

4 November 2008

Disability, Independence and Dependency Situations Survey (DIDSS). Year 2008.

Results Preview

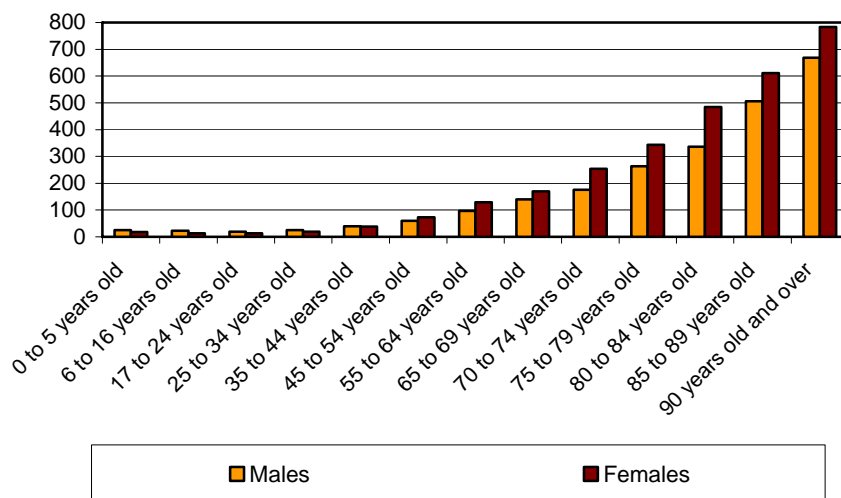
- The number of disabled persons reaches 3.8 million, which implies 8.5% of the population.
- A total of 608,000 disabled persons live alone.
- 1.39 million persons are unable to perform an everyday basic activity without assistance.
- 269 thousand persons residing in centres for the elderly, centres for disabled persons, and psychiatric and geriatric hospitals are disabled
- Four in 10 disabled persons aged six years old or over have a bone or joint impairment.

The total number of persons residing in Spanish households who claimed that they were disabled rose to 3,847,900, which implied 8.5% of the population, according to the provisional results of the Disability, Independence and Dependency Situations Survey (DIDSS) in 2008.

By sex, more than 2.30 million females claimed that they were disabled, as compared with 1.55 million males. Disability rates among females were higher than among males over the age of 45. In the under 44s age bracket, the rates for males were higher than for women.

Disabled persons by age and sex

Rates per thousand inhabitants



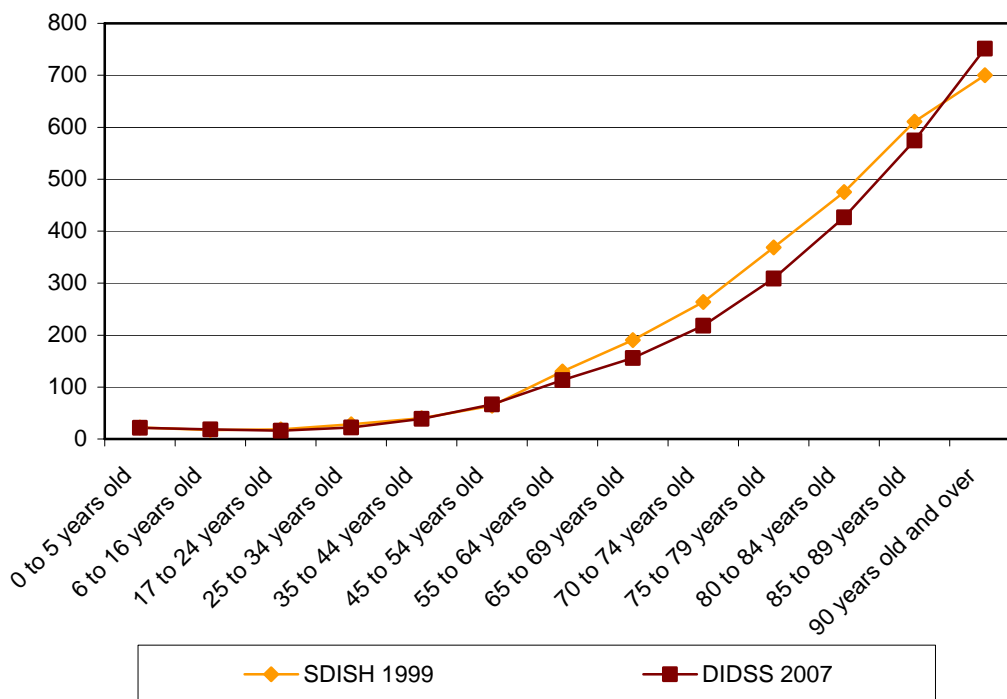
The disability rate has decreased 0.5 points since 1999

When comparing DIDSS-2008 with the latest study on disability performed by the INE in 1999, we observed that **the number of disabled persons had increased by 320,000**. However, since the increase in disabled persons was less than the population total, **the disability rate had recorded a decrease from 9.0% in 1999 down to 8.5% in 2008**.

In order to explain the aforementioned figures, it is necessary to bear in mind that the evolution in number of disabled persons largely depends on two factors. On the one hand, there has been a considerable **increase in the population over the age of 64, in other words 14.4%, (the age group most affected by disability)** resulting in an increase in the number of disabled persons; on the other hand, improvements in social and health conditions means that the number of these persons was lower than expected. The net effect of both factors mean that the disabled population percentage has decreased 0.5 points since 1999.

The decrease in the disability rate occurred in all age brackets between the ages of 16 and 90. The greatest increases occurred among persons between the ages of 75 and 79 (16.2%) and in the group between the ages of 80 and 84 (10.2%)

Disabled persons by age group, SDISH 1999 and DIDSS 2007 (Rates per thousand inhabitants)



Analysing the evolution in rates by age, it is worth noting that disability among the under 65s affected people in a similar way to in 1999; nevertheless, this was to a lesser degree than for the whole of the upper age groups.

Thus, the percentage of disabled persons decreased for the 65 to 79 age group, going from representing 37.4% in 1999 to 31.2% in 2008; for the group aged 80 years old or over, it reached 26.7% of the total for disabled persons in 2008 as compared with the 21.3% represented in 1999.

In conclusion, it can be stated that, in general, **disability appeared at an older age**, although the period of exposure to the risk of disability had increased as a result of the increased life expectancy.

In 2008, the average age of disabled persons was 64.3 years, while in 1999 it was 63.3. In the group aged 65 years old or over, the average age stood at 78.8 in 2008, as compared with 77.1 in 1999.

	SDISH 1999		DIDSS 2008	
	No. of persons (thousands)	% over disabled persons	No. of persons (thousands)	% over disabled persons
TOTAL	3,528.2	100.0	3,847.9	100.0
0 to 5 years old (*)	49.6	1.4	60.4	1.6
6 to 64 years old	1,406.0	39.9	1,560.0	40.5
65 to 79 years old	1,320.5	37.4	1,201.7	31.2
80 years old and over	752.1	21.3	1,025.8	26.7

(*) In both surveys, the types of limitations researched for children between the ages of 0 and 5 were different from disabilities in persons aged 6 years old or over

Galicia showed the highest disability rate, and La Rioja showed the lowest

The Survey enabled a detailed analysis of disability for the population aged six years old or over (for lower ages, this phenomenon is researched by means of a simplified questionnaire). Analysing disability for persons aged six years old or over, we observed that by Autonomous Community, those with the highest percentage of disabled persons were Galicia (11.3%), Extremadura (11.0%) and Castilla y León (10.9%), as well as the Autonomous cities of Melilla (11.9%) and Ceuta (11.3%). Conversely, the lowest percentages were for La Rioja (6.2%), Cantabria (7.0%) and Illes Balears (7.1%).

Disabled persons aged six years old or over

	No. of persons (thousands)	Rate per 100 inhabitants
Spain	3,787.4	8.97
Andalucía	716.1	9.58
Aragón	111.6	9.19
Asturias (Principado de)	104.5	10.37
Balears (Illes)	68.8	7.10
Canarias	135.8	7.13
Cantabria	37.5	7.00
Castilla y León	255.9	10.86
Castilla-La Mancha	182.9	9.99
Cataluña	511.7	7.61
Comunitat Valenciana	452.8	9.92
Extremadura	111.0	10.99
Galicia	292.9	11.29
Madrid (Comunidad de)	434.8	7.59
Murcia (Región de)	127.5	9.80
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	41.6	7.42
País Vasco	169.4	8.45
La Rioja	17.9	6.16
Ceuta	7.4	11.32
Melilla	7.3	11.86

In all Communities the same profile was maintained by sex and age as was found on a national level; that is, a greater number of disabled women than men, as well as female rates lower than those for males for age groups up to the age of 44, and higher from 45 onwards.

There was at least one disabled person living in one in five households

Within a total of **3.3 million** Spanish households, there was at least one person declaring him or herself to be disabled, thereby representing 20.0% of Spanish households. In **608,000 of these households, the disabled person lived alone.**

Nevertheless, the most frequent case was the two-member household where one member was disabled.

Mobility problems were the first disability type

The main groups of disabled persons aged six years old or over residing in households were mobility (affecting 6.0% of the population), domestic life (4.9%) and self-care (4.3%). Indeed, more than half of disabled persons had limitations to their activity due to one of these three reasons. For the group aged 80 years old or over, these three main disability groups affected seven in 10 disabled persons.

Within the mobility group, the restriction on getting around outside the home affected two in three persons with mobility problems.

By sex, women showed higher rates than men in all disability types. For both females and males, mobility was the main cause of restricted mobility.

Disabled persons aged six years old and over, by disability group

Rates per 1,000 inhabitants

	Both sexes	Males	Females
TOTAL	89.70	72.58	106.35
Vision	23.19	17.84	28.39
Hearing	25.20	21.88	28.43
Communication	17.39	16.17	18.57
Learning and performance of tasks	14.92	12.70	17.07
Mobility	60.05	42.34	77.27
Self-care	43.21	30.98	55.10
Domestic life	49.24	29.10	68.83
Personal relationships	14.71	14.01	15.39

74.0% of disabled persons claimed that they had difficulties with everyday basic activities

Of the total for disabled persons aged six years old over, 74.0% (2.8 million) had difficulties performing Everyday Basic Activities (EBA)¹.

Half of them were unable to perform one of these activities without assistance. By sex, 80.3% of disabled women showed some restriction with EBA, as compared with 64.6% of men.

Limitations took on greater significance with advancing age. Thus, within the group of disabled persons between the ages of six and 44, six in 10 had some difficulty with EBA. Whereas in the group aged 80 years old or over, the proportion rose to 8.6 in 10.

Of the 2.8 million persons with disabilities affecting EBA, 80.5% received assistance. This enabled them to slightly reduce the severity of their limitations (and even allowed 339,000 to overcome them) and reduce the percentage of those with total disability for EBA.

Disabled persons for EBA, by the number of disabilities and maximum difficulty WITHOUT ASSISTANCE

(Thousands of persons)

	TOTAL	Number of disabilities				
		1-2	3-5	6-9	10-13	14-18
TOTAL	2,803.4	851.7	753.4	566.9	342.0	289.4
Moderate disability	543.5	371.1	135.9	31.2	4.6	0.7
Severe disability	718.0	274.4	264.4	130.9	37.2	11.1
Total disability	1,384.8	144.3	314.4	375.0	284.9	266.2
No data recorded	157.1	61.9	38.6	29.8	15.4	11.4

Disabled persons for EBA, by the number of disabilities and maximum difficulty WITH ASSISTANCE

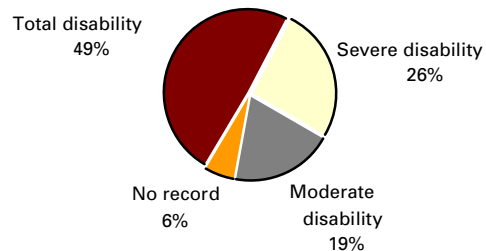
(Thousands of persons)

	TOTAL	Number of disabilities				
		1-2	3-5	6-9	10-13	14-18
TOTAL	2,258.1	497.8	611.6	528.4	337.7	282.6
Without difficulty	339.2	174.3	118.4	35.7	8.4	2.4
Moderate disability	584.0	158.1	216.4	145.0	52.4	12.1
Severe disability	477.2	66.7	131.6	148.3	84.1	46.5
Total disability	696.7	34.5	105.1	169.7	177.3	210.1
No data recorded	161.6	64.2	40.2	29.8	15.4	12.0

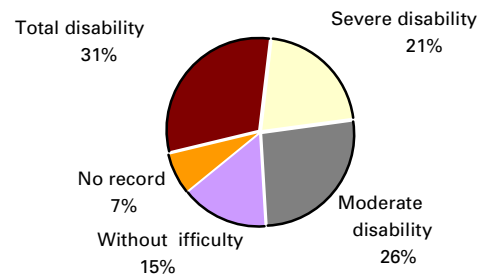
¹ Please see the definition of EBA in the methodological note accompanying this Press release

Distribution of disabled persons aged six years old or over for EBA, by the maximum degree of severity and the use of assistance

Without assistance(*)



With assistance()**



(*) All disabled persons for EBA are considered (whether they receive assistance or not)

(**) Disabled persons for EBA who have assistance are considered.

Joint and bone impairments cause disabilities for 1.5 million persons

The Survey has studied the impairments that cause disability, understanding an impairment to be any problem in a body structure or function.

The most frequent impairments in disabled persons aged six years old or over were those affecting bones and joints (39.3%), hearing (23.8%), visual (21.0%) and mental (19.0%).

Among women, worth noting were osteoarticular problems, whose presence was more than twice that of any other impairment group. More than one million females had a disability caused by an impairment in bones and joints (5.0% of the female population). These were followed by hearing (2.4%), visual (2.3%) and mental (1.9%) impairments.

In the case of males, the main impairments were bone and joint (affecting 2.0% of males), hearing (1.8%), mental (1.5%) and visual (1.4%) impairments.

By age, in the bracket aged six to 44 years old, the main impairments were mental, affecting one third of disabled persons. Beginning at age 45, osteoarticular impairments became more significant, being present in more than four in 10 persons for this group.

Regarding predominant disabilities, in each age group, they change according to the type of impairment. 31.1% of disabled persons aged six to 44 years old claimed that they were limited in their personal relationships, this percentage decreasing to 12.0% in the group aged 45 to 64 years old. The same occurred with communication disabilities (dropping from 31.1% to 11.0%), those of performing and learning tasks (from 28.4% to 9.3%) and those of self-care (from 35.6% to 33.3%). This was due to the fact that these three disabilities are closely related to mental impairments. In turn, disabilities involving mobility, domestic life, vision and hearing increased in presence as age increased.

The most frequent cause of these impairments was some illness (occurring for almost seven in 10 disabled persons), mainly a non-work-related common illness. The second most important factor was *other causes*, especially for the bracket aged 80 years old or over, due to the fact that this heading implicitly includes aging as an origin of the impairment. This was followed by accidents and perinatal problems (congenital problems or problems during childbirth).

Illnesses and accidents had, as the main after-effect, osteoarticular impairments (1.1 million and 245,000 cases, respectively). On the other hand, congenital causes or problems at the time of birth fundamentally caused mental impairments (126,000 persons).

Disabled persons aged six years old and over by disability group

Number of persons in thousands, and rates per 1,000 inhabitants

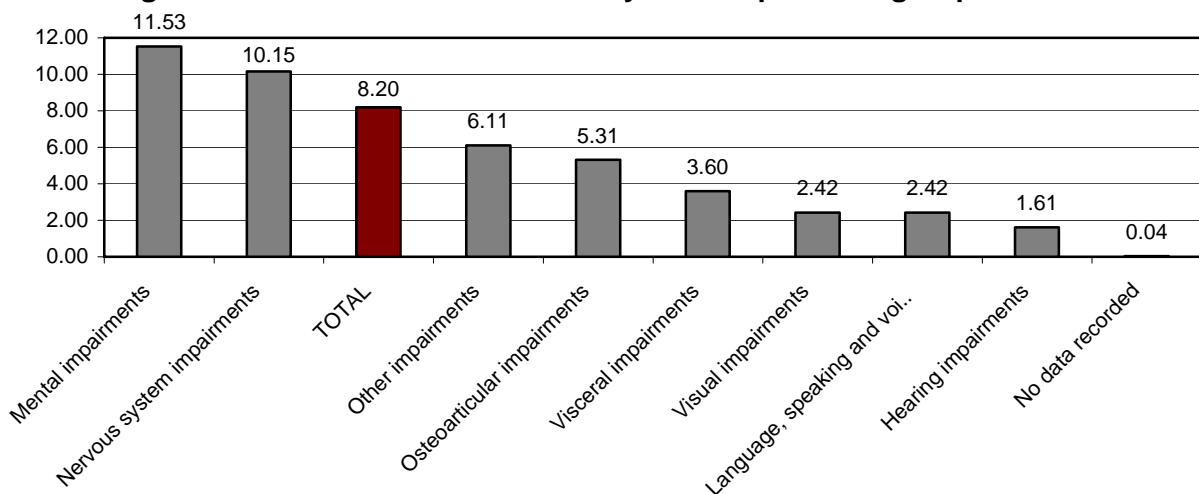
	Both sexes		Males		Females	
	No. of persons	Rate	No. of persons	Rate	No. of persons	Rate
TOTAL						
disabled persons	3,787.4	89.70	1,510.9	72.58	2,276.5	106.35
Mentally impaired	718.9	17.03	306.4	14.72	412.5	19.27
Visually impaired	794.7	18.82	299.1	14.37	495.6	23.15
With impaired hearing	901.8	21.36	384.2	18.46	517.6	24.18
With impaired speech	87.1	2.06	49.9	2.40	37.2	1.74
With osteoarticular impairment	1,487.4	35.23	418.0	20.08	1,069.4	49.96
Nervous system impairment	486.3	11.52	204.0	9.80	282.3	13.19
Impairment of the digestive system	574.3	13.60	231.4	11.11	343.0	16.02
Other impairments	361.7	8.57	105.2	5.06	256.5	11.98
No data recorded	261.4	6.19	119.4	5.74	142.0	6.64

The average number of disabilities per person stands at 8.2

Of the 44 disabilities studied, a disabled person aged six years old or over presented, on average, 8.2 disabilities. Nonetheless, the profile varied greatly, depending on the impairment causing the disabilities.

Those that caused, on average, a higher number of disabilities, were the mental (11.5) and nervous system (10.2) impairments. In turn, those causing a lower number were hearing, visual and speaking and voice impairments (fewer than three disabilities, on average).

Average number of disabilities caused by each impairment group



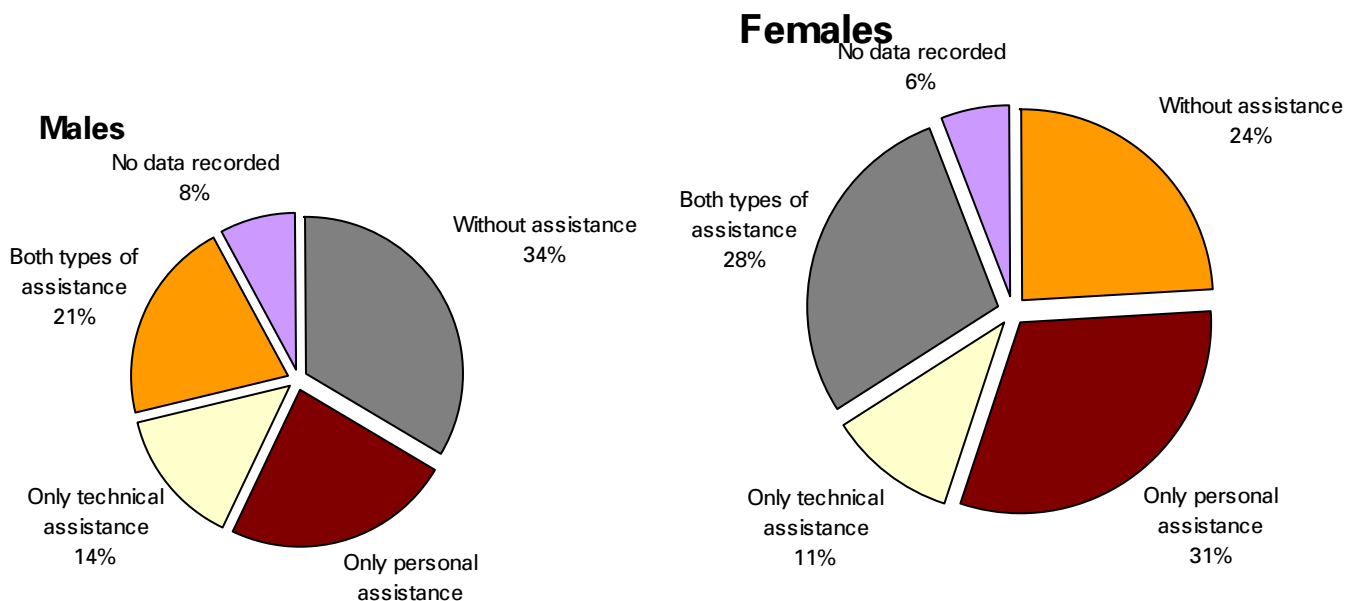
26.6% of disabled persons receive no type of assistance

We studied whether disabled persons received any type of assistance, distinguishing between technical assistance from that provided by other persons. The results showed that more than two million received assistance, supervision or personal care, and almost one-and-a-half million received technical assistance. However, **more than one million persons claimed that they did not receive any type of assistance to carry out the activities for which they were disabled** (26.6% of the group).

By sex, significant differences were observed. 31.7% of disabled males did not receive any type of assistance, as compared with 23.2% of disabled females.

On analysing the types of assistance, 60.7% of disabled females received assistance from other persons, as compared with 47.1% of disabled males.

Percentage of disabled persons, by the type of assistance received



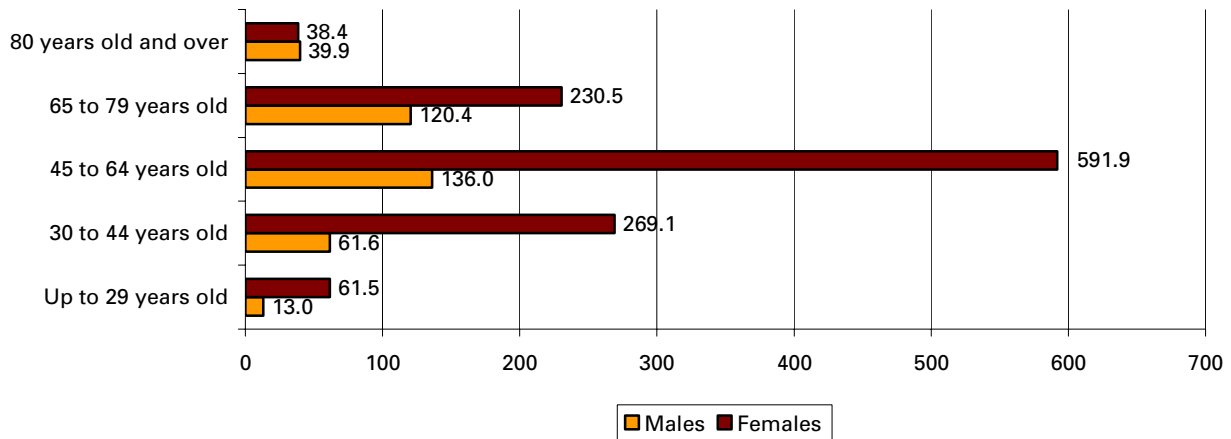
Three in four main carers are women

The profile of the main person providing personal care was a women, aged 45 to 64 years old, residing in the same household as the person to whom she provided care. 76.3% of the persons identified as main carers were women.

By age, for every man up to 64 years of age carrying out these tasks, there were four women carers. Likewise, in the bracket aged 80 years old or over, carer tasks were distributed equally between the sexes.

By place of residence of the main carer, 79.3% resided in the same household as the person to whom they provided care. Worth noting was that, for the remaining 20.7%, nine in 10 carers were women.

Persons receiving personal care by age group and sex of the carer (thousands of persons)



DIDSS-centres

DIDSS 2008 studied, for the first time, residential centres of the elderly, those specifically for disabled persons and long-term geriatric and psychiatric hospitals.

According to the results of the survey, **269,400 persons who resided in this type of centre claimed to have some type of disability (92.7%)**. Of this number, 93,700 were men and 175,700 were women.

This group was mainly comprised of elderly persons (82.6% were 65 years old and over, and among them, three in four were over 80 years old).

For this reason, the type of centre that predominated was the retirement home, in which 216,400 persons with some type of disability resided (63,000 men and 153,400 women). This was followed by centres for disabled persons, where 36,000 persons resided (22,600 men and 13,400 women) and long-term hospitals, where 17,100 persons (8,100 males and 9,000 females) remained admitted.

For further information see INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm All press releases at: www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm

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Methodological note

The Disability, Independence and Dependency Situations Survey (DIDSS) is a statistical operation carried out by the INE in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport (via the DG for Sectorial Policies on Disability and the IMSERSO), the ONCE Foundation, CERMI and FEAPS.

The final objective of the DIDSS is to respond to the demand for information for the System for the Autonomy of and Support for Dependent Persons (SAAD), providing a statistical base allowing for guiding the promotion of personal autonomy and the prevention of situations of dependency.

This statistical operation is based on the experience of the former Survey on Disabilities, Impairments and State of Health, carried out in 1999, adapted to the current social and demographic conditions and instilled with the philosophy of the new International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and offers a fundamental innovation: for the first time, research on disability is extended to the population that does not reside in family dwellings.

The survey is conducted in two stages: the first, DIDSS-households (between November 2007 and February 2008), aimed at family dwellings, studies 96,000 households / 260,000 persons; and a second stage, DIDSS-centres (May to June 2008), aimed for the first time at centres for the elderly, centres for disabled persons and psychiatric and geriatric hospitals, has studied 800 centres / 11,000 persons.

The survey researches the **subjective perception** that persons have regarding their limitations, the cause of said limitations, the degree of severity and the assistance received. They are asked about their state of health, socio-economic benefits related to disability, discrimination due to disability, accessibility, social networks and a series of socio-demographic characteristics that are relevant to the group of disabled persons. In addition, some characteristics of the households and the centres are studied.

Survey scope

The Survey is conducted throughout the country.

Sample design

DIDSS-households: a stratified bi-stage sample type is used. The first-stage units are the census sections. The second-stage units are the main family dwellings. A sample has been selected of approximately 96,075 dwellings distributed among 3,843 census sections. The sample is distributed among the provinces, assigning one part uniformly, and another part proportionally to the size of the province.

DIDSS-centres: a stratified bi-stage sample type is used. The first-stage units are the centres, and the second-stage units are the persons who reside in said centres.

The stratification variables used are the size of the centre measured in the number of places (or beds in the case of hospitals) and the ownership, public or private, thereof.

For each Autonomous Community, an independent sample is designed.

Information collection

DIDSS-households: the information collection method is the personal interview. Four types of questionnaire have been used: Household Questionnaire, Disability Questionnaire (persons aged six years old or over), Limitations Questionnaire (persons aged 0 to five years old) and Main Carer Questionnaire.

DIDSS-centres: three types of questionnaire have been used: Centre Questionnaire, Hospital Questionnaire and Person Questionnaire. The information collection for the centre and hospital questionnaires has been carried out by self-completion, while that for the person questionnaires has been carried out by personal interview.

Definitions

Disability (persons aged six years old or over)

For the purposes of the Survey, a disability is understood to be any important limitation for carrying out everyday activities that has lasted, or is expected to last, more than one year, and has an impairment as its origin. A person is considered to be disabled, although the disability is overcome with the use of external technical assistance or with the assistance or supervision of another person (except in the case of using eyeglasses or contact lenses).

The survey has considered 44 types of disability, classified into 8 groups: Vision, Hearing, Communication, Learning and application of knowledge and development of tasks, Mobility, Self-care, Domestic life and Personal interactions and relations.

Limitations (persons under six years old)

In the group aged nought to five years old, the detailed study of disabilities is not used, given the difficulty of its detection. Possible limitations are studied that may have been detected in children of this age.

Disability for Everyday Basic Activities (EBA)

EBA are considered to be: Washing oneself, Care of the parts of the body, Personal hygiene related to urination, Personal hygiene related to defecation, Personal hygiene related to menstruation, Dressing and undressing, Eating and drinking, Care of one's own health: following medical prescriptions, Care of one's own health: avoiding dangerous situations, Acquisition of goods and services, Preparing meals, Carrying out household chores, Changing basic bodily postures, Maintaining the position of the body, Moving around the home, Moving outside of the home, Intentional use of the sense (looking, listening, ...) and Carrying out simple tasks

Impairment:

An impairment is defined as problems with the functions or structures of the body. The survey has considered 35 types of impairment, classified into 8 groups: Mental, Visual, Hearing, Language, speaking and voice, Osteoarcitular, Nervous System, Visceral and Other impairments.

Problem resulting the impairment

Nine possible causes are considered: Congenital, problems during childbirth, traffic accident, accident in the home, work-related accident, other accident, work-related illness, illness (non-work-related), other causes.

Severity of disabilities

The difficulty that the person has in carrying out everyday activities is considered (without difficulty or little difficulty, moderate difficulty, severe difficulty, cannot carry out the activity).

Types of assistance

Two types of assistance are considered: technical assistance and personal assistance (including supervision)

–Technical assistance: any technical product or instrument used or aimed at use by a disabled persons, which compensates or lessens the limitation. For example: hearing aids, external prostheses, canes, wheelchairs, oxygen,

–Personal assistance: cooperation of another person, necessary for carrying out an everyday activity.

–Supervision: the need for another person to be overseeing what one does, in the event that problems arise in an everyday activity.