

## People from 6 to 64 years of age

In Spain there are **1,405,992** people between the ages of 6 and 64 with some type of disability, accounting for **4.59%** of the population in this age group.

### 3. People from 6 to 64 years of age with disabilities, by disability groups.

	People with disabilities	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 6 to 64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,405,992</b>	<b>45.94</b>
Seeing	304,512	9.95
Hearing	295,869	9.67
Communicating	179,092	5.85
Learning, applying knowledge and performing tasks	238,984	7.81
Getting around	414,649	13.55
Using arms and hands	447,985	14.64
Getting around outside the home	737,489	24.10
Caring for oneself	215,048	7.03
Performing housework	475,693	15.54
Relations with other people	230,197	7.52

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

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

## People from 6 to 64 years of age

- More than half of the people with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 64 years have some major difficulty in getting around outside of the home. In general, disabilities relating to **mobility**, as well as those referring to **housework**, are the ones that most affect the population in this age group.

**Information was gathered** by means of a **personal visit** to an effective sample of **70,402 homes**, in which data was gathered about all the people living in them. The total number of people interviewed was **217,760**, of whom 207,292 were 6 years of age or older, and 10,468 under 6.

### Distribution of disabilities by groups.

#### People from 6 to 64 years of age.

**Getting around**  
11.38%

**Learning, applying knowledge and performing tasks**  
6.65%

**Using arms and hands**  
12.14%

**Communicating**  
3.84%

**Getting around outside the home**  
21.05%

**Hearing**  
4.94%

**Caring for oneself**  
6.92%

**Seeing**  
6.24%

**Relations with other people**  
6.46%

**Performing housework**  
20.39%

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

- When the **number of disabilities** is considered, the “**Getting around outside the home**” group remains in the lead, with **21.05%**, although followed more closely than in the previous table by the “**Performing housework**” group at **20.39%**. This is due to the fact that the people who have some type of disability in this latter group tend more to suffer from the rest of the disabilities in the same group.

## People from 6 to 64 years of age

### 4. People from 6 to 64 years of age with disabilities in activities of daily living, by the maximum degree of severity

Severity	People with disabilities
TOTAL	791,432
Moderate disability	295,818
Severe disability	255,387
Total disability	227,099
Unknown	13,127

- More than half of the people with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 64 have difficulty performing activities of daily living. For **61%** of them, **482,486** people, the difficulty is severe.

The **severity of the disability** refers to the degree of difficulty in performing a certain activity without help (if the person does not receive help) or with help (if he/she does).

A person is considered to have **total disability** when he/she cannot perform the activity. If the person has great difficulty performing it, the **disability** is **severe**, and if he/she performs it without any difficulty because of help or with little difficulty, the **disability** is **moderate**.

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.

**People from 6 to 64 years of age****5. People from 6 to 64 years of age with disabilities, by autonomous community**

	<b>Total population aged 6 to 64</b>	<b>People with disabilities</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 6 to 64</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,602,991</b>	<b>1,405,992</b>	<b>45.94</b>
Andalusia	5,681,463	319,994	56.32
Aragon	861,315	31,499	36.57
Asturias	796,141	37,227	46.76
Balearic Islands	594,457	27,265	45.87
Basque Country	1,609,688	62,908	39.08
Canary Islands	1,329,664	54,394	40.91
Cantabria	403,629	18,402	45.59
Castile-Leon	1,823,879	84,213	46.17
Castile-La Mancha	1,268,024	57,015	44.96
Catalonia	4,702,673	224,960	47.84
Community of Valencia	3,100,655	124,921	40.29
Extremadura	811,362	35,102	43.26
Galicia	2,051,492	103,570	50.49
Madrid (Community of)	3,985,904	149,996	37.63
Murcia (Region of)	871,125	48,701	55.91
Navarre (Autonomous Comm.)	406,481	14,251	35.06
Rioja (La)	196,950	5,226	26.53
Ceuta and Melilla	108,089	6,347	58.72

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

- The autonomous communities with **the largest number of people** from 6 to 64 years of age **with disabilities** are **Andalusia, Catalonia, Madrid and the Community of Valencia**. However, the **highest rate per thousand inhabitants** is found in **Ceuta and Melilla**, where it is **28%** higher than the national rate. This is followed by **Andalusia and Murcia**, whose rates are higher than the national one by **23%** and **22%**, respectively. **La Rioja** is in the best relative position, with a rate that is **42%** lower than the national one.

**People from 6 to 64 years of age****6. People from 6 to 64 years of age with disabilities, by type of impairment causing them**

	People with disabilities	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants aged 6 to 64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,405,992</b>	<b>45.94</b>
Mental impairment	287,329	9.39
Developmental delay	8,032	0.26
Severe mental retardation	32,186	1.05
Moderate mental retardation	61,494	2.01
Mild mental retardation	40,788	1.33
Dementia	7,126	0.23
Other mental disorders	140,141	4.58
Visual impairment	262,814	8.59
Total blindness	17,144	0.56
Poor eyesight	246,649	8.06
Ear and hearing impairment	278,654	9.11
Pre-speech deafness	24,070	0.79
Post-speech deafness	20,738	0.68
Hard of hearing	229,549	7.50
Balance disorders	5,904	0.19
Language, speech and voice impairment	21,813	0.71
Muteness (not due to deafness)	2,602	0.09
Incomprehensible or difficult speech	19,211	0.63
Osteoarticular impairment	498,397	16.29
Head	998	0.03
Spinal column	228,980	7.48
Upper limbs	154,166	5.04
Lower limbs	182,831	5.97
Nervous system impairment	131,096	4.28
Paralysis of an upper limb	8,186	0.27
Paralysis of a lower limb	8,637	0.28
Paraplegia	8,853	0.29
Tetraplegia	7,938	0.26
Motor coordination disorders	62,667	2.05
Other disorders of the nervous system	41,919	1.37
Impairment from visceral disorders	116,135	3.79
Respiratory system	19,348	0.63
Cardiovascular system	47,227	1.54
Digestive system	9,551	0.31
Genitourinary system	9,736	0.32
Endocrine/metabolic system	23,090	0.75
Immune and blood-producing system	11,106	0.36
Other types of impairment	46,912	1.53
Skin	2,230	0.07
Multiple impairments	24,948	0.82
Impairments not classified elsewhere	20,274	0.66
Unknown	28,345	0.93

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

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

Survey on Disabilities, Impairments and State of Health, 1999  
**People from 6 to 64 years of age**

- Of the total number of people from 6 to 64 years of age who have some type of disability, **1,405,992** of them, or **35%**, have some type of impairment affecting the **joints and bones**. In **46%** of these cases, **228,980** people, there is an impairment to the **spinal column**.
- **Mental, hearing** and **visual** impairment also occupy a prominent place, with **286,003**, **278,654** and **262,814** people affected, respectively.

For the purposes of this survey, **impairment** is understood to be any **abnormality to or loss of an organ, or the function corresponding to that organ**. For example, a missing hand, paraplegia, mental retardation, speech disorders.

- The distribution of impairments by classification groups also shows a larger proportion of **osteoarticular** impairment, at **32.80%**, followed by **mental** (**16.77%**), **hearing** (**16.22%**) and **sight** (**15.26%**) impairment.

**People from 6 to 64 years of age****7. Impairments in people from 6 to 64 years of age, by their main causes.**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Perinatal</b>	<b>Accident</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,728,321</b>	<b>333,447</b>	<b>244,021</b>
Mental impairment	289,768	123,719	12,635
Visual impairment	263,792	68,126	44,620
Ear and hearing impairment	280,262	47,211	22,972
Language, speech and voice impairment	21,813	2,910	3,761
Osteoarticular impairment	566,974	43,439	132,733
Nervous system impairment	138,201	31,340	19,990
Impairment from visceral disorders	120,059	11,265	4,636
Other types of impairment	47,452	5,438	2,674

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	<b>Disease</b>	<b>Other causes</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>888,525</b>	<b>224,102</b>	<b>38,226</b>
Mental impairment	79,109	44,853	29,452
Visual impairment	118,587	30,519	1,940
Ear and hearing impairment	164,248	41,882	3,948
Language, speech and voice impairment	9,209	5,933	0
Osteoarticular impairment	335,246	54,114	1,443
Nervous system impairment	66,805	18,623	1,442
Impairment from visceral disorders	92,323	11,835	0
Other types of impairment	22,998	16,343	0

- More than half of the impairments in the population from 6 to 64 years of age, **51.4%**, are caused by a **common or occupational disease**; **37.7%** of these impairments are **osteoarticular**, and **31.8%** **visual** and **hearing**.
- The second most important factor refers to **congenital causes** or those that are **birth related**, accounting for **19.23%** of cases. Of these, **36.85%** are **mental** impairments and **34.7%** are **visual** and **hearing** impairments.

Survey on Disabilities, Impairments and State of Health, 1999  
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**Impairments in people from 6 to 64 years of age, by their main causes.**

- Of the total number of mental impairments in people from 6 to 64 years of age, **42.70%** are due to **perinatal causes**, and **27.30%** to some type of **disease**.
- **23.41%** of the **osteoarticular** impairments are due to some type of **accident**.
- **Nervous system** impairments are due to **perinatal causes** in **22.68%** of the cases.

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### 8. Impairments in people from 6 to 64 years of age, by their main causes.

	Total	Congenital	Problems during birth	Traffic Accident
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,728,321</b>	<b>269,792</b>	<b>63,655</b>	<b>59,907</b>
Mental impairment	289,768	90,104	33,615	6,796
Visual impairment	263,792	63,269	4,857	6,118
Ear and hearing impairment	280,262	42,004	5,207	2,804
Language, speech and voice impairment	21,813	1,557	1,353	1,900
Osteoarticular impairment	566,974	37,650	5,789	30,055
Nervous system impairment	138,201	20,505	10,835	10,114
Impairment from visceral disorders	120,059	10,021	1,243	1,459
Other types of impairment	47,452	4,681	7,757	660

  

	Household accident	Leisure accident	Occupational accident	Another type of accident
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,013</b>	<b>25,378</b>	<b>92,952</b>	<b>36,772</b>
Mental impairment	1,557	150	975	3,156
Visual impairment	7,606	8,976	16,626	5,294
Ear and hearing impairment	1,771	2,619	7,720	8,058
Language, speech and voice impairment	271	343	350	897
Osteoarticular impairment	16,214	12,332	60,125	14,007
Nervous system impairment	559	957	4,849	3,511
Impairment from visceral disorders	143	0	1,727	1,308
Other types of impairment	891	0	580	542

  

	Common disease	Occupational disease	Other causes	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>825,471</b>	<b>63,053</b>	<b>224,102</b>	<b>38,226</b>
Mental impairment	77,963	1,146	44,853	29,452
Visual impairment	115,450	3,137	30,519	1,940
Ear and hearing impairment	140,825	23,423	41,882	3,948
Language, speech and voice impairment	8,938	271	5,933	0
Osteoarticular impairment	304,591	30,655	54,114	1,443
Nervous system impairment	65,614	1,191	18,623	1,442
Impairment from visceral disorders	89,619	2,704	11,835	0
Other types of impairment	22,471	527	16,343	0

- In a more disaggregated classification, it can be seen that **common diseases** dominate as the main cause of the impairment. Within the area of **perinatal causes**, **congenital** ones are the most frequent. Of the **244,021** impairments caused by an accident, **38.09%** were because of an occupational accident. More than two-thirds of the impairments caused by a **traffic accident** are classified among **osteoarticular** and **nervous system** impairments. **52.81%** of the impairments caused by **problems during birth** are **mental** impairments.

The categories to classify the problem that caused the impairment are in accordance with the recommendations proposed by the **United Nations Group of Experts on the Development of Impairment, Disability and Handicap Statistics**.