

Executive Summary

This is the second report from the National Disability Survey. The situation of people with a disability is examined in the following nine areas: Caring and help from other persons; Attitudes of other people; Transport; Built environment accessibility; Education; Work and training; Social participation; Sport and exercise; and some general issues such as use of medication, health and smoking.

The results in this report relate to the 8.1% of the population who reported a disability in both the Census of Population and in the National Disability Survey. The main findings are highlighted here and presented in more detail in Chapters 2 to 10.

Caring and help from other people

- 35% of persons with a disability had difficulty taking a bath or shower by themselves. A similar proportion of adults with a disability (34%) had difficulty staying by themselves for a few days.
- People living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes had higher levels of difficulty doing everyday activities. For example, 86% had difficulty taking a bath or shower by themselves compared with 31% of persons in private households.
- Around 56% of persons with a disability in private households received help with their everyday activities. The most common source of help was from family members who lived with the person - 42% of persons in private households who had a disability received such help.

Attitudes of other people

- Three-quarters (76%) of adults with a disability never avoided doing things because of the reactions of other people, 17% sometimes avoided doing things and 7% frequently or always avoided doing things. Older people were less affected by the attitudes of others, 89% of persons aged 75 & over never avoided doing things. Around 17% of persons with Emotional, psychological & mental health as their main disability frequently or always avoided doing things.
- A high proportion of adults with a disability in private households felt supported by the attitudes of their Family (90%), Health and care staff (87%) and Friends (79%).

Transport

- Around 18% of persons with a disability said that they did not drive a car because of their disability while 8% said that they did not regularly travel as a passenger because of their disability. Difficulty getting in and out of a car was the reason cited by 47% of adults in private households who did not use or who had difficulty using a car due to their disability. The next most common reason was needing someone to accompany them (44%).
- Difficulty getting on and off public transport vehicles was given by 16% of persons aged 5 years & over in private households as a reason for not using or having difficulty using public transport. Difficulty transferring from one service to another was the next most cited reason (12%) while difficulty getting to the bus or LUAS stop or the DART or train station was reported by 9%. Around 22% of persons in private households aged 5 & over with Mobility & dexterity as their

main disability said that they did not regularly use public transport because of their disability.

Built environment accessibility

- One-third of adults with a disability in private households had some difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability, while a further 19% had a lot of difficulty. Overall, 43% of men had difficulty compared with 59% of women.
- Bathroom adaptations were the most used adaptation in the home with 20% of persons with a disability in private households using them. This proportion rose to 45% of persons aged 75 & over. A further 12% of persons with a disability in private households needed but did not have bathroom adaptations.
- A lack of money was the most common reason given for not having specialised features in the home. Over half (52%) of adults in private households with a disability cited Do not have the money as the reason for not having at least one of the listed specialised features (kitchen and bathroom adaptations, stair-lift, visual and audio warning devices) installed in their home.
- Over one-third of adults in private households had access difficulty with Socialising in public venues (37%), Moving out and about in their local area (36%), and Availing of general services such as shopping and banking (37%). These proportions increased to around 60% for persons aged 75 & over. Around 35% of adults with a disability in private households reported that Steps or stairs in other people's homes caused them problems. Similarly, 29% had difficulty with Footpaths in their community area.

Education, Work and training

- Around 28% of all persons with a disability were limited or affected by their disability before they completed their full-time education. Around 95% of persons with Intellectual & learning as their main disability reported that they were affected before they completed their full-time education. Fourteen per cent of persons aged 5 & over were affected before school age (17% of males and 12% of females).
- Just under one third (32%) of respondents aged 5 & over whose disability limited or affected them before they completed their full-time education indicated that they had stopped their education earlier than they intended because of their disability.
- Around 48% of adults whose disability limited or affected them before the age of 65 were Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability.

Social participation, Sport and exercise

- People with a disability in private households were much more likely than people living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes to have: Gone out to a social venue with family or friends (61% versus 22%); Visited family or friends (72% versus 19%); or Phoned, texted, written to or e-mailed family or friends (80% versus 24%). There was much less difference for the category Have friends or family to your home for a social visit (81% versus 72%). Around 82% of children reported that they had engaged in Spending time with friends for recreation/play over the four weeks prior to the Survey.

- Family (87%) and Other friends (67%) provided the main social company for people with a disability living in private households. People in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes depended much more on Carers/disability service providers (82%) and Friends with a disability (47%) for social interaction. Children with a disability reported that their main social activity was with School friends (69%), Other friends (65%) and Friends with a disability (23%).
- Around 56% of persons with a disability in private households experienced difficulty with Going to town shopping, Going away for a break or holiday (53%), Taking part in community life (54%) and Socialising in a public venue (49%). Just over one-third had difficulty Visiting friends (34%) and Attending religious ceremonies (34%).
- Overall, 45% of males with a disability participated in sports or physical exercise in the previous four weeks compared with 36% of females. Just over 17% of males with a disability exercised 5 or more times per week compared with 11% of females. The next most popular frequency for participation in sport/exercise was 1-2 times per week (13% of males and 12% of females).

General

- People with a disability were asked to rate their general health on a five-point-scale ranging from Very good to Very bad. The most common responses were Good (35%) and Fair (38%). Around 10% reported having Bad health while a further 3% of persons indicated that their health was Very bad. A higher proportion of those living in private households reported that their health was Very good (16% compared with 6% in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes).

- Twelve percent of persons with a disability indicated that their stamina was Very good. A further 30% said that their stamina was Good, Fair (38%), Bad (15%) and Very bad (5%).