149	115	95	104	67	71	40	130	26.1
600	210	161	124	102	112	72	76	43	140	23.8
700	225	172	133	109	120	77	82	46	150	22.0
800	240	184	142	117	128	82	87	49	160	20.6
900	255	195	150	124	136	87	93	52	170	19.3
1 000	270	207	159	131	144	92	98	55	180	18.3
1 100	285	218	168	139	152	97	104	58	190	17.4
1 200	300	230	177	146	160	103	109	62	200	16.6
1 300	315	241	186	153	168	108	115	65	210	15.9
1 400	315	241	186	153	168	108	115	65	210	15.3
1 500	330	253	195	160	176	113	120	68	220	14.7
1 600	345	264	204	168	184	118	125	71	230	14.2
1 700	345	264	204	168	184	118	125	71	230	13.7
1 800	360	276	212	175	192	123	131	74	240	13.3
1 900	375	287	221	182	200	128	136	77	250	12.9
2 000	375	287	221	182	200	128	136	77	250	12.5
2 100	390	299	230	190	208	133	142	80	260	12.2
2 200	390	299	230	190	208	133	142	80	260	11.9
2 300	405	310	239	197	216	138	147	83	270	11.6
2 400	405	310	239	197	216	138	147	83	270	11.3
2 500	420	322	248	204	224	144	153	86	280	11.0
3 000	450	345	266	219	240	154	164	92	300	9.9
3 500	480	368	283	233	256	164	175	98	320	9.1
4 000	510	391	301	248	272	174	185	105	340	8.4
4 500	525	402	310	255	280	179	191	108	350	7.8
5 000	555	425	328	270	296	190	202	114	370	7.3
6 000	585	448	345	284	312	200	213	120	390	6.6
8 000	660	505	389	321	352	226	240	135	440	5.5
10 000	720	551	425	350	383	246	262	148	480	4.8
20 000	915	701	540	445	487	313	333	188	610	3.0
30 000	1 035	793	611	503	551	354	376	212	690	2.3
40 000	1 125	861	664	547	599	385	409	231	750	1.9
50 000	1 200	919	708	583	639	410	436	246	800	1.6
100 000	1 455	1 114	859	707	775	497	529	298	970	1.0
200 000	1 725	1 321	1 018	839	919	590	627	354	1 150	0.6

APPENDIX

A1 PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: ASSOCIATION OF IMPAIRMENTS AND CONDITIONS

<i>Impairments and conditions</i>	<i>Loss of sight</i> %	<i>Loss of hearing</i> %	<i>Speech problems</i> %	<i>Fits or loss of consciousness</i> %	<i>Slow at learning or understanding</i> %	<i>Restricted in physical activities or work</i> %	<i>Restricted use of feet or legs</i> %	<i>Restricted use of arms or fingers</i> %
MALES								
Loss of sight	100.0	7.4	8.9	15.5	8.3	9.8	12.8	11.1
Loss of hearing	33.5	100.0	21.2	18.5	18.9	25.8	29.7	27.2
Speech problems	8.3	4.4	100.0	18.0	35.7	8.7	13.4	15.6
Fits or loss of consciousness	10.0	2.6	12.4	100.0	12.1	7.0	9.8	9.0
Slow at learning or understanding	10.1	5.1	46.6	23.0	100.0	9.0	13.1	15.0
Restricted in physical activity or work	49.8	29.0	47.4	55.5	37.4	100.0	77.2	68.7
Restricted use of feet or legs	23.5	12.2	26.6	28.4	20.0	28.2	100.0	43.8
Restricted use of arms or fingers	13.9	7.6	21.0	17.7	15.5	17.0	29.8	100.0
Difficulty gripping or holding things	17.6	7.7	24.1	21.3	16.4	16.5	28.7	46.0
Disfigurement or deformity	7.3	3.6	14.0	*8.2	11.3	7.0	14.5	19.4
Treatment for nerves or emotional condition	8.8	5.2	9.7	14.2	14.1	9.8	10.6	10.5
Mental illness	5.5	1.4	17.9	12.8	21.2	4.9	6.8	6.5
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	16.1	5.6	28.4	32.2	23.7	13.2	19.5	23.9
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	39.1	26.5	38.2	57.1	34.7	53.6	51.7	49.3
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	18.2	14.0	12.4	16.5	13.1	20.4	24.1	19.2
Total males ('000)	132.3	596.3	122.9	84.8	160.4	669.2	244.2	166.0
FEMALES								
Loss of sight	100.0	11.1	17.0	15.3	15.3	11.7	17.0	18.4
Loss of hearing	30.7	100.0	30.0	23.5	27.6	21.3	24.9	26.2
Speech problems	9.6	6.1	100.0	16.3	35.7	7.8	12.2	15.5
Fits or loss of consciousness	11.7	6.5	22.2	100.0	20.5	8.9	11.6	11.9
Slow at learning or understanding	14.3	9.4	59.6	25.2	100.0	12.7	16.8	19.0
Restricted in physical activity or work	49.1	32.3	58.0	48.8	56.9	100.0	80.1	76.0
Restricted use of feet or legs	31.8	16.9	40.7	28.6	33.5	35.9	100.0	54.8
Restricted use of arms or fingers	24.0	12.4	36.0	20.3	26.4	23.7	38.1	100.0
Difficulty gripping or holding things	24.8	14.1	39.9	22.6	27.4	25.4	34.5	59.7
Disfigurement or deformity	10.2	5.5	18.7	8.4	16.2	8.6	16.1	18.4
Treatment for nerves or emotional condition	12.8	7.6	14.9	18.4	19.2	13.2	13.0	13.2
Mental illness	8.4	3.9	23.7	10.2	28.8	7.1	8.2	9.1
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	14.5	6.8	36.3	23.3	32.3	12.6	17.6	22.0
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	48.9	28.5	47.4	51.7	46.1	56.2	57.9	56.1
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	24.9	21.1	27.2	25.2	27.1	25.9	30.5	25.8
Total females ('000)	146.4	403.5	82.2	111.6	137.2	612.2	274.4	191.0

... continued

A1

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: ASSOCIATION OF IMPAIRMENTS AND CONDITIONS — CONTINUED

Impairments and conditions	Difficulty gripping or holding things	Disfigurement or deformity	Treatment for nerves or emotional condition	Mental illness	Head injury, stroke or brain damage	Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	Other long-term restricting condition(s)	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES								
Loss of sight	15.7	10.9	8.8	14.0	15.4	8.9	8.6	8.2
Loss of hearing	30.8	24.5	23.1	16.2	23.9	27.1	29.7	36.8
Speech problems	20.0	19.4	8.9	42.2	25.1	8.1	5.4	7.6
Fits or loss of consciousness	12.2	*7.8	9.0	20.8	19.6	8.3	5.0	5.2
Slow at learning or understanding	17.8	20.4	17.0	65.1	27.4	9.5	7.5	9.9
Restricted in physical activity or work	74.3	53.2	48.9	62.2	63.5	61.5	48.5	41.3
Restricted use of feet or legs	47.3	40.0	19.4	31.7	34.3	21.7	20.9	15.1
Restricted use of arms or fingers	51.5	36.3	13.0	20.6	28.5	14.0	11.3	10.2
Difficulty gripping or holding things	100.0	25.6	14.3	26.4	27.4	14.4	12.6	9.2
Disfigurement or deformity	15.3	100.0	8.4	16.4	11.7	5.7	5.7	5.5
Treatment for nerves or emotional condition	12.9	12.7	100.0	43.5	18.3	12.7	11.3	8.3
Mental illness	9.3	9.7	17.0	100.0	12.6	6.1	4.2	3.2
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	25.7	18.3	19.0	33.6	100.0	13.2	10.8	8.6
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	56.8	37.3	55.5	68.3	55.3	100.0	44.1	36.0
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	23.9	18.2	23.8	22.7	21.8	21.3	100.0	17.4
Total males ('000)	148.3	88.6	133.6	52.2	139.0	583.1	281.1	1 619.3
FEMALES								
Loss of sight	14.8	16.3	8.6	19.9	18.4	12.0	9.6	9.4
Loss of hearing	23.3	24.0	14.1	25.4	23.8	19.2	22.4	25.9
Speech problems	13.4	16.6	5.6	31.5	25.8	6.5	5.9	5.3
Fits or loss of consciousness	10.3	10.2	9.4	18.4	22.5	9.6	7.4	7.2
Slow at learning or understanding	15.4	24.1	12.0	63.8	38.3	10.6	9.8	8.8
Restricted in physical activity or work	63.7	57.4	36.7	70.0	67.0	57.5	41.7	39.3
Restricted use of feet or legs	38.8	47.8	16.2	36.2	41.8	26.6	22.0	17.6
Restricted use of arms or fingers	46.7	38.1	11.5	28.1	36.4	17.9	13.0	12.3
Difficulty gripping or holding things	100.0	33.6	12.6	29.3	36.4	21.3	15.4	15.7
Disfigurement or deformity	12.7	100.0	5.4	20.8	16.6	7.7	7.4	5.9
Treatment for nerves or emotional condition	11.3	12.8	100.0	42.1	19.3	16.2	13.9	14.1
Mental illness	7.4	13.9	11.9	100.0	17.4	6.1	5.5	4.0
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	17.2	20.8	10.2	32.4	100.0	10.8	8.7	7.4
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	52.2	50.2	44.1	59.3	55.9	100.0	39.1	38.4
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	24.0	30.3	24.1	33.7	28.7	24.8	100.0	24.4
Total females ('000)	244.0	92.2	219.4	61.9	115.5	598.1	379.5	1 557.4

A2

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: AGE BY DETAILED IMPAIRMENT GROUP

Detailed impairment group	Males				Females				Persons all ages
	0-24 years	25-59 years	60 years and over	All ages	0-24 years	25-59 years	60 years and over	All ages	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Three or more impairments									
Intellectual, psychological, physical and sensory	*0.9	*0.4	*1.0	0.7	*1.5	*0.6	2.3	1.5	1.1
Intellectual, psychological and physical	*2.0	1.5	1.2	1.5	*3.7	*1.2	1.7	1.7	1.6
Sensory, physical and psychological	**0.2	1.8	3.4	2.2	**0.6	*1.1	4.0	2.4	2.3
Sensory, intellectual and physical	*0.7	*0.5	*1.2	0.8	**0.8	*0.3	1.6	1.0	0.9
Sensory, intellectual and psychological	**0.2	**0.1	—	**0.1	**0.4	**0.3	**0.1	*0.2	*0.2
<i>Total</i>	4.0	4.3	6.8	5.3	7.0	3.5	9.7	6.8	6.1
Dual impairments									
Sensory and physical	*2.5	12.0	25.2	15.9	**2.4	4.9	20.0	11.7	13.8
Sensory and intellectual	3.2	**0.1	**0.2	0.7	*0.9	**0.3	*0.3	*0.4	0.5
Sensory and psychological	**0.3	*0.9	*1.0	0.9	**0.5	*1.2	1.7	1.3	1.1
Intellectual and physical	*2.7	*1.0	*0.8	1.2	*2.2	*1.0	*0.9	1.1	1.2
Intellectual and psychological	3.1	*0.8	**0.3	0.9	*2.2	*1.0	*0.4	0.9	0.9
Psychological and physical	*2.3	5.9	5.1	5.0	*4.5	8.4	6.5	7.0	6.0
<i>Total</i>	14.1	20.7	32.6	24.6	12.7	16.8	29.8	22.4	23.5
Single impairment									
Sensory	11.6	23.2	22.6	21.1	12.6	13.3	14.7	13.9	17.5
Intellectual	19.3	1.8	**0.2	4.0	11.6	*0.7	*0.3	2.0	3.0
Physical (incomplete use of limbs, difficulty gripping, restricted in physical activity)	14.8	33.0	27.1	27.6	15.2	32.8	28.8	28.6	28.0
Psychological	4.6	3.5	1.3	2.8	9.8	9.7	3.6	6.8	4.8
Speech	8.6	*0.5	*0.5	1.8	*3.4	*0.4	**0.2	0.7	1.3
Disfigurement or deformity	*2.3	1.2	*0.3	1.0	5.3	1.5	*0.7	1.6	1.3
Head injury, stroke or brain damage	1.9	*1.0	*0.6	1.0	**0.7	*0.9	*0.5	0.7	0.8
<i>Total</i>	63.1	64.2	52.6	59.3	58.6	59.3	48.8	54.3	56.7
Other conditions only									
Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s)	11.8	6.3	5.7	6.9	12.3	10.7	6.6	9.0	8.0
Other long-term restricting condition(s)	6.9	4.6	2.3	4.0	9.2	10.0	5.0	7.5	5.7
<i>Total</i>	18.7	10.9	8.0	10.9	21.5	20.7	11.6	16.5	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total persons ('000)	266.0	685.8	667.6	1619.3	206.3	612.9	738.2	1 557.4	3 176.7

A3

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IMPAIRMENT GROUP BY SELECTED IMPAIRMENTS AND CONDITIONS

Impairment group	Selected impairments and conditions ¹					Total '000
	Speech problems '000	Disfigurement or deformity '000	Head injury, stroke or brain damage '000	Treatment for long-term restricting condition(s) '000	Other long-term restricting condition(s) '000	
MALES						
Three or more impairments	32.6	14.7	31.4	57.7	24.9	85.5
Dual impairments						
Sensory and physical	*6.1	11.0	20.8	136.0	73.7	257.2
Psychological and physical	*4.9	*4.7	17.0	59.8	19.5	80.7
Other	16.9	*5.6	13.0	23.3	9.2	58.9
Single impairment						
Sensory	*7.5	*5.8	*4.4	..	..	341.1
Intellectual	12.1	**0.7	*4.2	*3.8	**1.6	64.8
Physical	13.0	45.3	43.4	189.3	70.0	478.8
Psychological	**0.3	—	*3.9	..	..	45.1
Other						
Speech loss only	29.6	**1.0	**0.9	**0.7	**1.0	29.6
Other conditions	..	..	..	112.5	81.1	177.6
Total males	122.9	88.6	139.0	583.1	281.1	1 619.3
FEMALES						
Three or more impairments	35.1	21.8	35.5	73.6	42.4	106.8
Dual Impairments						
Sensory and physical	*4.4	12.1	12.1	98.5	64.2	182.7
Psychological and physical	*2.9	*5.7	11.3	71.2	38.3	108.5
Other	10.7	*4.9	13.5	22.2	15.0	57.8
Single impairment						
Sensory	*4.0	**0.7	*4.1	..	..	216.0
Intellectual	*5.9	**1.0	*3.1	**0.7	**1.3	30.5
Physical	*7.6	44.9	34.5	190.0	80.2	480.4
Psychological	**0.6	**0.6	**1.4	..	..	106.0
Other						
Speech loss only	11.0	**0.6	**0.1	**1.5	**0.5	11.0
Other conditions	..	..	..	140.2	137.8	257.6
Total females	82.2	92.2	115.5	598.1	379.5	1 557.4

¹ People may have more than one selected condition or impairment, and not all conditions and impairments are listed therefore rows may not add to total.

GLOSSARY

- Aid** An aid is a device or appliance used by a person with a disability or a person aged 60 years or more, to help with performing tasks. It is not help provided by a person or an organisation.
- Area of handicap** Handicap was identified by determining if a person needed help, or had difficulty, in relation to a number of areas of activity or social role. These areas were: self care; mobility; verbal communication; schooling; and employment. See Handicap for more details.
- Disability** The International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) defines disability as follows:

In the context of health experience, a disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being.

It is difficult to put such a broad concept into operation. The approach adopted for the 1993 survey was to ask a series of screening questions on limitations, restrictions and impairments about each individual. These questions had been developed in the two previous surveys on the topic (1981, 1988), and in testing for this survey. Three additional screening questions were included for this survey because of concern that specific groups of people with disabilities were missed by the earlier surveys. It has been established that persons identified by one or more of these questions were within the concept of disability as commonly accepted by data users.

For the purposes of this survey, disability was defined as the presence of one or more of the following impairments, conditions or limitations which restricted ability to perform an action and had lasted, or were likely to last, for a period of six months or more:

- loss of sight (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses);
- loss of hearing;
- speech difficulties in native language(s);
- blackouts, fits, or loss of consciousness;
- slowness at learning or understanding;
- incomplete use of arms or fingers;
- difficulty gripping or holding small objects;
- incomplete use of feet or legs;
- treatment for nerves or an emotional condition;
- restriction in physical activities or in doing physical work;
- disfigurement or deformity;
- head injury, stroke or any other brain damage, producing a long-term effect;
- a mental illness requiring help or supervision;
- treatment or medication for a long-term condition or ailment, which is still restricting; and/or
- any other long-term condition that leads to restrictions.

- Disabling condition** A disabling condition is a disease, disorder or event (e.g. poisoning or accident) which

- had lasted or was likely to last for six months or more, or
- had produced a long-term effect,

resulting in one or more of the limitations, restrictions or impairments listed under disability. Disabling conditions are classified into mental and physical conditions, and into further categories consistent with the International Classification of Diseases, Version 9.

Employed person Persons aged 15 years or more, who, in his or her main job during the enumeration period:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm, (excluding persons undertaking other unpaid voluntary work); or,
- were employers, employees or self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employment limitation An employment limitation relates to a person who has any of the following limitations because of their conditions:

- is permanently unable to work;
- is restricted in the type of work can/could do;
- often needed time off work;
- is restricted in the number of hours can/could work;
- would require an employer to make special arrangements; or,
- is limited in prospects of obtaining/keeping/changing jobs.

This information was collected for persons aged 15 years or more who lived in households and were not attending school. Retired persons were excluded.

Establishments Establishments are defined for this survey as hospitals, nursing homes, hostels, retirement villages and other homes for the aged or for people with disabilities.

Handicap A handicap is defined as a limitation in performing certain tasks associated with daily living. The limitation must be due to a disability and in relation to one or more of the areas listed below:

- self care — difficulties in showering, bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, bladder or bowel control;
- mobility — difficulties going places away from the home/establishment, moving about the house/establishment, transferring to and from a bed or chair, or limitation in walking 200 metres, walking up or down stairs or using public transport;
- verbal communication — difficulties understanding or being understood by strangers/family/friends/staff in the person's native language;
- schooling — limited in the ability to attend school or needing to attend a special school or special classes; and/or
- employment — limited in the ability to work, the type of work performed and other work problems such as the amount of time-off required and special arrangements which need to be made.

Persons aged less than five years with one or more disabilities were all regarded as having a handicap, but were not classified by area of handicap. This was due to difficulties inherent in determining whether the needs of children aged less than five years were a function of their age or their disability.

Health care activity Health care activity relates to footcare, taking medication and dressing wounds.

Help needed	A person with a disability, or aged 60 years or more, is identified as having a need for help with an activity, if that person reported requiring assistance or supervision to perform tasks, such as washing themselves, getting out of bed, doing housework and preparing meals, or would find the task(s) difficult to do alone. This person is considered to need help whether or not that help is actually received.
Help received	Help received with an activity relates only to persons with a disability and/or persons aged 60 years or more, who have identified that they need help. The source of help may be individuals, organisations or other bodies, but does not include help from the use of aids or appliances.
Home help activity	Home help activity covers tasks associated with household chores.
Home maintenance activity	Home maintenance activity covers tasks such as changing light bulbs, mowing lawns, and minor repairs to the home.
Household	A household consists of a person, or group of people who usually live together or who have common eating arrangements. Boarders who receive accommodation and meals with other people in the household are treated as part of that household. Lodgers who are provided with accommodation only are treated as separate households.
Impairment	<p>Impairment is defined in the ICIDH as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In the context of health experience, an impairment is any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function.</p> <p>Examples of impairments are loss of sight or of a limb, disfigurement or deformity, mental retardation, impairment of mood or emotion, impairments of speech, hallucinations, loss of consciousness and any other lack of function of body organs.</p>
Impairment type	Impairments can be broadly grouped depending on whether they relate to functioning of the mind or the senses, or to anatomy and physiology. Mental functioning can be subdivided into two groups: intellectual, relating to intelligence, memory and thinking; and psychological, relating to consciousness, perception, mood, volition, emotions and behaviour. In this publication, impairments and restricting conditions have been organised into four major types, intellectual, psychological, sensory (relating only to vision and hearing) and physical.
Impairment group	Impairment groups have been formed, based on the particular type, or combination of types, of impairment reported. These groups are exclusive and exhaustive: each person has been included in one group only.
Living arrangement	Living arrangement relates to the number of persons in a household, whether the person lives alone, with other family members or with other non-related persons. Living arrangements were not determined for persons in establishments.
Main disabling condition	The main disabling condition is that identified by the person with multiple conditions as the one causing the most problems. Where only one condition is recorded, this is coded as the main disabling condition.
Mobility activity	Mobility activity relates to going places away from the home or establishment; moving about the house or establishment; and transferring to and from a bed or a chair.

Mobility handicap	<p>A mobility handicap relates to a person who has difficulties in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ moving around away from home/establishment; ▪ moving about the house/establishment; ▪ transferring to and from bed or chair; ▪ using public transport; ▪ walking 200 metres; ▪ picking something up from the floor; and/or ▪ walking up and down stairs.
Older person	Older person refers to persons aged 60 years or more.
Participation rate	The participation rate for any group is the number of persons in the labour force in that group (i.e employed plus unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over in the same group.
Personal affairs activity	A personal affairs activity includes financial management and writing letters. Financial management covers day-to-day activities such as keeping track of expenses and paying bills. Writing letters includes drafting and writing correspondence.
Personal care activities	Personal care is the term used to describe the activities of self-care, verbal communication and mobility overall.
Private dwelling	Private dwellings are defined as houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey.
Schooling limitation	<p>A schooling limitation relates to a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ is unable to attend school; ▪ attends a special school; ▪ attends special classes in an ordinary school; ▪ needs time-off from school; or ▪ has difficulty at school because of a disabling condition. <p>This information was collected for persons aged 5–14 years, and those aged 15 years or more still attending school, who were living in households.</p>
Self-care activity	Self-care activity relates to the essential tasks of showering and bathing; dressing; eating and feeding; toileting; and bladder and bowel control.
Self-care handicap	<p>A self-care handicap relates to a person who has difficulties in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ showering and bathing; ▪ dressing; ▪ eating; ▪ toileting; or ▪ bladder or bowel control.
Severity of handicap	<p>Four levels of severity (profound, severe, moderate and mild) were determined for each of the three areas of handicap: self-care, mobility and verbal communication. These levels were based on the person's ability to perform relevant tasks in these areas and on the amount of help required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ profound — personal help or supervision always required; ▪ severe — personal help or supervision sometimes required ; ▪ moderate — no personal help or supervision required, but the person has difficulty in performing one or more of the tasks; and ▪ mild — no personal help or supervision required and no difficulty in performing any of the tasks, but the person uses an aid, or cannot use

public transport, walk 200 metres, or up and down stairs, or easily pick up an object from the floor.

The highest level of severity in any one of the areas of self-care, mobility and verbal communication determines the severity of overall handicap. Severity of handicap in each area and in total was not determined for children aged less than five years due to difficulties inherent in determining whether the needs of the children aged less than five years were a function of their age or their disability. Additionally, severity was not determined for people with only an employment or schooling limitation.

Task	A task is a component of an activity. For example, self-care activity comprises the following tasks: showering/bathing, dressing, eating; toileting, and bladder or bowel control.
Transport activity	Transport activity relates to using public transport, shopping and driving.
Unemployed persons	Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years or more, not at school, who were not employed during the enumeration period, but stated they were looking for work. (This is a less precise definition than is used in the ABS monthly Labour Force Survey, where, to be classified as unemployed, persons must have taken active steps to find work and be available to start work if work is found.)
Unemployment rate	The unemployment rate for any group is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group.
Unmet need	Unmet need relates only to persons with one or more disabilities and/or persons aged 60 years or more, who require assistance. A person with one or more disabilities is considered to have an unmet need if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• he/she requires help, but is not receiving it; and/or• he/she is receiving help, but the help is insufficient to satisfy the person's needs for a specific activity.
Verbal communication activity	Verbal communication activity relates to understanding speech and being understood when speaking in the person's native language.
Verbal communication handicap	A verbal communication handicap relates to difficulties understanding or being understood by strangers/family/friends/staff in the person's native language.

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