



Statistics
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Disability Statistics: Canadian Experience



CANADA 150

Telling Canada's
story in numbers

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting on
the Guidelines and Principles for the
Development of Disability Statistics
UN Headquarters, New York**

12-14 July, 2017

Canada 



Over 30 years of collecting survey data on disability in Canada

Drivers:

Special Parliamentary Committee on the Disabled and Handicapped (Obstacles Report, 1981)

Commitments to reporting under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

Legislative requirements under the *Employment Equity Act*

Canadian Health and Disability Survey (Labour Force Survey Supplement, 1983, 1984)

Post-censal surveys:

Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS), 1986, 1991

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS), 2001, 2006

Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), 2012, 2017



Disability: An Evolving Concept

Medical
Model

- Health and Activity Limitation Survey

Hybrid

- Participation and Activity Limitation Survey

Social
Model

- Canadian Survey on Disability



Different Concepts, Different Measures

Medical model

- Disability is a diagnosed condition, functional health issue resulting in a damaged body.
- Does not recognize the role of the person's environment

Social model

- Disability is a limitation of daily activities impacting one's participation and inclusion in society
- Recognizes the role of environment and social factors



Three Different Measures: Health Status, Functional Health, Disability

The Health
Utilities
Index Mark 3
(HUI3)

Washington
Group set of
questions

Disability
Screening
Questions
(DSQ)



What are the Disability Screening Questions (DSQ)?

With the New Disability Data Strategy (2010), better efforts to identify persons with disabilities led to the creation of DSQ

Two-step approach:

- 1) 6 filter questions asked to all respondents to first identify if they are likely to have a disability;
- 2) Up to 30 screener questions asked to persons identified in step 1 to see if they have a disability as well as the type and severity

Identifies 10 disability types + other

DSQ used on post-censal and other social surveys



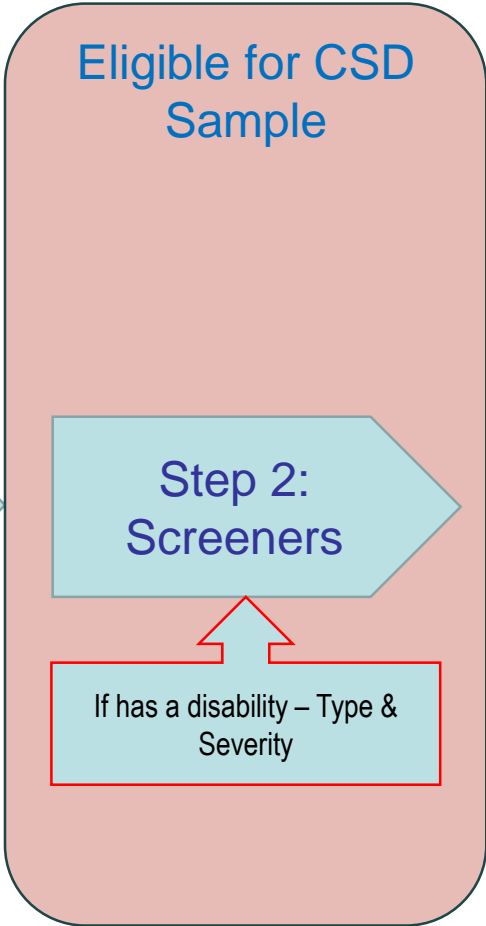
Use of DSQ Filters for Post-Censal Survey

Step 1: Filter Questions on Census

ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING			
The following question is about difficulties a person may have doing certain activities. Only difficulties or long-term conditions that have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more should be considered.			
11 Does this person have any:	FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
a) difficulty seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses)?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always
b) difficulty hearing (even when using a hearing aid)?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always
c) difficulty walking, using stairs, using his/her hands or fingers or doing other physical activities?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always
d) difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always
e) emotional, psychological or mental health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, anorexia, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always
f) other health problem or long-term condition that has lasted or is expected to last for six months or more? <small>Exclude: any health problems previously reported above.</small>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes	<input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Sometimes <input type="radio"/> Often <input type="radio"/> Always

Screened in/Identifies persons likely to have disability

Sometimes, Often, or Always





2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)

- Jointly developed with policy partner: Employment and Social Development Canada
- Sample: 50,000 persons
- Eligible population: adults aged 15 or older who live in private dwellings in one of the ten provinces or three territories, and who report a disability in the DSQ (1st module of the CSD).
- Collection modes: Electronic questionnaire and telephone interview
- New content in 2017
- Milestones
 - Collection – March 2017- August 2017
 - Processing and validation – fall 2017-summer 2018
 - Dissemination – late 2018





2017 CSD content: Disability-Related information

- Identify type (s) of disability (s)
- Determine severity of disability (s)
- Age of onset
- Age of limitation
- Episodic disability
- Main medical conditions creating the limitation and cause of condition



2017 CSD contents: Major themes

Aids and Assistive Devices

- Use
- Types of devices
- Reason of need but not have

Labour Force Activities

- Employment status
- Workplace experience
- Discrimination

Education & Education Experience

- School attendance
- Attainment
- Special needs for schooling
- Experience in education environment

Supports/Therapy/Medication

- Use
- Therapies/services required but not received
- Help received

Health and Well-being

- Self-rated general health & mental health
- Life satisfaction
- Housebound
- Access to internet, government services

Economic Well-being

- Income
- Income sources



Dissemination – Products from 2012 CSD

- Analytical papers
- Short Fact sheets
- Data tables
- Infographic
- Metadata

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/health/disability>



More Timely Data from other Social Surveys by Incorporating the DSQ

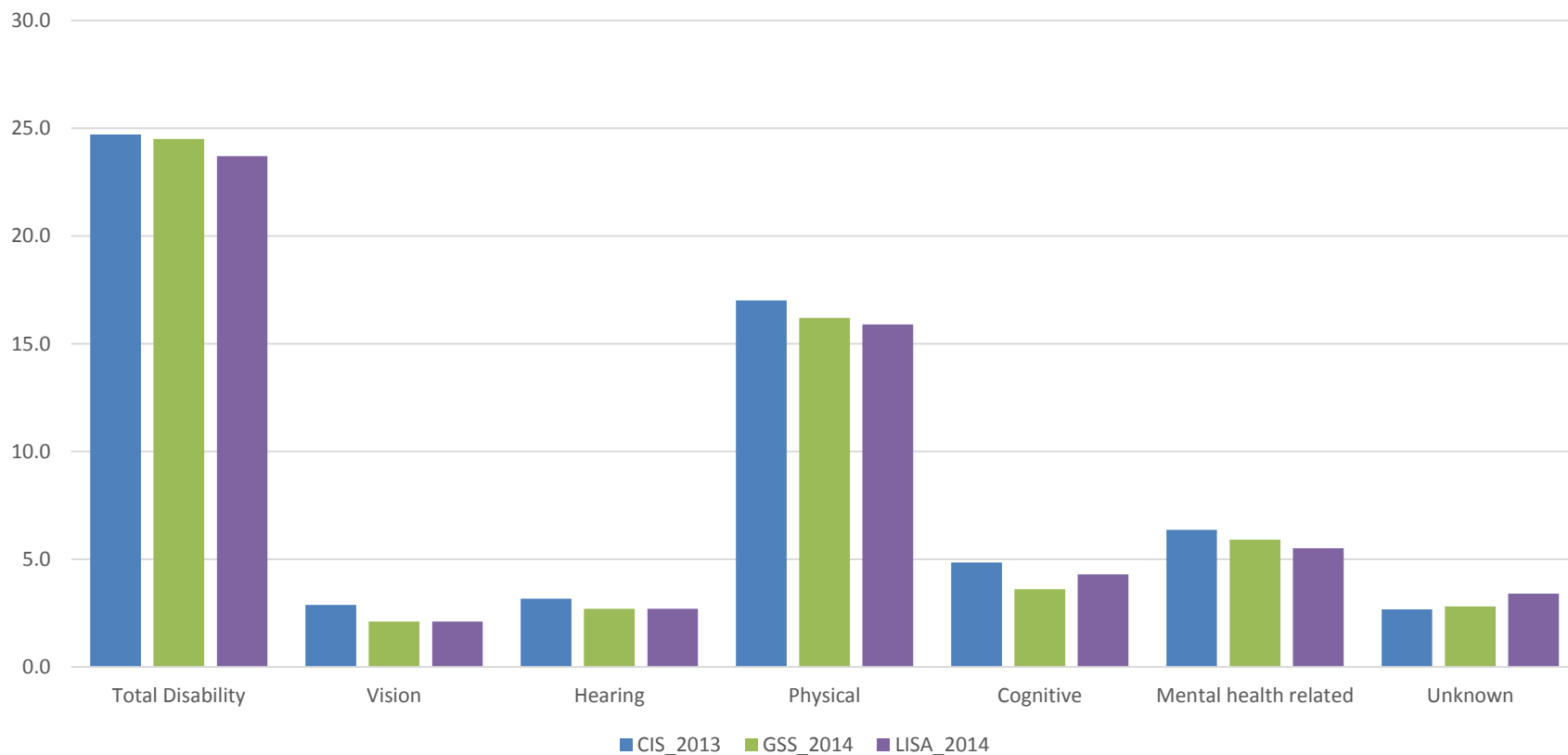
- General Social Survey (GSS)
 - 2014 Victimization
 - 2015 Time Use
 - 2016 Canadians at Work and Home
 - 2017 Family
- Canadian Income Survey (CIS), from 2013
- Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA)
- Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) 2017

DSQ on Social Surveys

- To allow DSQ to be added to other social surveys, shorter version was created that collapsed certain disability types.
- This version takes on average two minutes to administer. Not all questions are asked to everyone.
- Filters are asked to save interviewer time and skip screeners that do not apply to the person.
- 10 disability types collapsed into 5 categories.

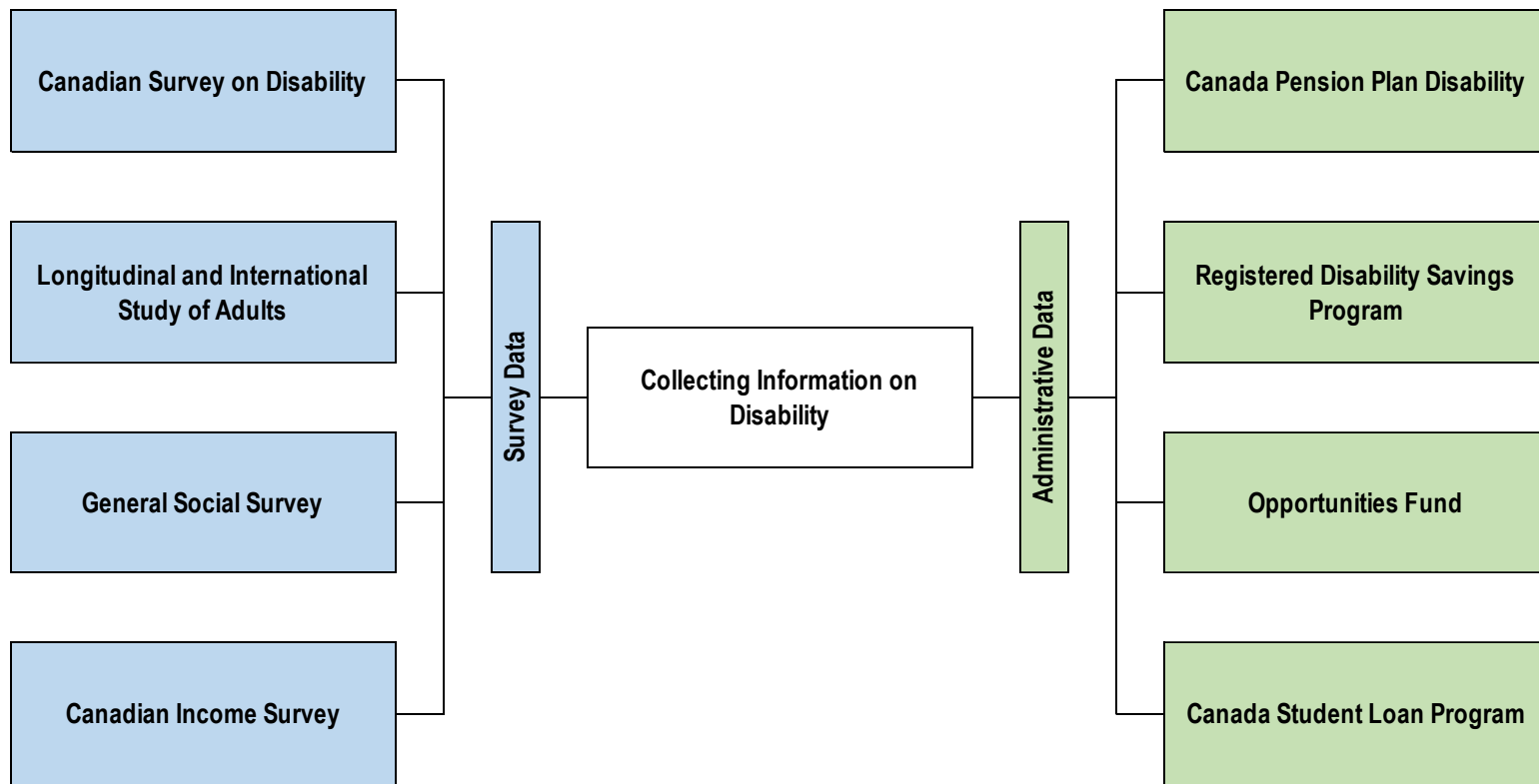


Similar Disability Rates by Type Across Social Surveys Using DSQ





Moving Forward – Survey and Administrative Data on Disability





Challenges and Next Steps

Need for a multi-faceted, multi-sourced approach to data development

- Potential of data linkage, e.g., survey data to be linked to administrative data

Data gaps:

- Small area data
- Up to date information on disability among children and youth
- Need for longitudinal data to understand episodic nature of disability, impact of accommodation on participation in work and society
- No time series between past post-censal surveys and 2017 CSD due to changes in operational definition of disability and survey methodology.
- Coverage of institutional population and on-reserve Indigenous population.

Challenges in concept and measurements, survey design, need multi-modes for respondents who have various types of disabilities (response burden)



Questions/Comments/Further information

2017 CSD at Statistics Canada website:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/3251>

Statistics Canada Client Services:

Email: sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca



Revision to Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics

- Establish comparable definition and measurement for international studies
 - Studies to use existing measures in different countries and in different types of survey (e.g., health-focused survey vs general population survey) to establish robustness of measures.
- Share best practices of 'newer' survey design, including mode of collection (e.g., Electronic questionnaire, etc.)
- Update on emerging issues for content
- Further develop guidelines & principles of using administrative data for statistical purposes
- Identify issues and share best practices on data linkage approach to data development



Addendum

Example DSQ used for 2017 CSD

Learning Screeners

- S19.** Do you think you have a condition that makes it difficult in general for you to learn? This may include learning disabilities such as dyslexia, hyperactivity, attention problems, as well as other conditions.
- Yes, No
- S20.** Has a teacher, doctor or other health care professional ever said that you had a learning disability?
- Yes, No = > If No to S19 and S20, Go to Developmental screeners
- S21.** How often are your daily activities limited by this condition?
- Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Always = > If Never, Go to Developmental screeners
- S22.** How much difficulty do you have with your daily activities because of this condition?
- No difficulty
 - Some (difficulty)
 - A lot (of difficulty)
 - You cannot do most activities

For more information on the DSQ please visit:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2016003-eng.htm>