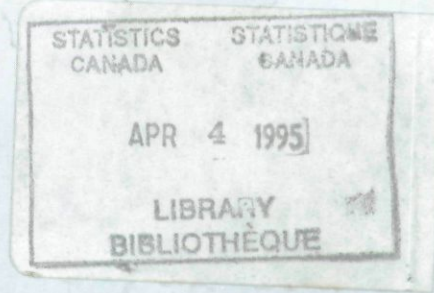


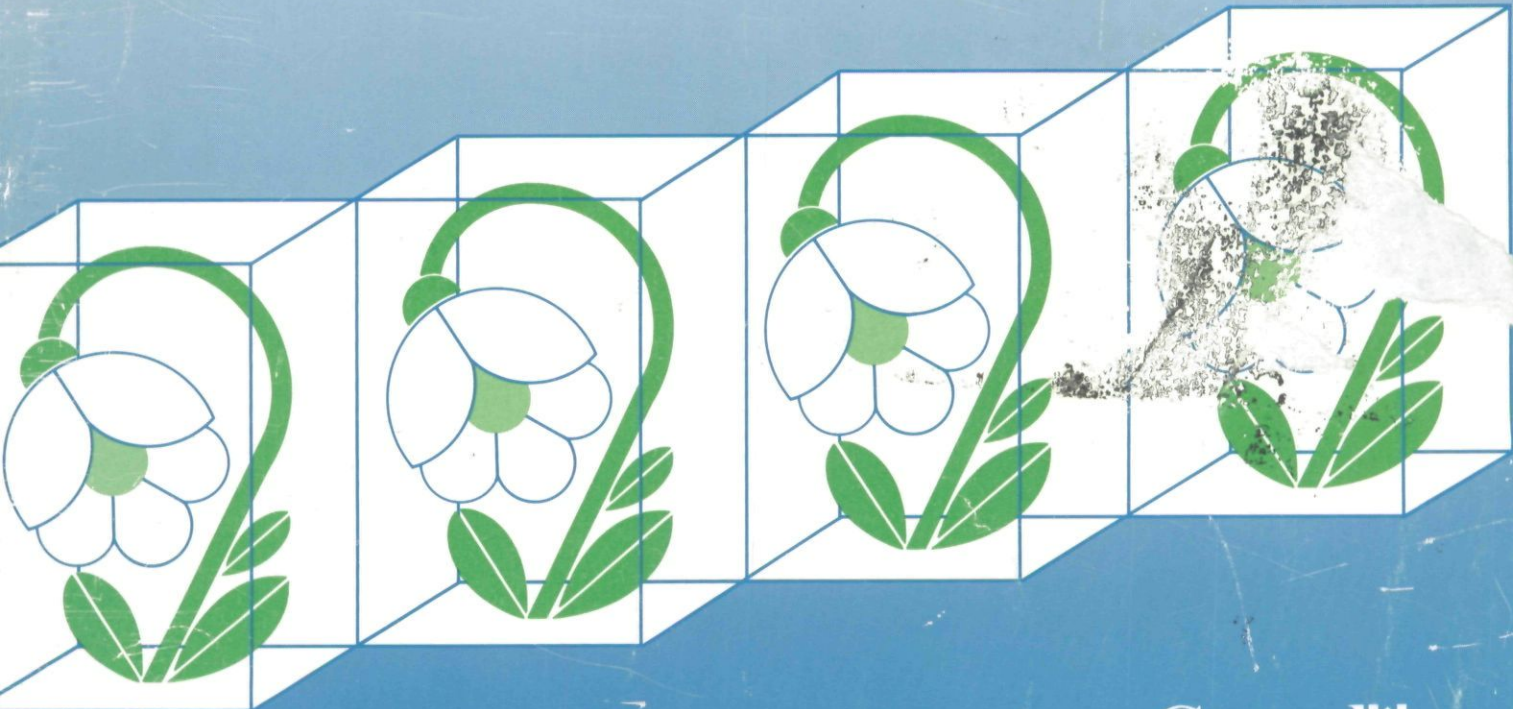
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The Health and Activity Limitation Survey



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**A PROFILE OF THREE DISABLED
POPULATIONS**





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A PROFILE OF THREE DISABLED POPULATIONS

by

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Statistics Canada

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Introduction¹

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) was conducted by Statistics Canada as a follow-up to the 1986 Census.² The survey counted the number of Canadians with disabilities, itemized the nature and extent of their disabilities, and assessed the impact of these disabilities on their daily lives. Results from HALS indicated that there were **1,768,000 non-institutionalized disabled persons aged 15-64 in Canada in 1986.**³

Disabled persons can be grouped into three populations. About one-half million disabled persons, that is, almost 30%, reported that their conditions or health problems did not limit the kind or amount of activity they could do at work or at school.⁴

On the other hand, some one and one-quarter million disabled persons (more than 70%) reported that they were limited in their capacity to work (or go to school) because of their disabilities.

This "disabled and limited" population can be further subdivided: one group reported that they were able to work, whereas a second stated that they were completely unable to work. There were 639,000 disabled persons who were limited but able to work, and 616,000 who were limited and completely unable to work.⁵

The purpose of this study is to provide profiles of these three populations and to outline their similarities and their differences. The groups will be referred to as (1) persons who are disabled BUT NOT limited, (2) persons who are disabled AND limited BUT able to work, and (3) disabled persons who are completely unable to work.

1) *This report was prepared under contract for the Disability Database Program, Statistics Canada.*

2) *For further information about HALS see: The Health and Activity Limitation Survey User's Guide (June 1988).*

3) *The disability rate, which measures the disabled population as a percentage of the total population, averaged 10.4% nationwide among non-institutionalized persons aged 15-64. This means that in 1986 roughly one in ten Canadians was disabled.*

4) *The disabled but not limited category also includes some 58,000 persons who did not indicate whether or not they were limited by their disability.*

5) *See Appendix I for definition of disability, limited at work and other key variables.*

Main Findings

Disabled persons who were able to work, whether they reported themselves to be limited or not limited by their disability, tended to have generally similar characteristics. On the other hand, those disabled persons who stated that they were completely unable to work tended to have characteristics that were quite different from those of the other two groups.

- Women were more likely than men to be completely unable to work, 41% compared with 29%; this pattern was especially evident among persons aged 45-64.
- The prevalence of being unable to work climbed steadily as age increased; 57% of disabled persons aged 55-64 were unable to work compared with 15% of those aged 15-24.
- Those persons who had more than one type of disability were more than twice as likely to be completely unable to work as persons with only a single disability. Almost one-half of those with only a single disability reported that they were not limited at work compared with only about one-sixth of those with multiple disabilities.
- Persons with hearing disabilities were the most likely to be not limited, while those with seeing or speaking disabilities were the most likely to be completely unable to work.
- In general, those persons who were disabled either as children (aged up to 14 years) or as young adults (aged 15-24 years) were more likely to be not limited at work, whereas those disabled when aged 45-64 years were far more likely to be completely unable to work.
- There were considerable differences between the incomes received by the three disabled populations; those persons who were not limited had almost double the 1985 income of those who were completely unable to work. But, for each group, the income of men far exceeded that reported by women.

- The ability to work appeared to be closely linked to educational attainment; more than one-half of all disabled persons with only a primary school education reported that they were completely unable to work compared with fewer than one-sixth of those with university degrees.
- Those persons who became disabled prior to completing their education were more likely to have attained a higher level of education. And, no matter what their level of education, they were less likely to be completely unable to work than were those persons who completed their education before becoming disabled.
- The severity of disability appeared to be the most important factor for determining the capacity for work. Almost one-half of those with mild disabilities were not limited at work compared with only 5% of those with severe disabilities. On the other hand, about 20% of those with mild disabilities were completely unable to work compared with almost 70% of those with severe disabilities.
- The prevalence of severe disabilities rose for both men and women as age increased. And, the level of educational attainment tended to decrease as the severity of disability increased.

Age and Sex

The number of non-institutionalized disabled men aged 15-64 (889,000) slightly exceeded the number of disabled women (879,000). Disabled men were more likely than women to be limited but able to work (40% compared with 32%), whereas a greater proportion of disabled women than men reported that they were completely unable to work (41% compared with 29%). This difference was especially apparent among persons aged 45-64. The proportions of disabled persons who were not limited were generally similar for men and women (Table 1).

About one-third of disabled persons were aged 55-64, while only 1 in 10 were aged 15-24. The percentage of disabled persons who were limited in their capacity for school or work activities climbed steadily as age increased, due to the sharp rise in the proportion that were completely unable to work. Fewer than one out of five disabled persons aged 15-24 were unable to work compared with almost three out of five of those aged 55-64. Overall, more than one-half of all persons who were unable to work were aged 55-64, compared with fewer than one-quarter of those who were limited but able to work or who were not limited at work.

Table 1. Disabled Persons by Sex and Age

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
			Able to work	Unable to work	
	'000	%			
Both sexes					
Age 15-64	1,768	100	36	35	29
15-24	181	100	44	15	41
25-34	289	100	46	18	36
35-44	335	100	44	22	34
45-54	370	100	38	34	28
55-64	592	100	24	57	20
Men					
Age 15-64	889	100	40	29	31
15-24	94	100	42	13	45
25-34	149	100	47	17	36
35-44	166	100	46	17	37
45-54	192	100	45	25	30
55-64	288	100	29	50	20
Women					
Age 15-64	879	100	32	41	27
15-24	88	100	46	18	36
25-34	140	100	44	20	36
35-44	170	100	42	27	32
45-54	178	100	30	43	27
55-64	304	100	19	63	19
Percentage distribution					
		%			
Men					
Age 15-64		100	100	100	100
15-24		11	11	5	15
25-34		17	20	10	20
35-44		19	21	11	22
45-54		22	24	19	21
55-64		32	24	56	22
Women					
Age 15-64		100	100	100	100
15-24		10	14	4	13
25-34		16	22	8	21
35-44		19	25	13	22
45-54		20	19	22	20
55-64		35	20	53	24

Number and Nature of Disabilities

About 45% of all disabled persons had a single disability; the remainder had more than one type of disability (about 150,000 persons had 4 or more types of disability). Mobility and agility disabilities were by far the most common; speaking disabilities were least prevalent (Table 2).

Not surprisingly, persons with multiple disabilities were much more likely to be completely unable to work than were those having only a single disability (47% compared with 20%). Similarly, the proportion of disabled persons who were not limited at work was almost three times as high for persons with a single type of disability than for those having multiple disabilities (45% compared with 16%).

There were few major differences between the distributions of disabled persons by type of disability. Those having an "unknown" disability were the most likely to report that they were limited but able to work; persons having seeing or speaking disabilities were the most likely to state that they were completely unable to work; and persons with hearing disabilities were the most likely to be not limited at work.

For most types of disability the proportion of persons who were completely unable to work rose steadily as age increased. Similarly, the proportions who were either limited but able to work or not limited at work declined steadily as age advanced. However, for persons with hearing disabilities, the proportion who were limited but able to work remained relatively constant for all age groups, whereas for those with an unknown disability, the proportion who were limited but able to work was actually higher for persons aged 35-54 years than for persons aged 15-34 years (Table 3).

A substantial majority of persons having mobility or agility disabilities became disabled when aged either 25-44 years or 45-64 years (the two age groups were similar in size). Some 60% of persons with speaking disabilities became disabled as youths (aged 14 or less). For other types of disability, the distribution of the population by age of onset was fairly uniform, although relatively few persons were affected when aged 15-24 (Table 4).

Generally, those persons disabled in their youth (either as children up to 14 years or as young adults aged 15-24) were the most likely to be in the not limited population. And, those persons disabled when aged 45-64 were most likely to be completely unable to work.

Table 2. Disabled Persons by the Number and Nature of Disabilities

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
	Total	1,768	100	36	
Number					
Single disability	795	100	35	20	45
Multiple disabilities	973	100	37	47	16
Two	578	100	40	40	20
Three	246	100	37	51	12
Four	104	100	30	62	9
Five	36	100	26	65	9
Six	9	100	15	79	6
Nature ¹					
Mobility	1,048	100	37	45	18
Agility	917	100	38	45	17
Seeing	204	100	30	51	19
Hearing	417	100	27	31	43
Speaking	107	100	35	51	15
Other	496	100	35	47	19
Unknown ²	149	100	49	16	35

1) The total number of persons with disabilities cannot be aggregated from nature of disability data as persons having more than one type of disability would be counted more than once.

2) By definition, all persons with an "unknown" disability had a single disability only.

Table 3. Disabled Persons by the Nature of Disability and Age

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
Mobility	1,048	100	37	45	18
15-24 years	65	100	55	20	25
25-34 years	135	100	53	21	25
35-44 years	181	100	48	28	24
45-54 years	238	100	40	43	18
55-64 years	428	100	23	65	12
Agility	917	100	38	45	17
15-24 years	52	100	51	25	24
25-34 years	116	100	57	23	20
35-44 years	170	100	48	28	24
45-54 years	219	100	40	41	19
55-64 years	360	100	24	65	12
Seeing	204	100	30	51	19
15-24 years	17	100	54	32	14
25-34 years	32	100	44	31	25
35-44 years	33	100	42	35	23
45-54 years	50	100	25	48	27
55-64 years	72	100	17	74	9
Hearing	417	100	27	31	43
15-24 years	34	100	28	13	59
25-34 years	61	100	28	14	58
35-44 years	64	100	30	16	54
45-54 years	91	100	28	32	40
55-64 years	167	100	23	45	31
Speaking	107	100	35	51	15
15-24 years	24	100	46	38	16
25-34 years	21	100	42	43	15
35-44 years	20	100	38	43	19
45-54 years	20	100	32	57	12
55-64 years	23	100	17	73	11

Table 3. Disabled Persons by the Nature of Disability and Age (continued)

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
Other	496	100	35	47	19
15-24 years	76	100	43	24	33
25-34 years	88	100	49	32	19
35-44 years	91	100	34	43	23
45-54 years	96	100	36	50	15
55-64 years	144	100	21	68	12
Unknown	149	100	49	16	35
15-24 years	28	100	48	10	42
25-34 years	35	100	45	14	41
35-44 years	30	100	61	6	33
45-54 years	25	100	56	10	34
55-64 years	31	100	36	38	26

Table 4. Disabled Persons by the Nature and Age of Onset of Disability

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
Mobility ¹	1,048	100	37	45	18
0-14 years	104	100	42	33	25
15-24 years	134	100	52	24	24
25-44 years	379	100	43	38	19
45-64 years	420	100	26	61	13
Agility ¹	917	100	38	45	17
0-14 years	75	100	41	42	16
15-24 years	114	100	52	24	25
25-44 years	355	100	44	36	20
45-64 years	359	100	27	61	12
Seeing ¹	204	100	30	51	19
0-14 years	63	100	44	40	16
15-24 years	20	100	36	27	37
25-44 years	50	100	27	52	22
45-64 years	66	100	18	70	12
Hearing ¹	417	100	27	31	43
0-14 years	106	100	30	19	51
15-24 years	48	100	28	21	51
25-44 years	118	100	29	27	43
45-64 years	136	100	22	45	33
Speaking ¹	107	100	35	51	15
0-14 years	63	100	41	41	19
15-24 years	7	100	45	49	7
25-44 years	16	100	29	64	7
45-64 years	20	100	15	75	10
Other ¹	496	100	35	47	19
0-14 years	118	100	42	40	18
15-24 years	47	100	50	40	10
25-44 years	128	100	35	50	15
45-64 years	134	100	26	64	11
Unknown ¹	149	100	49	16	35
0-14 years	33	100	49	3	48
15-24 years	36	100	46	15	39
25-44 years	47	100	57	14	29
45-64 years	31	100	43	32	26

1) Totals for each nature of disability include some persons who did not state their age of onset of disability.

Individual Income

There was a considerable difference in 1985 income levels between those disabled persons who were completely unable to work and those who were able to work, whether limited or not. Disabled persons who were unable to work recorded substantially lower average 1985 income levels than the other two groups: \$8,300 compared with \$14,400 for persons limited but able to work and \$16,100 for those who were not limited at work (Table 5).

However, differences in income by sex dwarfed the differences recorded between the three disability groups. For disabled men, average 1985 income was \$17,900: those who were not limited had \$22,000 on average, those limited but able to work had \$18,200 and those who were completely unable to work received \$13,100.

About one-quarter of all disabled men (and one-third of those unable to work) reported incomes of less than \$5,000. One-fifth of disabled men (12% of those unable to work) had 1985 incomes of \$30,000 or more.

For disabled women, average 1985 income was \$7,700: those not limited had \$9,400, those who were limited but able to work had \$9,700 on average, and those completely unable to work reported average incomes of \$4,800. In other words, disabled women received incomes that were only 37% to 53% of those reported by disabled men in the same group.

One-half of all disabled women (and more than 60% of those unable to work) received 1985 incomes of less than \$5,000. Only 4% of all disabled women had incomes of \$30,000 or more.

Not surprisingly, young persons (aged 15-24) reported the lowest incomes -- fully 70% had incomes of less than \$5,000. The highest incomes occurred among persons aged 35-44 -- fewer than one-third had incomes of less than \$5,000 while almost one in five had incomes of \$30,000 or more (Table 6).

Table 5. Disabled Persons by 1985 Individual Income and Sex

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
			Able to work	Unable to work	
	'000	%			
All incomes	1,768	100	36	35	29
Less than \$ 5,000	664	100	30	45	25
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	320	100	33	46	21
\$10,000 - \$14,999	200	100	40	30	30
\$15,000 - \$19,999	134	100	48	24	28
\$20,000 - \$24,999	127	100	47	19	34
\$25,000 - \$29,999	99	100	41	15	44
\$30,000 and over	222	100	40	16	44
Average income (\$)					
Both sexes	12,800		14,400	8,300	16,100
Men	17,900		18,200	13,100	22,000
Women	7,700		9,700	4,800	9,400
Percentage distribution		%			
Both sexes - All incomes		100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000		38	31	49	32
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999		18	16	24	13
\$10,000 - \$14,999		11	13	10	12
\$15,000 - \$19,999		8	10	5	7
\$20,000 - \$24,999		7	9	4	8
\$25,000 - \$29,999		6	6	2	8
\$30,000 and over		13	14	6	19
Men - All incomes		100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000		24	22	32	21
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999		15	15	22	8
\$10,000 - \$14,999		12	11	15	10
\$15,000 - \$19,999		9	11	8	8
\$20,000 - \$24,999		10	12	8	11
\$25,000 - \$29,999		8	9	4	11
\$30,000 and over		21	21	12	31
Women - All incomes		100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000		51	44	61	44
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999		21	18	26	19
\$10,000 - \$14,999		11	14	6	13
\$15,000 - \$19,999		6	9	3	7
\$20,000 - \$24,999		4	6	1	5
\$25,000 - \$29,999		3	3	1	6
\$30,000 and over		4	5	1	5

Table 6. Disabled Persons by 1985 Individual Income and Age

	Total %	Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
		Able to work	Unable to work	
Age 15-24 - All incomes	100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000	70	68	83	67
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	15	16	12	16
\$10,000 - \$14,999	7	9	4	7
\$15,000 - \$19,999	3	3	--	4
\$20,000 - \$24,999	2	1	--	3
\$25,000 - \$29,999	1	1	--	1
\$30,000 and over	1	1	--	2
Age 25-34 - All incomes	100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000	33	33	51	25
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	17	18	22	13
\$10,000 - \$14,999	14	17	6	15
\$15,000 - \$19,999	8	9	3	8
\$20,000 - \$24,999	10	9	3	15
\$25,000 - \$29,999	8	5	5	13
\$30,000 and over	10	10	10	11
Age 35-44 - All incomes	100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000	29	22	50	23
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	15	16	2	48
\$10,000 - \$14,999	13	14	9	13
\$15,000 - \$19,999	8	12	4	6
\$20,000 - \$24,999	8	9	3	9
\$25,000 - \$29,999	9	8	4	13
\$30,000 and over	19	19	6	28
Age 45-54 - All incomes	100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000	34	25	51	25
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	18	17	22	14
\$10,000 - \$14,999	10	10	8	10
\$15,000 - \$19,999	8	10	6	8
\$20,000 - \$24,999	8	14	3	6
\$25,000 - \$29,999	5	6	2	8
\$30,000 and over	17	17	7	29
Age 55-64 - All incomes	100	100	100	100
Less than \$ 5,000	37	24	44	30
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	21	14	26	16
\$10,000 - \$14,999	12	12	12	12
\$15,000 - \$19,999	8	13	6	10
\$20,000 - \$24,999	7	10	5	8
\$25,000 - \$29,999	4	9	2	5
\$30,000 and over	11	17	5	19

Educational Attainment

There were sharp differences between the educational attainment (the highest level of completed schooling) achieved by persons who were completely unable to work and those who were limited but able to work or not limited due to their disability.

Almost one-half of disabled persons who were unable to work had completed only primary schooling (0-8 years); only about one in fifty had gained a university degree. For those disabled persons who were able to work -- both those limited and those not limited at work -- about 20% had only a primary level education. On the other hand, a further 20% had some post secondary education or a post secondary certificate or diploma, while about 7% had a university degree. These patterns were generally similar for both men and women (Table 7).

In part, the greater proportion of persons having only a primary education among those unable to work reflects the fact that this group has proportionally more older persons in its ranks, and older persons (whether disabled or not) are more likely to have completed only a limited education. But, even within the older disabled populations, those unable to work were more likely to have little schooling and less likely to have post secondary education than their counterparts who were able to work. Similar results were also noted for the population aged 25-34, that is, for the group which in general had most recently completed their education (Table 8).

Table 7. Disabled Persons by Sex and Educational Attainment

	Total %	Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
		Able to work	Unable to work	
Both sexes				
All levels	100	100	100	100
Primary only ¹	29	21	46	18
Some high school	28	29	26	29
High school graduation	9	9	7	13
Trades certificate	10	13	8	11
Some post secondary	9	10	6	10
Post secondary certificate or diploma	10	11	6	13
University degree	5	6	2	7
Men				
All levels	100	100	100	100
Primary only ¹	27	22	46	16
Some high school	28	30	24	29
High school graduation	9	8	7	12
Trades certificate	13	16	11	12
Some post secondary	9	10	6	11
Post secondary certificate or diploma	8	8	3	12
University degree	6	5	3	9
Women				
All levels	100	100	100	100
Primary only ¹	31	19	47	20
Some high school	27	28	26	28
High school graduation	10	11	7	14
Trades certificate	7	9	5	9
Some post secondary	8	10	5	9
Post secondary certificate or diploma	12	16	7	15
University degree	5	8	2	5

.../continued

Table 7. Disabled Persons by Sex and Educational Attainment (continued)

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
	Both sexes				
All levels	1,768	100	36	35	29
Primary only ¹	511	100	26	56	18
Some high school	491	100	38	32	30
High school grads.	166	100	36	24	40
Trades certificate	183	100	44	26	30
Some post secondary	151	100	43	24	33
Post secondary certificate or diploma	176	100	42	20	38
University degree	91	100	46	16	39
Men					
All levels	889	100	40	29	31
Primary only ¹	242	100	33	49	18
Some high school	250	100	43	25	32
High school graduation	79	100	37	21	42
Trades certificate	118	100	48	25	27
Some post secondary	82	100	45	19	35
Post secondary certificate or diploma	69	100	42	12	46
University degree	50	100	36	15	49
Women					
All levels	879	100	32	41	27
Primary only ¹	269	100	20	62	18
Some high school	241	100	33	39	28
High school graduation	87	100	35	27	38
Trades certificate	65	100	39	28	33
Some post secondary	69	100	40	28	31
Post secondary certificate or diploma	107	100	42	25	33
University degree	41	100	57	16	27

1) Includes persons having 0-8 years of schooling.

Table 8. Disabled Persons by Age and Educational Attainment

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT to work
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable	
Persons aged 15-64					
All levels	1,768	100	36	35	29
Primary only ¹	511	100	26	56	18
Some high school	491	100	38	32	30
High school graduation	166	100	36	24	40
Trades certificate	183	100	44	26	30
Some post secondary	151	100	43	24	33
Post secondary certificate or diploma	176	100	42	20	38
University degree	91	100	46	16	39
Persons aged 15-24					
All levels	181	100	44	15	41
Primary only ¹	23	100	51	35	14
Some high school	90	100	44	16	40
High school graduation	26	100	33	10	56
Trades certificate	9	100	45	6	49
Some post secondary	20	100	50	7	43
Post secondary certificate or diploma	11	100	45	3	52
University degree	2	100	22	--	77
Persons aged 25-34					
All levels	289	100	46	18	36
Primary only ¹	38	100	41	38	21
Some high school	83	100	43	22	35
High school graduation	42	100	48	18	34
Trades certificate	33	100	55	9	36
Some post secondary	36	100	49	10	41
Post secondary certificate or diploma	35	100	49	9	42
University degree	21	100	36	13	50

.../continued

Table 8. Disabled Persons by Age and Educational Attainment (continued)

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
Persons aged 35-44					
All levels	335	100	44	22	34
Primary only ¹	61	100	30	45	25
Some high school	88	100	42	24	35
High school graduation	30	100	51	18	31
Trades certificate	46	100	47	18	35
Some post secondary	35	100	46	16	38
Post secondary certificate or diploma	48	100	48	11	41
University degree	28	100	56	5	39
Persons aged 45-54					
All levels	370	100	38	34	28
Primary only ¹	123	100	32	48	20
Some high school	92	100	43	30	27
High school graduation	31	100	22	29	49
Trades certificate	40	100	57	23	20
Some post secondary	26	100	39	35	26
Post secondary certificate or diploma	37	100	35	21	44
University degree	20	100	41	18	41
Persons aged 55-64					
All levels	592	100	24	57	20
Primary only ¹	266	100	18	66	16
Some high school	137	100	26	55	19
High school graduation	37	100	23	43	34
Trades certificate	54	100	27	49	25
Some post secondary	34	100	32	47	21
Post secondary certificate or diploma	45	100	34	42	24
University degree	19	100	47	33	20

1) Includes persons having 0-8 years of schooling.

When was Education Completed

About two out of every three disabled persons (1.2 million) stated that they had completed their education before becoming disabled, a further 20% (361,000) had become disabled before their education was completed, and about one in eight disabled persons (210,000) did not indicate whether their education was completed prior to becoming disabled (Table 9).

The proportion of disabled persons completely unable to work was much lower for those who were disabled before their education was completed. In part, this reflects the fact that this group was more likely to have completed higher levels of education -- about one-third of all persons disabled before completing their education had at least some post-secondary or higher schooling compared with about one-fifth of those whose education was completed before the onset of disability.

However, at every level of education, from primary schooling (0-8 years) through the university degree, the proportion of persons who were completely unable to work was much smaller for persons who became disabled before completing their education. Surprisingly, the proportion who stated that they were limited but able to work did not change much between the two groups, whereas the proportion who stated that they were not limited at work was much higher among those disabled persons who completed their education after becoming disabled.

Table 9. Disabled Persons by Educational Attainment and Whether Disability Occurred before Education was Completed

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
All disabled persons¹					
All education	1,768	100	36	35	29
Primary only ²	511	100	26	56	18
Some high school	491	100	38	32	30
High school graduation	166	100	36	24	40
Trades certificate	183	100	44	26	30
Some post secondary	151	100	43	24	33
Post secondary certificate or diploma	176	100	42	20	38
University degree	91	100	46	16	39
Persons who were disabled before education was completed					
All education	361	100	37	23	39
Primary only ²	76	100	28	52	20
Some high school	94	100	39	25	37
High school graduation	38	100	35	14	52
Trades certificate	32	100	36	14	50
Some post secondary	40	100	48	11	41
Post secondary certificate or diploma	50	100	36	13	52
University degree	32	100	49	5	46
Persons who completed education before becoming disabled					
All education	1,197	100	34	40	26
Primary only ²	369	100	23	58	19
Some high school	330	100	36	37	27
High school graduation	114	100	37	29	34
Trades certificate	137	100	45	31	24
Some post secondary	84	100	43	32	25
Post secondary certificate or diploma	110	100	43	25	32
University degree	53	100	41	23	36

1) Totals include some 210,000 persons who did not indicate whether their education was completed before they became disabled.

2) Includes persons having 0-8 years of schooling.

Severity of Disability

There was a strong relationship between the distribution of the disabled population into the three component groups and the level of severity of disability.

More than one-half the disabled population (some 900,000 persons) were characterized as having mild disabilities; 90% of persons with single disabilities and about 20% of those with multiple disabilities were in this group. Almost one-half of all persons who had a mild disability were in the not limited population, while about one-third were limited but able to work. This distribution applied to both those with a single disability and those with multiple disabilities (Table 10).

About one-third of all disabled persons (numbering 584,000) had moderate disabilities; about 10% of persons with single disabilities and more than one-half of those having multiple disabilities were in this group. Like their counterparts who were only "mildly" disabled, those with a single disability tended to follow the pattern of those with multiple disabilities. Nearly one-half were limited but able to work, more than 40% were completely unable to work, and only about one in eight stated that they were not limited.

Some 15% of disabled persons (271,000 persons virtually all of whom had multiple disabilities) were severely disabled. The overwhelming majority of persons in this group were completely unable to work. About 1 person in 20 with severe disabilities stated that they were not limited at work.

The prevalence of severe disabilities tended to rise substantially for both men and women as age increased. The majority of those aged 15-24 had only a mild level of severity, while fewer than 10% had a severe disability. In contrast, about 40% of persons aged 55-64 had mild disabilities, a slightly smaller group had a moderate level of disability, and more than one in five were severely disabled (Table 11).

Generally, educational attainment decreased as the level of severity rose. The prevalence of a post secondary certificate/diploma or a university degree declined from 18% among persons with mild disabilities to less than 10% for those with severe disabilities. On the other hand, about one-half of those with a mild level of severity had not completed high school compared with some two-thirds of those who were severely disabled (Table 12).

Table 10. Disabled Persons by the Severity and Number of Disabilities

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
			Able to work	Unable to work	
	'000	%			
All severity					
All disabled	1,768	100	36	35	29
Single disability	795	100	35	20	45
Multiple disability	973	100	37	47	16
Mild					
All disabled	913	100	33	20	47
Single disability	723	100	33	18	48
Multiple disability	189	100	30	28	42
Moderate					
All disabled	584	100	46	42	12
Single disability	71	100	49	39	12
Multiple disability	513	100	46	42	12
Severe					
All disabled	271	100	26	69	5
Single disability ¹	1	--	--	--	--
Multiple disability	271	100	26	69	5

1) Fewer than 1,000 persons were severely disabled while having only a single disability.

Table 11. Disabled Persons by the Severity of Disability, Sex and Age

	Age					
	15-64	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
	'000					
Both sexes						
All severity	1,768	181	289	335	370	592
Mild	913	121	178	194	173	247
Moderate	584	47	85	101	126	226
Severe	271	14	26	40	71	119
Men						
All severity	889	94	149	166	192	288
Mild	484	66	97	101	97	124
Moderate	280	21	39	48	63	110
Severe	124	7	13	17	33	54
Women						
All severity	879	88	140	170	178	304
Mild	428	54	81	93	77	123
Moderate	304	26	45	53	63	116
Severe	147	7	13	23	38	65

Table 12. Disabled Persons by Severity of Disability and Educational Attainment

	Total		Disabled AND limited persons		Persons disabled BUT NOT limited
	'000	%	Able to work	Unable to work	
Mild					
All education	913	100	33	20	47
Primary only ¹	204	100	26	40	35
Some high school	263	100	34	19	47
High school graduation	103	100	31	13	56
Trades certificate	97	100	38	14	48
Some post secondary	81	100	38	11	50
Post secondary certificate or diploma	103	100	33	11	56
University degree	63	100	38	11	51
Moderate					
All education	584	100	46	42	12
Primary only ¹	195	100	32	60	8
Some high school	157	100	50	38	12
High school graduation	46	100	49	35	16
Trades certificate	59	100	58	31	11
Some post secondary	49	100	56	26	18
Post secondary certificate or diploma	57	100	59	25	16
University degree	20	100	63	23	14
Severe					
All education	271	100	26	69	5
Primary only ¹	112	100	15	78	6
Some high school	71	100	28	67	5
High school graduation	17	100	32	64	5
Trades certificate	27	100	38	58	3
Some post secondary	22	100	31	64	4
Post secondary certificate or diploma	16	100	38	57	5
University degree	8	100	62	34	5

1) Includes persons having 0-8 years of schooling.

Appendix I

I. Definitions

Disability:

The World Health Organization defines disability as:

"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" (1980).

In practice, HALS used a functional limitation approach for the adult population; it defined disability in terms of difficulties in performing routine tasks of daily living such as walking, climbing stairs, feeding oneself or reading a newspaper. In addition, the limitation must have lasted (or be expected to last) a minimum of six months. Individuals were not considered disabled if they used a technical aid that completely eliminated the limitation.

Limited at work:

For a disabled person to be counted as "limited at work", the individual had to answer "Yes" to one or more of the following questions from HALS.

Question 20 (ii):

Because of a long-term physical condition or health problem, that is, one that is expected to last six months or more, are you limited in the kind or amount of activity you can do at school or at work?

Question 23 (ii):

Because of a long-term emotional, psychological, nervous, or mental health condition or problem, are you limited in the kind or amount of activity you can do at school or at work?

Question D19 (asked of the Employed):

Are you limited in the kind or amount of work you can do at your present job or business because of your condition or health problem?

Question D55 (asked of the Unemployed):

Are you limited in the kind or amount of work you could do at a job or business because of a condition or health problem?

Question D69 (asked of Persons not in the labour force):

Does your condition or health problem completely prevent you from working at a job or business?

Question D73 (asked of Persons not in the labour force):

Does your condition or health problem limit the kind or amount of work you could do at a job or business?

Nature of disability:

- Mobility:** limited in ability to walk, move from room to room, carry an object for 10 metres, or stand for long periods
- Agility:** limited in ability to bend, dress or undress oneself, get in and out of bed, cut toenails, use fingers to grasp or handle objects, reach, or cut own food
- Seeing:** limited in ability to read ordinary newsprint or to see someone from 4 metres, even when wearing glasses
- Hearing:** limited in ability to hear what is being said in conversation with one other person or two or more persons, even when wearing a hearing aid
- Speaking:** limited in ability to speak and be understood
- Other:** limited because of learning disability or emotional or psychiatric disability, or because of developmental delay
- Unknown:** limited but nature not specified

Severity of disability:

A severity scale was developed from HALS using the responses to the screening questions, plus two additional questions on the use of aids for seeing and hearing disabilities. (For a more complete description of the scale, please contact the Disability Database Program.) The total score was determined by adding the individual severity scores of all screening questions, counting one point for each partial loss of function and two points for each total loss of function (that is, completely unable to perform the function). The total score was then categorized as follows:

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

Appendix I I

Products and Publications from HALS

Available now.....

Custom Data Service

The HALS Custom Data Service enables users to identify their specific requirements for data about persons with disabilities. With the help of a HALS technical advisor, these requirements are transformed into tables and/or analytical reports. The cost to produce the tables and the time required for the production is negotiated with the user.

HALS can provide information for selected cities, large municipalities, and groupings of smaller municipalities. The HALS Custom Data Service can regroup geographic areas to ensure that the specific needs of the client are satisfied..

* * * *

Publications

HALS Fact Sheets are a series of one page summaries of pertinent information from the Health and Activity Limitation Survey. Topics available now include data on Transportation, Accommodation, Recreation, Employment and Education, both at the Canada and province levels. Fact Sheets with a focus on seniors and persons with disabilities in institutions at the Canada level are also available. The Fact Sheets are available free of charge.

*

A User's Guide has been produced to provide background information about the survey, a summary of the survey methodology, copies of all questionnaires, a list of available Census variables, and instructions for ordering tabulations through HALS Custom Data Service. There is no charge for this publication.

*

Disability and the Labour Market - An Analysis of Disabled Persons not in the Labour Force, by Gary L. Cohen, (\$15.00) outlines the main factors associated with the high level of non-participation among persons with disabilities who face work limitations. The report focuses on comparisons between persons with disabilities who were active in the labour market and those who were not in the labour market.

*

Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada is a presentation of HALS data at the Canada, province and territorial level for various age groups. This includes selected demographic data for persons residing in households as well as information on the nature and severity of disability, lifestyle, out-of-pocket expenses, income and the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the conduct of their everyday activities. Catalogue # 82-602, \$25.00.

*

Subprovincial/subterritorial profiles feature HALS data similar to those presented in Catalogue No. 82-602 above, at a more detailed geographic level.

Each profile includes data for selected census metropolitan areas (where applicable) as well as data for selected municipalities or groupings of municipalities. The series consists of:

Subprovincial Data for...

Cat.#

Newfoundland	82-603
Prince Edward Island	82-604
Nova Scotia	82-605
New Brunswick	82-606
Quebec	82-607
Ontario	82-608
Manitoba	82-609
Saskatchewan	82-610
Alberta	82-611
British Columbia	82-612

Subterritorial Data for...

Yukon	82-613
Northwest Territories	82-614

Each publication costs \$26.00 (\$31.00 outside Canada) except for Quebec and Ontario which each cost \$30.00 (\$36.00 outside Canada). The entire series of publications are available at the reduced price of \$256.00.

*

Selected Data, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, (\$15.00), provides an overview of data from the survey.

* * * *

Microdata Files

The first microdata file contains approximately 132,000 non-identifiable records of adults aged 15 and over, (71,900 adults with disabilities and 60,000 non-disabled adults), residing in households. Tabulations on this file are possible at the Canada, province and territory level, as well as for 8 census metropolitan areas (CMA): St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. If the record is not part of a CMA, its geographic designation (viz urban or rural) is indicated.

The cost of this microdata file including full documentation, is \$3000. This documentation includes a record layout and a full description of the 553 variables. Standard statistical packages such as SPSS and SAS can be used to produce tabulations from this file.

*

The second microdata file contains approximately 17,400 non-identifiable records of disabled adults aged 15 and over residing in health-related institutions. Tabulations on this file are possible at the Canada level (excluding Yukon and the Northwest Territories) and province level, and by type of institution consisting of two groupings: special care homes and institutions for the elderly and chronically ill, and all other institutions. The cost of this microdata file, including full documentation, is \$1,500.

*

The third microdata file contains approximately 35,160 non-identifiable records of disabled and non-disabled children aged 14 years and under residing in households. Tabulations on this file are possible for Canada and the regions: East, Quebec, Ontario and West (including Yukon and the Northwest Territories). The cost of this microdata file, including full documentation, is \$1,000.

To be released in 1990.....

Publications

Special Topic Reports - a series of eight reports. Each report examines a particular subgroup within the population with disabilities, or deals with a major aspect of life for the entire population with disabilities. The series consists of:

The Use of Assistive Devices by Persons with Disabilities

This report will focus on assistive devices used and needed by persons with disabilities aged 15 and older residing in households. A broad range of information will be provided including information on the specific assistive device used by type and severity of the disability. The information is presented for Canada, the provinces and territories.

Employment and Income Characteristics of Persons with a Disability

This report will provide information on the association of employment and income and disability. Using data from HALS and the 1986 Census of Population, the report will examine the differences in labour market activity between the non-disabled population and the population with disabilities for persons aged 15 to 64.

The report will focus on those Canadians with disabilities who are able to work as well as those who are unable to work. It will present results for the individuals with disabilities who returned to school after the onset of their disability as well as those who did not do so.

Selected Socio-Economic Consequences of Disability for Women in Canada

This report will focus on the education, labour force characteristics and income of women with disabilities. This population will be compared to males with disabilities as well as to the non-disabled male and female populations.

Disabled Children in Canada

This report presents an analysis of the characteristics of disabled children by age group, gender and the type and severity of disability. It also examines how disabilities have affected various aspects of life such as education, leisure activities and ability to travel.

Barriers Confronting Seniors with Disabilities in Canada

This report will present an analysis of the characteristics of seniors with disabilities residing both in households and institutions. For the first time in Canada, this report will provide an in-depth analysis of the extent of barriers to independent living and the accomplishments in providing support to seniors with disabilities.

This report will document those barriers confronting seniors with disabilities with respect to income, education, transportation, leisure activities and recreation, as well as housing accessibility, and the availability of special aids and devices, special services and supports.

Blindness and Visual Impairment in Canada

This report will analyze HALS data for visually impaired persons residing in households by province, age of onset, gender, severity and cause. The analysis will compare the visually impaired population with the non-disabled population, for variables such as marital status, family structure, education, employment and income and participation in leisure activities.

Profile of the Canadian Population Residing in Health Care Institutions

This report will profile adults with disabilities who reside in health care institutions. The severity, nature and underlying cause of the disability are examined for these persons and a comparison is made with the disabled residing in households. Some areas of analysis will include out-of-pocket expenses, mobility and sources of help for selected activities. As well, a section on children with disabilities in institutions includes analysis by gender, age group and geographic region.

Leisure and Lifestyles of Persons with Disabilities in Canada

This report will analyze the recreation and lifestyles of persons with disabilities residing in households. It will highlight details of the frequency of participation in activities such as visiting friends, talking on the telephone, shopping, etc. as well as obstacles encountered during such participation. The report will also examine support services used and/or needed for everyday activities.

Characteristics of Canadians with Impaired Hearing

This report will analyze HALS data for hearing impaired persons residing in households. It deals with the severity and cause of hearing impairments by age of onset and gender. The use of technical aids and the number and nature of other disabilities is also analyzed. The report will compare the hearing impaired population with the non-disabled population for such variables as marital status, family structure, education, employment and income.

* * * *

