

## 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 3—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians Aged 15 Years and Older with a Hearing Disability

### INTRODUCTION

This *Research Highlight* is one in a series produced through a CMHC research project that examined the housing conditions and characteristics of Canadians with disabilities.

This highlight begins with some general characteristics of the population with disabilities who are aged 15 years and older, and continues with a detailed profile of those with a hearing disability. Data used in this highlight are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001 PALS). PALS is Canada's principal national survey focusing on people with disabilities. It provides information on the prevalence and severity of certain types of disability, on the use of and unmet need for supports, and on participation in various activities.

### DEFINITIONS

#### **Population with Disabilities Examined in this Highlight**

This highlight examines the population 15 years of age and older only. The data presented here and in subsequent highlights will differ from the first issue in this series which was based on the 2001 Census because of some key differences between the 2001 Census and 2001 PALS with respect to identifying people with disabilities. The 2001 PALS identifies an estimated 945,000 fewer people aged 15 years and older with a disability than did the 2001 Census. This is because some individuals who

responded "Yes" to the Census disability questions responded "No" to the more detailed questions on the 2001 PALS related to specific types of disabilities. It is also due to differences in the geographic coverage — the 2001 Census includes the people living in the territories and in First Nations communities but these areas and their populations are excluded from the 2001 PALS.

#### **Disability in the 2001 PALS**

The 2001 PALS asks about specific domains of functioning in which one may experience ongoing difficulties doing activities and identifies 10 specific types of disabilities (as well as an "unknown"<sup>1</sup> category):

- Mobility
- Agility
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking/communicating
- Developmental
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotional/psychological
- Pain

<sup>1</sup> People who answer "Yes" to one of the questions on general limitations and "No" to the specific disability-type questions are classified as having "nature of disability unknown."

The 2001 PALS includes three ways to look at disability characteristics: type(s) of disability that an individual reports, number of types of disabilities that an individual reports, and a severity measure that includes the nature and extent of the individual's disability across all the types of disabilities reported by the individual.

### Hearing Disability

In the 2001 PALS, an individual with a hearing disability is someone who has difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person and/or in a conversation with three or more persons and/or in a telephone conversation.

### Core Housing Need

Households<sup>2</sup> are considered to be in core housing need if they do not live in and do not have sufficient income to access acceptable housing. The term "acceptable housing" refers to housing that is in adequate physical condition, of suitable size and affordable.

- Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.
- Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.<sup>3</sup>
- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of before-tax household income.<sup>4</sup>

A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

When discussing core housing need, household data exclude farm, band and reserve households (for which shelter costs are not collected by the census). It also excludes households with shelter costs that equal or exceed their income, or incomes of zero or less.

## FINDINGS

### Persons with a Hearing Disability Aged 15 Years and Older

Close to one third (30%) of persons aged 15 years or older with a disability report a hearing disability (see Table 1). This is over one million people.

**Table 1** Number and percent of persons aged 15 years and older by type of disability, 2001

	Number	(%)*
All types of disabilities	3,352,300	100.0%
Hearing	1,013,700	30.2%
Seeing	586,800	17.5%
Speaking/ Communicating	356,300	10.6%
Mobility/agility	2,692,800	80.3%
Pain	2,332,300	69.6%
Learning	442,000	13.2%
Memory	414,900	12.4%
Developmental	117,000	3.5%
Emotional / Psychological	517,700	15.4%
Unknown	94,400	2.8%
*Percentages add to more than 100% because people can report more than one disability. Source: 2001 PALS		

<sup>2</sup> Refers to all private households. People living in collective dwellings (see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Cat. No. 92-378-XIE, pages 190-193) are excluded by definition.

<sup>3</sup> According to the NOS, enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitation adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e. a unit with no bedroom).

<sup>4</sup> Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters, rent and payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services; and
- For owners, mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services. Costs associated with maintenance and repairs are not considered part of shelter costs.

Income data collected by the 2001 Census refer to the calendar year preceding the Census, while shelter cost data are for 2001.

## Geography

The incidence of hearing disability varies among the ten provinces, with Newfoundland and Labrador showing the highest rates at 36% and Alberta the lowest rate at 28% (see Table 2).

## Age and Gender

At the national level, persons with a hearing disability are typically older than those reporting any type of disability with an average age of 65 years compared to 59 years respectively. Females with a hearing disability tend to be older than males (66 years compared to 64 years respectively).

Males with disabilities are more likely to report a hearing disability than females (38% compared to 25%, respectively), and this is true in all age groups (see Table 3). For example, over half (51%) of senior men (65 and older) with a disability have a hearing disability compared to less than one third (31%) of senior women. The incidence of hearing disability increases with age for both males and females.

**Table 2** Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability and relative to any type of disability, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years and older		% with a hearing disability
	with any type of disability (#)	with a hearing disability (#)	
CANADA	3,352,300	1,013,700	30.2%
Newfoundland and Labrador	57,500	20,800	36.2%
Prince Edward Island	17,500	6,300	36.0%
Nova Scotia	144,300	48,400	33.5%
New Brunswick	97,500	33,300	34.2%
Quebec	560,100	159,100	28.4%
Ontario	1,413,900	427,300	30.2%
Manitoba	133,400	41,700	31.3%
Saskatchewan	110,100	38,200	34.7%
Alberta	320,200	90,600	28.3%
British Columbia	497,700	147,900	29.7%
Source: 2001 PALS			

## Presence of Other Types of Disabilities

People with a hearing disability are likely to report having other types of disabilities. Only 139,800 or 14% of persons report a hearing disability as their only disability. About 76% (or 774,100) who have a hearing disability also report a mobility/agility disability and 64% (or 650,500) report a limitation in their activity due to pain (see Table 4).

Those who have a hearing disability are more likely to report having a seeing disability, a speaking/communicating disability and a memory disability than persons reporting any type of disability (see Tables 4 and 1).

**Table 3** Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability and relative to any type of disability, by sex and age group

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older		% with a hearing disability
		with any type of disability (#)	with a hearing disability (#)	
Both sexes	15 years and older	3,352,300	1,013,700	30.2%
	15 - 24 years	148,000	19,600	13.2%
	25 - 44 years	618,300	107,800	17.4%
	45 - 64 years	1,162,700	324,600	27.9%
	65 years and older	1,423,200	561,600	39.5%
Male	15 years and older	1,487,800	557,600	37.5%
	15 - 24 years	73,000	10,300	14.1%
	25 - 44 years	283,900	56,100	19.8%
	45 - 64 years	541,400	189,000	34.9%
	65 years and older	589,500	302,200	51.3%
Female	15 years and older	1,864,500	456,100	24.5%
	15 - 24 years	75,000	9,300	12.4%
	25 - 44 years	334,400	51,700	15.5%
	45 - 64 years	621,300	135,600	21.8%
	65 years and older	833,700	259,500	31.1%
Source: 2001 PALS				

### Severity of Disability

Half (or 508,300) of persons with a hearing disability have a severe or very severe disability compared to 41% of persons reporting any type of disability (see Table 5). About 24% of persons with a hearing disability have a mild disability, compared to 34% of persons reporting any type of disability.

When data on severity are examined by age, the largest difference occurs among persons aged 15 to 24 years. In this age group, 44% (8,600) have a hearing disability that is severe or very severe compared to 31% reporting any type of disability. Among persons aged 45 to 64 years with a hearing disability, 52% (402,200) have a severe or very severe disability compared to 45% reporting any type of disability.

Among the 1,013,700 persons with a hearing disability, 35,600 or 4% cannot hear at all.

Almost one third (32% or 323,700) of persons with a hearing disability use a hearing aid. Within this group, just over half (57% or 183,900) report that when wearing the hearing aid, they still have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person and almost all (94% or 303,800) have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with at least three other persons. Over two-thirds (69% or 222,400) report that they have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation on the telephone.

**Table 4** Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability, by type of other disability, 2001

Types of disabilities	Distribution of those with a hearing disability by disability type	
	(#)	(%)
Hearing	1,013,700	100.0%
Mobility/agility	774,100	76.4%
Seeing	237,900	23.5%
Speaking/communicating	138,200	13.6%
Developmental	28,900	2.9%
Learning	140,100	13.8%
Emotional / Psychological	141,500	14.0%
Memory	150,400	14.8%
Pain	650,500	64.2%
Source: 2001 PALS		

Of the 690,000 persons with a hearing disability who do not use a hearing aid, the majority (71% or 492,400) have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person. Almost all (95% or 658,300) report that they have difficulty hearing in a conversation with at least three other persons and 64% or 438,900 report having difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation on the telephone.

### Characteristics of Persons with a Hearing Disability who are Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

#### Geography

At the Canada level, 15% of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability live in a household in core housing need; among persons without disabilities, the incidence is 9% (see Table 6). The incidence of living in core housing need for persons with a hearing disability varies significantly by province, with the lowest incidence in New Brunswick at 8% and the highest in Prince Edward Island at 18%. The difference in the incidence of core housing need between persons with a hearing disability and those individuals without disabilities also varies significantly by province. The largest difference occurs in Prince Edward Island (about 10 percentage points) and the smallest difference is in New Brunswick (about two percentage points).

**Table 5** Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability and relative to any type of disability, by severity of disability, 2001

Severity of disability	Persons aged 15 years and older			
	with any type of disability		with a hearing disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	3,352,300	100.0%	1,013,700	100.0%
Mild	1,134,800	33.9%	247,700	24.4%
Moderate	838,800	25.0%	257,700	25.4%
Severe	903,500	27.0%	288,900	28.5%
Very severe	475,100	14.2%	219,400	21.6%
Source: 2001 PALS				

## Urban/Rural

The probability of living in a household in core housing need is higher in urban areas than in rural areas regardless of disability status. For persons with a hearing disability, the incidence of living in a household in core housing is 15% in urban areas and 12% in rural areas compared to 10% and 6% respectively for persons without disabilities.

## Tenure

The incidence of core housing need is much higher for renters than for owners, and this is no different for persons with a hearing disability. Just under one-third (32%) of persons with a hearing disability who live in rental households are in core housing need compared to 8% of persons with a hearing disability who live in dwellings owned by a member of the family (see Table 7). Persons with a hearing disability that live in a rental accommodation are more likely to be in a household in core housing need (at 32%) than persons without disabilities (at 21%). Those with a hearing disability that live in accommodation that is

owned by a family member are more likely to be living in a household in core housing need (at 8%) than persons without disabilities (at 5%).

## Age and Gender

Whereas 48% of persons with a hearing disability are aged 65 years and older, the proportion is 39% among persons reporting any type of disability and 12% among persons without disabilities (see Table 8).

About 59% (or 86,800) of those with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are female. Males with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are more likely to be younger than females, with 38% of males aged 65 years and older, compared to 55% of females.

## Living Arrangements

Persons with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are most likely to live alone or in a family without children. Almost half (49% or 72,600) of those with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are living alone compared to 21% (or 370,300) of individuals without disabilities (see Table 9). Of the 147,300 persons with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need, 23% live in families without children compared to 14% of persons without disabilities.

**Table 6** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada	147,300	14.5%	563,900	16.8%	1,757,000	9.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,500	16.8%	10,700	18.5%	35,900	10.3%
Prince Edward Island	1,100	17.5%	2,500	14.5%	6,600	7.8%
Nova Scotia	8,000	16.5%	25,100	17.4%	55,000	9.6%
New Brunswick	2,800	8.4%	11,700	12.0%	31,800	6.7%
Quebec	19,200	12.1%	89,200	15.9%	376,300	7.4%
Ontario	65,000	15.2%	247,800	17.5%	772,900	10.5%
Manitoba	5,900	14.1%	17,300	13.0%	40,600	6.6%
Saskatchewan	3,400	8.9%	12,400	11.3%	31,100	6.4%
Alberta	13,100	14.5%	45,100	14.1%	124,800	7.1%
British Columbia	25,200	17.0%	102,000	20.5%	282,100	11.2%
Source: 2001 PALS						

**Table 7** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability, by tenure, 2001

Tenure	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All dwellings	147,300	14.5%	563,900	16.8%	1,757,000	9.1%
Owned by a member of the family	54,000	7.5%	202,300	8.9%	673,500	4.8%
Rented	93,300	31.8%	361,600	33.6%	1,083,400	21.1%
Source: 2001 PALS						

## Research Highlight

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**Table 8** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability, by sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
		with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Both sexes	15 years and older	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
	15 to 24	3,400	2.3%	26,500	4.7%	386,100	22.0%
	25 to 44	21,000	14.3%	120,700	21.4%	755,200	43.0%
	45 to 64	52,100	35.4%	199,200	35.3%	402,000	22.9%
	65 and older	70,900	48.1%	217,500	38.6%	213,700	12.2%
Males	15 years and older	60,500	100.0%	211,800	100.0%	745,100	100.0%
	15 to 24	1,900	3.1%	11,500	5.4%	182,200	24.5%
	25 to 44	10,100	16.7%	51,900	24.5%	317,200	42.6%
	45 to 64	25,300	41.8%	90,300	42.6%	181,200	24.3%
	65 and older	23,100	38.2%	58,100	27.4%	64,600	8.7%
Females	15 years and older	86,800	100.0%	352,000	100.0%	1,011,800	100.0%
	15 to 24	1,400	1.6%	15,100	4.3%	204,000	20.2%
	25 to 44	10,900	12.6%	68,700	19.5%	438,000	43.3%
	45 to 64	26,700	30.8%	108,900	30.9%	220,800	21.8%
	65 and older	47,800	55.1%	159,400	45.3%	149,100	14.7%

Source: 2001 PALS

**Table 9** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability and living arrangements, 2001

Living arrangements	Persons aged 15 and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
All types of living arrangements	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Living alone	72,600	49.3%	261,900	46.4%	370,300	21.1%
Non-family person, living with others	7,000	4.8%	38,500	6.8%	125,800	7.2%
Lone parent family	19,400	13.2%	89,300	15.8%	407,400	23.2%
Family without children	33,400	22.7%	103,200	18.3%	241,000	13.7%
Family with children	14,800	10.0%	70,900	12.6%	612,300	34.8%

Source: 2001 PALS



When living arrangements for individuals living in core housing need are looked at by age group, a different picture emerges for those with hearing disabilities. Over half (54% or 10,500) of young people aged 15 to 24 years with a hearing disability live in a Census family household with children, compared to 64% of persons without disabilities. Proportionately more (25% or 4,800) with a hearing disability live in lone parent families, compared to 17% of persons without disabilities. Among those individuals who are 25 to 44 years with a hearing disability, 16% or 17,200 live alone and this proportion increases to 17% among persons aged 45 to 64 years with a hearing disability.

In contrast, among persons without disabilities, only 9% of those aged 24 to 44 and 11% of those aged 45 to 64 years live alone. Among persons with a hearing disability who are aged 65 years and older, 10% live in a non-family household, compared to 6% for persons without disabilities.

### Immigrant Status

About 27% (39,300) of persons aged 15 and older with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are immigrants compared to 37% (650,100) of persons without disabilities (see Table 10).

**Table 10** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability and immigrant status, 2001

Immigrant status	Persons aged 15 and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All immigrant status	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Non-immigrant	108,000	73.3%	426,500	75.6%	1,106,900	63.0%
Immigrant	39,300	26.7%	137,400	24.4%	650,100	37.0%
Source: 2001 PALS						

**Table 11** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability and household income quintile, 2001

Income quintile	Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
High, Upper, Middle (\$46,896 or more)	0	0	*	*	27,200	1.5%
Moderate (\$27,418-\$46,895)	16,300	11.1%	59,000	10.5%	383,100	21.8%
Low (less than \$27,418)	131,000	88.9%	501,500	88.9%	1,346,600	76.6%
* Number suppressed because of sample size. Source: 2001 PALS						

## Research Highlight

2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 3—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians Aged 15 Years and Older with a Hearing Disability

### Household Income

Regardless of disability status, the majority of persons that live in a household in core housing need have low incomes: 89% of persons with a hearing disability are in households in the lowest income quintile compared to 77% of those without disabilities (see text box and Table 11).

For the purpose of this analysis, the pre-tax household income of Canadian households with at least one person aged 15 years and older were assessed and divided into five equally sized income groups or quintiles ranging from low-income to high-income.

High Income: \$96,936 or more  
Upper Income: \$67,812 - 96,935  
Middle Income: \$46,896 - \$67,811  
Moderate Income: \$27,418 - \$46,895  
Low Income: Less than \$27,418

### Sources of Personal Income

Only 13% or 18,700 persons aged 15 and older with a hearing disability who live in a household in core housing need report wages and salaries as a source of personal income compared to almost half (48% or 843,100) of persons without disabilities (see Table 12).

Most households in core need report some income from government sources (including Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, benefits from the Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, or provincial income supplements and welfare payments). Almost all (94%) people with a hearing disability that live in core housing need have household income from government sources compared to 82% of persons without disabilities that live in a household in core housing need.

**Table 12** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability and sources of personal income

Sources of personal income	Persons aged 15 years and older that live in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All sources of income	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%	1,757,700	100.0%
Wages and salaries	18,700	12.7%	93,800	16.6%	843,100	48.0%
Income from self-employment	7,500	5.1%	20,500	3.6%	128,400	7.3%
Income from Government	137,700	93.5%	532,300	94.4%	1,434,500	81.6%
Other income, such as retirement pensions, dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings, alimony, child support, scholarships, etc.	8,500	5.8%	28,500	5.1%	121,100	6.9%

Percentages add to more than 100% since income from all sources was reported.

Source: 2001 PALS



## Level of Education

Among persons with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need, 63% have not completed high school, compared to 40% of persons without disabilities that live in a household in core housing need. Also, only 11% of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need report some university education compared to 21% of persons without disabilities (see Table 13).

The overall incidence of core housing need is 15% for people with a hearing disability but there are variations when level and type of education is considered. While the incidence is highest for persons who have not completed high school (18%), the incidence is lowest among persons with a trade certificate or diploma (6%). Where a bachelor degree has been achieved, there is an 11% likelihood of living in a household in core housing need.

## Health Status

Almost half (49%) of persons aged 15 and older who report having a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need consider that their general health status is fair or poor (see Table 14).

Of those who indicated a fair level of general health, nearly three quarters (73%) have a severe or very severe level of disability, about 45% are aged 45 to 64 years, and 72% have three more types of disabilities in addition to their hearing disability.

**Table 14** Persons aged 15 years and older with disabilities living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and any type of disability and general health status

General health status	Persons aged 15 and older living in a household in core housing need			
	with a hearing disability		with any type of disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada – All levels of general health status	147,300	100.0%	563,900	100.0%
Excellent	5,400	3.7%	21,300	3.8%
Very good	20,900	14.2%	92,000	16.3%
Good	42,600	28.9%	157,100	27.9%
Fair	42,700	29.0%	174,300	30.9%
Poor	29,900	20.3%	95,400	16.9%
Not stated, refusal or don't know	5,800	3.9%	23,900	4.2%
Source: 2001 PALS				

**Table 13** Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by hearing and no disability and highest level of education, 2001

Highest level of education	Persons aged 15 and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with a hearing disability			without disabilities		
	(#)	(%)	Incidence of core need	(#)	(%)	Incidence of core need
Canada - All levels of education	147,300	100.0%	14.5%	1,757,000	100.0%	9.1%
Less than high school graduation	93,400	63.4%	18.1%	708,000	40.3%	13.2%
Secondary school graduation certificate	10,700	7.3%	11.2%	247,400	14.1%	8.7%
Trades certificate or diploma	3,800	2.6%	6.2%	53,300	3.0%	8.0%
Other non-university	24,000	16.3%	11.8%	378,900	21.6%	7.5%
University but no degree	7,000	4.8%	12.4%	173,600	9.9%	8.3%
At least bachelor degree	8,500	5.8%	10.9%	195,800	11.1%	6.0%
Source: 2001 PALS						

Of those who indicated a poor level of general health, 88% have a severe or very severe level of disability, 46% are aged 45 to 64 years and 71% have three more types of disabilities in addition to their hearing disability.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Hearing Disability

#### General Characteristics

- 30% of Canadians with disabilities aged 15 years and older have a hearing disability. The incidence is highest in Newfoundland and Labrador, at 36%, and lowest in Alberta, at 28%.
- Males with disabilities are more likely to report a hearing disability than females (38% compared to 25%, respectively)
- 76% of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability also report that they have a mobility/agility disability.

### Housing Conditions of Persons Aged 15 and Older with a Hearing Disability

#### Housing Characteristics

- 15% of persons aged 15 years and older with a hearing disability live in a household in core housing need (compared to 9% of people without disabilities), with the highest incidence (18%) reported in Prince Edward Island and the lowest (8%) in New Brunswick.
- The incidence of living in a rental household in core housing need is higher (at 32%) for persons with a hearing disability than for persons without disabilities (at 21%).
- Persons with a hearing disability living in a house that is owned by a family member are more likely to be living in a household in core housing need (at 8%) than persons without disabilities (at 5%).

## Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

- The majority (59%) of people with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need are females.
- Almost one-half (49%) of persons with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need live alone compared to 21% of individuals without disabilities.
- 27% of persons with a hearing disability and who live in a household in core housing need are immigrants compared to 37% of persons without disabilities.
- The majority (89%) of persons who have a hearing disability and live in a household in core need had a household before-tax income in the lowest quintile (less than \$27,418 in 2000).
- 63% of persons who have a hearing disability and live in a household in core housing need have not completed high school compared to 40% of people without disabilities who live in a household in core need.
- Almost half (49%) of persons aged 15 and older with a hearing disability that live in a household in core housing need report their health to be fair or poor.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### Housing Research at CMHC

Under Part IX of the *National Housing Act*, the Government of Canada provides funds to CMHC to conduct research into the social, economic and technical aspects of housing and related fields, and to undertake the publishing and distribution of the results of this research.

This fact sheet is one of a series intended to inform you of the nature and scope of CMHC's research.

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