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# A Portrait of Persons with Disabilities

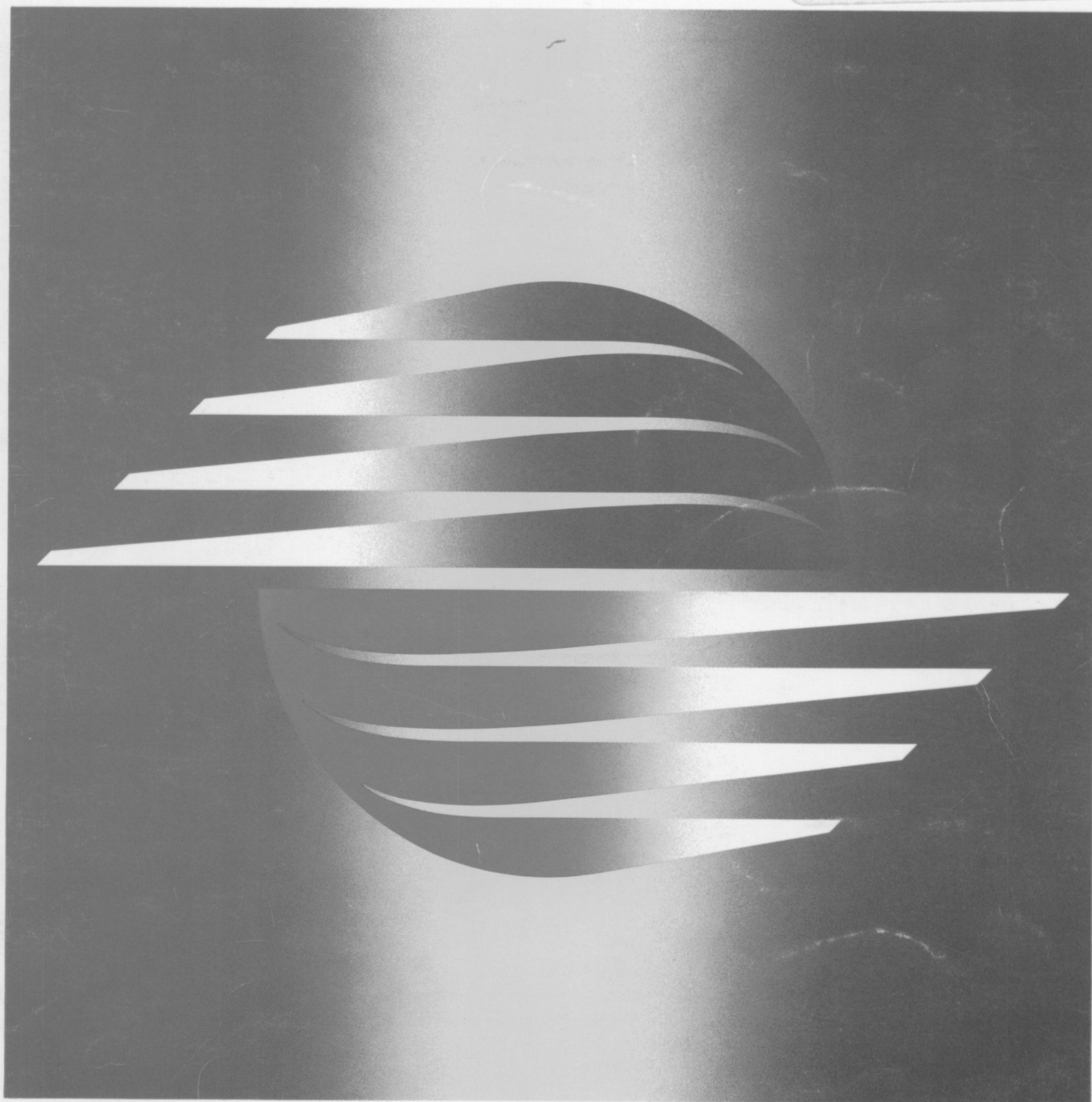
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Statistics Canada  
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# **A Portrait of Persons with Disabilities**

## **Target groups project**

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# HIGHLIGHTS

- In 1991, 4.2 million Canadians, 16% of the population, had disabilities. This represents an increase from 1986, when 3.3 million people, 13% of the overall population, had some degree of disability.
- Most adults with disabilities have mild disabilities, although a substantial proportion have severe disabilities. In 1991, 47% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities were considered to have mild disabilities, while 32% had moderate disabilities and 22% had severe disabilities. That year, 817,300 Canadians aged 15 and over, 4% of the total population in that age range, had disabilities that were considered severe.
- The majority of persons with disabilities live in households; however, around 7%, 262,200 people in total in 1991, were living in health-related institutions.
- Disabilities are most common among seniors. In 1991, 46% of all persons aged 65 and over had disabilities, compared with 27% of people aged 55-64, 14% of those aged 35-54, 8% of those aged 15-34, and 7% of children under age 15.
- As well, the proportion of seniors with disabilities increases with age. In 1991, 84% of people aged 85 and over had disabilities, while the figures were 57% for those aged 75-84 and 37% among 65-74-year-olds.
- Seniors with disabilities are also more likely than their younger counterparts to have severe disabilities. In 1991, 32% of persons with disabilities aged 65 and older had severe disabilities, compared with 20% of those aged 55-64, 15% of those aged 35-54, and 9% of individuals aged 15-34. In fact, people aged 65 and over made up over half, 58%, of all persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities.
- A number of persons with disabilities have difficulty using basic household facilities. In 1991, 12% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households encountered some difficulty using the bathtub or shower in their home, while 5% reported difficulty accessing cabinets, 4% had trouble using laundry equipment, 4% had difficulty operating the stove, 4% encountered problems with the toilet facilities, and 3% had trouble using sinks and counters. A smaller proportion of persons with disabilities reported having modified facilities in their homes because of their condition.
- While the majority of persons with disabilities are capable of performing most routine household activities, a number require assistance with some of these tasks. In 1991, 39% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households received assistance with heavy housework, while 21% got help with shopping, 20% with everyday housework, 13% with meal preparation, and 13% with personal finances.
- Most persons with disabilities are able to get around within their local communities. Almost one in five, however, is either housebound or requires assistance travelling short distances. In 1991, 6% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households were housebound and 13% needed an attendant or companion to help with short distance trips.
- Persons with disabilities generally have more difficulty making long distance trips than they have travelling within their local communities. In 1991, 18% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities reported they were unable to travel long distances because of their condition, while another 14% required an attendant or companion to make such a trip.

- Persons with disabilities have lower levels of educational attainment, on average, than those without disabilities. For example, among persons aged 35-54 in 1991, those with disabilities were only about half as likely as those without disabilities to have a university degree. Persons with disabilities were also less likely to have a certificate or diploma from a non-university postsecondary institution.
- A substantial proportion of the population under age 55 with disabilities is employed. In 1991, 65% of men aged 35-54 with disabilities and 58% of those aged 15-34 were part of the paid work force, as were around 50% of women in both these age ranges with disabilities. However, persons aged 55-64 with disabilities are considerably less likely than their younger counterparts to be working. In fact, of persons aged 55-64 with disabilities, only 39% of men and just 17% of women were part of the paid work force in 1991.
- In all age groups, however, the proportion of persons with disabilities with jobs is well below the figure for those without disabilities.
- As well, a number of persons with disabilities experience barriers, other than their condition, that affect their work force experience. For example, in 1991, 20% of non-labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities were not in the labour force because they would lose some or all of their current source of income if they were employed. Another 15% felt that their present training was not adequate for finding work; 14% thought that no suitable jobs were available; and 12% stood to lose some or all additional supports.
- Many persons with disabilities also still experience discrimination in the workplace. In 1991, 8% of all persons aged 15-64 with disabilities reported that they had been refused employment within the last five years; 6% had been dismissed from their job; 4% had been refused a promotion; and 2% had been denied access to training courses because of their condition.
- The income of persons with disabilities is below that of people without disabilities in all age groups. In 1990, for example, the average income of men aged 55-64 with disabilities was only 60% that of non-disabled men in this age range, while the figure was around 70% for men and women aged 35-54. As well, women with disabilities have lower incomes than their male counterparts in all age groups.
- Persons with disabilities participate in a wide range of leisure and physical activities. In 1991, 84% of persons aged 15 years and over with disabilities living in households watched television or listened to the radio, records or tapes on a daily basis. As well, 58% read daily, while 49% talked on the phone regularly. In addition, a majority of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities visit with family or friends and go shopping on a weekly basis.

# INTRODUCTION

The integration of persons with disabilities into all mainstream activities has been of growing interest to both government and the public in recent years. This report describes persons with disabilities in terms of their population characteristics, family status, housing, education, labour force participation, income, transportation, and activity patterns. It also describes the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the pursuit of their everyday activities.

The information presented in this report is mainly from the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey. This survey is part of Statistics Canada's ongoing commitment to build and maintain a national database on disability. The survey is a post-censal survey; it was first conducted after the 1986 Census and was repeated after the 1991 Census.

The 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey collected data on persons of all ages with disabilities residing in households, and on persons aged 15 and older with disabilities residing in health-related institutions at the time of the 1991 Census. Overall, approximately 150,000 individuals living in households and 10,000 living in health-related institutions were asked to participate in the 1991 survey.

## Definition of disabilities

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey uses the World Health Organization's definition of disability, which 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."

Adults 15 years and over were asked a number of questions about activities which most people carry out as part of their everyday life. This set of questions, referred to as the "Activities of Daily Living," was developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development to measure the consequences of disability on the lives of persons with disabilities. Persons who indicated they were limited in performing any of these specific activities, such as walking up and down a flight of stairs or hearing what was said in a normal conversation, were considered to have a disability.

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey also included those who were limited in activities at home, school, work, or leisure because of a physical or psychological condition. As well, people who had ever been told by a health professional they had a learning disability or a mental handicap, or that they were developmentally delayed or mentally retarded; or who had difficulties with learning or remembering were considered to have a disability.

It should be noted, however, that respondents' answers to questions on disability represent their perception of the situation and are therefore subjective.

In addition, adults are not considered to have a disability if they use a technical aid that completely eliminates the limitation. For example, an individual who uses a hearing aid and has no limitation when using the aid would not be considered to have a disability. Furthermore, the limitation has to be of a minimum six-month duration, that is, it has lasted, or is expected to last, six months or more.

For children less than 15 years of age, the survey asked parents about the existence of general limitations such as hearing, speaking or vision problems; chronic conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy or muscular dystrophy; long-term conditions limiting participation in any activity normal for a child that age; attendance at special schools or classes, or enrolment in an individualized program; the use of technical

aids; long-term emotional, psychological, nervous, or mental health condition; or the presence of any other general limitation. A positive response in any one of these categories was taken as an indication of the presence of a disability.

For more information on the definition of disabilities, please refer to the *User's Guide* of the Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

The information in this report is generally presented at the national level, although several provincial breakdowns are also included. In addition, comparisons with data from the 1986 Health and Activity Survey have been used to illustrate significant trends, where applicable. As well, most series describing persons with disabilities are accompanied by comparisons to their counterparts without disabilities. Comparisons between persons with and without disabilities, however, should be interpreted with care because of differences in the age structures of the two populations.

This report was prepared by the Target Groups Project of Statistics Canada under the direction of Colin Lindsay. Michael Bergob was the primary author of this report, while Nancy Ghalam, Josée Normand and Susan Calder also contributed major sections. Marcia Almey was the senior editor. The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Lisa Verdon, Krista McClure and Alex Solis in the preparation and distribution of this report.

The Target Groups Project also gratefully acknowledges the assistance and co-operation of Adele Furrie, Director, Post-Censal Surveys Program, Renée Langlois, Manager, Health and Activity Limitation Survey, and Lee Grenon, Analyst, Health and Activity Limitation Survey, in providing the data, as well as analytic advice and expertise, without which this report could not have been completed. The insightful comments of Russell Wilkins of the Health Statistics Division were also invaluable in preparing this report.

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Questions or comments about the Health and Activity Limitation Survey should be addressed to Renée Langlois, Post-Censal Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, 9th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6; telephone (613) 951-4532.

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# POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

## Population with disabilities

Persons with disabilities make up a substantial proportion of the Canadian population. In 1991, there were an estimated 4.2 million Canadians with disabilities, representing 16% of the total population. The number of persons with disabilities has increased since 1986. That year, 3.3 million people, 13% of the overall population, had some degree of disability.

It should be noted, however, that most of the increase in the proportion of the population with some degree of disability occurred among those with a mild disability. The increase in this group can be attributed, in part, to the aging of the population, as well as to a change in survey methodology. The latter change enabled more comprehensive enumeration of persons with disabilities related to a learning or mental health condition or handicap. As well, an increased awareness of disability in society may have made people more willing to report limitations in their activities and the barriers they encounter in their everyday activities.<sup>1</sup>

## Disabilities increase with age

Disabilities are most common among seniors. In 1991, 46% of all persons aged 65 and over had disabilities, compared with 27% of people aged 55-64, 14% of those aged 35-54, 8% of those aged 15-34, and 7% of children under age 15. (Table 1.1)

The proportion of seniors with disabilities also increases with age. In 1991, 84% of people aged 85 and over had disabilities, while the figures were 57% for those aged 75-84 and 37% among 65-74-year-olds.

While disabilities increase with age, there has been greater growth in the prevalence of disabilities among younger people than among those aged 55 or over in recent years. Between 1986 and 1991, the proportions of the population with disabilities under age 15

and aged 15-34 or 35-54 increased around two percentage points, whereas the figures for those aged 55-64 and 65 and over were up only about one percentage point in the same period. (Chart 1.1)

Again, it should be noted that some of the increase in the prevalence of disabilities in the various age groups may have resulted from the change in survey methodology mentioned above, as well as from a growing awareness of disabilities and an increased willingness to report them.

## Older women more likely to have disabilities

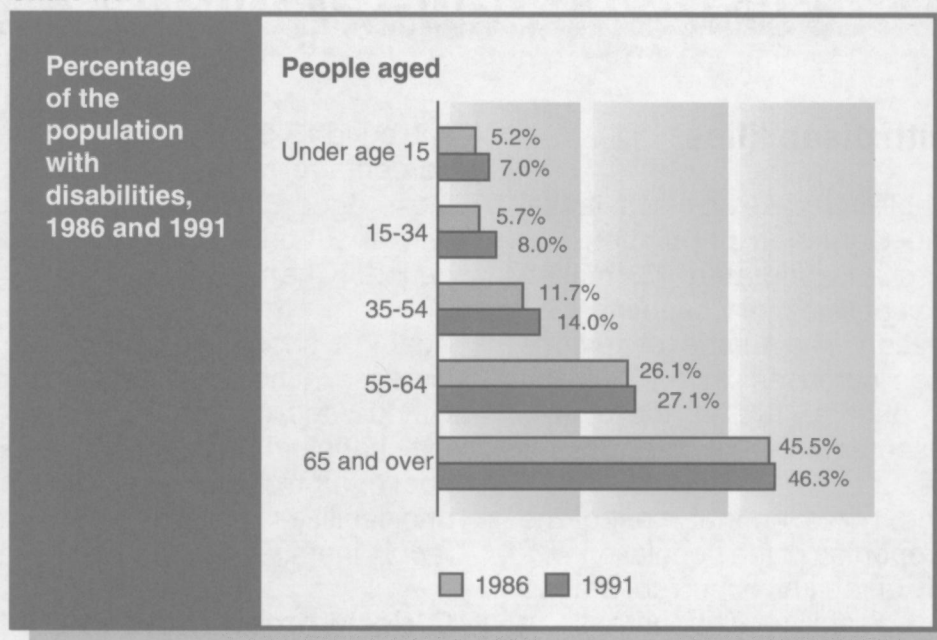
Among seniors, women are more likely than men to have disabilities. In 1991, 48% of women aged 65 and older had disabilities, compared with 43% of their male counterparts. (Table 1.1)

There are wide gaps between the proportions of women and men with disabilities among older segments of the senior population. In 1991, 86% of women aged 85 years and over had disabilities, compared with 80% of men in this age range. Similarly, among those aged 75-84, 59% of women, versus 53% of men, had disabilities. However, in the 65-74 age group, there was no difference in the proportion of women and men who had disabilities.

## Few male-female differences in younger age groups

There are few differences in the proportions of women and men with disabilities in age groups under age 65. Men aged 55-64 years were slightly more likely than women in this age range to have disabilities in 1991, 28% versus 26%, while there were only slight differences in the prevalence of disabilities among women and men aged either 15-34 or 35-54. (Table 1.1)

Chart 1.1



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey; and Catalogue 98-126.

Among children, boys are more likely than girls to have disabilities. In 1991, 8% of boys aged 14 years and under, compared with 6% of girls in this age range, were reported as having disabilities.

## Nature of disabilities

Mobility and/or agility disabilities are the most commonly reported disabilities. In 1991, 59% of all persons with disabilities aged 15 and over reported a mobility disability; that is, they were limited in the ability to walk, move from room to room, carry an object a short distance, or stand for long periods. At the same time, 54% reported an agility disability; for example, they were limited in the ability to bend, dress or undress, get in or out of bed, grasp or handle objects, or reach or cut food. (Chart 1.2)

In addition, 30% of persons with disabilities had a hearing disability; that is, they were limited in the ability to hear what was being said in a normal conversation even when wearing a hearing aid. As well, 14% had a sight disability, that is, they were limited in the ability to see newsprint or to see someone from four metres

away even when wearing corrective glasses. At the same time, 7% had a speaking disability, while 30% reported other conditions, including limitation because of a learning disability, mental health condition, mental handicap, or because of labelling by others.<sup>2</sup>

## Severity of disability

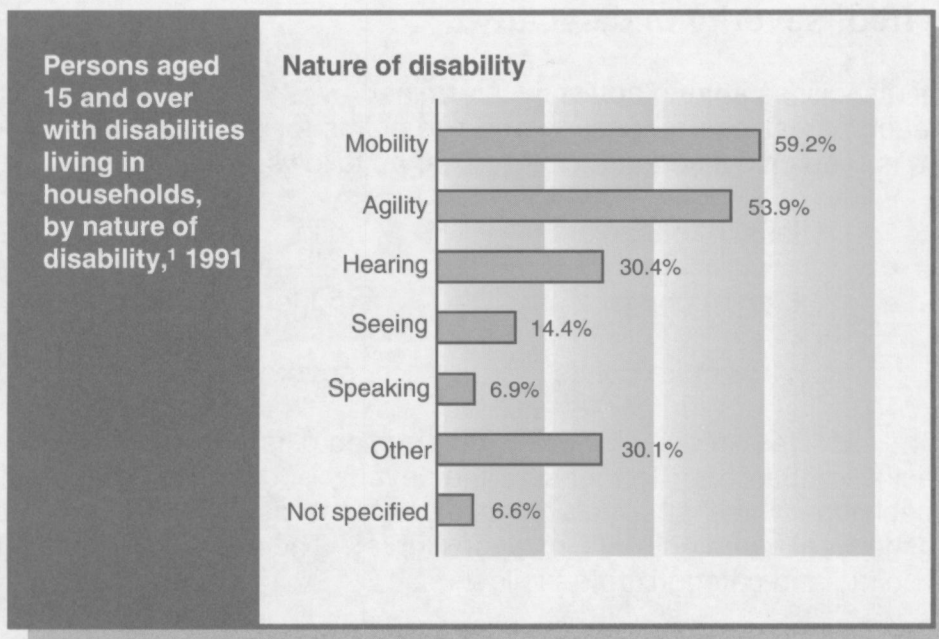
The largest share of adults with disabilities have a mild disability, although a substantial proportion have severe disabilities. In 1991, 47% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities were considered to have a mild disability, while 32% had a moderate disability and 22% had a severe disability. That year, 817,300 Canadians aged 15 and over, 4% of the total population in that age range, had disabilities that were considered severe. (Table 1.2)

## Severity increases with age

Older persons with disabilities are more likely than their younger counterparts to have severe disabilities. In 1991, 32% of persons with disabilities aged 65 and over had severe



Chart 1.2



<sup>1</sup> Totals add to more than 100% because respondents can have more than one disability.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

disabilities, compared with 20% of those aged 55-64, 15% of those aged 35-54 and 9% of individuals aged 15-34. In fact, people aged 65 and over made up over half, 58%, of all persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities. (Table 1.2)

Among seniors with disabilities, a greater proportion of women than men have severe disabilities. In 1991, 36% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities had severe disabilities, compared with 27% of men in this age range.

Women with disabilities aged 35-64 were also more likely than their male counterparts to have severe disabilities, whereas among persons with disabilities aged 15-34, men were more likely than women to have severe disabilities.

At the same time, very few children with disabilities have severe disabilities. In 1991, only 3% of children with disabilities were classified as having a severe disability, while 8% had a moderate disability and 89% had a

mild disability. As well, there was little difference in the levels of severity reported for boys and girls with disabilities. (Table 1.3)

## Provincial differences

There is considerable variation in the prevalence of disabilities among the provinces. Nova Scotia, at 21%, had the largest proportion of its population with disabilities in 1991, while rates were also relatively high in Saskatchewan (19%), New Brunswick and Manitoba (both 18%), Alberta, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia (17%), and Ontario (16%). In contrast, just 12% of Quebec residents and only 10% of those in Newfoundland had disabilities. (Table 1.4)

Most of the differences in disability rates across the country occurs among those with mild disabilities. For example, in 1991, the proportion of provincial populations aged 15 and over with mild disabilities ranged from around 11% in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to 5% in Newfoundland. In contrast, the percentage with severe

## Measurement of severity of disability

The severity of disabilities among adults is determined by Statistics Canada by counting one point for each partial loss of function and two points for each total loss of function. The total score is then calculated and categorized as follows:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| less than 5 points- | mild     |
| 5 to 10 points-     | moderate |
| 11 or more points-  | severe   |

The severity of disabilities among children is determined differently from those of adults and is not directly comparable. To measure the severity of disability among children, a point is given each time a "yes" answer is given to one of the disability screening questions for children on the Health and Activity Limitation Survey. The score is then calculated by adding all the points and categorized as follows:

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1 to 2 points-    | mild     |
| 3 to 4 points-    | moderate |
| 5 or more points- | severe   |

disabilities varied from just under 5% in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan to around 3% in Quebec, Alberta, and Newfoundland.

Variation in the proportion of provincial populations with disabilities may also be related to differences in age structure. For example, Newfoundland, which has the lowest proportion of persons with disabilities, also has the smallest senior population.

However, there is still considerable variation in the prevalence of disabilities in different age groups across the country. For example, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over with disabilities in 1991 ranged from 59% in Nova Scotia to 41% in Newfoundland.

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed discussion of the changes in the population with disabilities over time see: "Changes in Health Expectancy in Canada from 1986 to 1991," by Russell Wilkins, Jiajian Chen and Edward Ng, Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, in **Advances in Health Expectancies: Proceedings of the 7th Meeting of the International Network on Health Expectancy (REVES)**, Canberra, February 1994, Australian Government Publishing Service, 1994.

<sup>2</sup> Totals add to more than 100% because respondents can have more than one disability.

**Table 1.1**  
**Persons with disabilities and disability rates, 1991**

|                  | Males   |                | Females |                | Total   |                |
|------------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
|                  | 000s    | % of age group | 000s    | % of age group | 000s    | % of age group |
| Under age 15     |         |                |         |                |         |                |
| Less than age 5  | 47.9    | 5.0            | 37.2    | 4.1            | 85.1    | 4.6            |
| 5-9              | 84.4    | 8.8            | 53.4    | 5.9            | 137.9   | 7.4            |
| 10-14            | 100.7   | 10.6           | 65.7    | 7.3            | 166.4   | 9.0            |
| Total            | 233.0   | 8.1            | 156.4   | 5.7            | 389.4   | 7.0            |
| Aged 15-64       |         |                |         |                |         |                |
| 15-34            | 335.7   | 7.8            | 350.6   | 8.2            | 686.3   | 8.0            |
| 35-54            | 504.2   | 13.9           | 510.9   | 14.0           | 1,015.1 | 14.0           |
| 55-64            | 324.4   | 27.8           | 320.7   | 26.4           | 645.1   | 27.1           |
| Total            | 1,164.3 | 12.8           | 1,182.1 | 12.9           | 2,346.4 | 12.9           |
| Aged 65 and over |         |                |         |                |         |                |
| 65-74            | 331.9   | 36.8           | 400.8   | 37.0           | 732.7   | 36.9           |
| 75-84            | 180.7   | 53.3           | 327.2   | 59.1           | 507.8   | 56.8           |
| 85 and over      | 57.2    | 79.6           | 151.1   | 85.5           | 208.3   | 83.8           |
| Total            | 569.7   | 43.4           | 879.1   | 48.4           | 1,448.9 | 46.3           |
| Total population | 1,967.0 | 14.8           | 2,217.6 | 16.2           | 4,184.7 | 15.5           |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 1.2**  
**Persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                               | Men     |       | Women   |       | Total   |       |                       |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
|                               | 000s    | %     | 000s    | %     | 000s    | %     | % of total population |
| <b>Aged 15-34</b>             |         |       |         |       |         |       |                       |
| Mild                          | 222.1   | 66.2  | 228.2   | 65.1  | 450.3   | 65.6  | 5.3                   |
| Moderate                      | 80.0    | 23.8  | 96.1    | 27.4  | 176.1   | 25.7  | 2.1                   |
| Severe                        | 33.6    | 10.0  | 26.3    | 7.5   | 59.9    | 8.7   | 0.7                   |
| Total                         | 335.7   | 100.0 | 350.6   | 100.0 | 686.3   | 100.0 | 8.0                   |
| <b>Aged 35-54</b>             |         |       |         |       |         |       |                       |
| Mild                          | 287.0   | 56.9  | 243.8   | 47.7  | 530.8   | 52.3  | 7.3                   |
| Moderate                      | 143.3   | 28.4  | 183.8   | 36.0  | 327.0   | 32.2  | 4.4                   |
| Severe                        | 73.9    | 14.7  | 83.3    | 16.3  | 157.3   | 15.4  | 2.2                   |
| Total                         | 504.2   | 100.0 | 510.9   | 100.0 | 1,015.1 | 100.0 | 14.0                  |
| <b>Aged 55-64</b>             |         |       |         |       |         |       |                       |
| Mild                          | 149.9   | 46.2  | 130.9   | 40.8  | 280.8   | 43.5  | 11.8                  |
| Moderate                      | 113.6   | 35.0  | 120.7   | 37.6  | 234.3   | 36.3  | 9.8                   |
| Severe                        | 61.0    | 18.8  | 69.1    | 21.5  | 130.1   | 20.2  | 5.4                   |
| Total                         | 324.4   | 100.0 | 320.7   | 100.0 | 645.1   | 100.0 | 27.1                  |
| <b>Aged 65 and over</b>       |         |       |         |       |         |       |                       |
| Mild                          | 230.2   | 40.4  | 277.9   | 31.6  | 508.1   | 35.1  | 16.2                  |
| Moderate                      | 185.0   | 32.4  | 285.7   | 32.4  | 470.7   | 32.4  | 15.0                  |
| Severe                        | 154.4   | 27.1  | 315.5   | 35.9  | 470.0   | 32.4  | 15.0                  |
| Total                         | 569.7   | 100.0 | 879.1   | 100.0 | 1,448.9 | 100.0 | 46.3                  |
| <b>Total aged 15 and over</b> |         |       |         |       |         |       |                       |
| Mild                          | 889.1   | 51.3  | 880.8   | 42.7  | 1,769.9 | 46.6  | 8.3                   |
| Moderate                      | 521.9   | 30.1  | 686.2   | 33.3  | 1,208.1 | 31.8  | 5.7                   |
| Severe                        | 323.1   | 18.6  | 494.3   | 24.0  | 817.3   | 21.5  | 3.8                   |
| Total                         | 1,734.1 | 100.0 | 2,061.3 | 100.0 | 3,795.3 | 100.0 | 17.8                  |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 1.3**  
**Children under age 15 with disabilities, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                          | Males |       |                            | Females |       |                              | Total |       |                                       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|
|                          | 000s  | %     | As % of males under age 15 | 000s    | %     | As % of females under age 15 | 000s  | %     | As % of total population under age 15 |
| Severity of disabilities |       |       |                            |         |       |                              |       |       |                                       |
| Mild                     | 208.0 | 89.3  | 7.3                        | 140.3   | 89.7  | 5.2                          | 348.3 | 89.4  | 6.2                                   |
| Moderate                 | 18.4  | 7.9   | 0.6                        | 11.1    | 7.1   | 0.4                          | 29.6  | 7.6   | 0.5                                   |
| Severe                   | 6.6   | 2.8   | 0.2                        | 4.9     | 3.2   | 0.2                          | 11.5  | 3.0   | 0.2                                   |
| Total                    | 233.0 | 100.0 | 8.1                        | 156.4   | 100.0 | 5.7                          | 389.4 | 100.0 | 7.0                                   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 1.4**  
**Persons with disabilities and disability rates, by province, 1991**

|                      | Persons with disabilities<br>000s | As % of provincial population | As % of total population with disabilities |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Newfoundland         | 56.2                              | 10.0                          | 1.3                                        |
| Prince Edward Island | 21.8                              | 16.9                          | 0.5                                        |
| Nova Scotia          | 189.4                             | 21.3                          | 4.5                                        |
| New Brunswick        | 127.0                             | 17.7                          | 3.0                                        |
| Quebec               | 854.2                             | 12.4                          | 20.4                                       |
| Ontario              | 1,606.8                           | 16.0                          | 38.4                                       |
| Manitoba             | 183.6                             | 17.6                          | 4.4                                        |
| Saskatchewan         | 170.8                             | 19.1                          | 4.1                                        |
| Alberta              | 425.0                             | 17.0                          | 10.2                                       |
| British Columbia     | 539.4                             | 16.7                          | 12.9                                       |
| Canada               | 4,184.7                           | 15.5                          | 100.0                                      |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND FAMILY STATUS

## Most live in households

The majority of persons with disabilities live in households. In fact, 93% of all persons aged 15 and over<sup>1</sup> with disabilities lived in households in 1991. At the same time, around 7% of adults with disabilities, 262,200 people in total, were living in health-related institutions. (Table 2.1)

## Seniors most likely to live in health-related institutions

Seniors with disabilities are more likely than their younger counterparts to live in health-related institutions. In 1991, 15% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities were residing in health-related institutions, compared with only about 2% of persons with disabilities aged 15-64. As a result, seniors made up over 80% of all adults with disabilities living in health-related institutions in 1991.

Older seniors with disabilities are especially likely to be living in health-related institutions. In 1991, 46% of individuals aged 85 and older with disabilities lived in institutions, compared with 16% of those aged 75-84 and 5% of those aged 65-74.

Among seniors with disabilities, women are more likely than men to live in health-related institutions. In 1991, 17% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities, versus 11% of their male counterparts, were residing in institutions. (Table 2.2)

Women in the very oldest age groups are considerably more likely than their male contemporaries to be living in health-related institutions. In 1991, 50% of women aged 85 and older with disabilities, versus 37% of men in this age range with disabilities, were living in institutions. Women aged 75-84 with disabilities were also more likely than their male counterparts to live in institutions, 18% versus

14%, while there was almost no difference in the figures for women and men aged 65-74 with disabilities.

In contrast, among persons with disabilities aged 15-64, men are more likely than women to live in health-related institutions. However, only small percentages of either men or women aged 15-64 with disabilities reside in institutions.

## Many with severe disabilities in health-related institutions

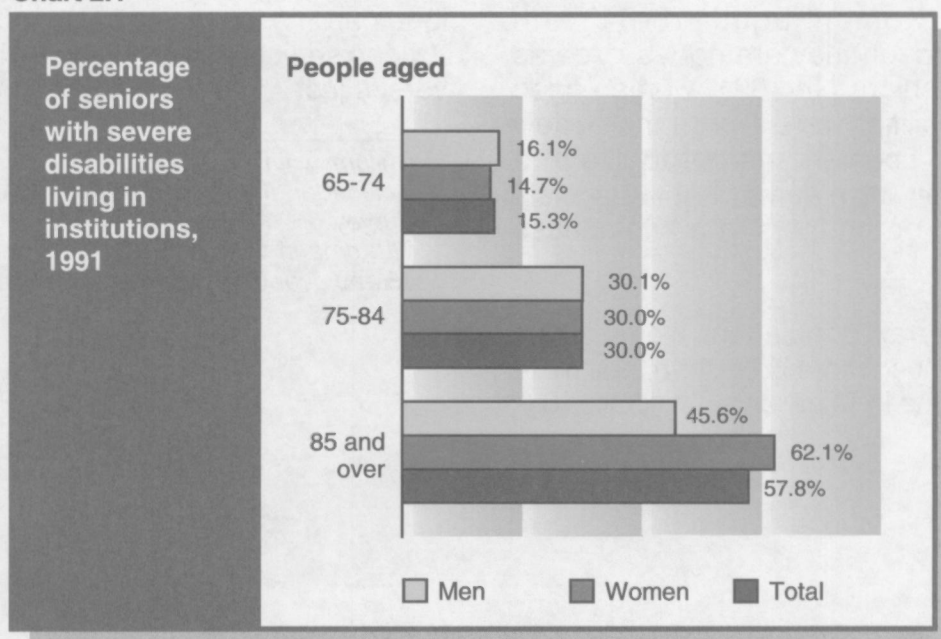
Persons with severe disabilities are more likely to live in health-related institutions than those with either mild or moderate disabilities. In 1991, 22% of all persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities were living in institutions, compared with 4% of those with moderate disabilities and 2% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 2.3)

Among those with severe disabilities, seniors are more likely than younger persons to be living in health-related institutions. In 1991, 33% of persons aged 65 and over with severe disabilities were living in institutions, compared with 7% of those aged 15-64 with severe disabilities.

Again, those in the very oldest segments of the seniors population with severe disabilities are the most likely to live in health-related institutions. In 1991, 58% of all persons aged 85 or over with severe disabilities lived in institutions, compared with 30% of those aged 75-84 with severe disabilities and 15% of those aged 65-74. (Chart 2.1)

Senior women with severe disabilities are more likely than their male counterparts to be residing in health-related institutions. In 1991, 36% of women aged 65 and over with severe disabilities were living in institutions, compared with 28% of men in this age range with severe

**Chart 2.1**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

disabilities. In contrast, among persons aged 15-64 with severe disabilities, men were more likely than women to be living in institutions. (Table 2.3)

Among the very oldest segments of the population with severe disabilities, there is a large gap between the proportions of women and men living in health-related institutions. In 1991, 62% of women aged 85 and over with severe disabilities, compared with 46% of their male counterparts, were living in institutions. In contrast, there was no difference in the figures for those aged 75-84 with severe disabilities, while among 65-74-year-olds, men with severe disabilities were more likely than women to be living in institutions. (Chart 2.1)

## Family status

As with the overall population, most adults with disabilities living in households are part of a family. In 1991, 69% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households were members of a family.<sup>2</sup> That year, 56% were either husbands, wives, or common-law

partners, 5% were lone parents, and 8% were dependent children. (Table 2.4)

At the same time, though, 27% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, almost a million people in total, were not part of a family.

Seniors with disabilities are more likely than their younger counterparts not to be part of a family. In 1991, 41% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities were not in a family, compared with 20% of those aged 15-64. The proportion of seniors with disabilities not in a family (41%), however, was about the same as that for seniors without disabilities (39%).

Among seniors with disabilities, women are considerably more likely than men not to live in a family. In 1991, 53% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities, compared with 24% of their male counterparts, lived alone. In contrast, the proportion of men aged 65 and over with disabilities who were either married or living common law in 1991 was twice that of women in this age range. (Table 2.5)

There are also differences in the family status of men and women aged 15-64 with disabilities, although they are not as large as those among seniors. In 1991, women aged 15-64 with disabilities were slightly more likely than their male counterparts not to live in a family, while men were somewhat more likely than women to be partners in a two-spouse family.

As with the overall population, women with disabilities are much more likely than their male counterparts to be lone parents. In 1991, 10%

of women aged 15-64 with disabilities were lone parents, compared with only 2% of men. Among seniors, 5% of women with disabilities, versus just 1% of men, were lone parents.

<sup>1</sup> Children with disabilities living in institutions were not included in the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

<sup>2</sup> The data in this section include only persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households.

**Table 2.1**  
**Residential status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age, 1991**

|                        | Living in households |      | Living in institutions |      | Total   |       |
|------------------------|----------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------|-------|
|                        | 000s                 | %    | 000s                   | %    | 000s    | %     |
| Persons aged           |                      |      |                        |      |         |       |
| 15-34                  | 675.1                | 98.4 | 11.2                   | 1.6  | 686.3   | 100.0 |
| 35-54                  | 992.8                | 97.8 | 22.2                   | 2.2  | 1,015.1 | 100.0 |
| 55-64                  | 629.2                | 97.5 | 15.9                   | 2.4  | 645.1   | 100.0 |
| 65 and over            |                      |      |                        |      |         |       |
| 65-74                  | 698.8                | 95.4 | 33.9                   | 4.6  | 732.7   | 100.0 |
| 75-84                  | 424.8                | 83.6 | 83.0                   | 16.4 | 507.8   | 100.0 |
| 85 and over            | 112.3                | 53.9 | 96.0                   | 46.1 | 208.3   | 100.0 |
| Total aged 65 and over | 1,236.0              | 85.3 | 212.9                  | 14.7 | 1,448.9 | 100.0 |
| Total aged 15 and over | 3,533.1              | 93.1 | 262.2                  | 6.9  | 3,795.3 | 100.0 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



**Table 2.2**  
**Residential status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age and sex, 1991**

|                        | Men                  |                        |       | Women                |                        |       |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                        | Living in households | Living in institutions | Total | Living in households | Living in institutions | Total |
|                        | %                    |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| Persons aged           |                      |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| 15-34                  | 97.8                 | 2.2                    | 100.0 | 98.9                 | 1.1                    | 100.0 |
| 35-54                  | 97.5                 | 2.4                    | 100.0 | 98.1                 | 1.9                    | 100.0 |
| 55-64                  | 97.4                 | 2.6                    | 100.0 | 97.6                 | 2.4                    | 100.0 |
| 65 and over            |                      |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| 65-74                  | 95.5                 | 4.4                    | 100.0 | 95.3                 | 4.7                    | 100.0 |
| 75-84                  | 86.1                 | 13.9                   | 100.0 | 82.3                 | 17.7                   | 100.0 |
| 85 and over            | 63.0                 | 37.0                   | 100.0 | 50.4                 | 49.5                   | 100.0 |
| Total aged 65 and over | 89.3                 | 10.7                   | 100.0 | 82.7                 | 17.3                   | 100.0 |
| Total aged 15 and over | 94.9                 | 5.1                    | 100.0 | 91.6                 | 8.4                    | 100.0 |

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 2.3**  
**Residential status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                        | Mild disabilities    |                        |       | Moderate disabilities |                        |       | Severe disabilities  |                        |       |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                        | Living in households | Living in institutions | Total | Living in households  | Living in institutions | Total | Living in households | Living in institutions | Total |
|                        | %                    |                        |       |                       |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| Persons aged 15-64     |                      |                        |       |                       |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| Men                    | 98.8                 | 1.2                    | 100.0 | 97.9                  | 2.1                    | 100.0 | 92.1                 | 7.9                    | 100.0 |
| Women                  | 99.1                 | 0.9                    | 100.0 | 98.8                  | 1.2                    | 100.0 | 93.9                 | 6.1                    | 100.0 |
| Total                  | 98.9                 | 1.1                    | 100.0 | 98.4                  | 1.6                    | 100.0 | 93.1                 | 6.9                    | 100.0 |
| 65 and over            |                      |                        |       |                       |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| Men                    | 96.5                 | 3.4*                   | 100.0 | 94.7                  | 5.3*                   | 100.0 | 71.9                 | 28.1                   | 100.0 |
| Women                  | 95.4                 | 4.6*                   | 100.0 | 90.9                  | 9.1                    | 100.0 | 64.1                 | 35.9                   | 100.0 |
| Total                  | 95.9                 | 4.1                    | 100.0 | 92.4                  | 7.6                    | 100.0 | 66.7                 | 33.3                   | 100.0 |
| Total aged 15 and over |                      |                        |       |                       |                        |       |                      |                        |       |
| Men                    | 98.2                 | 1.8                    | 100.0 | 96.8                  | 3.2                    | 100.0 | 82.4                 | 17.5                   | 100.0 |
| Women                  | 97.9                 | 2.1                    | 100.0 | 95.5                  | 4.4                    | 100.0 | 74.9                 | 25.1                   | 100.0 |
| Total                  | 98.1                 | 1.9                    | 100.0 | 96.1                  | 3.9                    | 100.0 | 77.9                 | 22.1                   | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 2.4**  
**Family status of persons aged 15 and over, 1991**

|                                       | Persons with disabilities |       | Total population |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                                       | 000s                      | %     | 000s             | %     |
| Persons aged 15-64                    |                           |       |                  |       |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 1,354.9                   | 59.0  | 11,142.5         | 61.3  |
| Female lone parent                    | 115.9                     | 5.0   | 694.2            | 3.8   |
| Male lone parent                      | 26.3                      | 1.1   | 145.2            | 0.8   |
| Child                                 | 261.8                     | 11.4  | 3,273.8          | 18.0  |
| Not a member of family                | 454.3                     | 19.8  | 2,915.4          | 16.0  |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 84.1                      | 3.7   | --               | --    |
| Total                                 | 2,297.1                   | 100.0 | 18,171.1         | 100.0 |
| Persons aged 65 and over              |                           |       |                  |       |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 612.1                     | 49.5  | 1,660.4          | 57.3  |
| Female lone parent                    | 39.2                      | 3.2   | 92.3             | 3.2   |
| Male lone parent                      | 5.9*                      | 0.4*  | 23.0             | 0.8   |
| Child                                 | 12.7*                     | 1.0*  | --               | --    |
| Not a member of family                | 510.3                     | 41.3  | 1,120.6          | 38.7  |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 55.9                      | 4.5   | --               | --    |
| Total                                 | 1,236.0                   | 100.0 | 2,896.3          | 100.0 |
| Total aged 15 and over                |                           |       |                  |       |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 1,967.0                   | 55.7  | 12,802.9         | 60.8  |
| Female lone parent                    | 155.1                     | 4.4   | 786.4            | 3.7   |
| Male lone parent                      | 32.1                      | 0.9   | 168.2            | 0.8   |
| Child                                 | 274.4                     | 7.8   | 3,273.8          | 15.5  |
| Not a member of family                | 964.6                     | 27.3  | 4,036.0          | 19.2  |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 139.9                     | 4.0   | --               | --    |
| Total                                 | 3,533.1                   | 100.0 | 21,067.4         | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

<sup>1</sup> Includes the Not Stated category in the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312; and the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 2.5**  
**Family status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age and sex, 1991**

|                                       | Men            |              | Women          |              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|                                       | 000s           | %            | 000s           | %            |
| <b>Persons aged 15-64</b>             |                |              |                |              |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 690.4          | 60.8         | 664.4          | 57.2         |
| Lone parent                           | 26.3           | 2.3          | 115.9          | 10.0         |
| Child                                 | 144.6          | 12.7         | 117.1          | 10.1         |
| Not a member of family                | 221.6          | 19.4         | 232.7          | 20.0         |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 53.4           | 4.7          | 30.7           | 2.6          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1,136.3</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1,160.8</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Persons aged 65 and over</b>       |                |              |                |              |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 362.1          | 71.2         | 250.1          | 34.4         |
| Lone parent                           | 5.9*           | 1.1*         | 39.2           | 5.4          |
| Child                                 | --             | --           | --             | --           |
| Not a member of family                | 120.4          | 23.7         | 390.0          | 53.4         |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 15.0*          | 3.0*         | 40.8           | 5.6          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>508.6</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>727.3</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Total aged 15 and over</b>         |                |              |                |              |
| Husband/wife or<br>common-law partner | 1,052.5        | 64.0         | 914.4          | 48.4         |
| Lone parent                           | 32.1           | 2.0          | 155.1          | 8.2          |
| Child                                 | 150.0          | 9.1          | 124.4          | 6.6          |
| Not a member of family                | 341.9          | 20.8         | 622.6          | 33.0         |
| Not applicable <sup>1</sup>           | 68.4           | 4.2          | 71.5           | 3.8          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1,645.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1,888.1</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

<sup>1</sup> Includes the Not Stated category in the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

## Type of housing

As with the overall population, most persons with disabilities living in households reside in a single-detached home. In 1991, 62% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities residing in households<sup>1</sup> were living in a single-detached house. At the same time, 8% lived in an apartment and 2% lived in a movable dwelling. Another 25% lived in some other type of accommodation, such as a rooming, boarding or lodging residence; public, non-profit or community housing; co-operative housing; group home; or temporary, transitional or emergency housing. (Chart 3.1)

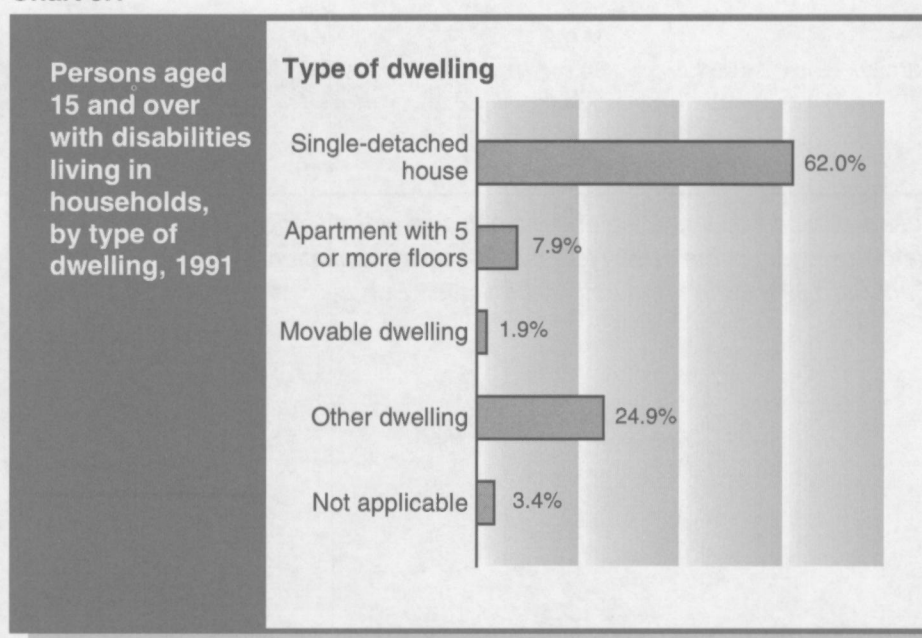
## Household facilities

A number of persons with disabilities have difficulty using basic household facilities. In 1991, 12% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households encountered

some difficulty using the bathtub or shower in their home, while 5% reported difficulty accessing cabinets, 4% had trouble using laundry equipment, 4% had difficulty operating the stove, 4% encountered problems with the toilet facilities, and 3% had trouble using sinks and counters. (Chart 3.2)

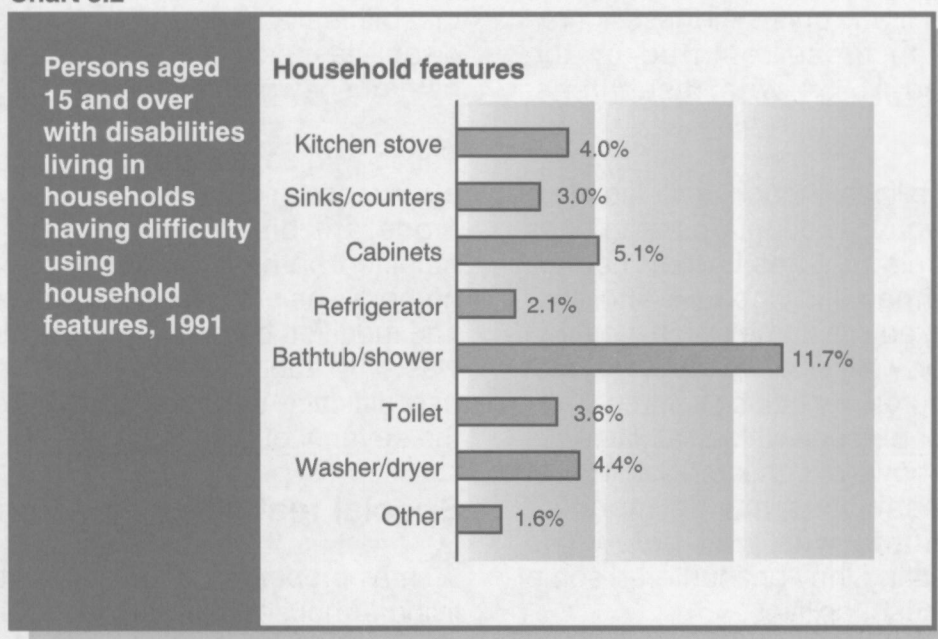
The proportion of persons with disabilities who encounter some difficulty with basic household facilities is also greater than the percentage reporting that these facilities in their homes had been modified because of their condition. In 1991, for example, 6% of persons with disabilities indicated that they had a modified bathtub or shower, about half the figure that reported difficulty using these features. There was a similar ratio between the percentages encountering problems with and having modified toilet facilities, while there were even larger differences in the figures for other household features. (Chart 3.3)

Chart 3.1



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Chart 3.2**

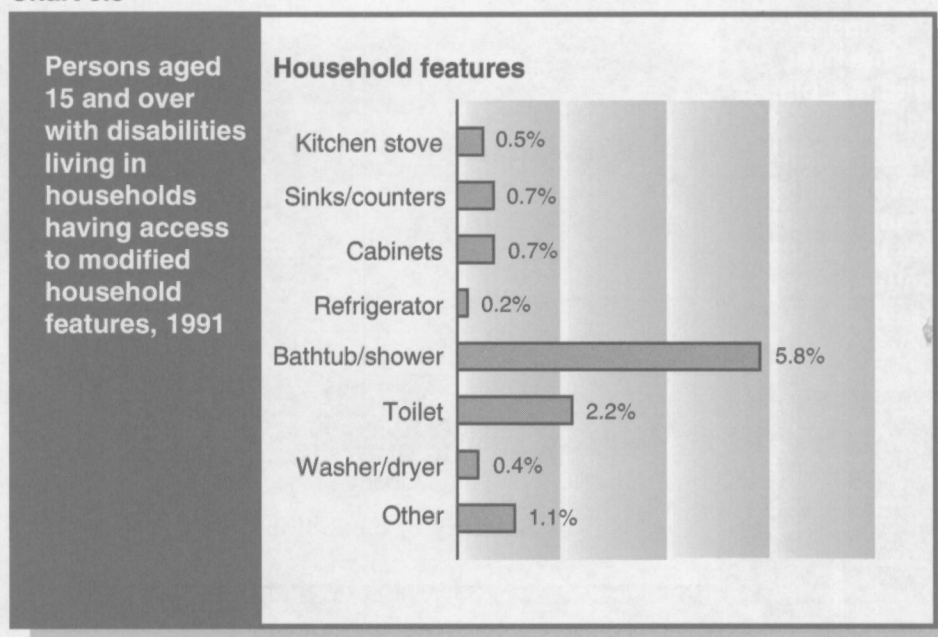


**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Seniors with disabilities are generally more likely than their younger counterparts to report having difficulty with various household facilities. In 1991, 17% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities living in households

had difficulty using the tub or shower, about twice the figure for those aged 15-64. At the same time, around 5% of seniors with disabilities encountered some problems with the toilet facilities, while similar proportions had

**Chart 3.3**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



problems accessing kitchen cabinets or using the stove or washer and dryer. All these figures were higher than those reported by the population aged 15-64 with disabilities. (Table 3.1)

Seniors with disabilities, though, are also more likely than their younger counterparts to have modified household features in their homes. In 1991, 10% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities lived in a home with a modified bathtub or shower, while 4% had modified toilet facilities. Both figures were close to three times those for younger persons with disabilities. In all age groups, however, the proportions of persons with disabilities having modified household features was well below the percentage indicating they encountered some difficulties with these facilities.

People with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to encounter problems with basic household facilities. In 1991, for example, 40% of persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities,

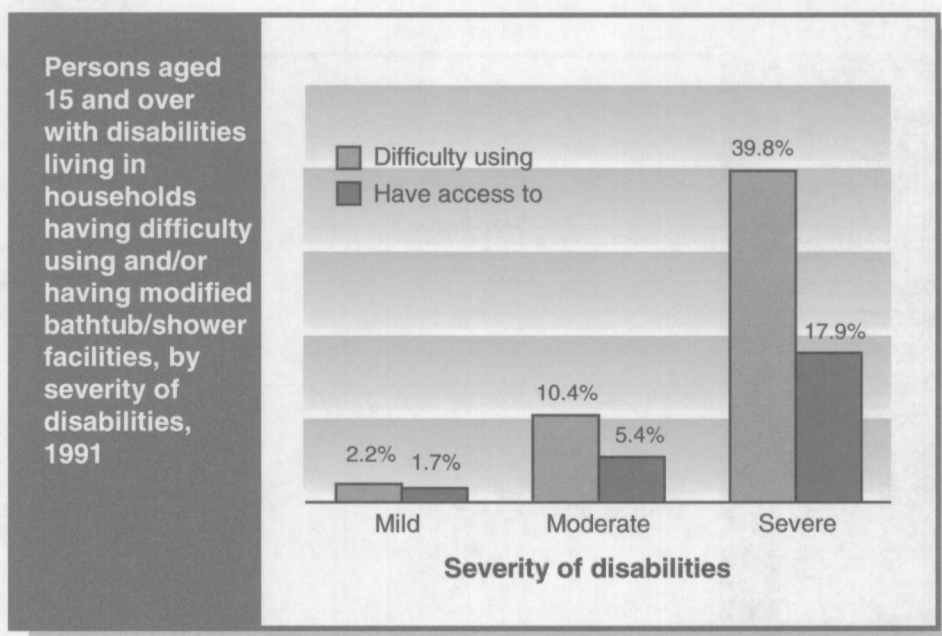
compared with 10% of those with moderate disabilities and just 2% of those with mild disabilities, said they had difficulty using the bath or shower in their homes. (Chart 3.4)

Those with severe disabilities, however, were also more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to report they had modified bath or shower equipment in their homes. The proportion of those reporting they had modified bath or shower facilities, though, was only about half the figure reporting they had difficulty using these facilities, whatever the severity of their disability.

### Special features to access homes

A small proportion of persons with disabilities living in households require special features, such as ramps or widened doorways, to enter or leave their home. In 1991, 5% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households had special features to enter or leave their home. Another 2% needed, but did not have, these features. (Table 3.2)

**Chart 3.4**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Seniors with disabilities are the most likely age group to require special features to help them access their homes. In 1991, 7% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities living in households had special features to enter or leave their residence. This compared with 4% of those aged 55-64 with disabilities, 3% of those aged 35-54, and 2% of those aged 15-34. (Table 3.2)

Seniors with disabilities were also more than twice as likely as those in other age groups to need, but not have, facilities to enter or leave their homes. For all age groups, however, the proportion having such features exceeded the percentage that needed, but did not have, them.

The use of special features to enter or leave the home also increases with the severity of the disability. In 1991, 17% of persons with severe disabilities living in households had special features to enter or leave their residence, compared with 4% of those with moderate disabilities and 1% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 3.3)

Persons with severe disabilities are also the most likely to need, but not have, these facilities. In 1991, 8% of persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities needed, but did not have, special features to help them access their homes. This compared with just 1% of those with moderate disabilities and less than 1% of those with mild disabilities.

## **Other household features**

Some persons with disabilities also require other specialized features, such as easy-to-open doors or audio warning devices, within their homes. In 1991, 4% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households had such facilities within their residence. Another 4% needed, but did not have, these features. (Table 3.2)

Again, the likelihood of requiring these facilities increases with age. In 1991, 6% of seniors with disabilities used such facilities, while 7%

needed, but did not have, them. Both these figures were over twice those of all other age groups.

The use of these other specialized household facilities also increases with the severity of the disabilities. In 1991, 10% of persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities had these special features within their homes, compared with 4% of those with moderate disabilities and 1% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 3.3)

Those with severe disabilities are also the most likely to need, but not have, specialized features in their homes. In 1991, 13% of persons with severe disabilities needed, but did not have, special features within their homes, compared with 4% of those with moderate disabilities and 1% of those with a mild condition.

## **Household features and children with disabilities**

Children with disabilities also encounter many of the same problems with basic household facilities as adults. In 1991, 5% of children with disabilities had difficulty using the bathtub or shower and 3% encountered problems with the toilet facilities. At the same time, 3% needed, but did not have, specialized features inside their homes, while 2% needed, but did not have, special features to enter or leave their homes. (Table 3.4)

## **Assistance with household activities**

The majority of persons with disabilities living in households are capable of performing most routine household activities; however, a number require assistance with some of these tasks. In 1991, 39% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households received assistance doing heavy housework, while 21% got help with shopping, 20% with everyday housework, 13% with meal preparation and 13% with personal finances. (Table 3.5)

Seniors with disabilities are the most likely age group to receive assistance with household activities. In 1991, 52% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities living in households received help with heavy housework, 28% had help with everyday housework, 27% had help with shopping, 18% with personal finances, and 17% with meal preparation. All these figures were well above those for other age groups.

Persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to receive assistance with household activities. In 1991, 67% of persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities living in households had help with heavy housework, while 59% received assistance shopping, 54% with everyday housework, 38% with meal preparation, and 35% with personal finances. These figures were all 2-3 times greater than those for persons with moderate disabilities, while they were even higher than those for persons with mild disabilities. (Table 3.6)

### **Need for more assistance**

Despite the fact that many persons with disabilities receive considerable help with daily activities, a number need additional assistance with these tasks. In 1991, 19% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities residing in households needed help with heavy housework, while the figures were 12% for everyday housework, 8% for shopping, 6% for meal preparation, and 5% for personal finances. (Table 3.7)

Seniors with disabilities are generally more likely than their younger counterparts to require additional assistance with household activities.

In 1991, 25% of all persons aged 65 and over with disabilities required some assistance with heavy housework, while 16% required assistance with everyday housework, 10% with shopping, 8% with their personal finances, and 6% with meal preparation. With the exception of meal preparation, these figures were considerably higher than those reported by persons aged 15-64 with disabilities.

### **Family most likely source for assistance**

Family members are the most common source of assistance with household tasks for persons with disabilities. In 1991, 27% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities received support from other family members with heavy housework, while 17% got help from their family with shopping, 13% with everyday housework, 10% with personal finances, and 9% with meal preparation. (Table 3.8)

At the same time, 9% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities received help with heavy housework from private organizations, while 7% got help from these organizations with everyday housework. Another 6% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities received help with heavy housework from friends or neighbours. In contrast, very few persons with disabilities received assistance with any of these household tasks from volunteer organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> The data in this section include only persons aged 15 and over living in households, unless stated otherwise.



**Table 3.1**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households having difficulty using or with access to modified household features, 1991**

|                       | Persons aged          |                          |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|                       | 15-64                 |                          | 65 and over           |                          |
|                       | Have difficulty using | Have modified facilities | Have difficulty using | Have modified facilities |
|                       | %                     |                          |                       |                          |
| Bathtub/shower        | 8.9                   | 3.6                      | 16.8                  | 9.9                      |
| Toilet facilities     | 2.8                   | 1.3                      | 5.1                   | 3.9                      |
| Washer/dryer          | 3.7                   | 0.4                      | 5.6                   | 0.3*                     |
| Kitchen stove         | 3.3                   | 0.5                      | 5.2                   | 0.5*                     |
| Bathroom sink         | 2.4                   | 0.9                      | 4.0                   | 0.9*                     |
| Kitchen cabinets      | 5.0                   | 0.7                      | 5.4                   | 0.6*                     |
| Electronic equipment  | 2.4                   | 0.6                      | 3.1                   | 0.3*                     |
| Kitchen sink/counters | 2.8                   | 0.7                      | 3.4                   | 0.7*                     |
| Refrigerator          | 2.1                   | 0.3                      | 2.2                   | - -                      |
| Other                 | 2.0                   | 1.0                      | 1.0*                  | 1.2                      |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.2**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households using or needing, but not having, specialized household features, 1991**

|             | Specialized features to enter/leave residence |                       | Other specialized features in house |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|             | Now use                                       | Need, but do not have | Now use                             | Need, but do not have |
|             | %                                             |                       |                                     |                       |
| Men aged    |                                               |                       |                                     |                       |
| 15-34       | 2.3                                           | 0.8                   | 1.5                                 | 2.0                   |
| 35-54       | 2.6                                           | 0.9                   | 1.6                                 | 1.8                   |
| 55-64       | 4.3                                           | 1.1                   | 2.0                                 | 3.0                   |
| 65 and over | 3.9                                           | 2.0*                  | 4.3                                 | 5.4                   |
| Total       | 3.2                                           | 1.3                   | 2.5                                 | 3.2                   |
| Women aged  |                                               |                       |                                     |                       |
| 15-34       | 1.6                                           | 1.1                   | 1.4                                 | 2.0                   |
| 35-54       | 3.7                                           | 1.8                   | 3.1                                 | 3.6                   |
| 55-64       | 4.7                                           | 2.9                   | 2.8                                 | 4.4                   |
| 65 and over | 10.0                                          | 4.4                   | 8.0                                 | 7.8                   |
| Total       | 5.9                                           | 2.8                   | 4.6                                 | 5.1                   |
| Total aged  |                                               |                       |                                     |                       |
| 15-34       | 1.9                                           | 1.0                   | 1.4                                 | 2.0                   |
| 35-54       | 3.1                                           | 1.3                   | 2.4                                 | 2.7                   |
| 55-64       | 4.4                                           | 2.0                   | 2.4                                 | 3.7                   |
| 65 and over | 7.4                                           | 3.4                   | 6.4                                 | 6.9                   |
| Total       | 4.7                                           | 2.1                   | 3.6                                 | 4.2                   |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.3**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households using or needing, but not having, specialized household features, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                                                      | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                                                      | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                                                      | %                        |          |        |       |
| Now use specialized features to enter/leave residence                | 0.7                      | 3.6      | 17.4   | 4.7   |
| Need, but do not have, specialized features to enter/leave residence | 0.4                      | 1.1      | 8.4    | 2.1   |
| Now use other specialized features in house                          | 1.1                      | 3.7      | 10.3   | 3.6   |
| Need, but do not have, other specialized features in house           | 1.1                      | 4.0      | 13.1   | 4.2   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.4**  
**Percentage of children aged 5-14 with disabilities living in households using or needing, but not having, selected household features, 1991**

|                                                                      | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
|                                                                      | %     |         |       |
| Now use specialized features to enter/leave residence                | 1.7   | 1.6     | 1.7   |
| Need, but do not have, specialized features to enter/leave residence | 1.6   | 1.8     | 1.7   |
| Now use other specialized features in house                          | 1.8   | 1.2     | 1.6   |
| Need, but do not have, other specialized features in house           | 2.9   | 2.0     | 2.5   |
| Have difficulty using bathtub/shower                                 | 3.9   | 6.1     | 4.7   |
| Have difficulty using toilet facilities                              | 3.1   | 2.6     | 2.9   |
| Have modified bathtub/shower                                         | 1.4   | 1.8     | 1.5   |
| Have modified toilet facilities                                      | 1.9   | 1.8     | 1.9   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.5**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households receiving assistance with selected household activities, 1991**

|             | Meals | Shopping | Everyday<br>housework | Heavy<br>housework | Personal<br>finances |
|-------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|             | %     |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Men aged    |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| 15-34       | 11.3  | 13.1     | 11.3                  | 15.7               | 12.6                 |
| 35-54       | 9.8   | 13.8     | 11.6                  | 22.7               | 9.7                  |
| 55-64       | 7.4   | 12.2     | 12.2                  | 31.9               | 7.0                  |
| 65 and over | 16.1  | 17.3     | 20.0                  | 46.0               | 16.9                 |
| Total       | 11.6  | 14.4     | 14.2                  | 30.3               | 12.0                 |
| Women aged  |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| 15-34       | 9.0   | 13.1     | 12.9                  | 25.6               | 9.0                  |
| 35-54       | 12.0  | 24.4     | 22.1                  | 43.9               | 9.1                  |
| 55-64       | 11.7  | 26.1     | 22.1                  | 49.3               | 8.8                  |
| 65 and over | 17.2  | 34.4     | 33.2                  | 56.3               | 19.4                 |
| Total       | 13.4  | 26.4     | 24.7                  | 46.2               | 13.0                 |
| Total aged  |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| 15-34       | 10.1  | 13.1     | 12.1                  | 20.8               | 10.7                 |
| 35-54       | 10.9  | 19.1     | 16.9                  | 33.4               | 9.4                  |
| 55-64       | 9.5   | 19.1     | 17.1                  | 40.6               | 7.9                  |
| 65 and over | 16.8  | 27.4     | 27.8                  | 52.0               | 18.4                 |
| Total       | 12.6  | 20.9     | 19.8                  | 38.8               | 12.5                 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.6**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households receiving assistance with selected household activities, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                       | Meals | Shopping | Everyday<br>housework | Heavy<br>housework | Personal<br>finances |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|                       | %     |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Mild disabilities     |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Men                   | 3.3   | 3.9      | 4.5                   | 11.9               | 4.4                  |
| Women                 | 3.9   | 6.6      | 8.3                   | 28.4               | 3.7                  |
| Total                 | 3.6   | 5.2      | 6.4                   | 20.1               | 4.1                  |
| Moderate disabilities |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Men                   | 13.4  | 16.0     | 17.4                  | 43.0               | 13.6                 |
| Women                 | 11.1  | 29.4     | 23.8                  | 57.1               | 12.2                 |
| Total                 | 12.1  | 23.6     | 21.0                  | 51.0               | 12.8                 |
| Severe disabilities   |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Men                   | 35.2  | 46.0     | 40.2                  | 66.2               | 33.2                 |
| Women                 | 39.8  | 67.6     | 64.3                  | 68.2               | 36.4                 |
| Total                 | 37.9  | 58.6     | 54.2                  | 67.4               | 35.1                 |
| All levels            |       |          |                       |                    |                      |
| Men                   | 11.6  | 14.4     | 14.2                  | 30.3               | 12.0                 |
| Women                 | 13.4  | 26.4     | 24.7                  | 46.2               | 13.0                 |
| Total                 | 12.6  | 20.9     | 19.8                  | 38.8               | 12.5                 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.7**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households needing additional assistance with selected household activities, 1991**

|                               | Persons aged |             | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
|                               | 15-64        | 65 and over |       |
|                               | %            |             |       |
| Meal preparation              | 6.0          | 6.1         | 6.1   |
| Shopping                      | 7.8          | 9.6         | 8.4   |
| Everyday housework            | 9.4          | 15.6        | 11.6  |
| Heavy housework               | 15.4         | 25.2        | 18.9  |
| Personal finances             | 3.9          | 7.8         | 5.3   |
| Personal care                 | 2.6          | 5.6         | 3.7   |
| Moving about within household | 1.8          | 3.5         | 2.4   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 3.8**

**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households receiving assistance with selected household activities, by source, 1991**

|                         | Meals | Shopping | Everyday housework | Heavy housework | Personal finances |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                         | %     |          |                    |                 |                   |
| Family                  | 9.0   | 17.0     | 13.3               | 26.6            | 10.2              |
| Friends/neighbours      | 0.7   | 2.2      | 1.1                | 5.8             | 0.5               |
| Voluntary organizations | 1.0   | 0.8      | 1.3                | 1.5             | 0.3               |
| Private organizations   | 3.1   | 2.9      | 6.6                | 9.3             | 1.8               |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# TRANSPORTATION

## Local travel

Most persons with disabilities are able to get around their local communities without assistance. Almost one in five, however, is either housebound or requires assistance travelling short distances. In 1991, 6% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households,<sup>1</sup> a total of just over 222,000 people, were housebound. At the same time, 13% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities needed an attendant or companion to help with short distance trips. (Table 4.1)

Seniors with disabilities are more likely than their younger counterparts to be housebound. In 1991, 8% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities were housebound, compared with 6% of those aged 35-54, 5% of those aged 55-64, and 3% of those aged 15-34.

Seniors with disabilities are also more likely than younger persons to need help travelling within their communities. In 1991, 22% of those aged 65 and over with disabilities required an attendant or companion in order to make short distance trips, more than double the figure for persons with disabilities aged 55-64 and almost three times that for persons with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 34.

Among seniors with disabilities, women are more likely than men to encounter problems travelling within their communities. In 1991, 9% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities, versus 6% of their male counterparts, were housebound. A further 27% of these women, compared with 15% of men, required a companion or attendant in order to make short distance trips.

Women aged 55-64 with disabilities also had more difficulty travelling locally than men in the

same age group with disabilities, whereas, under age 55, there were few of these differences between men and women with disabilities.

Persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with moderate or mild disabilities to have mobility problems within their communities. In 1991, 23% of all persons aged 15 and over with severe disabilities were housebound, compared with 5% of those with moderate disabilities and 1% of those with mild disabilities. In addition, 32% of all those with severe disabilities needed an attendant or companion for short distance trips, double the figure for those with moderate disabilities and over seven times the total for those with mild disabilities. (Chart 4.1)

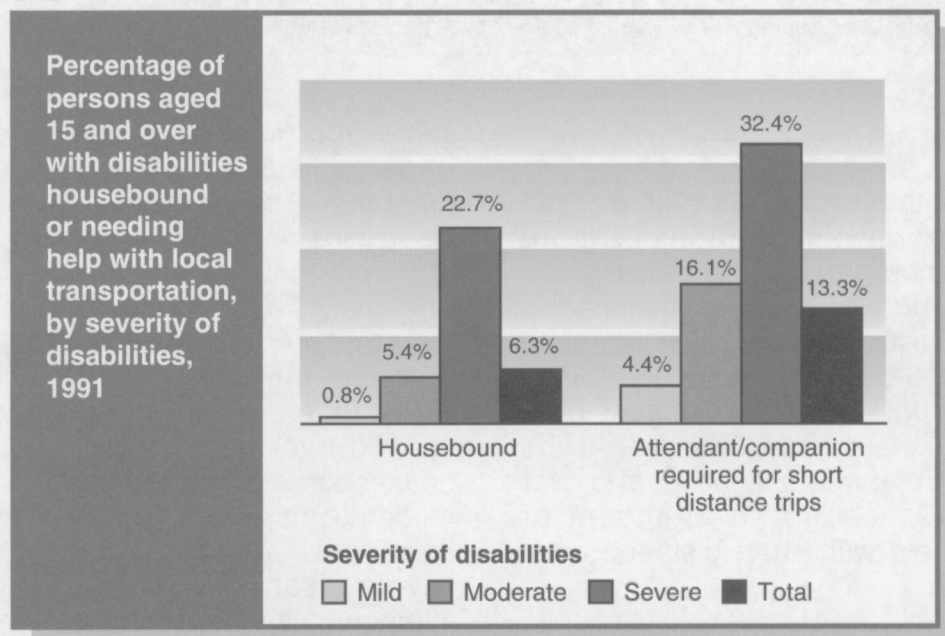
## Specialized transportation

Relatively few persons with disabilities use specialized transportation in order to get around locally. In fact, in 1991, just 3% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities used these services. (Table 4.1)

Seniors with disabilities are more likely than those in younger age groups to make use of specialized transportation within their communities. In 1991, 5% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities, three times the figures for their younger counterparts, used these services. As well, among seniors with disabilities, women were twice as likely as men to use specialized transportation. (Table 4.1)

Persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with moderate or mild disabilities to use specialized transit for short distance trips. In 1991, 9% of persons with severe disabilities used these services, compared with 3% of those with moderate disabilities and 1% of those with mild disabilities. (Chart 4.2)

**Chart 4.1**



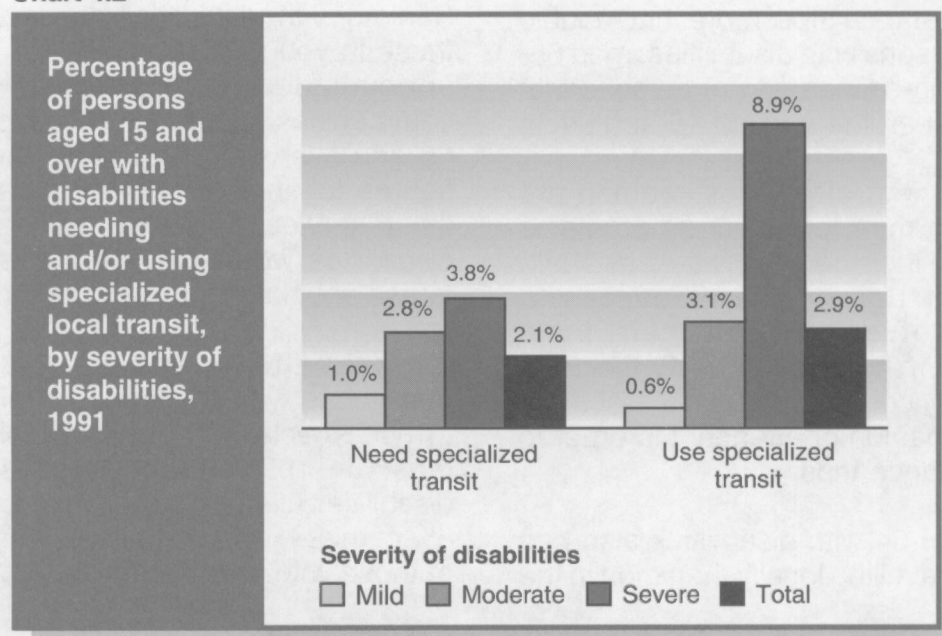
**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

## Long distance travel

Persons with disabilities generally have more difficulty making long distance trips than they have travelling within their local communities. In 1991, 18% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities reported they were unable to

travel long distances because of their condition. Another 14% required an attendant or companion to make such a trip. On the other hand, only 2% reported that they required specialized services or facilities in order to make long distance trips. (Table 4.2)

**Chart 4.2**

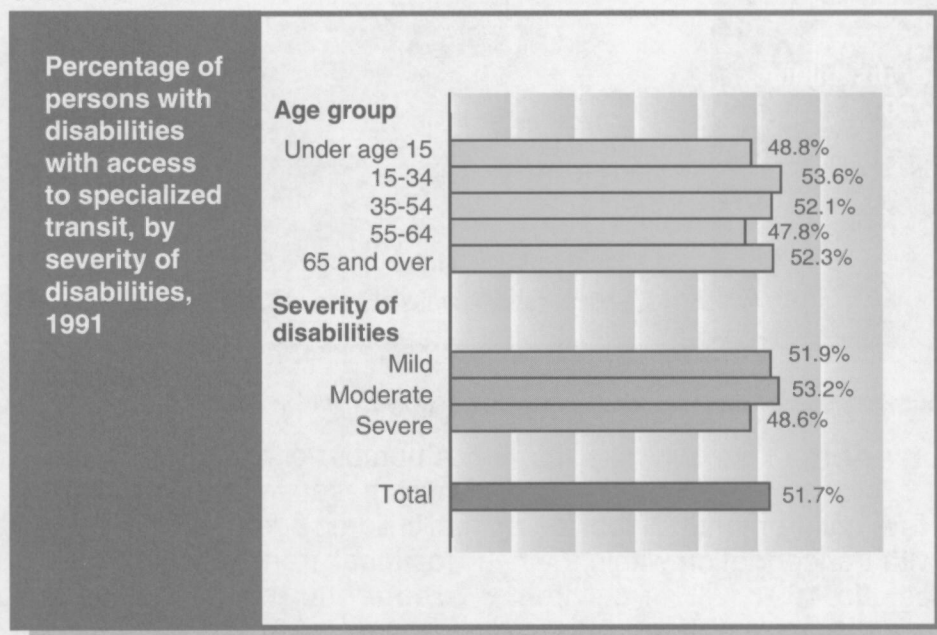


**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

## Availability of specialized transportation

Just over half of all persons with disabilities have access to specialized transportation within their communities. In 1991, 52% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities said they had access to these services. Indeed, around half of persons with disabilities in all age groups, as well as those with severe, moderate, or mild disabilities, had access to these services. (Chart 4.3)

Chart 4.3



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

People aged 35 and over with disabilities are more likely than those under age 35 to report that their condition prevents them from taking long distance trips. In 1991, the proportion of persons with disabilities in all age groups over age 35 unable to travel long distances because of their condition was close to double the figure for those aged 15-34.

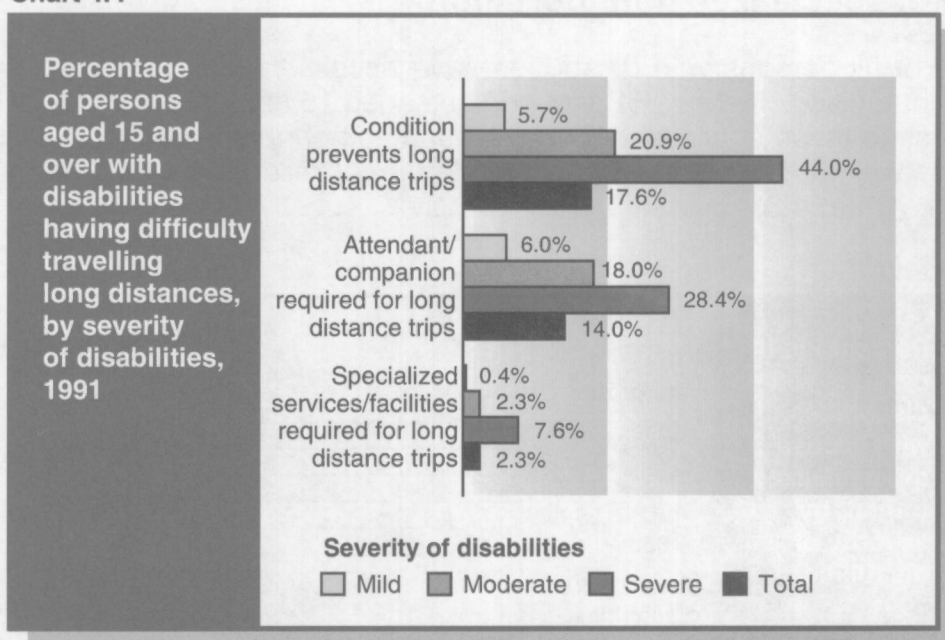
Seniors with disabilities are also more likely than their younger counterparts to require a travelling companion or attendant in order to make long distance trips. In 1991, 21% of persons with disabilities aged 65 and over needed such help, double the figures for groups under age 65. Seniors with disabilities were also more than twice as likely as younger persons with disabilities to require specialized services or facilities in order to travel long distances.

Persons with severe disabilities have greater difficulty travelling long distances than those with moderate or mild disabilities. In 1991, 44% of all those with severe disabilities said they could not travel long distances because of their condition, compared with 21% of those with moderate disabilities and 6% of those with mild disabilities. (Chart 4.4)

Persons with severe disabilities were also more likely than others with disabilities to need help from a companion or attendant in order to travel long distance. They were also considerably more likely to require specialized services or facilities to accommodate long distance travel.



**Chart 4.4**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

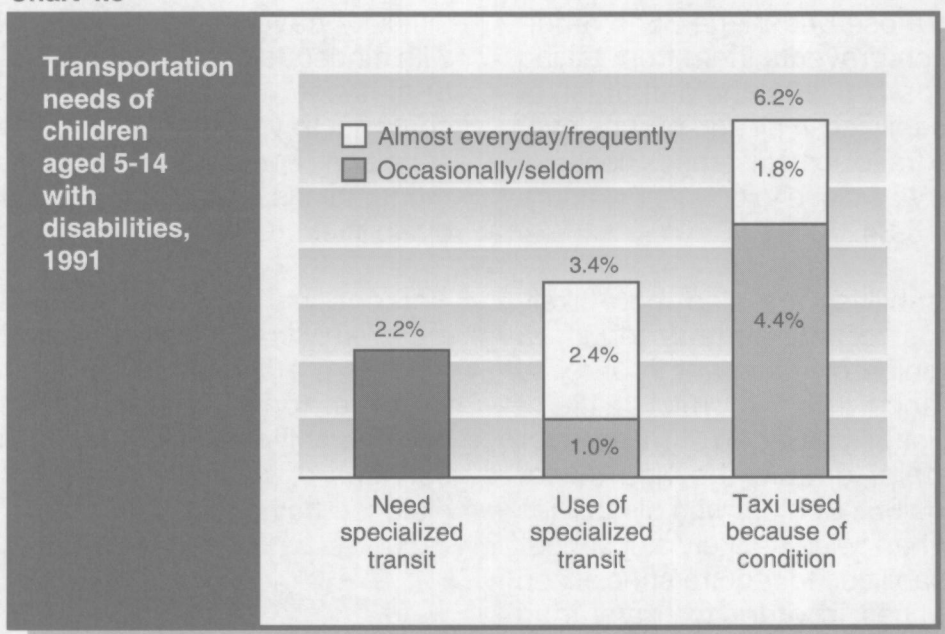
## Children and transit

As with adults, few children with disabilities have problems with transportation within their local communities. In 1991, 2% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities used specialized transit for short distance travel almost everyday or frequently, while another 1% used it occasionally. (Chart 4.5)

A number of children with disabilities also use taxis because of their condition. In 1991, 2% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities used taxis for local transportation almost everyday or frequently, while 4% used such services because of their condition occasionally.

<sup>1</sup> The data in this section include only persons aged 15 and over living in households, unless stated otherwise.

**Chart 4.5**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



**Table 4.1**  
**Local transportation indicators of persons aged 15 and over with**  
**disabilities living in households, 1991**

|              | Housebound | Attendant/companion<br>required for short<br>distance trips | Need<br>specialized<br>transit | Use<br>specialized<br>transit |
|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|              | %          |                                                             |                                |                               |
| Men aged     |            |                                                             |                                |                               |
| 15-34        | 3.3        | 8.4                                                         | 3.4                            | 2.1                           |
| 35-54        | 3.7        | 7.4                                                         | 0.9                            | 1.4                           |
| 55-64        | 4.3        | 7.8                                                         | 2.2                            | 1.4                           |
| 65 and over  | 6.4        | 15.4                                                        | 2.8                            | 3.2                           |
| Total        | 4.5        | 10.2                                                        | 2.2                            | 2.1                           |
| Women aged   |            |                                                             |                                |                               |
| 15-34        | 3.7        | 7.0                                                         | 2.8                            | 1.6                           |
| 35-54        | 9.0        | 7.9                                                         | 1.0                            | 1.7                           |
| 55-64        | 6.7        | 13.7                                                        | 2.0                            | 1.6                           |
| 65 and over  | 9.4        | 27.1                                                        | 2.2                            | 6.8                           |
| Total        | 7.8        | 16.1                                                        | 2.0                            | 3.6                           |
| Total aged   |            |                                                             |                                |                               |
| 15-34        | 3.4        | 7.7                                                         | 3.1                            | 1.8                           |
| 35-54        | 6.4        | 7.7                                                         | 0.9                            | 1.5                           |
| 55-64        | 5.4        | 10.7                                                        | 2.1                            | 1.5                           |
| 65 and over  | 8.2        | 22.3                                                        | 2.4                            | 5.3                           |
| Total        | 6.3        | 13.3                                                        | 2.1                            | 2.9                           |
| Total (000s) | 222.1      | 471.3                                                       | 74.1                           | 102.4                         |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 4.2**  
**Long distance travel indicators of persons aged 15 and over with**  
**disabilities living in households, 1991**

|              | Condition<br>prevents long<br>distance trips | Attendant/companion<br>required for long<br>distance trips | Specialized services/<br>facilities required for<br>long distance trips |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              | %                                            |                                                            |                                                                         |
| Men aged     |                                              |                                                            |                                                                         |
| 15-34        | 10.4                                         | 11.0                                                       | 1.9                                                                     |
| 35-54        | 16.0                                         | 9.6                                                        | 1.3                                                                     |
| 55-64        | 18.2                                         | 10.3                                                       | 1.1                                                                     |
| 65 and over  | 15.7                                         | 16.1                                                       | 2.3                                                                     |
| Total        | 15.2                                         | 12.0                                                       | 1.7                                                                     |
| Women aged   |                                              |                                                            |                                                                         |
| 15-34        | 11.2                                         | 10.0                                                       | 1.4                                                                     |
| 35-54        | 20.8                                         | 9.7                                                        | 1.7                                                                     |
| 55-64        | 20.7                                         | 12.8                                                       | 1.8                                                                     |
| 65 and over  | 22.4                                         | 23.9                                                       | 4.8                                                                     |
| Total        | 19.7                                         | 15.7                                                       | 2.9                                                                     |
| Total aged   |                                              |                                                            |                                                                         |
| 15-34        | 10.8                                         | 10.4                                                       | 1.7                                                                     |
| 35-54        | 18.4                                         | 9.7                                                        | 1.4                                                                     |
| 55-64        | 19.4                                         | 11.6                                                       | 1.4                                                                     |
| 65 and over  | 19.7                                         | 20.7                                                       | 3.8                                                                     |
| Total        | 17.6                                         | 14.0                                                       | 2.3                                                                     |
| Total (000s) | 621.3                                        | 495.0                                                      | 82.0                                                                    |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# EDUCATION

## Educational attainment

Persons with disabilities have lower levels of educational attainment, on average, than those without disabilities. Among persons aged 35-54 in 1991, for example, those with disabilities were only about half as likely as those without disabilities to have a university degree, 8% compared with 17%. Persons with disabilities in this age range were also less likely than their counterparts without disabilities to have a certificate or diploma from a postsecondary institution other than a university. (Table 5.1)

In contrast, persons aged 35-54 with disabilities are almost twice as likely as those in this age range without disabilities to have less than a Grade 9 education. In 1991, 18% of persons aged 35-54 with disabilities had either not gone beyond Grade 8 or had no formal schooling at all; this compared with 10% of those in this age range without disabilities.

There were similar gaps in the educational attainment of persons aged 15-34 and 55-64 with and without disabilities. Again, persons in these age ranges with disabilities were only about half as likely as their counterparts without disabilities to have a university degree, while they were considerably more likely to have less than a Grade 9 education.

As with the overall population, though, younger persons with disabilities generally have higher levels of educational attainment than their older counterparts. In 1991, for example, almost 40% of persons with disabilities aged both 15-34<sup>1</sup> and 35-54 had some form of postsecondary training, compared with 25% of those aged 55-64 with disabilities. (Table 5.1)

Young adults with disabilities are also considerably less likely than older people with disabilities to have low levels of educational attainment. In 1991, just 8% of persons with

disabilities aged 15-34 had less than a Grade 9 education, compared with 18% of those aged 35-54 and 36% of those aged 55-64.

## Few differences between women and men with disabilities

There are few differences in the educational attainment of men and women with disabilities. In fact, in 1991, around 6% of both men and women aged 15-64 with disabilities had a university degree, while 19% of each had a certificate or diploma from a postsecondary institution other than a university and 11% of each had some other form of postsecondary education. (Table 5.2)

Men with disabilities, though, are more likely than their female counterparts to have low levels of educational attainment. In 1991, 22% of men aged 15-64 with disabilities, versus 18% of their female counterparts, had less than 9 years of formal education. In contrast, a higher percentage of women (47%) than men (43%) aged 15-64 with disabilities had a secondary school education.

## Young women have more education

Among young adults with disabilities, women have higher levels of educational attainment than men. In 1991, women aged 15-34 with disabilities were more likely than men to have either a university degree, 6% versus 4%, or a certificate or diploma from a non-university postsecondary institution, 21% versus 18%. Women in this age range with disabilities were also less likely than their male counterparts to have less than 9 years of schooling. (Table 5.2)

In contrast, men aged both 35-54 and 55-64 with disabilities were more likely than women in these age ranges to have a university degree. However, men in these age groups with disabilities were also more likely than their female counterparts to have less than 9 years of education.

## Higher attainment among those with mild disabilities

Persons with mild disabilities have higher levels of educational attainment, on average, than those with moderate or severe disabilities. It is important to note, though, that this reflects, in large part, the fact that persons with mild disabilities are generally younger than persons with moderate or severe disabilities, and older people are generally less well-educated than their younger counterparts.

In 1991, 7% of persons with mild disabilities had a university degree, while the figures were 5% for those with moderate disabilities and 4% for those with severe disabilities. Persons with mild disabilities were also more likely than those with moderate or severe disabilities to have other forms of postsecondary training. (Table 5.3)

In contrast, persons with moderate or severe disabilities are considerably more likely than those with mild disabilities to have not gone beyond Grade 9. In 1991, 32% of those with severe disabilities and 25% of those with moderate disabilities had less than a Grade 9 education, compared with 13% of those with mild disabilities.

## Barriers to education

The education of many persons with disabilities has been affected by problems related to their condition. For example, in 1991, 34% of all persons with disabilities aged 15-64 who were either participating in an educational program or who had completed their formal education and whose condition existed before they had finished school reported that their choice of courses or careers had been influenced by their disabilities. At the same time, 21% said their education had been interrupted for long periods of time, 17% had enrolled in fewer courses or subjects than they would otherwise have taken, and 9% had begun school later than most people in their age group because of their condition. (Table 5.4)

As well, 18% of persons with disabilities had changed schools, 16% had attended a special education school or special education classes in a regular school, 15% had changed their course of studies, 10% had taken courses by correspondence or home study, and 9% had left their community to go to school because of their disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

## School participation of children with disabilities

The majority of children with disabilities are enrolled in some form of educational program. In 1991, 90% of all children with disabilities aged 5-14 were going to school, while 7% were being tutored. Only 3% of school-aged children with disabilities were not receiving any formal instruction. In fact, close to 90% of children with disabilities, whatever the severity of their disabilities, attended school in 1991. (Table 5.5)

## Type of school attended

Most children with disabilities who go to school attend a regular school. Of all children with disabilities who went to school<sup>3</sup> in 1991, 58% were enrolled in regular school, while 37% went to a regular school which offered special classes. Only 5% went to a special education school. (Table 5.6)

There is, however, considerable variation in type of school attended by children with disabilities depending on the severity of the disabilities. In 1991, 62% of children with mild disabilities went to a regular school, twice the figure for children with moderate disabilities (28%) and three times that for those who had severe disabilities (19%).

In contrast, the majority of children with either severe (63%) or moderate (55%) disabilities were enrolled in special classes in regular schools. At the same time, around 18% of children with either moderate or severe disabilities were in special education schools, compared with just 3% of those with mild disabilities.

## Type of classes attended

Most children with disabilities attending regular schools are enrolled in regular classes. In 1991, 65% of all children with disabilities in regular school attended regular classes only. Another 31% attended both regular and special classes, while 4% attended only special education classes. (Table 5.7)

The type of classes attended by children with disabilities, though, varies with the severity of the disabilities. Children with severe disabilities, for example, are considerably less likely than other children with disabilities to attend regular classes, while they are more likely to attend either a combination of regular and special classes or only special education programs.

## Special education classes

The large majority of children with disabilities who attend special education classes take academic subjects. In 1991, 81% of children with disabilities enrolled in special education programs attended classes where academic subjects were taught; 41% attended therapeutic classes; 21% were enrolled in daily living skills courses; and 3% attended trade or vocational classes.<sup>2</sup> (Table 5.8)

Again, the type of special education courses attended by children with disabilities varies depending on the severity of the disabilities. In 1991, around 80% of children with either mild or moderate disabilities attended classes where academic subjects were taught, compared with 66% of those with severe disabilities.

In contrast, children with severe disabilities were more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to attend therapeutic classes. Children with severe disabilities were also considerably more likely than their counterparts with mild or moderate disabilities to take daily living skills courses.

## Barriers at school

The education of some children with disabilities currently in school has been affected by their disabilities. Because of their health condition, 29% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities had taken longer than their classmates to achieve their level of education in 1991; 8% had experienced some interruption to their schooling; and 7% had begun the first year of school later than they would have normally. (Chart 5.1)

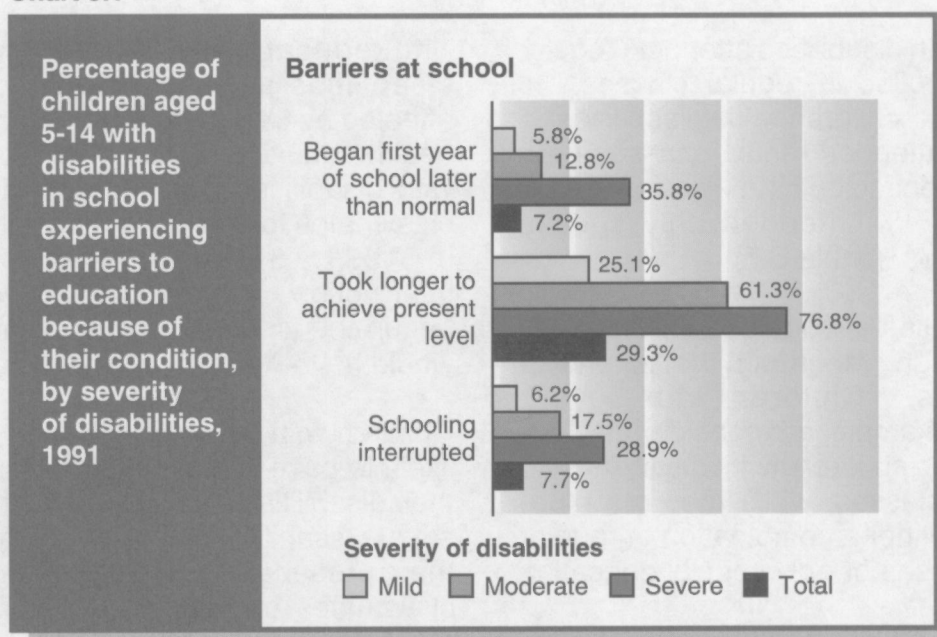
Children with severe disabilities are the most likely to have had their education affected by their disabilities. In 1991, 77% of children with severe disabilities had taken longer to achieve their present level of schooling than their classmates, compared with 61% of those with moderate disabilities and 25% of those with mild disabilities. At the same time, 36% of children with severe disabilities had begun their first year of school late because of their condition, while this was true for 13% of those with moderate disabilities and 6% of those with mild disabilities. As well, 29% of children with severe disabilities had had their schooling interrupted, while this was the case for 18% of children with moderate disabilities and 6% of those with mild disabilities.

<sup>1</sup> The difference in levels of postsecondary training between persons with disabilities aged 15-34 and those aged 35-54 is difficult to assess because many young people with disabilities had not completed their education at the time of the survey.

<sup>2</sup> Total adds to more than 100% because respondents could enrol in more than one type of program.

<sup>3</sup> Includes children with disabilities aged 5-14 who attended school in April 1991, as well as those who were not currently attending school but who had gone to school before April 1991.

**Chart 5.1**



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 5.1**  
**Educational attainment of persons aged 15-64 living in households, 1991**

|                                       | Persons aged      |                      |                   |                      |                   |                      |                   |                      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|                                       | 15-34             |                      | 35-54             |                      | 55-64             |                      | Total             |                      |
|                                       | With disabilities | Without disabilities | With disabilities | Without disabilities | With disabilities | Without disabilities | With disabilities | Without disabilities |
|                                       | %                 |                      |                   |                      |                   |                      |                   |                      |
| No formal schooling                   | 2.0               | 0.3                  | 1.7               | 0.5                  | 1.4               | 0.8                  | 1.7               | 0.4                  |
| Less than Grade 9                     | 5.6               | 2.7                  | 15.9              | 9.2                  | 34.8              | 24.8                 | 18.1              | 7.7                  |
| Secondary                             | 53.2              | 47.0                 | 43.0              | 38.3                 | 39.1              | 42.1                 | 44.9              | 43.1                 |
| Some postsecondary                    | 15.1              | 16.3                 | 10.1              | 10.1                 | 7.2               | 7.0                  | 10.8              | 12.9                 |
| Postsecondary certificate/<br>diploma | 19.3              | 21.5                 | 21.5              | 25.2                 | 13.5              | 15.6                 | 18.7              | 22.3                 |
| University                            | 4.7               | 12.0                 | 7.8               | 16.7                 | 4.1               | 9.7                  | 5.9               | 13.6                 |
| Total                                 | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0             | 100.0                | 100.0             | 100.0                |
| Total population (000s)               | 675.1             | 7,869.2              | 992.8             | 6,254.1              | 629.2             | 1,735.8              | 2,297.1           | 15,859.0             |

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 5.2**  
**Educational attainment of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households, by sex, 1991**

|                                       | Persons aged |       |       |       |       |       |         |         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
|                                       | 15-34        |       | 35-54 |       | 55-64 |       | Total   |         |
|                                       | Men          | Women | Men   | Women | Men   | Women | Men     | Women   |
|                                       | %            |       |       |       |       |       |         |         |
| No formal schooling                   | 2.2          | 1.9   | 1.8   | 1.6   | 1.1   | 1.7   | 1.7     | 1.7     |
| Less than Grade 9                     | 6.1          | 5.2   | 17.4  | 14.4  | 37.7  | 31.9  | 19.8    | 16.4    |
| Secondary                             | 55.3         | 51.2  | 39.4  | 46.7  | 36.9  | 41.2  | 43.3    | 46.5    |
| Some postsecondary                    | 14.9         | 15.4  | 10.4  | 9.7   | 6.3   | 8.0   | 10.6    | 11.0    |
| Postsecondary certificate/<br>diploma | 17.7         | 20.9  | 22.5  | 20.5  | 12.9  | 14.1  | 18.5    | 18.9    |
| University                            | 3.8          | 5.5   | 8.5   | 7.1   | 5.0   | 3.2   | 6.2     | 5.6     |
| Total                                 | 100.0        | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0   | 100.0   |
| Total population (000s)               | 328.4        | 346.6 | 491.7 | 501.1 | 316.2 | 313.1 | 1,136.3 | 1,160.8 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 5.3**  
**Educational attainment of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                   | Severity of disabilities |          |        |         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
|                                   | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe | Total   |
|                                   | %                        |          |        |         |
| Less than Grade 9                 | 13.4                     | 25.3     | 31.8   | 19.8    |
| Secondary                         | 47.4                     | 42.8     | 40.3   | 44.9    |
| Some postsecondary                | 12.3                     | 9.1      | 8.5    | 10.8    |
| Postsecondary certificate/diploma | 19.6                     | 18.3     | 15.9   | 18.7    |
| University                        | 7.2                      | 4.6      | 3.5    | 5.9     |
| Total                             | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0   |
| Total population (000s)           | 1,248.5                  | 725.4    | 323.2  | 2,297.1 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 5.4****Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households<sup>1</sup> affected by educational barriers, 1991**

|                                                                                      | Number  | %    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------|
| Effects on education caused by condition                                             |         |      |
| Choice of courses or careers influenced                                              | 277,510 | 33.9 |
| Began school later than most other people the same age                               | 73,250  | 8.9  |
| Education was interrupted for a long period of time                                  | 174,420 | 21.3 |
| Changed schools                                                                      | 147,185 | 18.0 |
| Changed course of studies                                                            | 126,590 | 15.4 |
| Attended a special education school or special education classes in a regular school | 128,910 | 15.7 |
| Enrolled in fewer courses or subjects than would otherwise                           | 141,685 | 17.3 |
| Took courses by correspondence or home study                                         | 82,235  | 10.0 |
| Returned to school for re-training                                                   | 150,295 | 18.3 |
| Left their community to attend school                                                | 77,385  | 9.4  |
| Not stated                                                                           | 120,720 | 14.7 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who either attended school in April 1991 or had completed their formal education or training and whose disability was present before their education was completed.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 5.5****Educational activity of children aged 5-14 with disabilities, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                         | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                         | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                         | %                        |          |        |       |
| Going to school         | 89.7                     | 88.2     | 89.6   | 89.5  |
| Being tutored           | 7.4                      | 6.6      | 6.7    | 7.3   |
| Neither                 | 3.0                      | 5.2      | 3.7    | 3.1   |
| Total                   | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |
| Total population (000s) | 273.0                    | 22.4     | 9.0    | 304.3 |

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



**Table 5.6****Type of school attended by children aged 5-14 with disabilities,<sup>1</sup> by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                     | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                     | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                     | %                        |          |        |       |
| Regular school                      | 61.7                     | 27.8     | 18.8   | 58.0  |
| Regular school with special classes | 34.9                     | 54.5     | 62.9   | 37.2  |
| Special education school            | 3.4                      | 17.6     | 18.3   | 4.9   |
| Total                               | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |
| Total population (000s)             | 247.0                    | 20.4     | 8.2    | 275.6 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who were either going to school in April 1991 or who did not attend school at that time but who went to school before April 1991.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 5.7****Type of classes attended by children aged 5-14 with disabilities,<sup>1</sup> by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                            | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                            | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                            | %                        |          |        |       |
| Only regular classes                       | 68.3                     | 39.4     | 23.5   | 65.3  |
| Both regular and special education classes | 29.4                     | 45.0     | 52.0   | 31.1  |
| Only special education classes             | 2.2                      | 15.7     | 24.4   | 3.6   |
| Total                                      | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |
| Total population (000s)                    | 238.7                    | 16.8     | 6.7    | 262.2 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who attended regular school or regular school with special education classes.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 5.8****Type of special education classes attended by children aged 5-14 with disabilities,<sup>1</sup> by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                             | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                             | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                             | %                        |          |        |       |
| Academic subjects           | 82.6                     | 80.3     | 66.4   | 81.3  |
| Therapeutic courses         | 35.4                     | 58.9     | 78.8   | 41.3  |
| Daily living skills         | 15.4                     | 42.9     | 51.4   | 21.3  |
| Trade or vocational courses | 1.4                      | 9.6      | 7.1    | 2.9*  |
| Total population (000s)     | 83.8                     | 13.8     | 6.6    | 104.2 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who either went to a special education school or to a regular school with special education classes. Percentages may add to more than 100%, as children could have attended more than one type of class.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY

## Employment

A substantial proportion of the population under age 55 with disabilities is employed.<sup>1</sup> In 1991, 65% of men aged 35-54 with disabilities and 58% of those aged 15-34 were part of the paid work force, as were around 50% of women in both these age ranges with disabilities. (Table 6.1)

In contrast, persons aged 55-64 with disabilities are considerably less likely than their younger counterparts to be working. In fact, of persons aged 55-64 with disabilities, only 39% of men and just 17% of women were part of the paid work force in 1991.

In all age groups, however, the proportion of persons with disabilities with jobs is well below the figure for those without disabilities. In 1991, both men and women aged 55-64 with disabilities were only about half as likely as those in this age range without disabilities to be employed. There were also differences of around 25 percentage points between the employment levels of men and women aged 35-54 with and without disabilities and around 15 percentage points among 15-34-year-olds.

## Provincial variations in employment

As with the overall population, persons with disabilities living in the Western provinces or Ontario are more likely than those in Quebec or the Atlantic region to be employed. In 1991, 58% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in Saskatchewan and Alberta were employed, as were 53% of those in British Columbia, 52% of those in Manitoba, and 49% of those in Ontario. In comparison, the figure was only around 40% in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, and just 27% in Newfoundland. Prince Edward Island, where 51% of persons with disabilities were employed in 1991, was the exception to this pattern. In all provinces, however, persons with disabilities

are considerably less likely than those without disabilities to be employed. (Table 6.2)

## Employment and severity of disabilities

Persons with mild disabilities are more likely than those with moderate or severe disabilities to be employed. In 1991, 62% of those aged 15-64 with mild disabilities were part of the paid work force, compared with 37% of those with moderate disabilities and 19% of those with severe disabilities. (Table 6.3)

In part, the difference in employment levels depending on the severity of disabilities reflects differences in age. However, persons with severe disabilities are considerably less likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to be employed in all age groups.

## Education a factor

As in the overall population, persons with disabilities are more likely to be employed the higher their educational attainment. In 1991, for example, 73% of men aged 15-64 with disabilities with a university degree had a job, compared with around 66% of those with other postsecondary training, 54% of those with a high school education, and just 40% of those with less than a Grade 9 education. Similarly, among women with disabilities, those aged 15-64 with a university degree were more than three times as likely as those with less than a Grade 9 education to be employed. (Table 6.4)

Both men and women with disabilities, however, are less likely than their counterparts without disabilities to be employed, whatever their educational attainment.

## Class of worker

Most employed persons with disabilities are paid employees. In 1991, 80% of all employed

persons aged 15-64 with disabilities were paid workers, while 12% were self-employed and 2% were unpaid family workers contributing to a family farm or business. This distribution held for employed persons with disabilities regardless of the severity of their disabilities. (Table 6.5)

## **Most work full-time hours**

The majority of employed persons with disabilities work full-time hours, that is, they work at least 30 hours per week. In 1991, 76% of employed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities worked 30 hours or more per week. In fact, 15% worked between 41-59 hours per week and 7% worked more than 60 hours per week. On the other hand, only 9% worked 20-29 hours per week, while the same percentage worked less than 20 hours per week. (Table 6.6)

Persons with severe disabilities, however, were less likely than those with moderate or mild disabilities to work long hours. They were also more likely to work part-time hours.

## **Unemployment rates higher**

The unemployment rate of persons with disabilities is higher than that for the population without disabilities. In 1991, 14% of labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities were unemployed, compared with 10% of those without disabilities. (Table 6.7)

As with the population without disabilities, young adults with disabilities tend to experience higher rates of unemployment than their older counterparts. In 1991, 19% of male labour force participants aged 15-34 with disabilities and 18% of their female counterparts were unemployed. Women aged 55-64 with disabilities also had an unemployment rate of 18%, whereas the figure was 14% for women aged 35-54 with disabilities and about 10% for men aged both 35-54 and 55-64 with disabilities.

At all ages, though, persons with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities

to be unemployed. In 1991, men and women aged 35-54 and women aged 55-64 with disabilities were almost twice as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to be unemployed. At the same time, the unemployment rates of men and women aged 15-34 with disabilities were both around 7 percentage points higher than those of persons without disabilities in this age range.

## **Provincial variations in unemployment**

Unemployment among persons with disabilities is higher in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec than in the rest of the country. In fact, in 1991, 32% of all labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities in Newfoundland were unemployed, while the figure was 21% in New Brunswick, 18% in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and 17% in Quebec. In contrast, the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities was 11% in Saskatchewan, 12% in Ontario, 13% in Alberta, and 14% in Manitoba. British Columbia, where 18% of labour force participants with disabilities were unemployed, was the exception to this pattern. (Table 6.8)

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities, though, is higher than that for people without disabilities in all provinces. This difference ranged from almost eight percentage points in British Columbia to just three in Newfoundland.

## **Unemployment and severity of disabilities**

People with severe disabilities experience higher unemployment rates than persons with either mild or moderate disabilities. In 1991, 28% of labour force participants aged 15-64 with severe disabilities were unemployed, compared with 16% of those with moderate disabilities and 12% of those with mild disabilities. Persons with severe disabilities were also considerably more likely than those with either mild or moderate disabilities to be unemployed in all age groups. (Table 6.9)

## **Education and unemployment**

There are considerable differences in the unemployment rates of persons with disabilities depending on their educational attainment. Among men with disabilities, only 4% of labour force participants aged 15-64 with a university degree were unemployed in 1991, compared with around 10% of those with non-university postsecondary training, 15% of those with a high school education, and 17% of those with less than Grade 9. (Table 6.10)

The unemployment rates of women with disabilities also vary depending on their educational qualifications. Women aged 15-64 with disabilities, though, were more likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed in all educational categories. In addition, both men and women with disabilities were more likely than those without disabilities to be unemployed in most educational groupings.

### **Most want full-time work**

Nearly half of unemployed persons with disabilities want full-time work. In 1991, 47% of unemployed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities wanted full-time employment only, while 27% were only looking for part-time employment and 20% would accept either type of work. In fact, the largest shares of unemployed persons with disabilities wanted full-time work only, whatever the severity of their disabilities. (Table 6.11)

### **Persons with disabilities not in labour force**

Persons with disabilities are more likely than those without disabilities to be out of the labour force, that is, they are neither employed nor unemployed and looking for work. Among 55-64-year-olds with disabilities, for example, 79% of women and 56% of men were not in the labour force in 1991. These figures were both well above those for non-disabled persons in this age range, of whom 55% of women and 22% of men were not in the labour force that year. (Table 6.12)

Persons under age 55 with disabilities are considerably less likely than their older working-age counterparts not to be in the labour force. Nonetheless, around 40% of women aged 15-34 and 35-54 with disabilities and close to 30% of men in these age groups with disabilities were out of the labour force in 1991. Again, these figures were all considerably higher than those for persons in these age ranges without disabilities.

### **Many with severe disabilities not in labour force**

Persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to be out of the labour force. In 1991, 74% of persons aged 15-64 with severe disabilities were not part of the labour force, compared with 55% of those with moderate disabilities and 29% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 6.13)

Again, it should be noted that part of the difference in non-labour force participation depending on the severity of disabilities results from differences in age. Still, persons with severe disabilities were considerably more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to be out of the labour force in all age groups in 1991.

### **Few university-educated not in labour force**

Persons with disabilities with low levels of educational attainment are more likely than those with postsecondary training not to be in the labour force. In 1991, for example, both men and women aged 15-64 with disabilities and less than a Grade 9 education were twice as likely as their counterparts with postsecondary training not to be in the labour force. (Table 6.14)

Women with disabilities are far more likely than their male counterparts to be out of the labour force, whatever their educational attainment. As well, in all educational categories, people with disabilities are more likely than those

without disabilities to be out of the labour force. For example, 24% of men aged 15-64 with disabilities who had a university degree did not participate in the labour force in 1991, compared with just 5% of their counterparts without disabilities. Among women, 30% of university graduates aged 15-64 with disabilities were not in the labour force, versus 13% of those without disabilities.

## Many have previous labour force experience

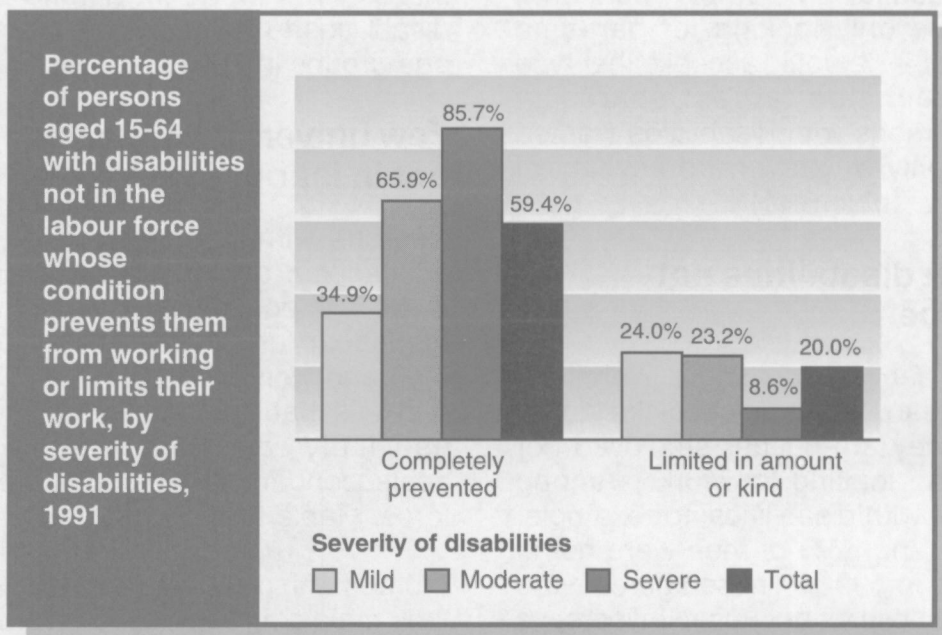
Most persons with disabilities who are not in the labour force have some previous labour force experience. In fact, just 16% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities not active in the labour force in 1991 had never had a job. Another 41% had held a job sometime between 1986 and 1991, while 37% had been employed prior to 1986. As well, there were few differences in the past work experiences of persons with disabilities depending on the severity of their disabilities. (Table 6.15)

## Over half unable to work

Many non-labour force participants with disabilities are not in the labour force because their condition either limits their capacity to work in some way or completely prevents them from working. In fact, almost 60% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities who did not participate in the labour force in 1991 were completely prevented from working by their condition, while 20% stated that they were limited in the amount or kind of work they could do. (Chart 6.1)

Persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to be unable to work because of their disabilities. In 1991, 86% of non-labour force participants aged 15-64 with severe disabilities, compared with 66% of those with moderate disabilities and 35% of those with mild disabilities, were completely prevented from working because of their condition.

Chart 6.1



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

## Barriers to employment

A number of persons with disabilities who are not in the labour force experience barriers, other than their condition, that prevent them from joining the work force. Overall, 20% of non-labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities were not in the labour force in 1991 because they would lose some or all of their current source of income if they were employed. Another 15% felt that their present training was not adequate for finding work; 14% thought that no suitable jobs were available; and 12% stood to lose some or all additional supports. (Table 6.16)

## Discrimination in the workplace

Many persons with disabilities also still experience discrimination in the workplace. In 1991, 8% of all persons aged 15-64 with disabilities reported that they had been refused employment within the last five years; 6% had been dismissed from their job; 4% had been refused a promotion; and 2% had been denied access to training courses because of their condition. (Table 6.17)

Unemployed persons with disabilities report the highest levels of discrimination. In 1991, 17% of unemployed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities reported that they had been refused employment within the last five years because of their condition, while another 16% said they had been dismissed from a job because of their disabilities. Both figures were several times higher than those for either employed persons with disabilities or those who were not in the labour force.

## Discrimination increases with severity of disabilities

Employed persons with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to report workplace discrimination because of their condition. In 1991, 19% of

employed persons aged 15-64 with severe disabilities reported that they had been refused employment due to their disability within the last five years. This compared with 10% of those with moderate disabilities and 4% of those with mild disabilities. Employed persons with either severe or moderate disabilities were also more likely than those with mild disabilities to have been denied promotions, been dismissed from their job, or been refused access to training because of their condition. (Table 6.18)

Unemployed persons with severe disabilities are also more likely than those with either mild or moderate disabilities to have experienced workplace discrimination. In 1991, 30% of unemployed persons aged 15-64 with severe disabilities had been dismissed from a job within the last five years; 28% had been refused employment; 17% had been denied access to training; and 12% had been refused a promotion because of their condition. All these figures were well above those for unemployed persons with moderate or mild disabilities. (Table 6.19).

There were smaller differences in the shares of non-labour force participants with disabilities reporting incidents of discrimination, although the level of discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities not in the labour force also generally increases with the severity of the disabilities. (Table 6.20)

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified, data in this section refer to the population with disabilities aged 15-64 living in households.



**Table 6.1**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 living in households employed, 1991**

|                  | Persons with disabilities |       |       | Persons without disabilities |       |       |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                  | Men                       | Women | Total | Men                          | Women | Total |
|                  | %                         |       |       |                              |       |       |
| Persons aged     |                           |       |       |                              |       |       |
| 15-34            | 57.8                      | 50.6  | 54.1  | 73.9                         | 65.9  | 69.9  |
| 35-54            | 65.4                      | 48.8  | 57.0  | 89.7                         | 73.5  | 81.6  |
| 55-64            | 38.7                      | 16.9  | 27.9  | 70.2                         | 40.8  | 55.1  |
| Total aged 15-64 | 55.8                      | 40.7  | 48.2  | 79.7                         | 66.1  | 72.9  |

**Source:** *Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.*

**Table 6.2**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 living in households employed, by province, 1991**

|                      | Persons with disabilities | Persons without disabilities |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                      | %                         |                              |
| Newfoundland         | 27.4                      | 49.0                         |
| Prince Edward Island | 50.5                      | 73.7                         |
| Nova Scotia          | 41.1                      | 67.8                         |
| New Brunswick        | 40.4                      | 63.3                         |
| Quebec               | 38.5                      | 68.5                         |
| Ontario              | 49.1                      | 76.0                         |
| Manitoba             | 52.3                      | 76.2                         |
| Saskatchewan         | 58.2                      | 78.6                         |
| Alberta              | 57.6                      | 78.6                         |
| British Columbia     | 52.9                      | 74.5                         |
| Canada               | 48.2                      | 72.9                         |

**Source:** *Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.*

**Table 6.3**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households employed, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                  | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                  | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                  | %                        |          |        |       |
| Persons aged     |                          |          |        |       |
| 15-34            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 69.0                     | 39.5     | 23.4   | 57.8  |
| Women            | 57.6                     | 40.2     | 25.2   | 50.6  |
| Total            | 63.2                     | 39.9     | 24.2   | 54.1  |
| 35-54            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 80.5                     | 52.6     | 28.7   | 65.4  |
| Women            | 61.8                     | 43.9     | 20.0   | 48.8  |
| Total            | 71.9                     | 47.7     | 24.1   | 57.0  |
| 55-64            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 56.6                     | 28.2     | 12.9   | 38.7  |
| Women            | 24.3                     | 14.9     | 6.0    | 16.9  |
| Total            | 41.5                     | 21.3     | 9.2    | 27.9  |
| Total aged 15-64 |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 71.2                     | 41.2     | 21.9   | 55.8  |
| Women            | 52.1                     | 34.3     | 15.3   | 40.7  |
| Total            | 62.1                     | 37.4     | 18.5   | 48.2  |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.4**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 living in households employed, by educational attainment, 1991**

|                                   | Persons with disabilities |       | Persons without disabilities |       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
|                                   | Men                       | Women | Men                          | Women |
|                                   | %                         |       |                              |       |
| Less than Grade 9                 | 39.9                      | 19.2  | 65.2                         | 39.1  |
| Secondary                         | 54.3                      | 38.5  | 74.5                         | 59.0  |
| Some postsecondary                | 66.5                      | 48.6  | 80.7                         | 69.1  |
| Postsecondary certificate/diploma | 65.8                      | 56.0  | 87.1                         | 78.6  |
| University degree                 | 73.0                      | 61.3  | 90.8                         | 82.4  |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.5****Class of worker of employed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities,  
by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                                | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                                | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                                | %                        |          |        |       |
| Working for pay                                | 80.2                     | 80.6     | 82.8   | 80.4  |
| Working without pay<br>in family farm/business | 1.6                      | 3.8      | 2.0*   | 2.1   |
| Self-employed                                  | 11.9                     | 11.2     | 11.4   | 11.7  |
| Not stated                                     | 6.3                      | 4.3      | 3.8*   | 5.7   |
| Total                                          | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.6****Hours worked per week by employed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities,  
by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                       | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                       | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                       | %                        |          |        |       |
| Hours worked per week |                          |          |        |       |
| Less than 20          | 7.3                      | 12.2     | 16.6   | 9.0   |
| 20-29                 | 8.9                      | 10.2     | 10.8   | 9.3   |
| 30-39                 | 19.7                     | 21.5     | 20.4   | 20.2  |
| 40                    | 35.6                     | 29.6     | 35.0   | 34.1  |
| 41-59                 | 15.5                     | 15.6     | 8.0    | 15.1  |
| 60 or more            | 7.1                      | 6.9      | 6.0    | 7.0   |
| Not stated            | 6.0                      | 4.0      | 3.2*   | 5.3   |
| Total                 | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.7**  
**Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 living in households, 1991**

|                  | Persons with disabilities |       |       | Persons without disabilities |       |       |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                  | Men                       | Women | Total | Men                          | Women | Total |
|                  | %                         |       |       |                              |       |       |
| Persons aged     |                           |       |       |                              |       |       |
| 15-34            | 18.9                      | 18.2  | 18.6  | 12.6                         | 11.9  | 12.3  |
| 35-54            | 10.1                      | 13.8  | 11.8  | 6.6                          | 7.6   | 7.1   |
| 55-64            | 11.4                      | 18.4  | 13.6  | 9.4                          | 9.1   | 9.3   |
| Total aged 15-64 | 13.2                      | 16.0  | 14.4  | 9.7                          | 9.9   | 9.8   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.8**  
**Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 living in households, by province, 1991**

|                      | Persons with disabilities | Persons without disabilities |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|                      | %                         |                              |
| Newfoundland         | 31.9                      | 29.0                         |
| Prince Edward Island | 17.7                      | 11.9                         |
| Nova Scotia          | 17.6                      | 13.3                         |
| New Brunswick        | 21.0                      | 16.4                         |
| Quebec               | 17.2                      | 11.9                         |
| Ontario              | 11.9                      | 7.8                          |
| Manitoba             | 14.2                      | 8.3                          |
| Saskatchewan         | 10.6                      | 6.8                          |
| Alberta              | 12.6                      | 6.0                          |
| British Columbia     | 17.7                      | 10.1                         |
| Canada               | 14.4                      | 9.8                          |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.9**  
**Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                  | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                  | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                  | %                        |          |        |       |
| Persons aged     |                          |          |        |       |
| 15-34            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 15.4                     | 27.6     | 40.7   | 18.9  |
| Women            | 15.8                     | 24.0     | 28.2   | 18.2  |
| Total            | 15.6                     | 25.6     | 35.4   | 18.6  |
| 35-54            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 7.2                      | 14.5     | 22.7   | 10.1  |
| Women            | 13.0                     | 11.8     | 29.2   | 13.8  |
| Total            | 9.6                      | 13.1     | 25.8   | 11.8  |
| 55-64            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 10.1                     | 10.1     | 27.3*  | 11.4  |
| Women            | 20.3                     | 14.5*    | 19.6*  | 18.4  |
| Total            | 13.1                     | 11.7     | 24.8   | 13.6  |
| Total aged 15-64 |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 10.6                     | 17.0     | 28.2   | 13.2  |
| Women            | 15.0                     | 15.9     | 27.7   | 16.0  |
| Total            | 12.4                     | 16.4     | 27.9   | 14.4  |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.10**  
**Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 living in households, by educational attainment, 1991**

|                                   | Persons with disabilities |       | Persons without disabilities |       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
|                                   | Men                       | Women | Men                          | Women |
|                                   | %                         |       |                              |       |
| Less than Grade 9                 | 16.8                      | 24.9  | 17.6                         | 15.4  |
| Secondary                         | 14.8                      | 16.6  | 10.8                         | 11.0  |
| Some postsecondary                | 10.8                      | 15.7  | 11.4                         | 13.0  |
| Postsecondary certificate/diploma | 11.3                      | 13.1  | 8.1                          | 7.7   |
| University degree                 | 4.1*                      | 12.3  | 4.4                          | 5.6   |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.11**

**Type of employment sought by unemployed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                         | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                         | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                         | %                        |          |        |       |
| Type of work sought     |                          |          |        |       |
| Full-time only          | 47.3                     | 48.2     | 42.9   | 47.0  |
| Full- or part-time      | 17.1                     | 22.7     | 25.9   | 19.8  |
| Part-time only          | 28.2                     | 24.0     | 27.9   | 27.0  |
| Not stated              | 7.4                      | 5.1      | 3.3    | 6.2*  |
| Total                   | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0 |
| Total unemployed (000s) | 109.6                    | 53.5     | 23.2   | 186.3 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.12**

**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 living in households not in the labour force, 1991**

|                                     | Persons with disabilities |       |         | Persons without disabilities |         |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                     | Men                       | Women | Total   | Men                          | Women   | Total   |
|                                     | %                         |       |         |                              |         |         |
| Persons aged                        |                           |       |         |                              |         |         |
| 15-34                               | 28.8                      | 38.2  | 33.6    | 15.3                         | 25.0    | 20.1    |
| 35-54                               | 27.3                      | 43.4  | 35.4    | 3.8                          | 20.5    | 12.1    |
| 55-64                               | 56.3                      | 79.3  | 67.8    | 22.4                         | 55.1    | 39.2    |
| Total aged 15-64                    | 35.8                      | 51.5  | 43.7    | 11.5                         | 26.6    | 19.1    |
| Total not in labour force<br>(000s) | 406.8                     | 597.9 | 1,004.6 | 910.6                        | 2,112.2 | 3,022.8 |

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.13**

**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households not in the labour force, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                  | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                  | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                  | %                        |          |        |       |
| Persons aged     |                          |          |        |       |
| 15-34            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 18.5                     | 45.5     | 60.6   | 28.8  |
| Women            | 31.5                     | 47.1     | 64.9   | 38.2  |
| Total            | 25.1                     | 46.4     | 62.6   | 33.6  |
| 35-54            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 13.2                     | 38.4     | 62.9   | 27.3  |
| Women            | 29.0                     | 50.3     | 71.8   | 43.4  |
| Total            | 20.4                     | 45.1     | 67.6   | 35.4  |
| 55-64            |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 37.0                     | 68.7     | 82.2   | 56.3  |
| Women            | 69.5                     | 82.6     | 92.6   | 79.3  |
| Total            | 52.2                     | 75.9     | 87.7   | 67.8  |
| Total aged 15-64 |                          |          |        |       |
| Men              | 20.4                     | 50.3     | 69.5   | 35.8  |
| Women            | 38.7                     | 59.3     | 78.8   | 51.5  |
| Total            | 29.1                     | 55.2     | 74.4   | 43.7  |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.14**

**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 living in households not in the labour force, by educational attainment, 1991**

|                                   | Persons with disabilities |       | Persons without disabilities |       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
|                                   | Men                       | Women | Men                          | Women |
|                                   | %                         |       |                              |       |
| Less than Grade 9                 | 51.8                      | 74.4  | 18.1                         | 52.0  |
| Secondary                         | 36.3                      | 53.8  | 16.4                         | 33.7  |
| Some postsecondary                | 25.4                      | 42.4  | 8.9                          | 20.5  |
| Postsecondary certificate/diploma | 25.8                      | 35.5  | 5.2                          | 14.9  |
| University degree                 | 23.9                      | 30.2  | 4.9                          | 12.7  |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.



**Table 6.15**

**Work experience of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households not in the labour force, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                  | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|---------|
|                                  | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |         |
|                                  | %                        |          |        |         |
| Never worked                     | 15.3                     | 17.4     | 13.3   | 15.6    |
| Worked during past 5 years       | 43.0                     | 40.2     | 38.5   | 40.8    |
| Worked more than 5 years ago     | 33.1                     | 36.6     | 42.8   | 36.8    |
| Not stated                       | 8.6                      | 5.8      | 5.4    | 6.7     |
| Total                            | 100.0                    | 100.0    | 100.0  | 100.0   |
| Total not in labour force (000s) | 363.9                    | 400.4    | 240.3  | 1,004.6 |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.16**

**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households not in the labour force reporting barriers to employment, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                                   | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                                   | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                                   | %                        |          |        |       |
| Lose some/all of current income                   | 5.8                      | 21.3     | 23.1   | 19.8  |
| Lose some/all of additional supports              | 10.3                     | 12.1     | 14.2   | 12.0  |
| Family/friends discourage them from going to work | 5.7                      | 4.4      | 5.9    | 5.3   |
| Family responsibilities                           | 14.0                     | 7.0      | 5.9    | 9.3   |
| Job information not accessible                    | 4.6                      | 5.1      | 6.9    | 5.4   |
| Worry about being isolated by other workers       | 3.7                      | 4.3      | 5.4    | 4.4   |
| Victim of discrimination                          | 5.8                      | 6.7      | 8.4    | 6.8   |
| Training not adequate                             | 16.8                     | 14.9     | 13.3   | 15.2  |
| Accessible transportation not available           | 6.7                      | 5.7      | 8.4    | 6.7   |
| No jobs                                           | 15.3                     | 14.2     | 11.1   | 13.9  |
| Other                                             | 19.7                     | 29.7     | 37.2   | 27.9  |
| Not stated                                        | 9.3                      | 6.4      | 5.6    | 7.3   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.17**

**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households reporting discrimination within last five years because of condition, by labour force status, 1991**

|                                    | Labour force status |            |                     | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|-------|
|                                    | Employed            | Unemployed | Not in labour force |       |
|                                    | %                   |            |                     |       |
| Because of condition were          |                     |            |                     |       |
| Refused employment                 | 6.4                 | 16.8       | 7.4                 | 7.7   |
| Refused promotion                  | 4.4                 | 5.1        | 2.5                 | 3.7   |
| Refused access to training courses | 1.6                 | 4.1        | 1.9                 | 1.9   |
| Dismissed from job                 | 4.0                 | 16.4       | 6.5                 | 6.1   |
| Not stated                         | 5.9                 | 6.5        | 7.4                 | 6.6   |

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.18**

**Percentage of employed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities reporting discrimination within the last five years because of their condition, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                    | Severity of disabilities |          |        |       |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                    | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe | Total |
|                                    | %                        |          |        |       |
| Because of condition were          |                          |          |        |       |
| Refused employment                 | 4.3                      | 9.7      | 19.4   | 6.4   |
| Refused promotion                  | 3.1                      | 7.3      | 8.8    | 4.4   |
| Refused access to training courses | 0.8                      | 3.3      | 4.5    | 1.6   |
| Dismissed from job                 | 2.5                      | 7.3      | 8.6    | 4.0   |
| Not stated                         | 6.4                      | 4.4      | 3.9*   | 5.9   |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.19**  
**Percentage of unemployed persons aged 15-64 with disabilities reporting discrimination within the last five years because of their condition, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                    | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                    | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                    | %                        |          |        |       |
| Because of condition were          |                          |          |        |       |
| Refused employment                 | 11.6                     | 22.5     | 28.2   | 16.8  |
| Refused promotion                  | 2.8                      | 6.8      | 12.3   | 5.1   |
| Refused access to training courses | 1.2*                     | 4.3*     | 17.4   | 4.1   |
| Dismissed from job                 | 10.4                     | 22.7     | 30.4   | 16.4  |
| Not stated                         | 7.1                      | 4.8      | 7.8*   | 6.5   |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

**Table 6.20**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in households not in the labour force reporting discrimination within the last five years because of their condition, by severity of disabilities, 1991**

|                                    | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                    | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |       |
|                                    | %                        |          |        |       |
| Because of condition were          |                          |          |        |       |
| Refused employment                 | 4.7                      | 9.0      | 8.9    | 7.4   |
| Refused promotion                  | 1.6                      | 2.8      | 3.4    | 2.5   |
| Refused access to training courses | 0.8                      | 2.2      | 2.9    | 1.9   |
| Dismissed from job                 | 4.2                      | 6.7      | 9.7    | 6.5   |
| Not stated                         | 9.2                      | 6.8      | 5.9    | 7.4   |

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

# INCOME

## Average income

As in the overall population, persons aged 35-54 with disabilities have higher incomes, on average, than those in other age ranges. Among men with disabilities with income in 1990,<sup>1</sup> those aged 35-54 had an average income of \$30,590, compared with \$25,320 for those aged 55-64, \$20,625 for those aged 65 and over, and \$18,400 for those in the 15-34 age range. (Table 7.1)

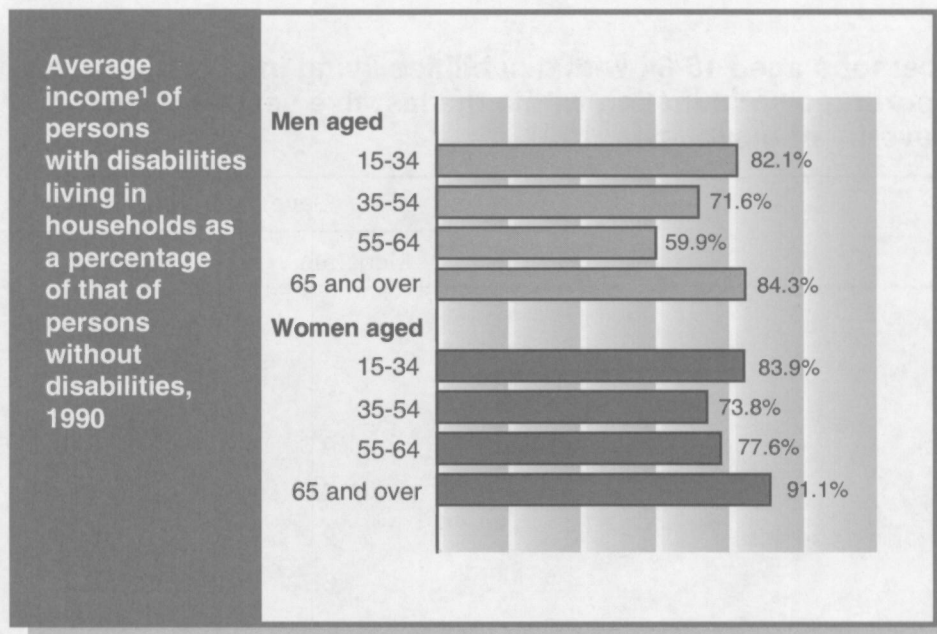
Women aged 35-54 also have higher incomes than their younger and older counterparts. In 1990, women aged 35-54 with disabilities had an average income of \$16,935, compared with \$14,365 for those aged 65 and over, \$14,325 for those aged 55-64, and \$12,880 for 15-34-year-olds. In all age groups, however, the income of women with disabilities was considerably lower than that of their male counterparts.

As well, the income of persons with disabilities is below that of people without disabilities in all age groups. In 1990, for example, the average income of men aged 55-64 with disabilities was only 60% that of their counterparts without disabilities, while the figure was around 70% for men and women aged 35-54; around 80% for men and women aged 15-34 and men aged 65 and over; and over 90% for women aged 65 and over. (Chart 7.1)

## Income and severity of disabilities

Persons with severe disabilities tend to have lower incomes than those with mild or moderate disabilities. Among men aged 35-54 with disabilities, for example, those with severe disabilities had an average income of \$21,225 in 1990, compared with \$25,270 for those with moderate disabilities and \$35,385 for those with mild disabilities. There were

Chart 7.1



<sup>1</sup> Excludes those with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

similar differences among men in other age groups and among women with disabilities. (Table 7.2)

## Provincial differences

The incomes of persons with disabilities vary considerably across the country. In 1990, the average income of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities with income ranged from almost \$23,000 in both Ontario and British Columbia to just \$12,715 in Newfoundland. Among seniors, the figure ranged from \$20,410 in Alberta to \$11,290 in Newfoundland. (Table 7.3)

The incomes of persons with disabilities, though, were below those of persons without disabilities in all provinces in 1990. This was true for both the working-age population and seniors.

## Employment income

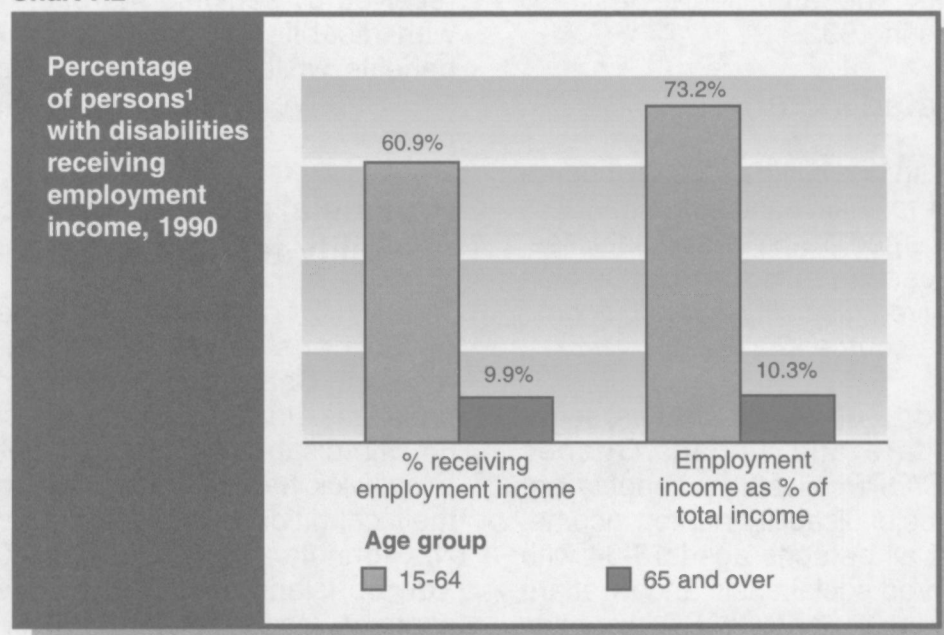
Earnings from employment are the primary source of income of persons aged 15-64 with

disabilities. In 1990, 61% of all persons in this age range with disabilities reported some income from employment. In fact, income from this source represented 73% of all income of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities. (Chart 7.2)

The employment earnings of men and women with disabilities, however, are below those of their counterparts without disabilities in all age groups. For example, employed men aged 35-54 with disabilities earned an average of \$32,755 at their jobs in 1990, compared with \$40,885 by men in this age range without disabilities. Again, there were similar differences among men in other age groups and among women. (Table 7.4)

Women with disabilities, however, earn less than men with disabilities in all age groups. In fact, the 1990 earnings of employed women aged 35-54 with disabilities were only 55% those of men in this age group with disabilities, while the figure was 63% among those aged 55-64 and 69% among 15-34-year-olds. (Chart 7.3)

Chart 7.2

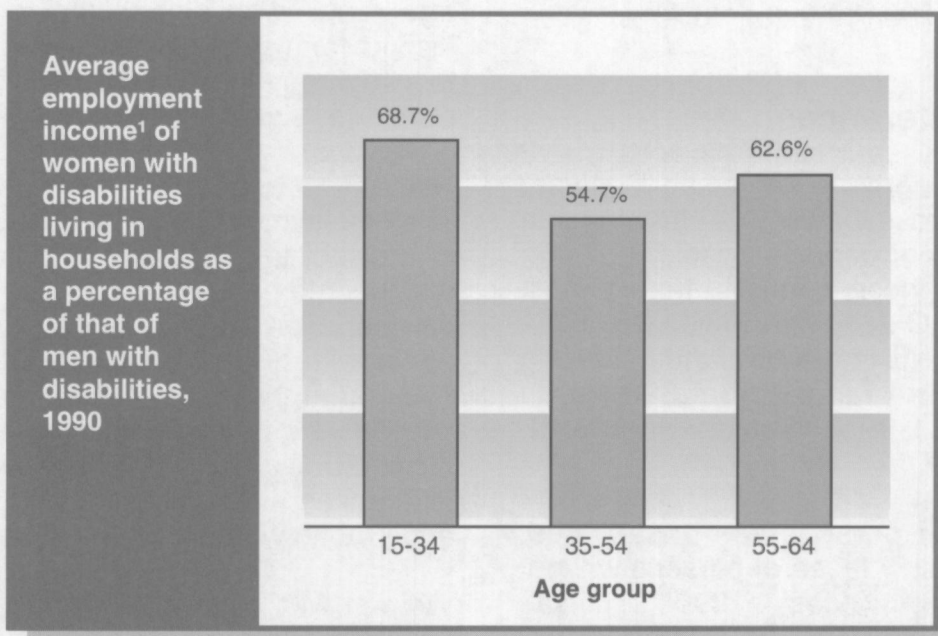


<sup>1</sup> Excludes those with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



Chart 7.3



<sup>1</sup> Excludes those with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

It should be noted, though, that these earnings ratios include all classes of worker. Since women are generally more likely than men to work part-time, the above figures are lower than the female-to-male earnings ratio for full-time, full-year workers which is commonly used as a benchmark. The latter figure was 72% for all Canadians in 1992.

## Disability-related income

Many persons with disabilities receive income which is related to their condition. In 1990, 30% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities, and 13% of those aged 65 and over with disabilities, received disability-related income from at least one source. (Table 7.5)

For persons aged 15-64 with disabilities, social assistance/welfare and Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (C/QPP) disability benefits are the primary source of disability-related income. In 1990, 12% of all persons aged 15-64 with disabilities received social assistance/welfare payments, while 10% got C/QPP disability pensions. A further 6% were paid Worker's Compensation disability payments; 3% collected benefits from an employer-sponsored

disability insurance plan; and 1% received either Unemployment Insurance Sickness Benefits or private disability insurance benefits.

The Canada/Quebec Pension Plans were also the primary source of disability-related income received by seniors. In 1990, 6% of seniors with disabilities received C/QPP disability benefits, while 4% got veteran's pensions, and 1% received social assistance/welfare payments.

## Provincial populations receiving disability-related income

There is considerable variation in the proportions of persons with disabilities receiving disability-related income in different provinces. In 1990, 36% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in Quebec and New Brunswick had income which was related to their condition, while the figure was 32% in Newfoundland and Ontario, 30% in Prince Edward Island, and 28% in Nova Scotia. In contrast, less than a quarter of those in the four Western provinces received disability-related income. (Table 7.6)

Similarly, seniors with disabilities living in Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces are more likely than their counterparts in the Western provinces to have disability-related income. In 1990, 20% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities living in Prince Edward Island, along with 16% in Newfoundland, 15% in New Brunswick and Ontario, and 13% in Quebec and Nova Scotia received disability-related income. These figures compared with 14% in British Columbia, 9% in Alberta, 8% in Manitoba, and 7% in Saskatchewan.

### Non-reimbursed disability-related expenses

Many persons with disabilities report having disability-related expenses which are not reimbursed. In 1990, 36% of persons aged 65 and over with disabilities and 33% of those aged 15-64 made such expenditures. (Table 7.7)

Purchases of prescription and non-prescription drugs were the primary type of non-reimbursed expenditures made by persons with disabilities. In 1990, 25% of seniors with disabilities and 24% of those aged 15-64 reported having these expenses. Another 10% of both age groups had to pay for transportation costs.

As well, 7% of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities had non-reimbursed expenses related to the purchase and/or maintenance of specialized materials, while a similar percentage had to pay for other health and medical services. Among seniors, 7% had non-reimbursed expenses for personal services and 5% had them for both the purchase and maintenance of specialized material and other health and medical services.

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons with disabilities living in households with income. Those without income are not included in the average income totals reported in this section.

**Table 7.1**  
**Average income of persons aged 15 and over living in households,<sup>1</sup> 1990**

|              | Persons with disabilities |        |        | Persons without disabilities |        |        |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------|--------|--------|
|              | Men                       | Women  | Total  | Men                          | Women  | Total  |
|              | \$                        |        |        |                              |        |        |
| Persons aged |                           |        |        |                              |        |        |
| 15-34        | 18,400                    | 12,880 | 15,650 | 22,425                       | 15,360 | 19,015 |
| 35-54        | 30,590                    | 16,935 | 24,160 | 42,720                       | 22,950 | 33,330 |
| 55-64        | 25,320                    | 14,325 | 20,320 | 42,245                       | 18,470 | 31,040 |
| 65 and over  | 20,625                    | 14,365 | 16,940 | 24,460                       | 15,770 | 19,605 |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons with no income in 1990.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 7.2**

**Average income of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households, by severity of disabilities,<sup>1</sup> 1990**

|              | Severity of disabilities |          |        | Total  |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|--------|
|              | Mild                     | Moderate | Severe |        |
|              | \$                       |          |        |        |
| Persons aged |                          |          |        |        |
| 15-34        |                          |          |        |        |
| Men          | 19,270                   | 17,460   | 13,985 | 18,400 |
| Women        | 13,515                   | 12,020   | 10,195 | 12,880 |
| Total        | 16,445                   | 14,580   | 12,255 | 15,650 |
| 35-54        |                          |          |        |        |
| Men          | 35,385                   | 25,270   | 21,225 | 30,590 |
| Women        | 19,550                   | 14,720   | 13,405 | 16,935 |
| Total        | 28,500                   | 19,785   | 17,295 | 24,160 |
| 55-64        |                          |          |        |        |
| Men          | 28,740                   | 23,710   | 19,680 | 25,320 |
| Women        | 16,150                   | 13,480   | 12,265 | 14,325 |
| Total        | 23,410                   | 18,830   | 16,085 | 20,320 |
| 65 and over  |                          |          |        |        |
| Men          | 21,615                   | 20,430   | 18,935 | 20,625 |
| Women        | 16,675                   | 13,035   | 13,070 | 14,365 |
| Total        | 18,930                   | 16,005   | 15,145 | 16,940 |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 7.3**

**Average income of persons aged 15 and over living in households,<sup>1</sup> by province, 1990**

|                      | Persons aged      |                      |                   |                      |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|                      | 15-64             |                      | 65 and over       |                      |
|                      | With disabilities | Without disabilities | With disabilities | Without disabilities |
|                      | \$                |                      |                   |                      |
| Newfoundland         | 12,715            | 19,805               | 11,290            | 11,505               |
| Prince Edward Island | 16,530            | 20,455               | 14,740            | 16,575               |
| Nova Scotia          | 18,155            | 22,755               | 15,880            | 15,225               |
| New Brunswick        | 13,910            | 20,240               | 14,185            | 17,935               |
| Quebec               | 17,620            | 23,755               | 12,040            | 17,415               |
| Ontario              | 22,590            | 29,175               | 18,675            | 19,830               |
| Manitoba             | 18,840            | 22,475               | 17,800            | 20,390               |
| Saskatchewan         | 17,395            | 21,555               | 17,955            | 18,020               |
| Alberta              | 22,155            | 27,015               | 20,410            | 20,615               |
| British Columbia     | 22,675            | 27,630               | 19,610            | 25,235*              |
| Canada               | 20,710            | 26,215               | 16,940            | 19,605               |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.



**Table 7.4**  
**Average employment income of persons aged 15-64,<sup>1</sup> 1990**

|                  | Persons with disabilities |        |        | Persons without disabilities |        |        |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                  | Men                       | Women  | Total  | Men                          | Women  | Total  |
|                  | \$                        |        |        |                              |        |        |
| Persons aged     |                           |        |        |                              |        |        |
| 15-34            | 18,560                    | 12,755 | 15,720 | 21,625                       | 14,775 | 18,385 |
| 35-54            | 32,755                    | 17,930 | 26,060 | 40,885                       | 22,250 | 32,330 |
| 55-64            | 26,105                    | 16,340 | 22,705 | 39,230                       | 19,815 | 31,580 |
| Total aged 15-64 | 27,015                    | 15,840 | 22,055 | 31,465                       | 18,290 | 25,405 |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons with no employment income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 7.5**  
**Percentage of persons with disabilities living in households receiving disability-related income, by age, 1990**

|                                                              | Persons with disabilities aged |       |             |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                                                              | 15-64                          |       | 65 and over |       |
|                                                              | Number                         | %     | Number      | %     |
| Type of benefit                                              |                                |       |             |       |
| Disability pension from C/QPP                                | 234,815                        | 10.2  | 71,675      | 5.8   |
| Worker's compensation                                        | 137,780                        | 6.0   | 7,905       | 0.6   |
| UI sickness benefits                                         | 33,015                         | 1.4   | --          | --    |
| Motor vehicle accident insurance                             | 12,205                         | 0.5   | --          | --    |
| Private disability insurance plan                            | 32,620                         | 1.4   | --          | --    |
| Employer disability insurance plan                           | 71,715                         | 3.1   | 3,850*      | 0.3   |
| Social assistance/ welfare                                   | 271,100                        | 11.8  | 16,090      | 1.3   |
| Veteran's disability pension/allowance                       | 14,620                         | 0.6   | 49,630      | 4.0   |
| Provincial education grant for persons with disabilities     | 6,695                          | 0.3   | --          | --    |
| Training allowances for persons with disabilities            | 9,340                          | 0.4   | --          | --    |
| Other sources                                                | 45,715*                        | 2.0   | 16,325      | 1.3   |
| Total receiving income from at least one source <sup>1</sup> | 683,105                        | 29.7  | 162,095     | 13.1  |
| Total population (000s)                                      | 2,297.1                        | 100.0 | 1,236.0     | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

<sup>1</sup> The sum of the categories does not equal the total because people may receive income from more than one source.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 7.6**  
**Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households receiving disability-related income, by province, 1990**

|                      | Persons with disabilities aged |             |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|                      | 15-64                          | 65 and over |
|                      | %                              |             |
| Newfoundland         | 32.2                           | 16.3        |
| Prince Edward Island | 29.9                           | 20.4        |
| Nova Scotia          | 28.0                           | 13.2        |
| New Brunswick        | 35.9                           | 14.8        |
| Quebec               | 36.0                           | 13.4        |
| Ontario              | 31.9                           | 14.6        |
| Manitoba             | 23.1                           | 7.7*        |
| Saskatchewan         | 21.9                           | 7.3*        |
| Alberta              | 24.2                           | 9.1         |
| British Columbia     | 22.3                           | 14.0        |
| Canada               | 29.7                           | 13.1        |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Table 7.7**  
**Persons with disabilities living in households with non-reimbursed disability-related expenses, 1990**

|                                                                                    | Persons with disabilities aged |       |             |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                                                                                    | 15-64                          |       | 65 and over |       |
|                                                                                    | Number                         | %     | Number      | %     |
| Type of expenditure                                                                |                                |       |             |       |
| Prescription/non-prescription drugs                                                | 554,730                        | 24.1  | 311,720     | 25.2  |
| Disposable items needed for health condition                                       | 74,480                         | 3.2   | 32,685      | 2.6   |
| Purchase/maintenance of specialized clothing, aids, medical supplies and equipment | 168,540                        | 7.3   | 66,785      | 5.4   |
| Health/medical services                                                            | 161,095                        | 7.0   | 61,425      | 5.0   |
| Modifications to residence because of health condition                             | 29,155                         | 1.3   | 11,885*     | 1.0   |
| Transportation                                                                     | 229,145                        | 10.0  | 125,655     | 10.2  |
| Personal services                                                                  | 57,380                         | 2.4   | 81,665      | 6.6   |
| Other expenses                                                                     | 24,305                         | 1.1   | 17,765      | 1.4   |
| Total with non-reimbursed expenses                                                 | 760,865                        | 33.1  | 441,875     | 35.8  |
| Total population (000s)                                                            | 2,297.1                        | 100.0 | 1,236.0     | 100.0 |

\* Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

# ACTIVITIES

## Participation in leisure and physical activities

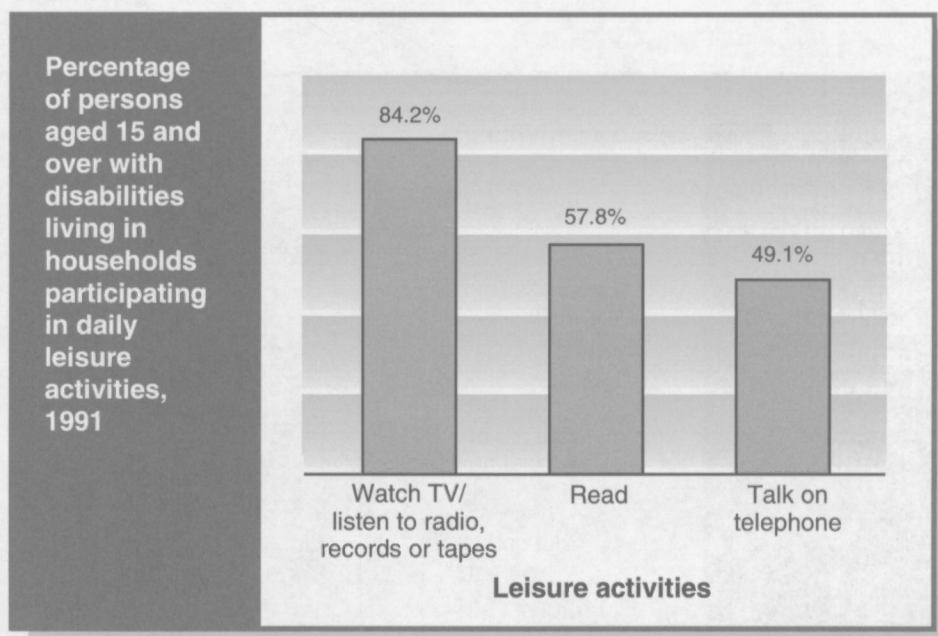
Persons with disabilities participate in a wide range of leisure and physical activities. In 1991, 84% of persons aged 15 years and over with disabilities living in households<sup>1</sup> watched television or listened to the radio, records or tapes on a daily basis. As well, 58% read daily, while 49% talked on the phone regularly.<sup>2</sup> (Chart 8.1)

In addition, 56% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities reported visiting with family or friends and 54% went shopping on a weekly basis. As well, 30% attended religious services or related activities, 29% did arts, crafts, or other hobbies, and 14% went to clubs, bingos or played cards at least once a week. (Chart 8.2)

Many persons with disabilities are also able to attend various recreational functions. In 1991, 18% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities attended sports events, concerts, plays, or movies, 11% went to museums, historic sites, libraries, or art galleries, 7% visited national or provincial parks, and 5% took courses or attended seminars at least once a month. (Chart 8.3)

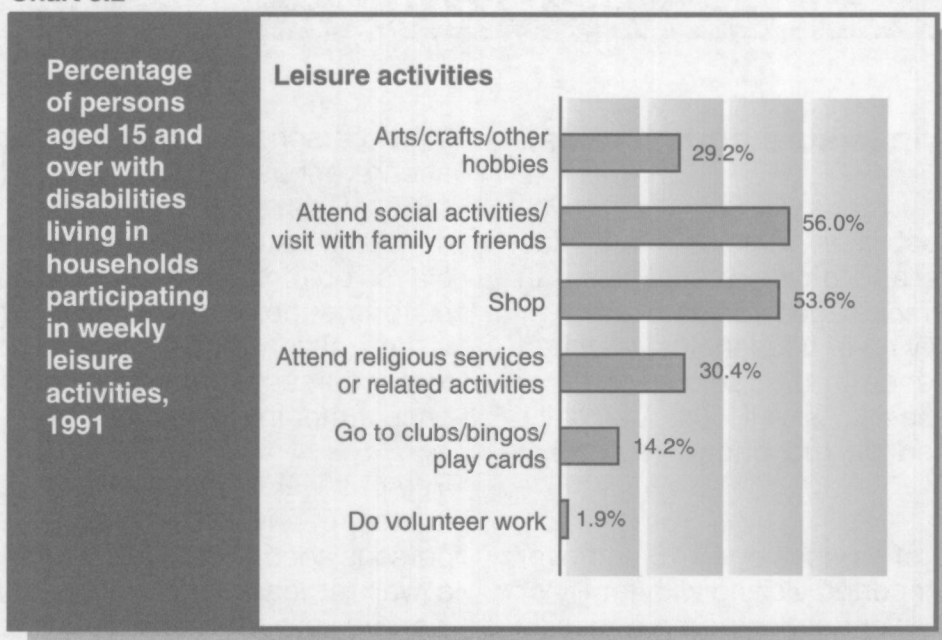
Persons with disabilities also participate in a number of physical activities. In 1991, 52% of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities took a walk at least once a week. As well, 24% worked in a garden, 22% exercised, 10% wheeled or cycled, and 9% swam or did aquatics on a weekly basis. In addition, 8% participated in other physical activities and 7% went dancing at least once a month. (Chart 8.4)

Chart 8.1



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Chart 8.2**



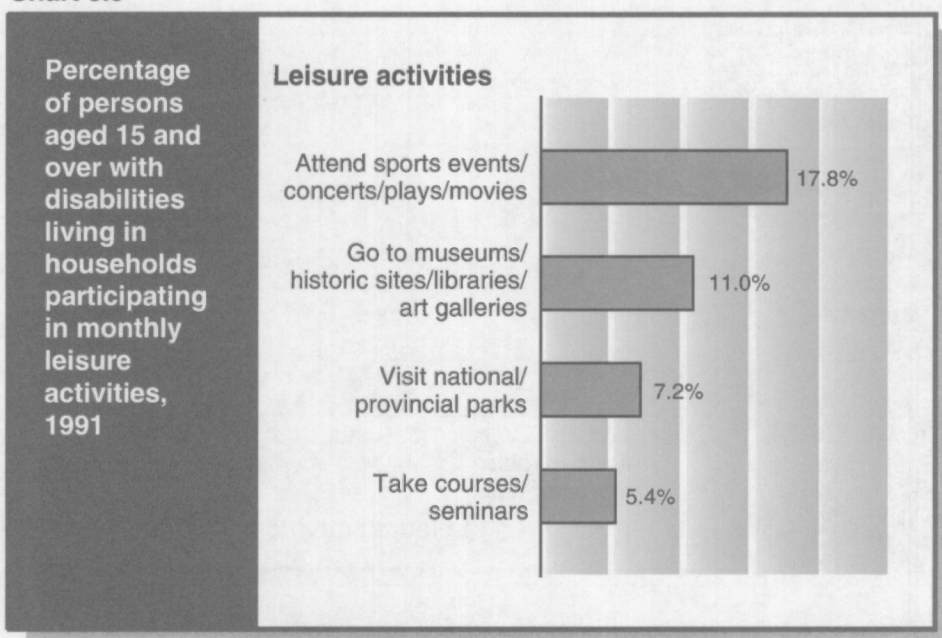
**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

## Barriers to participation in leisure activities

Many persons with disabilities, however, report that there are barriers that prevent them from more actively participating in leisure activities.

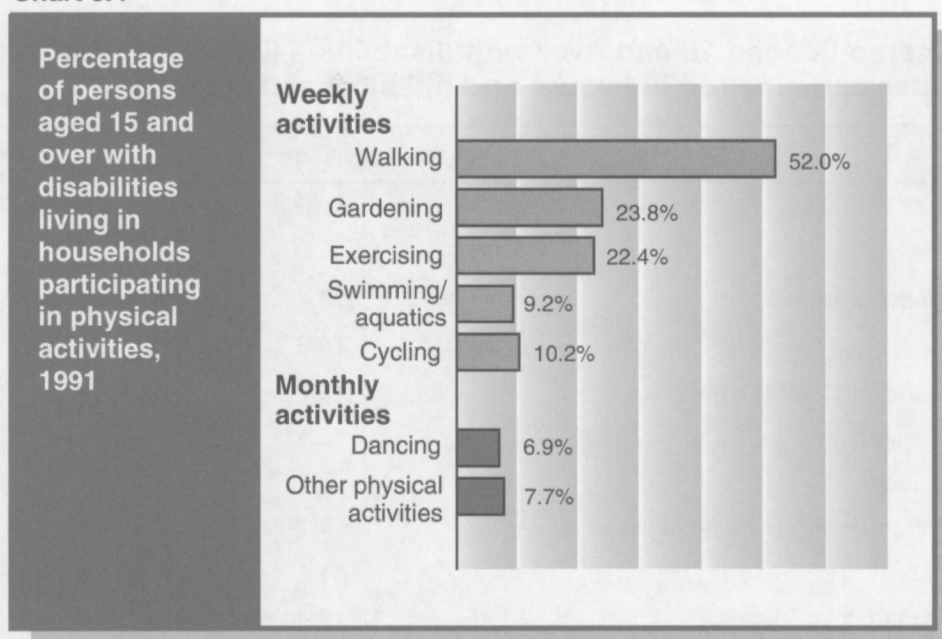
For example, in 1991, 18% of people aged 15 and over with disabilities reported that they were physically unable to participate in more leisure activities. In addition, 15% indicated high costs were a barrier and 10% said there was a lack of nearby facilities or programs.

**Chart 8.3**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

**Chart 8.4**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Persons with disabilities also reported that the need for someone's assistance (5%), inadequate transportation (5%), inaccessible facilities, equipment, or programs (5%), lack of support from family or friends (2%), and the need for specialized aids (1%) were further barriers to greater participation in leisure activities. (Table 8.1)

As with leisure activities, the greatest barrier to increased physical activity on the part of persons with disabilities is that they are physically unable to do more. In 1991, 33% of all persons aged 15 and over with disabilities reported they were physically unable to do

more physical activity. Other barriers to physical activities included high costs (11%); lack of nearby facilities or programs (8%); self consciousness (6%); lack of knowledge about other activities (5%); non-accessible facilities, equipment or programs (5%); inadequate transportation (4%); and the need for an attendant (4%).

<sup>1</sup> All data in this section refer to persons aged 15 and over living in households.

<sup>2</sup> Totals in this section may add to more than 100% because respondents could give more than one response.



**Table 8.1****Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in households reporting barriers to greater participation in leisure and physical activities, 1991**

|                                                  | Leisure activities | Physical activities |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                                                  | %                  |                     |
| Physically unable to do more                     | 18.4               | 33.1                |
| Cost too high                                    | 14.8               | 10.8                |
| Lack of nearby facilities or programs            | 10.3               | 7.7                 |
| Need someone's assistance                        | 5.4                | --                  |
| Inadequate transportation                        | 5.3                | 3.8                 |
| Facilities, equipment or programs not accessible | 4.7                | 4.8                 |
| Need specialized aids                            | 1.1                | --                  |
| Lack of support from family or friends           | 2.4                | 2.6                 |
| Need attendant                                   | --                 | 3.8                 |
| Do not know of other activities                  | --                 | 5.1                 |
| Self conscious                                   | --                 | 6.1                 |
| Other barriers                                   | 8.1                | 7.4                 |
| Not stated                                       | 0.3                | 0.1*                |

\* *Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.*

**Source:** *Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.*

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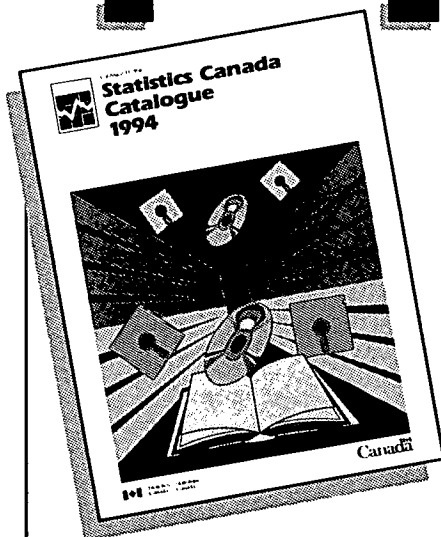
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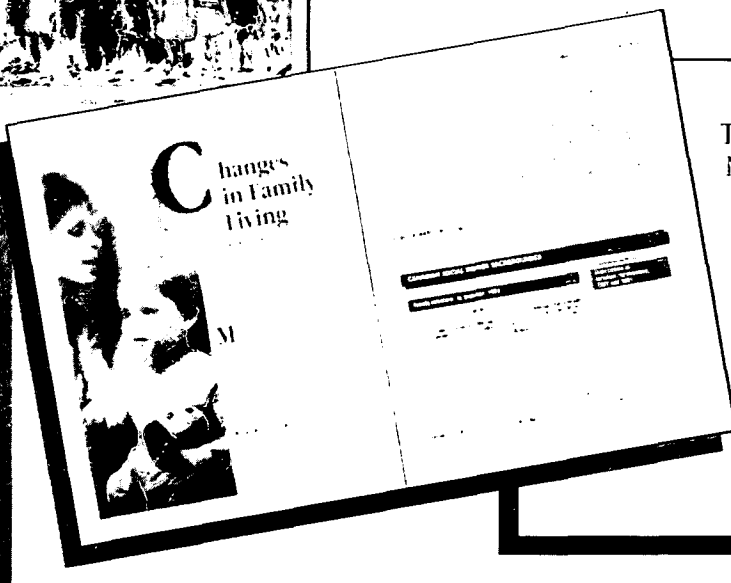
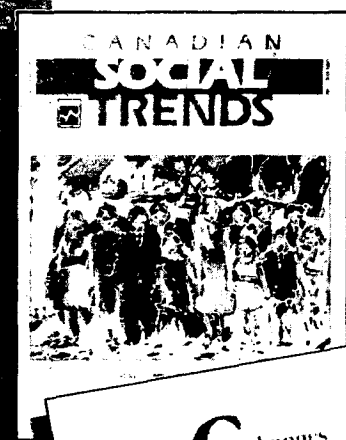
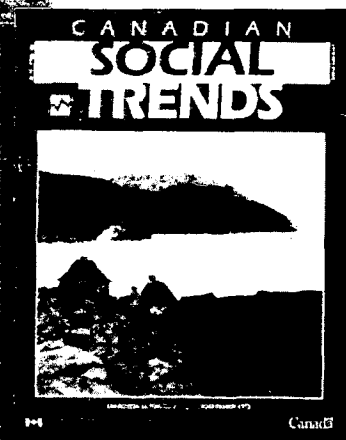
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