

Basic Data

The total number of people with disabilities in Spain is **3,528,221**, which means **9% of the population**

People, disabilities and impairments

The survey investigated both **the number of people with disabilities** and the **number of disabilities and impairments suffered**. To correctly interpret the tables, one must keep the following in mind:

For each person interviewed, all disabilities and their respective **degrees of severity** (moderate, severe and total) were investigated, according to the perception of the individuals themselves. In other words, the aim was to quantify the **disabilities perceived** by the Spanish population.

The total number of people with disabilities is smaller than the number of disabilities, as **a person may have more than one disability**.

The total number of disabilities is higher than the number of impairments, as **an impairment may cause more than one disability**.

The number of people with disabilities **coincides** with the number of people with impairments.

The **Survey on Disabilities, Impairments and State of Health** is aimed at the group of people as a whole who live in the main family dwelling, so **the population living in group residences is excluded**. The survey was carried out in **three stages**, which are identified with the following questionnaires:

Home Questionnaire: identifies those residents in the home who suffer from some type of disability or limitation. Also requests information of a social, demographic and economic nature about all the residents in the home.

Questionnaire on Disabilities and Impairments: gathers information on the individuals aged 6 and over who suffer from some type of disability, in order to get information about the characteristics of the disabilities suffered and the impairments that cause them, as well as more specific information about the person with disabilities and his/her relationship with the social, healthcare and economic environment.

Questionnaire on Limitations and Impairments: gathers information about children under 6 who suffer from some type of limitation.

Health Questionnaire: gathers information about subjects such as: degree to which services are used, self-evaluation of one's state of health, anthropometric characteristics, temporary limitations on daily activities, life habits, accident rate, prevalence of chronic diseases, victimization, accessibility and nutritional habits.

1. People with disabilities by age groups and sex

	Total Absolute figures	Total Relative figures	Male	Female
TOTAL	3,528,221	100.00	1,472,970	2,055,251
Under 6 years	49,577	1.41	24,723	24,853
From 6 to 15 years	68,284	1.94	36,060	32,224
6 to 9 years	29,782	0.84	15,363	14,420
10 to 15 years	38,502	1.09	20,697	17,804
From 16 to 44 years	519,495	14.72	298,726	220,769
16 to 19 years	44,290	1.26	28,058	16,232
20 to 24 years	59,048	1.67	36,385	22,663
25 to 29 years	78,275	2.22	48,578	29,697
30 to 34 years	107,631	3.05	64,514	43,117
35 to 39 years	115,171	3.26	60,029	55,142
40 to 44 years	115,080	3.26	61,162	53,918
From 45 to 64 years	818,213	23.19	379,652	438,561
45 to 49 years	135,075	3.83	66,311	68,764
50 to 54 years	170,834	4.84	74,872	95,962
55 to 59 years	210,962	5.98	96,639	114,323
60 to 64 years	301,342	8.54	141,830	159,512
Age 65 and older	2,072,652	58.74	733,809	1,338,843
65 to 69 years	386,338	10.95	161,083	225,255
70 to 74 years	457,269	12.96	168,643	288,626
75 to 79 years	476,926	13.52	172,670	304,256
80 to 84 years	370,701	10.51	120,382	250,319
Age 85 and older	381,418	10.81	111,031	270,388

- More than half of the people with disabilities, **58%**, are women. However, by age groups, it can be seen that in the range from 6 to 44 years of age, the number of men with disabilities surpasses the number of women by **32%**.
- After the age of 45, the number of women with disabilities surpasses the number of men by **60%**.
- With regard to children under the age of 6, there is no significant difference between the sexes.

The list of the disabilities and impairments that are being investigated is based on the **World Health Organization's International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH-I)**. With regard to the application of this classification, it was necessary to resolve a series of methodological difficulties that arose from the classification itself. Among other things, **what question should be the starting point of the research** had to be decided. The study began in the **second level of consequences of the disease, i.e., with disabilities**, due to the fact that the classification of the impairments, the first level, uses terminology too complex for use by non-medical personnel.

2. People with disabilities by age groups and sex. Rate per thousand inhabitants for each age group and sex.

	Rate per 1,000 inhabitants	
	Male	Female
TOTAL	76.60	102.67
Under 6 years	21.71	23.21
>From 6 to 15 years	16.72	15.83
6 to 9 years	18.91	18.86
10 to 15 years	15.40	14.00
From 16 to 44 years	33.32	25.26
16 to 19 years	24.46	14.76
20 to 24 years	22.37	14.54
25 to 29 years	28.82	18.29
30 to 34 years	39.54	27.09
35 to 39 years	39.55	36.58
40 to 44 years	45.13	39.63
From 45 to 64 years	89.10	98.67
45 to 49 years	54.68	56.23
50 to 54 years	65.24	81.41
55 to 59 years	99.75	112.74
60 to 64 years	152.20	155.01
From 65 to 84 years	246.93	322.51
65 to 69 years	170.97	207.28
70 to 74 years	219.52	299.40
75 to 79 years	325.16	399.15
80 to 84 years	428.94	500.73
Age 85 and older	591.64	656.58

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

The WHO's **ICIDH-I** defines **disabilities** as the consequences of impairments, from a functional performance standpoint and from the standpoint of the individual's activity: disabilities, therefore, represent disturbances to the person.

Impairments refer to abnormalities in body structure and appearance, and to the function of an organ or system, whatever their cause; in principle, impairments represent disturbances to an organ.

- As far as the **disparity between genders** is concerned, a larger number of women have disabilities in all age groups after the age of 45. However, if the comparison is made in **relative terms**, it is seen that the rates tend to level out at more advanced ages.
- Thus, for example, in the age group of 85 and older, for every **100 women** with some type of disability, there are only **41 men**. However, the male rate is much closer to the female rate, representing **90%** of the latter. This is a result of the **higher male mortality rate** at advanced ages, which means that there are more women in these age groups.

For the purposes of this survey, **disability** is understood to be **any serious limitation that affects or is expected to affect the activity of the person who suffers from it for more than a year, and which originates from an impairment**. A person is considered to suffer from a disability even if he/she has overcome it with the use of outside technical aids. An exception has been made in that information was also gathered on disabilities that do not originate from a clearly defined impairment, but rather from **degenerative processes** in which the age of the person is a decisive influence.

36 disabilities were considered, which are classified in **10 groups**.