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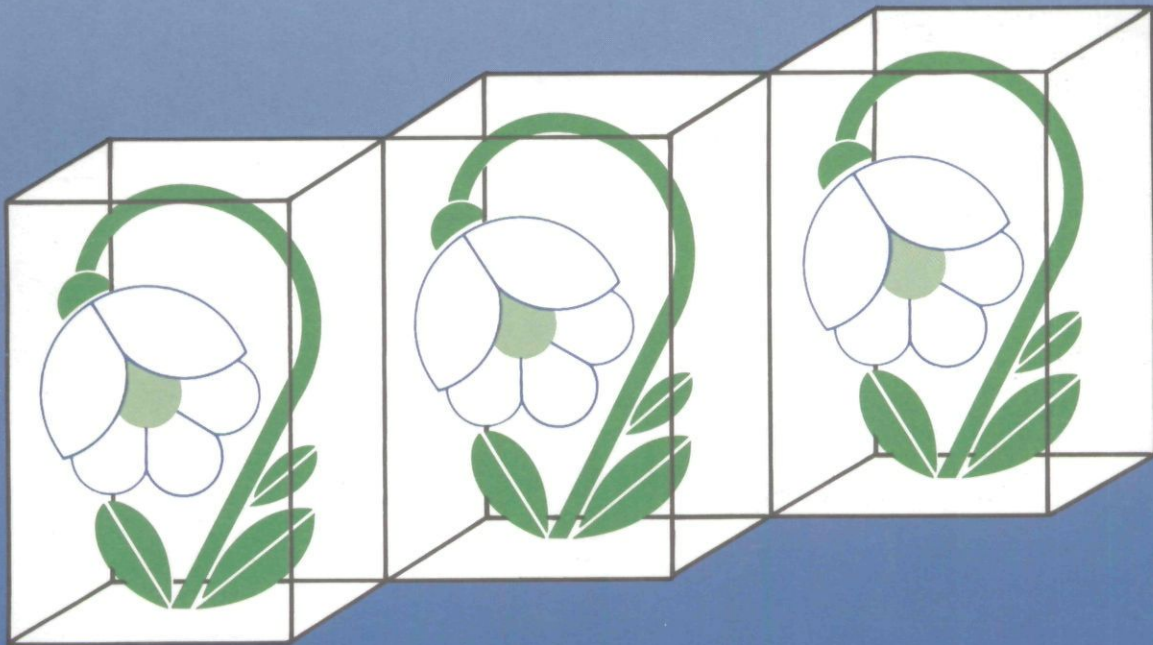
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Selected Socio-economic Consequences of Disability for Women in Canada

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 "**Selected Socio-economic Consequences of Disability for Women in Canada**" is the second in the series of nine reports. It focusses on women with disabilities aged 15 and over residing in households and compares various socio-economic characteristics of this population to men with disabilities and to the non-disabled population of both genders. The report was authored by Edward B. Harvey, Centre for Industrial Relations, University of Toronto and Lorne Tepperman, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

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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Highlights of the Study

Women with disabilities are economically disadvantaged by being women and by being disabled; however, each characteristic appears to work independently.

General Characteristics

- In 1986, there were an estimated 1,627,200 disabled women aged 15 and over. Just over 90% of these women lived in private households; the remaining ten percent resided in health-related institutions.
- The disability rates among females residing in private households is consistently higher than males in all provinces (except British Columbia) and in the Northwest Territories. Males have a higher disability rate in the Yukon.
- Seven out of every ten disabled women report limitation in mobility as compared to five out of every ten disabled males. Almost 37% of disabled men report a hearing disability as compared to 25% of disabled females. The data show that, regardless of age, females report more mobility disabilities than men; however, the difference noted in hearing disabilities does not hold true in all age groups.
- Just over 58% of all disabled females report moderate and severe disabilities as compared to 49% of males. This higher proportion among females reflects the higher concentration of disabled women in the older age groups.

Education

- There are fundamental differences in the educational attainments of disabled and non-disabled persons. For example, 12.2% of disabled females aged 25 to 29 report attainment of 8 years or less of formal education as compared to only 2.5% of non-disabled females in the same age group. For this same age group, only 25.2% of disabled females report a certificate, diploma or degree as compared to 34.7% of non-disabled females.
- The nature of disability affects the level of education achieved. For example, among females aged 25 to 29 who reported a seeing disability, 41.7% reported only eight years or less of formal education. Among those with a speaking disability in the same age group, 46.7% reported this same level of education.

Labour Force Characteristics

- The labour force status of women with disabilities differs significantly from that of men with disabilities and the labour force status of persons with disabilities is very different from that of non-disabled persons. The difference is greatest for women. For example, disabled women under the age of 25 are about 70% as likely to be holding paid jobs as non-disabled women of the same age. By ages 45 to 54, they are only 54% as likely and this ratio drops to 34% by age 55 to 64.
- Younger women with disabilities are more likely to participate in the labour force than older women with disabilities. The proportion of women with disabilities classified as "not in the labour force" increases with age. Among women with disabilities aged 25 to 29, 39% are classified as "not in the labour force" as compared to nearly 88% for disabled women aged 60 to 64.
- Among younger disabled females, the nature of their disability has an impact on labour force participation. For example, among disabled women aged 25 to 29, over 50% of those with speaking, seeing and "other" are classified as "not in the labour force". However, the nature of disability has a smaller impact on labour force participation as women get older.
- The nature of a woman's disability appears to influence the type of position she obtains, if she is employed. For example, 29.4% of all disabled women with disabilities work in clerical positions; but relatively fewer women with speaking disabilities (17.3%), and relatively more women with hearing disabilities (35.7%) hold such positions.
- The occupational distributions of employed men and women with disabilities are very similar to the occupational distributions of non-disabled males and females.

Income Characteristics

- With respect to employment income, gender makes more difference than disability. The median employment income of females with a disability in 1985 was \$8,360 compared to \$19,250 for males with a disability. The corresponding median employment incomes for non-disabled females and males was \$10,000 and \$21,000 respectively.
- Among females with a disability, the median employment income varies quite widely by the nature of the individual's disability and the individual's age.
- With respect to total income, having a disability impacts more on males than females. The median total income for disabled females is \$8,175, which is relatively close to the median total for non-disabled females of \$10,000. The median total income for disabled males is \$12,980, substantially lower than the median total income for non-disabled males of \$20,855.

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 "**Selected Socio-economic Consequences of Disability for Women in Canada**" is the second in the series of nine reports. The report will focus on women with disabilities aged 15 and older residing in households, and will compare them to men with disabilities as well as the non-disabled population of both genders in that age group. These comparisons will be made within the three broad areas of education, labour force characteristics and income characteristics.

2. General Characteristics

Where Do Disabled Adults Live?

In 1986, there were an estimated 3,039,430 disabled adults in Canada aged 15 and older. Just under 92% of these individuals resided in private households; the remainder resided in health-related institutions. The data show that both the number and proportion of women living in institutions is greater than the number and proportion of men who do so. Almost 10% of women with disabilities in Canada live in institutions, compared to only six percent of men with disabilities. The major difference arises partly because women, on average, live longer than men. For this reason, older women are more likely to be alone and this factor increases the likelihood of living in an institution. Table 1A in Appendix A provides a further breakdown by age of the disabled adult population residing in households.

The remainder of this report concentrates on disabled females who are residing in private households. A separate report titled "Profile of the Canadian Population Residing in Health Care Institutions" provides a detailed analysis of disabled males and females residing in institutions.

Table 1. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households and in Institutions, by Sex by Age Group, Canada

	Total		Disabled Adults Residing in...			
			Households		Institutions	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Both sexes	3,039,430	100.0	2,794,550	91.9	244,880	8.1
15 - 34 years	486,930	100.0	470,025	96.5	16,910	3.5
35 - 64 years	1,330,500	100.0	1,297,610	97.5	32,890	2.5
65 years and over	1,221,995	100.0	1,026,915	84.0	195,080	16.0
Females	1,627,200	100.0	1,468,245	90.2	158,955	9.8
15 - 34 years	233,925	100.0	227,410	97.2	6,515	2.8
35 - 64 years	665,615	100.0	651,535	97.9	14,080	2.1
65 years and over	727,660	100.0	589,300	81.0	138,360	19.0
Males	1,412,230	100.0	1,326,305	93.9	85,925	6.1
15 - 34 years	253,005	100.0	242,615	95.9	10,395	4.1
35 - 64 years	664,885	100.0	646,075	97.2	18,810	2.8
65 years and over	494,340	100.0	437,615	88.5	56,720	11.5

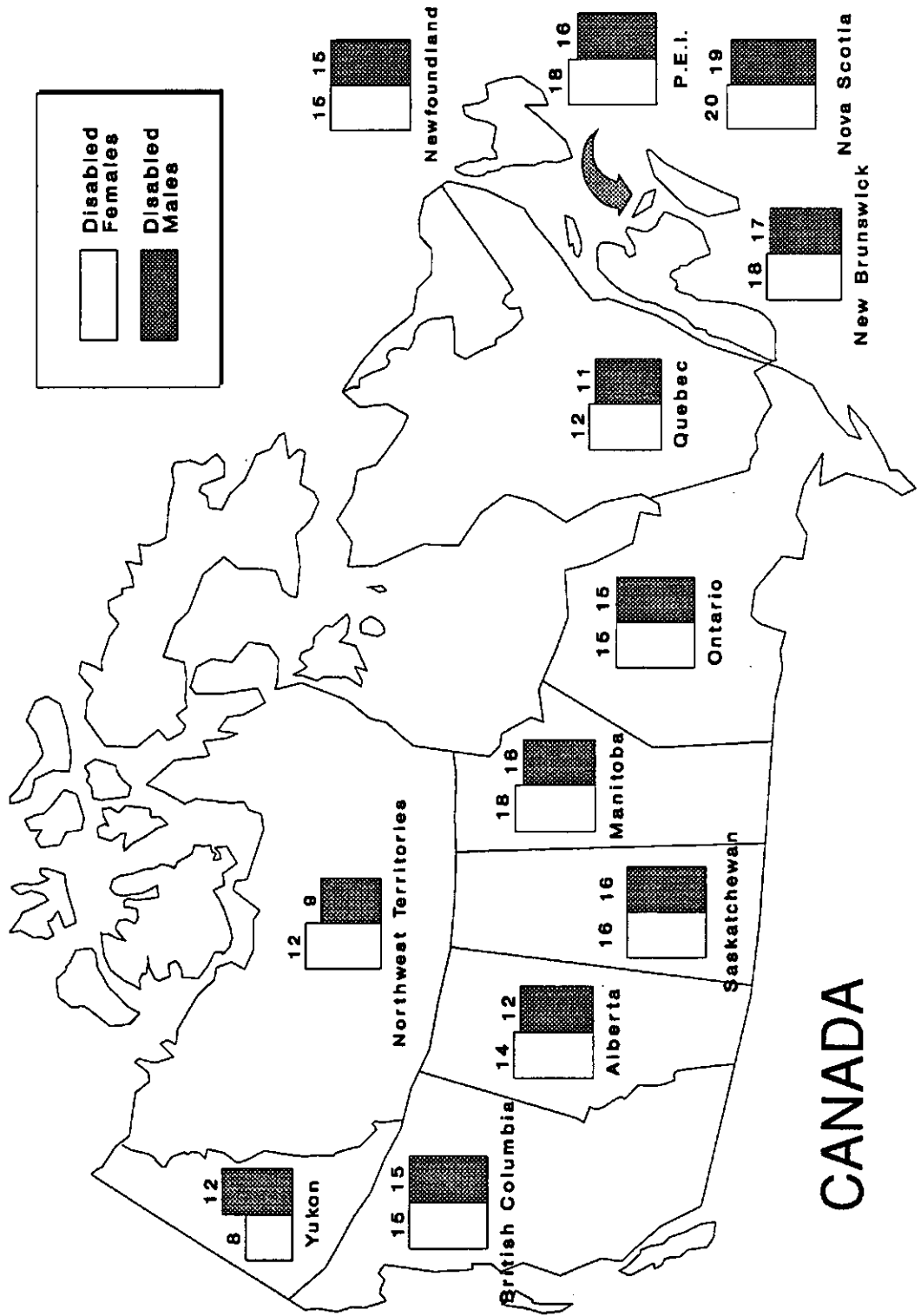
Disability Rates

The disability rates among females are consistently higher than males in all provinces (except British Columbia) and in the Northwest Territories, with Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island reporting the highest rates at 19.6, 18.2 and 18.0 respectively. Only Yukon reports a lower rate among females. It should be noted that the disability rates in both territories, for both males and females, are considerably lower than those reported in the provinces, reflecting in part, their younger populations.

Table 2. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Provinces and Territories, Canada

Province or Territory	Disabled Females		Disabled Males	
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population
Canada	1,468,245	14.7	1,326,305	13.9
Newfoundland	31,690	15.4	30,185	14.8
Prince Edward Island	8,680	18.0	7,610	16.2
Nova Scotia	67,525	19.6	60,645	18.5
New Brunswick	48,710	17.7	44,655	17.0
Quebec	321,345	12.3	278,205	11.3
Ontario	562,985	15.4	506,155	14.6
Manitoba	73,850	18.2	62,265	16.2
Saskatchewan	59,295	15.9	57,420	15.6
Alberta	119,000	13.5	109,885	12.4
British Columbia	172,630	15.1	166,570	15.1
Yukon	645	7.8	1,050	11.7
Northwest Territories	1,895	11.6	1,660	9.2

Figure 1. Percentage of the Total Disabled Population, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Provinces and Territories, Canada



Nature and Severity of Disability

The nature of disabilities among adults varies significantly by gender. Women are relatively more likely to have disabilities which affect mobility, agility and seeing. Seven out of every ten disabled women report mobility disabilities as compared to five out of every ten disabled males. Nearly six disabled women in ten have disabilities which affect agility, and only five disabled men in ten have a similar disability. Almost 19% of women report a seeing disability while only 13.0% of men with disabilities report such a disability.

In contrast, males report more hearing, speaking and "other" disabilities. Almost 37% of men with disabilities report having a hearing disability as compared to 25% of women.

Table 2A in Appendix A provides the data by age group and sex. These data show that, regardless of age, women report more mobility and agility disabilities than men. However, the difference noted in hearing disabilities between males and females does not hold true in the younger age groups.

Table 3. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Nature of Disability, Canada

Nature of disability ¹	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total ²	1,468,245	100.0	1,326,305	100.0
Mobility	1,075,130	73.2	725,620	54.7
Agility	875,275	59.6	663,125	50.0
Seeing	273,965	18.7	171,910	13.0
Hearing	373,065	25.4	487,790	36.8
Speaking	71,740	4.9	89,195	6.7
Other	398,875	27.2	363,545	27.4
Unknown	74,420	5.1	99,885	7.5

¹ Refer to Appendix C for definitions of the nature of disability categories.

² Total number of persons with disabilities reporting one or more disabilities.

Severity¹ of Disability

Just over 58% of all disabled females report moderate and severe disabilities as compared to 49% among males. Again, the higher proportion of women in the moderate and severe categories reflects the higher concentration of disabled women in the older age groups. (See Table 3A in Appendix A for data by sex and age group.)

Table 4. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Severity of Disability, Canada

Severity	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	1,468,245	100.0	1,326,305	100.0
Mild	610,700	41.6	675,460	50.9
Moderate	534,535	36.4	430,345	32.4
Severe	323,015	22.0	220,500	16.6

¹ The 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 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. Education

Educational Attainment of Persons with Disabilities

There are some small differences in the distribution of men with disabilities and women by education. Women with disabilities are slightly less likely than men with disabilities to have some post-secondary education (11.2% for women as opposed to 16.2% for men). Conversely, women with disabilities were slightly more likely to have received a certificate or a diploma: 10.2% of women with disabilities as opposed to 6.2% of disabled males did so. University degrees are uncommon among both men and women with disabilities, but 5.2% of men with disabilities have a university degree compared with only 3.4% of women with disabilities. To some extent, these differences are due to different age structures of males and females who are disabled. Disabled women tend, on average, to be older than men.

Table 5. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Education, Canada

Education	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	1,468,245	100.0	1,326,305	100.0
0 - 8 years	568,980	38.8	476,315	35.9
Secondary	534,330	36.4	484,305	36.5
Some post-secondary	164,785	11.2	214,285	16.2
Certificate/diploma	149,835	10.2	82,545	6.2
University degree	50,310	3.4	68,855	5.2

Education Categories

- 0-8 years, which includes no schooling, as well as kindergarten up to completion of grade 8.
- Secondary, which includes people who have completed at least some secondary schooling (grades 9-12), including those who have not received diplomas or certificates as well as those whose highest level of schooling is a secondary school graduation certificate or a trades certificate/diploma.
- Some post-secondary, which includes people who have attended university or college but who have not received a degree or diploma.
- Post-secondary certificate/diploma, which includes people who have received a post-secondary non-university certificate/diploma.
- University degree, which includes those who have received at least one university degree.

Educational Attainment of Non-Disabled Persons

The data in Table 6 reveal similar gender differences among disabled and non-disabled people. Specifically, men tend to have received more formal education than women. For example, non-disabled women are more likely than non-disabled men to have achieved a certificate or diploma (15.5% as opposed to 11.4%, respectively). However non-disabled men are more likely than non-disabled women to have achieved some post-secondary education (20.9% as opposed to 16.6%, respectively). Non-disabled men are also more likely than non-disabled women to have completed at least one university degree (11.9% as opposed to 8.7%, respectively).

Table 6. Non-Disabled Persons, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Education, Canada

Education	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	8,489,090	100.0	8,200,220	100.0
0 - 8 years	1,180,240	13.9	1,148,325	14.0
Secondary	3,843,420	45.3	3,429,870	41.8
Some post-secondary	1,412,300	16.6	1,711,430	20.9
Certificate/diploma	1,316,790	15.5	938,700	11.4
University degree	736,325	8.7	971,890	11.9

Impact of Gender and Age on Educational Attainment

Table 4A in Appendix A provides the data presented in Tables 5 and 6 by age group.

Not surprisingly, younger people with disabilities have completed more formal education than older ones. For example, 51.7% of women with disabilities aged 60 to 64 and 38.8% of all women with disabilities have completed eight years of schooling or less; but among women with disabilities aged 25 to 29, only 12.2% have this level of education. Among women with disabilities aged 25 to 29, 25.2% have a post-secondary certificate, diploma or university degree; yet only 8.5% of women with disabilities aged 60 to 64 and 13.6% of all women with disabilities can make the same claim.

This pattern of age-related education attainment is not unique to disabled women. Indeed, data on the educational attainments of non-disabled women show the very same thing. For example, only 2.5% of non-disabled women aged 25 to 29 have grade 8 education or less, while 31.3% of non-disabled women aged 60 to 64 have this little education. On the other end of the continuum, over one in three non-disabled women aged 25 to 29 has a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree; fewer than one in six non-disabled women aged 60 to 64 can make the same claim.

There are fundamental differences in the educational attainments of disabled and non-disabled persons. Both women and men with disabilities are more than twice as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to have completed eight years of education or less.

Conversely, women and men with disabilities are only about one-half as likely as their non-disabled counterparts to have completed a post-secondary certificate/diploma or university degree. To summarize, people with disabilities are heavily concentrated in the lowest educational category and significantly under-represented in the highest educational categories.

Impact of Nature of Disability on Educational Attainment

An analysis of the educational attainments by women with disabilities shows some variation according to the nature of a woman's disability. Seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities tend to limit educational attainment significantly. Among all women with disabilities aged 15 and over, 38.8% have eight years of formal education or less, yet 51.2% of women with seeing disabilities have this little education. On the other hand, among all women with disabilities aged 15 and over, 13.6% have a post-secondary certificate/diploma or a university degree; but only 8.8% of women with seeing disabilities have progressed this far.

Women with hearing disabilities include higher concentrations of both highly educated and relatively uneducated women. While 43.6% of women with hearing disabilities have eight years of formal education or less, 13.1% have attained a post-secondary certificate/diploma or degree.

Table 7. Women with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Education by Nature of Disability, Canada

Nature of Disability ¹	Total	% Reporting...				
		0 - 8 Years	Secondary	Some Post-secon-dary	Certificate/ Diploma	University Degree
Total²	1,468,245	38.8	36.4	11.2	10.2	3.4
Mobility	1,075,130	42.0	34.9	11.4	9.3	2.4
Agility	875,275	41.8	35.1	10.7	9.8	2.6
Seeing	273,965	51.2	31.9	8.2	6.1	2.7
Hearing	373,065	43.6	33.3	10.0	11.0	2.1
Speaking	71,740	47.5	36.0	9.2	5.6	1.6*
Other	398,875	47.5	34.3	8.1	7.9	2.2
Unknown	74,420	19.3	41.0	13.9	13.4	12.5

¹ Refer to Appendix C for definitions of the nature of disability categories.

² Total number of persons with disabilities reporting one or more disabilities.

A summary measure of educational attainment can be calculated to put the differences between disability groups into clearer perspective. The percentage who have attained grade eight education or less is divided by the percentage who have completed a certificate, diploma or degree program. The ratios calculated in this way for women are:

- speaking disability, 6.6;
- seeing disability, 5.8;
- "other" disability, 4.7;
- mobility disability, 3.6;
- agility disability, 3.4;
- hearing disability, 3.3; and
- "unknown" disability, 0.7.

These calculations suggest that there are three fairly distinct groupings, where educational attainment is concerned. The first group, comprising women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities, shows a very strong barrier to educational attainment. "Other" disabilities include learning disabilities, emotional or psychiatric disabilities and developmental delay. The second group, comprising women with mobility, agility and hearing disabilities, shows a weaker but still important barrier to educational attainment. The third group, comprising women with an "unknown" disability, shows little if any limit to educational attainment whatever, compared with non-disabled women.

Why do these groups differ in the ways they do? Several explanations are possible. First, the greater educational limitation some groups have experienced may reflect an earlier onset of the disability. Presumably, a woman who begins to have her disability after completing her formal education will differ less from non-disabled women (in educational attainment) than a woman whose disability started at birth or at some time during her childhood.

Secondly, disability groups may vary in their average age. Throughout this century, Canadians have been receiving more and more formal education; as a result, younger Canadian adults tend to be more highly educated than older ones. If one disability group contains a higher proportion of older women than another disability group, it is expected that the average educational attainment of that first group will be lower.

Impact of Gender, Age and Nature of Disability on Educational Attainment

Most recently, disabilities which affect seeing and speaking have posed the most significant barriers to educational attainment. For example, among women with disabilities aged 25 to 29, 41.7% with seeing disabilities and 46.7% with speaking disabilities were limited to eight years of education or less. (See Table 5A in Appendix A for data by age group, sex and nature of disability.) A woman aged 25 to 29 with one of these disabilities is more than three times as likely as the average disabled woman in this age group to achieve so little education. In contrast, among women with disabilities aged 60 to 64, 61.3% with seeing disabilities and 51.6% with speaking disabilities were limited to 8 years of formal education or less. In this respect, they are no more likely to get so little education than women of the same age with any other disability.

With respect to the certificate/diploma or degree level of education, partly as a consequence of a large number of instances of suppressed data, it is difficult to identify clear patterns. Among females with a disability aged 25 to 29, women with a hearing disability are least likely to have a certificate/diploma or degree (12.6%) while women in the "unknown" disability category are most likely to have a certificate/diploma or degree (52.0%). Among females with a disability aged 30 to 34, women with a hearing disability emerge as the second most likely group to have a certificate/ diploma or degree (27.8%). Again, women in the "unknown" disability category are most likely to have a certificate/diploma or degree (30.4%).

The data continue to show three distinct groups of disabilities (as discussed on the previous page), at least up to about age 40. That is, of Canadian women living in households who were aged 15 to 39 at the time of the survey, those with speaking, seeing and "other" disabilities were least likely to have obtained more than a primary school education. Moreover, they were always more than twice as likely, and sometimes four or five times as likely, to have obtained this low level of education as women the same age with a mobility, agility or hearing disability.

The most extreme comparison available within these two groups are women with speaking disabilities and women with hearing disabilities. At best, among women aged 15 to 24, 34.6% of those with speaking disabilities but only 12.3% of those with hearing disabilities have completed no more than eight years of formal education. This gives a ratio of 2.8 (i.e., $34.6 \div 12.3$), meaning that a woman with a speaking disability at this age is 2.8 times as likely to have completed only eight years or less of formal education than a woman of this age with a hearing disability. Among women aged 25 to 29, the ratio rises to 4.1; among those aged 35 to 39, to 5.7. Clearly the educational gap between speaking and hearing disabilities widens the farther back in time we go; conversely, it has narrowed significantly in the last thirty years.

But interestingly, the gap was also narrower over forty years ago, as we can see if we compare the effect of disabilities across women who are over age 50 today. Women aged 50 or over are just about equally likely to have received little education, whether they belong to the first disability group (speaking, seeing and "other") or the second one (mobility, agility, and hearing). Said another way, women with speaking and seeing disabilities (and, to a lesser degree, "other" disabilities) are just about as likely to have attained grade eight education (or less) whether they are 25 to 29 today or 55 to 59 today. On the other hand, women with mobility, agility and hearing disabilities who are 55 to 59 today have a very similar educational profile to women of the same age with speaking and seeing disabilities; but a very **different** educational profile from women with their own type of disability who are thirty years younger.

This finding can be stated in many ways, but interpreted in only one way. It says that great progress has been made in the elimination of educational barriers to women with certain disabilities (specifically, mobility, agility and hearing disabilities) but not in the elimination of educational barriers to women with certain other disabilities (specifically, speaking, seeing and [to a lesser degree] "other" disabilities).

This dramatic progress appears to have taken place in a period of thirty years, since 1950, when today's fifty year-olds would have been making the transition from primary to secondary education.

The "unknown" group remains a mystery. Among women aged 15 to 49 with this disability, the numbers are too few and the proportions with grade eight or less education too small to yield reliable estimates. Women with this disability who are aged 50 to 59 are much less likely than the other disabled groups to have a grade eight education or less. However, women with this disability who are aged 60 and over are indistinguishable from the other women with disabilities in their educational attainment.

4. Labour Force Characteristics

Labour Force Activity of Disabled Persons

The numbers of women and men with disabilities aged 15 to 64 are approximately equal (878,950 women compared to 888,685 men). However, the labour force activity of women with disabilities differs significantly from that of men with disabilities. Specifically, 61.5% of women with disabilities are not in the labour force, but only 40.0% of men with disabilities are not in the labour force.

Only 30.7% of women with disabilities are employed, while 49.7% of men with disabilities are employed.

Please refer to Appendix C for definitions of the labour force concepts presented in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Sex by Labour Force Activity, Canada

Labour force activity	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total¹	878,950	100.0	888,685	100.0
Not in labour force	540,320	61.5	355,665	40.0
Employed	269,530	30.7	442,030	49.7
Unemployed	55,285	6.3	73,125	8.2
Not Stated	13,815	1.6	17,870	2.0
Participation rate		37.0		58.0
Unemployment rate		17.0		14.2

¹ Excludes persons for whom labour force activity is "Not Stated".

Labour Force Activity of Non-Disabled Persons

Labour force activity among non-disabled persons is very different from that of disabled persons. Specifically, only 32.1% of non-disabled females and 11.9% of non-disabled males are not in the labour force.

Similar differences are noted in the percentages of non-disabled persons who are employed.

Table 9. Non-Disabled Persons, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Sex by Labour Force Activity, Canada

Labour force activity	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total ¹	7,665,635	100.0	7,565,820	100.0
Not in labour force	2,463,565	32.1	900,145	11.9
Employed	4,599,795	60.0	6,040,950	79.8
Unemployed	602,255	7.9	624,715	8.3
Not Stated	--	--	--	--
Participation rate		67.9		88.1
Unemployment rate		11.6		9.4

¹ Excludes persons for whom labour force activity is "Not Stated".

Comparisons of Disabled and Non-Disabled Populations

A comparison of Tables 8 and 9 identifies significant differences in the labour force activity of women and men with disabilities relative to non-disabled women and men.

This comparison also identifies differences in the labour force activity of disabled persons relative to that of non-disabled persons. The data show, for example, that people with disabilities are more than twice as likely to **not** be in the labour force, compared with non-disabled people. There are also significant gender differences in this pattern of non-participation in the labour force. **Women** with disabilities are twice as likely to not be in the labour force as their non-disabled counterparts (61.5% as opposed to 32.1%), but **men** with disabilities are more than three times as likely to not be in the labour force as their non-disabled counterparts (40.0% as opposed to 11.9 %).

The data also show that people with disabilities in the labour force are a little more than half as likely to be employed as non-disabled people (of the same sex) who are in the labour force. Again, there are significant gender differences. **Women** with disabilities are half as likely to be employed as their non-disabled counterparts (30.7% as opposed to 60.0%), while **men** with disabilities are almost two-thirds as likely to be employed as their non-disabled counterparts (49.7% as opposed to 79.8%).

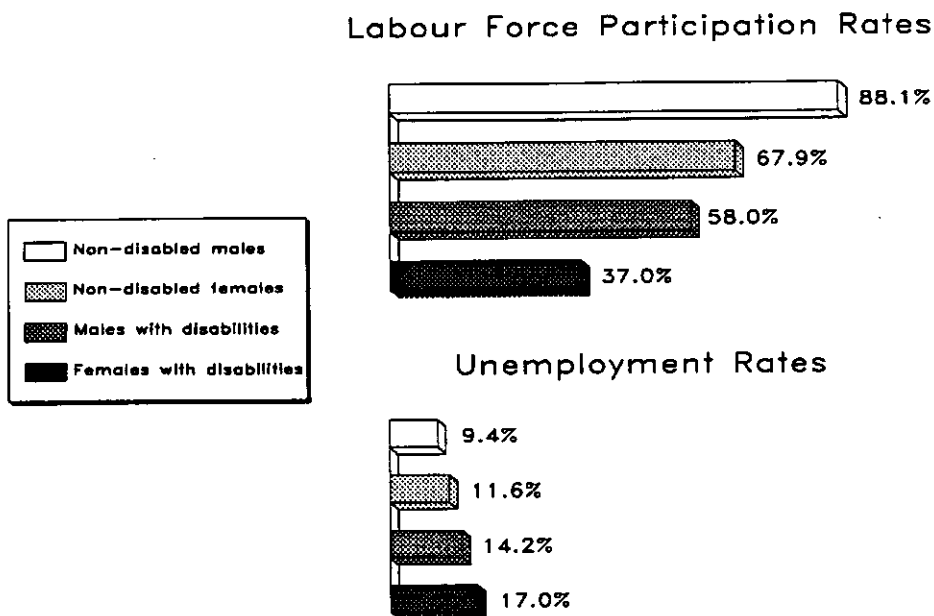
The proportion of women with disabilities who are unemployed is only slightly lower than the proportion of non-disabled women who are unemployed (6.3% as opposed to 7.9%), and the proportions of unemployed among disabled and non-disabled men are also roughly equal (8.2% for men with disabilities, 8.3% for non-disabled men). However, as noted earlier, people with disabilities of both sexes are far more likely than non-disabled people to not be in the labour force. This suggests that relatively larger proportions of persons with disabilities are "discouraged workers". Workers who are without a job for extended periods may withdraw from the labour force by deciding not to actively engage in a job search. They may follow this course of action because they believe no jobs are available or because they are unable to fulfill the requirements of the definition of "unemployment" (by actively seeking out employment). In either case, the relatively low proportion of unemployed among the people with disabilities may reflect a relatively high proportion of "discouraged workers".

The unemployment rates in Tables 8 and 9 indicate that gender differences among persons with a disability and among the non-disabled are relatively small. However, unemployment rates of the disabled are higher than those of their non-disabled counterparts. The unemployment rate among women with disabilities is 17.0%, while the unemployment rate among non-disabled women is only 11.6%. Likewise, the unemployment rate among men with disabilities is 14.2%, while the unemployment rate among non-disabled men is only 9.4%.

Impact of Age and Disability on Labour Force Activity

Figure 2 illustrates that women with disabilities are about half as likely to participate in the labour force as non-disabled women. Men with disabilities are about two-thirds as likely to participate as non-disabled men. The labour force participation rate of women with disabilities is almost two-thirds that of men with disabilities (37.0% as opposed to 58.0%), but the labour force participation rate of non-disabled women is more than three-quarters that of non-disabled men (67.9% as opposed to 88.1%). This suggests that, at least where labour force participation is concerned, disability tends to widen the gender gap.

Figure 2. Labour Force Participation Rates and Unemployment Rates for Disabled and Non-Disabled Persons, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Sex, Canada



The relatively greater tendency of non-disabled people, compared with people with disabilities, to be employed (that is, to enter the labour force and hold employment) is partly due to differences in age structure. People with disabilities are, on average, older than non-disabled people, and older people are less likely to hold jobs than younger people. However even with age held constant, a difference in employment rates persists between disabled and non-disabled people.

This difference is greatest for women as shown in Table 10. Women with disabilities under age 34 are about 70% as likely to be employed as non-disabled women of the same age. By ages 45 to 54, they are only 54% as likely and this ratio drops further to 34% by ages 55 to 64.

The pattern is similar for non-disabled men and men with disabilities, but the comparative rates of employment are higher at almost every age. For example, men with a disability under age 25 are 80% as likely to be employed as non-disabled men of the same age. The male-female differential disappears in the age range 25 to 34 (that is, both men and women with disabilities are 70% as likely to hold a job as non-disabled persons of the same age). The difference between genders then reappears and by age 45 to 54, men with a disability are 62% as likely as non-disabled men of the same age to hold a job, and 42% as likely at ages 55 to 64.

Table 10. Employed Persons, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Sex by Disability Status by Age Group, Canada

Age	Females			Males		
	Disabled	Non-Disabled	(a + b)	Disabled	Non-Disabled	(c + d)
	(a) %	(b) %		(c) %	(d) %	
All ages	30.7	60.0	.511	49.7	79.8	.623
15 - 24 years	38.1	55.6	.685	46.4	58.1	.799
25 - 34 years	45.2	64.5	.700	62.0	87.9	.705
35 - 44 years	44.2	70.4	.628	65.8	91.8	.717
45 - 54 years	34.1	62.9	.542	55.4	89.8	.617
55 - 64 years	12.3	36.2	.340	31.5	75.4	.418

Turning to Table 6A in Appendix A for more detailed analyses of labour force participation by women with disabilities (in terms of nature of disability and age), it is noted that labour force participation varies according to the nature of disability. Specifically, women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities are relatively less likely than other women with disabilities to participate in the labour force. Seventy percent or more of women with these disabilities are not in the labour force, compared with 61.5% of all women with disabilities. By contrast, women with hearing and "unknown" disabilities are somewhat more likely to be in the labour force.

Younger women with disabilities are much more likely to participate in the labour force than older women. The proportion of women with disabilities classified as "not in the labour force" increases with age. Among women aged 25 to 29, for example, only 39.3% are classified as "not in the labour force", compared with 61.5% of all women with disabilities. This proportion increases to nearly 90% "not in the labour force" among women aged 60 to 64.

Among women 25 to 29 years old, seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities are still the most likely to keep high proportions of women out of the labour force. (In all cases, 50% or more of women with disabilities aged 25 to 29 who have seeing, speaking, "other" or "unknown" disabilities are classified as "not in the labour force".) However, the nature of the disability has a smaller impact on labour force participation as women get older. Among women with disabilities aged 60 to 64, almost always 90% are "not in the labour force", whatever their category of disability.

Disabilities seriously limit employment opportunities, and some are more limiting than others. For example, 67.6% of all disabled women (aged 15 to 64) have disabilities which affect mobility, but only 56.0% of **employed** disabled women have such disabilities. Agility disabilities affect nearly six in ten disabled women, but affect only about one half of **employed** disabled women. Nearly 13% of all women with disabilities have a seeing disability compared to only 8.7% of **employed** disabled women. Finally, approximately 20% of disabled women have disabilities which affect hearing, which is the same as **employed** women with disabilities. Clearly, the employed form a very particular subset of all women with disabilities.

In general, the data on labour force participation and employment reinforce earlier findings about education. There, three sub-groups of disabilities were formed: women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities (Group A); women with mobility, agility and hearing disabilities (Group B); and women with "unknown" disabilities (Group C). It was found that Group C had attained the most formal education, followed by Group B, and then, at a distance by Group A. These differences between groups were more pronounced among younger women than they were among older women.

It was expected that a similar pattern would be seen in relation to labour force participation, at least in part because of the relevance of educational attainment for work and employment. As well, the same disabling conditions that would make attaining an education difficult would make getting and holding a paid job difficult too.

It was not surprising to find that women with Group A disabilities are least likely of all to be participating in the labour force at the time of the survey. Ignoring age, the percentages in the labour force are 24.9, 28.1 and 28.9, for women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities, respectively; 31.1, 31.8, and 38.0 for women with agility, mobility and hearing disabilities, respectively; and 49.8 for women with "unknown" disabilities.

Holding age constant at 25 to 29 years of age --- the age of peak participation across the sample --- produces a similar result. The percentages of women in the labour force at this age are 42.3, 45.5 and 45.1, for women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities; 49.7, 62.0 and 62.0 for women with agility, mobility and hearing disabilities; and (inexplicably) 49.7 for women with "unknown" disabilities. Examining the percentages at any other age yields a slightly different result; but generally, Group C women are ahead of Group B women, and Group B women are ahead of Group A women, in labour force participation.

The Groups differ in one other respect that is referred to as the "consistency" of their working history. Assume that women who are, or will be, disabled typically pass through the age-specific rates of labour force participation yielded by this (cross-sectional) survey. Now, as an illustration, contrast women with a hearing disability and women with a speaking disability, as they pass through the adult life cycle.

Women with a hearing disability enter the labour force early (one-half are in the labour force between the ages 15 to 24), and remain there, in large numbers, until at least age fifty. Then, their participation rate starts to decline very rapidly, so that by age 60 to 64, only 7% are left in the labour force. But between the ages of 15 to 50, approximately 50-60% are in the labour force. (There is no way of knowing whether the same 50-60% remain in the labour force constantly over this 35 year period.)

By contrast, women with a speaking disability enter the labour force later. They are only half as likely as women with hearing disabilities to be in the labour force between ages 15 to 24, for example. Between the ages 25 to 39, the percentage of speech-impaired women in the labour force is about fifty percent higher than it had been at ages 15 to 24. After age 40, these women's participation drops off rapidly, so that by age 55 it is only about one-half as high as it had been at age 45.

Hearing-impaired women display what can be referred to as a "consistent" pattern of long-term labour force participation and gradual change in participation from one age to the next. Speech-impaired women display a less consistent pattern, with large differences in age-specific participation rates, and rapid changes in participation from one age to another. In general, women with agility disabilities are similar in their "consistency" to women with a hearing disability, while women with a seeing disability are similar in their "consistency" to women with a speaking disability. Women with "other" and mobility-impairment are less similar to other women in Groups A and B, respectively, than we might have expected. The pattern of Group C ("unknown") women in this respect is erratic but generally closer to the mobility-impaired in "consistency" than to any other disability group.

Somewhat less information is learned by examining data on employment rates. As with other people with employment difficulties, women with disabilities tend to drop out of the labour force when they cannot find employment. As a result, over 80% of women with disabilities in the labour force are classified as employed.

This employment rate varies somewhat with age and with disability. Employment rates are generally highest between ages 30 to 59 and, conversely, lowest after age 60 and between 25 to 29. Employment rates are about as high for women with Group A disabilities (the rates are 85.2 [%], 86.1 and 77.8 for women with seeing, speaking and "other" disabilities, respectively) as they are for women with Group B disabilities (where the rates are 80.2, 82.9 and 88.2 for women with mobility, agility and hearing disabilities). Women with "unknown", Group C disabilities are on the average (83.6%).

Moreover, the nature of a woman's disability influences the kind of job she gets, if she is employed. For example, 29.4% of all employed women with disabilities work in clerical jobs; but relatively fewer women with mobility, agility and speaking disabilities, and relatively more women with hearing disabilities, hold such jobs. About 11% of all employed women with disabilities work in "other" manual jobs; but relatively fewer women with seeing and hearing disabilities, and relatively more women with mobility, agility and speaking disabilities, hold such jobs.

Table 11. Employed Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 to 64, by Sex by Occupation, Canada

Occupation	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total - all occupations	269,530	100.0	442,030	100.0
Upper level managers	605*	0.2*	8,130	1.8
Middle and other managers	9,995	3.7	31,240	7.1
Professionals	34,605	12.8	37,595	8.5
Semi-professionals and technicians	17,710	6.6	14,305	3.2
Supervisors	6,450	2.4	11,270	2.5
Foremen/women	1,500	0.6	15,130	3.4
Clerical workers	79,325	29.4	26,130	5.9
Sale workers	23,650	8.8	33,685	7.6
Service workers	31,950	11.9	24,365	5.5
Skilled crafts and trades	2,940	1.1	66,715	15.1
Semi-skilled manual workers	15,375	5.7	66,835	15.1
Other manual workers	30,025	11.1	86,180	19.5
Not stated	15,395	5.7	20,460	4.6

Tables 11 and 12 compare the occupational distributions of employed women and men with disabilities, and employed non-disabled women and men. Column percentages show the percentage of employed males and females who are employed within each occupational group. For example, Table 11 shows that 0.2% of the population of employed women with disabilities are employed in upper-level managerial occupations, compared with 1.8% of men with disabilities. Table 12 shows that 0.6% of non-disabled women are employed in upper level managerial occupations, compared with 2.5% of non-disabled men.

Table 12. Non-Disabled Employed Persons, Aged 15 to 64, by Sex by Occupation, Canada

Occupation	Females		Males	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total - all occupations	4,599,795	100.0	6,040,950	100.0
Upper level managers	29,535	0.6	150,060	2.5
Middle and other managers	271,905	5.9	541,470	9.0
Professionals	726,315	15.8	661,375	10.9
Semi-professionals and technicians	224,485	4.9	264,010	4.4
Supervisors	143,195	3.1	157,990	2.6
Foremen/women	22,880*	0.5*	312,550	5.2
Clerical workers	1,462,255	31.8	319,360	5.3
Sale workers	411,205	8.9	466,770	7.7
Service workers	578,790	12.6	399,585	6.6
Skilled crafts and trades	67,720	1.5	791,605	13.1
Semi-skilled manual workers	114,595	2.5	829,255	13.7
Other manual workers	458,960	10.0	1,019,480	16.9
Not stated	87,965	1.9	127,440	2.1

Comparison of Occupation

Significant gender differences can be identified, but the most significant finding is that the occupational distributions of employed women and men with disabilities are very similar to the occupational distributions of employed non-disabled men and women. For example, 29.4% of employed women with disabilities are clerical workers and 31.8% of employed non-disabled women are also clerical workers. Fifteen percent of employed men with disabilities are in skilled crafts and trades occupations, and 13.1% of employed non-disabled men are also in skilled crafts and trades occupations.

As may be seen from Table 7A in Appendix A, there are differences in the occupational distribution of employed females with a disability aged 15 to 64 years. For example, with respect to clerical workers, women with mobility, agility, seeing, other and unknown disabilities all have similar rates of employment in the 26% to 27% range. By contrast, women with hearing disabilities are over-represented as clerical workers (35.6%) while women with speaking disabilities are under-represented (17.3%). In the occupational category of professionals, women with an unknown nature of disability are most highly represented (20.4%), followed by women with a mobility disability (12.7%), agility (12.5%), hearing (9.5%), speaking (7.8%), seeing (6.4%) and other (5.7%).

These findings suggest that for people with disabilities who are able to remove the significant barriers to labour force participation and employment, their disability plays no further part in determining their occupational distribution. Equally, people with disabilities who have the skills that allow them to fit into the existing occupation distribution are able to overcome the limitations of their disability. This suggests that providing disabled people with currently demanded skills should be a chief priority of educators.

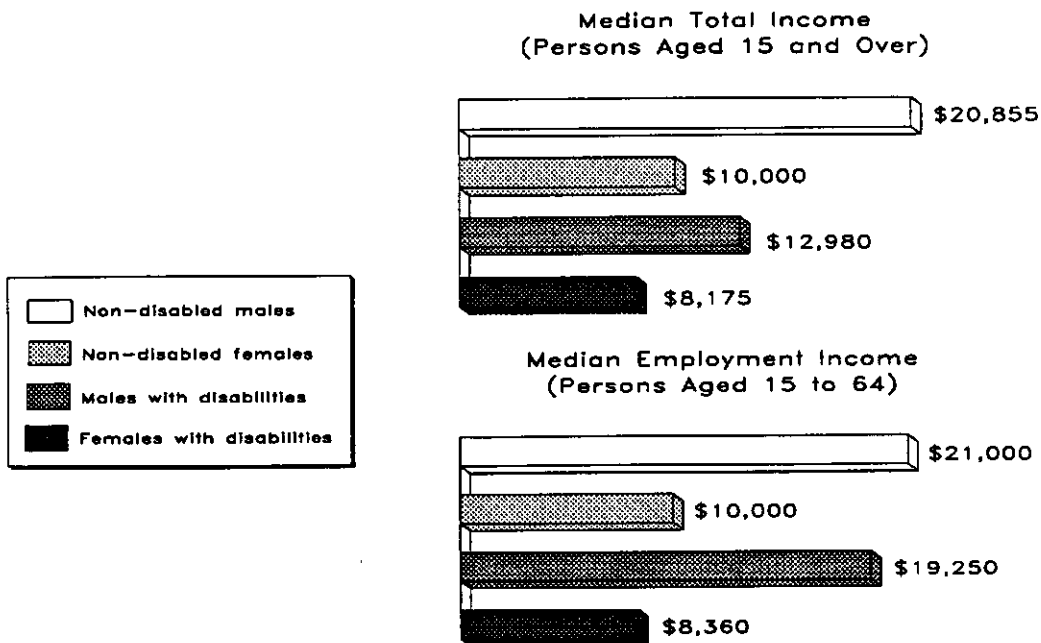
5. Income Characteristics

Types of Income

Two kinds of income are considered -- employment income and total income. The income data are presented in the form of medians, excluding those cases where either employment income or total income equal zero. Total income medians are based on the population aged 15 and over, while employment income medians are calculated only for persons aged 15 to 64.

Figure 3 presents median employment incomes and median total incomes, by gender, for disabled and non-disabled persons living in households. With respect to employment income, as may be seen from the figure, gender makes more difference than disability. The median employment income of females with a disability is \$8,360 compared to \$19,250 for males with a disability. The corresponding employment income medians for non-disabled women and men are \$10,000 and \$21,000, respectively.

Figure 3. Median Total Income and Median Employment Income for Disabled and Non-Disabled Persons, in Households, by Sex, Canada¹



¹ These medians have been calculated excluding employment income = 0, and total income = 0.

With respect to total income, Figure 3 shows that, for males, disability makes a significant difference. The median total income for females with a disability is \$8,175 which is relatively close to the median total income for non-disabled females -- \$10,000. The median total income for males with a disability is \$12,980, substantially less than the median total income for non-disabled males -- \$20,855.

Employment Income by Nature of Disability

The nature of disability appears to have an impact on employment income. Women with seeing disabilities have the highest median employment income at \$10,500, while those with an "other" disability have the lowest at \$6,200.

With respect to total income, the data show that women with the nature of disability "unknown" have the highest median total income (\$8,405) and women with speaking disabilities (\$7,200) have the lowest.

Table 13. Median Employment Income and Median Total Income for Women with Disabilities, in Households, by Nature of Disability, Canada¹

	Median Employment Income (Ages 15 - 64)	Median Total Income (Ages 15 and Over)
Total	\$ 8,360	\$ 8,170
Mobility	8,360	8,040
Agility	8,360	8,000
Seeing	10,500	8,305
Hearing	8,000	8,330
Speaking	7,000	7,200
Other	6,200	7,500
Unknown	8,650	8,405

¹ These medians have been calculated excluding employment income = 0, and total income = 0.

Impact of Age and Nature of Disability on Income

With respect to employment income variations by age among the total population of women with disabilities aged 15 to 64, the lowest median employment income (\$3,000) is found in the 15 to 24 year age group. Median employment income rises to \$8,000 for the 25 to 29 year age group and rises further to \$10,520 for the 30 to 34 year age group. Median employment income drops slightly, to \$10,000 for both the 35 to 39 year and 40 to 44 year age groups and drops further to \$8,000 for the 45 to 49 year and 50 to 54 year age groups. Median employment income then rises to \$12,945 for the 55 to 59 year age group, dropping to \$6,285 for the 60 to 64 year age group. As Table 8A in Appendix A shows, there is wide variation in median employment incomes when broken down both by type of disability and age group. The highly variable patterns of median employment income are a reflection of the earlier discussed differential of employment barriers facing women with different types of disabilities in different age groups.

With respect to variations in total income by age among the population of women with disabilities aged 15 and over, the lowest median total income (\$3,960) is found in the 15 to 24 year age group. Median total income rises to \$7,700 for the 25 to 29 year age group and to \$10,185 for the 30 to 34 year age group and declines thereafter up to and including the 60 - 64 year age group.

Median employment income varies quite widely by the nature of a woman's disability when age is controlled; this fact makes it difficult to draw simple generalizations. However, the following pattern is noted when **maximum** median incomes are examined in Table 8A, Appendix A. Women with a seeing disability earn the highest median employment income of all disabled women over age forty, and women with a speaking disability, the highest median employment income among disabled women aged 35 to 44. Among women below age 35, the highest median incomes are earned by women with "other" and "unknown" disabilities. Women with mobility, agility and hearing disabilities tend to earn employment incomes near the overall average for disabled women at each age.

The pattern is reversed when **minimum** median incomes are examined. Women with seeing and speaking disabilities earn the lowest median employment incomes at ages below 35; women with "other" disabilities earn the lowest at ages fifty and over.

What this means is that the earning experiences of women with seeing, speaking, "other" and, to a lesser degree, "unknown" disabilities are particularly variable across age groups. This fact will have special meaning for professionals who help women deal with these disabilities and must understand such age-based gaps in earnings.

Two possible interpretations present themselves. One is that employment income fluctuates widely for women with these disabilities. As they age, their earning power increases dramatically (in the case of women with seeing and speaking disabilities) or decreases dramatically (in the case of women with "other" and "unknown" disabilities). This may mean, for example, that women with seeing and speaking disabilities are better able than other disabled women to develop compensatory job skills as they age. If so, it would be worthwhile finding out how and why this comes about, and using such knowledge to improve the development of compensatory skills among other disabled women. Doing so would be particularly valuable for women with "other" or "unknown" disabilities whose compensatory skills seem to erode with increasing age, by this reasoning.

An alternative and somewhat more likely explanation is that different disabilities are more likely to occur, or show themselves for the first time, at different ages. Thus, middle aged and older women with seeing and speaking disabilities may be earning relatively high incomes because they have had time to establish a secure job and career path before their disability set in. By contrast, young women with seeing and speaking disabilities have no such career history from which to benefit.

It is harder to see why young women with "other" or "unknown" disabilities are less disadvantaged than women of the same age with seeing or speaking disabilities. On the other hand, women with "other" and "unknown" disabilities are more disadvantaged by the time they reach age 45 and over. This may mean that they have been less likely than women with seeing and speaking disabilities to enter secure jobs, or even careers, at a younger age, or that their disability makes it more difficult for them to develop compensatory skills and coast on a career path in middle age. Finally, it may mean that if such "other" and "unknown" disabilities first emerge in middle or older age, they have a more disruptive effect on a stable work life than seeing and speaking disabilities do, and they have a more disruptive effect than if they have emerged in childhood.

Clearly, these speculations raise a great many more questions than answers. Further research on these issues will be needed; ideally, such research will use longitudinal data that permit the following of cohorts of disabled women through their adult lives.

Where "total income" is concerned (see Table 9A in Appendix A) these patterns largely disappear. That is because total income combines employment income with income from a variety of public sources which are independent of age and disability. On the other hand, income that becomes available through the presence of an income-earning spouse may, conceivably, be related to age and the nature of the disability. That is, women of certain ages and disability types may be more likely than other disabled women to have such spouses present. However, the most striking fact is how very similar median total incomes are across disability groups in Table 9A, Appendix A.

6. Conclusions

One question that motivated this research was a concern with whether the combination of two economically disadvantageous conditions -- female gender and disability -- would prove more than twice as harmful economically to the people involved. Stated in a more formal way, the research was concerned with whether there was an "interaction effect" caused by the combination of being female and having a disability.

The data analysed suggest at least a partial answer. It is that such an interaction effect, if it exists, appears to be relatively small. Women with disabilities are economically disadvantaged by being women and by being disabled, but each element appears to work independently.

For example, data in Tables 5 and 6 (pages 9 and 10) compare educational attainments by gender and disability status. Overall, non-disabled people are much less likely to obtain only eight years of education or less, and much more likely to obtain a certificate, diploma or university degree. Disability slightly increases the gender difference in educational attainment, but it does so inconsistently. That is, women with disabilities are more likely than men with disabilities to achieve eight years of education (or less), but are also more likely to obtain a certificate, diploma, or university degree.

The dominant finding is that disability, not gender or the combination of gender and disability, determines educational attainment. Non-disabled people are about 23% less likely than people with disabilities to limit themselves to eight years or less of education, and 11% more likely to obtain a certificate, diploma or degree.

The data from Figure 2 (page 19), on labour force participation, shows even less interaction between gender and disability. For both non-disabled people and people with a disability, males are about 21% more likely than women to participate in the labour force. For both men and women, non-disabled people are about 29% more likely to participate in the labour force than people with disabilities (when comparison is made to the same sex). Of the two factors, disability is the more powerful influence on labour force participation, but gender is also very powerful. To determine the level of labour force participation in a population, one need only know the proportion of males and females, and the proportion who are disabled; then, add these two effects together. No interaction between them is evident in these data.

With respect to employment income (see Figure 3, page 27), it was found that for women, gender rather than disability is the most influential factor. Whether disabled or not, women earn significantly less employment income than their male counterparts.

Undoubtedly, more research along these lines is needed before researchers are justified in drawing a firm conclusion on these matters. Moreover, the fact that there is no interaction effect between gender and disability offers no cause for rejoicing: the fact remains that women with disabilities are doubly burdened by gender and disability.

On the other hand, there are some signs that justify optimism. It was noted that, at least for some disabilities, younger women are doing much better educationally and occupationally than older women with the same disability, or equally as well as young women with another disability. In some instances (as with Group B disabilities, hearing, agility and mobility), there may have been dramatic progress within the last thirty years: progress that facilitated educational attainment and labour force participation by these women. It is hoped that this is so, and not a mere artifact of the data, and further, that similar progress will be made where Group A disabilities are concerned.

But like the others, these speculations are not intended to close the discussion, only to raise questions that deserve further research. The data examined here are enormously rich, offering research possibilities far beyond what has been realized in this short monograph. It is to be hoped that, in due course, the data will be fully exploited.

Appendix A

Supporting Tables

Table 1A. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Sex by Age Group, Canada

Age Group	Females		Males	
	Number	% of Total Population	Number	% of Total Population
Total - 15 and over	1,468,245	14.7	1,326,305	13.9
15 - 24	87,640	4.3	93,685	4.5
25 - 29	60,525	5.2	63,255	5.7
30 - 34	79,245	7.3	85,670	7.9
35 - 39	82,905	8.5	86,900	8.7
40 - 44	86,620	9.0	78,670	8.3
45 - 49	81,350	12.6	81,675	12.3
50 - 54	96,530	15.7	110,520	19.1
55 - 59	133,380	23.3	130,090	21.8
60 - 64	170,750	27.4	158,225	30.2
65 - 74	291,300	33.1	277,285	38.0
75 - 84	228,010	51.8	128,865	43.8
85 and over	69,985	75.9	31,470	67.1

Table 2A. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Sex, Canada

		% of Disabled Population Reporting...							
Age Group/Sex	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown		
15 and over	M	54.7	50.0	13.0	36.8	6.7	27.4	7.5	
	F	73.2	59.6	18.7	25.4	4.9	27.2	7.1	
15 - 24	M	25.4	25.8	10.4	17.8	14.4	52.2	14.8	
	F	46.6	31.9	8.6	20.2	11.6	31.2	15.6	
25 - 29	M	41.4	33.7	10.2	17.6	9.2	32.8	15.4	
	F	49.4	37.0	10.2	18.1	9.3	31.7	10.6	
30 - 34	M	35.6	41.1	10.6	27.2	6.2	23.8	16.5	
	F	61.7	46.2	12.8	19.6	5.5	35.0	5.8	
35 - 39	M	52.2	48.8	6.1	18.3	5.4	22.5	12.1	
	F	61.4	52.5	16.3	18.0	7.4	26.5	5.4	
40 - 44	M	44.9	48.1	6.1	27.1	5.6	33.2	8.1	
	F	57.7	53.7	10.7	13.8	5.3	27.4	10.5	

.../continued

Table 2A. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Sex, Canada (concluded)

		% of Disabled Population Reporting...							
Age Group/Sex	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown		
45 - 49	M	56.0	55.5	14.7	28.3	4.7	28.3	6.0	
	F	68.8	63.2	12.8	19.3	5.8	26.5	5.6	
50 - 54	M	57.0	53.1	11.3	31.3	6.8	21.8	9.2	
	F	75.8	66.0	16.1	18.3	3.6	28.4	5.2	
55 - 59	M	60.9	54.4	10.0	36.4	4.2	22.5	6.7	
	F	78.6	62.4	10.1	22.7	3.7	24.3	4.4	
60 - 64	M	66.1	56.1	13.0	38.7	5.4	25.0	5.2	
	F	81.8	68.5	14.6	16.4	2.4	24.9	4.9	
65 - 74	M	58.4	50.7	12.8	49.4	6.0	22.9	3.8	
	F	80.6	64.4	20.5	25.5	3.4	24.2	3.4	
75 - 84	M	66.8	58.7	25.7	57.8	8.5	28.3	1.8*	
	F	81.6	63.1	29.8	40.2	4.8	27.3	1.0	
85 and over	M	76.1	71.7	31.6	69.7	8.8	37.1	--	
	F	86.0	73.3	50.6	63.2	4.4	32.2	--	

Table 3A. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Severity of Disability by Sex by Age Group, Canada

Sex/Age Group	Total Disabled Population	% of Total Population		
		Mild	Moderate	Severe
Females	1,468,245	41.6	36.4	22.0
15 - 24	87,640	62.0	29.6	8.4
25 - 29	60,525	65.2	26.4	8.4
30 - 34	79,245	52.7	37.2	10.0
35 - 39	82,905	54.1	31.7	14.2
40 - 44	86,620	55.5	31.2	13.4
45 - 49	81,350	42.9	37.2	20.0
50 - 54	96,530	43.3	33.9	22.8
55 - 59	133,380	40.9	40.3	18.8
60 - 64	170,750	40.1	36.7	23.3
65 - 74	291,300	37.6	38.9	23.4
75 - 84	228,010	27.2	41.3	31.5
85 and over	69,985	15.6	32.7	51.7

.../continued

Table 3A. Persons with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Severity of Disability by Sex by Age Group, Canada (concluded)

Sex/Age Group	Total Disabled Population	% of Total Population		
		Mild	Moderate	Severe
Males	1,326,305	50.9	32.4	16.6
15 - 24	93,685	70.8	22.2	7.0
25 - 29	63,255	66.0	25.2	8.8
30 - 34	85,670	64.0	27.2	8.8
35 - 39	86,900	60.3	29.4	10.3
40 - 44	78,670	61.7	28.2	10.1
45 - 49	81,675	51.4	32.0	16.7
50 - 54	110,520	49.6	33.1	17.4
55 - 59	130,090	43.7	38.2	18.1
60 - 64	158,225	42.4	38.1	19.5
65 - 74	277,285	49.2	33.6	17.2
75 - 84	128,865	36.8	36.0	27.3
85 and over	31,470	22.6	33.3	44.1

Table 4A. Disabled and Non-Disabled Persons, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Education by Sex by Age Group, Canada

Sex/Age Group	% of Disabled Persons Reporting...		% of Non-Disabled Reporting...	
	Grade 8 or Less	Certificate/Diploma or Degree	Grade 8 or Less	Certificate/Diploma or Degree
Females 15 +	38.8	13.6	13.9	24.2
15 - 24	10.0	8.5	3.2	16.7
25 - 29	12.2	25.2	2.5	34.7
30 - 34	13.9	21.3	5.5	33.8
35 - 39	18.0	23.1	7.7	32.9
40 - 44	17.0	32.3	12.9	30.4
45 - 49	33.5	18.0	21.7	26.8
50 - 54	38.1	14.8	28.2	19.0
55 - 59	44.6	13.5	27.2	18.1
60 - 64	51.7	8.5	31.3	15.1
65 and over	51.0	8.8	41.6	10.6

.../continued

Table 4A. Disabled and Non-Disabled Persons, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Education by Sex by Age Group, Canada (concluded)

Sex/Age Group	% of Disabled Persons Reporting...		% of Non-Disabled Reporting...	
	Grade 8 or Less	Certificate/Diploma or Degree	Grade 8 or Less	Certificate/Diploma or Degree
Males 15 +	35.9	11.4	14.0	23.3
15 - 24	15.4	5.9	4.6	12.5
25 - 29	14.9	10.3	3.8	30.4
30 - 34	11.4	20.4	4.6	31.3
35 - 39	15.9	19.7	9.3	32.4
40 - 44	21.9	15.2	10.3	31.8
45 - 49	30.3	20.2	20.0	27.2
50 - 54	30.6	11.0	25.9	25.4
55 - 59	40.7	11.9	30.5	19.6
60 - 64	41.5	10.0	40.2	15.1
65 and over	53.6	7.5	44.7	11.8

Table 5A. Females with Disabilities, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Age Group by Education by Nature of Disability, Canada

Highest level of education	% Reporting by Age Group										
	15 and over	15 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 and over
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total, all levels	38.8	10.0	12.2	13.8	18.0	17.0	33.6	38.1	44.6	51.7	51.0
0 - 8 years											
Mobility	42.0	10.3	11.3	9.9	15.4	21.3	35.0	39.8	48.2	53.2	51.4
Agility	41.8	11.1	18.7	16.4	18.1	18.5	35.1	38.0	47.6	49.7	51.2
Seeing	51.2	33.4	41.7	18.9	29.7	20.8	26.3	50.0	49.0	61.3	58.2
Hearing	43.6	12.3	11.4*	10.6	9.0*	19.5	34.8	45.4	41.9	57.3	53.1
Speaking	47.5	34.6	46.7	45.5	51.6	26.5*	34.2	54.4	45.3	51.6	58.0
Other	47.5	22.7	28.3	18.3	34.0	22.5	46.7	41.7	57.3	60.8	60.7
Unknown	19.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	14.0*	15.9*	62.7	41.0
Certificate/diploma or degree	13.6	8.5	25.2	21.3	23.1	32.3	18.0	14.8	13.5	8.5	8.8
Mobility	11.7	3.6*	22.2	22.9	24.7	26.1	15.0	13.6	10.3	8.6	8.3
Agility	12.4	8.1	16.8	25.1	26.4	26.9	14.8	13.6	11.4	8.5	8.9
Seeing	8.8	--	--	18.0	10.5	25.5	14.5	--	13.7	4.8*	7.4
Hearing	13.1	10.3	12.6*	27.8	17.4	37.6	22.6	15.0	15.8	6.8	10.2
Speaking	7.3	--	17.5*	--	11.7*	--	22.7*	--	--	--	4.6*
Other	10.1	4.0*	16.2	22.5	10.6	31.6	8.0	13.6	5.9	5.2	6.7
Unknown	25.9	14.2	52.0	30.4*	17.4*	43.7	32.8*	44.7	46.5	--	9.0*

Table 6A. Females with a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Labour Force Activity, Canada

Labour force activity	Nature of Disability						Unknown	
	Total	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking		Other
Total, 15 to 64 years	878,950	594,240	492,385	111,010	162,775	48,045	243,755	62,210
Not in labour force	540,320	396,850	330,200	81,730	99,105	33,435	169,950	30,690
In labour force	324,815	189,135	153,000	27,650	61,875	13,505	70,475	30,980
Employed	269,530	151,595	126,830	23,570	54,555	11,630	54,810	25,885
Unemployed	55,285	37,545	26,165	4,080	7,320	1,875	15,660	5,090
Not stated	13,815	8,250	9,190	1,630	1,795	1,105*	3,330	--
Total, 15 to 24 years	87,640	40,870	27,935	7,575	17,680	10,130	27,305	13,715
Not in labour force	44,500	22,680	14,615	4,700	8,425	6,955	17,155	6,015
In labour force	42,020	17,655	12,895	2,800	8,980	2,790	9,630	7,585
Employed	33,380	12,160	9,540	1,895	7,315	1,920	6,860	6,515
Unemployed	8,640	5,500	3,350	905*	1,665	870*	2,770	1,070
Not stated	1,120*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total, 25 to 29 years	60,525	29,895	22,380	6,145	10,960	5,610	19,195	6,420
Not in labour force	23,790	10,940	10,845	3,450	3,990	2,830	10,130	3,195
In labour force	36,005	18,520	11,130	2,600	6,800	2,550	8,660	3,190
Employed	26,335	12,675	9,345	2,220	6,025	2,290	6,545	2,210
Unemployed	9,670	5,845	1,785	--	775*	--	2,115	980*
Not stated	735*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

.../continued

Table 6A. Females with a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Labour Force Activity, Canada (continued)

Labour force activity	Total	Nature of Disability							Other	Unknown
		Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown		
Total, 30 to 34 years	79,245	48,900	36,625	10,105	15,560	4,330	27,740	4,610		
Not in labour force	37,315	21,260	18,795	7,415	6,600	2,540	15,645	1,540		
In labour force	41,250	27,165	17,490	2,575	8,885	1,715	11,830	3,050		
Employed	36,875	25,260	15,930	2,000	7,900	1,580	10,620	2,450		
Unemployed	4,375	1,910	1,560	575*	985*	--	1,210*	600*		
Not stated	685	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Total, 35 to 39 years	82,905	50,885	43,540	13,500	14,920	6,160	21,955	4,490		
Not in labour force	35,960	24,375	20,600	5,820	7,545	3,410	13,905	1,305		
In labour force	46,455	26,245	22,620	7,590	7,320	2,725	7,830	3,170		
Employed	39,110	21,295	19,970	7,085	6,540	2,610	5,805	2,905		
Unemployed	7,345	4,950	2,650	--	780*	--	2,030	--		
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Total, 40 to 44 years	86,620	49,960	46,540	9,300	11,940	4,625	23,735	9,090		
Not in labour force	41,510	27,740	23,855	7,255	4,675	3,415	14,170	1,460		
In labour force	44,270	21,575	22,160	1,965	7,160	1,185*	9,365	7,570		
Employed	35,835	17,185	16,530	1,575*	6,290	1,090*	8,300	5,820		
Unemployed	8,435	4,390	5,630	--	865*	--	1,065*	1,750		
Not stated	835*	645*	--	--	--	--	--	--		

.../continued

Table 6A. Females with a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Labour Force Activity, Canada (continued)

Labour force activity	Nature of Disability							Unknown
	Total	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	
Total, 45 to 49 years	81,350	55,985	51,445	10,450	15,675	4,705	21,530	4,560
Not in labour force	41,565	29,690	27,655	5,685	8,025	3,235	13,140	2,290
In labour force	38,770	25,530	23,175	4,665	7,425	1,395	7,890	2,215
Employed	34,280	21,600	20,180	4,370	6,715	1,270	7,100	2,100
Unemployed	4,490	3,930	2,995	--	710*	--	790*	--
Not stated	1,020*	765*	620*	--	--	--	--	--
Total, 50 to 54 years	96,530	73,200	63,730	15,570	17,680	3,450	27,425	5,050
Not in labour force	65,380	52,965	44,325	12,085	13,690	2,960	20,590	2,780
In labour force	29,230	18,560	18,670	3,155	3,650	--	6,380	2,260
Employed	26,300	16,095	16,560	2,690	3,075	--	5,300	2,205
Unemployed	2,930	2,465	2,110	--	575*	--	1,080*	--
Not stated	1,920	1,675	740*	--	--	--	--	--
Total, 55 to 59 years	133,380	104,800	83,295	13,490	30,290	4,925	32,365	5,830
Not in labour force	100,675	82,100	67,755	11,625	20,275	4,220	28,430	4,070
In labour force	31,185	21,545	14,580	1,555	9,695	620*	3,495	1,610
Employed	26,995	17,785	12,560	1,090*	9,080	--	2,705	1,440
Unemployed	4,190	3,765	2,015	--	615*	--	790*	--
Not stated	1,525	1,155	965*	--	--	--	--	--

.../continued

Table 6A. Females with a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group by Labour Force Activity, Canada (concluded)

Labour force activity	Nature of Disability							
	Total	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown
Total, 60 to 64 years	170,750	139,745	116,895	24,880	28,075	4,110	42,500	8,450
Not in labour force	149,630	125,100	101,765	23,700	25,880	3,870	36,785	8,035
In labour force	15,640	12,335	10,290	745*	1,960	--	5,395	--
Employed	10,430	7,540	6,215	655*	1,620	--	1,575	--
Unemployed	5,210	4,795	4,070	--	--	--	3,820	--
Not stated	5,485	2,310	4,845	--	--	--	--	--

Table 7A. Employed Females With a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Occupation, Canada

Occupation	Nature of Disability							Unknown
	Total	Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	
Total - all occupations	269,530	151,595	126,830	23,570	54,555	11,630	54,810	25,885
Upper level managers	605*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Middle and other managers	9,995	7,060	5,115	865*	1,035*	--	705*	730*
Professionals	34,605	19,255	15,895	1,515	5,160	910*	3,145	5,290
Semi-professionals and technicians	17,710	11,615	7,745	2,890	2,320	830*	9,095	1,585
Supervisors	6,450	4,490	4,550	1,705	2,840	--	1,915	--
Foremen/women	1,500	1,155*	1,155*	--	--	--	--	--
Clerical workers	79,325	40,870	33,840	6,475	19,475	2,010	14,135	6,845
Sale workers	23,650	14,160	12,820	775*	3,490	--	4,370	2,475
Service workers	31,950	17,330	14,740	3,220	6,160	1,750	4,865	3,915
Skilled crafts and trades	2,940	1,630	1,910	--	--	--	575	--
Semi-skilled manual workers	15,375	6,635	5,900	1,030*	6,445	635*	5,335	1,335
Other manual workers	30,025	18,800	16,180	2,090	3,775	1,755	4,995	1,870
Not stated	15,395	8,225	6,795	2,825	2,965	2,935	5,595	1,405

Table 8A. Median Employment Income for Females With a Disability, Aged 15 to 64, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group, Canada

Age group	Total	Nature of Disability							Unknown
		Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other		
Total - 15 - 64	8,360	8,360	8,360	10,500	8,000	7,000	6,200	8,650	
15 - 24	3,000	2,035	5,000	2,405	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
25 - 29	8,000	8,000	6,715	3,100	8,000	3,000	4,000	25,875	
30 - 34	10,520	12,440	10,000	2,350	7,000	3,000	20,000	12,000	
35 - 39	10,000	8,350	11,000	11,000	8,000	13,590	8,000	13,000	
40 - 44	10,000	10,000	10,000	23,770	5,000	23,770	8,100	7,500	
45 - 49	8,000	9,500	9,025	13,500	8,160	8,000	10,600	6,375	
50 - 54	8,000	9,685	6,000	18,000	15,070	4,495*	4,410	10,515	
55 - 59	12,945	9,000	9,225	12,000	12,945	10,000*	6,565	6,400	
60 - 64	6,285	5,305	5,830	4,000	6,000	--	2,630	8,650	

Table 9A. Median Total Income for Females With a Disability, Aged 15 and Over, in Households, by Nature of Disability by Age Group, Canada

Age group	Total	Nature of Disability						
		Mobility	Agility	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Other	Unknown
Total	8,170	8,040	8,000	8,305	8,330	7,200	7,500	8,405
15 - 24	3,960	3,500	5,130	4,225	3,600	4,225	4,355	2,300
25 - 29	7,700	9,640	5,380	5,160	8,200	4,965	4,960	15,425
30 - 34	10,185	12,440	11,110	9,610	7,900	4,670	8,295	9,685
35 - 39	10,000	9,760	10,000	8,545	9,220	6,640	8,000	13,000
40 - 44	10,000	8,595	8,310	18,000	14,720	15,230	10,625	10,840
45 - 49	7,805	7,550	7,120	7,500	8,000	5,995	6,400	7,805
50 - 54	7,295	6,925	7,980	6,800	5,575	4,750	5,575	8,000
55 - 59	6,365	5,700	6,000	5,245	9,270	5,305	5,005	2,365
60 - 64	5,805	5,500	5,500	5,015	5,195	5,790	5,805	13,200
65 and over	8,330	8,325	8,305	8,305	8,435	8,010	8,305	8,860

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, that as expected, the 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.

As HALS was a sample survey, 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

	Number	%
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	3,316,875	100.0

Data Quality

Statistics from the HALS database 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

*"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 database 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 database. 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

- 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, emotional or psychiatric disability, or because of developmental delay.
- Unknown:** limited but nature not specified.

Severity of Disability

A severity scale for adults has been developed 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, contact the Post-Censal Surveys Program.) 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
severe	-	11 or more points

Labour Force Activity

Refers to the labour market activity of the working age population who, in the week prior to enumeration were **employed** or **unemployed**. The remainder of the working age population is classified as **not in labour force**. Data are available for persons 15 to 64 years of age, excluding institutional residents.

Employed

Refers to persons who, during the week prior to enumeration:

- (a) did any work at all excluding housework or other maintenance or repairs around the home and volunteer work; or
- (b) were absent from their job or business because of own temporary illness or disability, vacation, labour dispute at their place of work, or were absent for other reasons.

Data are available for persons 15 to 64 years of age, excluding institutional residents.

Unemployed

Refers to persons who, during the week prior to enumeration:

- (a) were without work, had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or
- (b) had been on lay-off and expected to return to their job; or
- (c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.

Data are available for persons 15 to 64 years of age, excluding institutional residents.

Not in Labour Force

The Not in Labour Force classification refers to those persons who, in the week prior to enumeration, were unwilling or unable to offer or supply their labour services under conditions existing in the labour market. It includes persons who looked for work during the last four weeks but who were not available to start work in the reference week, as well as persons who did not work, did not have a new job to start in four weeks or less, were not on temporary lay-off or did not look for work in the four weeks prior to enumeration. Data are available for persons 15 to 64 years of age, excluding institutional residents.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the number unemployed in that group expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.

Participation Rate

The participation rate represents the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population 15 to 64 years of age. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, marital status, etc.) is the labour force in that group expressed as a percentage of the population for that group.

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 are 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, but 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.#
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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. In addition to this report, 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 with 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.

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. Catalogue #82-615, Volume 1, available August 13, 1990, \$35 (\$42 US in U.S.A., \$49 US other countries).

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 population 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.

* * * *

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