



MEASURING DISABILITY

IN CANADA



The **2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)**¹ collected data on experiences of persons with disabilities.

The CSD is based on a social model of disabilities, which considers disability to be the result of **the interaction between a person's functional limitations and barriers in the environment**, including social and physical barriers that make it harder to function day to day. Data from the 2022 CSD will provide updated information on persons with disabilities in Canada; results will be available in 2023.

In 2017, **6.2 million (22%)** Canadians aged 15 and older had a disability.

24%
Women

20%
Men



13%
Youth aged
15 to 24



20%
Working-age
adults aged
25 to 64



38%
Seniors aged
65 and older

The majority of people have **two or more types** of disabilities:

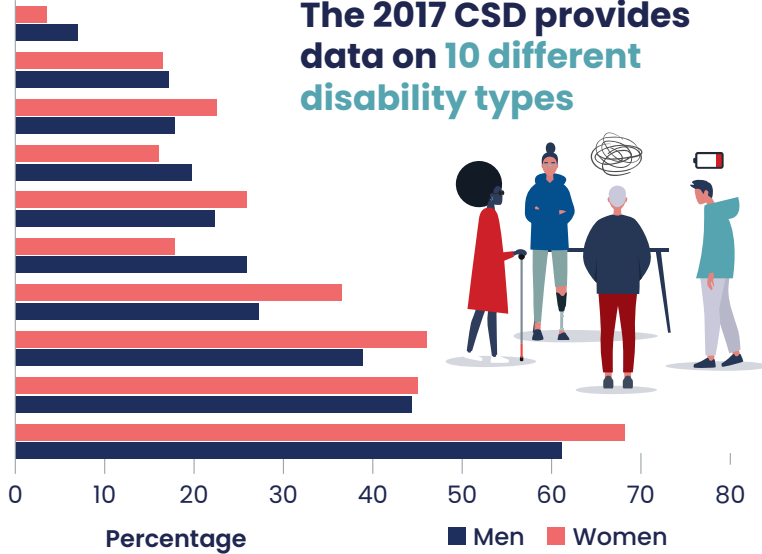
29%

One disability type

71%

Two or more types of disabilities

Developmental
Memory
Dexterity
Learning
Seeing
Hearing
Mental health-related
Mobility
Flexibility
Pain-related



The CSD used the Disability Screening Questions to identify **four classes of disability severity**. The severity score is determined by both the **intensity** and **frequency of activity limitations**.

The name assigned to each class is intended to facilitate use of the severity score and is not a label or judgment about the person's level of disability.

Proportion of people with a disability, by disability severity

Very severe

22%

Severe

21%

Mild

37%

Moderate

20%

¹For more information, see the *Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017: Concepts and Methods Guide* on the Statistics Canada website.
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