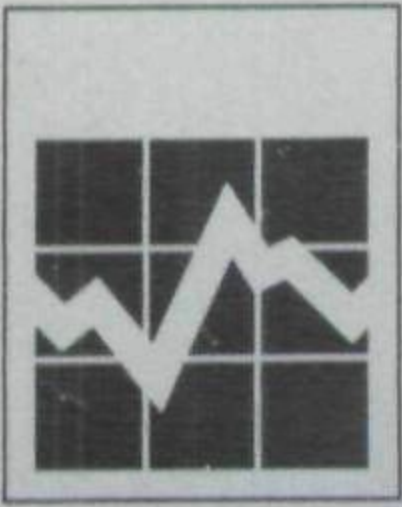


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Barriers confronting seniors with disabilities in Canada

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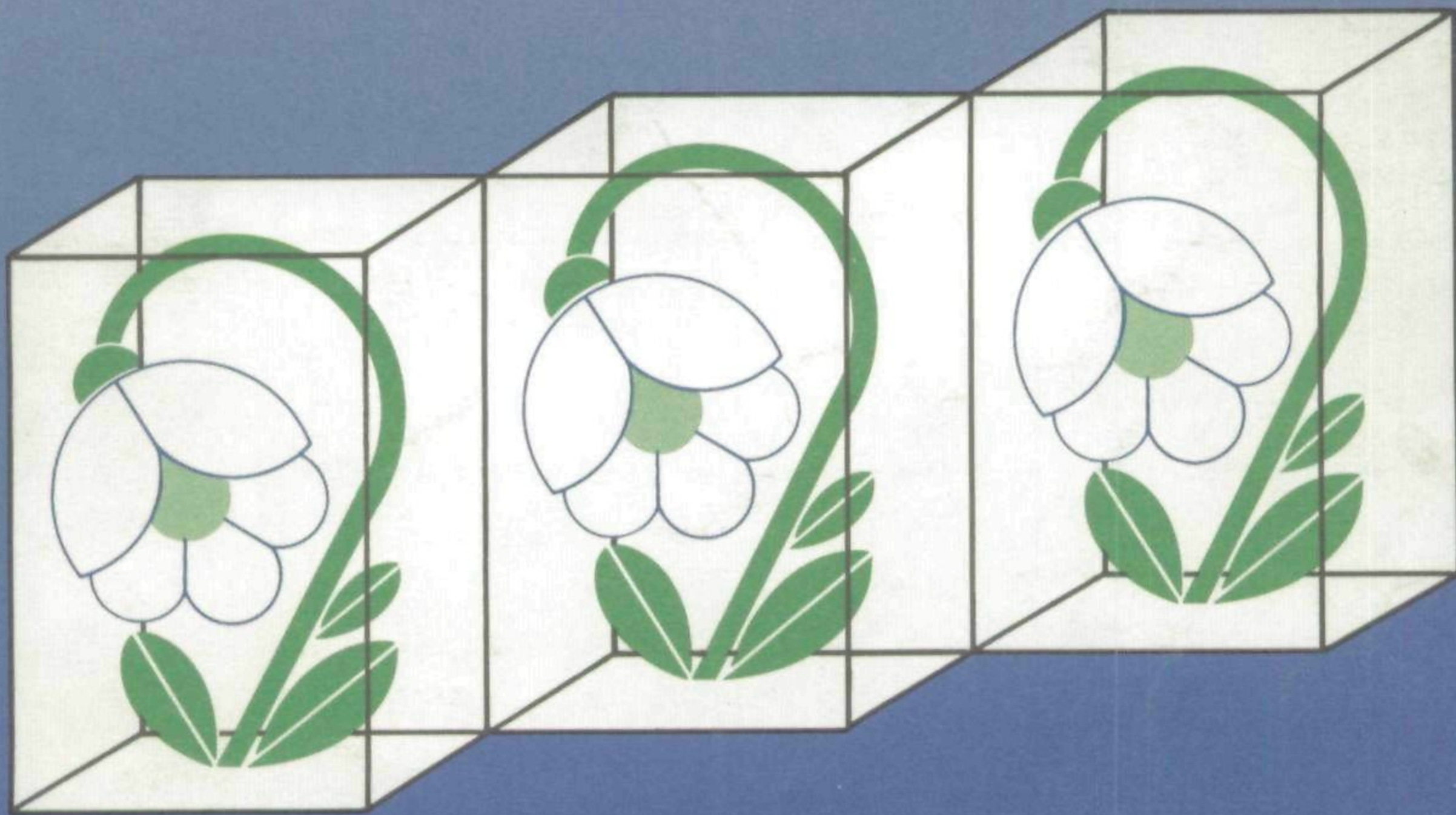
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Barriers Confronting Seniors With Disabilities in Canada

Special Topic Series from
The Health and Activity Limitation Survey

ISSN 1180-4610

Prepared by:

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Preface

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) conducted in 1986 and 1987 provides a comprehensive picture of persons with disabilities in Canada. The survey covered persons with disabilities residing in both households and health-related institutions.

This report is part of the Special Topic Report Series which provides overviews of a wide variety of subjects which were included in HALS. The series has been written by experts, both inside and outside Statistics Canada, in non-technical language supported by simple tables and charts.

This report titled "Barriers Confronting Seniors with Disabilities in Canada" is the first in the series of nine reports. It provides a portrait of seniors with disabilities residing in households and in institutions. The report was authored by Dr. Peter A. Dunn of the Centre for Social Welfare Studies, Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario.

I would like to express my appreciation to the authors, to the reviewers and to the staff of Statistics Canada involved in managing and producing this series.

We hope that the reports in the Special Topic Report Series will not only provide Canadians with very useful information on the issues facing persons with disabilities, but will also be an inducement for them to undertake further research on this topic.

Ivan P. Fellegi
Chief Statistician of Canada



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I wish to thank the very competent and helpful staff at Statistics Canada for their valuable assistance on this study. Adele Fuzrie, the Program Manager of the Post-Censal Surveys Program, facilitated this project. Karen Roberts and Ken Sorrenti very patiently and responsively provided the necessary data for this report.

This study was made possible through the efforts of the staff at the Centre for Social Welfare Studies. Gary Cameron and Bruce Bidgood helped ensure the development of the initial research proposal and Shankar Yelaja and Barry McPherson provided very useful advice. Christine Daly provided expert and efficient typing. Sue Crowne painstakingly edited the proposal and report.

Marilou Manning was an excellent and dedicated Research Assistant. Esther Luft and Flora Gray very carefully and patiently typed the tables and the text for the report.

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Highlights of the Study

There are many seniors with disabilities in Canada who confront barriers to participation in the normal daily activities undertaken by Canadians. This study has revealed some important information about the characteristics of disabled seniors living in households and in institutions.

The Characteristics

- Approximately 46% of the people aged 65 or older in Canada, a total of 1,221,995 individuals, have some form of disability.
- Over 81% of disabled seniors have a mobility or agility disability.
- Approximately 84% or 1,026,915 seniors with disabilities live in households and the remaining 16% (195,080 individuals) reside in institutions.
- There is a greater rate of disability for women who are 65 or older than for men. Approximately 19% of disabled seniors who are females live in institutions as compared to 11% of the disabled males who are seniors.

Equipment Aids and Housing Adaptations

- Approximately 20,540 individuals or 8% of the disabled seniors in households who require mobility aids do not have them. There are approximately 81,800 (31%) who require hearing devices and a further 23,095 (10%) who require visual aids. The main barrier to obtaining these aids is the cost.
- An estimated 119,940 (61%) of disabled seniors in institutions use a mobility aid; 10% use hearing devices and 33% use visual aids.
- Approximately 43,770 (27%) of seniors with disabilities in households who require housing adaptations to move about inside the residence do not have them. The housing adaptations which are still required are handrails for 36,830 seniors with disabilities and ramps for an additional 16,500 disabled seniors.

x

Community Services and Supports

- The majority of disabled seniors do not require any assistance with daily tasks except heavy household chores.
- Approximately 21% disabled seniors in institutions are able to go shopping and 18% manage their own personal finances.

Transportation

- There are 336,120 (33%) seniors with disabilities in the households who do not have access to public transit in their area.
- About 24,575 (30%) of the seniors in households who need a specialized van service to help them get to community resources do not have access to this type of service.
- There are 72,580 disabled seniors who have problems travelling long distances. An estimated 46,345 disabled seniors report problems using airplanes, 50,895 report problems using buses, and 41,265 disabled seniors have difficulty using trains.

Leisure Activities and Recreation

- About 89% of disabled seniors who participate in activities outside the home visit their friends at least once per month, 84% go shopping and 52% attend religious activities. However, 253,085 (25%) disabled seniors confront some major barrier in participating in leisure activities including costs, transportation, and the need for aids.
- Approximately 423,955 disabled seniors or 41% are involved in some level of physical exercise. However, 234,675 (23%) of the disabled seniors confront barriers in the location and costs of programs, inadequate transportation arrangements, and/or unsuitable programs or facilities.

Income and Expenditures

- The income of most seniors is very low. The median income for both disabled and non-disabled seniors in 1986 was between \$5,000-\$9,999. Approximately 219,750 (22%) of seniors with disabilities are members of a low-income family. Seniors who are female and disabled have the lowest income.
- Approximately 39% of disabled seniors who rent spend 30% or more of their income on their rent; 10% of disabled seniors who own their home spend this amount on their mortgage.

1. Introduction

This Special Topic report presents data from the Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS) which was a survey of persons with disabilities. It was conducted in households in the fall of 1986 and in health-related institutions in the spring of 1987. HALS was undertaken as part of Statistics Canada's ongoing commitment to build and maintain a national database on disability.

The target population of HALS consisted of all persons with a physical or psychological disability who were living in Canada at the time of the 1986 Census. Notably, this includes residents of all provinces and both territories, persons living on Indian reserves, and permanent residents of most collective dwellings and health-related institutions. Details on the sample design are provided in this publication under Sample Design.

The type of data gathered include the nature and severity of disability and the barriers which disabled persons encounter in all aspects of their daily activities.

This report titled "**Barriers Confronting Seniors with Disabilities in Canada**" is the first in a series of nine reports. It provides a portrait of seniors with disabilities residing in households and in institutions.

2. Characteristics of Seniors With Disabilities

Disability Rates

There are an estimated 3,316,870 Canadians or 13.2% of the population who experience some form of disability.

Disability rates increase sharply with age from 5.2% for individuals from birth to 14 years old to 45.5% for people aged 65 and older.

Males up to 65 years of age have a slightly higher disability rate than females in the age groupings in the table below. However, this higher rate slowly decreases with age. Women aged 65 and over have a higher disability rate than do men.

Table 1. Disability Rates in the Canadian Population, in Households and Institutions, 1986 and 1987, by Sex and Age

	Disabled Persons	Disability Rate ¹
Both Sexes	3,316,870	13.2
0-14 years	277,445	5.2
15-34 years	486,930	5.7
35-64 years	1,330,500	15.7
65 years and over	1,221,995	45.5
Males	1,568,420	12.7
0-14 years	156,190	5.7
15-34 years	253,005	5.9
35-64 years	664,885	15.8
65 years and over	494,340	43.7
Females	1,748,450	13.8
0-14 years	121,255	4.7
15-34 years	233,925	5.4
35-64 years	665,615	15.6
65 years and over	727,655	46.8

¹ Expressed as a percentage of the total population in each age group.

Disability Rates of Seniors

Approximately 45.5% of all people over 65 years of age have some form of disability. This rate increases dramatically with age for seniors. From age 65-74 approximately 37% are disabled, from age 75-84 approximately 54% have a disability, and at age 85 and older, the rate is 82%.

The disability rate varies to some extent across Canada. The province with the lowest disability rate is Quebec at 39.6% followed by British Columbia at 43.5%. The province with the highest disability rate is Prince Edward Island at 52.5%. The eastern provinces of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick have higher rates than the other provinces. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories have by far the highest disability rates at 55.7% and 66.9% respectively.

Table 2. Disability Rates for Seniors, 65 Years and Over, by Age and by Province and Territory

	Disabled Persons	Disability Rate ¹
All Ages	1,221,995	45.5
65-74 years	604,095	36.7
75-84 years	440,825	53.6
85 years and over	177,075	82.1
Newfoundland	25,305	51.4
Prince Edward Island	8,185	52.5
Nova Scotia	51,880	50.9
New Brunswick	40,140	51.6
Quebec	255,680	39.6
Ontario	472,395	47.4
Manitoba	66,160	50.6
Saskatchewan	59,035	46.5
Alberta	90,240	47.4
British Columbia	151,535	43.5
Yukon	480	55.7
Northwest Territories	960	66.9

¹ Expressed as a percentage of the total population in each age group, province or territory.

Gender and Disability

There is a greater number and percentage of women than men who are disabled aged 65 or older. There are 727,655 women (60%) of this age compared with 494,340 men (40%) who have a disability in Canada. The prevalence of disability increases with age more for women than men.

As one would anticipate, the percentage of older disabled people residing in institutions compared with those living in households increases with age. On average, the percentage almost doubles with every five years of age over 65. The percentage of people in institutions at age 65-69 is 4% compared with 43% at age 85 and older.

From age 70 and older the percentage of females is greater than males in institutions. At age 85 and older the percentage of females in institutions is 46% compared with 34% for males.

Table 3. Disabled Persons, 65 Years and Over, by Sex and Age, by Residence

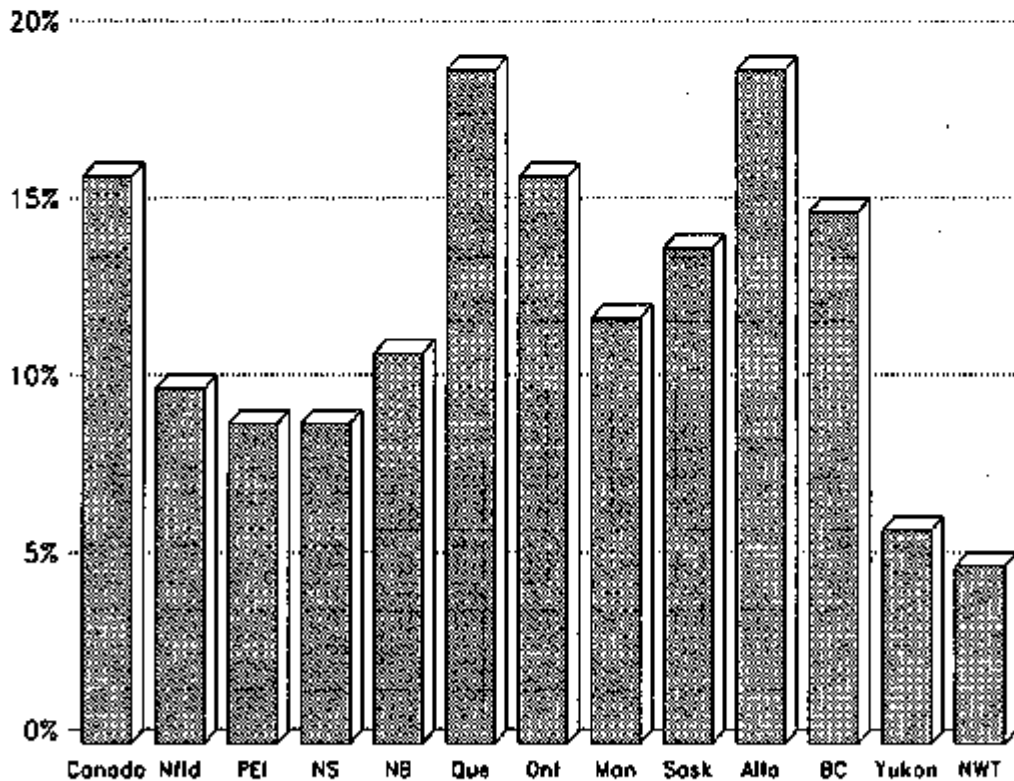
	Total	Households (%)	Institutions (%)
Both Sexes	1,221,995	84	16
65-69 years	305,315	96	4
70-74 years	298,780	93	7
75-79 years	250,375	86	14
80-84 years	190,450	75	25
85 years and over	177,075	57	43
Males	494,340	89	11
65-69 years	153,940	96	4
70-74 years	139,250	94	6
75-79 years	88,800	89	11
80-84 years	64,430	78	22
85 years and over	47,920	66	34
Females	727,655	81	19
65-69 years	151,375	96	4
70-74 years	159,530	92	8
75-79 years	161,575	84	16
80-84 years	126,020	73	27
85 years and over	129,155	54	46

Households Versus Institutions

Of the 1,221,995 disabled seniors in Canada, approximately 84% or 1,026,915 individuals live in households and 16% or 195,080 people reside in institutions. There are 1,462,665 non-disabled seniors in Canada and only 4,805, or less than one percent, live in institutions.

The percentage of seniors with disabilities residing in institutions varies considerably among the provinces and the territories. The lowest percentages are found in the two territories and the Atlantic provinces. The provinces with the highest percentages of seniors with disabilities in institutions are Quebec and Alberta (each with 19%).

Figure 1. Percentage of Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Institutions, by Province and Territory

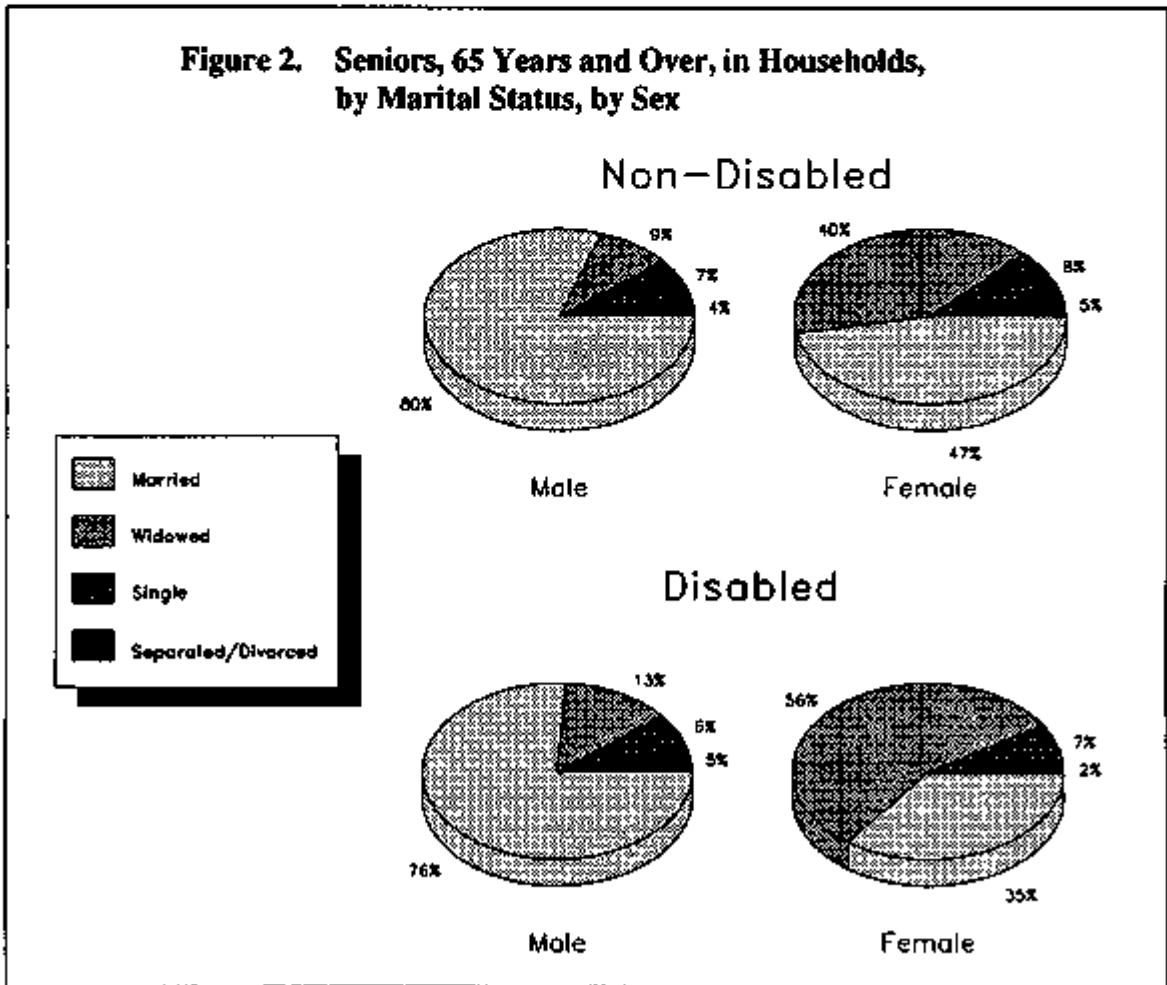


Marital Status

A much larger percentage of disabled males aged 65 years and older are married than their female counterparts; 76% compared with 35%. More than double the number of males are married than females. Women with disabilities are four times more likely to be widowed than men; 56% compared with 13%. The percentage of disabled seniors who are divorced, separated, or single is fairly similar for men and women.

In total, the largest number of seniors with disabilities are married (537,150 or 52%) or widowed (387,255 or 38%). Ten percent or 102,510 individuals are single, separated, or divorced. In comparison, a greater percentage of non-disabled seniors are married 888,640 (61%), and less are widowed 393,105 (27%). Approximately, 80% of non-disabled males aged 65 or older are married and 9% are widowed compared with 47% and 40% of the non-disabled females.

Figure 2. Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Marital Status, by Sex



Nature of Disability

An estimated 831,850 or 81% of disabled seniors have a mobility or agility disability. The percentage of disabled seniors with a visual disability increases with age, from 17% for persons aged 65 to 74 to 45% for persons aged 85 and older. The percentage of seniors with hearing disabilities also increase with age, from 37% for persons aged 65 to 74 to 65% for persons aged 85 and older.

The prevalence of seniors with different types of disabilities varies to some extent among the provinces and territories. However, in all, the prevalence of a mobility or agility disability is the highest, followed by disabilities related to hearing, seeing and speaking. The specific numbers of seniors with different disabilities in each of the provinces and territories have been provided in Appendix A - Table 1A for the purposes of planning services.

Table 4. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Nature of Disability, by Age

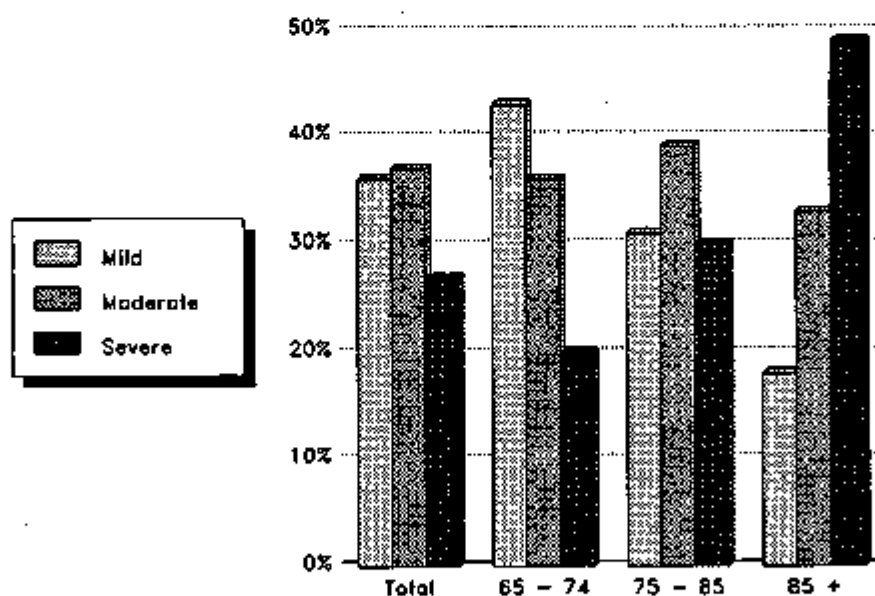
	Total	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over
Disabled Seniors	1,026,915	568,585	356,875	101,455
% Reporting...				
Mobility/Agility	81	79	83	89
Mobility	73	70	76	83
Agility	61	58	62	73
Seeing	24	17	28	45
Hearing	43	37	47	65
Speaking	5	5	6	6
Other	26	24	28	34
Unknown	3	4	1	--

Severity¹ of Disability

In Canada, approximately 36% of disabled seniors have a mild level of disability, 37% a moderate level, and 27% a severe level (the rate of severity of disability dramatically increases with age). For example, the percentage of seniors with severe disabilities increases from 20% at age 65-74 to 49% at age 85 or older.

Prince Edward Island has the highest percentage of individuals with a mild level of disability at 42%, while Newfoundland has the lowest at 30%. Newfoundland has the highest percentage of individuals with a severe disability at 31%, while Prince Edward Island has the lowest at 20%. Nevertheless, there is little variation in the levels of disabilities between the provinces.

Figure 3. Percentage of Disabled Seniors 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Age and Severity of Disability



¹The severity scale was developed using the responses to the screening questions plus two additional questions on the use of aids for seeing and hearing disabilities. The scoring was first derived by adding together 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 (i.e. completely unable to perform the function). The total score is then categorized as follows: mild- less than 5 points, moderate- 5 - 10 points, and severe- 11 or more points. (For a more complete description of the scale, contact the Post-Censal Surveys Program).

3. Equipment Aids and Housing Adaptations

Equipment Aids - Used and Needed

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey collected data about the types of mobility aids and special housing features which disabled people used and required in households. However, in the institutions, survey information was collected only about the aids used and housing features required by disabled individuals.

Approximately 20,540 (8%) of the 256,490 disabled seniors in households who require mobility aids do not have them. There are approximately 31% in need of hearing devices and 10% in need of visual aids.

Table 5. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Use and Unmet Needs of Equipment Aids¹

	Total	%
Mobility/Agility Aids	256,490	8.0
Cane	181,100	1.2
Wheelchair	56,985	17.3
Walker	43,680	9.1
Back or leg brace	14,590	--
Crutches	13,480	--
Orthopedic footwear	11,270	9.0*
Other mobility aids	12,590	27.6*
Artificial foot/leg	6,620	--
Aids for hands/arms	5,445	23.3*
Hearing Devices	263,270	31.1
Hearing aids	230,405	28.7
Volume control telephone	81,110	30.6
Seeing Devices	227,575	10.2
Glasses	199,610	6.1
Magnifiers	92,385	5.7

¹ Total represents the number of persons that use and/or need the relevant aid/device.
% is the percentage of the total that still don't have the aid/device i.e. unmet needs.

Provincial Distribution of Equipment Aids (Households)

The percentage of people in households who need mobility aids and do not have them averages 8% and only varies from 7% to 10% among the provinces. Over one quarter (5,915 individuals) stated that the main reason for not having these items was that it was too costly.

The percentage of people who still need hearing devices out of the total number who require them varies from 24% to 49% among the provinces. The number still in need represents from 5% to 10% of the total disabled seniors in the provinces.

The percentage of individuals still requiring visual aids out of the total number who require these aids varies from less than 5% to 16% among the provinces.

Table 6. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Use and Unmet Needs of Equipment Aids¹

	Mobility/Agility Aids		Hearing Devices		Seeing Devices	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Canada ²	256,490	8	263,270	31	227,575	10
Newfoundland	4,055	--	4,430	49	4,290	10*
Prince Edward Island	1,320	-	1,580	28*	1,525	--
Nova Scotia	9,620	7*	12,095	42	9,130	9*
New Brunswick	6,535	--	8,650	36	7,825	--
Quebec	42,210	10	41,930	38	48,365	10
Ontario	104,525	8*	111,515	24	88,045	10
Manitoba	15,015	8	16,370	38	13,115	11
Saskatchewan	14,185	9	14,285	37	11,290	9
Alberta	19,650	8	18,115	27	14,015	5*
British Columbia	39,065	7	33,855	36	29,765	16

¹ Total represents the number of persons that use and/or need the relevant aid/device. % is the percentage of the total that still don't have the aid/device i.e. unmet needs.

² Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Provincial Distribution of Equipment Aids (Institutions)

Approximately 145,235 (74%) institutionalized seniors with disabilities use some form of technical aids. There are 119,940 (61%) individuals who use mobility aids. The mobility aids which are most utilized are manual wheelchairs by 73,465 persons, canes by 38,870 persons, and walkers by 30,210 persons. Nearly 20,070 (10%) seniors use hearing devices and 64,090 (33%) use visual aids.

Seniors in institutions in the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Newfoundland have the lowest percentage of use of mobility aids (each with approximately 50%).

Table 7. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Institutions, by Province, by Use of Equipment Aids

	Total	Mobility Aids	Hearing Devices	Seeing Devices
Canada ¹	195,080	119,940	20,070	64,090
Newfoundland	2,540	1,295	245	695
Prince Edward Island	740	370	40*	190
Nova Scotia	4,455	2,685	590	1,495
New Brunswick	4,500	2,920	405	1,500
Quebec	48,290	24,830	2,860	16,870
Ontario	77,585	49,010	8,020	25,340
Manitoba	7,820	5,665	1,065	2,430
Saskatchewan	8,510	6,015	810	2,800
Alberta	17,080	11,715	2,810	4,830
British Columbia	23,485	15,380	3,215	7,920

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Housing Adaptations - Used and Needed in Households and Institutions

Of the 160,880 disabled seniors in households who need special housing features to assist them to move about inside their residence, approximately 43,770 (27%) do not have them. By far the greatest number of housing adaptations used and still required are for relatively inexpensive items such as handrails: 143,030 disabled seniors require handrails and of those 36,830 have not been able to obtain them.

Of the 88,245 disabled seniors that need special features to enter and leave the residence, 35% do not have them. There are 16,500 individuals who need access ramps and 9,345 disabled seniors who need accessible street level entrances.

Table 8. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Special Features to Move About Inside the Residence and to Enter or Leave Residence¹

	Total	%
Total (Inside Residence)	160,880	27
Hand rails	143,030	26
Elevator or lift device	10,370	28
Widened doorways or hallways	7,270	30
Door that opens automatically	3,865	64
Some other feature	16,120	41
Total (Enter/Leave Residence)	88,245	35
Access ramps	42,690	39
Widened doorways	10,070	33
Street level entrance	32,590	29
Entrance that opens automatically	9,405	45
Elevator or lift device	25,705	20
Accessible parking	7,890	15*
Some other feature	16,065	55

¹ Total represents the number of persons that use and/or need the relevant adaptation. % is the percentage of the total that still don't have the adaptation i.e. unmet needs.

Disabled seniors in institutions were asked what housing features they needed in their institutional residences to move about inside. Approximately 109,170 individuals or 56% stated that they needed some housing adaptation. The features most frequently cited were elevators (37.3%) and street level entrances (36.5%).

Table 9. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Institutions, by Special Features Needed to Enter/Leave the Residence or to Move About Inside Residence

	Number	%
Disabled Seniors	195,080	100.0
Total Who Need Special Features	109,170	56.0
Access ramps	61,465	31.5
Widened doorways	62,460	32.0
A street level entrance	71,155	36.5
Doors that open automatically	53,900	27.6
An elevator or lift device	72,735	37.3
Accessible parking	31,590	16.2
Some other architectural feature	1,770	0.9
Hand rails (incl. bathroom)	68,560	35.1
Some other feature	5,915	3.0

4. Community Services and Supports

Level of Independence

The majority of disabled seniors do not require any assistance with daily tasks, except heavy household chores. Nevertheless, there are some who require help with some or all of the activities of daily living and this need increases with age. For example, at age 65 to 74, approximately 84% of disabled people do not require help making their own meals, at age 75 to 84, 77% are independent, and at age 85 and over, only 54% are independent in terms of this activity.

Table 10. Percentage of Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, Who Do Not Require Any Assistance, by Daily Task, by Age

	Total	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over
	%			
Preparing meals	79	84	77	54
Shopping	62	71	57	29
Housework	63	70	59	38
Heavy household chores	34	37	26	14
Personal finances	75	82	71	45
Personal care	85	88	85	69

Community Services Provided

Family members, neighbours, and agencies all make important contributions in providing services associated with activities of daily living to seniors with disabilities who require other people to help them. However, families provide far more support to disabled seniors than do agencies and/or neighbours.

The number of seniors who require help or additional help varies by daily task and among provinces. There are 333,580 disabled seniors who require help in heavy household chores and 64,350 disabled seniors who require help in personal care. See Appendix A - Table 2A for the provincial data.

Table 11. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Daily Task, by Who Provides Assistance

	Family		Neighbour		Agency	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Disabled Seniors	1,026,915	100	1,026,915	100	1,026,915	100
Preparing meals	128,525	13	13,620	1	50,145	5
Shopping	270,220	26	46,220	5	55,690	5
Housework	206,950	20	49,435	5	112,215	11
Heavy household chores	314,635	31	67,675	7	217,415	21
Personal finances	189,230	18	14,935	1	17,985	2
Personal care	76,145	7	8,400	1	36,335	4

Community Services in Institutions

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey did not ask people in institutions as many questions about social services as it did individuals in households. However, the information which was obtained indicates that disabled individuals in institutions are not totally dependent upon other people for assistance with their daily tasks.

Approximately 40,315 disabled seniors in institutions or 21% do some of their shopping and 35,495 or 18% are involved in their personal finances. People with mobility/agility disabilities and hearing impairments are the most independent in these two activities and individuals with speaking disabilities are the most dependent.

Table 12. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Institutions, by Who Provides Social Services, by Nature of Disability

	Total	Mobility/ Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other
Total	195,080	186,885	92,605	101,270	58,055	138,350
Who Does Your Shopping?						
Yourself alone	15,440	12,965	4,300	7,120	400*	7,165
Yourself with someone else	24,875	22,615	8,970	11,025	2,570	13,725
Someone else	146,405	144,395	77,045	79,835	54,270	112,940
Who Does Your Finances?						
Yourself alone	22,905	20,215	7,500	10,905	1,255	10,060
Yourself with someone else	12,590	11,480	5,065	6,235	1,225	6,725
Someone else	151,010	147,750	76,880	80,680	54,445	116,845

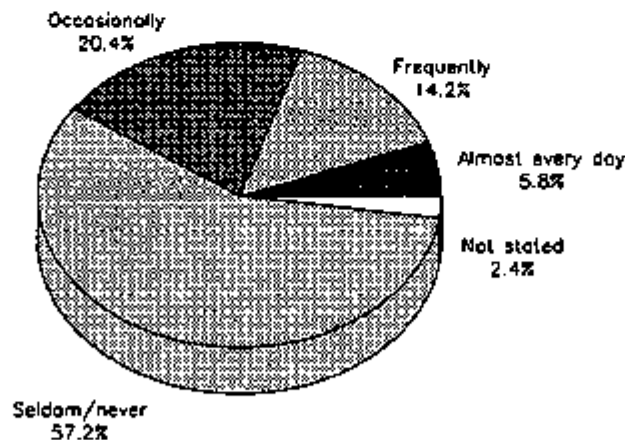
5. Transportation

Public Transportation

A total of 564,835 disabled seniors living in households, that were not housebound, indicated that public transportation was available in their community. Of those, 40% indicated that they use it at least occasionally. Some 336,120 stated that it was not available.

The availability of public transportation varies considerably among the provinces. See Appendix A - Table 3A for the provincial estimates. These data indicate that seniors with disabilities in the eastern provinces are less likely to use public transportation regularly when it is available.

Figure 4. Percentage of Disabled Seniors Who Have Access to Public Transportation¹, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Frequency of Use of Public Transportation



¹ Excludes disabled seniors who were housebound, i.e. unable to leave their residence because of their condition.

Barriers to Use of Public Transportation

Of the 564,835 disabled seniors who report that public transportation is available in their community, 139,330 or 25% indicate that they experience some difficulty in using it. The major problem reported by 99,900 seniors is difficulty getting on and off public transportation. Other major difficulties include standing while the vehicle is in motion, getting to the stop and waiting at the stop.

Table 13. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Reasons for Not Using Public Transportation

	Number	%
Total with Access to Public Transportation¹	564,835	100
Difficulty with Public Transportation	139,330	25
Getting on and off	99,900	18
Standing in vehicle while it is moving	74,470	13
Getting to the stop	69,785	12
Waiting at the stop	64,955	11
Other reasons not specified	28,630	5
Insufficient space to sit or stand	17,910	3
Obtaining information about timetables or routes	7,630	1
Staff unsupportive	4,075	1

¹ Excludes disabled seniors who were housebound, i.e. unable to leave their residence because of their condition

Specialized Vans

An estimated 83,235 or 8% of seniors with disabilities living in households indicate that they require specialized van service. Of those, 57% indicate that this service was available to them.

Of the 47,620 disabled seniors who indicate that the van service is available, 53% use it at least occasionally.

The expressed need for specialized van service varies among the provinces. Provinces reporting the lowest need are Nova Scotia and Ontario at 5% of all disabled seniors living in households. Alberta reports the highest need at 13%. Provincial data are shown in Appendix A - Table 4A.

That the service was not needed more often was the most common reason cited for not using specialized van service. Approximately 13,365 (28%) seniors stated this reason. The opinion that it was too expensive was cited by only 3% of disabled seniors.

Table 14. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Reasons for Not Using Specialized Van Service

	Number	%
Total With Access to Van Service¹	47,620	100
Service not needed more often	13,365	28
Impractical scheduling	3,415	7
On waiting list	3,035	6
Not eligible	2,020*	4*
Too expensive	1,200*	3*
Other reasons	13,385	28

¹ Excludes disabled seniors who were housebound, i.e. unable to leave their residence because of their condition

Barriers to Use of Buses, Trains, and Airplanes

Of the 1,026,915 disabled seniors living in households, 23% indicate that they are prevented from taking any long distance trips (80 km or more) because of their conditions or health problems.

Of those who indicate that they are able to travel (788,825), nine percent indicate that they experience some trouble using bus, trains or airplanes. These individuals confront several different types of barriers. The barrier most frequently cited is difficulty with boarding and disembarking.

There are some variations among the provinces of seniors reporting barriers to long distance travel. These data are shown in Appendix A - Table 5A.

Table 15. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Problems With Long Distance Travel

	Number
Disabled Seniors Able to Travel Long Distances	788,825
Those who experience trouble	72,580
- Travelling by bus	50,895
- Travelling by train	41,265
- Travelling by airplane	46,345
Barriers Experienced	
Boarding and disembarking	39,400
Moving around the terminal	29,375
Flight or ride aggravates health problem or condition	19,075
Hearing announcements	17,895
Seating on board	12,010
Seeing signs and notices	9,900
Need for transporting wheelchair	9,400
Lack of transportation to and from terminal	7,740
Washroom facilities	10,390
Unsupportive staff	1,755*
Carrier rules and regulations	965*

6. Leisure Activities and Recreation

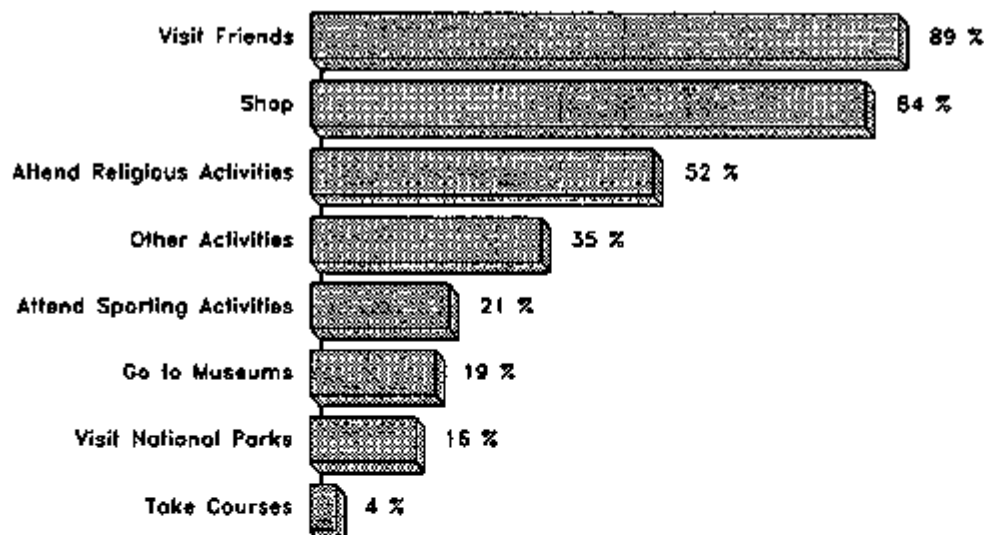
Participation in Leisure Activities

Most seniors with disabilities who live in households participate in leisure activities outside of their residence. However, 84,375 or 8% of disabled seniors indicate that they never leave their home for leisure activities.

Of those who participate in leisure activities, most report visiting friends and shopping. Attending religious activities is reported by 472,310 disabled seniors.

Provincial data is provided in Appendix A - Table 6A.

Figure 5. Percentage of Disabled Seniors Who Participate in Leisure Activities Outside the Home, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Type of Activity



¹ These calculations indicate the percentage of disabled seniors who participate in at least ONE leisure activity outside the home and therefore exclude those who NEVER participate in such activities.

Barriers to Leisure Activities

There are 253,085 or 25% of disabled seniors in Canada who wish to participate more in leisure activities. Approximately 172,295 seniors identify the main barrier to their participation as issues related to mobility. Specific environmental barriers are cited as problems. An estimated 49,240 individuals state that they need someone else's help and 43,875 feel the costs are too high.

Some variation is noted among the provinces. Thirty-one percent of disabled seniors in British Columbia who want to participate more in leisure activities cite barriers that prevent them from doing more. This compares with 20% cited in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Provincial data are shown in Appendix A - Table 7A.

Table 16. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Barriers to Leisure Activities

	Number
Wish to Participate More	253,085
Need someone's help	49,240
Need special aids	13,295
Inadequate transportation	33,825
Too far away	37,925
Facilities not suitable	20,710
Physically unable to do more	172,295
Cost too high	43,875

Barriers to Leisure Activities by Disability Group

Of the 253,085 seniors with disabilities who want to participate more in leisure activities, approximately 90% have a mobility or agility disability.

Another way of viewing these data is that approximately 34% of people with a speaking disability and 30% of individuals with visual impairment confront a barrier related to leisure activities.

The reason most often cited as a barrier is the physical inability to do more. However, many indicate problems such as needing someone else's help, costs, distance to facilities and inadequate transportation.

Table 17. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Barriers to Leisure Activities, by Nature of Disability¹

	Mobility/ Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other
Total Disabled Seniors	831,850	241,515	443,620	53,725	266,855
Want to do more	227,685	71,500	107,960	18,410	79,650
Needs someone's help	44,460	20,350	22,355	5,120	18,370
Needs special aids	13,295	5,535	4,030	1,790*	4,005
Inadequate transportation	29,570	10,860	13,415	1,930*	10,575
Too far away	30,835	9,695	18,650	1,985*	11,440
Facilities not suitable	18,985	6,085	7,815	2,250	6,935
Physically unable to do more	158,775	52,250	72,580	15,295	57,695
Cost too high	38,450	10,545	20,340	3,410	10,975

¹ Barriers reported by persons with multiple disabilities are counted for each type of disability reported.

Participation in Physical Activities

There are 423,955 (41%) senior citizens with disabilities who take part in physical activities. An estimated 66% of these individuals do so at least three or more times per week.

The participation level in recreation decreases significantly with age. From age 65-74 the participation level is 47%, from age 75-84 it is 37%, and age 85 and older it is 26%.

The participation rate in recreation varies considerably among the provinces. Newfoundland has the lowest rate at 27%, while British Columbia has the highest at 58%. Provincial data are provided in Appendix A - Table 8A.

Table 18. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Age, by Time Spent Participating in Physical Activities

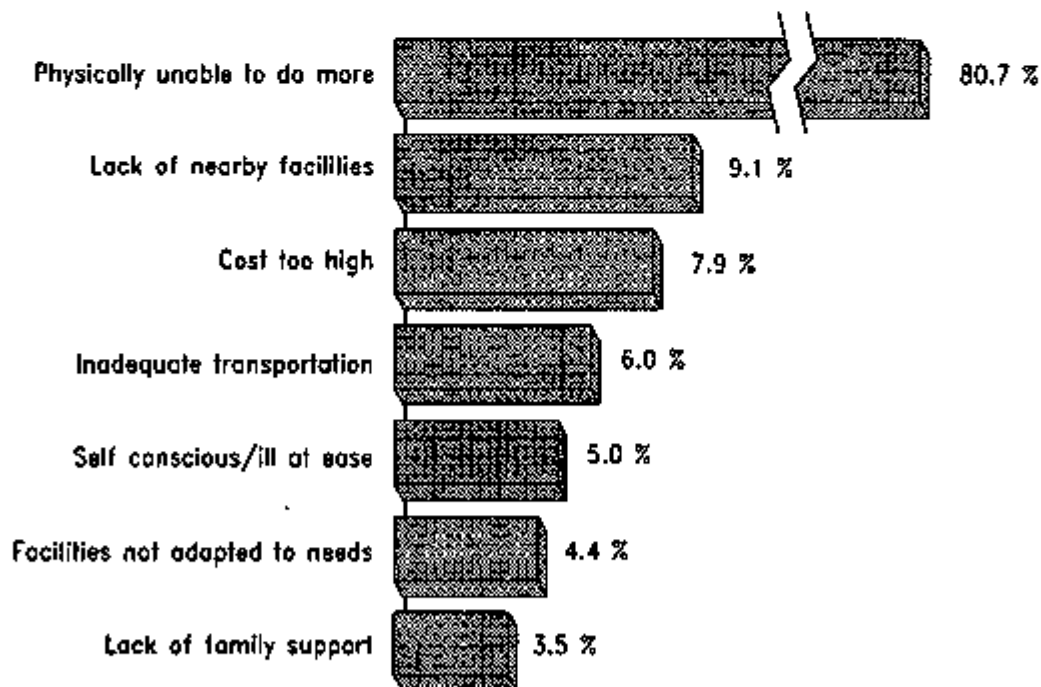
	Total	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over
Total Participating	423,955	265,830	131,420	26,705
Less than once a month	11,735	7,920	3,520	--
1-3 times a month	26,515	18,045	6,515	1,955
1-2 times a week	100,600	63,790	31,395	5,410
3 times a week or more	280,585	172,465	89,360	18,760
Not stated	4,515	3,605	--	--

Barriers to Physical Activities

There are 234,675 (23%) seniors with disabilities in households who would like to undertake more physical activities. The main reason why they cannot is that 189,335 of these individuals are physically unable to do so. Specific environmental barriers cited include: 21,345 disabled seniors who indicate a lack of nearby facilities; 18,470 cite costs being too high and 14,000 feel there is inadequate transportation.

The provinces which have the greatest percentage of people who confront barriers in physical activities are British Columbia (30%), followed by Alberta (26%) and Saskatchewan (25%). See Appendix A - Table 9A for the provincial data.

Figure 6. Percentage of Disabled Seniors Who Would Like to Undertake More Physical Activities, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Reason for Limitation in Physical Activities



7. Income and Expenditures

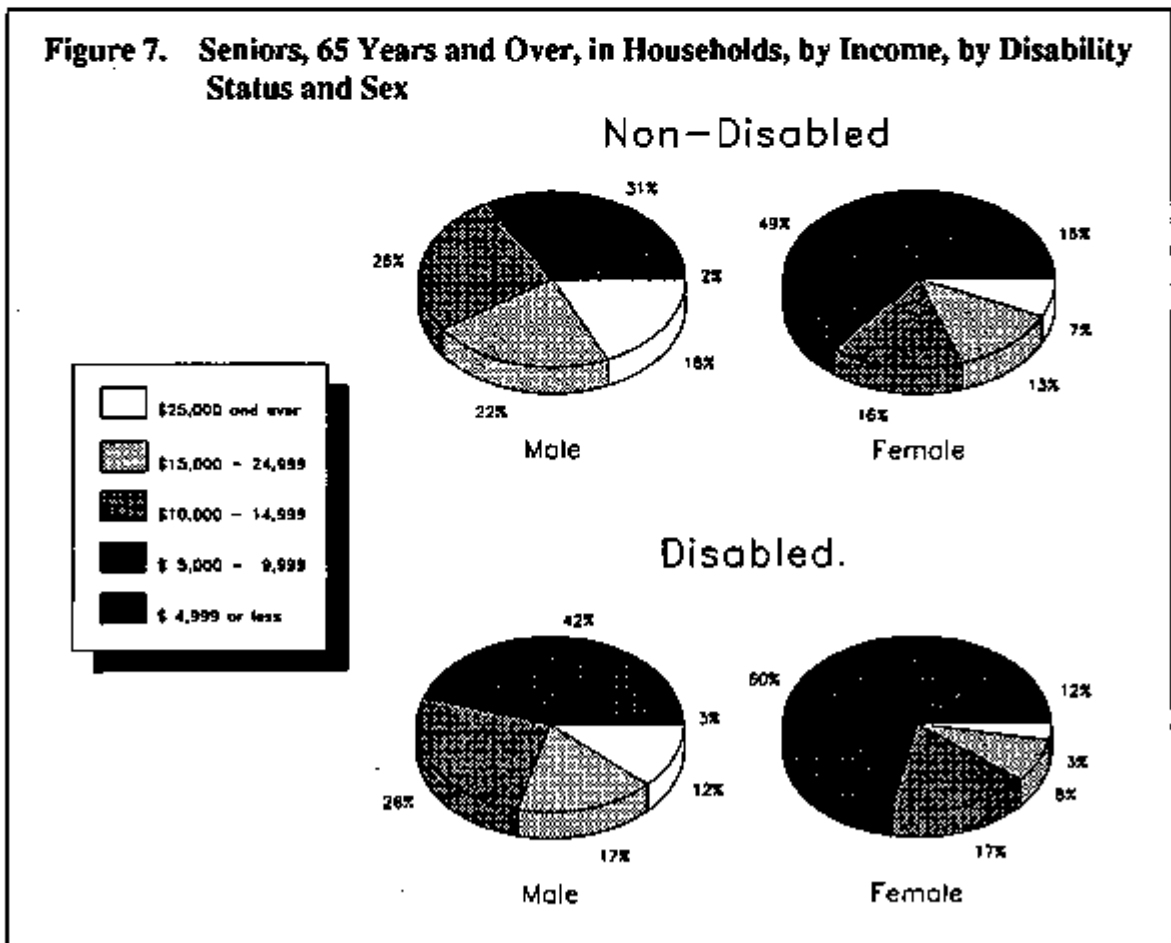
Income Distribution for Seniors in Households

The average individual income of both non-disabled and disabled seniors is very low. The mode and median income was between \$5,000-\$9,999 in 1986 for both groups. Approximately 60% of seniors with disabilities and 51% of the seniors without disabilities had incomes less than \$10,000.

Nevertheless, there are greater differences in individual incomes in terms of sex. Seniors who are females have lower incomes than males. Approximately 45% of disabled males compared with approximately 72% of disabled females report incomes under \$10,000.

There was little difference in the income distribution of seniors living alone compared with those living with someone else.

Figure 7. Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Income, by Disability Status and Sex



Low Income Families

Approximately 219,750 individuals or 22% of seniors with disabilities are members of a low-income family.

Quebec has the highest proportion of disabled seniors belonging to a low-income family (29%); Alberta has the lowest proportion (15%).

Table 19. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Low Income Status¹

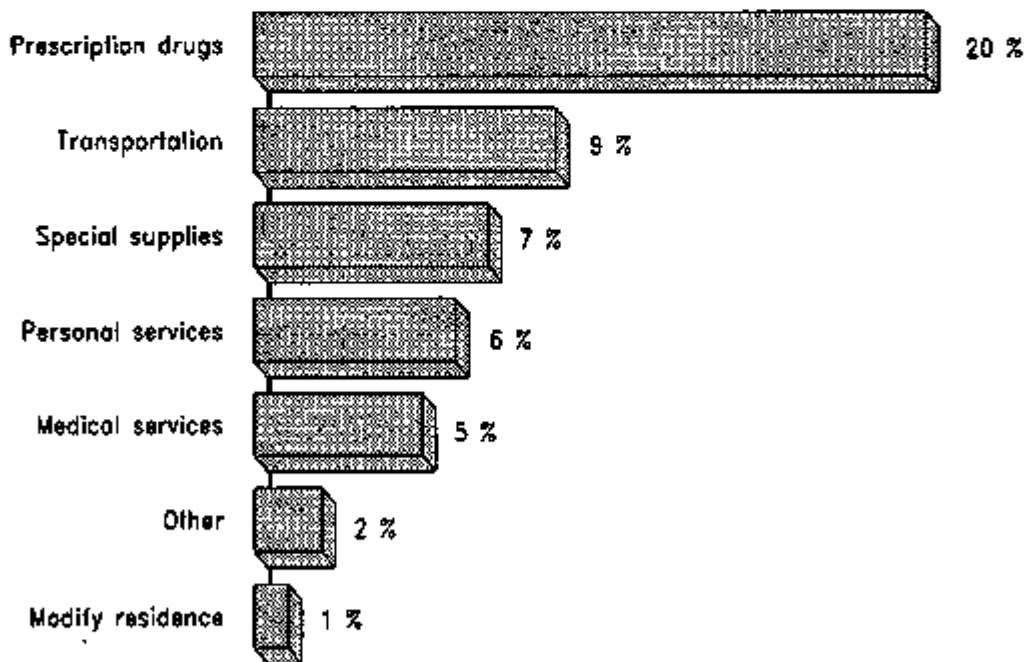
	Total	Seniors in Low Income Families	
		Number	%
Total	1,006,620	219,750	22
Newfoundland	22,750	4,030	18
Prince Edward Island	7,380	1,150	16
Nova Scotia	47,185	8,235	17
New Brunswick	34,910	6,360	18
Quebec	202,110	58,735	29
Ontario	391,820	81,825	21
Manitoba	57,230	11,495	20
Saskatchewan	49,855	9,065	18
Alberta	72,465	10,725	15
British Columbia	120,915	28,130	23

¹ Excludes individuals residing in collective dwellings or on Indian Reserves, and in Yukon and Northwest Territories for which low income status is not calculated.

Out-of-Pocket Expenditures

Individuals were asked if they had any out-of-pocket expenses as a result of their disability which were not reimbursed by any insurance or government programs. The item which was mentioned by 207,005 people, or 20% of disabled seniors in Canada, was the out-of-pocket expense for prescription and non-prescription drugs. Provincial data are shown in Appendix A, Table 10A.

Figure 8. Percentage of Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Source of Out-of-Pocket Expenses



Housing Affordability

Affordability of housing is an issue for many disabled seniors, especially those who rent their homes. Approximately 39% of disabled seniors who rent pay over 30% of their income on their rent. Ten percent of the disabled seniors who own their home pay over 30% of their income on mortgage payments.

Table 20. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Housing Affordability¹

	Number	%
Renter		
Shelter cost to income ratio		
Total	329,815	100
Less than 20%	73,915	22
21-30%	128,150	39
31-40%	63,185	19
41-50%	21,770	7
51-60%	16,255	5
61% and plus	26,540	8
Owner		
Shelter cost to income ratio		
Total	661,595	100
Less than 20%	510,755	77
21-30%	84,480	13
31-40%	35,195	5
41-50%	12,295	2
51-60%	6,730	1
61% and plus	12,135	2

¹ Excludes individuals residing in collective dwellings or on Indian Reserves.

8. Conclusions: Summary of Barriers and Services

Barriers and Services

The majority of seniors with disabilities in Canada have the services which they require. However, many disabled seniors confront many critical barriers in attempting to participate in the mainstream of Canadian life. This table summarizes some of these barriers in Canada and provincial data are included in Appendix A - Table 11A.

Table 21. An Overview of Barriers Confronting Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households (% an Issue/Barrier¹)

Technical Aids	
Mobility aids	8
Hearing devices	31
Visual aids	10
Housing Adaptations	
Inside	27
Outside	35
Community Services	
Preparing meals	49
Shopping	45
Housework	55
Heavy chores	59
Personal finances	35
Personal care	53
Transportation	
Local transit	37
Special van	30
Bus travel	6
Train travel	5
Airplane travel	6
Leisure and Recreation	
Leisure activities ²	25
Physical activities ²	23
Income and Expenditures	
Low income ²	22
Rental costs ² (>30%)	39
Mortgages ² (>30%)	10

¹ These calculations are based upon the % of people still in need of these services compared with those that have or still require them.

² These calculations indicate the % of total disabled seniors in that category.

This summary of the services and barriers in Canada indicate that most disabled seniors have the household supports which they require. For example, only 8% of those who require mobility aids still need them. Approximately 90% spend less than 30% of their incomes for their mortgages and 61% spend less than this amount on their rent. The actual number of individuals who still require housing adaptations, household services, accessible transportation, and leisure and recreational programs is relatively small compared with the total number of disabled seniors in Canada. Nevertheless many confront critical barriers in undertaking activities of daily living.

Conclusions

Although the barriers which disabled seniors have to deal with are numerous, many services and programs have been developed to enable older people to live independently regardless of where they live. As a result, seniors with disabilities can more easily undertake their own activities of daily living such as shopping, personal care, and taking care of their finances. The reduction and eradication of these barriers will help the aging population in Canada to pursue productive and active lives.

Outstanding needs would seem to be manageable as the number of disabled seniors who still require most of these services is relatively small compared with the total number of seniors in Canada.

Appendix A
Supporting Tables

**Table 1A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households,
by Province and Territory, by Nature of Disability**

	Total	Mobility/ Agility	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown
Canada	1,026,915	831,850	752,925	621,560	241,515	443,620	53,735	266,855	25,465
Newfoundland	22,760	19,370	17,770	14,700	4,930	9,355	1,250	6,040	440*
Prince Edward Island	7,440	5,495	4,935	4,185	1,815	3,430	--	1,935	--
Nova Scotia	47,425	39,970	35,800	28,780	10,180	19,555	2,320	9,660	1,205*
New Brunswick	35,645	28,505	25,950	20,645	8,140	16,620	1,130	10,045	1,430
Quebec	207,390	166,640	148,475	128,210	50,790	83,280	11,030	71,625	6,265
Ontario	394,815	310,685	286,310	221,330	93,380	177,135	21,275	87,315	8,235
Manitoba	58,335	47,330	42,105	37,060	14,410	27,150	4,340	17,090	715*
Saskatchewan	50,525	42,450	38,090	32,060	12,155	21,820	2,740	13,445	1,025
Alberta	73,160	63,035	56,495	49,775	15,560	30,210	3,835	17,665	2,145
British Columbia	128,050	107,445	96,180	84,065	29,970	54,380	5,480	31,845	3,825
Yukon	450	320	255*	215*	--	245*	--	--	--
Northwest Territories	920	610*	555*	530*	--	--	--	--	--

Table 2A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, Who Require Help or Additional Help, by Province, by Daily Task

	Preparing Meals	Shopping	Housework	Heavy Household Chores	Personal Finances	Personal Care
Canada ¹	90,950	160,240	190,615	333,580	77,995	64,350
Newfoundland	2,705	4,340	4,315	8,525	2,855	1,520
Prince Edward Island	645	1,275	1,080	3,025	720	655
Nova Scotia	4,000	7,300	7,325	18,655	3,750	2,650
New Brunswick	3,835	5,310	6,515	12,455	3,135	2,410
Quebec	22,290	38,540	46,280	81,765	14,810	14,270
Ontario	27,860	55,370	63,915	105,525	26,980	22,280
Manitoba	6,295	9,610	10,910	17,340	4,995	5,455
Saskatchewan	5,130	8,160	9,305	16,720	4,535	4,420
Alberta	4,895	8,785	10,545	24,475	3,975	2,965
British Columbia	13,285	21,535	30,240	44,910	12,225	7,710

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

Table 3A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Availability and Use of Public Transportation¹

	Local Public Transit Available		How Often Do You Use Public Transit?			
	Yes	No	Almost Every Day	Frequently	Occasionally	Seldom/ Never
Canada ²	564,835	336,120	32,570	79,970	115,315	322,895
Newfoundland	6,985	12,635	--	--	1,125	5,445
Prince Edward Island	1,070	5,830	--	--	--	865
Nova Scotia	17,255	26,650	--	720*	2,605	13,380
New Brunswick	10,790	21,535	--	730*	2,220	7,585
Quebec	118,835	49,290	6,980	12,890	26,980	68,565
Ontario	237,190	113,665	15,965	40,645	47,030	127,035
Manitoba	30,210	20,215	1,370*	5,185	7,020	16,105
Saskatchewan	20,710	25,790	480*	2,285	3,065	14,795
Alberta	38,385	30,395	1,355	5,015	8,820	22,920
British Columbia	82,935	29,735	5,730	12,160	16,340	45,745

¹ Excludes disabled seniors who were "housebound", i.e. unable to leave their residence because of their condition.

² Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

Table 4A. Disabled Persons, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Need and Availability of Specialized Van Service¹

	Need for Van Service		Availability of Van Service		Number	Availability of Van Service	
	Yes	% of Disabled Seniors	Available	% of Those Needing ³		Not Available	% of Those Needing ³
Canada ²	83,235	8	47,620	57	30		
Newfoundland	1,540	7	--	--	83		
Prince Edward Island	470*	6*	--	--	63		
Nova Scotia	2,590	5	625*	24*	69*		
New Brunswick	2,295	6	830*	36*	60*		
Quebec	21,415	10	8,595	40	32		
Ontario	21,680	5	13,325	61	28		
Manitoba	5,360	9	3,660	68	15		
Saskatchewan	5,435	11	3,165	58	37		
Alberta	9,265	13	7,715	83	15		
British Columbia	13,060	10	9,345	72	21		

¹ Excludes disabled seniors who were "housebound", i.e. unable to leave their residence because of their condition.

² Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

³ Percentages do not add to 100% due to a "Not Stated" category which has not been shown.

Table 5A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Problems with Long Distance Travel

	Total Able to Travel	Total Having Trouble	Trouble Travelling by Bus	Trouble Travelling by Train	Trouble Travelling by Airplane
Canada ¹	788,825	72,580	50,895	41,265	46,345
Newfoundland	17,155	1,415	880	635*	890
Prince Edward Island	5,715	435*	--	--	360*
Nova Scotia	39,125	2,310	1,525	1,495	1,630
New Brunswick	27,440	2,645	1,815	1,680	1,990
Quebec	142,120	16,505	11,145	9,375	12,280
Ontario	312,435	25,805	18,440	14,105	14,935
Manitoba	45,180	3,525	2,680	2,185	2,290
Saskatchewan	41,225	3,820	2,540	2,210	2,455
Alberta	61,230	5,185	3,680	3,085	3,415
British Columbia	96,085	10,815	8,005	6,345	5,995

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

**Table 6A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households,
by Province and Territory, by Participation in Leisure Activities**

	Total Participating	Visit Friends	Attend Sporting Events	Going to Museums	Taking Courses	Shop	Attend Religious Activities	Visit National Parks
Canada	939,015	831,540	199,180	173,935	33,660	792,070	472,310	146,885
Newfoundland	19,445	17,060	1,575	660*	--	14,610	11,415	2,725
Prince Edward Island	6,940	6,255	1,650	1,150	--	5,390	4,765	1,155
Nova Scotia	42,155	37,125	8,320	5,300	1,085*	36,230	21,050	5,000
New Brunswick	33,020	29,830	4,000	3,200	--	27,795	21,820	4,140
Quebec	178,990	150,650	23,780	13,955	3,475*	129,645	101,720	9,725
Ontario	367,960	328,430	94,475	78,210	15,195	321,815	179,540	55,785
Manitoba	53,705	48,405	13,305	10,855	1,070*	46,980	26,625	13,105
Saskatchewan	47,395	43,000	9,910	9,255	1,140*	41,245	26,935	10,715
Alberta	68,965	63,105	15,975	19,250	4,690	60,780	32,405	19,255
British Columbia	119,280	106,820	25,950	32,055	6,455	106,535	45,620	25,230
Yukon	435	345	--	--	--	405	--	--
Northwest Territories	725	515	--	--	--	640	--	--

**Table 7A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households,
by Province, by Barriers to Leisure Activities**

	Total Wishing to Participate More	% of Total Disabled Seniors	Needs Someone's Help	Needs Special Aids	Inadequate Transporta- tion	Too Far Away	Facilities Not Suitable	Physically Unable to Do More	Cost Too High
Canada ¹	253,085	25	49,240	13,295	33,825	37,925	20,710	172,295	43,875
Newfoundland	4,440	20	435*	--	--	380*	--	3,455	390*
Prince Edward Island	1,495	20	--	--	--	--	--	1,010	--
Nova Scotia	10,920	23	1,885	--	1,350*	2,330	--	7,300	1,270*
New Brunswick	7,375	21	1,260	--	755*	1,040	575*	4,960	925*
Quebec	56,760	27	8,985	3,380*	7,870	11,230	3,340*	35,490	14,945
Ontario	87,285	22	19,885	5,875*	11,880	11,545	7,010*	63,290	13,255
Manitoba	16,045	28	3,040	790*	2,595	1,380*	1,635	10,440	2,415
Saskatchewan	12,030	24	2,680	690*	1,510	1,800	1,505	9,010	1,700
Alberta	16,920	23	2,795	--	1,550	1,965	885*	11,185	2,140
British Columbia	39,445	31	8,015	1,415*	5,810	6,050	4,860	25,890	6,615

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

Table 8A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province, by Time Spent Participating in Physical Activities

	Total Participating in Physical Activities	Less Than Once a Month	1-3 Times a Month	1-2 Times a Week	3 Times a Week or More
Canada ¹	423,955	11,735	26,515	100,600	280,585
Newfoundland	6,105	--	705*	2,475	2,570
Prince Edward Island	3,190	--	310*	910	1,895
Nova Scotia	18,245	960*	2,030	4,370	10,520
New Brunswick	15,580	475*	1,775	3,380	9,775
Quebec	67,350	--	5,505	19,630	40,675
Ontario	151,100	5,760*	7,010*	33,625	102,435
Manitoba	28,150	--	2,330	7,460	17,785
Saskatchewan	23,665	445*	1,090	4,980	16,940
Alberta	36,295	775*	1,900	8,740	24,580
British Columbia	74,040	1,525*	3,845	14,950	53,290

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

Table 9A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households by Province, by Reason for Limitation in Physical Activities

	Total Prevented	Self-Conscious/ Ill at Ease	Lack of Family Support	Lack of Nearby Facilities	Facilities not Adapted to Needs	Inadequate Transportation	Physically Unable to Do More	Cost Too High
Canada¹	234,675	11,820	8,140	21,345	10,405	14,010	189,335	18,470
Newfoundland	4,100	--	--	--	--	--	3,655	--
Prince Edward Island	1,465	--	--	--	--	--	1,265	--
Nova Scotia	10,995	--	--	1,050*	--	--	8,065	--
New Brunswick	7,020	--	--	690*	--	--	5,405	470*
Quebec	45,485	3,220*	--	4,410	1,920*	3,040*	35,100	5,320
Ontario	82,530	4,950*	4,225*	7,125*	--	--	70,695	6,180*
Manitoba	13,340	--	--	1,400*	990*	1,355*	9,770	690*
Saskatchewan	12,605	--	--	1,195	820*	565*	10,425	875*
Alberta	18,995	810*	--	1,785	--	910*	14,320	800*
British Columbia	37,820	1,935	1,285*	3,335	2,815	3,695	30,325	3,600

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

**Table 10A. Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households,
by Province, by Source of Out-of-Pocket Expenses**

	Prescription Drugs	Purchase of Special Supplies	Medical Services	Modification to Residence	Trans- portation	Personal Services	Other
Canada¹	207,005	75,775	49,275	11,775	92,505	64,515	18,960
Newfoundland	9,170	1,055	370*	--	2,465	620*	--
Prince Edward Island	3,090	--	--	--	535*	450*	--
Nova Scotia	3,700	2,390	885*	--	4,500	2,300	730*
New Brunswick	10,060	2,485	880*	--	3,525	2,220	--
Quebec	56,620	12,730	7,550	--	18,455	17,780	2,395*
Ontario	44,245	38,010	19,870	6,270*	34,585	22,355	8,005
Manitoba	17,510	2,920	1,060*	--	5,615	2,595	1,240*
Saskatchewan	23,130	3,305	1,855	--	6,695	4,285	1,010
Alberta	22,875	2,190	4,100	755*	4,870	4,180	1,105*
British Columbia	16,400	10,355	12,485	1,530*	11,110	7,735	3,815

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

Table 11A. An Overview of Barriers Confronting Disabled Seniors, 65 Years and Over, in Households, by Province (% an Issue/Barrier²)

	Canada ¹	NTD	PEI	NS	NB	Que	Ont	Man	Sask	Alta	BC
Aids and Housing Adaptation											
Mobility aids	8	--	--	7*	--	10	8	8*	9	8	7
Hearing devices	31	49	28*	42	36	38	24	38	37	27	36
Visual aids	10	10*	--	9*	--	10	10	11	9	5*	16
Housing Adaptations											
Inside	27	34*	--	37	32	55	23	19	21	19	27
Outside	35	65*	--	36*	32*	33	39	32	30	51	29
Community Services											
Preparing meals	49	50	59	48	54	51	43	53	53	45	58
Shopping	45	51	67	48	49	43	43	49	52	41	53
Housework	55	55	61	51	54	53	53	56	59	48	63
Heavy chores	59	57	70	62	57	60	54	61	57	57	67
Personal finances	35	41	55	34	39	30	31	40	43	30	48
Personal care	53	45	78	54	65	54	53	54	64	39	53
Transportation											
Local transit	37	65	84	61	67	29	32	40	55	44	36
Special Van	30	83	63*	69	60	32	28*	15*	37	15	21
Bus Travel	6	5	--	4	7	8	6	6	6	6	8
Train Travel	5	4*	--	4	6	7	5	5	5	5	7
Airplane Travel	6	5	6*	4	7	9	5	5	6	6	6
Leisure and Recreation											
Leisure Activities ³	25	20	20	23	21	27	22	28	24	23	31
Physical Activities ³	23	18	20	23	20	22	21	23	25	26	30
Income and Expenditures											
Low income ³	22	18	16	17	18	29	21	20	18	15	23
Rental Costs ³ (>30%)	39	56	43	42	37	43	32	38	19	32	58
Mortgages ³ (>30%)	10	6	8*	11	8	13	12	4*	7	5	8

¹ Includes Yukon and Northwest Territories

² These calculations are based upon the % of people still in need of these services compared with those that have or still require them.

³ These calculations indicate the % of total disabled seniors in the category.

Appendix B
Sample Design

Sample Design

Sample Design Considerations

The Health and Activity Limitation Survey consists of two distinct samples: **households and institutions**. A household is a person or group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. It usually consists of a family group with or without lodgers, employees, etc. However, it may consist of two or more families sharing a dwelling, a group of unrelated persons, or one person living alone. Some types of collective dwellings, such as hotels, motels, YM/YWCAs and school residences, were included in the household sample if the occupants had no other usual place of residence. Household members who are temporarily absent (e.g., temporary residents elsewhere) are considered as part of their usual household. As in the census, every person is a member of one and only one household.

The individuals residing in households who participated in HALS were identified through their response to the disability question on the 1986 Census long questionnaire which was completed by 20% of Canadian households. This disability question was general in nature and asked the respondents to indicate if they were limited in the kind or amount of activity they could undertake because of a health problem or condition. This question had been used in a previous disability survey, and the results indicated that it would identify the severely disabled population, and some of the less severely disabled population. Some of the less severely disabled would answer "No" to the census disability question.

Approximately 112,000 individuals who answered "Yes" to this disability question were subsequently selected to represent disabled persons of all ages. The questions posed included questions on trouble with or inability to perform daily activities to determine, with more specificity, if they had any long-term limitations because of their health problem or condition. These questions on daily activities (referred to later in this text as screening questions) also identified the nature and severity of the individual's disability. Approximately 22,040 of the 112,000 individuals who had responded that they had a limitation in their activities on the census stated that they had no trouble in performing any of the daily activities in the subsequent follow-up. As this indicated that these individuals had no long-term limitation (disability), they were excluded from the disabled population estimates. Of the 112,000 individuals, approximately 11,735 were non-respondents.

Because of the possibility that some less severely disabled persons might have answered "No" to the census disability question, an additional 72,500 individuals who answered "No" to the census disability question were also selected. Through a telephone interview, these individuals were asked the same detailed screening questions. Approximately 3,910 individuals responded positively to the detailed screening questions, and these individuals were included as disabled in the survey. It should be noted, as expected, that subsequent analysis of these 3,910 individuals indicated that they are younger and less severely disabled, and that they experience fewer barriers as a result of their disability than the sample who responded "Yes" to the census disability question. Of the 72,500 individuals, approximately 5,270 were non-respondents.

A more complete description of the sample design and the differences between the two household samples is available from the Post-Censal Surveys Program, or through the Statistics Canada Regional Offices.

A sample of approximately 20,000 individuals who resided in health-related institutions was also selected to ensure that all disabled persons were represented in the sample.

The five types of institutions included in HALS were:

- orphanages and children's homes;
- special care homes and institutions for the elderly and chronically ill;
- general hospitals;
- psychiatric institutions; and
- treatment centres and institutions for the physically handicapped.

The 1986 Census of Population provided a list of institutions from which a sample, based on type and size, was selected within each province.

Within each selected institution, a sample of residents was selected, based on a list provided by the institution. Residents were included in the list if they were living in the institution on March 1, 1987 and had been in an institution for a continuous period of six months or more.

The data presented in this publication have been weighted to estimate the total disabled population. The data shown in the table below provide the user with the distribution of the disabled population by sample type.

Number of Disabled Persons by Sample Type

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Households sample		
• "Yes" to census disability question	1,835,980	55.3
• "No" to census disability question	1,233,620	37.2
2. Institutions sample	247,275	7.5
3. TOTAL	<u>3,316,875</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Data Quality

Statistics from the HALS data base are estimates based on a sample survey of a portion of the Canadian population (approximately 1 out of every 25 persons in the "Yes" sample and 1 out of every 300 persons in the "No" sample). As a result, the statistics are subject to two types of errors: sampling and non-sampling errors.

A sampling error is the difference between the estimate derived from a sample and the result that would have been obtained from a population census using the same data collection procedures. For a sample survey such as HALS, this error can be estimated from the survey data. The degree of error reflects the standard deviation of the estimate. Data have been suppressed when the sampling error is more than 25% of the estimate. In such cases, the symbol "--" appears in the tables in place of the estimate. When the sampling error is between 16.5% and 25% the corresponding estimate is accompanied by the symbol "*". These estimates should be used with caution.

All other types of errors (observation, response, processing and non-response errors) are called non-sampling errors. Identifying and evaluating the importance of many of these errors can be difficult.

Observation errors arise when there is a difference between the target population and the sample population. Integrating HALS with the census of population has made it possible to reduce this type of error. Only a certain portion of Indian reserves and collective dwellings were systematically ignored in the sampling process, but their importance is negligible compared to the total population. Consequently, observation errors should not have a significant influence on the HALS data.

All statistical surveys are susceptible to a certain percentage of non-response among the selected sample. A total non-response occurs when, for one reason or another, a selected respondent could not be interviewed. The non-response is said to be partial if only part of the questionnaire is complete. The impact of non-response errors on estimates depends on the level of non-response and, particularly, on any differences between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents. In principle, the more marked these differences, the greater the impact on the accuracy of the estimates.

With respect to HALS, the response rate (90%) compares favourably with the rate generally observed for this type of survey. In addition, various methods have been used to reduce the bias caused by any total non-responses, notably by adjusting the data to reflect the distribution of certain demographic characteristics obtained by the census. As well, response rates were higher for most specific questions. In the tables, non-responses appear as "Unknown" or "Not Stated".

Appendix C
Definitions

Definitions

Disability Defined

*"In the context of health experience, a disability 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"*¹

With the development of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps, the World Health Organization has developed a framework within which one can measure the consequence of disease. The "disability" concept was operationalized through a series of questions that has come to be known as "Activities of Daily Living".²

For the purpose of the national data base on disability, the functional limitation approach has been utilized for the adult population (aged 15 and older) through the use of a modified version of the "Activities of Daily Living" questions. Individuals are not considered disabled if they use a technical aid and that aid completely eliminates the limitation, e. g. - an individual who uses a hearing aid and states that he has no limitation when using the aid would not be included in the data base. The concept of time has also been added as an additional parameter - the limitation has to be of a minimum six months duration, i.e. has lasted or is expected to last six months or more.

For children under the age of 15, the survey used a general limitation approach along with a list of chronic conditions and a list of technical aids. A positive response in any one of these categories indicates a disability.

¹ *International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps, World Health Organization, 1980 - page 143.*

² *Special Study No. 5, Measuring Disability, O.E.C.D., 1982.*

Nature of Disability Defined

- 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 by nature not specified.

Appendix D

Products and Publications From HALS

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.

*

A Profile of Three Disabled Populations, by Gary L. Cohen, (\$15.00) divides the disabled population into three groups: those whose condition or health problem does not limit their ability to work, those who are limited but able to work and those who are completely unable to work. The report provides profiles of these three populations and outlines their similarities and their differences.

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 (\$30.00 outside Canada).

*

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 is available at the reduced price of \$256.00.

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 nine 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.

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.

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.

