

2001 Participation Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 7—Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians aged 15 Years and Older with a Developmental Disability

INTRODUCTION

This *Research Highlight* is one in a series of highlights that examine the housing conditions and characteristics of Canadians with disabilities. It focuses on those who report having a developmental disability. Data used in this highlight are from the 2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001 PALS), Canada's principal national survey focusing on people with disabilities. PALS provides information on the prevalence and severity of disability, on the use of and unmet need for supports, and on participation in various everyday activities.

DEFINITIONS

Population with Disabilities Examined in this Highlight

This highlight examines the population 15 years of age and older only. The data presented here and in subsequent highlights will differ from the first issue in this series, which was based on the 2001 Census, because of some key differences between the 2001 Census and 2001 PALS with respect to identifying people with disabilities. The 2001 PALS identifies an estimated 945,000 fewer people aged 15 years and older with a disability than did the 2001 Census. This is because some individuals who responded "Yes" to the Census disability questions responded "No" to the more detailed questions on the 2001 PALS related

to specific types of disabilities. It is also due to differences in the geographic coverage—the 2001 Census includes the people living in the territories and in First Nations communities but these areas and their populations are excluded from the 2001 PALS.

Disability in the 2001 PALS

The 2001 PALS asks about specific domains of functioning in which one may experience ongoing difficulties doing activities and identifies 10 specific types of disabilities (as well as an "unknown"¹ category):

- Mobility
- Agility
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Speaking/communicating
- Developmental
- Learning
- Memory
- Emotional/psychological
- Pain

¹ People who answer "Yes" to one of the questions on general limitations and "No" to the specific disability-type questions are classified as having "nature of disability unknown."

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The 2001 PALS includes three ways to look at disability characteristics: type(s) of disability that an individual reports, number of types of disabilities that an individual reports, and a severity measure that includes the nature and extent of the individual's disability across all the types of disabilities reported by the individual.

Developmental Disability

In the 2001 PALS, an individual with a developmental disability is someone who has been told by a doctor, psychologist or other health professional that he/she has a developmental disability or disorder.

Core Housing Need

Households² are considered to be in core housing need if they do not live in and do not have sufficient income to access acceptable housing. The term "acceptable housing" refers to housing that is in adequate physical condition, of suitable size and affordable.

- Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs.
- Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements.³
- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of before-tax household income.⁴

A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

When discussing core housing need, household data exclude farm, band and reserve households (for which shelter costs are not collected by the census). It also excludes households with shelter costs that equal or exceed their income, or incomes of zero or less.

FINDINGS

Persons with a Developmental Disability Aged 15 and Older

Among the persons with any type of disability, an estimated 117,000, or 4%, have a developmental disability, making it one of the least commonly reported disabilities (see Table 1).

Table 1 Number and percent of persons aged 15 years and older living in households, by type of disability, 2001

	Number	(%)*
All types of disabilities	3,352,300	100.0%
Hearing	1,013,700	30.2%
Seeing	586,800	17.5%
Speaking/ Communicating	356,300	10.6%
Mobility/agility	2,692,800	80.3%
Pain	2,332,300	69.6%
Learning	442,000	13.2%
Memory	414,900	12.4%
Developmental	117,000	3.5%
Emotional/Psychological	517,700	15.4%
Unknown	94,400	2.8%

*Percentages add to more than 100% because people can report more than one disability.
Source: 2001 PALS

² Refers to all private households. People living in collective dwellings (see Statistics Canada, 2001 Census Dictionary, Cat. No. 92-378-XIE, pages 190-193) are excluded by definition.

³ According to the NOS, enough bedrooms means one bedroom for each cohabitation adult couple; unattached household member 18 years of age and over; same-sex pair of children under age 18; and additional boy or girl in the family, unless there are two opposite-sex siblings under 5 years of age, in which case they are expected to share a bedroom. A household of one individual can occupy a bachelor unit (i.e., a unit with no bedroom).

⁴ Shelter costs include the following:

- For renters, rent and payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services; and
- For owners, mortgage payments (principal and interest), property taxes, and any condominium fees, along with payments for electricity, fuel, water and other municipal services. Costs associated with maintenance and repairs are not considered part of shelter costs.

Income data collected by the 2001 Census refer to the calendar year preceding the Census, while shelter cost data are for 2001.

Table 2 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a developmental disability and relative to any other type of disability, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years		% with a developmental disability
	with any type of disability (#)	with a developmental disability (#)	
CANADA	3,352,300	117,000	3.5%
Newfoundland and Labrador	57,500	2,400	4.2%
Prince Edward Island	17,500	500	2.9%
Nova Scotia	144,300	2,600	1.8%
New Brunswick	97,500	2,200	2.3%
Quebec	560,100	27,700	4.9%
Ontario	1,413,900	48,200	3.4%
Manitoba	133,400	4,000	3.0%
Saskatchewan	110,100	3,600	3.3%
Alberta	320,200	11,400	3.6%
British Columbia	497,700	14,400	2.9%

Source: 2001 PALS

The incidence of developmental disability varies among the ten provinces; the highest rate is in Quebec, at 5%, while the lowest rate is in Nova Scotia, at 2% (see Table 2).

Age and Gender

Persons who report a developmental disability are more likely to be male than those with any type of disability (62% compared to 44%) (derived from Table 3), and are also younger on average (at 42 years) than those reporting any type of disability (at 59). This holds true for both genders, with the average age of males being 44 years and females being 40 years, compared to 58 and 60 respectively for persons with any disability. Only 46% who report a developmental disability are 45 years and older, compared with 77% who report any disability.

While overall, 4% of persons who report any type of disability report having a developmental disability, among persons aged 15 to 24 years this proportion is 17% and the decreases rapidly with increasing age (see Table 3).

Among males 15 to 24 years who report any disability, 21% report having a developmental disability, compared to 14% of than females of the same age.

Table 3 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a developmental disability and relative to any type of disability, by sex and age group, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older		% with a developmental disability
		with any type of disability (#)	with a developmental disability (#)	
Both sexes	15 years and older	3,352,300	117,000	3.5%
	15 - 24 years	148,000	25,400	17.2%
	25 - 44 years	618,300	37,600	6.1%
	45 - 64 years	1,162,700	42,900	3.7%
	65 years and older	1,423,200	11,000	0.8%
Male	15 years and older	1,487,800	73,000	4.9%
	15 - 24 years	73,000	15,200	20.8%
	25 - 44 years	283,900	22,000	7.7%
	45 - 64 years	541,400	28,100	5.2%
	65 years and older	589,500	7,700	1.3%
Female	15 years and older	1,864,500	44,000	2.4%
	15 - 24 years	75,000	10,300	13.7%
	25 - 44 years	334,400	15,600	4.7%
	45 - 64 years	621,300	14,800	2.4%
	65 years and older	833,700	3,300	0.4%

Source: 2001 PALS

Severity of Disability

About 73% of persons who report having a developmental disability are classified as having a severe or very severe disability. Among persons reporting any type of disability, the proportion is 41% (see Table 4).

Table 4 Number of persons aged 15 years and older with a developmental disability or any type of disability, by severity of disability, 2001

Severity of disability	Persons aged 15 years and older			
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total	3,352,300	100.0%	117,000	100.0%
Mild	1,134,800	33.9%	9,500	8.1%
Moderate	838,800	25.0%	21,800	18.6%
Severe	903,500	27.0%	34,900	29.8%
Very severe	475,100	14.2%	50,800	43.4%

Source: 2001 PALS

Table 5 Persons aged 15 years and older living in households in core housing need, by disability status, Canada and the provinces, 2001

Geography	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability			
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada	563,900	16.8%	21,600	18.5%	1,757,000	9.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,700	18.5%	*	*	35,900	10.3%
Prince Edward Island	2,500	14.5%	*	*	6,600	7.8%
Nova Scotia	25,100	17.4%	700	26.9%	55,000	9.6%
New Brunswick	11,700	12.0%	500	22.7%	31,800	6.7%
Quebec	89,200	15.9%	5,100	18.4%	376,300	7.4%
Ontario	247,800	17.5%	6,500	13.5%	772,900	10.5%
Manitoba	17,300	13.0%	1,000	25.0%	40,600	6.6%
Saskatchewan	12,400	11.3%	800	22.2%	31,100	6.4%
Alberta	45,100	14.1%	3,000	26.3%	124,800	7.1%
British Columbia	102,000	20.5%	3,700	25.7%	282,100	11.2%

* Number suppressed because of the sample size.
Source: 2001 PALS

Housing Characteristics of Persons with a Developmental Disability who are Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

At the Canada level, about 19% of persons aged 15 years and older with a developmental disability live in a household in core housing need, compared to 9% of people with no disability (see Table 5). The rate varies significantly among the ten provinces, with the lowest incidence in Ontario at 14% and the highest in Nova Scotia at 27%.

Urban/ Rural

The probability of living in a household in core housing need is higher in urban areas than in rural areas, regardless of disability status. For people with a developmental disability, the incidence of living in a household in core housing need is 19% in urban areas and 16% in rural areas, compared to 17% and 13%, respectively, for persons with any type of disability, and 10% and 6%, respectively, for people without disabilities.

Tenure

The incidence of core housing need is higher for renters than for owners regardless of disability status. About 30% of persons with a developmental disability who live in rental accommodations are living in a household in core need, compared to 12 % of those living in accommodations owned by a member of the family (see Table 6).

Table 6 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and tenure, 2001

Tenure	Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	16.8%	21,600	18.5%	1,757,000	9.1%
Owned by a member of the family	202,300	8.9%	8,400	11.6%	673,500	4.8%
Rented	361,600	33.6%	13,200	29.6%	1,083,400	21.1%

Source: 2001 PALS

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Persons Aged 15 Years and Older with a Developmental Disability Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Age and Gender

About 58% of people with a developmental disability living in a household in core housing need are males, compared to 42% of those without disabilities and 38% of those who report any type of disability (derived from Table 7).

Males with developmental disabilities living in a household in core need are generally younger than females: 21% of such males are 15 to 24 years old, compared to 14% of such females (see Table 7).

Living Arrangements

About 31% of persons with a developmental disability and who are living in core housing need to live in a lone-parent family, compared to 16% of persons with any type of disability living in core housing need (see Table 8).

Proportionately, more persons with a developmental disability who are in core housing need are non-family persons living with others (15%) than among persons reporting any type of disability (7%) or among persons without disabilities (7%) (see Table 8).

Over half (51%) of young people aged 15 to 24 years with a developmental disability who live in a household in core housing need live in a lone-parent family, compared to 39% for the same age group without disabilities. Among persons aged 25 to 44 years with a developmental disability who live in a household in core housing need, 22% live alone, compared to 13% of people without disabilities.

Table 7 Age and sex distribution of persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status, 2001

Sex	Age group	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
		with any type of disability		with a developmental disability		without disabilities	
		(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Both sexes	15 years and older	563,900	100.0%	21,600	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
	15 to 24	26,500	4.7%	3,900	18.1%	386,100	22.0%
	25 to 44	120,700	21.4%	7,900	36.6%	755,200	43.0%
	45 and older*	319,900	73.9%	9,800	45.4%	615,700	35.1%
Males	15 years and older	211,800	100.0%	12,500	100.0%	745,100	100.0%
	15 to 24	11,500	5.4%	2,600	20.8%	182,200	24.5%
	25 to 44	51,900	24.5%	4,200	33.6%	317,200	42.6%
	45 and older*	148,400	70.0%	5,700	45.6%	255,800	33.0%
Females	15 years and older	352,000	100.0%	9,100	100.0%	1,011,800	100.0%
	15 to 24	15,100	4.3%	1,300	14.3%	204,000	20.2%
	25 to 44	68,700	19.5%	3,700	40.7%	438,000	43.3%
	45 and older*	268,300	76.2%	4,100	45.1%	369,900	36.5%

* Data could not be further disaggregated due to data suppression
Source: 2001 PALS

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Table 8 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and living arrangements, 2001

Living arrangements	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
All types of living arrangements	563,900	100.0%	21,600	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
Living alone	261,900	46.4%	4,300	19.9%	370,300	21.1%
Non family person, living with others	38,500	6.8%	3,200	14.8%	125,800	7.2%
Lone parent family	89,300	15.8%	6,700	31.0%	407,400	23.2%
Family without children	103,200	18.3%	1,900	8.8%	241,000	13.7%
Family with children	70,900	12.6%	5,600	25.9%	612,300	34.8%

Source: 2001 PALS

Over half (51%) of young people aged 15 to 24 years with a developmental disability who live in a household in core housing need live in a lone-parent family, compared to 39% for the same age group without disabilities. Among persons aged 25 to 44 years with a developmental disability who live in a household in core housing need, 22% live alone, compared to 13% of people without disabilities.

Household Income

A higher proportion of persons with a developmental disability living in a household in core housing need are in the lowest income quintile—89%, compared to 77% of similar individuals without disabilities (See Table 9).

For the purpose of this analysis, the pre-tax household income of Canadian households with at least one person aged 15 years and older was assessed and divided into five equally sized income groups or quintiles ranging from low-income to high-income.

High Income:	\$96,936 or more
Upper Income:	\$67,812 - 96,935
Middle Income:	\$46,896 - \$67,811
Moderate Income:	\$27,418 - \$46,895
Low Income:	Less than \$27,418

Table 9 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and household income quintile, 2001

Household Income - Quintiles	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	21,600	100.0%	1,757,000	100.0%
High, Upper, Middle (\$46,896 or more)	*	*	*	*	27,200	1.5%
Moderate (\$27,418-\$46,895)	59,000	10.5%	2,400	11.1%	383,100	21.8%
Low (less than \$27,417)	501,500	88.9%	19,200	88.9%	1,346,600	76.6%
* Number suppressed because of sample size. Source: 2001 PALS						

Table 10 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by type of disability status and sources of personal income, 2001

Sources of personal income	Persons aged 15 years and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with any type of disability		with a developmental disability		without disabilities	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	21,600	100.0%	1,757,700	100.0%
Wages and salaries	93,800	16.6%	1,900	8.8%	843,100	48.0%
Income from self-employment	20,500	3.6%	*	*	128,400	7.3%
Income from Government	532,300	94.4%	18,800	87.0%	1,434,500	81.6%
Other income, such as retirement pensions, dividends and interest on bonds, deposits and savings, alimony, child support, scholarships, etc.	28,500	5.1%	*	*	121,100	6.9%
* Number suppressed because of sample size. Percentages add to more than 100% because people can report more than one source of income. Source: 2001 PALS						

Sources of Personal Income

For persons aged 15 and older with a developmental disability and who are living in a household in core housing need, only 9% report wages and salaries as a source of personal income, compared to almost half (48%) of persons without disabilities and who are living in a household in core housing need.

About 87% of persons aged 15 years and older who are living in core housing need report income from government sources, such as Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, benefits from Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, benefits from Employment Insurance, and provincial income supplements or welfare payments (see Table 10).

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Table 11 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by disability status and highest level of education, 2001

Highest level of education	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need					
	with a developmental disability		Incidence of Core housing need	without disabilities		Incidence of Core housing need
	(#)	(%)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(%)
Canada - All levels of education	21,600	100.0%	18.5%	1,757,000	100.0%	9.1%
Less than high school graduation	14,400	66.7%	17.7%	708,000	40.3%	13.2%
Secondary school graduation certificate	4,000	18.5%	22.9%	247,400	14.1%	8.7%
Trades certificate or diploma, or other non-university education*	2,500*	11.6%	18.2%	432,200	24.6%	7.6%
University with or without a degree**	800**	3.7%	16.0%	369,400	21.0%	6.9%

* Sample size of the population with developmental disabilities living in core housing need was small, requiring that "trades certificate and diploma" be combined with "other non-university."

** Sample size of the population with developmental disabilities living in core housing need was small, requiring that "university but no degree" be combined with "at least bachelor's degree."

Level of Education

Among persons with a developmental disability and who are living in a household in core housing need, 67% have not completed high school, compared to 40% of persons without disabilities and who are living in core housing need (see Table 11). Only 4% of persons aged 15 years and older with a developmental disability and living in a household in core housing need report their highest level of education as university (with or without a degree). By comparison, 21% of those without disabilities had received some university education. (see Table 11).

Health Status

Persons with a developmental disability and who are living in a household in core housing need are somewhat more likely than persons with any type of disability to report their general health status as excellent or very good: 23% versus 20%, respectively (see Table 12).

Table 12 Persons aged 15 years and older living in a household in core housing need, by type of disability and general health status

General health status	Persons aged 15 and older who are living in a household in core housing need with any type of disability			
	any type of disability		a developmental disability	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Canada total	563,900	100.0%	21,600	100.0%
Excellent	21,300	3.8%	2,000	9.3%
Very good	92,000	16.3%	2,900	13.4%
Good	157,100	27.9%	4,600	21.3%
Fair	174,300	30.9%	7,000	32.4%
Poor, not stated, refusal or don't know	119,300	21.1%	5,100	23.6%

Source: 2001 PALS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Persons Aged 15 Year and Older with a Developmental Disability

General Characteristics

- About 4% of Canadians with disabilities aged 15 years and older report having a developmental disability; the proportion varies among the provinces, with Quebec the highest at 5% and Nova Scotia the lowest at 2%.
- The proportion of persons aged 15 and older who report having a developmental disability decreases with age for both males and females.
- Persons with a developmental disability are considerably more likely to be male than female: 62% vs. 38%.
- 73% of persons who report having a developmental disability are classified as having a severe or very severe disability, compared with 41% of people with any type of disability.

Persons Aged 15 Year and Older with a Developmental Disability Living in a Household in Core Housing Need

Housing Characteristics

- About 19% of persons aged 15 years and older who report a developmental disability live in a household in core housing need. This proportion varies considerably among the provinces with the highest (27%) reported in Nova Scotia and the lowest (14%) in Ontario.
- 62% of persons aged 15 and older who report having a developmental disability and who are living in a household in core housing need live in rented accommodation. Their incidence of core housing need is about 30%, compared to 21% of persons without disabilities living in a rented household in core housing need.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

- About 58% of persons with a developmental disability and who are living in a household in core housing need are males, and they are generally younger than such females.
- 31% of persons aged 15 and older with a developmental disability and who live in a household in core housing need live in lone parent families, compared to 16% of those with any type of disability living in a household in core housing need.
- 89% of persons aged 15 and older with a developmental disability and who live in a household in core housing need had a household before-tax income in the lowest income quintile (less than \$27,418).
- 9% of persons aged 15 and older with a developmental disability and who live in a household in core housing need report wages and salaries as a source of personal income; 87% had income from government.
- 67% of persons aged 15 and older with a developmental disability and who live in a household in core housing need report their highest level of education as less than a secondary school certificate.
- 23% of persons aged 15 and older who report having a developmental disability and who live in a household in core housing need report a health status of excellent or very good, compared to 20% of similar persons with any type of disability.

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Housing Research at CMHC

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