

## Housing Statistics in Canada

# Housing Experiences in Canada: Persons with disabilities

by Zach Thurston and Jeff Randle

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## Housing Experiences in Canada: Persons with disabilities

The Housing Experiences in Canada series of fact sheets highlights the diversity of housing situations experienced by different groups of people living across Canada.

This fact sheet focuses on persons with disabilities living in private dwellings. Statistics below are derived from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD). The 2017 CSD identifies persons with disabilities based on responses to the disability screening questions in the survey.<sup>1,2</sup> Since this fact sheet focuses on persons with disabilities in private dwellings, those living in collective dwellings such as hospitals and nursing homes are not included in the data.<sup>3</sup> More fact sheets are available on the [Housing Experiences in Canada issue page](#).

The *National Housing Strategy Act* (2019) declared that “the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law.” Adequate housing is understood in international law as housing that provides secure tenure; is affordable; is habitable; provides access to basic infrastructure; is located close to employment, services and amenities; is accessible for persons of all abilities; and is culturally appropriate.

The [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) also includes specific rights related to housing for persons with disabilities. For instance, the CRPD requires states to provide an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, including the right to adequate and accessible housing and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.

This fact sheet focuses on the experience of persons with disabilities living in private dwellings using the following indicators collected and produced by Statistics Canada: tenure status of household, shelter costs, housing affordability and suitability, condition of dwelling, core housing need, and household living arrangements.

To provide a deeper understanding of the housing experience of persons with disabilities, these indicators were linked to the 2017 CSD from the 2016 Census of Population. As a result, the data presented in this fact sheet represent the housing experience of persons with disabilities on May 10, 2016. While these indicators together do not perfectly measure adequate housing as defined in international law, they are nevertheless useful proxies for understanding the housing experiences of people living in Canada.

### Highlights from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability: Persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup>

Percentage of the population: 18.1%

Average age: 54 years

Median household income<sup>2,3</sup>: \$67,321

Percent living in poverty<sup>4</sup>: 16.8%

Unemployment rate: 5.2%

Percentage in rural areas: 18.4%

Percentage who are immigrants: 21.4%

1. Persons with disabilities who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.
2. Median household income is derived from the set of all persons with disabilities. In cases where two or more persons with disabilities share a household, that household income is counted for each person with disabilities in the household.
3. Median household income reflects income earned in the 2015 calendar year.
4. Poverty status is based on the Market Basket Measure (MBM).

1. To identify persons with disabilities, the disability screening questions first measure the degree to which difficulties are experienced across various domains of functioning, and then ask how often daily activities are limited by these difficulties. Only persons who report a limitation in their day-to-day activities are identified as having a disability. For more information, please see the [Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017: Concepts and Methods Guide](#)

2. The 2017 CSD was based on a sample of persons who reported having a long-term condition or difficulty on the activities of daily living question from the 2016 Census long-form questionnaire, and who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016. Since the long-form census questionnaire excludes the institutionalized population and those living in other collective dwellings, such as Canadian Armed Forces bases, the CSD covers only persons living in private dwellings in Canada.

3. A collective dwelling refers to a dwelling of a communal, institutional or commercial nature. Most of the population in Canada resides in private dwellings, but a small portion lives in collective dwellings such as shelters, campgrounds, hospitals, nursing or senior homes, jails, lodging or rooming houses, or even hotels or motels.

## Tenure status of household



The tenure status of a household refers to whether the household owns or rents its private dwelling.<sup>4</sup> Homeownership is an important aspect of Canadian society and can affect outcomes for many housing indicators. For this reason, owner and renter households are often considered separately in housing analyses. In many cases, researchers further examine whether households in owner-occupied dwellings have mortgages on their dwellings and whether renter households pay subsidized rent.

According to the 2017 CSD, 67.4% of the 6,246,640 persons with disabilities lived in a private dwelling owned by a member of their household in 2016. This was smaller than the share of the total population (71.9%) living in owner-occupied dwellings.

The 4,212,450 persons with disabilities who owned their homes or lived with someone who owned their home can be further divided into 2,344,090 (37.5%) who lived in a dwelling with a mortgage, and the remaining 1,802,520 (28.9%) who lived in a dwelling without a mortgage.

Persons with disabilities were more likely to live in an owner-occupied dwelling without a mortgage than the total population (26.3%). This could be, in part, because of the increased prevalence of disability with age, and the positive correlation between age and homeownership in Canada. Among working-age adults aged 25 to 64 years, 20% had a disability; for seniors aged 65 years and older, this figure was almost double, at 38%.<sup>5</sup>

The remaining 2,033,010 persons with disabilities lived in rented dwellings. These individuals can be further divided into 340,330 (5.4%) living in subsidized housing and 1,689,730 (27.1%) not living in subsidized housing. Persons with disabilities were more likely to live in rented dwellings (32.5%) than the total population (26.4%), and they were also more likely to live in subsidized rented dwellings (5.4%) than the total population (3.0%).

**Table 1**  
**Tenure status of households for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, tenure status</b>	<b>6,246,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,643,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Owner	4,212,450	67.4	20,607,185	71.9
With a mortgage	2,344,090	37.5	13,062,030	45.6
Without a mortgage	1,802,520	28.9	7,545,155	26.3
Renter	2,033,010	32.5	7,566,300	26.4
Subsidized housing	340,330	5.4	869,930	3.0
Not subsidized housing	1,689,730	27.1	6,696,370	23.4

1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

**Note:** Figures may not add up to 100% because of rounding

**Source:** 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.

4. A household is considered to own its dwelling if a member of the household owns it, even if it is not fully paid for (for example, if there is a mortgage or another claim on it). A household is considered to rent its dwelling if no member of the household owns it. A household is considered to rent its dwelling even if the dwelling is provided without cash rent or at a reduced rent, or if the dwelling is part of a cooperative.

5. Morris, S., Fawcett, G., Brisebois, L., & Hughes, J. (2018). A demographic, employment and income profile of Canadians with disabilities aged 15 years and over, 2017. *Canadian Survey on Disability Reports*, (2018002). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2018002-eng.htm>

## Housing accessibility

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) also requires states to recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live independently and in the community, with choices equal to others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, and have access to community support services. Canada agreed to follow the CRPD in 2010 and has a duty to fulfill these rights.

An important factor of living independently in the community for persons with disabilities is the accessibility of the dwelling they live in. An accessible dwelling provides persons with disabilities the tools they need to move freely in their home, including persons with physical disabilities. Of the 55.8% of persons with disabilities who have physical disabilities, 44.9% required at least one type of aid, assistive device or accessibility feature within their home.<sup>6</sup> Examples of these aids, assistive devices and features include access ramps, walk-in baths or showers, lift devices or elevators, lowered counters, and automatic doors.

Over 1 in 10 (13.0%) of those with physical disabilities indicated there were aids and assistive devices that they needed, but did not have. This indicates that there is still much work to do in Canada to ensure that persons with physical disabilities are able to live independently in their communities.

## Shelter costs



Shelter costs refer to the monthly dwelling-related expenses paid by households, including mortgage or rent. For owner-occupied dwellings, shelter costs include, where applicable, mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees, along with the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services. For renter households, shelter costs include, where applicable, rent and the costs of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services.<sup>7</sup>

In Canada, the median shelter cost paid by persons with disabilities was \$970 in 2016.<sup>8</sup> This was similar to the median shelter cost of \$1,020 for all private households.

Persons with disabilities in owner-occupied and rented dwellings also had similar median shelter costs when compared with their counterparts in the total population with the same tenure status.

The median shelter costs paid by households in owner-occupied dwellings are typically larger when there is a mortgage on the dwelling, because a mortgage can represent a large portion of monthly shelter costs. Still, regardless of whether there was a mortgage on the dwelling or not, there were no significant differences between the shelter costs paid by persons with disabilities and the total population.

The same was true for renters, where there was no discernible difference between the median amount paid by persons with disabilities and the total population.

6. Choi, R. (2021). Accessibility Findings from the Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. *Canadian Survey on Disability Reports*, (2021002). <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2021002-eng.htm>

7. In addition to usual monthly shelter costs, persons with disabilities may face other costs associated with living with a disability, or modifying their dwelling to meet their needs.

8. The 2017 CSD data cannot be used to produce household-level estimates. Median shelter costs are derived from the set of all persons with a disability. In cases where two or more persons with a disability share a household, that shelter cost amount is counted for each person with a disability in the household when deriving the median.

**Table 2**  
**Monthly shelter costs for persons with disabilities and all households in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>	All households <sup>2</sup>
	median (dollars)	
<b>Total, shelter costs<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,020</b>
Owner	1,030	1,130
With a mortgage	1,570	1,620
Without a mortgage	540	540
Renter	910	910
Subsidized housing	510	520
Not subsidized housing	980	960

1. Persons with disabilities who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for all households are sourced from the 2016 Census.

3. Owner and renter households in non-farm, off-reserve private dwellings.

Source: 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.

## Housing affordability



Housing affordability is derived using the shelter cost-to-income ratio, which refers to the proportion of average total income households spend on shelter costs. A household is said to have affordable housing if it spends less than 30% of its total income on shelter costs.<sup>9</sup>

According to the 2017 CSD, 1,544,600 persons with disabilities (25.0%) lived in households that spent more than 30% of their total household income on shelter. This was higher than the 19.7% of the total population, despite persons with disabilities having similar or lower median shelter costs. Persons with disabilities also tended to have higher rates of poverty, which may have contributed to the relatively higher rates of unaffordable housing.<sup>10</sup>

Persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings (15.6%) were slightly more likely to be in unaffordable housing than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (14.2%). This difference was even greater for persons with disabilities in rented dwellings, where 44.4% of individuals were estimated to live in unaffordable housing compared with 34.6% of the total population.

For persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings, the difference in the rate of unaffordable housing compared with the total population differed depending on the presence of a mortgage. Persons with disabilities in households with a mortgage (21.8%) were slightly more likely to be in unaffordable housing than the total population with a mortgage (19.8%). For persons with disabilities in households without a mortgage (7.4%), the proportion of individuals living in unaffordable housing was higher than for the total population (4.4%).

The rate of unaffordable housing was higher for persons with disabilities in renter households with a subsidy (41.4% compared with 34.9% for the total population) and without a subsidy (45.0% compared with 34.5% for the total population).

9. In 1986, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the provinces agreed to use the 30% threshold to measure affordability for the purposes of defining need for social housing. This agreement was reached during the development of federal and provincial social housing programs. Research on housing affordability in the territories often uses the same threshold.

10. Statistics Canada. (2018, November 28). Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017. The Daily. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm>

**Table 3**  
**Unaffordable housing for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, shelter-cost-to-income ratio<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>6,169,340</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,013,165</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Spending more than 30% of income on shelter costs	1,544,600	25.0	5,505,845	19.7
Owner	644,670	15.6	2,906,115	14.2
With a mortgage	511,810	21.8	2,574,030	19.8
Without a mortgage	132,870	7.4	332,090	4.4
Renter	899,930	44.4	2,599,730	34.6
Subsidized housing	140,860	41.4	300,220	34.9
Not subsidized housing	759,070	45.0	2,299,515	34.5

1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

3. All persons in owner and renter households with total household income greater than zero in non-farm, off-reserve private dwellings.

Source: 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.

## Housing suitability



Housing suitability refers to whether a private household is living in suitable accommodations according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS), that is, whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household. The indicator assesses the required number of bedrooms for a household based on the age and sex of household members, and the relationships between them.

According to the 2017 CSD, 368,720 persons with disabilities (5.9%) were in unsuitable housing, meaning that there were not enough bedrooms in the dwelling to meet the needs of their household, according to the NOS. This is lower than the 7.9% of the total population living in unsuitable housing, and is partly because of the relatively larger share of persons with disabilities living in one-person households and couple families without children (see Table 8).

Persons with disabilities in owner-occupied and rented dwellings were also less likely to be in unsuitable housing than the total population. More specifically, 3.7% of persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings were estimated to live in unsuitable housing, and 10.4% of persons with disabilities in rented dwellings. For the total population, 5.0% of individuals in owner-occupied dwellings were estimated to live in unsuitable housing, and 15.3% of individuals in rented dwellings.

When owner-occupied dwellings are differentiated by the presence of a mortgage, persons with disabilities living in dwellings with (5.0%) and without (1.9%) a mortgage experienced unsuitable housing at a lower rate than the total population in dwellings with (6.1%) and without (2.9%) a mortgage.

Persons with disabilities in renter households with and without a subsidy had lower rates of unsuitable housing than the total population. There was an 8.9 percentage point difference in the unsuitable housing rate between persons with disabilities (7.2%) and the total population (16.1%) living in subsidized housing and a 4.1 percentage point difference in the unsuitable housing rate between persons with disabilities (11.1%) and the total population (15.2%) living in non-subsidized housing.



**Table 4**  
**Housing suitability for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, housing suitability</b>	<b>6,246,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,643,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Not suitable	368,720	5.9	2,249,695	7.9
Owner	156,960	3.7	1,025,080	5.0
With a mortgage	116,710	5.0	802,760	6.1
Without a mortgage	34,720	1.9	222,325	2.9
Renter	211,710	10.4	1,155,000	15.3
Subsidized housing	24,530	7.2	139,790	16.1
Not subsidized housing	187,190	11.1	1,015,210	15.2

1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

Source: 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.

## Condition of dwelling



Data on the condition of the dwelling are used to provide some insight into whether housing is habitable. Dwellings are classified into three groups by condition: needing regular maintenance only, needing minor repairs and needing major repairs. Dwellings in need of major repairs are considered to be inadequate housing. Examples of dwellings in need of major repairs include homes with defective plumbing or electrical wiring, and housing needing structural repairs to walls, floors or ceilings.

According to the 2017 CSD, 9.9% of all persons with disabilities lived in private dwellings that were in need of major repairs. This is higher than the 6.4% of the total population that reported living in dwellings in need of major repairs.

Persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings (9.1%) also lived in dwellings in need of major repairs at a higher rate than the total population (5.4%). This was true for renter households as well, where persons with disabilities (11.5%) were more likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs than the total population (8.4%).

When individuals in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage are compared, 10.4% of persons with disabilities lived in dwellings requiring major repairs compared with 5.8% of the total population. For persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage, 7.3% were estimated to live in dwellings requiring major repairs compared with 4.8% of the total population.

Among persons with disabilities in renter households, 12.5% of those in subsidized housing were in dwellings in need of major repairs and 11.2% of those not living in subsidized housing. This was higher than the proportion of the total renter population with (10.7%) and without (8.1%) a subsidy living in dwellings in need of major repairs.

**Table 5**  
**Condition of dwelling for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, dwelling condition</b>	<b>6,246,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,643,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Dwelling in need of major repairs	616,020	9.9	1,847,285	6.4
Owner	383,040	9.1	1,116,900	5.4
With a mortgage	243,660	10.4	753,670	5.8
Without a mortgage	132,320	7.3	363,230	4.8
Renter	232,940	11.5	633,850	8.4
Subsidized housing	42,510	12.5	93,325	10.7
Not subsidized housing	190,010	11.2	540,530	8.1

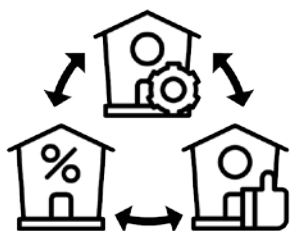
1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

Source: 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.



## Core housing need



Core housing need touches on several elements of the right to adequate housing. It considers whether the needs of the household in terms of affordability, suitability and the condition of the dwelling are being met and, if not, whether affordable rental housing is available that meets all these needs. A household is said to be in core housing need if its dwelling falls below at least one of the standards for affordability, suitability or the condition of the dwelling, and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing that is acceptable (meets all three housing standards).

According to the 2017 CSD, 15.9% of persons with disabilities were living in households in core housing need. This is higher than the 10.1% of the total population in core housing need.

Persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings (7.4%) were in core housing need at a higher rate than the total population in owner-occupied dwellings (5.2%). For renter households, the rate of core housing need was also higher for persons with disabilities. The proportion of persons with disabilities in rented dwellings in core housing need was 33.6%, while for the total population in rented dwellings, the rate was 23.8%.

The incidence of core housing need was higher for persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings with and without a mortgage compared with the total population. Among persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings with a mortgage, 7.6% were in core housing need compared with 5.8% of the total population. For persons with disabilities in owner-occupied dwellings without a mortgage, 7.2% were in core housing need compared with 4.2% of the total population.

Similarly, the incidence of core housing need varied for renters, depending on whether there was a rent subsidy. Persons with disabilities in renter households with a subsidy (44.5%) were more likely to be in core housing need than the total population with a subsidy (39.6%). The same was true for persons with disabilities in renter households without a subsidy (31.4%), where the rate of core housing need was higher than that of the total population without a subsidy (21.7%).

**Table 6**  
**Core housing need status for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017**

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, core housing need<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>6,024,260</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27,307,135</b>	<b>100.0</b>
In core housing need	956,480	15.9	2,750,815	10.1
Owner	302,870	7.4	1,055,315	5.2
With a mortgage	174,690	7.6	742,795	5.8
Without a mortgage	128,180	7.2	312,520	4.2
Renter	653,610	33.6	1,695,505	23.8
Subsidized housing	146,370	44.5	329,660	39.6
Not subsidized housing	507,240	31.4	1,365,840	21.7

1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

3. Only persons in private, non-farm, non-reserve and owner or renter households with incomes greater than zero and shelter cost-to-income ratios of less than 100% are assessed for core housing need.

Source: 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population.

## Housing experiences of men and women with disabilities

In 1995, the Government of Canada committed to using Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) to advance gender equality in Canada, as part of the ratification of the United Nations' [Beijing Platform for Action](#).

Gender equality is enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which is part of the Constitution of Canada. Gender equality means that diverse groups of women, men and gender-diverse people are able to participate fully in all spheres of Canadian life, contributing to an inclusive and democratic society.

GBA Plus is an analytical process used to assess how diverse groups of women, men and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The “plus” in GBA Plus is not just about differences between people on the basis of gender. Everyone has multiple characteristics that intersect and contribute to who they are. GBA Plus considers many other identity factors, such as race, ethnicity, immigrant status, religion, age, presence of a mental or physical disability, and how the interaction between these factors influences the way people experience government policies and initiatives.

The data presented here highlight differences in housing experiences for men and women with disabilities. Compared with men with disabilities, women with disabilities were more likely to live in owner-occupied dwellings, and less likely to live in unaffordable housing and be in core housing need.

**Table 7**  
**Housing indicators for men and women with disabilities, Canada, 2017**

	Men with disabilities <sup>1</sup>	Women with disabilities <sup>1</sup>
	percent	
In an owner-occupied dwelling	65.7	69.6
In a household spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs <sup>2</sup>	27.3	21.5
In unsuitable housing	6.5	5.1
In a dwelling requiring major repairs	10.1	9.5
In core housing need <sup>3</sup>	16.7	13.6

1. Persons with disabilities who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. All persons in owner and renter households with total household income greater than zero in non-farm, off-reserve private dwellings.

3. Only persons in private, non-farm, non-reserve and owner or renter households with incomes greater than zero and shelter cost-to-income ratios of less than 100% are assessed for core housing need.

**Source:** 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability.

More information on GBA Plus can be found at the Government of Canada's [Status of Women](#) web page.

More information on the housing experiences of other subpopulations, broken down by age and gender groups, immigrant status, population groups designated as visible minorities, Indigenous populations, and other groups can be found in the additional fact sheets on the [Housing Experiences in Canada issue page](#). Additional data products that focus more on an intersectional GBA Plus analysis of housing experiences will also be released through the Housing Experiences in Canada issue page as they become available.

## Household living arrangements



Household living arrangements refer to whether a person lives with another person or other people, and, if so, whether they are related to that person or those people. Households can be further differentiated based on whether they are census family households or non-census-family households. Census family households contain at least one census family.<sup>11</sup> Non-census-family households are either one person living alone or a group of two or more people who live together but do not constitute a census family (for example, roommates).

According to the 2017 CSD, 71.1% of persons with disabilities lived as part of a one-census-family household. This was below the rate for the total population (76.8%).

Persons with disabilities in one-census-family households were more likely to live in a couple family without children (31.3%) than with children (28.2%). The opposite was true for the total population, where 39.5% of individuals lived in a couple family household with children and 27.1% lived in a couple family household without children. Persons with disabilities (11.6%) lived in a one-parent family household at a higher rate than the total population (10.2%).

Living in a non-census-family household was more common for persons with disabilities (25.3%) than the total population (18.5%). This is because a large proportion of persons with disabilities lived alone (20.6%). By comparison, 13.9% of the total population in private households in Canada lived alone.

**Table 8**

### Household living arrangements for persons with disabilities and the total population in private dwellings, Canada, 2017

	Persons with disabilities <sup>1</sup>		Total population <sup>1,2</sup>	
	count	percent	count	percent
<b>Total, household type</b>	<b>6,246,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28,643,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>
One-census-family household <sup>3</sup>	4,439,520	71.1	21,986,570	76.8
Couple family without children	1,952,760	31.3	7,752,085	27.1
Couple family with children	1,763,040	28.2	11,319,220	39.5
One parent family	723,720	11.6	2,915,265	10.2
Multiple-census-family household <sup>3</sup>	227,430	3.6	1,364,755	4.8
Non-census-family household	1,578,740	25.3	5,291,690	18.5
One-person household	1,283,940	20.6	3,967,765	13.9
Two- or more person household	294,800	4.7	1,323,925	4.6

1. Persons who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Data for total population are sourced from the 2016 Census.

3. One-census-family households and multiple-census-family households may include additional persons who do not belong to a census family.

**Note:** Figures may not add up to 100% because of rounding

**Sources:** 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability and 2016 Census of Population

## Housing experiences for persons with disabilities by disability type

Persons with disabilities in Canada are diverse. There are several different types of disabilities, ranging from disabilities that are cognitive in nature to pain-related disabilities, which may be experienced differently by each individual. To gain a further understanding of the housing experiences of persons with disabilities, this section breaks down the housing indicators by type of disability.

Among persons with disabilities, persons with mental health-related and cognitive disabilities were least likely to live in an owner-occupied dwelling, had the highest rates of unaffordable housing, lived in dwellings in need of major repairs more often and were more likely to be in core housing need. In terms of owner-occupied dwellings, 58.3% of persons with mental health-related disabilities and 60.0% of persons with cognitive disabilities lived in owner-occupied dwellings. Rates were higher for those with sensory (69.3%), physical (66.3%) and pain-related (67.4%) disabilities.

11. A census family is defined as a married couple and the children, if any, of either or both spouses; a couple living common law and the children, if any, of either or both partners; or a single parent of any marital status with at least one child living in the same dwelling and that child or those children. All members of a particular census family live in the same dwelling. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Children may be children by birth, marriage, common-law union or adoption, regardless of their age or marital status, as long as they live in the dwelling and do not have their own married spouse, common-law partner or child living in the dwelling. Grandchildren living with their grandparents but with no parents present also constitute a census family.

For persons with mental health-related and cognitive disabilities, higher rates of unaffordable housing and dwellings requiring major repairs were coupled with a higher rate of core housing need. More specifically, 21.2% of persons with mental health-related disabilities and 20.8% of those with cognitive disabilities lived in core housing need. Rates were lower for those with sensory (16.8%), physical (18.1%) and pain-related (17.0%) disabilities.

**Table 9**  
**Housing indicators for persons with disabilities by disability type, Canada, 2017**

	Disability type <sup>1,2</sup>				
	Mental health-related	Cognitive	Physical	Pain-related	Sensory
	percent				
In an owner-occupied dwelling	58.3	60.0	66.3	67.4	69.3
In a household spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs <sup>3</sup>	30.8	30.4	26.9	25.8	25.1
In unsuitable housing	6.9	7.1	6.1	6.1	6.8
In a dwelling requiring major repairs	12.0	12.3	10.3	10.6	9.3
In core housing need <sup>4</sup>	21.2	20.8	18.1	17	16.8

1. Persons with disabilities who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the 2016 Census, May 10, 2016.

2. Includes persons with one or more disabilities.

3. All persons in owner and renter households with total household income greater than zero in non-farm, off-reserve private dwellings.

4. Only persons in private, non-farm, non-reserve, and owner or renter households with incomes greater than zero and shelter cost-to-income ratios of less than 100% are assessed for core housing need.

**Note:** Physical disabilities include mobility, flexibility and dexterity disabilities; sensory disabilities include seeing and hearing disabilities; and cognitive disabilities include learning, memory and developmental disabilities.

**Source:** 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability

## About the data

While the severity of disabilities is not discussed here, it is important to remember that severity is a major factor to consider when looking at the lives of persons with disabilities. Those with more severe disabilities often have lower rates of employment, lower income even when employed full year and full time, and a greater likelihood of living in poverty regardless of age.<sup>12</sup>

The Canadian Housing Survey (CHS) is a representative sample survey drawn from a frame of private dwellings across Canada. Since the survey sample is drawn from private households, individuals living in the following forms of housing are not included in the data:

- [Canadian Survey on Disability](#).
- [Census of Population](#).

The 2017 CSD is a national survey of Canadians aged 15 and older whose everyday activities are limited because of a long-term condition or health-related problem. The survey was based on a sample of persons who reported having a long-term condition or difficulty on the activities of daily living question from the 2016 Census long-form questionnaire. All persons who reported having difficulty “sometimes,” “often” or “always” to one of the activities of daily living questions on the 2016 Census long-form questionnaire were included in the sample frame from which the survey sample was drawn.

Since the long-form questionnaire for the 2016 Census did not sample from the institutionalized population and those living in other collective dwellings, the CSD covers only persons living in private dwellings in Canada. As a result, individuals living in the following forms of housing are excluded from the data:

- people living on reserves and in other Indigenous settlements
- official representatives of foreign countries living in Canada, and their families
- members of religious and other communal colonies
- members of the Canadian Armed Forces living on military bases
- people living in seniors’ residences

12. Statistics Canada. (2018, November 28). Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017 *The Daily*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm>

- people living full time in institutions (e.g., inmates of penal institutions, and chronic care patients living in hospitals and nursing homes)
- people living in other types of collective dwellings (e.g., shelters, campgrounds and hotels).

Respondent data from the 2016 Census were linked to the 2017 CSD. Approximately 300 census variables covering 15 distinct subject-matter areas were selected and linked to the final CSD file for 2017, both for persons with disabilities and for persons without disabilities. These subject-matter areas included sociocultural variables, family and household living arrangements, core housing need, education, employment, and income. It is important to note that these census variables refer to each respondent's situation on the day of the 2016 Census, that is, as of May 10, 2016, or, in the case of income, the calendar year preceding the census. For more information on the 2017 CSD, please see [detailed information for 2017](#).