

Social Integration and Health Survey
Year 2012

The prevalence of disabilities stands at 16.7% for persons aged 15 years old and over

Half of persons with disabilities state that they lack help with involvement in everyday activities

Among the general population, the areas with most obstacles for persons aged between 15 and 64 years old are leisure activities and access to suitable employment

The Social Integration and Health Survey researches, on the one hand, possible obstacles to the social involvement of the population, and on the other hand, the health condition of the population. The concept of disabilities arises from the interaction of the two facets.

The results offered below are structured into two blocks. The first specifically covers persons with disabilities. The second analyses obstacles to involvement in the different areas of life for the entire population (with and without disabilities). All results refer to the population aged 15 years old and over.

DISABILITIES AMONG THE SPANISH POPULATION

16.7% of the population aged 15 years old and over showed some degree of limitation in social involvement due to their health condition, that is, according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disabilities and Health (ICF), they were considered to be persons with disabilities¹.

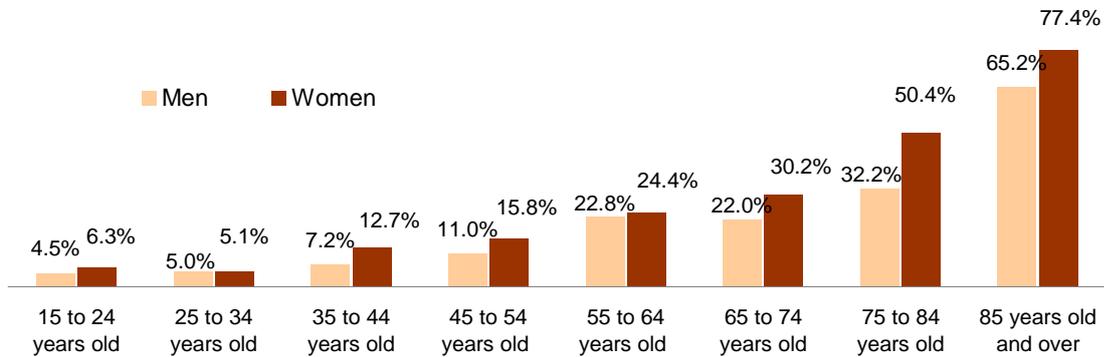
As age increased, limitations due to health condition became more evident. Up until the age of 44 years old, disabilities were present in fewer than one out of every 10 persons, as compared to more than five out of every 10 among persons over 74 years old.

Disabilities were most prevalent in the group aged 85 years old and over. Three out of four persons stated that they were limited by a health problem in some area of their life.

By sex, there was a greater prevalence among women (20.0%) than among men (13.3%), and though this fact was observed across all age groups, starting at 35 years old, the difference in prevalence, by sex, began to be more significant.

¹The survey is adapted to the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disabilities and Health (ICF), which regards disabilities as the situation resulting from the interaction between the health condition and the contextual factors that restrict the involvement of a person. The application of this classification prevents the results being comparable with those from previous disability surveys published by the INE based on previous WHO classifications.

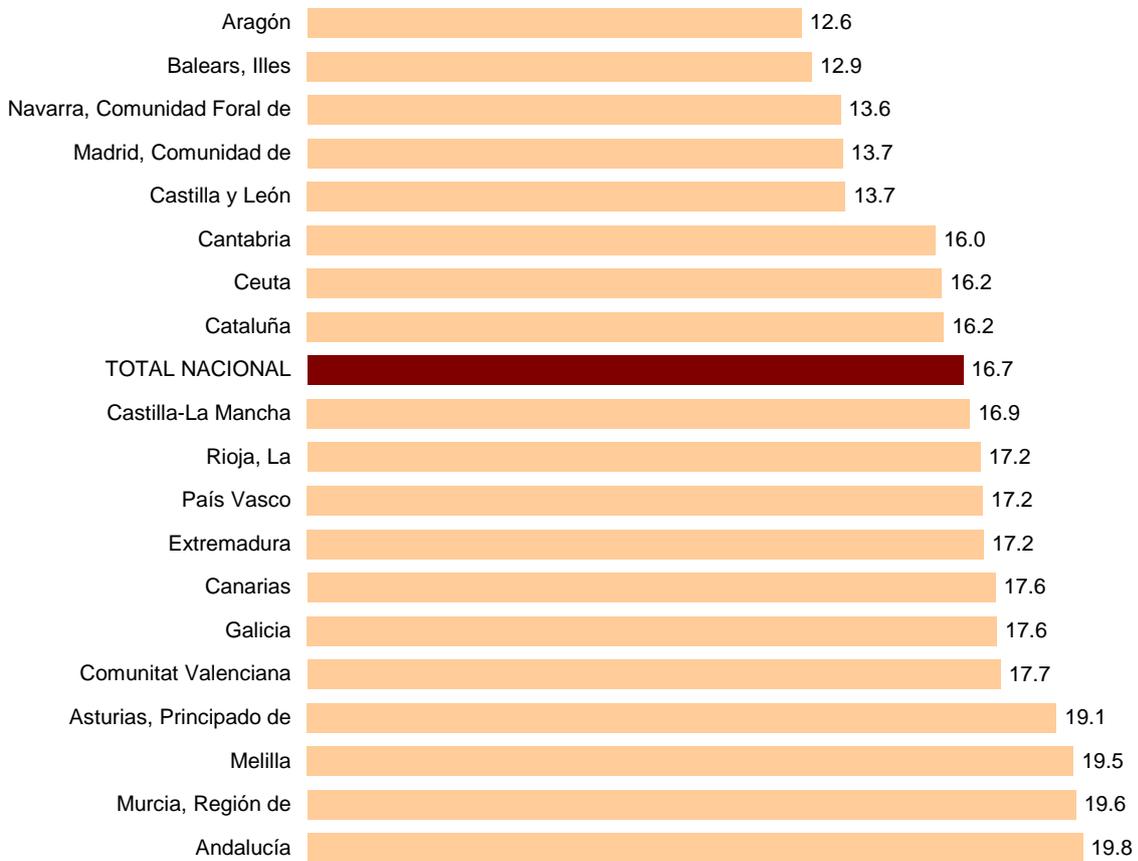
Disability rate, by age group and sex



The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of population stating disabilities were Andalucía (19.8%), Región de Murcia (19.6%) and Principado de Asturias (19.1%), whereas Aragón (12.6%), Illes Balears (12.9%) and Comunidad Foral de Navarra (13.6%) recorded the lowest rates.

Prevalence of disabilities, by Autonomous Community

percentage of persons aged 15 years old and over



Profile of the person with disabilities

The population with disabilities was characterised by a greater presence of women (six out of every 10) and elderly persons (almost half were over 64 years old).

7.7% had been born abroad, whilst this percentage was double among persons without disabilities (15.3%).

Regarding educational level, in the population aged 15 to 64 years old with disabilities, there was a higher percentage of persons with first-stage secondary studies or lower (66.6%) than in the population without disabilities (44.2%).

There was also a lower percentage of persons aged 15 to 64 years old with disabilities among those with higher education studies than among the rest (14.5%, as compared with 31.7%).

Distribution of persons with disabilities, according to educational level

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Total	100.0%	100.0%
- Primary education or less	43.1%	15.6%
- First-stage secondary education	34.3%	33.5%
- Second-stage secondary education	12.1%	22.1%
- Higher education	10.5%	28.8%
Aged 15 to 64 years old	100.0%	100.0%
- Primary education or less	23.6%	10.7%
- First-stage secondary education	43.0%	33.5%
- Second-stage secondary education	18.8%	24.1%
- Higher education	14.5%	31.7%
Aged 65 years old and over	100.0%	100.0%
- Primary education or less	65.8%	43.4%
- First-stage secondary education	24.1%	33.8%
- Second-stage secondary education	4.3%	10.8%
- Higher education	5.8%	12.0%

Regarding employment status, 44.1% of the population with disabilities was retired, 14.1% stated that they were working, and 12.7% were unemployed.

According to these figures, the unemployment rate of the population with disabilities stood at 47.4%.

Lastly, 50.9% of persons with disabilities indicated some significant functional limitation (seeing, hearing, walking, etc.), 38.7% for carrying out household activities (doing the shopping, housework, everyday paperwork, etc.) and 20.6% for performing self-care activities (eating, personal hygiene, getting dressed, etc.).

Distribution of persons with disabilities, according to employment status

	Persons with disabilities	Persons without disabilities
Total	100.0%	100.0%
- Working	14.1%	46.2%
- Unemployed	12.7%	18.4%
- Retired	44.1%	14.9%
- Studying	2.2%	11.0%
- Incapacitated to work	12.6%	0.2%
- Other economically inactive persons	14.4%	9.3%
Aged 15 to 64 years old	100.0%	100.0%
- Working	26.1%	54.2%
- Unemployed	23.3%	21.6%
- Studying	4.0%	13.0%
- Incapacitated to work	21.7%	0.2%
- Other economically inactive persons	24.8%	11.0%

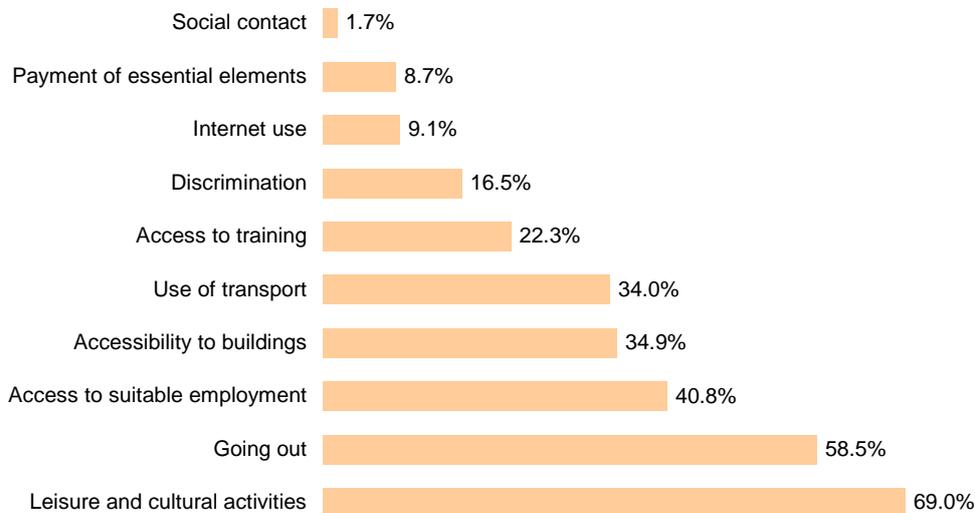
Areas of life affected by disabilities

Among the different situations in daily life where the population with disabilities saw their involvement limited due to their health condition, worth noting were access to suitable employment (40.8%), mobility to leave the home (58.5%) and leisure or cultural activities (69.0%).

Among the persons under 65 years old with disabilities, the importance of restrictions to accessing suitable employment (60.7% of this age group) was particularly significant, whilst among those 65 years old and over, obstacles to going out (68.1%) were highlighted.

Areas where disabilities are evident

Percentage of persons with disabilities



They were followed in importance by difficulties in using transport, and accessibility problems in buildings, which affected one in three persons with disabilities. This proportion increased to almost two out of three persons over 84 years old.

16.5% of persons with disabilities stated having been treated unfairly by other persons due to their health condition. This perception was higher among persons aged 15 to 44 years old (26.6%) and lower among those over 74 years old (7.3%).

8.7% expressed difficulties in paying essential living expenses due to the costs related to their health condition (illnesses or limitation to activity).

Conversely, where the health condition was scarcely considered an obstacle by persons with disabilities was in their contact with their social environment (1.7%).

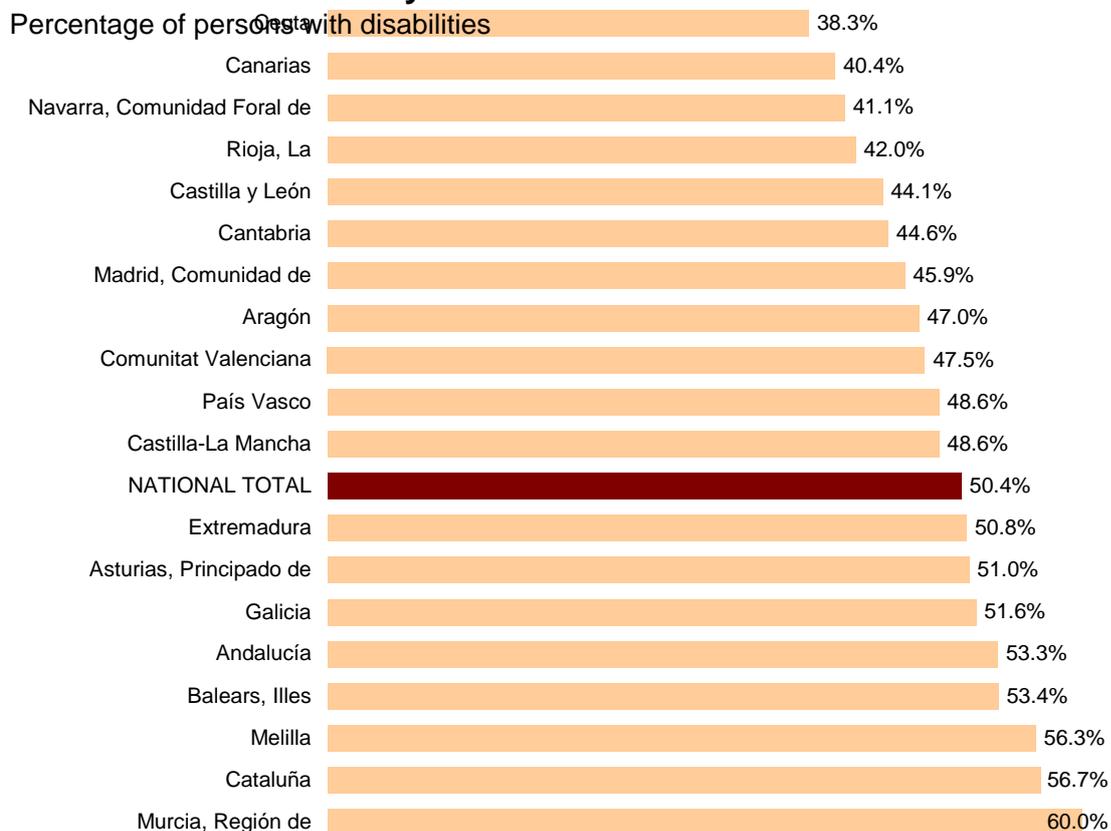
Lack of assistance for persons with disabilities

For half of persons with disabilities, the lack of technical or personal assistance was an obstacle to being able to be involved in everyday activities. This circumstance was more customary among women (53.2%) than among men (46.0%).

By age group, the absence of assistance was mentioned by 41.4% of persons aged 15 to 44 years old and by 59.3% of persons over 74 years old.

By type of assistance, 40.9% indicated a lack of personal assistance and 39.5% indicated a lack of technical assistance (three out of 10 stated needing both types of help).

Lack of personal and/or technical assistance, by Autonomous Community



The Autonomous Communities where the most population with disabilities mentioned a lack of technical or personal assistance were Región de Murcia, Cataluña and Illes Balears. Where the least population mentioned this lack of assistance was in Canarias, Comunidad Foral de Navarra and La Rioja.

State of health in persons with disabilities

17.5% of the population with disabilities stated that they had a good, or very good, state of health, as compared with 34.7% who stated that their state of health was poor or very poor. Among persons without disabilities, 82.4% considered it positively, while 1.3% considered it negatively.

An unequal assessment of the state of health was observed, according to sex. Women with disabilities who assessed their state of health negatively exceeded those who evaluated it positively by 20.8%, whilst for men, this gap reached 11.6%.

The assessment of the state of health worsened with age. 40.5% of persons aged 15 to 44 years old with disabilities indicated that their state of health was good or very good. For persons over 74 years old, this dropped to 10.2%.

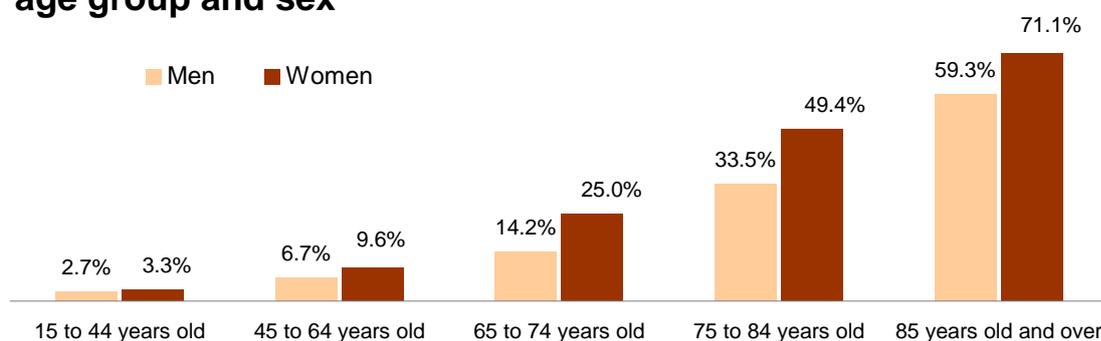
Regarding chronic illnesses or health problems, nine out of 10 persons with disabilities stated that they had one or more, as compared with three out of 10 persons without disabilities.

Functional limitations in the population

Among the general population aged 15 years old and over, one in 10 persons stated that they had significant difficulty or were unable to carry out one or more functional activities, such as seeing, hearing, walking, concentrating, communicating, etc.

These difficulties were more frequent among persons over 74 years old (one in two), and especially in activities requiring mobility. Specifically, these persons had severe difficulties on trying to, or could not: go up or down stairs (29.4%), lift objects (24.5%) and walk (23.4%).

Persons with significant functional limitations, by age group and sex



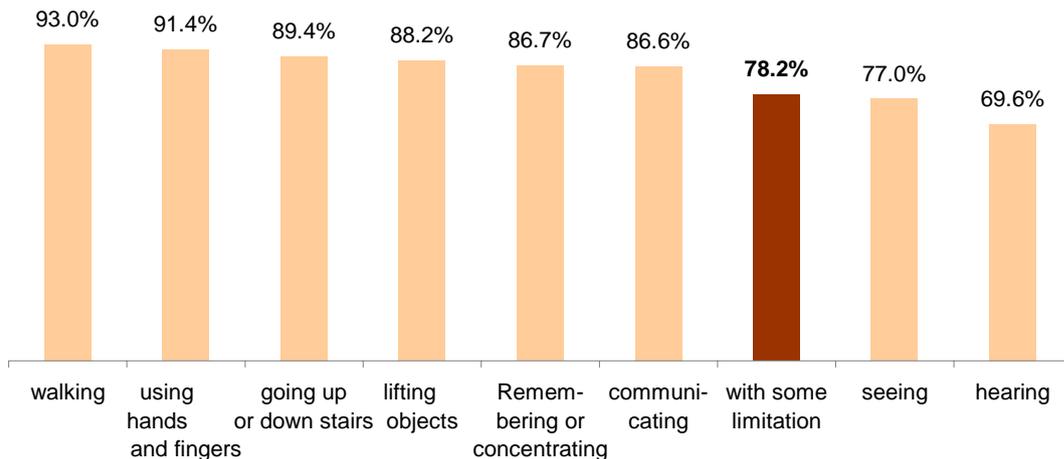
Regarding the employment status of persons aged 15 to 64 years old with these limitations, 27.5% stated that they were incapacitated to work (32.7% of men and 23.6% of women), 21.6% worked and 20.7% were unemployed.

Worth noting was that not all persons with significant functional limitations indicated disabilities in an area of life. The prevalence of disabilities in this group stood at 78.2%.

The greatest prevalence of disabilities (at least nine out of 10) was observed among those persons with limitations to walking, using their hands or going up or down stairs.

Conversely, there was less prevalence among those persons with limitations to hearing or seeing (69.6% and 77.0%, respectively).

Prevalence of disabilities among persons with significant functional limitations



From the perspective of daily life situations, worth noting was that the group that most mentioned discrimination, problems with social contact and a poor economic situation were those persons with limitations to communicating (27.0%, 13.4% and 21.0%).

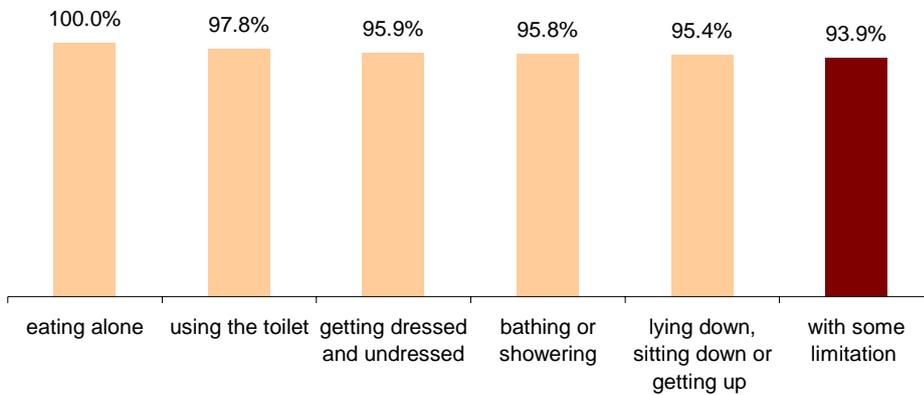
Limitations to self-care activities

3.7% of persons aged 15 years old or over indicated a significant limitation to self-care activities (eating alone, personal hygiene, going to bed, getting dressed, etc.). These limitations barely affected persons aged 15 to 74 years old (1.5%), whilst for the group aged 75 to 84 years old, it stood at 16.6%, and for those over 84 years old, it reached 43.4%.

The most severe difficulties for persons over 84 years old occurred in personal hygiene (41.4%) and for getting dressed and undressed (26.7%).

93.9% of persons presenting significant limitations to this type of activity have disabilities.

Prevalence of disabilities among persons with significant limitations to self-care activities



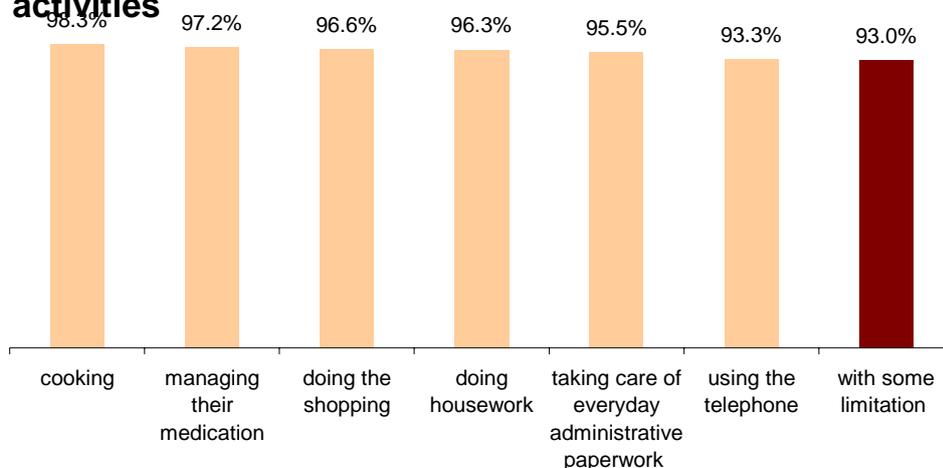
Limitations to household activities

The population with significant limitations to carrying out household activities, due to health reasons (preparing meals, doing the shopping, managing the household finances, etc.) stood at 7.0%. Among persons over 84 years old, this percentage rose to 62.9%.

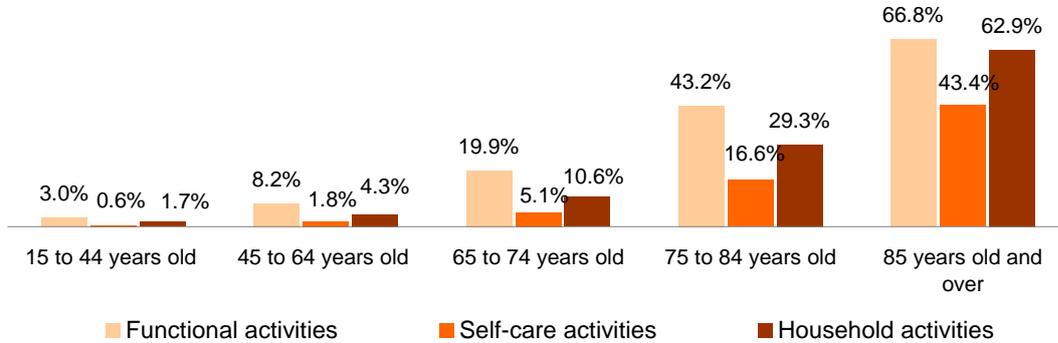
The activities most frequently mentioned for having some significant difficulties were doing the shopping, doing household chores and managing the household affairs and finances. One in two persons over 84 years old could not carry out these tasks, or they did so with serious difficulties.

The disability rate among persons with limitations to household activities was 93.0%.

Prevalence of disabilities among persons with significant limitations to household activities



Persons with some type of significant limitation, by age group



Prevalence of disabilities in the different areas of life

Persons with significant limitations to every day activities

	Functional activities	Self-care activities	Household activities
Persons with significant limitations for:			
With disabilities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Areas where disabilities are evident:			
Going out	57.3%	82.7%	77.0%
Using transport	37.7%	62.2%	53.7%
Accessing buildings	39.6%	62.3%	54.8%
Accessing training	20.2%	21.1%	25.6%
Accessing suitable employment	29.8%	30.2%	35.2%
Internet use	8.5%	9.8%	12.5%
Social contact	2.3%	4.9%	3.2%
Leisure and cultural activities	61.5%	80.6%	77.4%
Payment of essential expenses	8.7%	13.3%	11.7%
Discrimination	12.9%	14.5%	17.5%

OBSTACLES TO THE SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION

The survey also asked the population aged 15 years old and over (with and without disabilities) about other obstacles that limit their involvement in different areas of life. Each one of them will be analysed below.

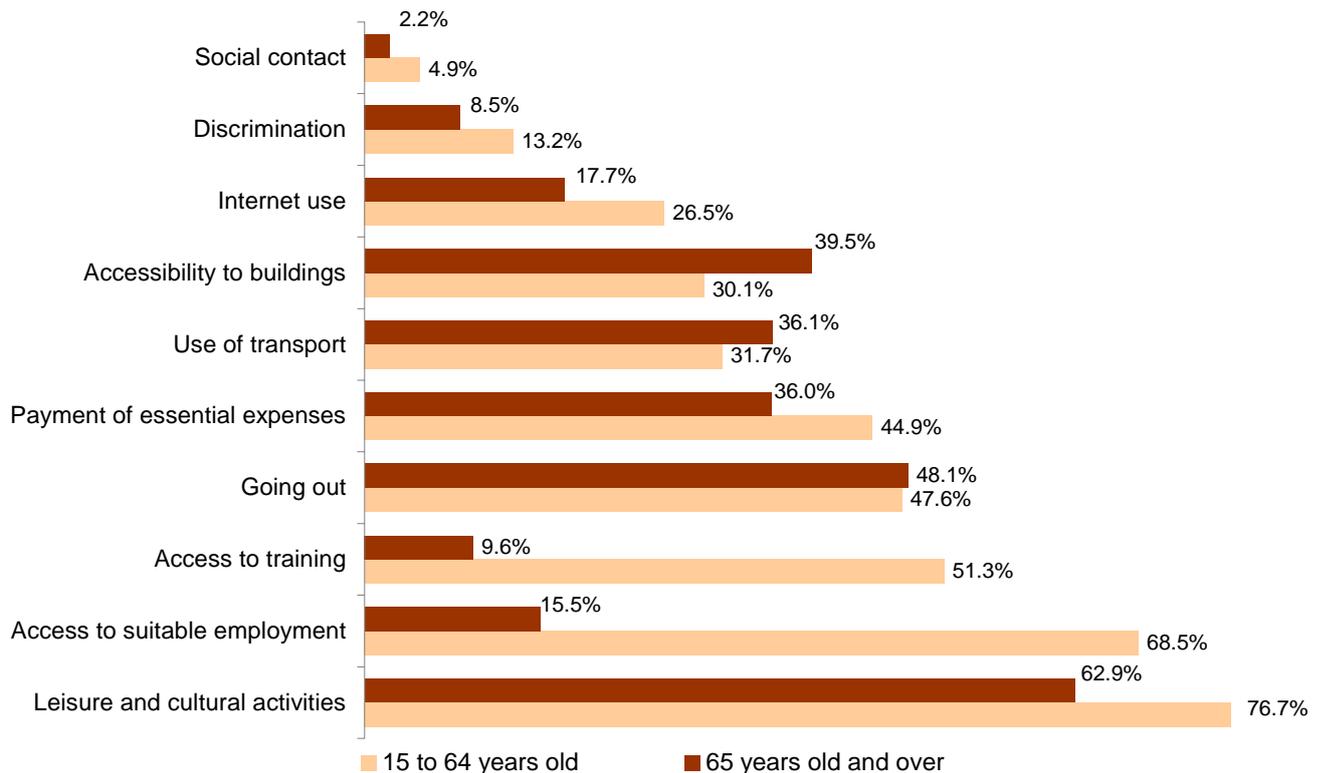
Areas of life where obstacles occur

The areas where obstacles to involvement were perceived varied according to age. Among persons aged 15 to 64 years old, the areas most mentioned were involvement in leisure and cultural activities, access to suitable employment and access to training.

Conversely, persons over 64 years old more frequently mentioned problems in going out, accessibility to buildings and involvement in leisure and cultural activities.

The areas where the least problems were detected for all age groups were in social contact with friends and family and in situations of discriminatory treatment.

Areas where persons find obstacles to involvement (percentage of persons)

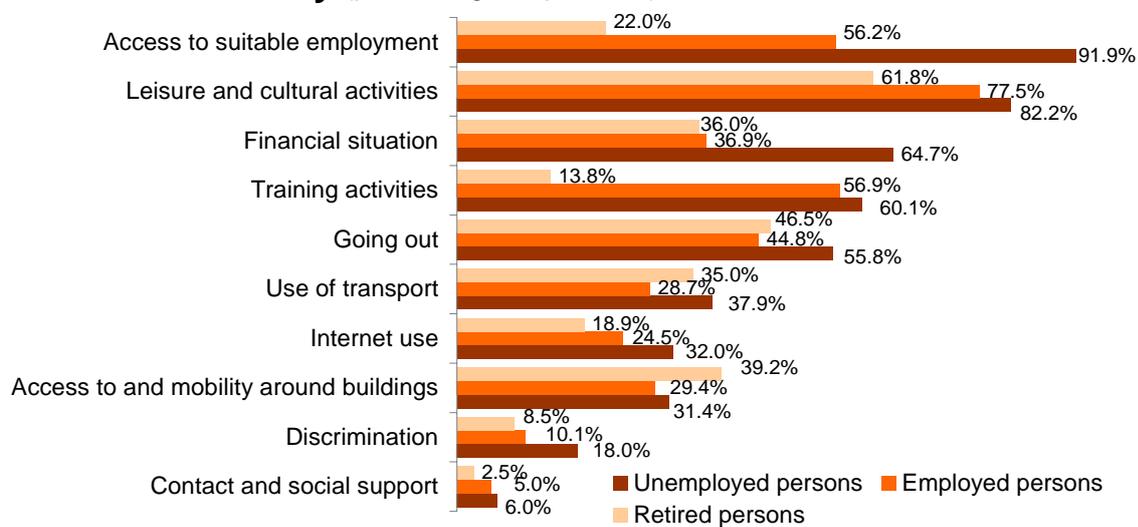


By sex, obstacles were more frequent among women than among men in all areas, except in the social contact area. Worth noting was the difference among women indicating some type of discrimination, as compared with men (14.4% and 9.9%, respectively).

According to employment status, unemployed persons perceived more obstacles. This was that group that most frequently indicated difficulties in each of the areas studied, except for accessibility to buildings, which was mainly mentioned by retired persons. The areas with the most problems with involvement among unemployed persons were access to employment (91.9%), involvement in leisure and cultural activities (82.2%) and the payment of essential expenses (64.7%).

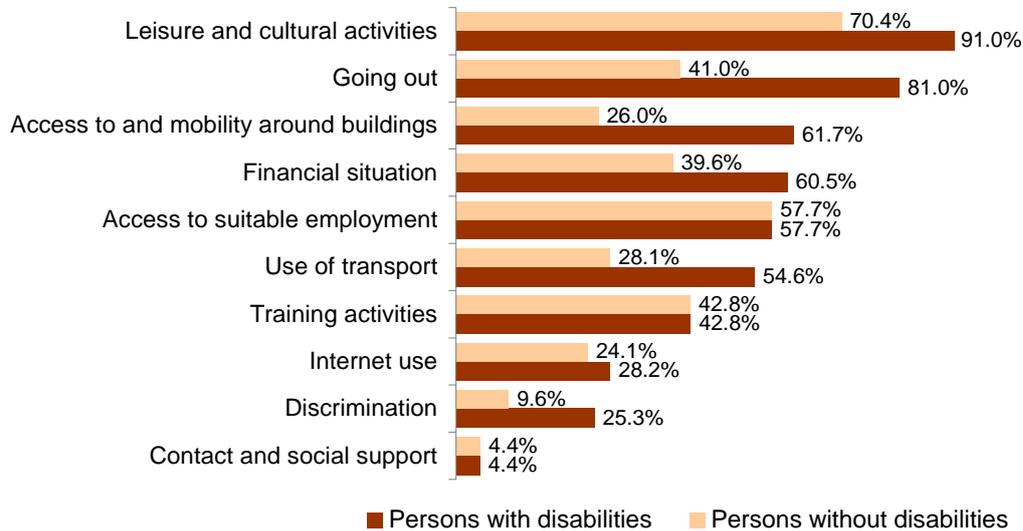
Among employed persons, the areas with the most frequently mentioned limitations were involvement in leisure and cultural activities (77.5% of working persons), access to training (56.9%) and suitable employment (56.2%).

Obstacles to involvement, by relationship with economic activity (percentage of persons)



Comparing restrictions on participation of persons with and without disabilities, in all areas, problems were more frequent among the population with disabilities. Worth noting were the differences in the perception of discrimination, mentioned almost three times more among persons with disabilities (25.3%) than among the population without disabilities (9.6%).

Obstacles to involvement among persons with and without disabilities (percentage of persons)



The following analyses the obstacles within each of the areas of life.

Obstacles to going out

47.7% of the population found limitations to going out as often as they would like. The main two obstacles indicated by the population were economic reasons (25.7% of the population) and being too busy with the family or with work (22.9%). Among persons over 74 years old, the main restrictions were health problems (30.9%) and limitations to basic activities (27.0%).

In terms of going out, persons with disabilities also highlighted a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons (26.9%), a lack of suitable transport (22.3%) and the conditions of the dwelling environment (19.6%) as obstacles.

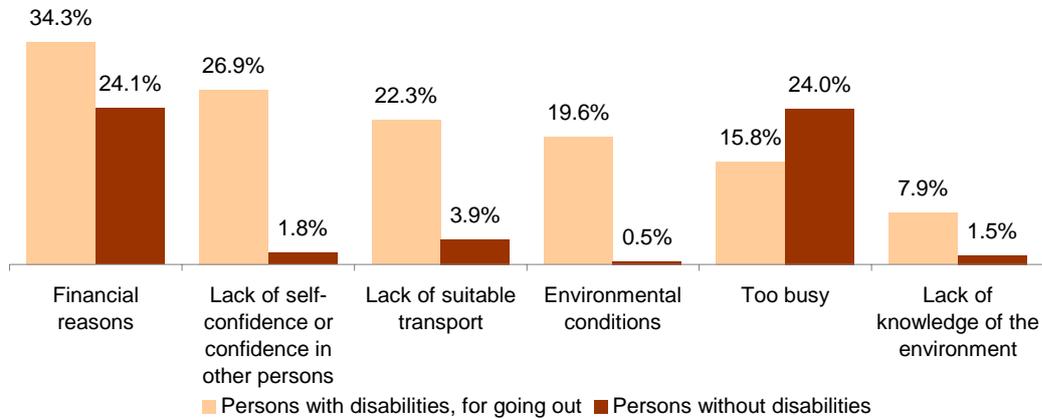
Obstacles to using private transport

14.2% of persons with access to a private vehicle could always use it whenever they wished (13.0% of men and 15.5% of women). Half of them alluded to financial reasons, though the second reason was that the vehicle was not always available (5.5%).

In the case of persons with disabilities in this area, and who had a vehicle in the household, the main obstacles to using it, other than health problems, were difficulties entering and exiting (40.5%), financial reasons (38.3%) and a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons (32.7%).

Types of obstacles to going out

(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to using public transport

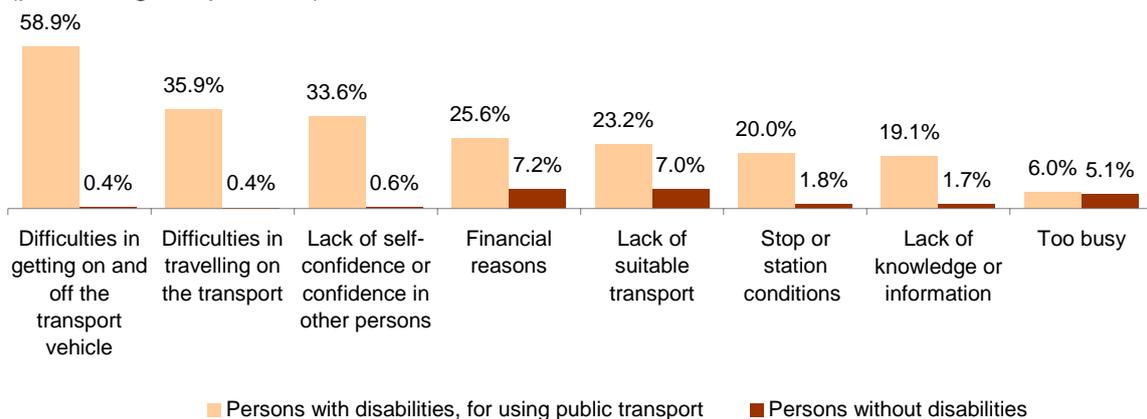
One quarter of the population indicated obstacles to using public transport. The main reasons were financial reasons (8.6%) and a lack of suitable transport (7.9%).

Problems increased for persons over 74 years old (40.7% of them indicated some restriction) and among women (46.7%, as compared with 31.1% of men). In this case, the main obstacles were difficulties in getting on and off transport vehicles, health problems and limitations to basic activities.

Persons with these disabilities found other additional obstacles: difficulties in getting on and off transport vehicles (58.9%), difficulties travelling suitably within the transport (35.9%) and a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons (33.6%).

Types of obstacles to using public transport

(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to accessing buildings

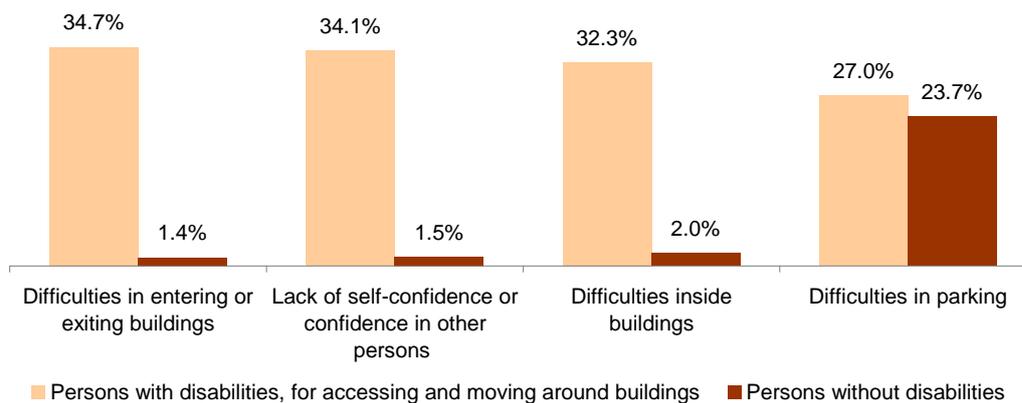
The population with the most difficulties in being able to use regular buildings were those persons over 74 years old. 47.9% of said group indicated some obstacle, and at least half alluded to health problems or limitations to basic activities.

For the remaining age groups, the main obstacle were the difficulties associated with parking in the areas surrounding the buildings they used (24.1%).

Among persons with disabilities, for accessing buildings, one in three indicated the presence of obstacles either to entering or exiting buildings or to moving about inside them, or limitations derived from a lack of self-confidence or of confidence in other persons.

Types of obstacles to accessing buildings

(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to access to training

Persons who were not undertaking any training activity were asked about the reasons for not doing so. Four out of 10 indicated some obstacle, with the main two being financial reasons (15.3%) and time limitations (27.2%).

In the group aged 15 to 64 years old, the most frequently-mentioned obstacles were financial reasons (18.6%) and being too busy (33.3%).

Among persons with disabilities, in this area, there were other obstacles in addition to the financial obstacles (41.4%). Thus, 32.3% indicated not being aware of the training possibilities, 30.6% stated that they had problems undertaking a course, due to not being admitted or to not being near their municipality and 28.1% due to a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons.

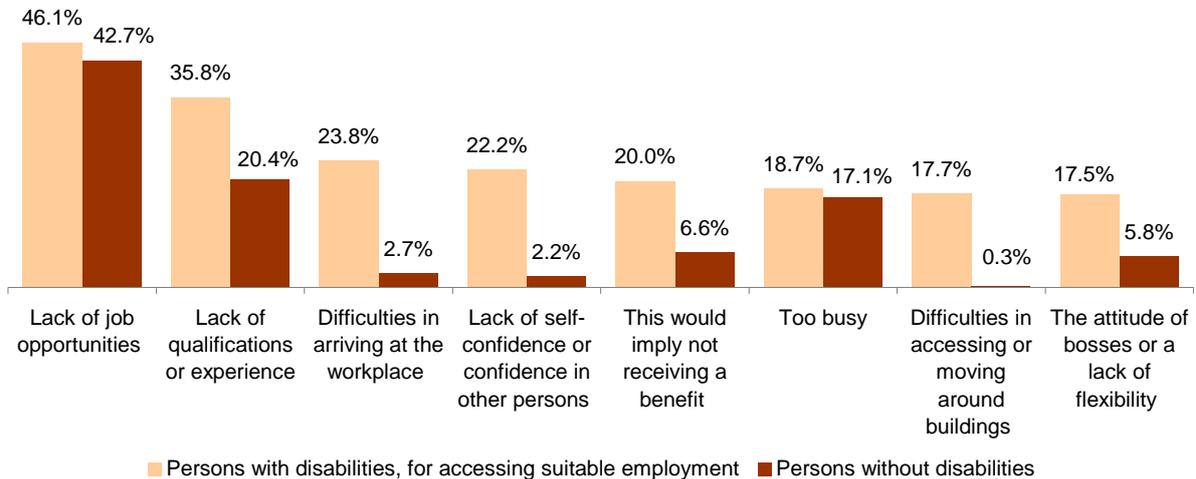
Obstacles to accessing suitable employment

Six out of 10 persons indicated some reason for which they could not access the type of work they considered to be suitable. The main obstacle was a lack of job opportunities (40.9% of the population), following by a lack of experience or qualification (20.4%). These percentages increased among unemployed persons, by 84.2% and 31.2%, respectively. Health reasons were mentioned by 6.9% of the population.

In order to access suitable employment, persons with disabilities indicated difficulties in reaching the job post (23.8%), a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons

(22.2%) and a loss of benefits in case of obtaining work (20.0%), in addition to a lack of job opportunities (46.1%) and a lack of qualification or experience (35.8%).

Types of obstacles to accessing suitable employment
(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to Internet use

One in four persons indicated some sort of restriction preventing them from using the Internet, or from a more regular Internet use. The most customary reasons were a lack of computer knowledge (12.9%) and being too busy (10.8%).

Obstacles to social contact

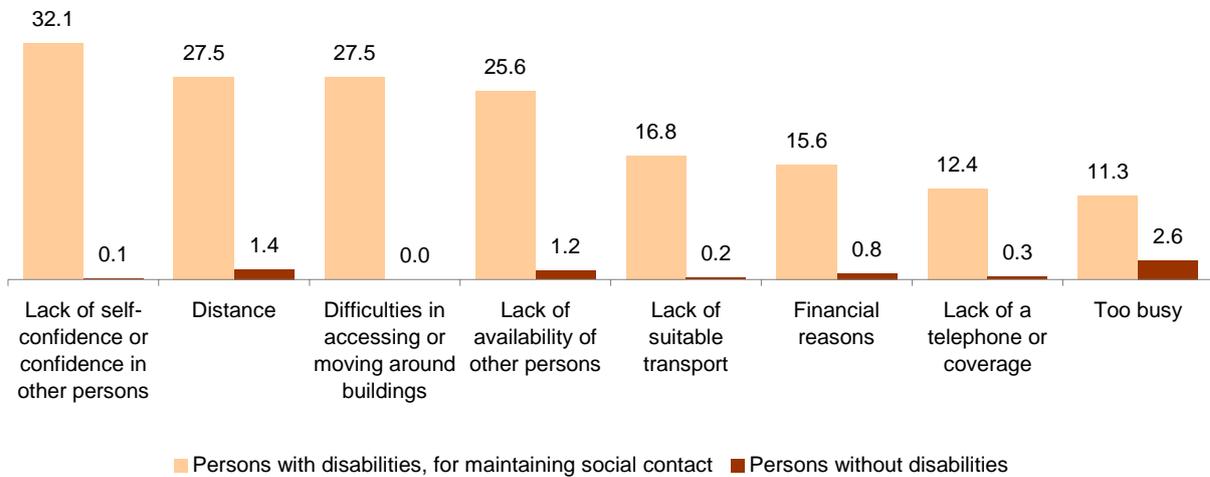
The area where the population recorded the least obstacles was in contact with friends and family. Only 4.4% stated that they had restrictions, and the main restriction was being too busy with family, work, etc. (2.4%).

Restrictions were somewhat more customary among men than among women, and more among persons under 65 years old than among persons over that age. Health reasons were scarcely mentioned, by only 0.3% of the population.

Among the persons with this type of disability, worth noting was a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons (32.1%), the distance of other persons from the place where they live (27.5%) and accessibility to buildings (27.5%).

Types of obstacles to social contact

(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to involvement in hobbies

Six out of 10 persons expressed having encountered some obstacle to spending time on their hobbies to the extent they would like. The two main reasons were being too busy with family or work responsibilities, etc. (34.9%) and financial reasons (27.0%). Health reasons were mentioned by 10.5% of the population.

Persons with disabilities in this area indicated other obstacles. 24.8% had distance problems, 23.2% had problems with a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons and 21.8% had problems with accessibility to buildings.

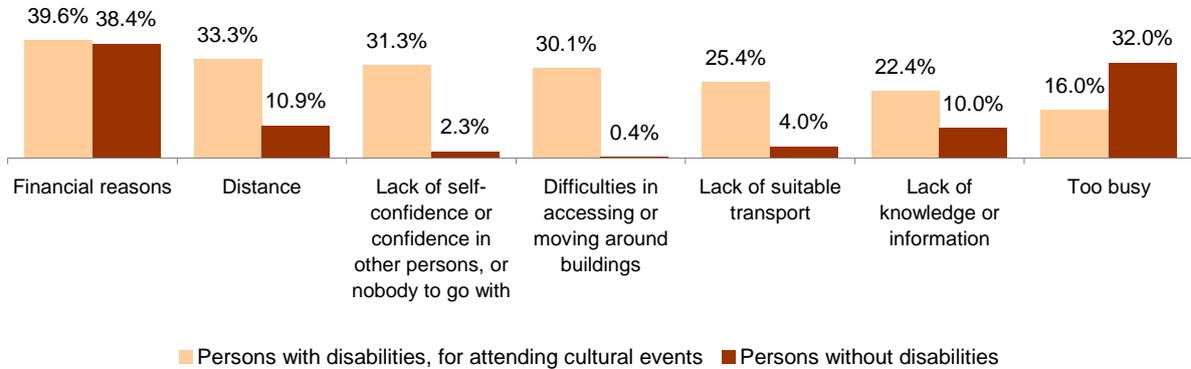
Obstacles to involvement in cultural activities

The main obstacles preventing the general population from being involved in cultural events or festivities were financial reasons (39.1%), time limitations (29.7%) and distance (13.4%).

In the case of persons indicating this disability, distance, accessibility in buildings and a lack of self-confidence or confidence in other persons hindered their involvement. Each of them was mentioned by at least one in every three persons.

Types of obstacles to attending cultural events

(percentage of persons)



Obstacles to paying essential expenses

At least four out of 10 persons aged 15 years old and over had difficulties paying essential expenses. Among persons under 65 years old, the percentage reached 44.9%, and for those 65 years old and over, it was 36.0%.

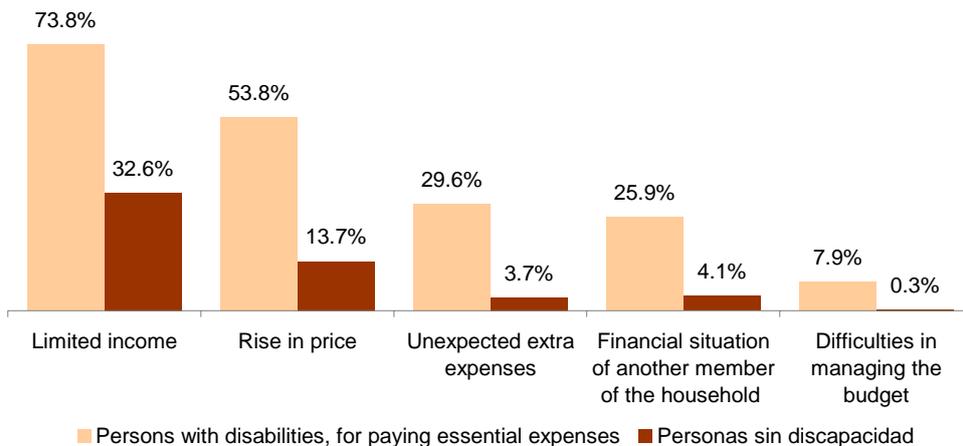
By labour situation, two out of three persons from the group of unemployed persons and persons incapacitated to work indicated difficulties in paying basic expenses.

The main reasons were limited income (36.0%), a rise in price (14.3%) and the financial situation of another member of the household (4.7%).

8.7% of the total persons with disabilities had financial difficulties due to their health condition. Within this group, seven out of 10 persons were affected by having limited income, and five out of 10 by a rise in price.

Types of obstacles to paying essential expenses

(percentage of persons)



Discrimination

12.2% of the population perceived being treated unfairly by other persons. This consideration was greater among women (14.4%) than among men (9.9%).

The main reasons for discrimination were age (5.8% of the population) and sex (5.2% in the case of women).

16.5% of persons with disabilities felt discriminated against due to their health condition. The perception of discrimination was greater among younger persons (26.6% among persons under 45 years old and 7.3% among persons over 74 years old).

Methodological note

The Social Integration and Health Survey (SIHS2012) is a statistical operation that researches the interaction between the health condition and the social involvement of the Spanish population, identifying and characterising persons with disabilities in particular.

The concept of disability that is applied is included in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) passed by the WHO in 2001. According to the ICF, disability is the situation resulting from the interaction between health condition and contextual factors, with these being personal (such as sex, age, education, etc.) or environmental (such as architectural obstacles, services available to the public, etc.). The application of this classification prevents the results being comparable with those from previous disability surveys published by the INE based on previous WHO classifications.

Following this schema, the identification of the person with disabilities has not been carried out *a priori*, but rather as a result of the questions in the questionnaire. To this end, ten areas of daily life have been selected, asking each person interviewed if they encountered any obstacle preventing them from being as involved as they would like in each one of the areas. Two of the obstacles considered in each area were related to their health condition: a chronic illness or health problem, and a limitation to activities. If a person stated that their health condition would entail an obstacle to involvement in any of the areas, the person was considered to have disabilities. The areas selected were as follows: mobility to go out, use of public and private transport, accessibility to buildings, access to training, access to suitable employment, Internet use, social contact with friends and family, involvement in leisure and cultural activities, problems paying essential expenses and discriminatory treatment.

The Survey has been conducted with a common methodology in all EU countries, and has been supervised by Eurostat. We hope to have results on a European level within the first half of 2014.

14,600 persons have been interviewed in Spain. The sample is representative for all Autonomous Communities for the main variables. A stratified tri-stage sample design has been used of the first-stage units. The first-stage units were the census sections. The second-stage units were the main family dwellings, and within each one of them, one person aged 15 years old or over has been selected to answer the questionnaire.

The information collection was carried out between September 2012 and February 2013 using two channels: computer-assisted Web interview (CAWI) and computer-assisted telephone interview.

In addition to obstacles to social involvement encountered by the interviewees, information has been collected regarding their state of health, chronic illnesses, limitations to everyday activities, as well as basic socio-demographic classification variables.