



Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick

Results from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability



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Context¹

The purpose of the Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) is to provide information about Canadian youth and adults whose everyday activities (labour force participation, participation in education, leisure activities, etc.) are limited due to a long-term condition or health-related problem. Information from the CSD may be used by all levels of government, as well as associations for persons with disabilities and researchers working in the field of disability. Data may be used to plan and evaluate policies and programs for Canadians with disabilities to help enable their full participation in society.

The results presented in this report are based on the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability. The CSD takes place every 5 years, with the next iteration set to take place in 2022.

New Brunswickers with Disabilities

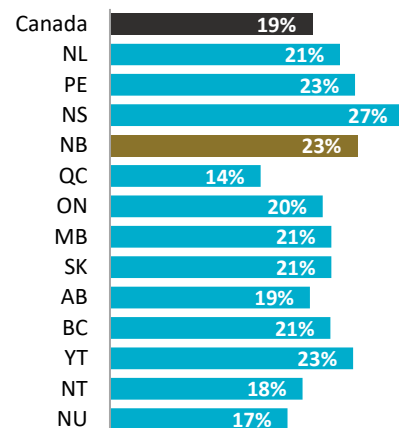
Overview

- In 2017, an estimated 109,280 typical working-age (aged 15 to 64 years) New Brunswickers had one or more disability. This represented 23.0% of the province's typical working-age population, well above the 18.8% seen at a national level (and the second highest percentage among the provinces and territories). In addition to the typical working-age population, there were an estimated 52,310 individuals aged 65 years and above that had one or more disability in the province.

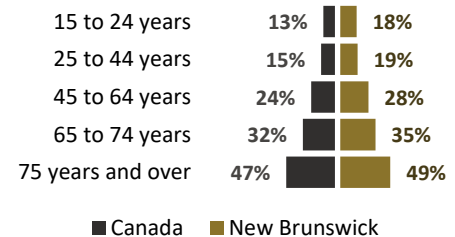
By Age and Sex

- More than one in six (17.5%) New Brunswick youth (aged 15 to 24 years) were reported having one or more disabilities.
- The prevalence of disability among New Brunswickers increased with age, ranging from 17.5% among youth to 48.7% among those aged 75 years and over.
- Disabilities were more prevalent among women (28.4%) than men (24.9%) in the province in 2017. This trend persisted across most broad age categories, with the '65 to 74 years' age category being the sole exception. This gap was most pronounced among New Brunswick youth, along with those aged 25 to 44 years, and 75 years and over.

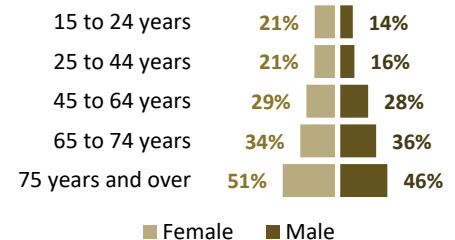
Prevalence of Disability Among the Population Aged 15 to 64 (2017)



Prevalence of Disability by Age Group (2017)



Prevalence of Disability by Age and Sex (NB, 2017)



¹ The content in the "Context" section was adapted from Statistics Canada's "Canadian Survey on Disability" page: (<http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3251>)

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Severity²

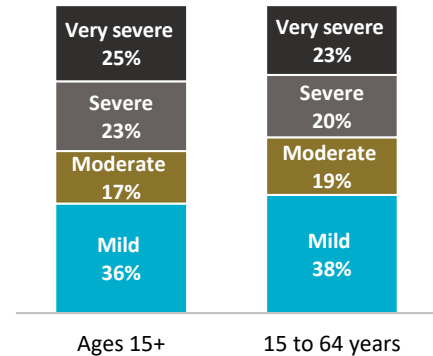
Overview

- Of typical working-age New Brunswickers with disabilities, 22.6% were classified as having a 'very severe' disability, 20.3% were classified as having a 'severe' disability and the remaining population either had a 'moderate' (18.7%) or 'mild' (38.4%) disability.
- 42.9% of typical working-age persons with disabilities in New Brunswick were classified as having either a 'severe' or 'very severe' disability, compared to 39.2% nationally. This percentage was the highest among the provinces and territories.
- More severe disabilities are more likely to limit individuals' participation in everyday activities, including their labour force participation.

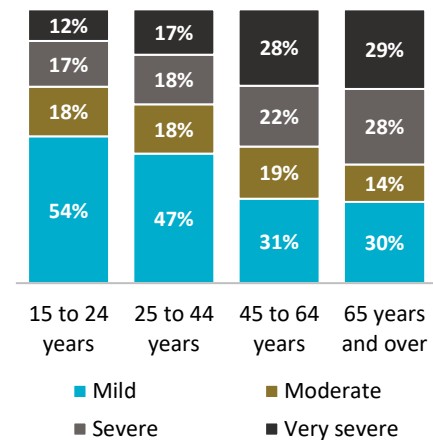
By Age and Sex

- The severity of disability among New Brunswickers increased with age. Among those with a disability, the percentage of those whose disability was classified as 'severe' or 'very severe' ranged from 28% among youth to 57% among those aged 65 years and over.
- Among the provinces and territories, New Brunswick ranked near the top across almost all broad age categories in terms of highest percentage of persons with disabilities that were classified as having either a 'severe' or 'very severe' disability. The main exception to this trend was youth.
- Among typical working-age persons with disabilities in the province, females (22.8%) were more likely than males (17.3%) to have a 'severe' disability; however, males (25.3%) were more likely to have very severe disabilities compared to females (20.4%).

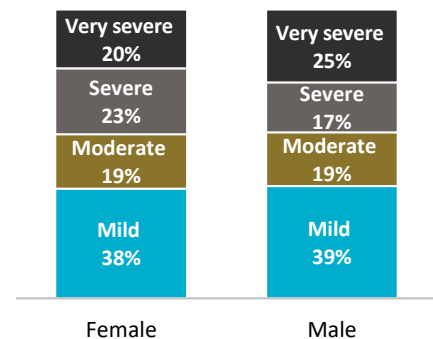
Persons with Disabilities by Severity (NB, 2017)



Persons with Disabilities by Severity and Age Group (NB, 2017)



Typical Working-Age Persons with Disabilities by Severity and Sex (NB, 2017)



² A global severity score was calculated for each person using the number of disability types that a person has, the level of difficulty experienced in performing certain tasks, and the frequency of activity limitations. To simplify the concept of severity, classes were established: mild, moderate, severe, and very severe.

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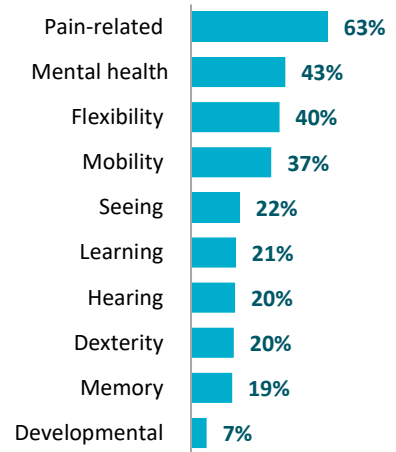
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Type of Disability

Overview

- The most common types of disabilities among New Brunswick's typical working-age population were those related to pain, mental health, flexibility, and mobility. This was in line with what was seen at both the Atlantic and national levels.
- Compared to the country as a whole, New Brunswick's typical working-age population with disabilities was slightly more likely to have disabilities related to mental health, flexibility, mobility, dexterity or hearing, but slightly less likely to have disabilities related to seeing or learning.

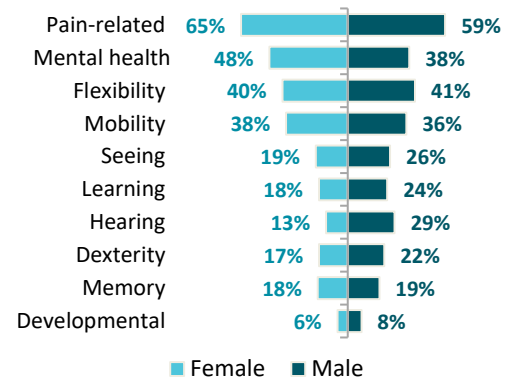
Most Common Disability Types Among Typical Working-Age Persons with Disabilities (New Brunswick, 2017)



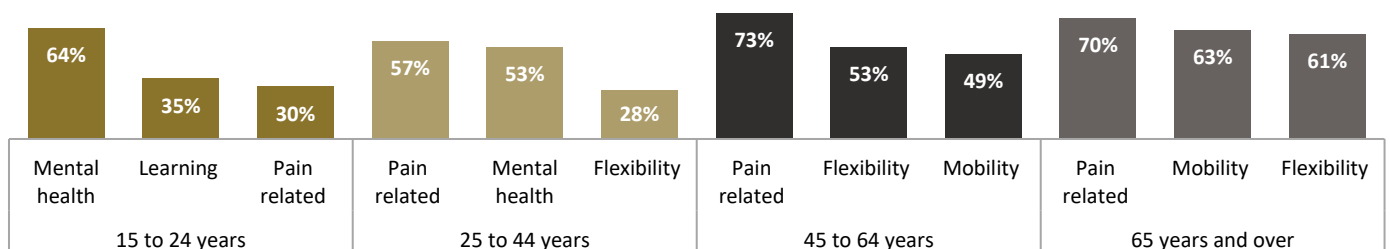
By Age and Sex

- The types of disabilities that New Brunswickers had varied significantly by age group. While prevalence of disabilities related to pain, mobility, flexibility, hearing, dexterity, seeing and memory increased with age, prevalence of development disorders and disabilities related to mental health or learning decreased with age.
- Among youth, mental health-related disabilities were by far the most common disability type, affecting nearly two-thirds of youth with disabilities (63.9% within New Brunswick, 59.6% nationally).
- Among typical working-age persons with disabilities: females with disabilities were noticeably more likely to have a disability related to pain or mental health. On the other hand, males were much more likely to have learning disabilities, dexterity disabilities, and disabilities related to seeing or hearing.

Most Common Disability Types Among Typical Working-Age Persons with Disabilities by Sex (New Brunswick, 2017)



Most Common Types of Disabilities by Age Group Among Persons with Disabilities (New Brunswick, 2017)



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Persons with Disabilities in the Labour Force

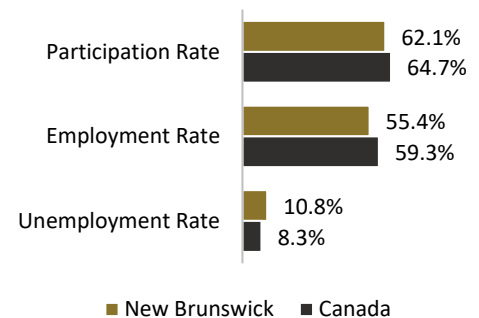
Overview

- Compared to those without disabilities, persons with disabilities were both less likely to be participating in the labour force (i.e. working or looking for work), and among those who were participating, were more likely to be unemployed. At the time of the 2016 Census (May 2016), only 55.4% of persons with disabilities aged 25 to 64 years in New Brunswick were employed, compared to 76.5% of persons without disabilities.

Labour Force Characteristics - Ages 25 to 64 (New Brunswick, May 2016)

Characteristic	Persons with Disabilities	Persons Without Disabilities
Population (Ages 25 to 64)	95,370	299,170
In the Labour Force	59,270	252,810
Employed	52,870	228,910
Unemployed	6,410	23,900
Not in Labour Force	36,100	46,360
Participation Rate	62.1%	84.5%
Employment Rate	55.4%	76.5%
Unemployment Rate	10.8%	9.5%

Labour Force Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities - Ages 25 to 64 (May 2016)



- Employment rates among persons with disabilities varied significantly by disability type. At the time of the 2016 Census, employment rates for persons with disabilities in the province were lowest among those with developmental (22.8%) and memory (33.7%) disabilities and highest for those with hearing (58.0%) and seeing (56.3%) related disabilities (along with “unknown” disabilities). When interpreting this data, it’s important to consider that individuals may fall into several disability-type categories. For example, the labour force characteristics presented for persons with “pain-related” disabilities reflect the population of any individual with a pain-related disability, including those who in addition to pain-related disabilities also have disabilities related to mental health, mobility, flexibility, etc.

Labour Force Status of Persons with Disabilities by Disability Type - Ages 25 to 64 (N.B., May 2016)

Disability Type	Population	In the Labour Force			Not in the Labour Force
		Total	Employed	Unemployed	
Pain-related	64,190	37,050	31,950	5,100	27,140
Mental health related	38,260	22,060	19,090	2,970	16,200
Flexibility	42,690	19,740	17,100	2,640	22,940
Mobility	38,660	17,790	14,810	2,980	20,870
Seeing	22,080	14,400	12,420	1,980	7,680
Learning	17,600	7,800	6,320	1,480	9,800
Hearing	20,440	13,060	11,860	---	7,380
Dexterity	20,380	9,550	8,360	1,190	10,830
Memory	17,970	7,260	6,050	1,210	10,710
Developmental	5,080	1,780	1,160	---	3,300

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Selected Labour Force Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities by Disability Type - Ages 25 to 64 (N.B., May 2016)

Disability Type	Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate
Pain-related	57.7%	49.8%	13.8%
Mental health related	57.7%	49.9%	13.5%
Flexibility	46.2%	40.1%	13.4%
Mobility	46.0%	38.3%	16.8%
Seeing	65.2%	56.3%	13.8%
Learning	44.3%	35.9%	19.0%
Hearing	63.9%	58.0%	----
Dexterity	46.9%	41.0%	12.5%
Memory	40.4%	33.7%	16.7%
Developmental	35.0%	22.8%	----

By Age and Sex

- Employment rates dropped off significantly with age among New Brunswickers with disabilities. At the time of the 2016 Census 66.7% of persons with disabilities aged 25 to 44 years were employed, compared to only 50.0% of those aged 45 to 64. In contrast, among New Brunswickers without disabilities, 82.2% of those aged 25 to 44 years were employed, compared to 71.7% of those aged 45 to 64 years.
- Men with disabilities in the province were more likely to be participating in the labour force, but also more likely to be unemployed compared to women with disabilities. This same trend is seen among those without disabilities.

Labour Force Characteristics of Persons with Disabilities by Sex - Ages 25 to 64 (N.B., May 2016)

