

Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Mobility disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older

According to data from the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability, over 7% of Canadians aged 15 years and older, or about 1,971,800 people, reported having a mobility disability that limited their daily activities. They are among the 3.8 million Canadians aged 15 years and older who reported having a disability in the survey.

The most prevalent underlying condition reported by those with mobility disabilities was arthritis.

Mobility disabilities frequently co-occurred with other types of disabilities. More than 95% of Canadians aged 15 years and older who reported a mobility disability also reported at least one other type of disability.

The prevalence of mobility disability increased with age. For example, 1.0% of the population aged 15 to 24 reported having a mobility disability, compared with 20.6% of those aged 65 and older.

Canadians aged 15 years and older with a mobility disability had overall lower levels of educational attainment than those without any disability. The proportion of Canadians aged 15 to 64 who were not in school and who had not completed high school was higher among those with a mobility disability (23.2%) than among those without any disability (13.1%).

Compared with Canadians aged 15 to 64 without any disability, Canadians with a mobility disability in the same age group had a lower employment rate (36.0% compared with 73.6%) and a lower median annual before-tax income (\$17,100 compared with \$31,200). As well, a higher proportion of them relied on government transfers as their major source of income (58.7% compared with 18.7%).

Nearly 9 in 10 adults with a mobility disability reported requiring help with some type of everyday activity, such as heavy household chores and housework, and about two-thirds reported some level of unmet need.

Flexibility disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older

According to data from the survey, more than 7% of Canadians aged 15 years and older, or 2,078,000 people, reported having a flexibility disability that limited their daily activities. The most prevalent underlying condition reported by those with flexibility disabilities was arthritis.

Flexibility disabilities frequently co-occurred with other types of disabilities. More than 9 in 10 Canadians aged 15 years and older who reported a flexibility disability also reported at least one other type of disability.

The prevalence of flexibility disability increased with age. For example, 1.0% of the population aged 15 to 24 reported having a flexibility disability, compared with 19.3% of those aged 65 and older.

Canadians aged 15 years and older with a flexibility disability had overall lower levels of educational attainment than those without any disability. The proportion of Canadians aged 15 to 64 who were not in school and who had not completed high school was higher among those with a flexibility disability (21.8%) than among those without any disability (13.1%).

Compared with Canadians aged 15 to 64 without any disability, Canadians with a flexibility disability in the same age group had a lower employment rate (39.1% compared with 73.6%) and a lower median annual before-tax income (\$17,900 compared with \$31,200). As well, a higher proportion of them relied on government transfers as their major source of income (56.5% compared with 18.7%).

Nearly 9 in 10 adults with a flexibility disability reported requiring help with some type of everyday activity, such as heavy household chores and housework, and about two-thirds reported some level of unmet need.



Dexterity disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older

According to data from the survey, over 3% of Canadians aged 15 years and older, or 953,100 people, reported having a dexterity disability that limited their daily activities. The most prevalent underlying condition reported by those with dexterity disabilities was arthritis.

Dexterity disabilities frequently co-occurred with other types of disabilities. More than 9 in 10 Canadians aged 15 years and older who reported a dexterity disability also reported at least one other type of disability.

The prevalence of dexterity disability increased with age. For example, less than 1% of the population aged 15 to 24 reported having a dexterity disability, compared with 8.8% of those aged 65 and older.

Canadians aged 15 years and older with a dexterity disability had overall lower levels of educational attainment than those without any disability. The proportion of Canadians aged 15 to 64 who were not in school and who had not completed high school was higher among those with a dexterity disability (22.9%) than among those without any disability (13.1%).

Compared with Canadians aged 15 to 64 without any disability, Canadians with a dexterity disability in the same age group had a lower employment rate (31.7% compared with 73.6%) and a lower median annual before-tax income (\$15,500 compared with \$31,200). As well, a higher proportion of them relied on government transfers as their major source of income (63.2% compared with 18.7%).

Nearly 9 in 10 adults with a dexterity disability reported requiring help with some type of everyday activity, such as heavy household chores and housework, and about two-thirds reported some level of unmet need.

Pain-related disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years and older

According to data from the survey, more than 9% of Canadians aged 15 years and older, or 2,664,200 people, reported having a pain-related disability that limited their daily activities. The most prevalent underlying conditions reported by those with pain-related disabilities were arthritis, dorsalgia and dorsopathy.

Pain-related disabilities frequently co-occurred with other types of disabilities. Almost 9 in 10 Canadians aged 15 years and older who reported a pain-related disability also reported at least one other type of disability.

The prevalence of pain-related disability increased with age. For example, less than 2% of the population aged 15 to 24 reported having a pain-related disability, compared with 22.2% of those aged 65 and older.

Canadians aged 15 years and older with a pain-related disability had overall lower levels of educational attainment than those without any disability. The proportion of Canadians aged 15 to 64 who were not in school and who had not completed high school was higher among those with a pain-related disability (20.6%) than among those without any disability (13.1%).

Compared with Canadians aged 15 to 64 without any disability, Canadians with a pain-related disability in the same age group had a lower employment rate (46.0% compared with 73.6%) and a lower median annual before-tax income (\$21,400 compared with \$31,200). As well, a higher proportion of them relied on government transfers as their major source of income (48.2% compared with 18.7%).

Four in five adults with a pain-related disability reported requiring help with some type of everyday activity, such as heavy household chores and housework, and about three in five reported some level of unmet need.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The fact sheets, "[Mobility disabilities among adult Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012](#)," "[Flexibility disabilities among adult Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012](#)," "[Dexterity disabilities among adult Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012](#)" and "[Pain-related disabilities among adult Canadians aged 15 years and older, 2012](#)," which are part of the publication, *Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012 (89-654-X)*, are now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).