Chapter 1 Introduction

The National Disability Survey (NDS) was conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in late 2006 as a follow-on study from the 2006 Census of Population. The Census gathered basic information on five 'long-lasting conditions'[1]. This gave a broad indication of the incidence of disability in Ireland and the difficulties encountered by people with a disability. In order to get more detail on disability issues, a dedicated follow-up survey was undertaken – the NDS.

The main sample for the NDS was drawn from a list of people who were enumerated for the 2006 Census in their usual place of residence, and who indicated that they had any one of the five long-lasting conditions asked about in Question 15 of the Census. From this population, 12,661 persons were interviewed for the NDS. The results herein are based on these interviews, but the numbers are "grossed-up" to the full population of 325,800 people with a disability using a system of weights.[2]

1.1 First Results

Initial results from the NDS were published in October 2008 in the report *National Disability Survey 2006 – First Results.* That volume addressed: the prevalence and type of disability (nine main disability types); the level of difficulty experienced in everyday activities due to disability; the use of and need for disability specific aids; the age of onset of disability; and causes of disability.

Key findings from the first NDS report were:

- The population of persons estimated as having a disability was 325,800 – equivalent to 8.1% of Ireland's 2006 Census population.[2] Of these, 300,200 were estimated to be living in private households, while 25,600 were estimated to be living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes.

- Over half of all people with a disability (56%) reported a Mobility & dexterity disability. Forty-seven percent indicated that they had a Pain disability. Remembering & concentrating (35%), and Emotional, psychological & mental health (34%) were the next most commonly occurring disability types.

- Of all persons reporting a disability, 24% reported that they could not do everyday activities. A further 43% reported a lot of difficulty, and 31% reported having a moderate level of difficulty with everyday activities.

- Overall 48% of those reporting a disability were males and 52% females. Intellectual & learning and Speech main disabilities were the only categories where the proportion of males, at 61%, and 54% respectively, exceeded that of females. Seeing had the highest proportion of females at 58%. There were equal proportions of males and females with a hearing disability.

- The 75 & over age group accounted for 22% of all persons with a disability, and the 65-74 age group for a further 14%. Those aged 0-17 represented the largest proportion of persons whose main disabilities were Speech (29%) and Intellectual and learning (38%). Persons in

[1] See Appendix A for the Census disability questions (questions 15 and 16).
[2] Detailed notes on sampling, methodology and the approach used to estimate disability rates are contained in the 2008 CSO publication *National Disability Survey 2006 – First Results*. See http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/nationaldisabilitysurvey06first.htm

the age groups 18-64 accounted for 68% of those reporting an Emotional, psychological & mental health disability.

- Persons living in a nursing home, hospital or children's home represented 8% of persons with a disability. They were more concentrated in the older age groups with 62% aged 75 & over compared with 19% in private households.

1.2 Second Results

The second volume builds on the *First Results* report by providing additional detailed information on how persons with a disability experienced nine important areas of life:

- Caring and help from other persons
- Attitudes of other people
- Transport
- Built environment accessibility
- Education
- Work and training
- Social participation
- Sport and exercise
- General information e.g. smoking habits, stamina and general health.

This volume is organised in nine chapters corresponding to the areas listed above.

While this report is designed to be easily accessible, several key points outlined below may assist users in reading this volume.

1.2.1 Base populations

Not every question was asked to every category of respondent. Appendix B outlines the persons asked each question. This occurred for several reasons, including, *inter alia*:

- Filtering – depending on answers to previous questions in a section, certain follow-up questions may have been rendered not relevant;
- Age groups – some questions e.g. questions on voting or driving a passenger car, were clearly not asked of children;
- Accommodation type – some questions e.g. questions relating to the built environment, were more appropriate to persons living in private households than those living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes.

Data from questions that were not relevant to all persons were generally expressed as a percentage of the relevant cohort rather than as a percentage of all 325,800 persons covered by the NDS. Readers are advised to pay particular attention to the labelling of tables and graphs where the relevant base has been annotated for each question.

1.2.2 Main disability

Readers are advised to exercise caution in interpreting data which are disaggregated by Main disability type. The NDS identified nine broad disability types: Seeing; Hearing; Speech; Mobility & dexterity; Remembering & concentrating; Intellectual & learning; Emotional, psychological & mental health; Pain; and Breathing. In practice, many persons suffered from more than one of these

disabilities[3]. The NDS asked respondents to indicate their Main disability. While this information is useful, caution must be exercised inferring any causality between main disability and a given characteristic (e.g. higher likelihood of stopping education early). For example, the reason for a person stopping education early may be related to one of their auxiliary disabilities rather than their designated main disability.

1.2.3 Age standardisation

Table 1.1 shows the estimated numbers of persons with a disability in each region. The lowest rate was observed in the Mid-East with a rate of 66 per thousand population. Disability is associated with age so the rates per thousand of the population need to take account of the composition of the population of the region in terms of age. Age-standardised rates allow comparisons between populations with different age structures[4].

Table 1.1 Estimated persons with a disability by region

rate per 000

Region	Persons with a disability	Rate
State	**325,800**	**81**
Border	37,900	84
Midland	19,500	81
West	32,100	82
Dublin	91,800	82
Mid-East	30,200	66
Mid-West	29,700	87
South-East	36,900	84
South-West	47,700	81

Table 1.2 shows age-standardised ratios for each region. A ratio of more than 100 indicates a greater likelihood of having a disability than would be expected in that region on the basis of its age distribution alone. Conversely, a ratio of less than 100 indicates that the population of the region are less likely to have a disability than would be expected from the age composition of the region.

Based on the Census disability sample, the Mid-East region shows disability rates below what would be expected based on the age composition of the population in the region while the Mid-West, Dublin, and South-East have slightly higher rates than their population structure would suggest. The reader should keep these age standardised disability rates in mind when examining regional tables in this report.

Table 1.2 Age-standardised disability ratios by region

	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West
Standardised ratio	**100**	**100**	**98**	**105**	**90**	**105**	**101**	**97**

[3] See National Disability Survey 2006 – First Results. Table 1.5 (p.15) indicates an average of 2.6 disabilities per person.

[4] Age-standardised ratios are calculated as the observed rate for the region divided by the rate which would be expected if the region conformed to the age-specific rates in the sample as a whole, multiplied by 100.

In some cases the average age for main disability types and regions has been included to help with the analysis (see Table 1.3). Table 1.3 shows that there were very wide differences in the average age of respondents by main disability type. For example, the average age of persons with an Intellectual and learning disability was 24 years, compared with the overall average age of 53 years. Hence it may be expected that this group are likely to have higher participation rates in sports, using the internet etc..

Table 1.3 Average age of survey respondents by sex, region, main disability and accommodation type

years

Sex, region and main disability	Adults & children			Adults
	Nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes	Private households	Total	Private households
Persons	**72**	**51**	**53**	61
Males	66	48	49	
Females	77	54	57	
Region				
Border	72	53	55	66
Midland	76	51	53	60
West	77	54	56	64
Dublin	67	51	52	59
Mid-East	74	47	50	58
Mid-West	76	51	53	61
South-East	66	52	53	60
South-West	78	51	54	62
Main disability				
Seeing	74	60	61	67
Hearing	81	58	59	65
Speech	71	28	36	66
Mobility & dexterity	81	62	64	67
Remembering & concentrating	82	48	56	67
Intellectual & learning	45	22	24	44
Emotional, psychological & mental health	63	44	46	50
Pain	81	56	57	59
Breathing	72	55	56	64

1.2.4 Sample sizes

Readers are advised to note that some of the analyses are based on small numbers. For example, all of the information presented on persons in communal establishments is based on an unweighted sample of 631 persons. To avoid inappropriate inferences, percentages calculated using a denominator of less than 50 persons (from the unweighted sample) have been highlighted with parentheses and footnoted - Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Chapter 2 Caring and help from other persons

This Chapter examines the extent to which people with a disability are able to carry out everyday activities and the help that they need and receive.

2.1 Everyday activities

People with a disability were asked about whether they had difficulty carrying out the following six everyday activities: Staying by yourself for a few days; Taking a bath or shower by yourself; Dressing yourself; Feeding yourself; Getting in and out of bed by yourself; and Going to the toilet by yourself. Respondents were asked to select from the following options for each type of activity: No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; or cannot do at all. Children were asked about their difficulty in carrying out these activities relative to other children of their own age. The responses to these questions are summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 People with a disability in private households and communal establishments by level of difficulty carrying out everyday activities

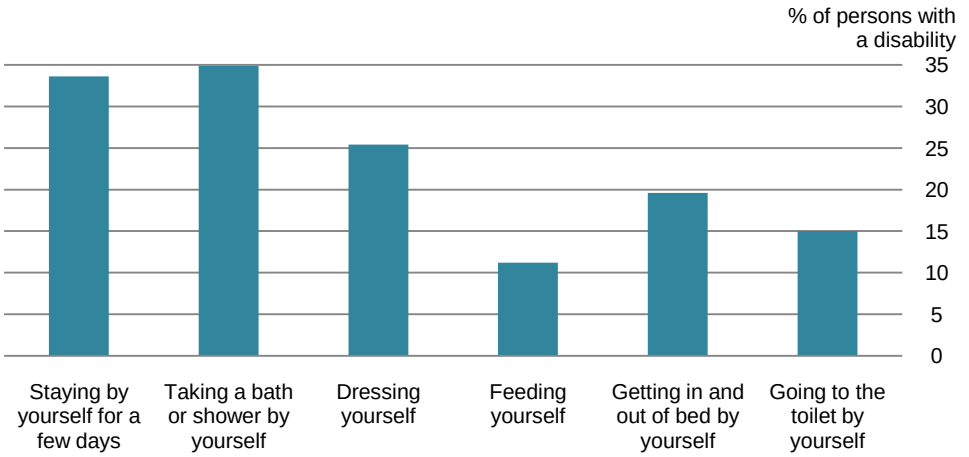
% of column

Level of difficulty	Staying by yourself[5]	Taking a bath or shower by yourself	Dressing yourself	Feeding yourself	Getting in & out of bed by yourself	Going to the toilet by yourself
	All Persons					
Persons	**264,600**	**325,800**	**325,800**	**325,800**	**325,800**	**325,800**
Persons %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
No difficulty	66	65	75	89	80	85
Some difficulty	12	14	14	6	11	6
A lot of difficulty	7	8	5	2	3	3
Cannot do at all	14	14	7	4	6	6
	Private households					
Persons	**264,600**	**300,200**	**300,200**	**300,200**	**300,200**	**300,200**
Persons %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
No difficulty	66	70	79	92	84	89
Some difficulty	12	14	13	5	11	6
A lot of difficulty	7	7	4	2	3	2
Cannot do at all	14	10	4	2	3	3
	Nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes					
Persons		**25,600**	**25,600**	**25,600**	**25,600**	**25,600**
Persons %		**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
No difficulty		14	28	55	41	38
Some difficulty		14	16	13	12	13
A lot of difficulty		15	13	9	9	9
Cannot do at all		57	44	23	38	40

[5] This question was not asked of children.

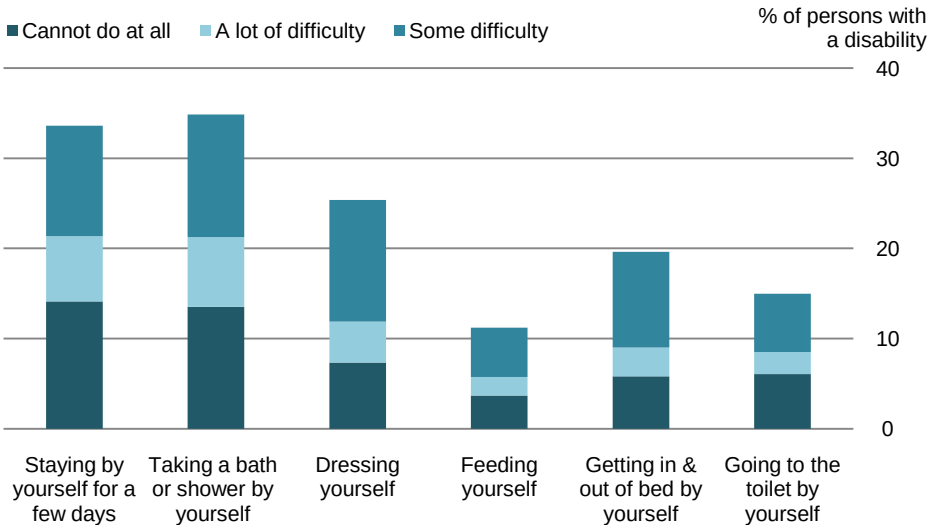
Most people with a disability were able to undertake these everyday tasks without difficulty. As shown in Table 2.1 and Graph 2.2, the tasks which caused problems for the highest proportion of persons with a disability were Taking a bath or shower by yourself and Staying by yourself for a few days, with around one third of persons reporting at least some difficulty doing these activities. Feeding yourself caused difficulty to the smallest proportion of persons with a disability (11%).

Graph 2.2 People with a disability with at least some difficulty doing everyday activities[6]



Graph 2.3 shows the level of difficulty people with a disability had doing these six activities. Twenty-one percent of adults with a disability in private households could not stay by themselves for a few days or had a lot of difficulty doing so. A similar percentage could not take a bath or shower by themselves, or had a lot of difficulty doing this.

Graph 2.3 People with a disability with difficulty doing everyday tasks, by specific activity and level of difficulty[2]

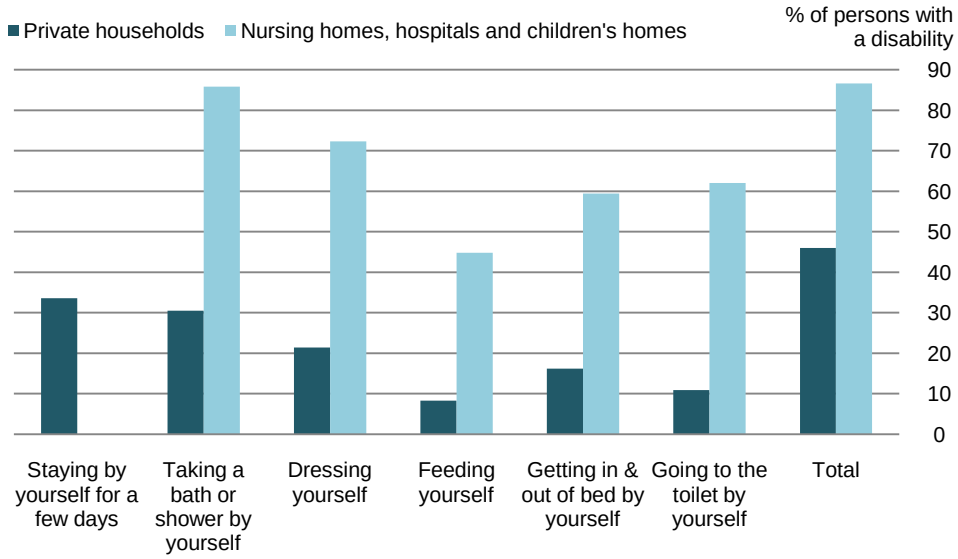


The overall figures presented above mask very sharp differences between persons with a disability living in private households and those living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes (who accounted for around 8% of persons in the Survey). The proportion of persons with a disability in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes who reported any level of difficulty with at least one of

[6] The category "Staying by yourself for a few days" was only asked of adults in private households.

these activities was 87%, compared with 46% for persons in private households[7]. In keeping with this, and as illustrated in Graph 2.4, the proportion of persons with a disability experiencing difficulty is substantially higher in communal establishments than in private households for each type of activity.

Graph 2.4 People with a disability in private households and communal establishments experiencing at least some difficulty, by activity type



In addition to a greater incidence of difficulty among persons in communal establishments, this group also experienced more severe difficulties. The proportion of persons in communal establishments who reported the highest level difficulty ('Cannot do at all') ranged from 23% (for Feeding yourself) to 57% (for Taking a bath or shower). In contrast, the proportion of persons with a disability in private households who reported 'Cannot do at all' ranged from 2% for Feeding yourself to 14% for Staying by yourself for a few days (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.5 indicates a wide variation in the incidence of difficulty by main disability type. In general, people in private households whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity (61%) and Speech (59%) were most likely to report difficulty with these everyday activities. This is particularly so when it comes to Taking a bath or shower by themselves, with 49 and 44 per cent experiencing difficulty in this area respectively.

People in private households whose main disability was Hearing were less likely to report difficulties than those with other main disability types. Persons in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes who cited Mobility & dexterity (96%) or Remembering and concentrating (92%) as their main disability were most likely to report difficulties in day-to-day living.

[7] Note that children and persons in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes were not asked about the 'Staying by yourself for a few days' category.

Table 2.5 People with a disability experiencing any difficulty by main disability type[8]

	% of row						persons	%
Main disability	**Staying by yourself[9]**	**Taking a bath or shower by yourself**	**Dressing yourself**	**Feeding yourself**	**Getting in & out of bed by yourself**	**Going to the toilet by yourself**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent with any difficulty**
	Private households							
Persons	**88,900**	**91,600**	**64,200**	**25,100**	**48,700**	**32,900**	**300,200**	46
Persons %	**34**	**31**	**21**	**8**	**16**	**11**		
Seeing	30	23	13	6	7	5	**14,100**	37
Hearing	16	14	6	3	4	2	**21,200**	22
Speech	57	44	35	23	15	27	**5,200**	59
Mobility & dexterity	39	49	35	13	29	20	**80,100**	61
Remembering & concentrating	44	23	18	13	11	13	**14,900**	42
Intellectual & learning	47	25	18	9	5	10	**36,100**	40
Emotional, psychological and mental	39	16	10	6	6	5	**41,000**	43
Pain	26	31	24	5	22	9	**61,400**	48
Breathing	24	22	14	5	11	7	**26,200**	33
	Nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes							
Persons		**22,000**	**18,500**	**11,500**	**15,200**	**15,900**	**25,600**	87
Persons %	-	**86**	**72**	**45**	**59**	**62**		
Seeing	-	[80]	[67]	[14]	[24]	[22]	**900**	[80]
Hearing	-	[88]	[35]	[18]	[28]	[32]	**1,000**	[88]
Speech	-	[88]	[79]	[66]	[62]	[59]	**1,100**	[88]
Mobility & dexterity	-	95	80	45	76	75	**9,000**	96
Remembering & concentrating	-	92	90	59	78	80	**4,400**	92
Intellectual & learning	-	85	76	61	50	58	**3,400**	85
Emotional, psychological and mental health	-	62	49	30	32	40	**4,300**	64
Pain	-	[87]	[58]	[27]	[48]	[42]	**1,200**	[87]
Breathing	-	[83]	[68]	[39]	[59]	[68]	**400**	[83]

Table 2.6 shows the proportion of persons with a disability in private households who experienced difficulty by activity type and age group. For all activities there were considerably higher proportions reporting difficulties in the 75 & over age group. For example, the proportion of adults with a disability aged 18-34 who had any difficulty Going to the toilet by themselves was 7% and remained at around that level for all age groups up to 65 years. The proportion increased to 11% among those aged 65-74 before almost doubling to 21% for the 75 & over age group. A similar pattern of increasing difficulty with advancing age is observed for Feeding yourself, Bathing yourself, Dressing yourself and Getting in and out of bed by yourself.

[8] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

[9] This category was not asked of persons in communal establishments or children.

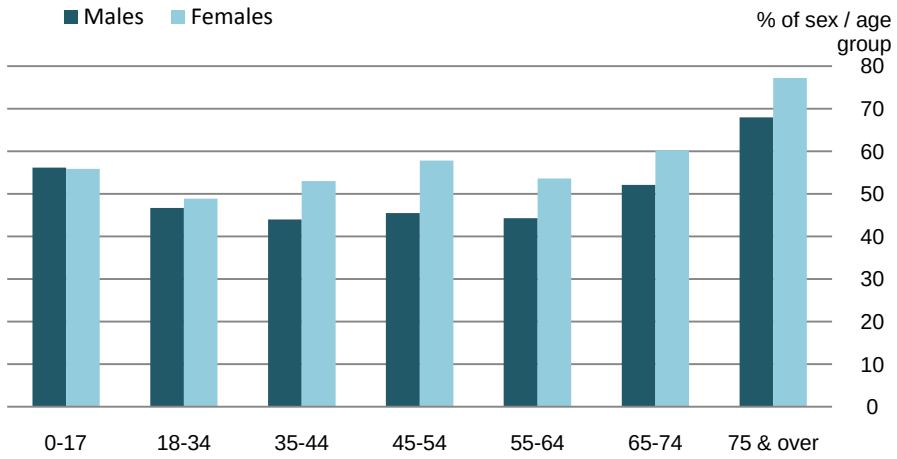
Table 2.6 People with a disability in private households experiencing difficulty with everyday activities by age group

						% of row	persons	%
Age group	**Staying by yourself** [10]	**Taking a bath / shower by yourself**	**Dressing yourself**	**Feeding yourself**	**Getting in & out of bed by yourself**	**Going to the toilet by yourself**	**Persons with any difficulty**	**Percent with difficulty**
Persons	**88,900**	**91,600**	**64,200**	**25,100**	**48,700**	**32,900**	**300,200**	46
Persons %	**34**	**31**	**21**	**8**	**16**	**11**	**300,200**	
0-17	-	28	27	15	9	17	**35,600**	34
18-34	38	19	13	6	10	7	**40,200**	43
35-44	29	17	15	4	12	6	**33,900**	38
45-54	28	22	15	6	13	6	**41,400**	40
55-64	27	26	20	4	18	6	**50,600**	44
65-74	29	35	21	7	18	11	**41,700**	46
75 & over	46	55	34	15	27	21	**56,700**	66

2.2 Help received from family and others

People who lived in private households were asked whether or not they got help with their everyday activities. A majority of persons in private households with a disability got some help with their everyday activities (56%). As shown in Graph 2.7, the proportion of persons who received help due to their disability was highest for persons aged 75 & over (74%). Across all adult age groups (18 years and over) men were less likely than women to get help with their daily activities.

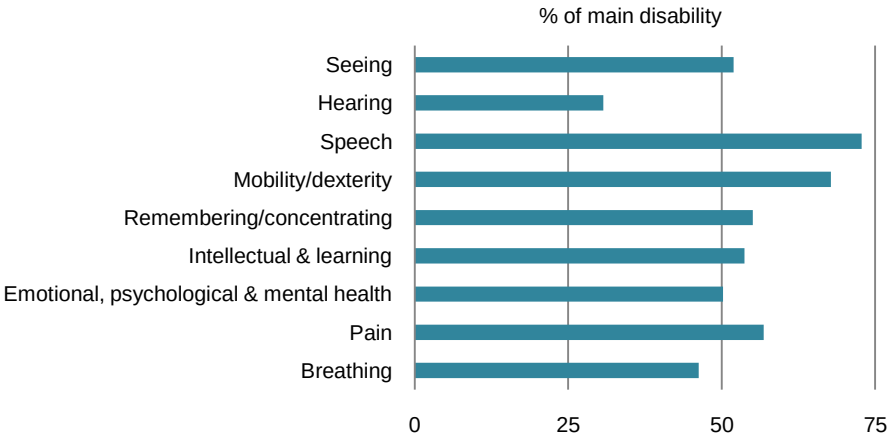
Graph 2.7 People with a disability in private households getting help with everyday activities by sex and age group



The proportion of people in private households who received help with their everyday activities varied substantially by main disability type (Graph 2.8). Those whose main disability was Speech were most likely to receive help with their everyday activities (73%).

[10] This category was not asked of children.

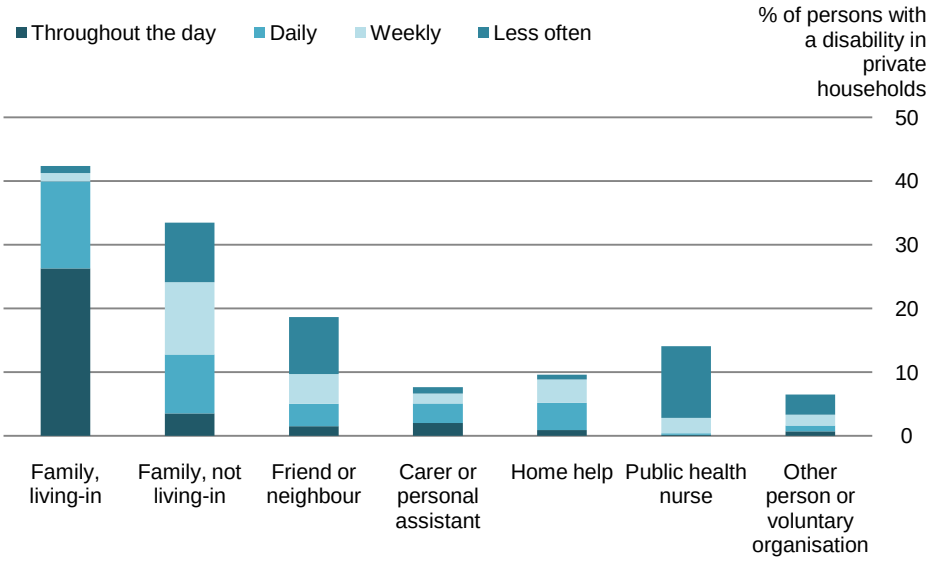
Graph 2.8 People with a disability in private households receiving help with their everyday activities by main disability type



2.3 Specific sources of help

This section examines the specific sources from which people got help with their everyday activities. The most common source of help was from family who lived with the person, with 42% of persons with a disability in private households getting this type of assistance (see Graph 2.9).

Graph 2.9 People with a disability in private households receiving help from each source by frequency of help



Family also provided the most frequent assistance. As illustrated in Graph 2.9, 26% of persons got help from Family living-in throughout the day, while 14% received help from this source at least daily. The next most frequent source of help was Family not living with the persons, with 4% of persons receiving help from this source throughout the day and a further 9% receiving help on a daily basis. Friends and neighbours, Carers or personal assistants and Home helps were only utilised on a daily or more frequent basis by around 5% of persons with a disability in private households.

Over half (56%) of children with a disability got help from family members living in the household with them (see Table 2.10). A high percentage of persons with a disability aged 75 & over got help from family living with them but a higher proportion received help from family members living outside the home (54%).

Persons with a disability aged 75 & over were also more likely to get assistance from Public health nurses (38%) and Home helps (30%). Professional sources of help (including carers or personal assistants, home helps and Public health nurses) were less widely used overall, and were most commonly availed of by those in the 0-17 age group and, particularly, those in the 75 & over age group (see Table 2.10).

Table 2.10 People with a disability in private households who received help from family and others by age group and source of help[11]

% of row persons

Age group	Family, living-in	Family, not living-in	Friend or neighbour	Carer or personal assistant	Home help	Public health nurse	Other person or voluntary organisation	Persons with a disability
Persons	**127,200**	**100,500**	**55,900**	**22,900**	**28,900**	**42,300**	**19,400**	**300,200**
Persons %	**42**	**33**	**19**	**8**	**10**	**14**	**6**	**300,200**
0-17	56	24	13	12	4	8	10	**35,600**
18-34	42	26	16	6	2	6	8	**40,200**
35-44	40	28	19	5	3	6	6	**33,900**
45-54	40	28	19	4	4	7	6	**41,400**
55-64	38	28	15	4	6	8	5	**50,600**
65-74	39	37	19	6	10	16	4	**41,700**
75 & over	44	54	27	14	30	38	7	**56,700**

As shown in Table 2.11, the proportion of persons in private households who received help was generally lower in Dublin than elsewhere. This trend was particularly marked with regard to help from Public health nurses – just 9% of persons with a disability in Dublin received help from Public health nurses, compared with 19% in the West and 18% in the Border.

The bottom part of Table 2.11 presents the regional distribution of help in age standardised format. This adjusts for the fact that some regions have different age profiles to others, and that the receipt of help is correlated with age. Age standardised ratios of greater than 100 indicate a higher incidence of help than would have been expected based on the age profile of that region. For all categories of help, the Border and Mid-West regions displayed a higher occurrence of assistance than would have been expected given their age profiles. Conversely, in Dublin and the Mid-East the incidence of help was less than what would have been expected given the age profile of these regions.

[11] This table includes some persons who reported no difficulty doing everyday activities because of disability.

Table 2.11 People with a disability in private households who receive help from family and others by region and source of help. Crude row percentage and age standardised ratio.

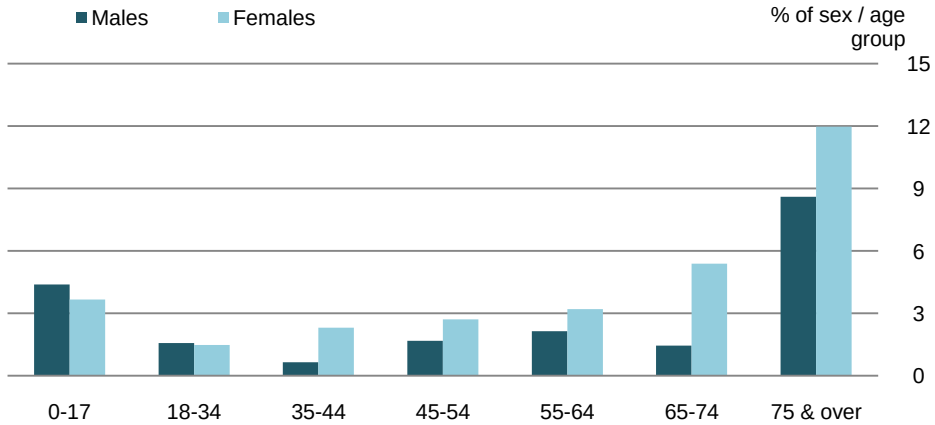
persons

Region	Family living-in	Family, not living-in	Friend or neighbour	Carer or personal assistant	Home help	Public health nurse	Other person or voluntary organisation	Persons with a disability
Persons	**127,200**	**100,500**	**55,900**	**22,900**	**28,900**	**42,300**	**19,400**	**300,200**
				Crude percent of row				
Border	45	36	21	10	12	18	7	**35,100**
Midland	44	36	19	9	7	17	8	**17,800**
West	43	32	17	9	10	19	8	**28,800**
Dublin	39	31	16	7	8	9	6	**85,500**
Mid-East	44	32	20	7	10	10	6	**27,800**
Mid-West	48	39	23	9	11	14	8	**27,200**
South-East	40	33	17	8	9	16	5	**34,000**
South-West	43	34	21	6	12	17	7	**44,000**
				Age standardised ratios				
Border	111	114	117	139	130	136	106	**35,100**
Midland	103	105	99	116	71	117	126	**17,800**
West	100	96	92	121	99	136	116	**28,800**
Dublin	95	94	85	88	83	67	88	**85,500**
Mid-East	85	79	89	73	83	59	70	**27,800**
Mid-West	121	125	130	123	125	106	130	**27,200**
South-East	98	101	96	102	99	117	87	**34,000**
South-West	101	103	114	80	122	119	113	**44,000**

2.4 Paid help

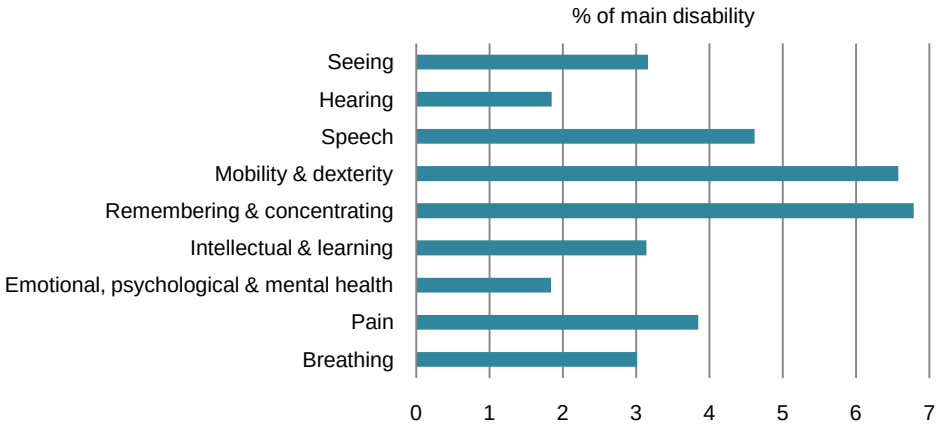
The NDS asked persons with a disability in private households whether they or their family paid for the help they received. Just over 4% of persons with a disability paid for help. As illustrated in Graph 2.12, the highest incidence of payment occurred at either end of the age continuum. Overall, 4% of persons with a disability aged 0-17 paid for help, while 11% of those aged 75 & over paid for help. Within age groups, the proportion of females with a disability in private households who paid for help exceeded that of males for most age groups. The exceptions were the 0-17 and 18-34 age groups where a slightly higher proportion of males with a disability paid for help.

Graph 2.12 People with a disability in private households paying for help by sex and age group



Around 7% of those with Remembering & concentrating or Mobility & dexterity as their main disability paid for help with their everyday activities (see Graph 2.13).

Graph 2.13 People with a disability in private households paying for help by main disability type

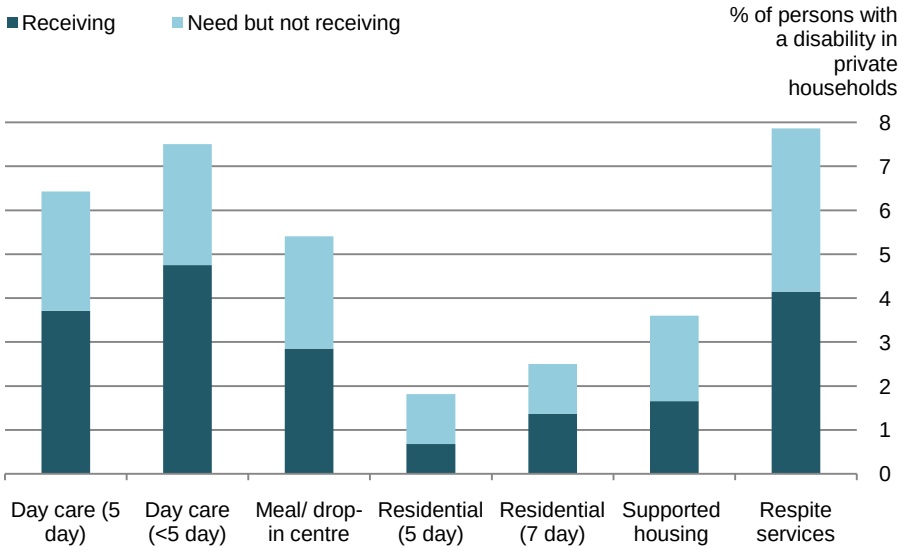


2.5 Use of and need for care services

Persons with a disability in private households were asked whether or not they received any of seven specific care services: Day care services (5 days per week); Day care services (less than 5 days per week); Meal centres or Drop-in centres; Residential care (5 days per week); Residential or long stay care (7 days per week); Supported housing; and Respite services. For those indicating that they did not use a service, a follow-up question was asked about whether they had an unmet need for that service. Overall, 13% of persons received at least one of these services and 8% needed at least one of these care services but were not receiving it (see Detailed tables, Table 2.11).

As illustrated in Graph 2.14, Respite care was the service which was most in demand, with around 4% of all persons with a disability in private households receiving this service and a further 4% indicating an unmet need for this type of assistance. Day care of less than five days per week had a similar level of demand with 5% of all persons with a disability in private households receiving this service and a further 3% needing but not receiving it.

Graph 2.14 People with a disability in private households receiving and needing specific care services



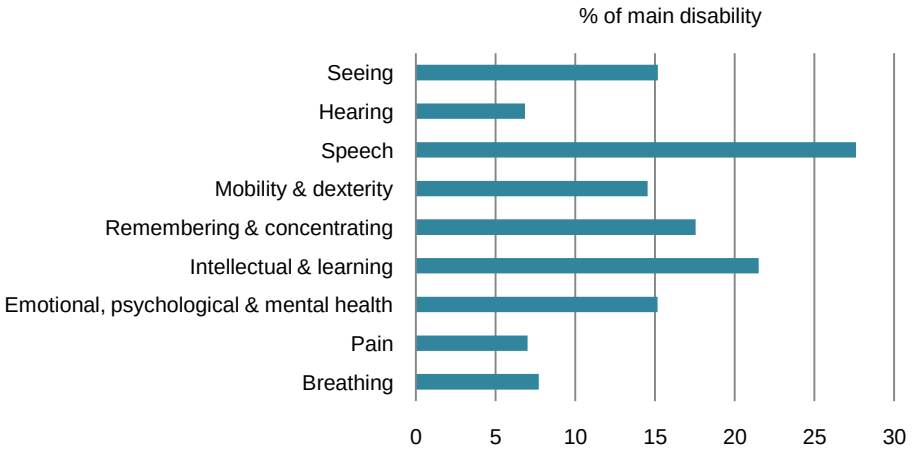
Around 8% of persons with a disability in private households had an unmet need for a care service. As seen in Graph 2.14, the most common unmet need was for Respite care, with 4% of all people with a disability in private households needing but unable to access this type of service. The highest unmet need was among the older age groups, with 11% of those in the 75 & over age group expressing an unmet need for any service compared with 8% of all persons (see Detailed tables, Table 2.14).

In most regions, around 12% of all persons with a disability in private households used at least one care service (see Graph 2.15). However the rate was higher in the Border region (17%) and the West (16%) (See Detailed tables, Table 2.13). Graph 2.15 confirms that this regional variation was not just attributable to the different age profiles of these regions. Age standardised ratios of greater than 100 in these regions indicate that the use of care services in the Border and West was greater than would have been expected given the age profiles of these regions.

Graph 2.15 People with a disability in private households receiving any care service by region

As shown in Graph 2.16, those whose main disability was Speech were the most likely to avail of care services (28%). The group with the next highest proportion of service users were those with an Intellectual and learning main disability, 22% of whom used at least one service. In both cases, the proportions using 5-Day care and Respite services were over twice the rate of the overall population of persons with a disability in private households (see Detailed tables, Table 2.13).

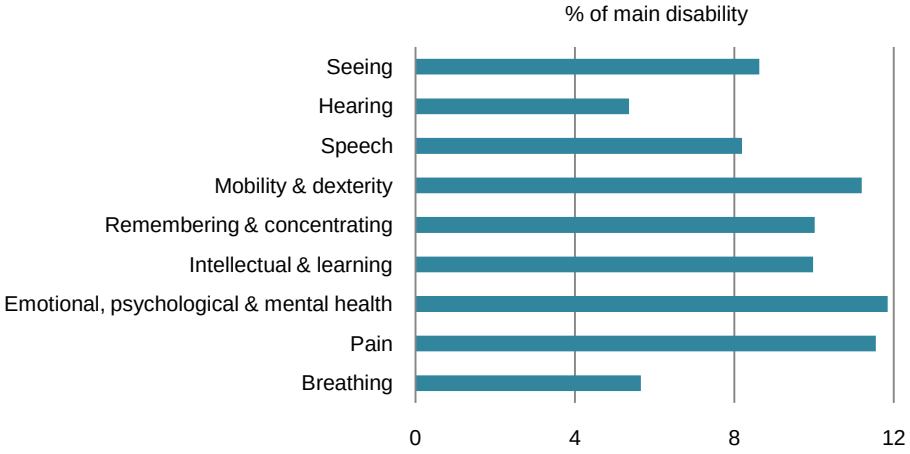
Graph 2.16 People with a disability in private households receiving at least one care service, by main disability type



2.6 Persons unable to get help

The NDS asked persons with a disability in private households about their ability to access help with their everyday activities in the four weeks prior to the Survey. The majority of persons (90%) reported they did not need help which they were unable to get (see Graph 2.17).

Graph 2.17 People with a disability in private households needing help and unable to access help, by main disability type[12]



2.7 Reasons for not receiving help

Those who were unable to access help were asked the reasons for this. Similar proportions said that they could not afford help (4%), that friends, family and neighbours were not available at the time to provide help (4%), and that they did not know who to contact (4%) (see Detailed tables, Tables 2.18, 2.19).

[12] Ability to access help in the four weeks prior to the Survey.

Chapter 3 Attitudes of Other People

This chapter examines the impact the attitudes other people have on people with a disability. The questionnaire collected information on three issues: whether people with a disability avoided doing certain things because of the reactions of other people; whether the attitudes of other people were generally perceived as supportive or hindering; and whether the attitudes of other people caused specific difficulties such as discouraging people with a disability from looking for work. These questions were only asked of adults in private households.

3.1 Effect of reactions of other people

Respondents were asked were there things that they were able to do but sometimes avoided doing because of how other people reacted. Just over three-quarters (76%) of adults with a disability never avoided doing things because of how others react, while 7% frequently or always avoided doing things and the remaining 17% sometimes avoided doing things (see Table 3.1). Those in the older age groups were more likely than those in the younger age groups never to avoid doing things, while 39% of those in the youngest age group sometimes, frequently or always avoided doing things because of how people reacted to their disability.

Table 3.1 Adults with a disability in private households[13] who avoided doing things because of how other people react by age group

% of row adults

Age group	Avoided doing things			Adults with a disability
	Never	Sometimes	Frequently or always	
Adults	**187,700**	**42,100**	**17,100**	**247,000**
Adults %	**76**	**17**	**7**	**100**
18-34	62	28	11	34,500
35-44	63	24	12	31,700
45-54	69	21	10	39,500
55-64	78	15	7	49,100
65-74	85	11	4	40,200
75 & over	89	9	2	51,800

Around three-quarters of adults with a disability in each region said they never avoided doing things because of how other people react (see Table 3.2). One-in-five adults with a disability in the Midland region sometimes avoided doing things compared with around 15% in the Border and Mid-East regions.

[13] Adults in private households who have been interviewed directly.

Table 3.2 Adults with a disability in private households who avoided doing things because of how other people react by region

% of row adults

Region	Avoided doing things			Adults with a disability
	Never	Sometimes	Frequently or always	
Adults	**187,700**	**42,100**	**17,100**	**247,000**
Adults %	**76**	**17**	**7**	**247,000**
Border	79	15	6	27,900
Midland	71	20	8	14,700
West	76	18	6	23,800
Dublin	75	17	8	72,400
Mid-East	78	15	7	22,100
Mid-West	76	16	8	22,000
South-East	75	19	6	28,500
South-West	77	18	6	35,500

Table 3.3 shows the proportion of adults with a disability who avoided doing things because of how others react classified by their main disability. Interpretation of the table should be made with caution, as while there was a main disability recorded for each person, many persons had multiple disabilities and the reaction of people could have been due to one of the non-main disabilities.

Just under half (45%) of adults whose main disability was Emotional, psychological & mental health avoided doing things because of how others react with 17% frequently or always avoiding doing things. The next highest proportions of adults who sometimes or frequently avoided doing things were for adults whose main disability was Speech (40%) and Intellectual & learning (38%).

Table 3.3 Adults with a disability in private households who avoided doing things because of how other people react by main disability

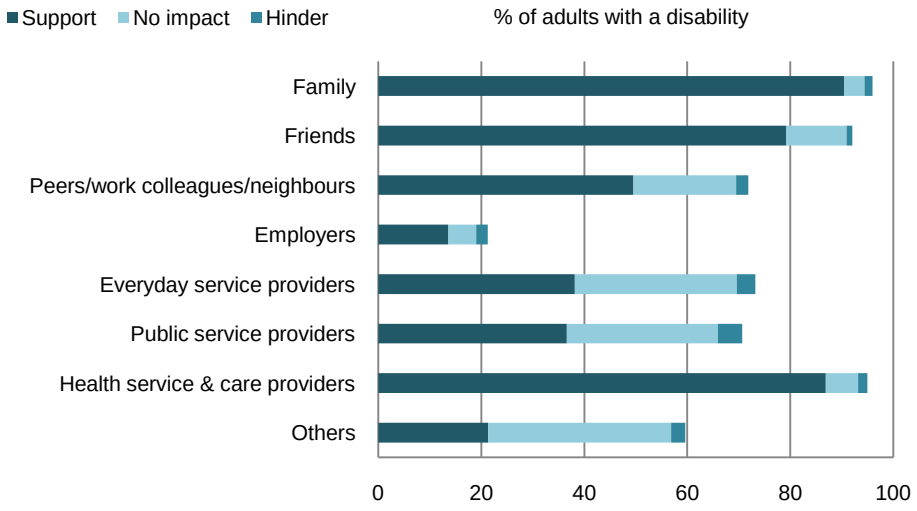
% of row adults

Main disability	Avoided doing things			Adults with a disability
	Never	Sometimes	Frequently or always	
Adults	**187,700**	**42,100**	**17,100**	**247,000**
Adults %	**76**	**17**	**5**	**247,000**
Seeing	83	15	2	12,500
Hearing	79	16	4	18,800
Speech	61	32	8	1,900
Mobility and dexterity	80	14	5	73,600
Remembering & concentrating	73	21	7	10,200
Intellectual & learning	62	28	10	13,400
Emotional, psychological & mental health	55	28	17	35,700
Pain	82	13	5	58,400
Breathing	84	11	4	22,400

3.2 Attitudes of other people

Respondents were asked if the attitudes of various groups of people towards their disability generally supported or hindered them, or had no impact. Around 90% of adults with a disability felt supported by the attitudes of their family (see Graph 3.4). A high proportion of adults felt supported by the attitudes of Health and care staff (87%) and Friends (79%). Over one-third of adults with a disability regarded the attitudes towards their disability of Everyday private service providers (38%) and Public service providers (37%) as supportive.

Graph 3.4 Adults with a disability in private households analysed by the attitudes of other groups of persons[14]

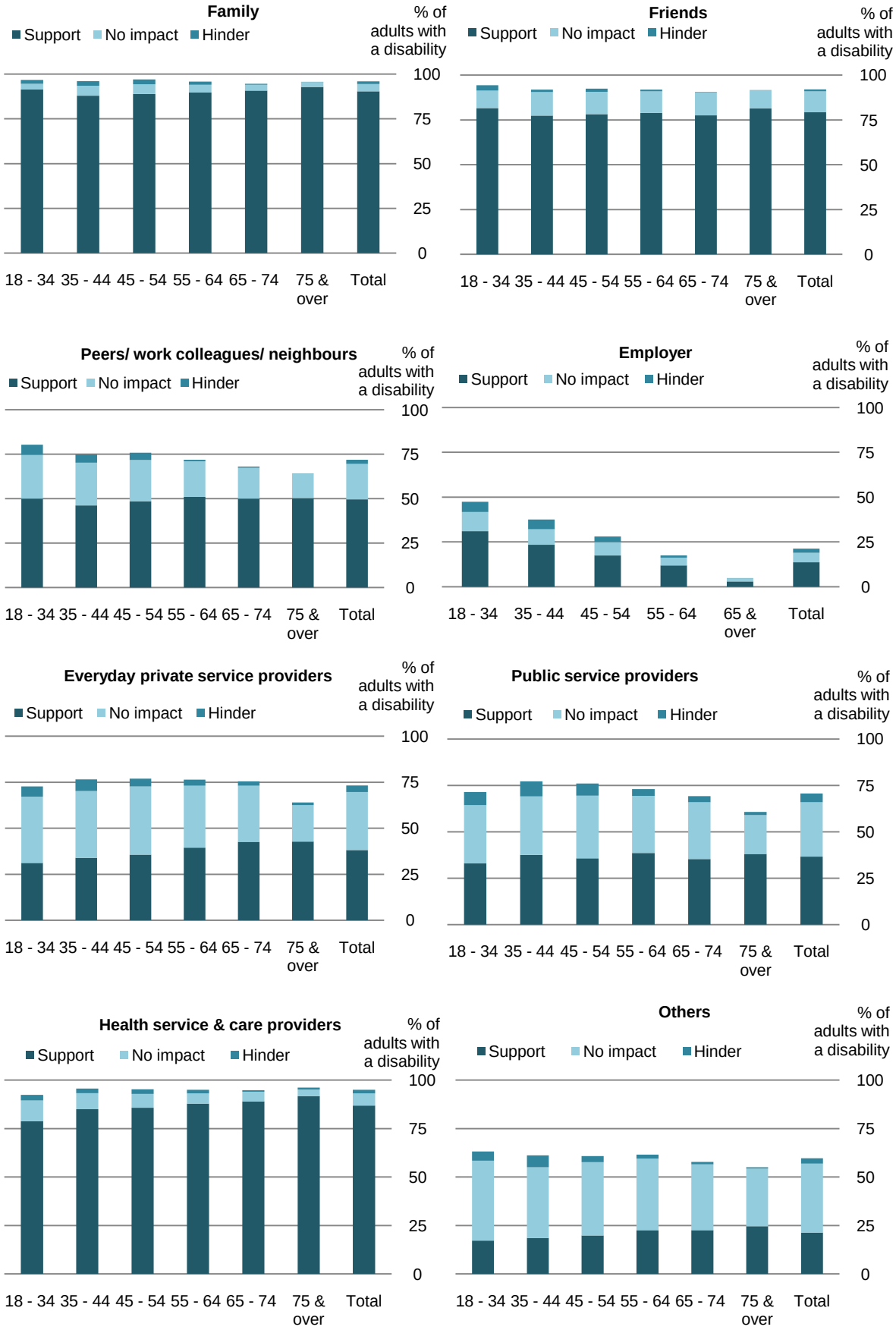


Graph 3.5 shows how the attitudes of various groups of people towards their disability impacted on adults with a disability across age groups. The graphs show that the impact of people's attitudes varied across the eight groups and also varied by age group. High proportions of adults with a disability across the age groups felt supported by the attitudes of Family, Friends and Health service and care providers. However, this proportion decreased for the remaining categories.

Similar proportions of adults with a disability felt supported by the attitudes of Everyday private service providers (38%) and by the attitudes of Public service providers (37%). Thirty per cent felt each of the group's attitudes did not have any impact on them. Proportionally more adults with a disability in the older age groups felt supported by the attitudes of Everyday private service providers compared with the younger age groups. The highest proportions of adults with a disability who felt hindered by the attitudes of Public service providers were in the younger age groups, ranging from 7 to 8 per cent of persons aged 18-54 to 2 to 4 per cent of the persons aged 55 & over. Generally, older people with a disability were less likely to report feeling hindered by the attitudes of others than their younger counterparts.

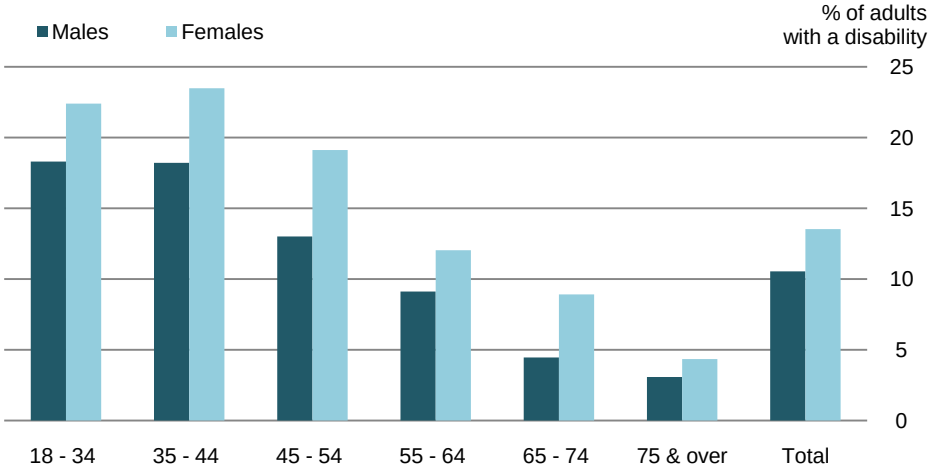
[14] The bars do not add to 100% as some categories are not relevant to some people with a disability. For example, not all people are employed and therefore the Employers category was not relevant to them.

Graph 3.5 Adults with a disability analysed by the attitudes of various groups by age group[2]



Graph 3.6 shows that females with a disability were more likely to feel hindered than their male counterparts, and this was true across all age groups.

Graph 3.6 Adults with a disability in private households who felt hindered by the attitudes of other people towards their disability by age group



3.3 Difficulties arising from attitudes of other people

The final question in this Section asked adults, because of the attitudes of other people, if they had difficulty in: Interacting and relating with others; Looking for work; At work; At school/college; and Other areas such as socialising or leisure.

Three-quarters of adults with a disability in private households had no difficulty Interacting and relating with others due to the attitudes of others, with 22% having at least some level of difficulty (see Table 3.8). Around 11% of adults with a disability in private households had at least some level of difficulty Looking for work due to the attitudes of other people towards their disability.

Table 3.8 Experiences of adults with a disability in private households of difficulty due to the attitudes of others by level of difficulty and major life activity

% of column

Level of difficulty	Interacting & relating with others	Looking for work	At work	At school or college	Other
Adults	**247,000**	**247,000**	**247,000**	**247,000**	**247,000**
Adults %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Not at all	75	15	18	9	53
Some	16	5	4	1	13
A great deal / completely	6	6	1	1	6
Not relevant	4	74	77	90	28

Overall, around one-third (32%) of adults with a disability in private households experienced difficulty in at least one of the major life activities due to the attitudes of others (see Table 3.9). The activity most frequently reported as affected was Interacting and relating with others (22%) followed by Other, such as socialising/leisure, (19%). Over half of adults with a disability aged 18-34 (53%) and 35-44 (50%) experienced some level of difficulty in at least one of the major life activities. These percentages decreased with age to 19% and 14% of persons aged 65-74 and 75 & over respectively.

Among adults with a disability aged 18-34 and 35-44 more than a quarter experienced difficulty in Looking for work due to the attitudes of other people.

Table 3.9 Adults with a disability in private households experiencing difficulty due to attitudes of other people by age group

					% of row	adults	%
Age group	**Interacting & relating with others**	**Looking for work**	**At work**	**At school or college**	**Other**	**Adults with a disability**	**Percent experiencing difficulty**
Adults	**53,900**	**27,100**	**12,500**	**4,600**	**46,300**	**247,000**	
Adults %	**22**	**11**	**5**	**2**	**19**	**247,000**	**32**
18 - 34	34	28	13	9	30	34,500	53
35 - 44	34	25	11	3	30	31,700	50
45 - 54	29	16	8	1	24	39,500	43
55 - 64	20	6	2	1	17	49,100	28
65 - 74	14	0	1	0	11	40,200	19
75 & over	10	0	0	.	8	51,800	14

Just under two-thirds (63%) of adults whose main disability was Emotional, psychological & mental health experienced difficulty in some domain due to the attitudes of others, compared with the next highest rate of 49% for persons whose main disability was Intellectual & learning (see Table 3.10). Across the main disabilities Interacting and relating with others had the highest proportion of adults with a disability who experienced difficulty due to the attitudes of others. Half of adults with Emotional, psychological & mental health as their main disability experienced difficulty in Interacting and relating with others, 40% in Other (such as socialising/leisure) and 26% in Looking for work.

Table 3.10 Adults with a disability in private households experiencing difficulty in at least one social environment due to attitudes of other people by main disability

					% of row	adults	%
Main disability	**Interacting & relating with others**	**Looking for work**	**At work**	**At school or college**	**Other**	**Adults with a disability**	**Percent experiencing difficulty**
Adults	**53,900**	**27,100**	**12,500**	**4,600**	**46,300**	**247,000**	
Adults %	**22**	**11**	**5**	**2**	**19**	**247,000**	**32**
Seeing	14	8	3	2	11	12,500	21
Hearing	30	7	8	2	25	18,800	37
Speech	37	15	11	4	32	1,900	42
Mobility & dexterity	14	7	3	1	14	73,600	23
Remembering & concentrating	29	11	5	4	18	10,200	39
Intellectual & learning	33	23	12	7	19	13,400	49
Emotional, psychological & mental health	50	26	11	4	40	35,700	63
Pain	14	9	4	1	14	58,400	26
Breathing	10	5	2	1	11	22,400	19

Chapter 4 Transport

This section examines the use that people with a disability made of three main modes of transport: Private car; Public transport (including bus, rail, taxi and tram); and Specialised transport services. People with a disability were asked whether or not they used these types of transport, the difficulties (if any) they experienced in doing so, and, where applicable, the reasons for these difficulties.

4.1 Difficulty using private car

People with a disability were first asked did they regularly use a private car as a driver or a passenger. Those who answered yes to this question were then asked to specify the level of difficulty they experienced in doing so (see Table 4.1). Over half of adults (57%) in private households who had a disability did not regularly drive private cars themselves. Around one third (32%) regularly drove a private car without any difficulty while 10% did so with difficulty.

Table 4.1 People using private car as driver[15] and passenger by level of difficulty

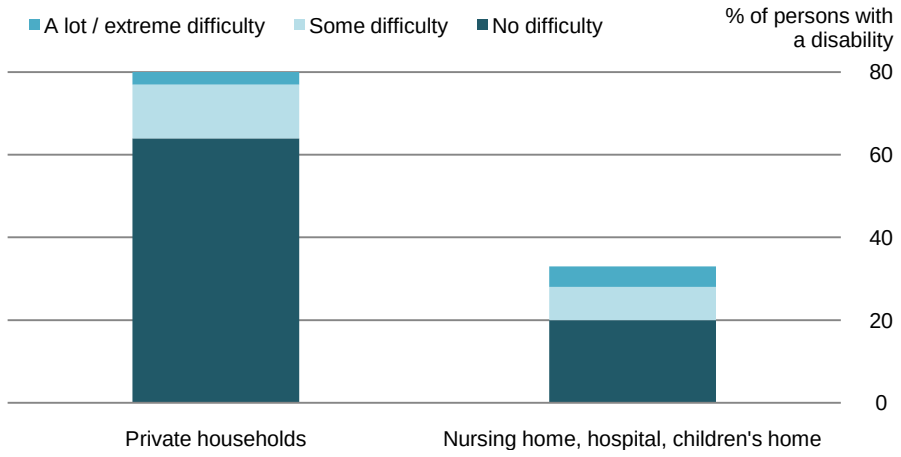
% of category

Level of difficulty	Use as driver	Use as passenger
	Total	
Persons	**264,600**	**325,800**
Persons %	**100**	**100**
Do not regularly use	57	23
No difficulty	32	60
Some difficulty	8	12
A lot / extreme difficulty	2	4
	Private households	
Persons	**264,600**	**300,200**
Persons %	**100**	**100**
Do not regularly use	57	20
No difficulty	32	64
Some difficulty	8	13
A lot / extreme difficulty	2	4
	Nursing home, hospital and children's home	
Persons	-	**25,600**
Persons %	-	**100**
Do not regularly use	-	67
No difficulty	-	20
Some difficulty	-	8
A lot / extreme difficulty	-	5

Four-fifths (80%) of persons with a disability in private households regularly used private cars as a passenger compared with one-third of persons in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes (see Table 4.1). Graph 4.2 also illustrates that the ratio of those using with difficulty to those using without difficulty was considerably higher in communal establishments.

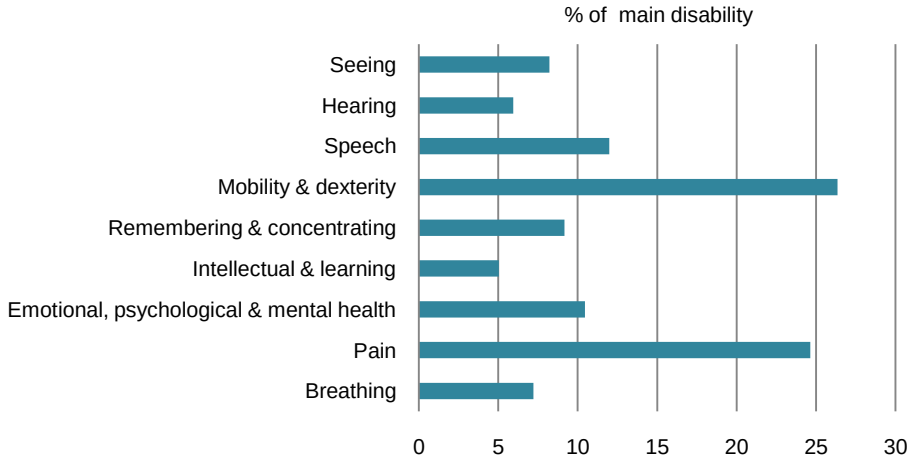
[15] Driver category only asked of adults in private households.

Graph 4.2 People with a disability regularly using private car as passenger by level of difficulty and accommodation type



The proportion of persons who experienced difficulty using a private car varied substantially by main disability type. As illustrated in Graph 4.3, more than one quarter (26%) of all persons who reported Mobility & dexterity as their main disability experienced some or more difficulty using a car as a passenger, compared with 5% of those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning. However, it must be remembered that an individual's main disability may not necessarily be the main cause of the difficulties they experienced in using a private car.

Graph 4.3 People with a disability having difficulty using private car as passenger by main disability



4.2 Disability related reason for not using a private car

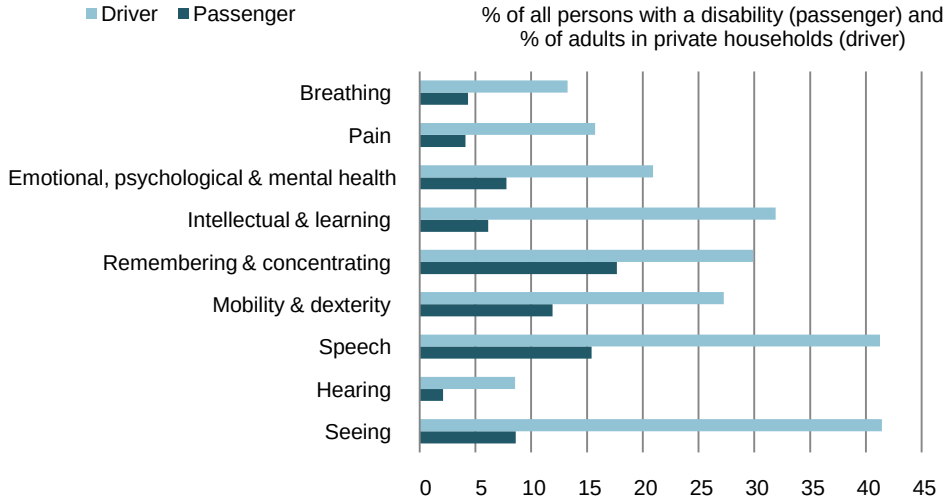
Those who responded that they did not regularly use a private car, either as a driver or a passenger, were asked whether or not the reason was related to their disability. Overall, 22% of adults in private households with a disability said that they did not regularly drive a car themselves due to their disability (see Table 4.4). Eight per cent of all persons with a disability reported that they did not regularly use a private car as a passenger because of their disability.

Table 4.4 Persons not regularly using private car as driver or passenger for disability reason by sex

	% of row		persons
	Driver[16]	**Passenger**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons not regularly using because of disability	**59,100**	**26,400**	**325,800**
Persons %	22	8	**325,800**
Males	21	8	**157,200**
Females	22	9	**168,600**

As illustrated in Graph 4.5, the proportion of persons not using a private car for a disability related reason varied substantially by main disability type. Those whose main disability type was Seeing were most likely to report that they did not drive a car because of a disability related reason – 42% of adults in private households with this main disability type reported not using a car as a driver, while 9% of all persons with a disability who had Seeing as their main disability indicated that they did not regularly use a car as a driver because of their disability.

Graph 4.5 People not regularly using a private car as driver and passenger for disability reason by main disability type



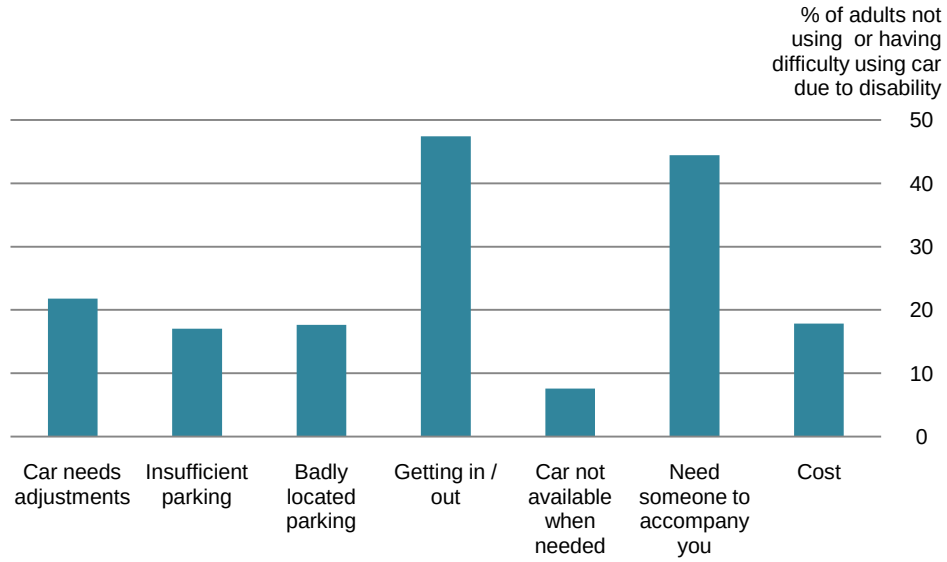
4.3 Detailed reasons for not using or having difficulty using a private car

Adults in private households who reported that they did not regularly use a car as either a driver or passenger, or that they used one with difficulty, were asked the reason for this[17]. The most common reason was difficulty getting in or out of the vehicle. As shown in Graph 4.6, 47% of adults in private households who did not use or who had difficulty using a car due to their disability reported that this was the specific reason. The next most common reason was needing someone to accompany them (44%). For this reason, the incidence increased sharply from the age of 75. However, generally speaking, there was relatively little variation in the responses to this question by age group, sex or region (see Detailed tables, Tables 4.6 and 4.7).

[16] 'Driver' category only asked of adults in private households. Therefore percentages in this column are calculated out of a base of 264,600.

[17] Respondents to this question were permitted to indicate more than one reason.

Graph 4.6 Adults in private households not using or having difficulty using a private car by detailed reason[1]



4.4 Public transport

People in private households aged 5 & over with a disability were asked about their use of public transport services. For those reporting that they used any of these services, a supplementary question was asked about the level of difficulty, if any, they experienced in doing so.

Around three-quarters of people with a disability aged 5 & over who lived in private households did not regularly use Intercity bus, Rural bus, DART/LUAS[18], Commuter train or Intercity train services. A slightly lower proportion did not regularly use City bus (65%) and Taxi/hackney (64%) services (see Table 4.7).

Table 4.7 People aged 5 & over in private households using public transport by type of service and level of difficulty

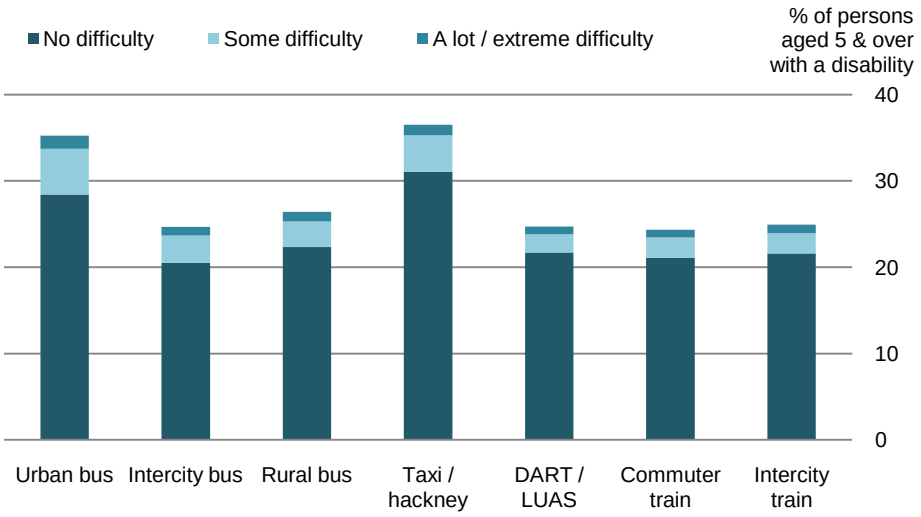
% of category

	City bus	Intercity bus	Rural bus	Taxi / hackney	DART / LUAS	Commuter train	Intercity train
Persons	**296,600**	**296,600**	**296,600**	**296,600**	**296,600**	**296,600**	**296,600**
Persons %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Do not regularly use	65	75	74	64	75	76	75
No difficulty	28	21	22	31	22	21	22
Some difficulty	5	3	3	4	2	2	2
A lot / extreme difficulty	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

Nearly one-third (31%) of persons with a disability in private households were able to use Taxi/hackney services with no difficulty, while 28% were able to use City buses without difficulty (see Graph 4.8).

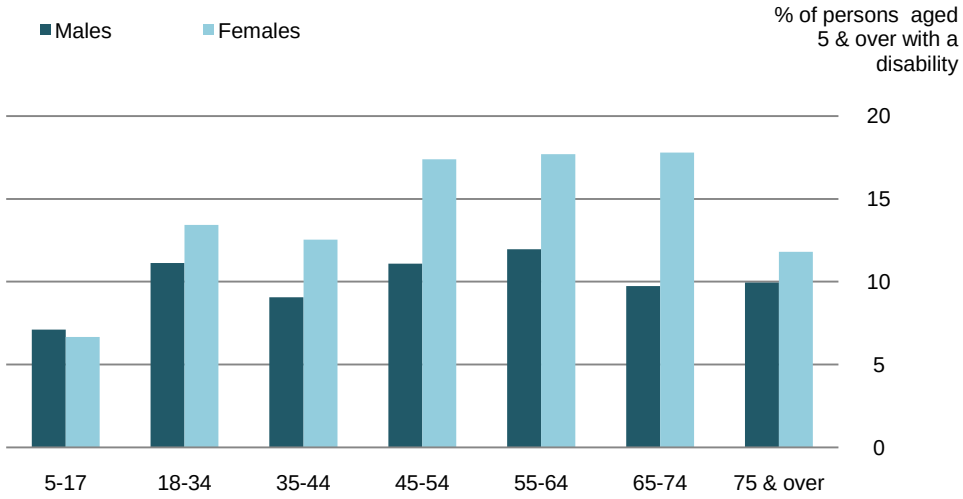
[18] It should be noted that DART and LUAS services were only available in Dublin.

Graph 4.8 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households using public transport by type of service and difficulty level



As shown in Graph 4.9, women were more likely to report difficulty using public transport in all age groups except for children (aged 5-17). This pattern held for all seven of the publlic transport services (see Detailed tables, Table 4.9).

Graph 4.9 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households who experienced difficulty using any public transport by age group and sex



As shown in Table 4.10, 13% of persons aged 5 & over with a disability in Dublin used City bus services, nearly double the national rate of 7%. This is probably due to the higher number of bus routes in Dublin compared with the rest of the country. Apart from City bus and DART/LUAS services, there was not much regional variation in the different modes of transport.

Table 4.10 People aged 5 & over in private households experiencing any difficulty using public transport by type of service and region.

							% of row	persons	%
Region	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent experiencing difficulty**
Persons	**20,200**	**12,300**	**12,100**	**16,200**	**8,800**	**9,700**	**9,800**	**296,600**	
Persons %	**7**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**296,600**	**12**
Border	4	4	3	5	1	2	2	34,700	9
Midland	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	17,600	9
West	5	4	4	4	2	3	4	28,500	11
Dublin	13	6	4	7	6	4	4	84,700	18
Mid-East	4	2	4	4	3	4	3	27,400	8
Mid-West	6	4	7	6	3	3	4	26,700	11
South-East	5	4	5	6	3	4	3	33,600	12
South-West	5	3	4	5	1	2	2	43,400	10

Key-code:
A = City bus ; **B** = Intercity bus; **C** = Rural bus ; **D** = Taxi/hackney ; **E** = Dart / Luas ; **F** = Commuter train ; **G** = Intercity train ;

Persons aged 5 & over who reported Seeing (16%), Mobility & dexterity (16%) or Pain (16%) as their main disability were most likely to experience difficulty in using the specified public transport services (see Table 4.11). One-in-ten persons (10%) whose main disability was Seeing or Pain reported difficulty using City buses, while 7% of those whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity indicated that they had difficulty using city bus transport.

Table 4.11 People aged 5 & over in private households experiencing any difficulty using public transport by type of service and main disability type.

							% of row	persons	%
Main disability	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent having difficulty**
Persons	**20,200**	**12,300**	**12,100**	**16,200**	**8,800**	**9,700**	**9,800**	**296,600**	
Persons %	**7**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**296,600**	**12**
Seeing	10	6	7	6	6	5	5	14,000	16
Hearing	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	21,100	7
Speech	4	3	4	7	2	3	5	4,700	10
Mobility & dexterity	7	5	6	9	3	3	4	79,400	16
Remembering & concentrating	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	14,800	5
Intellectual & learning	6	4	4	3	4	4	4	35,000	8
Emotional, psychological & mental health	7	4	4	3	4	3	3	40,800	10
Pain	10	6	4	7	3	4	4	61,300	16
Breathing	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	25,500	6

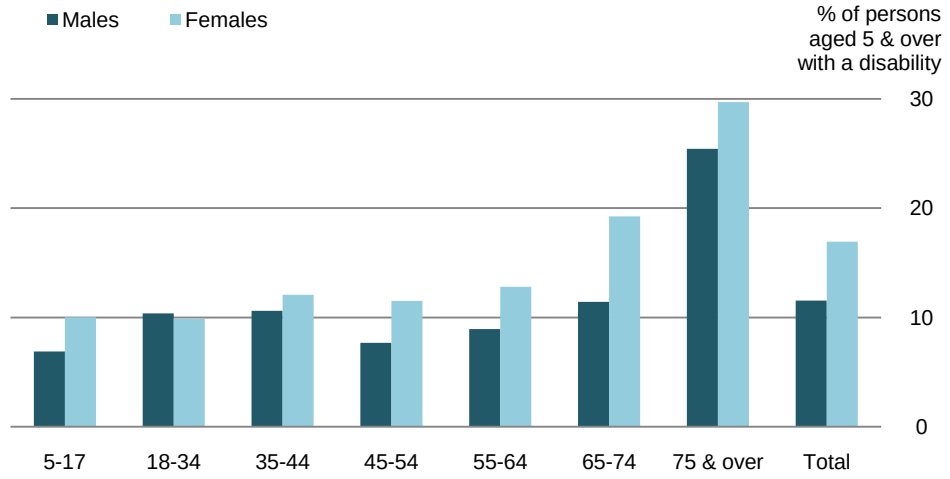
Key-code:
A = City bus ; **B** = Intercity bus; **C** = Rural bus ; **D** = Taxi/hackney ; **E** = Dart / Luas ; **F** = Commuter train ; **G** = Intercity train ;

4.5 Disability related reason for not using public transport

As was the case with private cars, those who indicated that they did not regularly use any of the public transport services were asked whether the reason for this was related to their disability. Overall, 14% of all persons aged 5 & over in private households did not use public transport because of their disability.

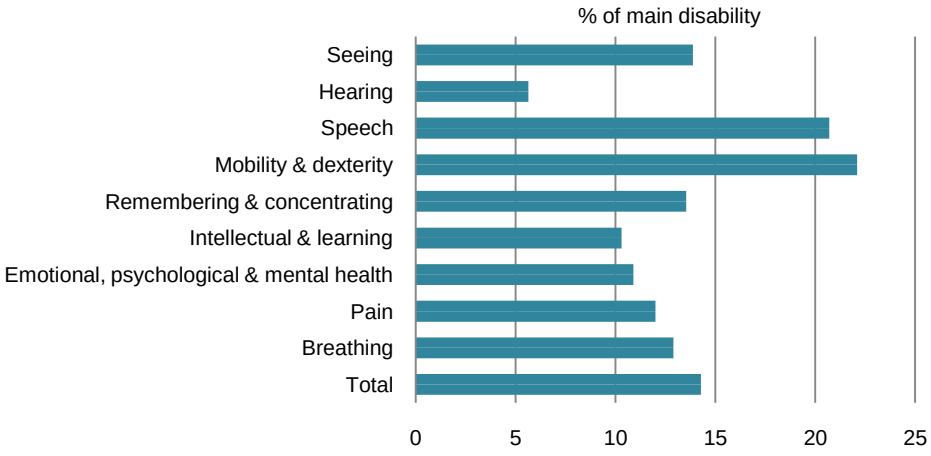
Seventeen percent of females aged 5 & over in private households did not use any form of public transport for a disability related reason compared with 12% of males (see Graph 4.12). There was a pronounced increase in the percentage of persons indicating that they did not use public transport because of their disability from the age of 75.

Graph 4.12 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households not using public transport due to disability by sex and age group



There was relatively little variation in the proportion of people who did not use public transport because of their disability when analysed by region (see Detailed tables, Table 4.12). However, the variation by main disability type was more pronounced. As shown in Graph 4.13, 22% of persons whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity reported that they did not use public transport for disability related reasons compared with an average of 14% across all main disability types.

Graph 4.13 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households not using public transport due to disability by main disability type



4.6 Detailed reasons for not using or having difficulty using public transport

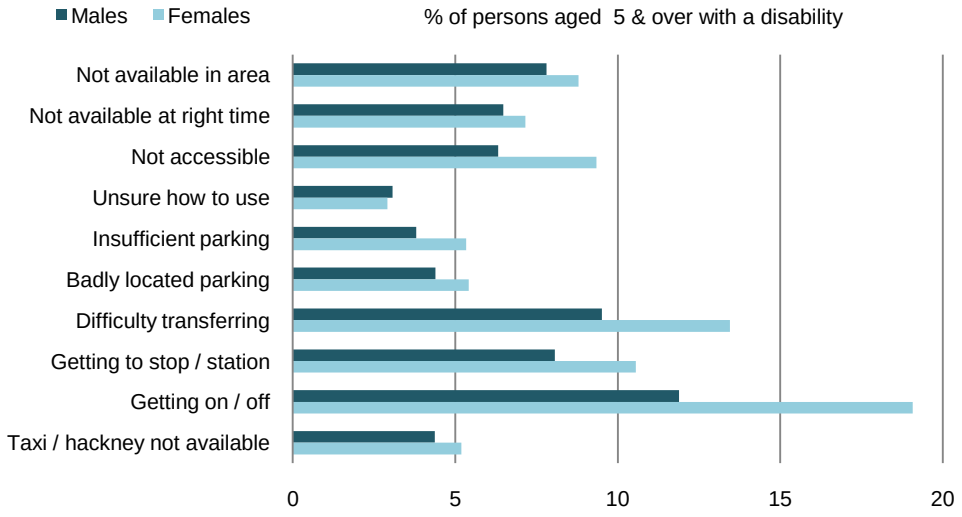
People in private households aged 5 & over who indicated that, because of their disability, they either did not regularly use public transport or had difficulty using it, were asked a follow-up question to establish more precisely the nature of the difficulties that their disability caused with using public transport services. This follow-up question asked whether a range of Accessibility, Information and Service related issues caused them difficulty or caused them not to use public transport.

4.6.1 Accessibility reasons

Overall, the most prevalent accessibility related reason for not using or having difficulty using public transport was problems getting on / off the vehicle (16%), difficulty transferring from one service to another (12%) and difficulty getting to the bus or LUAS stop or the DART or train station (9%) (see Graph 4.14).

In general, there was a higher incidence of accessibility related issues among females than males, with 27% of females aged 5 & over with a disability in private households indicating that they did not use public transport services or had difficulty doing so because of an accessibility related reason. This compares with 20% of males (see Detailed tables, Table 4.13).

Graph 4.14 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households not regularly using or having difficulty using public transport by sex and accessibility related reason[19]



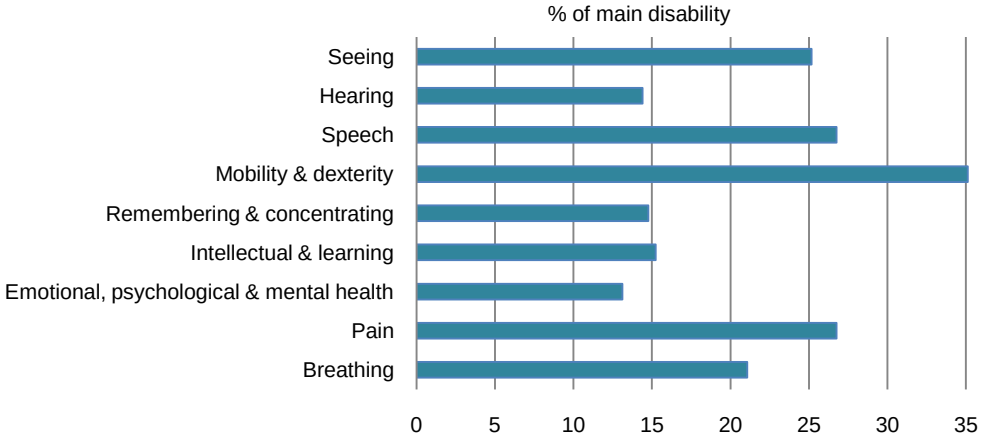
The Mid-West region had the highest proportion of respondents who reported that they did not use / had difficulty using public transport for five of the ten reasons (see Detailed tables, Table 4.16). The available service was not accessible (11%); insufficient number of parking places for people with a disability (7%); parking places for people with a disability were badly located (7%); difficulty transferring from one transport service to another (17%); and difficulty getting on or off the vehicle (19%). The Dublin region had a below average proportion of persons reporting that they did not use or had difficulty using public transport for all of the reasons except Getting to the stop or station (14%) and Getting on/off vehicles (16%).

There was a significant variation by main disability in the proportion of persons who did not regularly use or who had difficulty using public transport because of accessibility related reasons. As shown in Graph 4.15, 35% whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity did not regularly use any public

[19] 'Insufficient parking', 'Badly located parking' and 'Taxi/hackney not available' categories not asked of children.

transport service, or had difficulty doing so, due to one or more accessibility reasons. In particular, a high percentage of persons in this group reported difficulty getting on or off vehicles (29%) and transferring between services (20%).

Graph 4.15 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households not regularly using / having difficulty using public transport due to accessibility related reason, by main disability type



4.6.2 Information related reasons

In addition to asking about accessibility issues, people were also asked about information issues. The key findings of these questions are presented in Table 4.16. Overall, persons whose main disability was Seeing were most likely to have had difficulty using, or did not use public transport services at all, due to an information related reason (22%), followed by those whose main disability was Speech (21%) or Hearing (14%) (see Table 4.16).

Table 4.16 People aged 5 & over in private households not regularly using/having difficulty using public transport due to information related reason by detailed reason and main disability

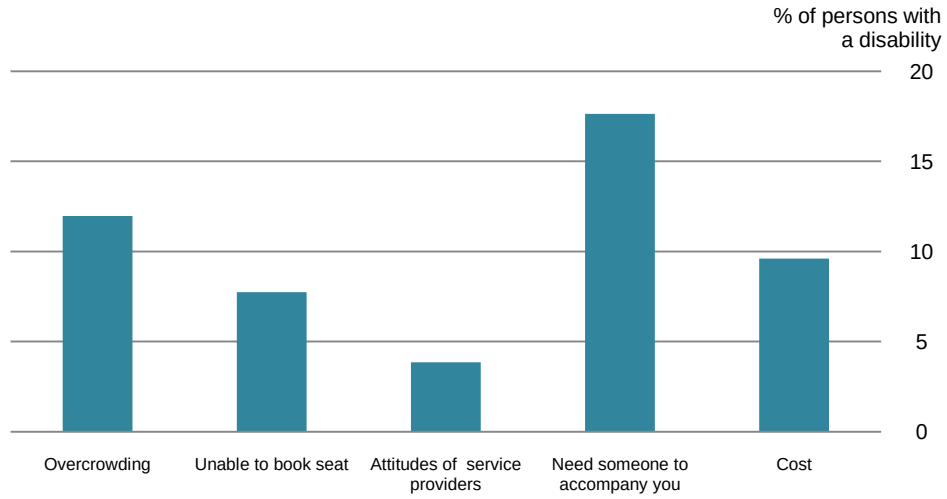
	% of row				persons	%
Main disability	**Lack of information on availability**	**Lack of information on accessibility**	**Seeing / understanding signs / notices**	**Difficulty hearing / understanding announcements**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent experiencing difficulty**
Persons	**9,400**	**10,400**	**16,300**	**16,200**	**296,600**	**10**
Persons %	**3**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**296,600**	
Seeing	4	3	21	7	**14,000**	22
Hearing	2	2	5	13	**21,100**	14
Speech	5	4	18	17	**4,700**	21
Mobility & dexterity	5	6	4	5	**79,400**	11
Remembering & concentrating	2	2	5	5	**14,800**	8
Intellectual & learning	2	2	10	9	**35,000**	12
Emotional, psychological & mental health	2	2	4	4	**40,800**	6
Pain	3	3	2	3	**61,300**	7
Breathing	3	3	3	4	**25,500**	7

4.6.3 Reasons related to using the service

People in private households with a disability who indicated that they did not use, or had difficulty using any form of public transport because of their disability, were asked whether or not the precise reason for this was due to five service related issues.

As shown in Graph 4.17, the most common service-related reason for not using or having difficulty using public transport was Needing someone to accompany you (18%) followed by Overcrowding (12%), Cost (10%), Unable to book a seat (8%) and Attitudes of service providers (4%). Within these overall figures, there was relatively little variation by sex or age group. The one exception to this, however, was seen in the category Need for someone to accompany you. The proportion of persons who indicated that this was a reason for them not regularly using public transport or having difficulty doing so was higher for women (21% compared with 14% of men). It also increased sharply from the age of 75, rising from 19% of persons with a disability in the 65-74 age group to 27% for those aged 75 & over (see Detailed tables, Table 4.15).

Graph 4.17 People aged 5 & over with a disability in private households not regularly using / having difficulty using public transport by service-related reason[20]



4.7 Specialised transport

People were asked about their use of specialised transport which is transport operated by disability service providers, centres for the elderly, voluntary organisations etc.. People with a disability in private households and in communal establishments were asked whether or not they regularly used specialised transport. Those who regularly used this type of transport were asked to indicate the level of difficulty they experienced in doing so.

A large majority (85%) of persons with a disability did not regularly use specialised transport services (see Table 4.18). Of the remaining 15% who did regularly use specialised transport, most were able to use these services with no difficulty.

There was a marked difference in the pattern of responses between those in private households and those in communal establishments. A substantially higher proportion (34%) of persons with a disability in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes used these services.

[20] The 'Unable to book a seat' and 'Cost' categories were not asked of children.

Table 4.18 People using specialised transport by level of difficulty

% of category

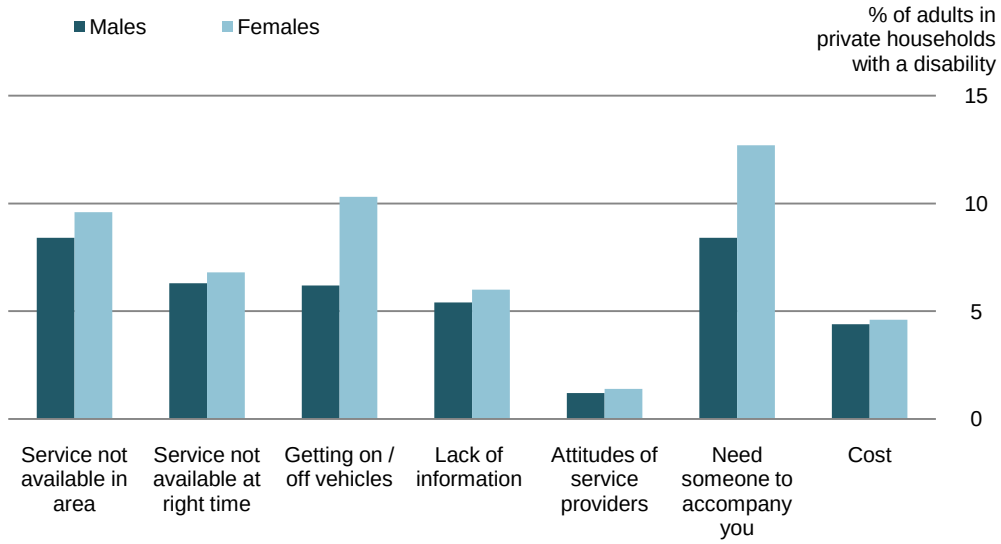
Level of difficulty	Persons in private households	Persons in communal establishments	Total persons
Persons	**300,200**	**25,600**	**325,800**
Persons %	**100**	**100**	**100**
Do not regularly use	86	66	85
No difficulty	13	20	13
Some difficulty	1	10	2
A lot / extreme difficulty	0	4	1

4.8 Reasons for experiencing difficulty using or not using specialised transport

Adults in private households who did not regularly use specialised transport or did use these services, but experienced difficulty in doing so, were asked to indicate whether or not seven potential difficulties were the reason for this.

The most common reason for people not using specialised transport, or for experiencing difficulty in using this type of service, was Need someone to accompany you (see Graph 4.19). Eleven percent of all adults in private households reported this specific reason. The second most prevalent reason was that the Service was not available in their area (9%).

Graph 4.19 Adults with a disability in private households not regularly using or having difficulty using specialised transport by detailed reason and sex



As shown in Graph 4.19 there was generally little variation between males and females in the proportions reporting that they did not use/experienced difficulty using specialised transport. However, a considerably higher proportion of adult females said needing someone to accompany them was a reason for not using or having difficulty using specialised transport (13% compared with 8% for males). Similarly, a higher proportion of females (10%) than males (6%) reported not using or having difficulty using specialised transport because of problems getting on or off vehicles.

When analysed by main disability type, those whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity (24%) were most likely to report that they did not use specialised transport, or could only do so with difficulty, due to any of the seven specific reasons (see Table 4.21). In particular, people with Mobility &

dexterity as their main disability reported a high incidence of not using specialised transport/having difficulty with specialised transport due to problems getting on or off the vehicle(s) (14% compared with an overall average of 8%).

Table 4.21 Adults in private households not regularly using / having difficulty using specialised transport by detailed reason and main disability

						% of row	persons	%
Main disability	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent not using or having difficulty using specialised transport for any reason**
Persons	**23,900**	**17,300**	**22,200**	**15,100**	**3,500**	**28,300**	**11,800**	**264,600**	**18**
Persons %	**9**	**7**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**11**	**5**		
Seeing	11	8	8	6	1	14	4	13,200	22
Hearing	6	4	5	4	1	7	3	19,800	11
Speech	7	6	9	8	-	14	2	2,500	22
Mobility & dexterity	12	8	14	8	2	14	5	77,400	24
Remembering & concentrating	5	4	3	4	1	8	3	11,800	14
Intellectual & learning	6	4	2	3	1	9	3	17,700	14
Emotional, psychological & mental health	6	5	3	4	2	7	4	38,100	13
Pain	11	8	10	6	1	10	5	60,500	20
Breathing	8	5	7	5	0	10	4	23,600	16

Key-code:
A = Service not available in area ; **B** =Service not available when you want to travel; **C** = getting on/off vehicles; **D** = Lack of information; **E** = Attitudes of service providers ; **F** = Need someone to accompany you; **G** = Cost

Chapter 5 Built Environment Accessibility

This chapter provides a summary description of the built environment accessibility for people with a disability. The questionnaire collected information on a variety of issues: difficulty doing routine tasks inside the home; use and need for specialised features in the home; house adaptations grants; accessibility difficulties outside the home – in other people's houses, other buildings and the community area; and home heating. All questions were asked of adults in private households, with two questions on use and need of specialised features being asked of children in private households.

5.1 Routine tasks

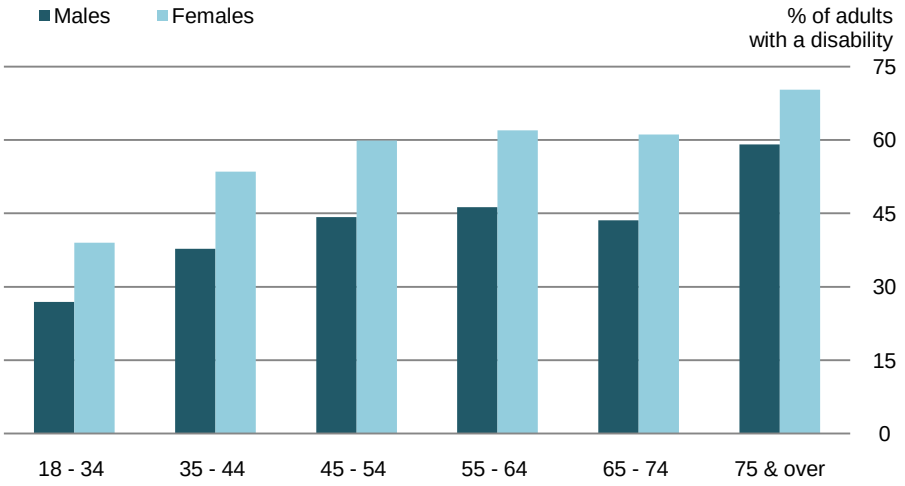
Adults were asked about the difficulty, if any, experienced doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability. The respondent could answer on a 3-level difficulty scale – no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot/cannot do. While just under half (48%) of adults with a disability had no difficulty doing routine tasks inside their own home, one third had some difficulty and 19% had a lot/cannot do (see Table 5.1). Overall, 57% of men had no difficulty compared with 41% of women.

Table 5.1 Adults with a disability in private households by sex and level of difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability

Level of difficulty	% males		% females		% adults	
	Males		Females		Adults	
	Routine tasks	Males with a disability	Routine tasks	Females with a disability	Routine tasks	Adults with a disability
Adults %	**100**	**124,600**	**100**	**140,000**	**100**	**264,600**
No difficulty	57	70,700	41	**56,800**	48	127,500
Some difficulty	29	35,500	36	50,700	33	86,200
A lot / cannot do	15	18,400	23	32,400	19	50,800

The proportion of adults with a disability experiencing difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home increased with age for both males and females (see Graph 5.2). Two-thirds of adults with a disability aged 75 & over had difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability compared with one-third of adults aged 18-34. For all age groups, a higher proportion of women with a disability had difficulty doing routine tasks compared with men.

Graph 5.2 Adults with a disability in private households with difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability by sex and age group



Around 72% of adults whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity had difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home, while 64% of adults whose main disability was Pain had difficulty (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Adults with a disability in private households with difficulty doing routine tasks inside their home because of their disability by region, main disability and average age

Main disability	% of row Routine tasks	adults Adults with a disability
Adults	**137,100**	**264,600**
Adults %	**52**	**264,600**
Seeing	42	13,200
Hearing	18	19,800
Speech	42	2,500
Mobility & dexterity	72	77,400
Remembering & concentrating	40	11,800
Intellectual & learning	24	17,700
Emotional, psychological & mental health	32	38,100
Pain	64	60,500
Breathing	49	23,600

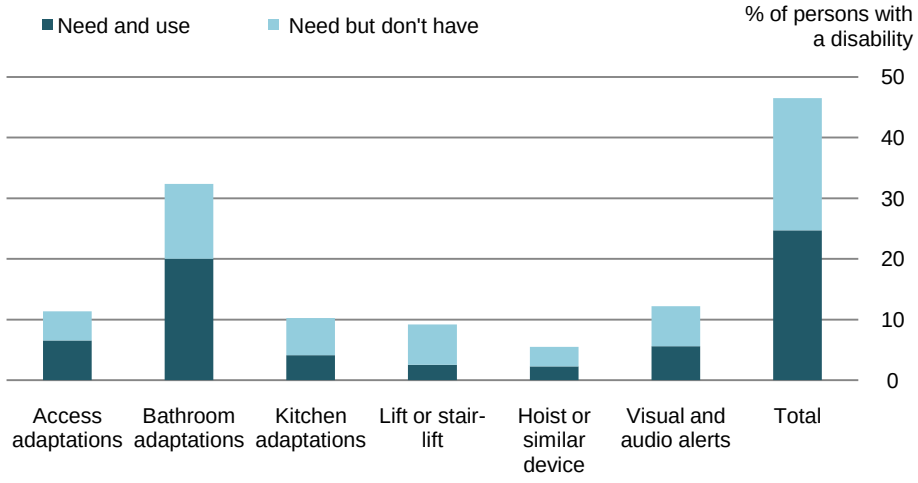
5.2 Use of specialised features

Adults and children in private households were asked, because of their disability, do they use or need any specialised features within their home or to enter or leave their home.

One-in-four persons with a disability in private households indicated that they used at least one of the specialised features listed in or around the home, while a further 22% of persons with a disability indicated a need for at least one of the features (see Graph 5.4). By far the most commonly used specialised features were Bathroom adaptations, where one-in-five persons with a disability in private households used these adaptations.

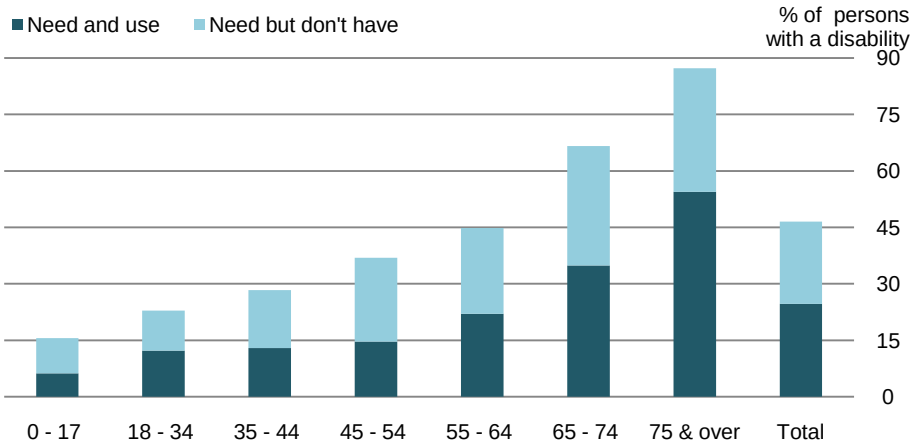
Bathroom adaptations were also top of the need list, with 12% of persons with a disability in private households indicating a need for these adaptations. While lift or stair-lift had the second lowest proportion (3%) of persons who used this aid, it had the joint second highest proportion (7%) of persons with a disability who indicated a need for this aid along with Visual and audio alerts (see Graph 5.4).

Graph 5.4 People with a disability in private households using or needing specialised features in and around their home



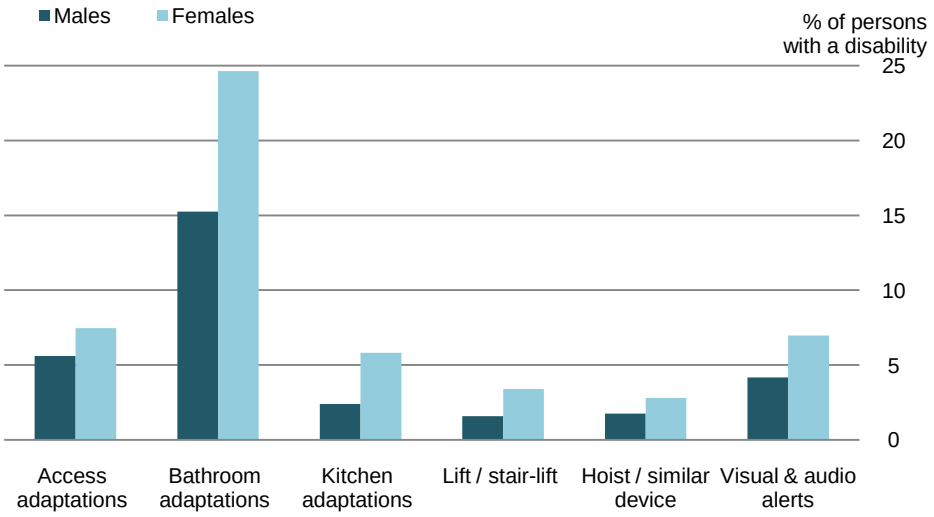
One-in-four persons with a disability used at least one of the listed specialised features in or around their house. This rate increased to over one-third (35%) of persons aged 65-74 and over half (55%) of persons aged 75 & over (see Graph 5.5). Around one-in-ten persons with a disability in the age groups 18 to 54 used Bathroom adaptations before rising to 19% of persons aged 55-64, 28% of persons aged 65-74 and 45% of persons aged 75 & over. Around 16% of persons with a disability aged 75 & over used Visual and audio alerts.

Graph 5.5 People with a disability in private households using and needing specialised features in and around their home by age group



A higher proportion of females with a disability used the specialised features than their male counterparts, in particular for Bathroom adaptations and Kitchen adaptations (see Graph 5.6).

Graph 5.6 People with a disability in private households using specialised features in and around their home by sex



Around one-in-ten persons with a disability in the age groups 18 to 54 used Bathroom adaptations before rising to rising to 19% of persons aged 55-64, 28% of persons aged 65-74 and 45% of persons aged 75 & over (see Table 5.7). Around 16% of persons with a disability aged 75 & over used Visual and audio alerts.

Table 5.7 People with a disability in private households using specialised features in and around their home by feature and age group

						% of row	persons	%
Age group	Adaptations			Lift / stair-lift	Hoist / similar device	Visual and audio alerts	Persons with a disability	Percent who use features
	Access	Bathroom	Kitchen					
Persons	**19,600**	**60,100**	**12,400**	**7,500**	**6,900**	**16,800**	**300,200**	
Persons %	**7**	**20**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**6**	**300,200**	**25**
0 - 17	3	5	1	0	1	1	35,600	6
18 - 34	5	10	3	1	2	2	40,200	12
35 - 44	5	9	4	1	1	2	33,900	13
45 - 54	4	11	4	1	1	2	41,400	15
55 - 64	6	19	4	2	2	4	50,600	22
65 - 74	9	28	5	3	3	8	41,700	35
75 & over	11	45	7	7	5	16	56,700	55

5.3 Need for specialised features

Table 5.8 shows the proportion of people with a disability in each age group who indicated a need for at least one of the specialised features in or around the home[21]. Overall, 22% of persons with a disability indicated that they needed but did not have at least one of the specialised features (see Graph 5.5 and Table 5.8). The unmet need for specialised features in or around the home increased with age - from around one-in-ten persons with a disability aged 0-17 years to one-in three aged 65 & over. Bathroom adaptations were most in demand for each age group ranging from 5% of 0-17 year olds to 20% of the 65-74 age group.

Table 5.8 People with a disability in private households needing specialised features in or around their home by feature and age group

						% of row	persons	%
Age group	Adaptations			Lift / stair-lift	Hoist / similar device	Visual and audio alerts	Persons with a disability	Percent who need features
	Access	Bathroom	Kitchen					
Persons	**14,400**	**37,000**	**18,200**	**20,100**	**9,600**	**19,800**	**300,200**	
Persons %	**5**	**12**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**300,200**	**22**
0 - 17	2	5	3	2	2	4	35,600	9
18 - 34	3	5	4	3	2	4	40,200	11
35 - 44	2	10	5	4	2	4	33,900	15
45 - 54	5	14	7	7	3	7	41,400	22
55 - 64	4	14	5	7	3	6	50,600	23
65 - 74	6	20	9	11	5	10	41,700	32
75 & over	9	15	9	11	5	10	56,700	33

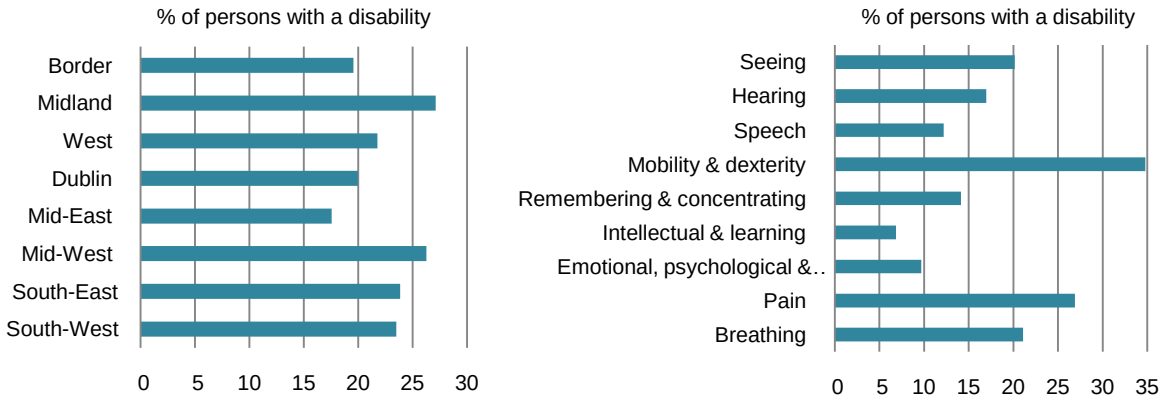
Graph 5.9 shows the proportion of people with a disability in each region and in each main disability type who needed specialised features in or around the home. Two regions, Midland (27%) and Mid-West (26%) had the highest proportions of persons with a disability indicating a need for at least one of the specialised features in or around the home.

People with a main disability of a physical nature had a higher need for specialised features. Over one-third (35%) of persons whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity indicated a need for at least

[21] Note that people already with a specialised feature were not asked if they needed an enhanced feature.

one of the specialised features as did 27% of those whose main disability was Pain (see Graph 5.9). The age profile may also be a factor in this analysis as the average age of persons in private households whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity (62 years) was above the national average age (51), compared with the younger age profile of those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning (22 years).

Graph 5.9 People with a disability in private households needing specialised features in or around their home by region and main disability

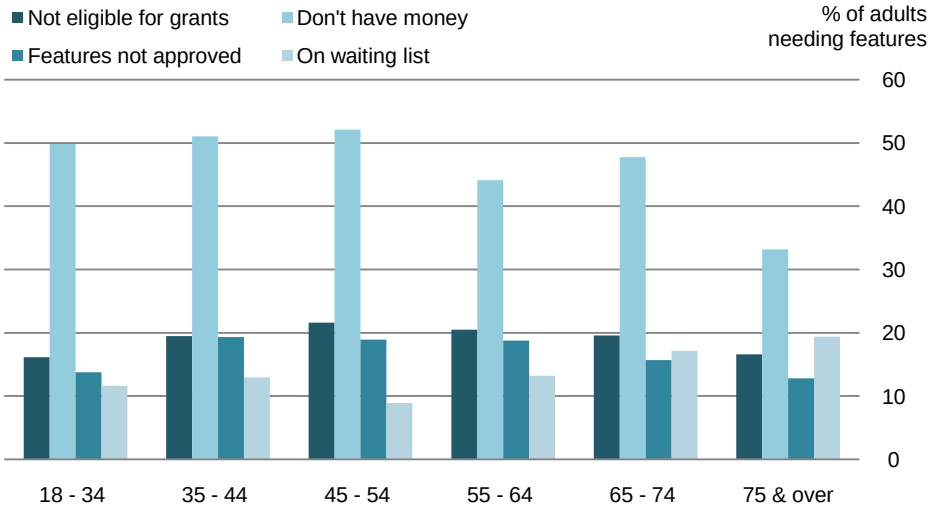


5.4 Reasons for not having specialised features

Adults who indicated that they needed at least one of the specialised features (see Graph 5.4), were then asked for the reasons why they did not have these features in their home.

As seen in Graph 5.10, “Do not have the money” was by far the most common reason for not having the specialised features. For example, around 52% of adults with a disability in the age group 45-54 who needed a feature cited lack of money as a reason for not having at least one of the specialised features. Higher proportions of the older age groups, 65-74 and 75 & over were on a waiting list for aids or features.

Graph 5.10 Adults with a disability in private households needing specialised features in or around their home by reasons for not having features and age group



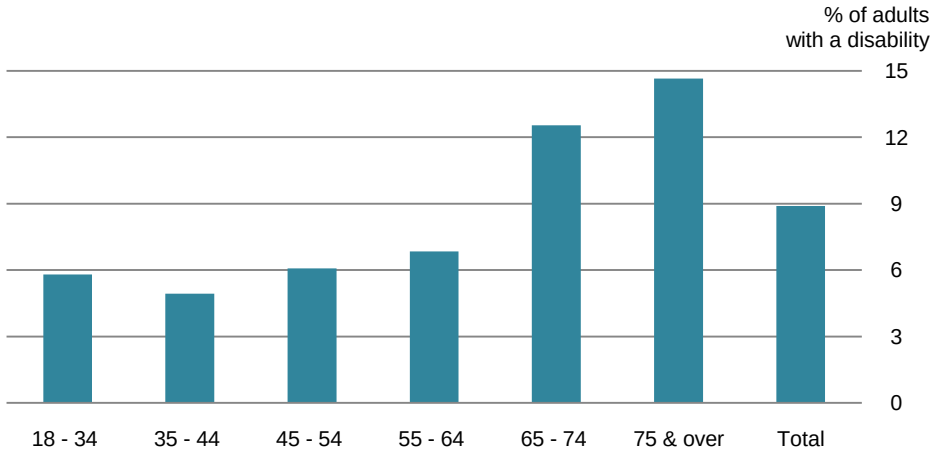
5.5 House adaptations grants

Adults with a disability in private households were asked had they ever received a grant towards the adaptation of their house to cater for their disability from the Local Authority, Health Service Executive (HSE) or a Voluntary Organisation.

Less than one-in-ten adults with a disability had ever received a house adaptation grant from any of the three listed organisations (see Graph 5.11). The proportion who had received a grant increased with age, from just over 6% of those aged 18-34 to 13% of those aged 65-74 and to just under 15% of those aged 75 & over in private households.

Around 6% of adults with a disability received a house adaptation grant from Local Authorities and 3% from the Health Service Executive (HSE) (see Detailed tables, Table 5.11).

Graph 5.11 Adults with a disability in private households who ever received a house adaptation grant by age group



5.6 Accessibility difficulties outside the home

Adults were asked if they had any difficulty doing certain activities or accessing services due to accessibility difficulties. Nearly half (46%) of adults with a disability in private households experienced accessibility difficulties in at least one of the activities (see Table 5.12). This proportion increased with age, ranging from 30% of 18-34 year olds to half of 65-74 year olds and over two-thirds (68%) of those aged 75 & over. Around 61% of persons with a disability aged 75 & over had difficulty Moving out and about in the local area and Availing of general services such as shopping.

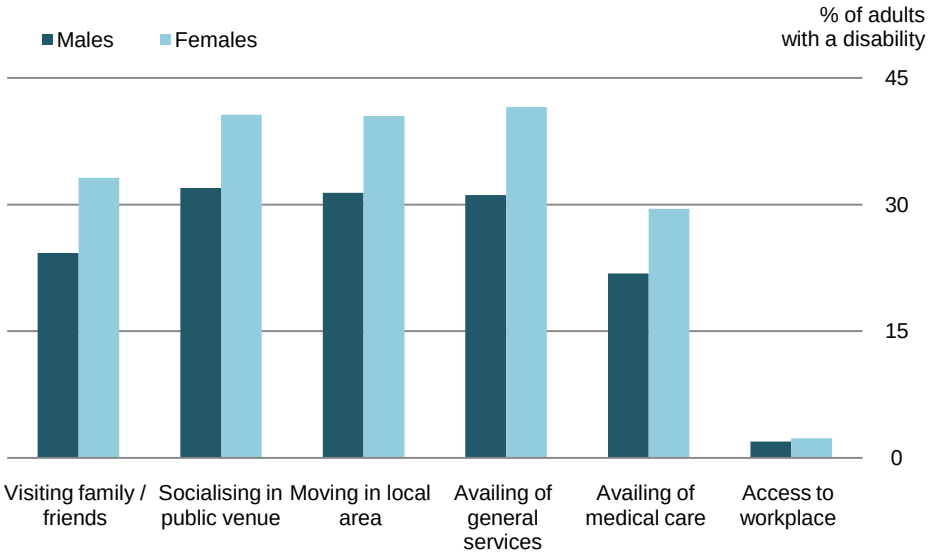
Socialising in a public venue (37%), Moving out and about in the local area (36%) and Availing of general services such as shopping (37%) had the highest proportions who experienced at least some accessibility difficulties outside the home. This was true across all age groups. Nearly 26% had accessibility difficulty visiting medical care locations such as hospitals and doctors (see Table 5.12).

Table 5.12 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by age group[22]

						% of row	adults	%
Age group	Visiting family / friends	Socialising in public venue	Moving in local area	Availing of		Access to work-place	Adults with a disability	Percent with any difficulty
				General services	Medical care			
Adults	**76,700**	**96,700**	**95,800**	**96,900**	**68,500**	**5,700**	**264,600**	
Adults %	**29**	**37**	**36**	**37**	**26**	**2**	**264,600**	**46**
18 - 34	17	23	19	21	14	4	40,200	30
35 - 44	20	29	25	26	16	4	33,900	37
45 - 54	23	32	29	29	19	3	41,400	40
55 - 64	25	32	32	33	22	2	50,600	43
65 - 74	32	39	42	41	29	1	41,700	50
75 & over	49	57	61	60	46	1	56,700	68

A higher proportion of females with a disability experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home compared with their male counterparts (see Graph 5.13).

Graph 5.13 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by sex[22]



Over half of adults with a disability in the Midland (51%), West (52%) and Mid-West (51%) regions had some level of accessibility difficulty in at least one of the areas listed for outside the home compared with 36% in the Mid-East (see Table 5.14). Socialising in a public venue, Moving out and about in the local area and Availing of general services such as shopping had the highest proportions of persons with a disability having difficulty in all regions.

Adults whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity (67%) or Seeing (50%) had the highest proportions who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home in at least one of the areas listed (see Table 5.14). Around 42% of adults whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity had difficulty availing of medical care followed by 30% whose main disability was Speech and 29% of those whose main disability was Seeing.

[22] Access to workplace was only asked where relevant.

Table 5.14 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by region and main disability[22]

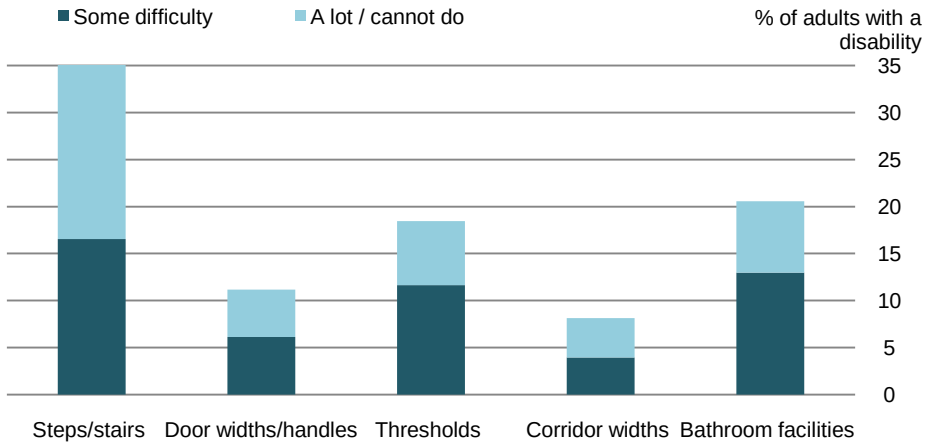
	% of row						adults	%
Region and main disability	**Area (see key-code under table)**						**Adults with a disability**	**Percent with any difficulty**
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**		
Adults	**76,700**	**96,700**	**95,800**	**96,900**	**68,500**	**5,700**	**264,600**	
Adults %	**29**	**37**	**36**	**37**	**26**	**2**	**264,600**	**46**
Region %								
Border	28	36	38	38	27	2	31,100	49
Midland	34	42	39	40	29	1	15,500	51
West	34	44	40	41	31	4	25,800	52
Dublin	28	36	35	36	25	2	76,100	46
Mid-East	22	27	28	27	18	2	23,500	36
Mid-West	34	41	42	43	33	2	23,800	51
South-East	29	37	36	36	25	3	29,900	45
South-West	28	34	35	34	22	2	38,800	44
Main disability %								
Seeing	31	38	39	39	29	2	13,200	50
Hearing	13	25	15	20	12	1	19,800	28
Speech	30	35	39	41	30	6	2,500	47
Mobility & dexterity	47	55	57	57	42	3	77,400	67
Remembering & concentrating	23	30	25	26	22	1	11,800	34
Intellectual & learning	16	21	18	25	17	3	17,700	31
Emotional, psychological & mental health	17	24	19	19	13	1	38,100	29
Pain	26	33	35	35	22	2	60,500	45
Breathing	22	29	32	29	22	1	23,600	39

Key-code:
A = Visiting family / friends; **B** = Socialising in public venue; **C** = Moving in local area; **D** = Availing of general services; **E** = Availing of medical care; **F** = Access to workplace.

5.7 Accessibility difficulties in other people's houses

Steps or stairs in other people's houses caused the most difficulty when compared with the other features, with 35% of adults with a disability stating that they had at least some difficulty (see Graph 5.15). Bathroom facilities (21%) and Thresholds (19%) were the next most common features where people experienced difficulty.

Graph 5.15 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by feature in other people's houses and level of difficulty



5.8 Accessibility difficulties in other buildings

Around one-third (30%) of adults with a disability had at least some difficulty Moving around internally in buildings (see Table 5.16). Car parking (21%), Approach areas (20%) and Lifts/escalators (21%) had the next highest proportions of persons who cited them as difficulties.

Table 5.16 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by feature in non-domestic buildings and level of difficulty

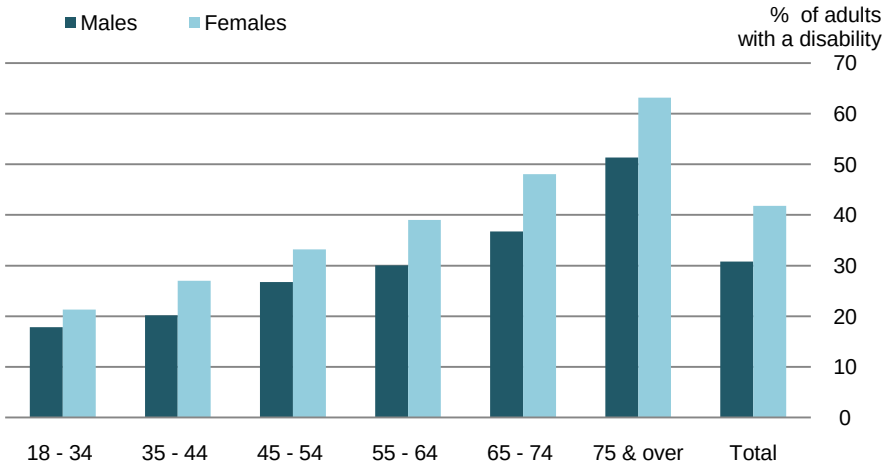
% of adults with a disability

Level of difficulty	Features (see key-code under table)								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Adults	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**
Adults %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
No difficulty	80	80	85	86	70	80	79	88	90
Some difficulty	11	12	8	8	16	11	13	6	5
A lot / cannot do	10	8	7	6	14	10	9	6	5

Key-code:
A = Car parking; **B** = Approach areas; **C** = Entrances / exits; **D** = Reception areas; **E** = Moving around internally; **F** = Lifts / escalators; **G** = Bathroom facilities; **H** = Signs; **I** = Interior design.

Graph 5.17 shows that the proportion of adults with a disability who experienced accessibility difficulties in other buildings increased with age for both males and females. For all age groups a higher proportion of females with a disability experienced accessibility difficulties in other buildings compared with their male counterparts (see Graph 5.17). Around 63% of females aged 75 & over experienced accessibility difficulties in other buildings compared with 51% of males.

Graph 5.17 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties in other buildings by sex and age group



5.9 Accessibility difficulties in the community area

Around 30% of adults with a disability experienced at least some level of difficulty with Footpaths around the locality followed by Street crossings (27%) (see Table 5.18). Signage proved the least problematic out of the five features listed, with 88% of adults with a disability having no difficulty with Signs.

Table 5.18 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by feature in community area and level of difficulty

% of category

Level of difficulty	Footpaths	Street crossings	Signs	Access to recreational areas	Car parking
Adults	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**	**264,600**
Adults %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
No difficulty	71	73	88	80	80
Some difficulty	16	14	6	9	10
A lot / cannot do	14	13	6	11	10

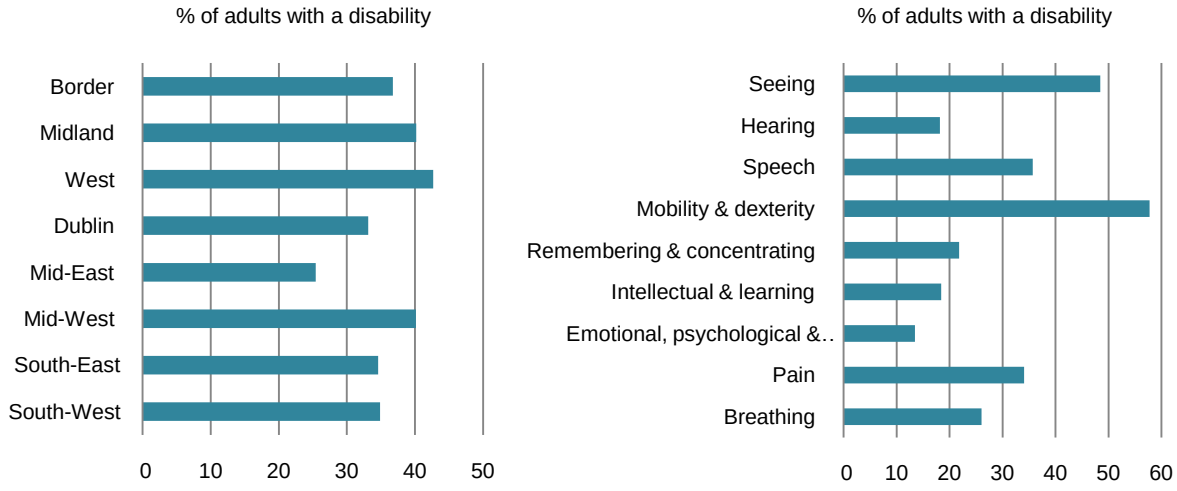
Overall, higher proportions of adults with a disability in the older age groups experienced accessibility difficulties in the locality compared with the younger age groups (see Table 5.19). In particular, Footpaths and Street crossings proved problematic for higher proportions, with over half of adults aged 75 & over experiencing difficulty (53%).

Table 5.19 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties outside the home by feature in community area and age group

					% of row	adults	%
Age group	**Footpaths**	**Street crossings**	**Signs**	**Access to recreational areas**	**Car parking**	**Adults with a disability**	**Percent with difficulty**
Persons	**77,900**	**72,300**	**32,400**	**52,700**	**52,200**	**264,600**	
Persons %	**29**	**27**	**12**	**20**	**20**	**264,600**	**35**
18 - 34	13	13	7	11	10	40,200	18
35 - 44	17	14	6	11	12	33,900	23
45 - 54	21	18	7	12	12	41,400	27
55 - 64	28	23	8	16	17	50,600	32
65 - 74	34	31	12	23	24	41,700	41
75 & over	53	53	28	39	36	56,700	59

Graph 5.20 shows that at least 40% of adults with a disability had accessibility difficulties in their community area in the West (43%), Midland (40%) and Mid-West (40%) compared with 25% in the Mid-East. Adults whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity (58%) and Seeing (48%), had the highest proportions who experienced accessibility difficulties in the community area (see Graph 5.20).

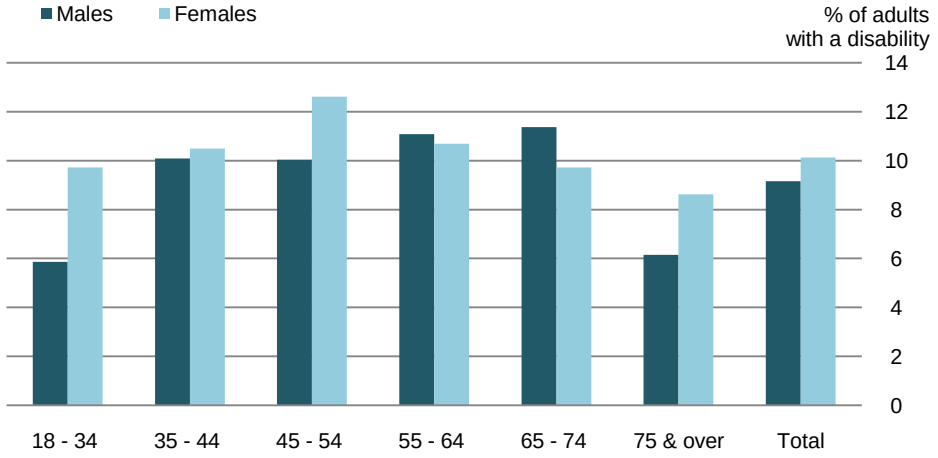
Graph 5.20 Adults with a disability in private households who experienced accessibility difficulties in the community area by region and main disability



5.10 General heating

One-in-ten adults with a disability in private households said that they could not keep their home adequately heated (see Graph 5.21). For all age groups, with the exceptions of 55-64 and 65-74, a higher proportion of women with a disability could not keep their home adequately heated when compared with their male counterparts.

Graph 5.21 Adults with a disability in private households unable to keep their home adequately heated by sex and age group



5.11 Inadequate general heating – reasons

Around 6% of adults with a disability were unable to adequately heat their home because they could not afford it (see Table 5.22). Inadequate heating system was the next most common reason out of the three reasons listed.

Table 5.22 Adults with a disability in private households unable to keep their home adequately heated by reason and age group

			% of row	adults
Age group	**Inadequate heating system**	**Cannot afford**	**Difficulty managing system**	**Adults with a disability**
Adults	**11,200**	**16,400**	**4,800**	**264,600**
Adults %	**4**	**6**	**2**	**264,600**
18 - 34	3	5	1	40,200
35 - 44	4	7	2	33,900
45 - 54	5	8	2	41,400
55 - 64	5	6	2	50,600
65 - 74	5	7	2	41,700
75 & over	3	5	2	56,700