

## People aged 65 and older

In Spain there are **2,072,652** people aged 65 or older with some type of disability, accounting for **32.21%** of the population in this age group.

### 9. People aged 65 and older with disabilities, by disability groups.

	People with disabilities	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and older
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,072,652</b>	<b>322.11</b>
Seeing	697,778	108.44
Hearing	665,479	103.42
Communicating	180,264	28.02
Learning, applying knowledge and performing tasks	335,426	52.13
Getting around	809,383	125.79
Using arms and hands	644,887	100.22
Getting around outside the home	1,352,194	210.15
Caring for oneself	561,830	87.31
Performing housework	984,881	153.06
Relations with other people	338,519	52.61

Note: A person may be in more than one disability category.

Source: Revised Population Projections based on 1991 Census, as of May 15, 1999.

- **65%** of the people aged 65 and older who have some type of disability suffer from at least one from the “**Getting around outside the home**” group.
- The disability group that affects the second largest number of people is the “**Performing housework**” group.

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### Distribution of disabilities by groups.

#### People aged 65 and older.

<b>Getting around</b> 11.83%	<b>Learning, applying knowledge and performing tasks</b> 5.59%
<b>Using arms and hands</b> 9.20%	<b>Communicating</b> 2.19%
<b>Getting around outside the home</b> 18.84%	<b>Hearing</b> 5.71%
<b>Caring for oneself</b> 9.45%	<b>Seeing</b> 7.49%
	<b>Relations with other people</b> 4.48%
	<b>Performing housework</b> 25.21%

Note: When a person has more than one disability within the same group, all are counted.

- When the total number of disabilities is considered, the most numerous group is the one relating to “**Performing housework,**” with **25.21%** of the disabilities. The second most important group is the “**Getting around outside the home,**” group, **18.84%**. If this data is compared with the data for the population aged 6 to 64 years, it can be seen that **sensory** disabilities, in other words, those that affect **hearing** and **sight**, as well as those relating to **personal care**, have more relative impact in the population aged 65 and older, with **22.65%**. It can also be seen that for the elderly the weight of the disabilities regarding **relations with other people** decreases.

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### 10. People aged 65 and older with disabilities in activities of daily living, by the maximum degree of severity

Severity	People with disabilities
TOTAL	1,423,962
Moderate disability	425,049
Severe disability	479,870
Total disability	487,843
Unknown	31,199

- Nearly **70%** of elderly people with disabilities have **difficulty** performing activities of daily living. For **68%** of them, **967,713** people, the difficulty is **severe**.
- This percentage is higher than for the group from 6 to 64 years of age, **61%**, although not by a great deal, which indicates that, although in this age group the number of people with problems performing the activities of daily living is much smaller, the **severity** is similar.

The **activities of daily living** taken into consideration are: changing the position of the body; getting up and lying down; getting around inside the home; getting around without a means of transportation; washing oneself; controlling bodily functions; dressing oneself; eating and drinking; shopping, preparing meals, washing and ironing clothes, cleaning and maintaining the home and looking after the welfare of other family members.

In addition to the characteristics of the disabilities that have been tabulated for this publication, there are others that were investigated and whose results will be released in later publications. Some of these are: **evolutionary prognosis of the disability**, which provides information about the chance of recovering the activity; **type of assistance** received, which may be **technical aids** (wheelchairs, hearing aids, lifting devices, etc.) and **personal aid**, which is direct assistance offered by another person in performing the activities (physical assistance, supervision of tasks, sign language interpreters, etc.).

**People aged 65 and older****11. People aged 65 and older with disabilities, by autonomous community**

	Total population aged 65 and older	People with disabilities	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and older
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,434,524</b>	<b>2,072,652</b>	<b>322.11</b>
Andalusia	985,946	388,837	394.38
Aragon	240,635	64,548	268.24
Asturias	212,760	63,776	299.75
Balearic Islands	114,364	29,684	259.55
Basque Country	337,296	80,693	239.24
Canary Islands	190,607	51,891	272.24
Cantabria	94,342	29,748	315.32
Castile-Leon	512,714	191,087	372.70
Castile-La Mancha	317,647	107,881	339.62
Catalonia	1,033,387	339,553	328.58
Community of Valencia	625,404	187,954	300.53
Extremadura	188,044	67,189	357.30
Galicia	520,028	168,620	324.25
Madrid (Community of)	751,468	197,804	263.22
Murcia (Region of)	154,500	62,558	404.90
Navarre (Autonomous Comm.)	90,789	26,124	287.75
Rioja (La)	48,441	8,877	183.25
Ceuta and Melilla	16,152	5,831	360.99

Source: Revised Population Projections based on 1991 Census, as of May 15, 1999.

- The autonomous communities with **the largest number of people aged 65 and older with disabilities** are **Andalusia** and **Catalonia**, followed by **Madrid**, **Castile-Leon** and the **Community of Valencia**. However, the **highest rate per thousand inhabitants** is found in Murcia, where it is **26%** higher than the national rate. It is followed by **Andalusia** and **Castile-Leon**, whose rates are higher than the national one by **22%** and **16%**, respectively. **La Rioja** is in the best relative position, with its rate being **43%** lower than the national one.

Other aspects investigated regarding people with disabilities that do not appear in this publication are those relating to their **economic activity** (changes in this activity as a result of the disability, current activity, measures to promote employment, type of contract, etc.); to the **caregivers** for people with disabilities (whether they live in these people's homes or not, if they are relatives, how many hours they devote, etc.); and to **education and educational integration**.

**People aged 65 and older****12. People aged 65 and older with disabilities, by type of impairment causing them**

	People with disabilities	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 65 and older
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,072,652</b>	<b>322.11</b>
Mental impairment	227,542	35.36
Developmental delay	0	0.00
Severe mental retardation	1,242	0.19
Moderate mental retardation	2,036	0.32
Mild mental retardation	2,113	0.33
Dementia	127,406	19.80
Other mental disorders	95,599	14.86
Visual impairment	567,961	88.27
Total blindness	33,386	5.19
Poor eyesight	536,191	83.33
Ear and hearing impairment	542,219	84.27
Pre-speech deafness	2,168	0.34
Post-speech deafness	39,705	6.17
Hard of hearing	496,909	77.23
Balance disorders	8,028	1.25
Language, speech and voice impairment	31,733	4.93
Muteness (not due to deafness)	2,591	0.40
Incomprehensible or difficult speech	29,142	4.53
Osteoarticular impairment	757,413	117.71
Head	1,369	0.21
Spinal column	275,753	42.86
Upper limbs	172,419	26.80
Lower limbs	451,766	70.21
Nervous system impairment	168,330	26.16
Paralysis of an upper limb	9,150	1.42
Paralysis of a lower limb	12,717	1.98
Paraplegia	9,003	1.40
Tetraplegia	5,375	0.84
Motor coordination disorders	83,988	13.05
Other disorders of the nervous system	59,431	9.24
Impairment from visceral disorders	208,715	32.44
Respiratory system	39,262	6.10
Cardiovascular system	96,467	14.99
Digestive system	11,388	1.77
Genitourinary system	20,626	3.21
Endocrine/metabolic system	44,969	6.99
Immune and blood-producing system	4,658	0.72
Other types of impairment	474,703	73.77
Skin	1,637	0.25
Multiple impairments	456,786	70.99
Impairments not classified elsewhere	18,178	2.83
Unknown	47,493	7.38

Note: A person may be in more than one impairment category.

Source: Revised Population Projections based on 1991 Census, as of May 15, 1999.

## People aged 65 and older

- Of the total number of elderly people who have some type of disability, **2,072,652** of them, or **37%**, have some type of impairment affecting the **joints and bones**. Unlike what was seen in the group aged 6 to 64, in elderly people the most frequent **osteoarticular** impairment is of the **lower limbs**, affecting **451,766** people, **60%** of all of those people with osteoarticular impairments.
- The significance in this age group of **multiple impairments**, directly related to **aging**, is also noteworthy. These impairments hold third place in considering impairments on an individual basis, behind only **poor eyesight** and **poor hearing**.
- **28.60%** of the impairments suffered by the population aged 65 and older affected the **bones** and **joints**. **Sight** and **hearing** impairment accounted for **35.42%** of the total, while the least common were **language, speech** and **voice** impairments.

## People aged 65 and older

### 13. Impairments in people aged 65 and older, by their main causes.

	Total	Perinatal	Accident
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,151,458</b>	<b>65,091</b>	<b>220,894</b>
Mental impairment	228,396	6,478	4,354
Visual impairment	569,577	18,288	33,371
Ear and hearing impairment	546,810	21,070	25,975
Language, speech and voice impairment	31,733	74	1,626
Osteoarticular impairment	901,307	9,771	138,071
Nervous system impairment	179,664	3,358	10,629
Impairment from visceral disorders	217,370	4,903	2,886
Other types of impairment	476,601	1,149	3,982

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	Disease	Other causes	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,144,474</b>	<b>671,392</b>	<b>49,606</b>
Mental impairment	143,543	40,042	33,978
Visual impairment	417,818	95,762	4,338
Ear and hearing impairment	356,372	136,352	7,041
Language, speech and voice impairment	24,626	4,964	443
Osteoarticular impairment	659,896	93,011	557
Nervous system impairment	141,910	21,243	2,524
Impairment from visceral disorders	190,580	18,780	222
Other types of impairment	209,729	261,238	503

- **68.05%** of the impairments in the population aged 65 and older, or **2,144,474**, are caused by a **common or occupational disease**; **31%** of these impairments are **osteoarticular**, and **36%** **visual** and **hearing**.
- **21.30%** of all impairments, or **671,392**, are due to “**Other causes**,” a heading that implicitly includes **aging** as the cause of the impairments, and which is the second most frequent cause.

**People aged 65 and older****14. Impairments in people aged 65 and older, by their main causes.**

	Total	Congenital	Problems during birth	Traffic Accident
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,151,458</b>	<b>61,980</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>31,425</b>
Mental impairment	228,396	5,792	686	1,151
Visual impairment	569,577	17,705	583	1,843
Ear and hearing impairment	546,810	21,070	0	2,714
Language, speech and voice impairment	31,733	74	0	246
Osteoarticular impairment	901,307	8,288	1,484	21,576
Nervous system impairment	179,664	3,000	358	3,032
Impairment from visceral disorders	217,370	4,903	0	429
Other types of impairment	476,601	1,149	0	434

	Household accident	Leisure accident	Occupational accident	Another type of accident
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,947</b>	<b>18,270</b>	<b>54,184</b>	<b>55,068</b>
Mental impairment	884	676	579	1,064
Visual impairment	6,210	3,293	12,682	9,343
Ear and hearing impairment	2,623	3,000	6,707	10,932
Language, speech and voice impairment	403	0	732	246
Osteoarticular impairment	46,912	10,444	29,325	29,816
Nervous system impairment	2,638	250	2,185	2,524
Impairment from visceral disorders	872	0	1,110	475
Other types of impairment	1,407	608	864	670

	Common disease	Occupational disease	Other causes	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,089,661</b>	<b>54,813</b>	<b>671,392</b>	<b>49,606</b>
Mental impairment	142,960	583	40,042	33,978
Visual impairment	412,184	5,634	95,762	4,338
Ear and hearing impairment	337,328	19,045	136,352	7,041
Language, speech and voice impairment	24,409	217	4,964	443
Osteoarticular impairment	635,666	24,229	93,011	557
Nervous system impairment	141,714	196	21,243	2,524
Impairment from visceral disorders	187,014	3,565	18,780	222
Other types of impairment	208,385	1,343	261,238	503

- In a more detailed study of the cause of the impairment, **common disease** holds first place, with **66%** of the cases.
- Among **accidents**, **household** accidents are the most frequent cause of impairment, with **61,947** cases, although without very pronounced differences between the different types of accidents.
- **63%** of **congenital** impairments affect the **hearing** and **sight**.