



# People with Disabilities

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# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## Highlights

- In 2001, 3,601,270 Canadians (12.4% of Canada's total population) reported having disabilities. Alberta reported 12.5% of its population had disabilities.
- According to the Urban Poverty Project, 17.6% of the population of the City of Edmonton (115,420) had activity limitations in 2001.
- In 2001, the activity limitation rate for Edmontonians rose steadily with age. Of those aged 0-14 years of age, 6.2% (7,620) reported activity limitations; for those 15+ years, 20.2% (107,800). Of Edmontonians aged 15-24 years, 8.1% reported activity limitations; 15-34 years, 10.3%; 35-44 years, 13.9%; 45-54 years, 20.2%; 55-64 years, 31.8%; 65-74 years, 43.8%; and 75+ years, 66.0%.
- Over 18.2% of Canadians with disabilities aged 15+ years reported having one disability in 2001; 17.4%, two; 29.0%, three; 27.7%, four or five; and 7.8%, six or more. These percents were then used to estimate the number of Edmontonians with one or more activity limitation.
- Of Albertans with disabilities in 2001, 38.8% reported their disability was 'mild;' 25.4%, 'moderate;' 24.7%, 'severe;' and 11.0% 'very severe.' These percents were then used to estimate the number of Edmontonians with 'mild,' 'moderate,' 'severe,' and 'very severe' activity limitations.
- For the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, the employment rates and (labour force) participation rates were considerably lower for people with, than without, activity limitations in 2001; conversely, people with activity limitations had higher unemployment rates.
- For the same geographies as above, the total annual income for people with activity limitations aged 15+ years averaged a minimum of \$6,500 less per annum than the average for people without activity limitations in 2001.
- In 2001, 27.5% of Edmontonians with activity limitations reported low-income and 18.3% of Edmontonians without activity limitations reported low-income.
- Generally, people with disabilities have lower educational attainment than people without disabilities (e.g., a higher percent of people with disabilities than people without disabilities have less than a high school education; for men the difference was about 15% in 2001, for women, about 20%).
- In 2004-2005, the Government of Canada spent \$7,634.7 million on on-going program expenditures and tax measures for disabled people. This corresponds to an estimated expenditure of \$2,120 per disabled person.
- Results from a national public opinion poll in 2004 found that 49% of Canadians believed prejudice/stereotypes/ignorance and the attitudes of other people and society were the greatest barriers to participation by people with disabilities. Also identified were physical barriers (29% of Canadians); the limited abilities of disabled people (17%); the lack of confidence that some disabled people have in themselves (15%); support, including government funding, equipment, and insufficient help (13%); and financial barriers (11%).
- More than half of Canadians (52%) in 2004 tended to think of human disabilities in terms of physical handicaps. An additional 43% of Canadians defined disability in terms of activity limitation.
- Also, over 50% of Canadians believed it would be 'somewhat difficult' for disabled persons to access reliable transportation (51%), participate in recreational opportunities (55%), raise a family (54%), maintain stable employment (54%), and have a social life (53%). In addition, 49% felt it would be 'somewhat difficult' to achieve financial security while 28% felt it would be 'very difficult.'
- The personal reaction of over three-quarters of Canadians to someone with a disability was feelings of admiration 'often' or 'occasionally.' In addition, over half of Canadians reported feeling sorry 'often' or 'occasionally.' Less than one percent of Canadians were 'often' afraid of a disabled person while only 4% was 'occasionally' afraid.
- The majority of disabled (55%) and non-disabled (66%) Canadians believed that disabled people faced 'some' discrimination in 2004. Moreover, nearly one in four disabled Canadians (24%) and 18% of non-disabled Canadians believed the disabled population faced a 'great deal' of discrimination. Only 6% of disabled and 3% of non-disabled Canadians felt disabled people faced 'none at all.'
- Almost half of Canadians (46%) felt that more public education/awareness would stop discrimination against persons with disabilities in 2004.
- The 2001 PALS reported that 63.8% of disabled Albertans and 63.1% of disabled Canadians received help from family members living with them.



## CONTENTS

<b>PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. POPULATION .....	2
3. TYPE AND PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY .....	4
4. SEVERITY OF DISABILITY .....	7
5. DISABILITY PREVALENCE FOR ALBERTA .....	8
6. ESTIMATED DISABILITY STATISTICS FOR THE CITY OF EDMONTON 10	
7. AGE AND GENDER.....	12
8. SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES .....	14
9. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES .....	18
10. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND DISABILITIES.....	22
11. FAMILY STATUS .....	25
12. EMPLOYMENT .....	27
13. INCOME .....	30
14. EDUCATION .....	33
15. HEALTH .....	35
16. POVERTY .....	37
17. FEDERAL DISABILITY-RELATED BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS 2004- 2005.....	39
18. CANADIAN DISABILITY ISSUES .....	42
19. CANADIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISABILITY ISSUES .....	45
20. PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES .....	48
21. PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION .....	50
22. ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES .....	51
23. EDMONTON'S DATS.....	57
24. CITY OF EDMONTON INITIATIVES.....	58
25. SOURCES .....	66

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Population with and without Disabilities and Disability Rate by Province, Canada and Provinces, 2001 .....	3
Table 2:	City of Edmonton Population with and without Activity Limitations, 2001 .....	3
Table 3:	Prevalence of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and over, by Type of Disability, Canada, 2001 .....	5
Table 4:	Types of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, Canada, 2001 .....	6
Table 5:	Number of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, Canada, 2001 .....	7
Table 6:	Disability Rate for Adults Aged 15 Years and Over, by Severity of Disability, Canada, 2001 .....	7
Table 7:	Severity of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, by Sex, Canada, 2001 .....	8
Table 8:	Disability Prevalence Rate for Children and Adults per Total Population, Alberta, 2001 .....	8
Table 9:	Prevalence of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over, by Type of Disability, Alberta, 2001 .....	9
Table 10:	City of Edmonton Activity Limitation Rate for Those Aged 0 to 14 Years and 15+ Years, 2001 .....	10
Table 11:	Estimated Activity Limitation Rate among Adults Aged 15+ Years by Type of Disability, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	10
Table 12:	Estimated Number of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15+ Years with Activity Limitations, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	11
Table 13:	Estimated Severity of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Activity Limitations, by Sex, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	11
Table 14:	Population with and without Disabilities, and Disability Rate, by Age Groups, Canada, 2001 .....	12
Table 15:	Population with and without Activity Limitations, and Activity Limitation Rate, by Age Groups, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	13
Table 16:	Prevalence of Activity Limitation among Adults Aged 65+, by Age Group, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	16
Table 17:	Types of Disabilities among Seniors Aged 65+ Years with Disabilities, by Age Groups, Alberta, 2001 .....	16
Table 18:	Aging with and Aging into Disability, Canada (PALS 2001) .....	17
Table 19:	Types of Disabilities among Children Aged 0 to 14 Years with Disabilities, by Age Groups, Canada, 2001 .....	19
Table 20:	Estimated Disabilities among Children with Activity Limitations Aged 0 to 14 Years, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	19
Table 21:	Aboriginal People with Disabilities by Age Group and Identity, Canada, 2005 .....	22
Table 22:	Participation Rates, Employment Rates, and Unemployment Rates for Adults Aged 15+ Years with and without Activity Limitations in	

	the Labour Force, the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2001 .....	28
Table 23:	Participation Rates, Employment Rates, and Unemployment Rates for Adults Aged 15+ Years with and without Activity Limitations in the Labour Force by Gender, the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2001 .....	29
Table 24:	Number and Percentage of People with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15 to 24 Years, Attending or Non-attending School, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	33
Table 25:	Disability-free Life Expectancy by Provinces and Territories, 1996	35
Table 26:	All People and Low-Income People with Activity Limitations, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	37
Table 27:	People with Activity Limitations and Low-income by Age, City of Edmonton, 2001 .....	38
Table 28:	Principal Disability-Related Benefits and Programs, Government of Canada, 2004-2005 .....	40
Table 29:	Transfer Payments to Provinces under Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities, 2004-2005 .....	42
Table 30:	Barriers Perceived to Greater Participation by Persons with Disabilities, Canada, 2004 .....	44
Table 31:	Perceived Degree of Difficulty for Disabled Persons to Participate in Specific Aspects of Life, Canada, 2004 .....	44
Table 32:	How Canadians Define "Disability," 2004 .....	45
Table 33:	How Canadians Define "Disability" by Disability Status, 2004 .....	46
Table 34:	Personal Reaction to Someone with a Disability, 2004 .....	47
Table 35:	Personal Experiences of Canadians with Disabilities with Discrimination Due to a Disability, Canada, 2004 .....	50
Table 36:	Solutions to Stopping Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, Canada, 2004 .....	50
Table 37:	Types of Assistance Felt Most Needed by Family Caregivers, Canada, 2004 .....	51
Table 38:	2006 FCSS Funded Programs for People with Disabilities and Program Information .....	59
Table 39:	Organizations Providing Programs/Services for People with Disabilities Receiving Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006 .....	60

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Severity of Disabilities for Disabled Persons Aged 15 Years and Over by Gender, Alberta, 2001 .....	9
Figure 2:	Disability Rate by Age and Gender for Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Alberta, 2001 .....	13
Figure 3:	Severity of Seniors' Disabilities by Age and Gender, Alberta, 2001 ..	15
Figure 4:	Number of Disabilities Reported for Children Aged 5 to 14 Years of Age with Disabilities, Canada, 2001 .....	20
Figure 5:	Severity of Disability among Children Aged 4-14 Years by Age Groups, Canada, 2001 .....	21
Figure 6:	Self-reported Health of Aboriginal People Aged 55+ Years with and without Disabilities, Canada, 2001.....	24
Figure 7:	Self-rated Health for Aboriginal Seniors with Disabilities by Group, Canada, 2001 .....	24
Figure 8:	Family Status of People with Disabilities Aged 15+ Years by Age, Canada, 2001 .....	26
Figure 9:	Participation Rate for Adults Aged 15-64 Years with Disabilities in Labour Force, Canada and Provinces, 2001 .....	27
Figure 10:	Average Total Income for Persons' with Disabilities Aged 15+ Years, Canada and Provinces, 2001 .....	30
Figure 11:	Average Total Annual Incomes for People with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15+ Years, City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta and Canada, 2000.....	31
Figure 12:	Average Total Income for Persons with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15+ Years by Gender, City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2000 .....	32
Figure 13:	Educational Attainment of Males and Females Aged 15+ Years with and without Disabilities, Canada, 2001.....	34
Figure 14:	Poverty Rates for People with Activity Difficulties/Reductions by Age, City of Edmonton, 2001.....	38
Figure 15:	Percent of Low-income Edmontonians with Activity Difficulties/Reductions by Age, 2001 .....	39
Figure 16:	'Are Disabled Canadians Able to Participate in Society' by Disability Status, Canada, 2004.....	43
Figure 17:	Should Canadians with Even the Most Challenging Disabilities Be Supported by Public Funds to Live in Community Rather than Institutional Settings, 2004 .....	48
Figure 18:	Perceived Extent of Discrimination Against Disabled Canadians by Disability Status, 2004 .....	49
Figure 19:	Perceived Progress Over the Past Ten Years in Including Disabled Persons in Canadian Society, 2004.....	49
Figure 20:	Use of and Need for Assistive Aids and Devices for Adults Aged 15+ Years with Disabilities, Alberta and Canada, 2001 .....	52

Figure 21:	Use and Need for Help with Everyday Activities for Adults Aged 15+ Years with Disabilities, Alberta and Canada, 2001 .....	53
Figure 22:	Who Provides Help to Disabled Adults Aged 15+ Years? Alberta and Canada, 2001 .....	54
Figure 23:	Use of and Need for Specialized Features in Homes of Disabled Adults Aged 15+, Alberta and Canada, 2001 .....	54
Figure 24:	Major Barriers Preventing Male and Female Seniors with Disabilities from Travelling Long Distances, Canada, 2001 .....	56



# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## 1. INTRODUCTION

“An estimated 10%<sup>1</sup> of the world’s population experience some form of disability or impairment. The number of people with disabilities is increasing due to population growth, ageing, emergence of chronic diseases and medical advances that preserve and prolong life. The most common causes of impairment and disability include chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer; injuries such as those due to road traffic crashes, conflicts, falls, landmines, mental impairments, birth defects, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. These trends are creating overwhelming demands for health and rehabilitation services.”<sup>2</sup>

As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) is currently working to assist countries in developing policies on disability (which include community involvement and national rehabilitation programs), to ensure early identification and treatment of people with disabilities (including providing assistive devices and environmental modifications), to ensure equal opportunities and promotion of human rights for people with disabilities (especially the poor), and to assess and recognize different health conditions using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).<sup>3</sup>

Under this classification system,<sup>4</sup> disability is defined as “a restriction or inability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being, mostly resulting from an impairment.” Impairment is “any temporary or permanent loss or abnormality of a body structure or function, whether physiological or psychological. An impairment is a disturbance affecting functions that are essentially mental (memory, consciousness) or sensory, internal organs (heart, kidney), the head, the trunk or the limbs.” And a handicap “is the result of an impairment or disability that limits or prevents the fulfilment of one or several roles regarded as normal, depending on age, sex and social and cultural factors.”

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<sup>1</sup> This corresponds to some 600 million people.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/disabilities/publications/dar\\_action\\_plan\\_2006to2011.pdf](http://www.who.int/disabilities/publications/dar_action_plan_2006to2011.pdf), **Disability and Rehabilitation WHO Action Plan 2006-2011**.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.who.int/features/2005/disability/en/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup> **Prevalence of Impairments, Disabilities, Handicaps and Quality of Life in the General Population: a Review of Recent Literature**, E. Barbotte, F. Guillemin, N. Chau, and the Lorhandicap Group, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2001, **79**, (11), p. 1047.

## 2. POPULATION

In 2001, the Canadian Participation and Activity Survey (PALS), “collected information about people with disabilities whose everyday activities are limited because of a health-related condition or problem.”<sup>5</sup> Data was collected between September 2001 and January 2002. Human Resources Canada (HRA) funded the project.

PALS, a post-censal survey,<sup>6</sup> used WHO’s framework of disability provided by ICF. This framework defines:

“...disability as the relationship between body structures and functions, daily activities and social participation, while recognizing the role of environmental factors. For the purpose of PALS, persons with disabilities are those who reported difficulties with daily living activities or who indicated that a physical, mental condition or health problem reduced the kind or amount of activities they could do.”<sup>7</sup>

Note that PALS differs from previous Health and Activity Limitation Surveys (HALS) conducted by Statistics Canada about people with disabilities in 1986 and 1991. That means “...the data from HALS and PALS cannot be compared because of significant differences in their sampling plans, the operational definition of their target population and the content of their questionnaires.”<sup>8</sup>

Table 1 shows that 3.6 million Canadians, 12.4% of Canada’s total population, reported having disabilities in 2001. The province with the highest percentage of individuals with disabilities was Nova Scotia, 17.1%; the province with the lowest percentage of individuals with disabilities was Quebec, 8.4%. Alberta reported that 12.5% of its population had disabilities, slightly higher than the national average.

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<sup>5</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 89-577-XIE, 2002, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> PALS used the 2001 Census as a sampling frame to identify its population. The Census contained two general questions about activity limitations. PALS respondents were selected as a result of the answers to these questions and the use of census information on age and geography. Telephone interviews were conducted for a sample size of 43,000, comprised of approximately 35,000 adults and 8,000 children.

<sup>7</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, *op. cit.*, p. 24.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 1: Population with and without Disabilities and Disability Rate by Province, Canada and Provinces, 2001<sup>9</sup>**

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Population without Disabilities</b>	<b>Population with Disabilities</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>28,991,770<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>25,390,510</b>	<b>3,601,270</b>	<b>12.4</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	492,800	432,310	60,500	12.3
Prince Edward Island	132,850	113,880	18,970	14.3
Nova Scotia	888,900	736,690	152,210	17.1
New Brunswick	712,300	609,440	102,860	14.4
Quebec	7,052,790	6,457,100	595,690	8.4
Ontario	11,192,730	9,678,350	1,514,380	13.5
Manitoba	1,036,270	888,690	147,580	14.2
Saskatchewan	859,080	734,870	124,210	14.5
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>2,830,280</b>	<b>2,475,540</b>	<b>354,740</b>	<b>12.5</b>
British Columbia	3,793,770	3,263,640	530,130	14.0

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 7.

Table 2 shows that considerably more City of Edmonton residents (17.6%) than Albertans or Canadians reported activity difficulties/reductions in 2001 according to Statistics Canada. (Note that activity limitation status was not provided by 0.9% of Edmontonians.)

**Table 2: City of Edmonton Population with and without Activity Limitations, 2001**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Total population	655,680	100.0
Population with activity difficulties/reductions	115,420	17.6
Population with no difficulty with daily activities and no reduced activities	534,565	81.5
Not stated	5,700	0.9

Source: **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

Data for Table 2 is from the Urban Poverty Project that provides detailed cross-tabulations of Statistics Canada's 2001 Census for Canadian cities and regions.<sup>11</sup> The project was initiated in 1996 by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) to provide relevant local-level poverty data to be used by project partners and to search for underlying factors in poverty among Canadian communities. Because of the project's success in 1996, CCSD (with its key partner, Statistics Canada, and endorsed by the Federation of Canadian

<sup>9</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<sup>10</sup> Note that the figures for Canada's totals exclude the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunuvut.

<sup>11</sup> Includes: income, age, education, occupation labour force statistics, gender, family status, visible minority status, Aboriginal status, ethnic ancestry, immigration, language, people with disabilities, and mobility.

Municipalities [FCM]) facilitated the analysis of 2001 Census data in a similar manner.

### 3. TYPE AND PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

Table 3 shows nearly 2.5 million Canadians (10.5%) reported mobility problems in 2001.<sup>12</sup> In all age groups, women were more likely to report difficulties with mobility than men. For adults aged 15 years and older, 12.2% of women had a mobility-related disability versus 8.6% of men.<sup>13</sup> Note that the answers provided by respondents to all of PALS disability questions are subjective and represent the respondents' perception of the situation.

Nearly as many Canadians (2.4 million aged 15 years or over, 10.1%) reported activity limitations due to chronic pain.<sup>14</sup> Again, pain-related disabilities were more prevalent among women (11.4%) than men (8.8%), possible due to men's hesitancy to report this type of disability.<sup>15</sup>

Agility-related disabilities<sup>16</sup> were reported by 9.7% of PALS' respondents (approximately 2.3 million Canadians). Meanwhile, "just over one million adults (4.4%) reported having a hearing-related disability,<sup>17</sup> about 600,000 (2.5%) had vision difficulties,<sup>18</sup> and some 360,000 or 1.5% of persons aged 15 and over reported a speech-related<sup>19</sup> disability."<sup>20</sup>

In addition, 2.2% of Canadians over 15 years of age reported psychological problems;<sup>21</sup> 1.9%, learning disabilities;<sup>22</sup> 0.5%, developmental disabilities;<sup>23</sup> and

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<sup>12</sup> Mobility problems are defined as "difficulty walking half a kilometre or up and down a flight of stairs, about 12 steps without resting, moving from one room to another, carrying an object of 5 kg (10 pounds) for 10 meters (30 feet) or standing for long periods. (This and other definitions of types of disabilities may be found in **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit.**, p. 16.)

<sup>13</sup> **Ibid.**, p. 15.

<sup>14</sup> According to PALS, a pain-related disability occurs when an individual is "limited in the amount or kind of activities that one can do because of a long-term pain that is constant or reoccurs from time to time, for example, recurrent back pain."

<sup>15</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, op. cit.**, p. 15.

<sup>16</sup> PALS defines an agility-related disability as "difficulty bending, dressing or undressing oneself, getting into or out of bed, cutting own toe nails, using fingers to grasp or hold on to objects, reaching in any direction (for example, above one's head) or cutting own food."

<sup>17</sup> Defined by PALS as "difficulty hearing what is being said in a telephone conversation with one other person, in a conversation with three or more persons or in a telephone conversation."

<sup>18</sup> Defined by PALS as "difficulty seeing ordinary newsprint or clearly seeing the face of someone from 4 meters (12 feet)."

<sup>19</sup> Defined by PALS as "difficulty speaking and/or being understood."

<sup>20</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, op. cit.**

<sup>21</sup> Defined by PALS as "limited in the amount or kind of activities that one can do due to the presence of an emotional, psychological or psychiatric condition, such as phobias, depression, schizophrenia, drinking or drug problems."

1.8%, memory problems.<sup>24</sup> Lastly, 0.4% of Canadians, nearly 100,000 individuals, reported unknown disabilities.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 3: Prevalence of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and over, by Type of Disability, Canada, 2001<sup>26</sup>**

Type of disability	Number of Adults	%
Hearing	1,038,140	4.4
Seeing	594,350	2.5
Speech	362,720	1.5
Mobility	2,451,570	10.5
Agility	2,276,730	9.7
Pain	2,376,730	10.1
Learning	451,420	1.9
Memory	420,750	1.8
Developmental	120,140	0.5
Psychological	522,950	2.2
Unknown	96,180	0.4

Source: *A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001*, p. 15.

Note that estimates of types, prevalence, and severity of disabilities for Edmontonians will be found in Section 6, Estimated Disability Statistics for the City of Edmonton, p. 10.

Table 4 shows the types of disabilities reported by Canadian adults aged 15 years and older with disabilities in 2001. Over 70% of people with disabilities reported mobility problems (71.7%) and nearly the same percentage reported pain-related disabilities (69.5%). Agility problems were reported by 66.6% of individuals with disabilities, while hearing and seeing difficulties were reported by 30.4% and 17.4% of people with disabilities, respectively.

<sup>22</sup> Defined by PALS as “difficulty learning because of a condition, such as attention problems, hyperactivity or dyslexia, whether or not the condition was diagnosed by a teacher, doctor or other health professional.”

<sup>23</sup> Defined by PALS as “cognitive limitations due to the presence of a developmental disability or disorder, such as Down syndrome, autism or mental impairment caused by a lack of oxygen at birth.”

<sup>24</sup> Defined by PALS as “limited in the amount or kind of activities that one can do due to frequent periods of confusion or difficulty remembering things. These difficulties may be associated with Alzheimer’s disease, brain injuries or other similar conditions.”

<sup>25</sup> PALS defined unknown disabilities as occurring “if the respondent answered YES to the general questions on activity limitations, but did not provide any YES to the questions of type of disability that followed.”

<sup>26</sup> The Canada total excludes the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunuvut. The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<b>Table 4: Types of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, Canada, 2001</b>	
<b>Type of Disability</b>	<b>%<sup>27</sup></b>
Mobility	71.7
Pain	69.5
Agility	66.6
Hearing	30.4
Seeing	17.4
Psychological	15.3
Learning	13.2
Memory	12.3
Speech	10.6
Developmental	3.5
Unknown	2.8

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 19.

“The results of the 2001 PALS also show how an important proportion of adults with disabilities have activity limitations related to psychological conditions, namely over 15%. Furthermore, some 13% of persons with disabilities aged 15 and over reported having a learning disability, with more than half (54.1%) of them having been diagnosed with learning disabilities by a teacher, a doctor or other health care professional.”<sup>28</sup>

Memory-related disabilities accounted for 12.3% of disabilities reported by persons with disabilities, followed by speech disabilities (10.6%) and developmental disabilities (3.5%). Note that fewer than 100,000 persons (2.8% of persons with disabilities) reported an “unknown” disability.

Table 5 shows that the majority of Canadians aged 15 years and over with disabilities reported more than one disability.<sup>29</sup> While 18.2 % of individuals with disabilities reported only one disability, 17.4% reported two, 29.0% reported three or more, 27.7% reported four or five, and 7.8% reported six or more.

<sup>27</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<sup>28</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, op. cit., p. 18.

<sup>29</sup> **Ibid.**, p. 19.

**Table 5: Number of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, Canada, 2001**

<b>Number of Disabilities<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>Number of Adults</b>	<b>%</b>
One	621,270	18.2
Two	595,520	17.4
Three	992,360	29.0
Four or five	945,850	27.7
Six or more	265,340	7.8

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 19.

#### 4. SEVERITY OF DISABILITY

Table 6 shows that 2.0% of Canadians aged 15 years and older reported they had a 'very severe' level of disability. Another 3.9% of Canadians aged 15 years and over reported 'severe' disability; 3.6%, 'moderate' disability; and 5.0%, 'mild' disability.

**Table 6: Disability Rate<sup>31</sup> for Adults Aged 15 Years and Over, by Severity of Disability, Canada, 2001<sup>32</sup>**

<b>Severity of disability</b>	<b>%</b>
Mild	5.0
Moderate	3.6
Severe	3.9
Very severe	2.0

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 20.

"Severity of disability increases gradually until age 65 and then declines slightly among the 65 and older population. In this regard, it is important to note the significant prevalence of less visible disabilities among the working-age population, which increases the number of disabilities reported for these adults aged 15 to 64. As well, it is generally recognized that a person is more likely to experience the highest level of activity and the widest scope of activities during these working years (home, work, school, leisure); a person would therefore be just as likely to experience during those years a high level of limitation in these same activities. At the same time, a sizable proportion of elderly persons likely to have a severe or very severe disability reside in an institution and are therefore not included in the PALS population."<sup>33</sup>

<sup>30</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<sup>31</sup> PALS uses disability rate to refer "to the total number of persons who reported activity limitations expressed as a percentage of the population."

<sup>32</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<sup>33</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit.**, p. 20.

Table 7 shows that 34.1% of Canadians with disabilities (36.4% of men and 32.2% of women) rated their level of disability as 'mild' in 2001. A higher percentage of women (28.3%) than men (25.1%) rated their disability as 'severe.' Approximately the same percentage of men and women rated their level of disability 'moderate' (25.0%) and 'very severe' (14.0%).

<b>Table 7: Severity of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Disabilities, by Sex, Canada, 2001<sup>34</sup></b>						
	<b>Both sexes</b>		<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>	
<b>Severity of disability</b>						
Mild	1,165,470	34.1	555,110	36.4	610,360	32.2
Moderate	855,330	25.0	375,380	24.6	479,950	25.3
Severe	919,310	26.9	383,570	25.1	535,740	28.3
Very severe	480,220	14.0	212,830	13.9	267,390	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,420,340</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,526,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,893,440</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: *A Portrait of Disability in Canada, 2001*, p. 20.

## 5. DISABILITY PREVALENCE FOR ALBERTA

Table 8 shows the disability prevalence for children under 15 years of age in Alberta was 3.9% in 2001; the disability prevalence for adults aged 15+ years was 14.8%.

<b>Table 8: Disability Prevalence Rate for Children and Adults per Total Population, Alberta, 2001</b>				
	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Population without disabilities</b>	<b>Population with disabilities</b>	<b>%</b>
Children under 15 years	586,310	563,330	22,980	3.9
Adults aged 15+ years	2,243,970	1,912,210	331,760	14.8
Total population	2,830,280	2,475,540	354,740	12.5

Source: *A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001 – Tables*.

Figure 1 shows that 38.8% of all disabled Albertans aged 15 years and older reported their disabilities were 'mild' (40.8% of males and 37.2% of females). In addition, 24.7% of Albertans with disabilities aged 15 years and older reported 'severe' disabilities (22.8% of males and 26.4% of females) while approximately the same percentage of disabled males and females reported 'severe' (11.0%) and 'moderate' disabilities (24.7%).

<sup>34</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

**Figure 1: Severity of Disabilities for Disabled Persons Aged 15 Years and Over by Gender, Alberta, 2001**

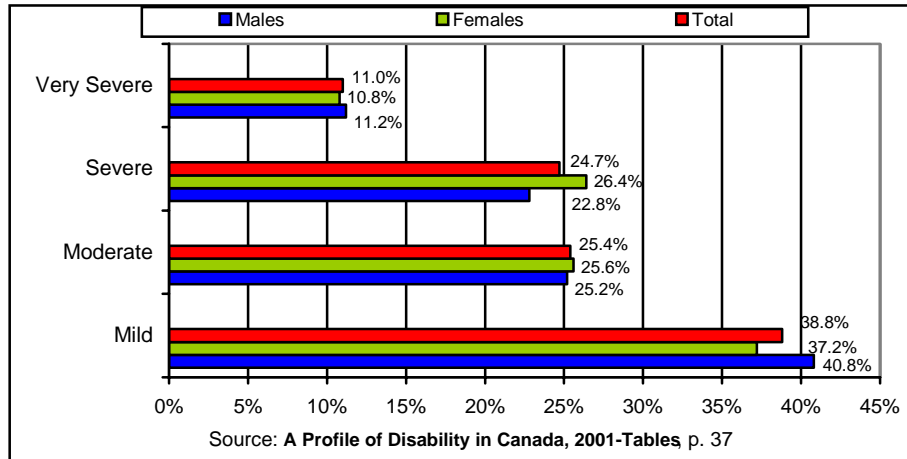


Table 9 shows that 72.0% of disabled Albertans aged 15 years and older reported pain-related disabilities (10.7% of Alberta's total population aged 15 years and older) in 2001; 65.7%, reported mobility problems (9.7%); and 61.6% had agility difficulties (9.1%). Activity limitation related to pain or discomfort was the most common form of disability among working-age adults (15 to 64 years of age), affecting three out of every four persons with disabilities.

**Table 9: Prevalence of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over, by Type of Disability, Alberta, 2001<sup>35</sup>**

	Total with disability	% Total disabled	% Total population
Pain	239,020	72.0	10.7
Mobility	217,950	65.7	9.7
Agility	204,240	61.6	9.1
Hearing	95,440	28.8	4.3
Seeing	52,880	15.9	2.4
Psychological	47,780	14.4	2.1
Memory	40,970	12.3	1.8
Learning	39,270	11.8	1.8
Speech	28,680	8.6	1.3
Developmental	11,550	3.5	0.5
Unknown	10,430	3.1	0.5

Source: A Profile Of Disability in Canada, 2001 – Tables, pp. 48 – 50.

<sup>35</sup> The sum of the categories is greater than the population with disabilities because individuals could report more than one type of disability.

## 6. ESTIMATED DISABILITY STATISTICS FOR THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Table 10 shows that of the total population of the City of Edmonton according to the Urban Poverty Project (655,680, see Table 2, page 3), 18.8% were aged 0 to 14 years of age (123,250), while 81.2 % (532,430) were 15+ years of age. Of those aged 0 to 14 years of age, 6.2% (or 7,620) had activity limitations. Of those 15+ years of age, 20.2% (or 107,800) reported activity limitations. (Note that activity limitation status was not provided by 1.2% of those 0 to 14 years of age and by 0.8% of those 15+ years.)

**Table 10: City of Edmonton Activity Limitation Rate for Those Aged 0 to 14 Years and 15+ Years, 2001**

	0 to 14 years		15+ years	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	123,250	100.0%	532,430	100.0%
Population with activity limitations/reductions	7,620	6.2%	107,800	20.2%
Population with no difficulty with daily activities and no reduced activities	114,175	92.6%	420,390	79.0%
Not stated	1,450	1.2%	4,250	0.8%

Source: **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

Table 11 estimates the number of individuals with activity limitations based on the data in Tables 9 and 10, above.

**Table 11: Estimated Activity Limitation Rate among Adults Aged 15+ Years by Type of Disability, City of Edmonton, 2001<sup>36</sup>**

	Total with disability	% Total disabled	% Total population
Pain	77,616	72.0	14.6
Mobility	70,825	65.7	13.3
Agility	66,405	61.6	12.5
Hearing	31,046	28.8	5.8
Seeing	17,140	15.9	3.2
Psychological	15,523	14.4	2.9
Memory	13,259	12.3	2.5
Learning	12,720	11.8	2.4
Speech	9,271	8.6	1.7
Developmental	3,773	3.5	0.7
Unknown	3,342	3.1	0.6

Source: **Urban Poverty Project** and **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001 – Tables**, pp. 48-50.

<sup>36</sup> The sum of the categories is greater than the population with disabilities because individuals could report more than one type of disability.

The number of individuals with activity limitations aged 15+ years (107,800, Table 10, page 10) was multiplied by the percent of disabled in Alberta identified with a specific type of disability (Table 9, page 9). This estimated the number of people with activity limitations with that disability for the City of Edmonton in 2001. This number was then divided by the total number of individuals aged 15+ years in the City of Edmonton (532,430, Table 10, page 10) to determine the activity limitation rate for the total population in the 15+ years age group.

Table 12 estimates the number of disabilities reported by adults aged 15+ years in the City of Edmonton. The estimates were made by multiplying the percent of Canadians with one, two, three, four or five, and six or more activity limitations (Table 5, page 7) by the number of adults aged 15+ years with activity limitations in the City of Edmonton (107,800, see Table 10, page 10).

<b>Table 12: Estimated Number of Disabilities Reported by Adults Aged 15+ Years with Activity Limitations, City of Edmonton, 2001</b>		
<b>Number of Disabilities</b>	<b>Number of Adults</b>	<b>%</b>
One	19,620	18.2
Two	18,757	17.4
Three	31,262	29.0
Four or five	29,861	27.7
Six or more	8,408	7.8

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 19, and **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

Table 13 estimates the severity of disabilities for male and female Edmontonians aged 15+ years. The percentages calculated by PALS for Albertans with 'mild,' 'moderate,' 'severe,' and 'very severe' disabilities (Figure 1, page 9), were then multiplied by the total population of Edmontonians with activity limitations.

<b>Table 13: Estimated Severity of Disability among Adults Aged 15 Years and Over with Activity Limitations, by Sex, City of Edmonton, 2001</b>						
	<b>Both sexes</b>		<b>Men</b>		<b>Women</b>	
<b>Severity of disability</b>						
Mild	41,826	38.8	19,812	40.8	22,037	37.2
Moderate	27,381	25.4	12,237	25.2	15,165	25.6
Severe	26,627	24.7	11,072	22.8	15,640	26.4
Very severe	11,858	11.0	5,439	11.2	6,398	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,629</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>48,560</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,240</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001 - Tables**, p.37, and **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

It was calculated from the Urban Poverty Project that 48,560 (45.0%) of Edmontonians with activity limitations were male; 59,240 (55.0%) were female. These numbers were then multiplied by the percent of male and female Albertans determined to have 'mild,' 'moderate,' 'severe,' and 'very severe' disabilities (Figure 1, page 9) to estimate the severity of the activity limitations of male and female Edmontonians.

## 7. AGE AND GENDER

Table 14 shows that the Canadian disability rate increases with age, from 3.3% for children aged 0 to 14 years of age to 9.9% for adults 15 to 64 years and 40.5% for seniors aged 65 years and older. Note that more than half (53.3%) of seniors 75 years of age and older reported having a disability in 2001.

<b>Table 14: Population with and without Disabilities, and Disability Rate, by Age Groups, Canada, 2001<sup>37</sup></b>				
	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Population without Disabilities</b>	<b>Population with Disabilities</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Age Groups</b>				
<b>Total population</b>	<b>28,991,770</b>	<b>25,390,510</b>	<b>3,601,270</b>	<b>12.4</b>
0-14 years	5,546,020	5,365,090	180,930	3.3
0-4 years	1,641,680	1,615,480	26,210	1.6
5-14 years	3,904,330	3,749,610	154,720	4.0
5-9 years	1,914,220	1,843,850	70,370	3.7
10-14 years	1,990,110	1,905,760	84,350	4.2
15 years and over	23,445,760	20,025,420	3,420,340	14.6
15-64 years	19,858,350	17,889,850	1,968,490	9.9
15-24 years	3,883,690	3,732,670	151,030	3.9
25-44 years	8,849,090	8,222,480	626,610	7.1
45-64 years	7,125,570	5,934,710	1,190,850	16.7
65 years and over	3,587,410	2,135,560	1,451,840	40.5
65-74 years	2,082,750	1,433,570	649,180	31.2
75 years and over	1,504,660	701,990	802,670	53.3

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 7.

Figure 2 shows that the disability rate for all Alberta males aged 15 years and older in 2001 was 13.6%, somewhat lower than the rate for all Alberta females of similar age (15.9%). The rate for both males and females was 14.8%. Note that the disability rate increased with age for both males and females from 4.2% for the 15-24 years of age group to 56.0% for individuals 75 years or older.

<sup>37</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

In addition, in all age groups, with the exception of the 75+ years of age group, females had a higher disability rate than males. For the 75+ years of age group, the disability prevalence was 55.5% for females and 56.7% for males.

**Figure 2: Disability Rate by Age and Gender for Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Alberta, 2001**

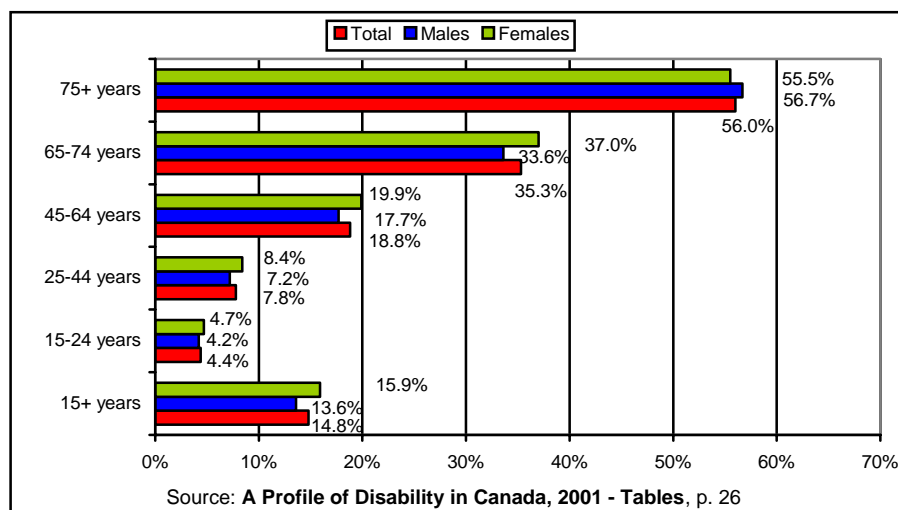


Table 15 shows the activity limitation rate by age for Edmontonians in 2001.

**Table 15: Population with and without Activity Limitations, and Activity Limitation Rate, by Age Groups, City of Edmonton, 2001<sup>38</sup>**

	Total Population	Population without Disabilities	Population with Disabilities	%
<b>Age Groups</b>				
<b>Total population</b>	<b>655,680</b>	<b>534,565</b>	<b>115,420</b>	<b>17.6</b>
0-14 years	123,250	114,175	7,620	6.2
15 years and over	532,430	420,390	107,800	20.2
15-24 years	102,295	93,155	8,300	8.1
25-34 years	102,550	91,405	10,530	10.3
35-44 years	111,255	95,020	15,445	13.9
45-54 years	91,005	71,890	18,360	20.2
55-64 years	53,170	35,815	16,910	31.8
65 years and over	72,155	33,100	38,250	53.0
65-74 years	42,275	23,295	18,520	43.8
75 years and over	29,880	9,805	19,730	66.0

Source: Urban Poverty Project, CCSD, 2001.

<sup>38</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

Note that the activity limitation rate increases from 6.2% for Edmontonians aged 0 to 14 years to 66.0% for those 75+ years.

## 8. SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES

“Disability is often viewed as a potential negative outcome of aging – something that people ‘age into.’ In addition, frailty, illness and disease are associated with aging; certain illnesses/diseases are linked with old age such as Alzheimer disease, Parkinson disease, arthritis, etc. In many discussions of health and illness, disability is portrayed as a condition to be delayed or avoided as long as possible – a sign of decline and a precursor of death. With this orientation, it is not surprising to find a great reluctance on the part of seniors to acknowledge that they may be experiencing a disability.”<sup>39</sup>

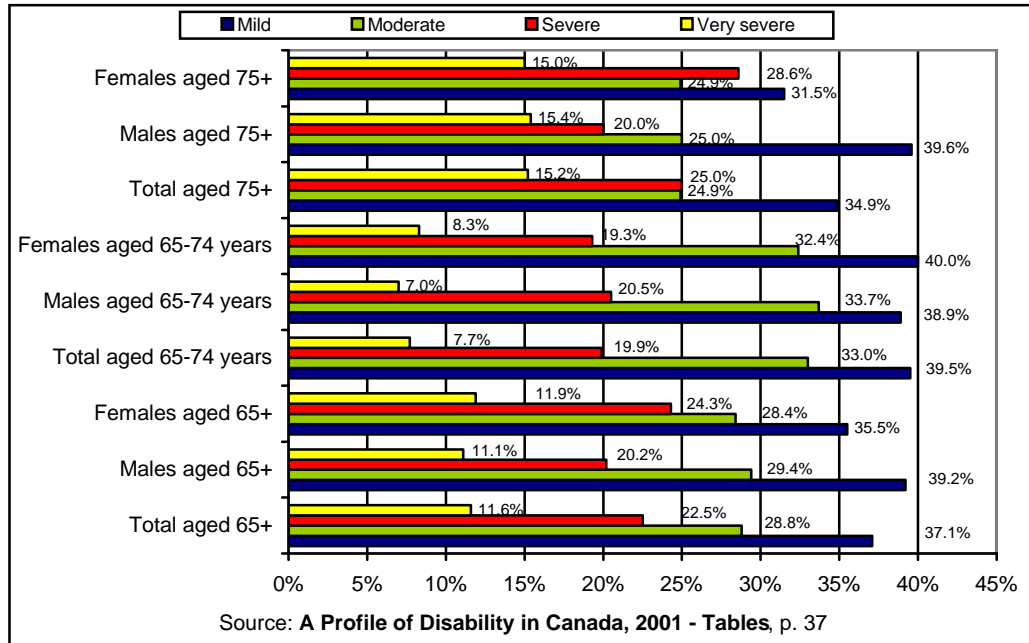
Figure 2, above, shows that 35.3% of Albertans aged 65-74 years (33.6% of males and 37.9% of females) reported disabilities in 2001 compared to 56.0% of Albertans aged 75+ years (56.7% of males and 55.5% of females) who indicated they were disabled.

Figure 3 shows how male and female Albertans aged 65+ years, 65-74 years, and 75+ years categorized the severity of their disabilities in 2001. In all age categories (total population, total males, and total females), the majority of individuals indicated ‘mild’ disability (from 31.5% for females aged 75+ years to 40.0% for females aged 65-74 years). ‘Very severe’ disabilities were reported by the smallest percentage of disabled in each age group (from 7.0% for males aged 65-74 years to 15.4% for males aged 75+ years).

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<sup>39</sup> **Supporting People with Disabilities: Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities (with a special section on seniors)**, Social Development Canada, Government of Canada, 2005, p. 9.

**Figure 3: Severity of Seniors' Disabilities by Age and Gender, Alberta, 2001**



In all age groups with the exception of females aged 75+, Albertans reported 'moderate' disabilities (from 24.9% for females aged 75+ and total aged 75+ to 33.7% for males aged 65-74 years) as being more prevalent than 'severe' disabilities (from 19.3% for females aged 65-74 years to 28.6% for females aged 75+ years). Note while 24.9% of females aged 75+ reported 'moderate' disabilities, 28.6% reported 'severe' disabilities.

Table 16 shows the prevalence of activity limitations<sup>40</sup> among seniors in the City of Edmonton aged 65+ years (53.0%), 65-74 years (43.8%), and 75+ years (66.0%) in 2001, compared to the prevalence of activity limitations for all ages of the City's total population (17.6%). Note that 800 Edmontonians (0.1%) aged 65+ years did not indicate whether or not they had activity limitations.

<sup>40</sup> Activity limitations refer to difficulties with daily activities and the reduction in the amount or kind of activities due to physical or mental conditions or health problems (Statistics Canada).

**Table 16: Prevalence of Activity Limitation among Adults Aged 65+, by Age Group, City of Edmonton, 2001**

	Total population		Population with activity limitations		Population without activity limitation		Not stated	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
65+ years	72,150	100.0	38,250	53.0	33,100	45.9	800	1.1
65-74 years	42,275	100.0	18,520	43.8	23,295	55.1	460	1.1
75+ years	29,875	100.0	19,730	66.0	9,805	32.9	340	1.1
<b>Total population</b>	<b>655,680</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>115,420</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>534,565</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>0.9</b>

Source: Urban Poverty Project, CCSD, 2004.

“Seniors’ disabilities include those that existed at birth (e.g., Down’s syndrome, developmental handicaps), resulted from accidents and physical or mental trauma (e.g., spinal cord injury, post traumatic stress disorder), arose from an illness (e.g., emphysema, cancer), or are often found among aging individuals (e.g., osteoporosis, Alzheimer’s disease). Many seniors report multiple disabilities. However, if individuals are categorized according to just one disability their other serious needs may be downplayed or overlooked.”<sup>41</sup>

**Table 17: Types of Disabilities among Seniors Aged 65+ Years with Disabilities, by Age Groups, Alberta, 2001<sup>42</sup>**

Type of disability	Seniors aged 65+ years		Seniors aged 65-74 years		Seniors aged 75+ years	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mobility	89,830	73.5	41,380	70.0	48,450	76.8
Agility	81,910	67.0	38,440	65.0	43,470	68.8
Pain	79,240	64.8	40,640	68.7	38,610	61.1
Hearing	51,530	42.1	22,360	37.8	29,170	46.2
Seeing	22,330	18.3	8,110	13.7	14,230	22.5
Memory	14,540	11.9	5,330	9.0	9,200	14.6
Speech	8,320	6.8	2,890 <sup>E</sup>	4.8 <sup>E</sup>	5,430	8.6
Psychological	6,520	5.3	3,590 <sup>E</sup>	6.1 <sup>E</sup>	2,930 <sup>E</sup>	4.6 <sup>E</sup>
Learning	4,500	3.7	2,340 <sup>E</sup>	4.0 <sup>E</sup>	2,160 <sup>E</sup>	3.4 <sup>E</sup>
Unknown	4,190 <sup>E</sup>	3.4	2,690 <sup>E</sup>	4.5 <sup>E</sup>	1,500 <sup>E</sup>	2.4 <sup>E</sup>
Developmental	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Total disabled</b>	<b>122,290</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>63,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001 – Tables, p. 26 and pp. 48-50.

<sup>E</sup> means use with caution (the coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3).x means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

<sup>41</sup> **Seniors and Disabilities**, Expression: Newsletter of the National Advisory Council on Aging, Volume 11, Number 1 [http://naca-ccnta.ca/expression/11-1/exp11-1\\_3\\_e.htm](http://naca-ccnta.ca/expression/11-1/exp11-1_3_e.htm).

<sup>42</sup> The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding. In addition, the sum of the categories is greater than the population with disabilities because individuals could report more than one type of disability.

Table 17 shows that approximately three-quarters of Alberta's disabled seniors aged 65+ years reported mobility problems in 2001 (73.5% of seniors aged 65+ years; 70.0% of seniors 65-74 years of age; and 76.8% of seniors aged 75+ years). More than 60% of seniors indicated agility problems and pain-related difficulties, while hearing problems were reported by roughly 40% of seniors.

Note that according to PALS, there were 3,601,270 people with disabilities in 2001, as well as 3,587,310 Canadian seniors. Seniors with disabilities numbered 1,451,841. This means approximately 40% of people with disabilities were seniors (40.3%) and that approximately 40% of seniors were disabled (40.5%) (See Table 1, page 3, and Table 14, page 12.)

Table 18 shows that 67.9% of seniors of 'younger' seniors (64-74 years) 27.2% of 'older' seniors (75+ years) aged with disabilities, according to 2001 PALS.<sup>43</sup> Conversely, 32.1% of 'younger' seniors and 72.8% of 'older' seniors aged into disability<sup>44</sup>

<b>Table 18: Aging with and Aging into Disability, Canada (PALS 2001)</b>			
	<b>Younger seniors (65-74 years)</b>	<b>Older seniors (75+ years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aging with disability (disability prior to age 65 years)	411,200 (67.9%)	198,290 (27.2%)	609,490 (45.6%)
Aging into disability (disabled after age 65 years)	194,720 (32.1%)	531,340 (72.8%)	726,060 (54.4%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>605,920 (100.0%)</b>	<b>729,630 (100.0%)</b>	<b>1,335,550 (100.0%)</b>

Source: *Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, p. 13.

"Typically, aging is not accompanied by a high rate of medical and functional problems until after 70-75 years of age. However, people with disabilities show these higher rates 20-25 years sooner. People with disabilities also have three to four times the number of secondary health problems compared to their peers without disabilities."<sup>45</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Aging with disability means that whatever disability (ties) the senior has (have) was (were) acquired prior to the senior's turning 65 years of age. These seniors are therefore aging with disability (ties).

<sup>44</sup> Aging into disability means that a senior first acquired a disability after the age of 65 years.

<sup>45</sup> *Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, op. cit., p. 13.

## 9. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

“Considering the stages and the rate of children’s physical, emotional and intellectual development, it is sometimes difficult to specifically identify some types of disabilities in children aged 0 to 4. Disability in young children can often be described only as a certain delay in development, whether physical, intellectual or other.”<sup>46</sup>

Table 19 shows that 68.0% of children with disabilities aged 0-4 years (or approximately 18,000 of all children aged 0-4 years [1.1%]) exhibited developmental delay;<sup>47</sup> 62.6%, a chronic condition;<sup>48</sup> 12.1%, a hearing difficulty; unknown difficulty, 8.9%; and vision difficulty, 8.0% in 2001. “It is important to note that developmental delay is identified by the child’s parent/guardian and is not necessarily diagnosed by a health care professional. The identification of the disability is therefore based on the parent’s perception of his/her child’s development.”<sup>49</sup>

While only five types of disabilities were identified for children aged 0-4 years of age, ten types of disabilities were identified for children 5-14 years of age. The additional disabilities were: dexterity difficulties,<sup>50</sup> learning problems, mobility problems,<sup>51</sup> psychological difficulties, and speech problems. Note that developmental disability or disorder<sup>52</sup> replaced development delay for older children (5-14 years of age).

More children aged 5-14 years (65.3%) suffered from a chronic condition than any other type of disability in 2001. “Among these school-age children with disabilities, boys were more likely to have a learning disability than girls (68.9%

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<sup>46</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit., p. 8.**

<sup>47</sup> Defined by PALS as “child has a delay in his/her development, either a physical, intellectual or another type of delay” (this term and definition is applicable only to children under 5 years of age).

<sup>48</sup> Defined by PALS as “limited in the amount or kind of activities that one can do due to the presence of one or more chronic health conditions that have lasted or are expected to last six months or more and that have been diagnosed by a health professional. Examples of chronic conditions are asthma or severe allergies, heart condition or disease, kidney condition or disease, cancer, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, Spina Bifida, Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disease, etc.” Note that “chronic health conditions that do not cause activity limitations are not considered a disability for the purposes of PALS.”

<sup>49</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit., p. 11.**

<sup>50</sup> Defined by PALS as “difficulty using hands or fingers to grasp or hold small objects, such as a pencil or scissors.”

<sup>51</sup> Defined by PALS as “difficulty walking. This means walking on a flat firm surface, such as a sidewalk or floor.”

<sup>52</sup> Defined by PALS as “cognitive limitations due the presence of a developmental disability or disorder, such as Down syndrome, autism or mental impairment caused by lack of oxygen at birth.

and 58.0% respectively).<sup>53</sup> The next most prevalent disability was learning (64.9%), followed by speech (43.3%), psychological (31.8%), developmental (29.9%) and dexterity (20.3%).

**Table 19: Types of Disabilities among Children Aged 0 to 14 Years with Disabilities, by Age Groups, Canada, 2001<sup>54</sup>**

	Age Groups					
	0-4 Years		5-14 Years		Total	
Type of Disability <sup>55</sup>	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Hearing	3,160	12.1	20,590	13.3	23,750	13.1
Seeing	2,090 <sup>E56</sup>	8.0	14,510	9.4	16,600	9.2
Speech	...	...	66,940	43.3	66,940	43.3
Mobility	...	...	21,150	13.7	21,150	13.7
Dexterity	...	...	31,410	20.3	31,410	20.3
Delay	17,820	68.0	...	...	17,820	68.0
Developmental	...	...	46,180	29.9	46,180	29.8
Learning	...	...	100,360	64.9	100,360	64.9
Psychological	...	...	49,140	31.8	49,140	31.8
Chronic	16,400	62.6	101,110	65.3	117,510	64.9
Unknown	2,340 <sup>E</sup>	8.9	4,950	3.2	7,280	4.0

Source: **A Profile of Disability, 2001**, p. 9.

Information from Table 19 can be used to estimate the number of children in the City of Edmonton with various disabilities. According to the Urban Poverty Project, 7,620 Edmonton children aged 0 to 14 years of age have activity limitations. Table 20 shows that multiplying this number by select Canadian rates in Table 19 for children's disabilities provides some Edmonton estimates.

**Table 20: Estimated Disabilities among Children with Activity Limitations Aged 0 to 14 Years, City of Edmonton, 2001<sup>57</sup>**

Type of Disabilities	Number of Children	%
Learning	4,946	64.9
Chronic	4,945	64.9
Hearing	998	13.1
Seeing	701	9.2
Unknown	305	4.0

Source: **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001**, p. 9, and **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

<sup>53</sup> **A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit..**

<sup>54</sup> The Canada total excludes the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. The sum of the values for each category may differ from the total due to rounding.

<sup>55</sup> The sum of the categories is greater than the population with disabilities because persons could report more than one type of disability.

<sup>56</sup> E means use number with caution.

<sup>57</sup> Percents for specific disabilities have only been used when available for the entire age group (0 to 14 years). Note also that the **Urban Poverty Project** reports data for the age groupings 0 to 5 years and 6 to 17 years (not for 0 to 4 years and 5 to 14 years).

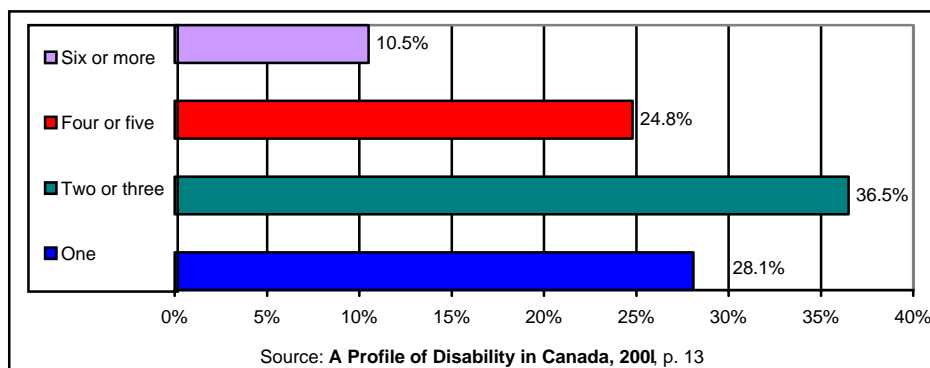
“While proportions of some types of disability, such as activity limitations related to chronic health conditions and learning disabilities, increase with the age of the child, others such as speech difficulties and dexterity problems, decrease with age. The transition from home to school may explain some of this variation. For example, learning disabilities are often not apparent until the child begins to attend school; as well, these difficulties are more easily detected within the school context. At the same time, the school system can provide specialized resources and services than might attend to reduce some activity limitations, such as those associated with speech difficulties.”<sup>58</sup>

Note that the most prevalent disabilities among the total population of children aged 0-14 years in 2001 were chronic conditions and learning difficulties (both at 64.9%).

The 2001 PALS Survey showed that the parents/guardians of 50.9% of children aged 0-4 years reported that their child had one disability; 39.8% reported two disabilities; and 9.3%,<sup>59</sup> three or more.

Figure 4 shows that the 2001 PALS survey reported that 28.1% of children aged 5 to 14 years exhibited one disability; 36.5%, two or three disabilities; 24.8%, four or five disabilities; and 10.5%, six or more disabilities.

**Figure 4: Number of Disabilities Reported for Children Aged 5 to 14 Years of Age with Disabilities, Canada, 2001**



<sup>58</sup> A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit., p. 12.

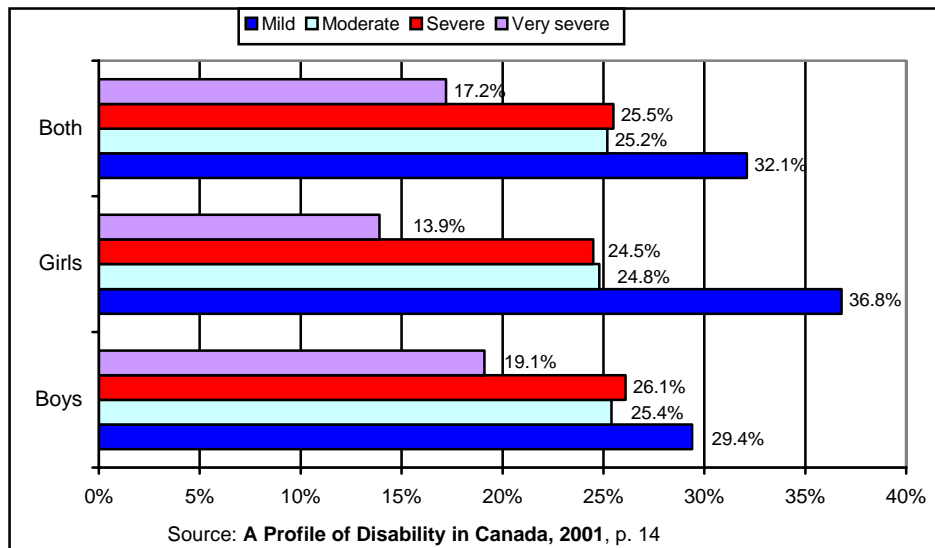
<sup>59</sup> Percent should be used with caution.

“The number of disabilities influences the degree of severity associated to a person’s disability. In other words, the severity of overall disability depends not only on the severity of each type of disability but also the number of disabilities that an individual has.”<sup>60</sup>

The 2001 PALS Survey reported that 57.5% of children aged 0 to 4 years were reported to have ‘mild’ to ‘moderate’ disabilities. The remaining 42.5% of children in that age group were reported to have ‘severe’ to ‘very severe’ disabilities.

Figure 5 shows the severity of disability among children with disabilities aged 5-14 years by gender as reported by the 2001 PALS Survey. ‘Mild’ disabilities were reported by the largest percentage of respondents, 32.1% (comprised of 29.4% of boys and 36.8% of girls). ‘Very severe’ disabilities were reported by 17.2% of respondents (19.1% of boys and 13.9% of girls). Approximately the same percentage of boys and girls reported ‘moderate’ and ‘severe’ disabilities (25.2% and 25.5%, respectively), with slightly more boys than girls responding in both categories. Note when comparing the severity of disabilities for boys and girls, boys tend to exhibit ‘more severe’ disabilities than girls while girls tend to be more likely to have ‘mild’ disabilities.’

**Figure 5: Severity of Disability among Children Aged 4-14 Years by Age Groups, Canada, 2001**



<sup>60</sup> A Profile of Disability in Canada, 2001, op. cit., p. 13.

## 10. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND DISABILITIES

“According to the Health Council of Canada annual report released in 2005: The health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people is worse than that of the general Canadian population on virtually every measure of health and every health condition, including: shorter life spans, higher rates of suicide and infant mortality, and higher rates of diabetes. The growth of the population of elders<sup>61</sup> with its attendant higher rates of chronic health problems may create dramatic increases in the demand for resources at the community level.”<sup>62</sup>

Table 21 shows that the 2001 Census found that all individuals with Aboriginal identity aged 15-64 years had a disability rate of 19.0%, compared to the Canadian population's disability rate of 13.0%. The disability rate was lowest for Aboriginal people with Inuit identity, 14.1%, and highest for Aboriginal people with multiple identities, 28.9%. Aboriginal people with North American Indian identity had a disability rate of 18.0% while the disability rate for Aboriginal people with Métis identity was 21.3%.

<b>Table 21: Aboriginal People with Disabilities by Age Group and Identity,<sup>63</sup> Canada, 2005</b>							
	<b>All ages</b>	<b>15-64 years</b>			<b>65 and over</b>		
	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Population with disabilities</b>	<b>% with disabilities</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Population with disabilities</b>	<b>% with disabilities</b>
Canadian population	29,639,035	20,276,510	2,629,355	13.0%	3,624,485	1,801,105	49.7%
All Aboriginal identity	976,305	596,720	113,250	19.0%	38,360	23,500	61.3%
North American Indian identity	608,850	371,155	66,765	18.0%	24,170	14,580	60.3%
Métis identity	292,310	195,095	41,465	21.3%	12,520	7,980	63.7%
Inuit identity	45,070	26,200	3,685	14.1%	1,405	765	54.4%
Multiple identities	6,660	4,270	1,235	28.9%	265	175	66.0%

Source: *Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, p. 47.

<sup>61</sup> *Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, page 46, defines an ‘elder’ as “a title given to Aboriginal individuals in recognition of their knowledge, wisdom, experience and/or expertise.... Elders often have special skills or abilities, including knowledge of ceremonies and traditional ways and the ability to tell the stories and history of their people. Elders are generally but not always the older members of the community. Thus, the terms ‘Elder’ and ‘senior’ do not always mean the same thing.... ‘Elder’ is capitalized when used to indicate honour or a title. It is not capitalized when it is used to mean senior.”

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

<sup>63</sup> Excludes collective dwellings.

The disability rate for Aboriginal seniors aged 65+ years was 61.3%, compared to 49.7% for Canada's senior population. Aboriginal people with multiple identities again had the lowest disability rate, 54.4%, followed by Aboriginal people with North American Indian identity (60.3%) and Métis identity (63.7%). Aboriginal people with multiple identities had the highest disability rate, 66.0%.

Note that according to Statistics Canada,<sup>64</sup> the Aboriginal identity population for the City of Edmonton was 30,365 in 2001. Of this population, 9,495 (31.3%) were aged 0 to 14 years; 20,005 (65.9%), 15 to 64 years; and 855 (2.8%), 65+ years. Multiplying these population figures by the percent of Aboriginal people with disabilities in Table 21, estimates the number of Aboriginal people with disabilities in Edmonton as 3,801 for those aged 15 to 64 years and 524 for those aged 65+ years.

Other studies have confirmed a higher disability rates among Aboriginal people.<sup>65</sup>

- The 2001 Aboriginal People's Survey (APS) reported a disability rate for Aboriginal people aged 65+ years of 70%.
- APS reported, "First Nations people over age 65 living on reserves have the highest rate of disability among all Aboriginal groups (75%)."<sup>66</sup>
- Data from 2001 APS reported 72% of Aboriginal female seniors had disabilities, compared to 68% of male seniors.

Figure 6 shows that only 17.2% of Aboriginal people with disabilities aged 55 years and older rated their health as 'excellent' (4.2%) or 'very good' (13%), compared to 54% of Aboriginal people without disabilities aged 55 years and older (23% and 31%, respectively).

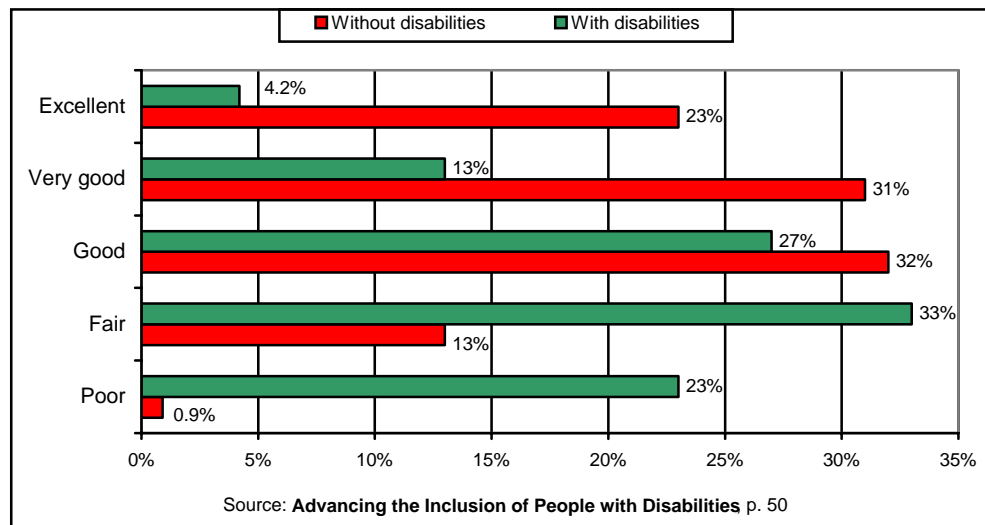
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<sup>64</sup> **2001 Aboriginal Population Profile**, City of Edmonton,  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/Profil01ab/Details/details1pop.cfm?SEARCH=BEGINS&PSGC=48&SGC=4811061&A=&LANG=E&Province=48&PlaceName=Edmonton&CSDNAME=Edmonton&CMA=&SEARCH=BEGINS&DataType=1&TypeNameE=City%20%2D%20Cit%E9&ID=11125>.

<sup>65</sup> **Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities**, op. cit., p. 48.

<sup>66</sup> **Ibid.**

**Figure 6: Self-reported Health of Aboriginal People Aged 55+ Years with and without Disabilities, Canada, 2001**



Conversely, 56% of Aboriginal people with disabilities aged 55 years and older reported 'poor' (23%) or 'fair' (33) self-reported health, compared to 13.9% of Aboriginal people without disabilities aged 55 years and older (0.9% and 13%, respectively).

**Figure 7: Self-rated Health for Aboriginal Seniors with Disabilities by Group, Canada, 2001**

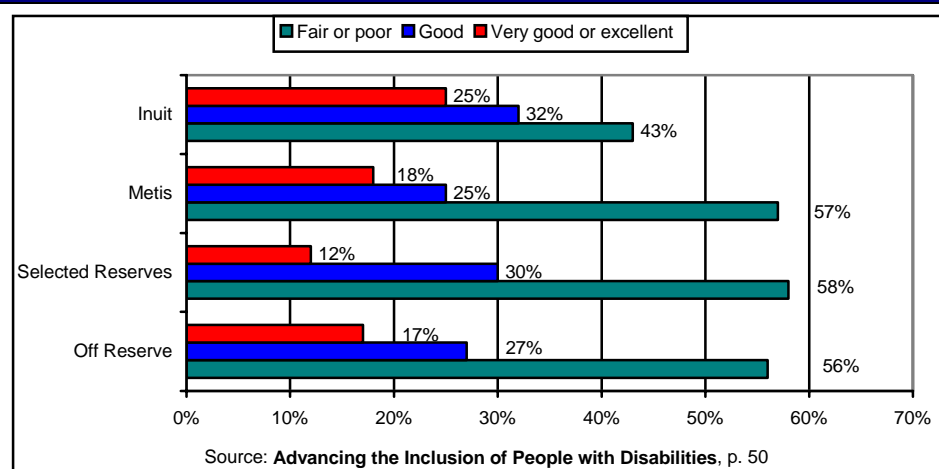


Figure 7 shows that Aboriginal people with disabilities who are living on reserve or off reserve or who are Métis tend to self-rate their own health similarly ('very

good' to 'excellent,' 12% to 18%; 'good,' 25% to 30%; and 'fair' or 'poor,' 56% to 58%).

Meanwhile Inuit seniors with disabilities seem to self-rate their health somewhat more positively: 'very good' to 'excellent,' 25%; 'good,' 32%; and 'fair' or 'poor,' 43%. No reason is given for the difference.<sup>67</sup>

## 11. FAMILY STATUS

"As with the overall population, most women with disabilities live with their family.<sup>68</sup> In 2001, 64% of women aged 15 and over with a disability were either a spouse in a husband-wife or common-law family, a lone parent, or a daughter living at home with her parents."<sup>69</sup>

Figure 8 shows that 42.3% of women with disabilities aged 15+ years in 2001 were in a husband/wife relationship; 36.1%, were non-family persons;<sup>70</sup> 11.6%, were lone parents; 5.0%, lived common-law; 4.6%, were children living at home; and 0.4%,<sup>71</sup> did not state family status. By contrast, 57.9% of disabled men aged 15+ years in 2001 were in a married relationship; 24.2%, were non-family persons; 8.1%, were children living at home; 5.9%, lived common-law; 3.3%, were lone parents; and 0.7%, did not state family status.

Senior women with disabilities aged 65+ years were most likely to be non-family persons (53.1%), followed by wives (35.1%), or lone parents (10.2%). Note that responses regarding 'common-law partner' and 'child living at home' were not reliable enough to be published for this category.

Senior men with disabilities aged 65+ years were most likely to be husbands (70.1%), non-census family persons (24.1%), or lone parents (3.4%). Note that senior men were twice as likely as women to be married while senior women were more than three times as likely as senior men to be lone parents.

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<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 49.

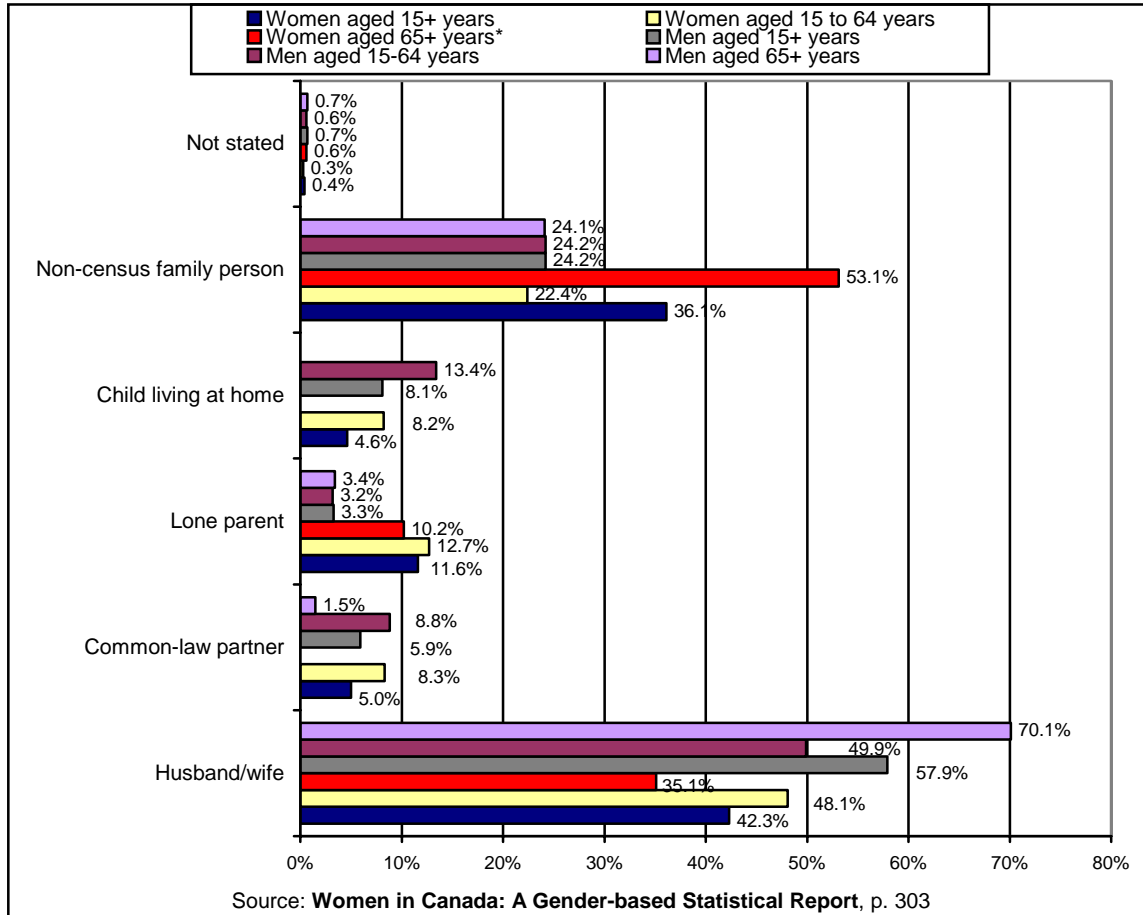
<sup>68</sup> In this context, 'family' means 'census family.'

<sup>69</sup> **Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report**, Women with Disabilities, Catalogue no. 89-503-XIE, Statistics Canada, 2006, p. 292.

<sup>70</sup> A non-census family person either lives alone, with another relative, or with an unrelated person.

<sup>71</sup> All the values given for family status 'not stated' should be "used with caution."

**Figure 8: Family Status of People with Disabilities Aged 15+ Years by Age, Canada, 2001**



\* Values for 'common-law partner' and 'child living at home' for "women aged 65+ years" are not sufficiently reliable for publishing.

"There is less variation in the family situation of women and men in the 15 to 64 age group with disabilities,<sup>72</sup> In fact, women with disabilities in this age range were just as likely as men with disabilities either to live with a spouse or common-law partner or to not live with their family."<sup>73</sup>

<sup>72</sup> One exception, the percentage of female lone parents in this age group (12.7%) is four times that of male lone parents (3.2%).

<sup>73</sup> **Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report**, op. cit., p. 293.

## 12. EMPLOYMENT

Figure 9 shows that according to PALS 2001, the (labour force) participation rate<sup>74</sup> in Canada's labour force for adults with disabilities aged 15-64 years was 46.5% in 2001. Saskatchewan at 58.8% had the highest participation rate of the provinces, followed by Manitoba (57.5%) and Alberta (55.6%). Newfoundland/Labrador had the lowest participation rate (30.7%), followed by Quebec (38.0%) and New Brunswick (41.9%).

**Figure 9: Participation Rate for Adults Aged 15-64 Years with Disabilities in Labour Force, Canada and Provinces, 2001**

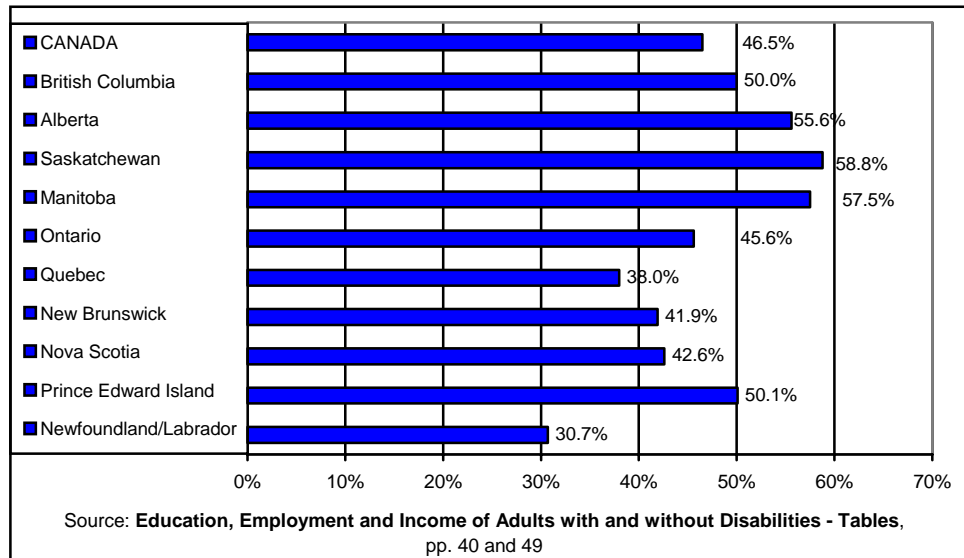


Table 22 summarizes the comparative data reported for the participation rates, employment rates,<sup>75</sup> and unemployment rates<sup>76</sup> of the population aged 15+ years with and without activity limitations in the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada by the **Urban Poverty Project** (Canadian Council on Social Development [CCSD] using Statistics Canada data).<sup>77</sup>

<sup>74</sup> The Participation Rate is defined as the proportion of the population that is either employed or actively seeking employment

<sup>75</sup> The Employment Rate is defined as the proportion of the population that is actively employed.

<sup>76</sup> Unemployment Rate is defined as the proportion of the population that is 'in the labour force,' (i.e., either employed or actively seeking employment).

<sup>77</sup> Rates were calculated from data contained in the **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

The participation rates in the labour force of adults aged 15+ years with activity limitations for the City of Edmonton and Edmonton CMA<sup>78</sup> were 43.0% and 45.5%, respectively, compared to 47.1% for Alberta and 36.1% for Canada. Note that the rates in Table 22 are based on the population of adults aged 15+ years with activity limitations while the rates in Figure 9, above, are based on the population of disabled adults aged 15-64 years.

**Table 22: Participation Rates, Employment Rates, and Unemployment Rates for Adults Aged 15+ Years with and without Activity Limitations in the Labour Force, the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2001**

	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
City of Edmonton			
With activity limitation	43.0%	39.3%	8.6%
Without activity limitation	77.5%	73.2%	5.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Edmonton CMA			
With activity limitation	45.5%	42.1%	7.6%
Without activity limitation	78.3%	74.3%	5.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71.9%</b>	<b>68.0%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
Alberta			
With activity limitation	47.1%	43.9%	6.9%
Without activity limitation	79.3%	75.4%	4.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73.2%</b>	<b>69.4%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
Canada			
With activity limitation	36.1%	32.5%	9.9%
Without activity limitation	73.5%	68.3%	7.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

Source: Urban Poverty Project, CCSDS, 2004.

For all geographies in Table 22, the employment rate reported, like the participation rate, was considerably lower for those with activity limitations than for those without activity limitations. The employment rates for people with activity limitations ranged from 32.5% for Canada to 43.9% for Alberta. The employment rates for people without activity limitations ranged from 68.3% for Canada to 75.4% for Alberta. Conversely, for all geographies, the unemployment rates for those with activity limitations were higher than those for the population without activity limitations.

<sup>78</sup> A CMA, Census Metropolitan Area is defined by Statistics Canada as “a very large urban area (known as the urban core) together with the adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. An MA has an urban core population of at least 100,000 based on the previous census.”

For all geographies in Table 23 the overall participation rates and employment rates were higher for males with and without activity limitations than for females with and without activity limitations, respectively.

**Table 23: Participation Rates, Employment Rates, and Unemployment Rates for Adults Aged 15+ Years with and without Activity Limitations in the Labour Force by Gender, the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2001**

	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
<b>City of Edmonton males</b>	<b>76.6%</b>	<b>72.1%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
With activity limitation	49.5%	45.2%	8.7%
Without activity limitation	82.9%	78.3%	5.5%
<b>City of Edmonton females</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
With activity limitation	37.7%	34.5%	8.5%
Without activity limitation	72.2%	68.1%	5.7%
<b>Edmonton CMA males</b>	<b>78.0%</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
With activity limitation	52.1%	48.2%	7.5%
Without activity limitation	83.9%	79.6%	5.1%
<b>Edmonton CMA females</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>63.4%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
With activity limitation	39.8%	36.8%	7.5%
Without activity limitation	72.8%	69.0%	5.2%
<b>Alberta males</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	<b>75.6%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
With activity limitation	54.8%	51.1%	6.9%
Without activity limitation	85.2%	81.0%	4.9%
<b>Alberta females</b>	<b>66.8%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
With activity limitation	40.2%	37.4%	7.0%
Without activity limitation	73.4%	69.7%	5.0%
<b>Canadian males</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
With activity limitation	42.5%	38.2%	10.2%
Without activity limitation	79.3%	73.5%	7.3%
<b>Canadian females</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
With activity limitation	30.6%	27.7%	9.7%
Without activity limitation	67.9%	63.2%	6.9%

Source: Urban Poverty Project, CCSD, 2004.

“Women with disabilities are generally less likely to be employed than women without disabilities.... Women without disabilities were also somewhat less likely than their male counterparts ... to be employed that year [sic., 2001].... The gap between the employment levels of women both with and without disabilities tends to rise with age, although women with disabilities are considerably less likely than their counterparts without disabilities to be employed in all age groups. This pattern also holds for men with disabilities, although women with disabilities are generally less

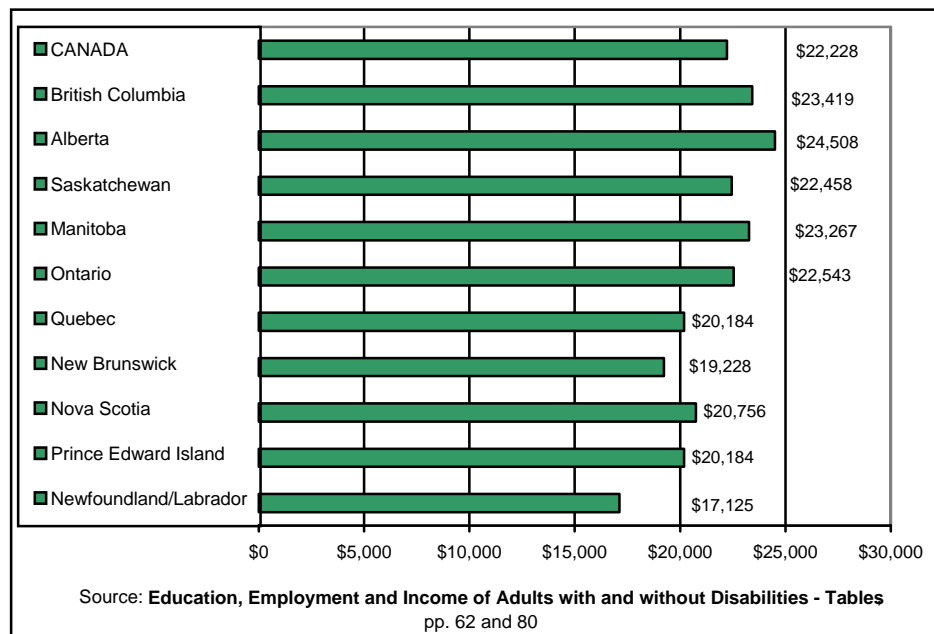
likely than their male counterparts to be employed whatever the level of disability.”<sup>79</sup>

The unemployment rates in Table 23 for males and females with activity limitations were higher for all geographies than the unemployment rates for males and females without activity limitations. However, for all geographies, the unemployment rates for males with activity limitations and females with activity limitations were approximately the same. This was also true for males and females without activity limitations.

### 13. INCOME

Figure 10 shows that according to PALS 2001, the average income for people with disabilities in Canada aged 15+ years was \$22,228. Alberta was the province with the highest average income (\$24,508), followed by British Columbia (\$23,419) and Manitoba (\$23,267). The province with the lowest annual income for people with disabilities aged 15+ years was Newfoundland/Labrador (\$17,125), followed by New Brunswick (\$19,228) and Prince Edward Island and Ontario (both with annual incomes of \$20,184).

**Figure 10: Average Total Income for Persons' with Disabilities Aged 15+ Years, Canada and Provinces, 2001**



<sup>79</sup> Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report, op. cit., p. 294.

Figure 11 shows that for the City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, individuals aged 15+ years without disabilities had higher average total annual incomes for 2000 (ranging from \$23,634 for Canada to \$25,217 for Alberta) than individuals aged 15+ years with disabilities (ranging from \$30,551 for the City of Edmonton to \$32,901 for Alberta).

**Figure 11: Average Total Annual Incomes for People with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15+ Years, City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta and Canada, 2000**

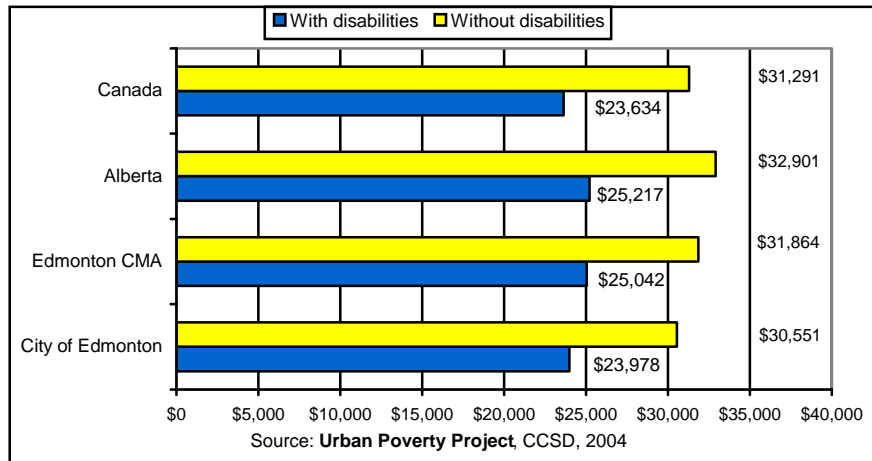
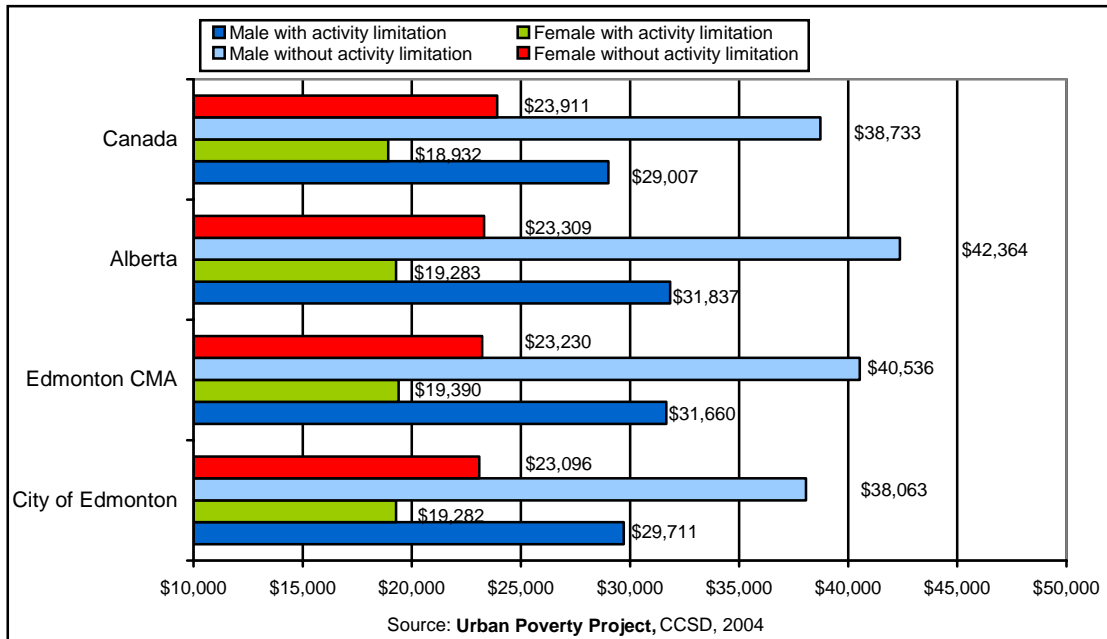


Figure 12 shows that males and females aged 15+ years with activity limitations had lower total average annual incomes in 2000 than the corresponding males and females aged 15+ without activity limitations. In addition, for all geographies in Figure 12, females with activity limitations had lower total average annual incomes than males with activity limitations; similarly, females without activity limitations had lower total average annual incomes than their male counterparts.

For example, females with activity limitations in the City of Edmonton had total average annual incomes of \$19,282, compared to total average annual incomes of \$23,096 for females without activity limitations. Males with activity limitations had total annual incomes of \$29,711, compared \$38,063 for males without activity limitations.

“Women with disabilities generally have relatively low incomes...almost \$5,000 less per person than women without disabilities.... The incomes of women with disabilities are also substantially lower than those of their male counterparts.... The gap between the incomes of women and men with disabilities, though, is roughly similar to that among people with disabilities.”<sup>80</sup>

**Figure 12: Average Total Income for Persons with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15+ Years by Gender, City of Edmonton, Edmonton CMA, Alberta, and Canada, 2000**



<sup>80</sup> Op. cit., p. 296.

## 14. EDUCATION

Table 24 shows that in 2001, 102,300 Edmontonians were between the ages of 15 to 24 years (of this number, 44.7% were aged 15 to 19 years while 55.3% were 15 to 24 years of age). Of the total number, 8.1% (8,300) reported activity limitations (7.6% of those aged 15 to 19 years and 8.6% of those aged 20 to 24 years).

Of the total 15 to 24 year cohort with and without disabilities, 58.9% attended school (7.8% of those with activity limitations) while 41.1% did not (8.6% of those with activity limitations). Of those with activity limitations aged 15 to 19 years, 73.4% attended school (7.6% of those with activity limitation) while only 43.8% (7.9% of those with activity limitations) of those 20 to 24 years attended school.

Overall, a lower percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 years with activity limitations (7.8%) attended school than did not attend school (8.6%). This was also true for those aged 20 to 24 years with activity limitations (7.9% attended school, compared to 9.1% not attending school); however, for those with activity limitations aged 15 to 19 years, a slightly higher percentage attended school than did not attend school (7.6% compared to 7.4%, respectively).

**Table 24: Number and Percentage of People with and without Activity Limitations Aged 15 to 24 Years, Attending or Non-attending School, City of Edmonton, 2001**

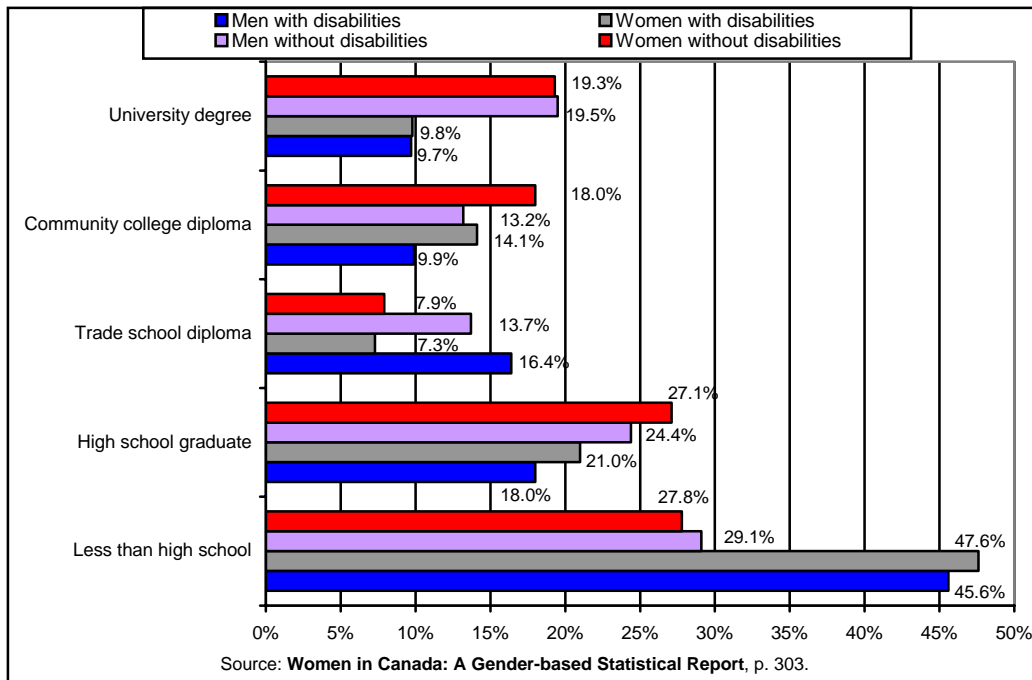
Population	Aged 15-24 years		Aged 15-19 years		Aged 20-24 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total population	102,300	100.0%	45,745	100.0%	56,550	100.0%
With activity limitation	8,300	8.1%	3,455	7.6%	4,845	8.6%
Without activity limitation	93,155	91.1%	41,855	91.5%	51,300	90.7%
Not stated	840	0.8%	435	0.9%	405	0.7%
Total school attendance	60,280	100.0%	33,555	100.0%	26,725	100.0%
With activity limitation	4,670	7.8%	2,555	7.6%	2,120	7.9%
Without activity limitation	55,190	91.5%	30,725	91.6%	24,460	91.5%
Not stated	415	0.7%	270	0.8%	140	0.5%
Total school non-attendance	42,020	100.0%	12,190	100.0%	29,830	100.0%
With activity limitation	3,625	8.6%	900	7.4%	2,720	9.1%
Without activity limitation	37,965	90.4 %	11,130	91.3%	26,840	90.0%
Not stated	425	1.0%	160	1.3%	265	0.9%

Source: **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

Figure 13 shows that in 2001, almost half of disabled Canadian men (45.6%) and women (47.6%) aged 15+ years reported less than a high school education. In contrast, less than thirty percent of Canadian men (29.1%) and Canadian women (27.8%) aged 15+ years without disabilities had less than a high school education.

Nearly twenty percent of Canadian males (19.5%) and females (19.3%) without disabilities reported having a university degree while less than ten percent of Canadian males (9.7%) and females (9.8%) completed a university education.

**Figure 13: Educational Attainment of Males and Females Aged 15+ Years with and without Disabilities, Canada, 2001**



Generally, people with disabilities have lower educational attainment than people without disabilities. For example, a higher percentage of people with disabilities than people without disabilities have less than a high school education. For men the difference is about 15%; for women, about 20%.

“Women with disabilities generally have a lower level of education than women with no disabilities.... Women with disabilities, though, are about as well educated at their male counterparts.... At the same time, women with disabilities...were more likely to have a community college diploma than their male counterparts, while they were less likely to have a diploma from a trade school.... As with the overall population, education levels of women with disabilities decline with age. At all ages, though, the educational attainment of women with disabilities is well below than of their counterparts without disabilities.”<sup>81</sup>

<sup>81</sup> Op. cit., p. 293.

## 15. HEALTH

Table 25 shows the quality of life an individual can expect to have by introducing the concept of disability-free life expectancy, the number of years lived free of any activity limitation as compared to the number of years lived with at least one activity limitation. In 1996, the average Canadian could expect to live 78.3 years, of which 68.6 years would be disability-free. The average Albertan could expect to live slightly longer, 78.6 years, but be disability free for only 68.0 years.

<b>Table 25: Disability-free Life Expectancy by Provinces and Territories, 1996<sup>82</sup></b>			
	<b>Life expectancy at birth<sup>83</sup></b>	<b>Disability-free life expectancy at birth<sup>84</sup></b>	<b>Difference between life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy</b>
	<b>Years</b>		
<b>Canada<sup>85</sup></b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	77.2	68.1	9.1
Prince Edward Island	77.9	67.6	10.3
Nova Scotia	77.7	65.5	12.2
New Brunswick	78.0	66.6	11.4
Quebec	77.9	70.2	7.7
Ontario	78.6	68.0	10.6
Manitoba	77.9	67.9	10.0
Saskatchewan	78.3	68.3	10.0
Alberta	78.6	68.0	10.6
British Columbia	79.0	68.9	10.1

Source: **Statistics Canada**, Disability-free Life Expectancy, by Provinces and Territories.

British Columbians had the highest life expectancy, 79.0 years, while residents of Newfoundland and Labrador had the shortest life expectancy, 77.2 years. Residents of Quebec could anticipate the fewest years, 7.7 years, living with an activity limitation while Nova Scotians faced the most number of years with an activity limitation, 12.2 years.

<sup>82</sup> The estimates are based on the three years of death data, 1995 to 1997. The reference period associated with these data reflects the mid-point of the three-year period, 1996.

<sup>83</sup> Life expectancy is the number of years person would be expected to live starting at birth on the basis of mortality statistics for a given observation period.

<sup>84</sup> Disability-free life expectancy introduces the concept of quality of life. It is used to distinguish between the years of life free of any activity limitation and years experienced with at least one activity limitation. The emphasis is not exclusively on the length of life, as is the case for life expectancy, but also on the quality of life.

<sup>85</sup> Note that the Canadian totals include data for Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

A 2001 study,<sup>86</sup> based on the longitudinal component of the National Population Health Survey conducted by Statistics Canada since 1994, investigated the impact of smoking on both life expectancy and disability. The results showed that “smokers<sup>87</sup> spend a larger proportion of their lives coping with functional disabilities than do non-smokers, and...are far more likely to die prematurely.”<sup>88</sup>

“Non-smokers can expect not only to live longer than smokers, and to live longer without disability, but also to spend a smaller percentage of their life with a disability. The lower incidence of disability among the non-smoking population, combined with their increased chance of regaining their independence, means that they will spend a larger proportion of their total life expectancy without disability. This finding is especially remarkable given that the risk of acquiring a disability increases with age and non-smokers enjoy a longer life than smokers.”<sup>89</sup>

In 2004, CCSD reviewed data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) conducted by Statistics Canada in 2000-2001 in order to provide statistics on persons with and without disabilities and a number of health conditions. The study found that overall “persons with disabilities tend to have higher rates for a wide range of health conditions than do those without disabilities.”<sup>90</sup>

“According to the 2000/01 CCHS, 32% of persons with disabilities aged 12 and older believed that they were in ‘very good to excellent’ health. While this is...lower than the 70% of persons without disabilities who rated their health so positively, it still represents nearly one-third of persons with disabilities. In addition, another one-third of persons with disabilities rated their health as ‘good,’ and just over one-third (35%) rated their health as ‘poor to fair.’ For some, ill health may be the underlying cause of their disability; for others, it may just be a complication that co-exists with their disability. Whatever the relationship between overall health and disability, the data presented...indicate that persons with disabilities are more likely

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<sup>86</sup> Survey respondents were representative of the Canadian population aged 45 years and older living in private households and in health care establishments in 1994. Respondents provided information in a telephone interview.

<sup>87</sup> In this study, a smoker was defined as someone who smoked daily, smoked occasionally but was a former daily smoker, or a formerly daily smoker who had stopped within the past five years; a non-smoker was someone who had never smoked, who smoked only occasionally, or who had smoked daily but stopped more than five years ago.

<sup>88</sup> **The Daily**, Impact of Smoking on Life Expectancy and Disability, Friday, June 22, 2001.

<sup>89</sup> **Ibid..**

<sup>90</sup> **Persons with Disabilities and Health**, CCSD's Disability Information Sheet, No. 14, 2004, p.1.

than those without disabilities to have a variety of chronic health conditions.<sup>91</sup>

Health conditions that were studied included high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, arthritis/rheumatism, diabetes, migraine headaches, and cataracts. In all instances, people with disabilities had a higher incident rate than people without disabilities.

## 16. POVERTY

Table 26 shows that the poverty rate was 27.5% for Edmontonians who reported activity difficulties/reductions in 2001, compared to 18.3% for Edmontonians without activity difficulties/reductions. Note also that 24.2% of the 131,210 Edmontonians with low-income (20% of all Edmontonians) had activity difficulties/reductions.

<b>Table 26: All People and Low-Income People with Activity Limitations, City of Edmonton, 2001</b>				
	<b>All people</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>People with low-income</b>	<b>%</b>
With activity difficulties/reductions	115,420	17.6	31,735	24.2
No difficulty with daily activities and no reduced activities	534,565	81.5	98,030	74.7
Not stated	5,700	0.9	1,450	1.1
<b>Total<sup>92</sup></b>	<b>655,680</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>131,210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: **Urban Poverty Project**, CCSD, 2004.

Table 27 shows that 17.1% of all Edmontonians with activity limitations were 75 years or older in 2001. This is the largest age cohort with activity limitations. Similarly, 16.3% of all low-income people with activity difficulties/reductions were 75 years of age or older. Interestingly, while people aged 65-74 years comprised 16.1% of people with activity limitations. They comprised only 11.4% of low-income people with activity limitations.

<sup>91</sup> **Ibid..**

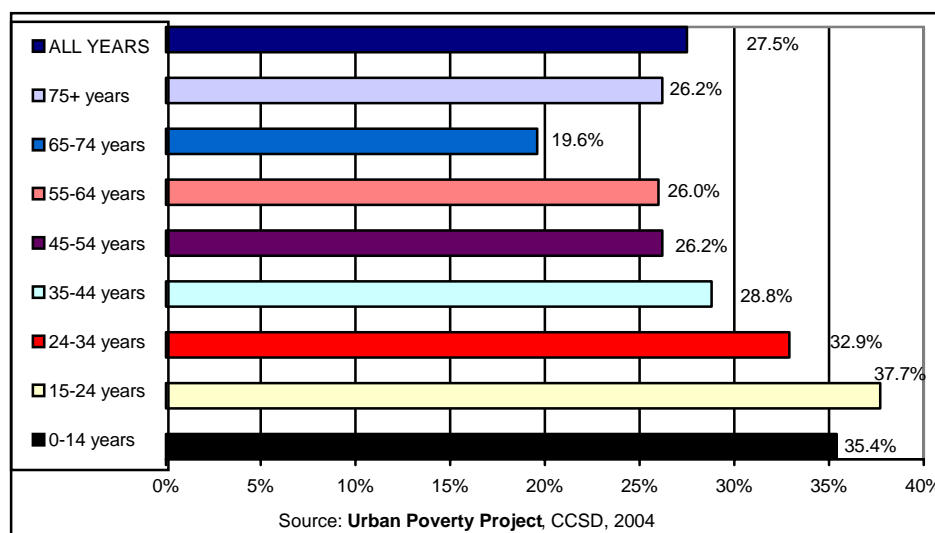
<sup>92</sup> Population totals may vary slightly due to rounding by Statistics Canada.

**Table 27: People with Activity Limitations and Low-income by Age, City of Edmonton, 2001**

	All people with activity limitations	%	Low-income people with activity limitations	%
0-14 years	7,620	6.6	2,700	8.5
15-24 years	8,300	7.2	3,125	9.9
25-34 years	10,530	9.1	3,465	10.9
35-44 years	15,445	13.4	4,445	14.0
35-54 years	18,360	15.9	4,805	15.2
55-64 years	16,910	14.6	4,390	13.8
65-74 years	18,520	16.1	3,630	11.4
75+ years	19,730	17.1	5,165	16.3
<b>All years<sup>93</sup></b>	<b>115,420</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31,735</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Urban Poverty Project, CCSD, 2004.

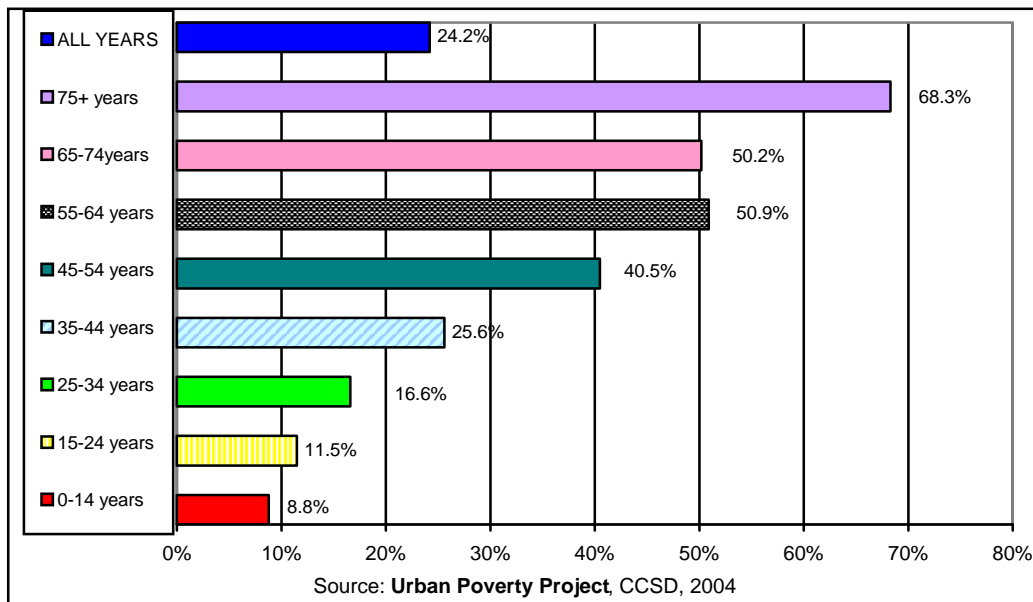
Figure 14 shows the poverty lines by age for Edmontonians with activity difficulties/reductions in 2001. The highest poverty line was for the 15 to 24 year cohort, 37.7%; the lowest, for the 65 to 74 year cohort, 19.6%; and the overall poverty line for people with activity difficulties/reductions was 27.5%.

**Figure 14: Poverty Rates for People with Activity Difficulties/Reductions by Age, City of Edmonton, 2001**

<sup>93</sup> Population totals may vary slightly due to rounding by Statistics Canada.

Figure 15 shows that, overall, the percentage of low-income Edmontonians with activity difficulties/reductions was 24.2% in 2001. Of low-income Edmontonians aged 75+ years, 68.3% reported activity difficulties/reductions while activity difficulties/reductions were reported for only 8.8% of children aged 0 to 14 years. Note that, in general, the percentage of low-income individuals reporting activity difficulties/reductions increased with age.

**Figure 15: Percent of Low-income Edmontonians with Activity Difficulties/Reductions by Age, 2001**



## 17. FEDERAL DISABILITY-RELATED BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS 2004-2005

“The Government supports Canadians with disabilities through ongoing program expenditures and tax measures.”<sup>94</sup> Table 28 shows that in 2004-2005, \$6,114.7 million was spent on programs for the disabled while \$1,520.0 million was expended for tax measures. Disability expenses were, therefore, \$7,634.7 million (5.8% higher the \$7,217.8 million expended in 2003-2004).<sup>95</sup> Based on the 3,601,270 Canadians identified as having disabilities in 2001 (Table 1, page 3), this corresponds to an estimated federal expenditure of \$2,120 per disabled person.

<sup>94</sup> Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities, op. cit., p. 66.

<sup>95</sup> Op. cit., p 67.

<b>Table 28: Principal Disability-Related Benefits and Programs, Government of Canada, 2004-2005</b>	
<b>Program Initiative</b>	<b>Amount (\$M/year)</b>
<b>DISABILITY SUPPORTS</b>	
CHMC <sup>96</sup> programs (HASI, <sup>97</sup> RRAP-D <sup>98,99</sup> )	22.7
Veterans Independence Program	230.7
<b>SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, LEARNING AND EMPLOYMENT</b>	
Opportunities Fund	24.1
Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD)	211.8
Canada Study Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities <sup>100</sup>	16.7
Canada Study Grant for High-Need Students with Permanent Disabilities	3.6
Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy – disability component	3.0
First Nations Special Education Program	95.1
Office of Learning Technologies (disability-specific projects)	0.6
Canada Pension Plan Disability, vocational rehabilitation program	3.3
<b>INCOME SUPPORT BENEFITS</b>	
Canada Pension Plan Disability	2,919.2
Federal workers compensation benefits <sup>101</sup>	125.0
Employment Insurance sickness benefits <sup>102</sup>	778.5
Veterans Disability Pension Programs	1,583.1
War Veterans Allowance	22.8
<b>CAPACITY OF THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY</b>	
Social Development Partnerships Program -- Disability	15.6
INAC <sup>103</sup> Assisted Living Program – disability component	0.9
<b>HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	
Sport Canada funding for athletes with disabilities	9.9
Veterans Affairs Canada Mental Health Initiative	0.2
Population Health Fund and other health-related grants and contributions	5.8
Support for Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability	0.4
FASD Initiative <sup>104</sup>	5.0
Canadian Diabetes Strategy (Prevention and Promotion)	11.8
Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative	25.0
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>6,114.7</b>
<b>TAX MEASURES<sup>105</sup></b>	
Disability Tax Credit (including supplement for children)	460
Medical Expense Tax Credit	830
Disability Supports Deduction	20
Caregiver Credit	65
Infirm Dependent Credit	5

<sup>96</sup> CHMC means Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

<sup>97</sup> HASI means Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence.

<sup>98</sup> RRAP-D means Residential Rehabilitation Program for Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>99</sup> HASI and RRAP-D amounts are for the 2004 calendar year rather than the fiscal year 2004-2005.

<sup>100</sup> Canada Study Grants are for the 12 months ending July 31, 2004.

<sup>101</sup> Includes \$24.3 million in administration fees paid to Workers Compensation Boards. In addition, departments, agencies and Crown Corporations pay about \$19 million directly to employees on Injury on duty leave (IODL).

<sup>102</sup> EI Sickness amount is for 2003-2004 as expenditures for 2004-2005 are not yet available.

<sup>103</sup> INAC means Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

<sup>104</sup> FASD Initiative means Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Initiative.

<sup>105</sup> Tax expenditure amounts are estimates for the 2005 tax year rather than fiscal year 2004-2005. Amounts have been adjusted to reflect changes made in Budget 2005.

Child Disability Benefit	60
Refundable Medical Expense Supplement	80
<b>TOTAL TAX MEASURES</b>	<b>1,520.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,634.7</b>
<b>PARTIALLY-TARGETED PROGRAMS<sup>106</sup></b>	
<b>TAX MEASURES<sup>107</sup></b>	
Age Credit <sup>108</sup>	1,500.0
Pension Income Credit <sup>109</sup>	440
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	
New Horizons for Seniors <sup>110</sup> (Social Development Canada)	5.0
Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (Health Canada)	767.7
First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program (Health Canada)	90
Assisted living program (INAC)	81.3
Veterans treatment benefits program <sup>111</sup>	279.2

Source: **Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities**, pp. 73-74.

On April 1, 2004, Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD) replaced the previous Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (EAPD).

“Through two-year bilateral Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD) the Government of Canada contributes funding to provincial programs and services to improve the employment situation of Canadians with disabilities by enhancing their employability, increasing the job opportunities available to them, and building on the existing knowledge base.”<sup>112</sup>

Types of programs funded under the program include: job coaching and mentoring, pre-employment training and skills upgrading, post-secondary education, assistive aids and devices, wage subsidies, employment counselling and assessment, accessible job placement networks, self-employment, and other workplace supports. “Transfers to provinces are made in the amount of 50% of the costs incurred by jurisdictions for programs and services funded under the initiative, up to the amount of the Government of Canada allocation identified in the respective bilateral agreement.”<sup>113</sup>

<sup>106</sup> Partially targeted measures may have a significant disability-related component, but it is difficult to determine the exact amount that is disability related.

<sup>107</sup> **Ibid..**

<sup>108</sup> These are measures for seniors and are not targeted directly to seniors with disabilities.

<sup>109</sup> **Ibid..**

<sup>110</sup> **Ibid..**

<sup>111</sup> While most clients of the Veterans treatment benefits program are people with disabilities, the program provides general health-related benefits not necessarily related to disability.

<sup>112</sup> **Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities**, *op. cit.*, p. 69.

<sup>113</sup> **Op. cit..**

Table 29 shows that \$211.8 million was transferred to the provinces in 2004-2005 under LMAPD.<sup>114</sup> Ontario was the recipient of the largest transfer payment (\$69.911 million), followed by Quebec (\$45.893 million). Prince Edward Island received the lowest transfer payment (\$1.376 million), followed by Newfoundland/Labrador (\$4.578). Alberta received a transfer payment in the amount of \$25.190 million.

<b>Table 29: Transfer Payments to Provinces under Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities, 2004-2005</b>	
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Transfer amount (in millions)</b>
British Columbia	\$30.744
Alberta	\$25.190
Saskatchewan	\$10.853
Manitoba	\$8.965
Ontario	\$69.911
Quebec	\$45.893
New Brunswick	\$5.951
Nova Scotia	\$8.290
Prince Edward Island	\$1.376
Newfoundland/Labrador	\$4.578
Total transfers <sup>115</sup>	\$211.8
Government of Canada operating expenditures, including evaluation	\$1.0

Source: *Advancing the Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, p. 70.

## 18. CANADIAN DISABILITY ISSUES

From January 22 to February 12, 2004, Environics Research Group Ltd. conducted a national public opinion poll of 1,843 Canadians<sup>116</sup> commissioned by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI), Social Development Canada (SDC), to determine Canadians' awareness and attitudes towards persons with disabilities, as well as the various issues respondents identified as relating to the disabled and their caregivers.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>114</sup> The total amount available under LMAPD was allocated based on a formula agreed to by provinces, territories and the federal government.

<sup>115</sup> Total transfers made to provinces and territories in 2005 were less than the total federal allocation available under LMAPD due primarily to a lapse of funds by the Government of Ontario. In addition, the Government of Canada has allocated \$3.7 million for bilateral agreements with the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and the Yukon. Due to outstanding fiscal issues, bilateral agreements do not currently exist with these jurisdictions.

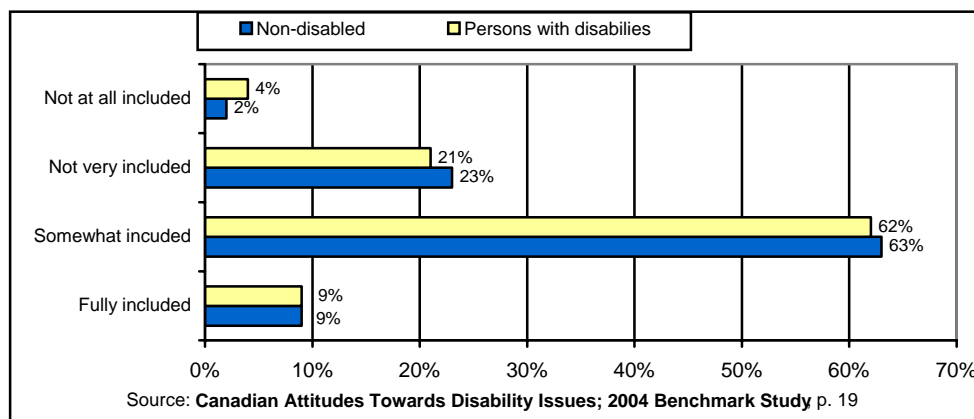
<sup>116</sup> Including 521 respondents with a self-defined disability.

<sup>117</sup> **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, Final Report, Environics Research Group Limited, prepared for the Office for Disability Issues, Social Development Canada, April 2004.

“Canadians believe persons with disabilities are able to participate at some level in society, but face numerous barriers, first and foremost the prejudices of other people and society. At the same time, there is broad agreement that progress has been made over the past decade.”<sup>118</sup>

Figure 16 shows that both persons with disabilities and the non-disabled responded nearly identically to the question, ‘Are disabled Canadians able to participate in society?’ While only 9% of both populations believed that people with disabilities participated fully in society in 2004, the majority of both populations (62% of Canadians with disabilities and 63% of non-disabled Canadians) believed disabled individuals were ‘somewhat included.’ Note that just 4% of the disabled population and 2% of the non-disabled population felt that disabled Canadians were ‘not at all included’ in Canadian society.

**Figure 16: ‘Are Disabled Canadians Able to Participate in Society’ by Disability Status, Canada, 2004**



Those respondents who indicated that people with disabilities could not function fully in society were then asked what barred greater participation. Table 30 shows that 49% believed prejudice/stereotypes/ignorance and other peoples’ and society’s attitudes barred additional participation. Physical barriers (accessibility and mobility/transportation issues) were mentioned by 29% of respondents. Also identified were the limited abilities of disabled people (17%); the lack of confidence that some disabled people have in themselves (15%); support, including government funding, equipment, and insufficient help (13%); and financial barriers (11%).

<sup>118</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<b>Table 30: Barriers Perceived to Greater Participation by Persons with Disabilities, Canada, 2004</b>	
<b>Barrier</b>	<b>%<sup>119</sup></b>
<b>Prejudice/society</b>	<b>49</b>
Prejudice/stereotypes/ignorance	39
Other people/society	29
Public awareness	2
<b>Physical barriers</b>	<b>29</b>
Accessibility	23
Mobility/transportation issues	9
<b>Limited abilities of disabled persons</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Lack of confidence of themselves</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>13</b>
Lack of government programs/funding	8
Insufficient help/assistance	4
Lack of equipment	2
<b>Finance</b>	<b>11</b>
Opportunity/can't find work	9
Money	2
<b>Depends on extent of disability</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Study**, p. 20.

<b>Table 31: Perceived Degree of Difficulty for Disabled Persons to Participate in Specific Aspects of Life, Canada, 2004</b>				
<b>Aspect of life</b>	<b>Very difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat difficult</b>	<b>Not very difficult</b>	<b>Not at all difficult</b>
Achieving financial security	28%	49%	11%	6%
Access to reliable transportation	25%	51%	13%	8%
Recreation opportunities	20%	55%	14%	7%
Raising a family	21%	54%	13%	8%
Maintaining stable employment	22%	52%	13%	7%
Having a social life	15%	53%	18%	11%
Getting a good education	12%	40%	26%	18%
Getting good health care	14%	34%	25%	21%

Source: **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Study**, p. 21.

Table 31 shows how much difficulty respondents believed disabled individuals faced in eight broad areas of living. Over 50% of respondents believed that it would be 'somewhat difficult' for disabled persons to access reliable transportation (51%), participate in recreational opportunities (55%), raise a family (54%), maintain stable employment (54%), and have a social life (53%). In addition, 49% of respondents believed it would be 'somewhat difficult' to achieve financial security while an additional 28% felt it would be 'very difficult.' Note that

<sup>119</sup> Specific responses total more than 100% of themes because of multiple mentions.

close to 50% of respondents believed it would be ‘not very difficult’ or ‘not at all difficult’ for disabled people to get a good education (44%) or good health care (45%).

## 19. CANADIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISABILITY ISSUES

Table 32 shows that more than half of Canadians (52%) in 2004 tended to think of human disabilities in terms of physical handicaps (e.g., an individual in a wheelchair, someone who is deaf or blind). An additional 42% of Canadians defined disability in terms of activity limitation (people who can’t do everything/some things, can’t do normal activities, need help/can’t do things alone, and can’t work/earn a living).

<b>Table 32: How Canadians Define “Disability” 2004</b>	
<b>Theme of response</b>	<b>%<sup>120</sup></b>
<b>Physical disability</b>	52
Wheelchair/mobility issues	31
Physically challenged	20
Blind/sight problems	9
Deaf/hearing problems	5
Loss of/can’t use limb	2
Injury/accident	2
Other physical impairment	3
<b>Limited activities</b>	42
Can’t do everything/some things	23
Can’t do normal activities	11
Need help/can’t do things	9
Can’t work/earn a living	5
<b>General</b>	25
Handicapped	12
Problem/difficulty/impaired	6
Disabled/disability	4
Other general responses	5
<b>Mental disabilities</b>	21
Mentally challenged	18
Learning disability	2
Emotional challenges	1
<b>Health problems</b>	7
<b>Other responses</b>	13

Source: Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey, p. 7.

<sup>120</sup> Specific responses total more than 100% of themes because of multiple responses.

Canadians are less likely to think about disabilities in terms of mental or cognitive functioning. Only 21% of respondents defined disabilities in terms of individuals who were mental challenged, had learning disabilities or were emotional challenged. Most of the remaining responses were general in nature (e.g., handicapped; problem/difficulty/impaired). “Noteworthy is the fact that only three percent of the population were unable to provide *any* meaningful response to this question.”<sup>121</sup> Note that this survey question was open-ended (i.e., respondents were not prompted for their answers).

Table 33 differentiates how disabled and non-disabled Canadians defined disabilities in 2004. Responses from both populations show only slight variations except that “persons without disabilities are more apt to think of persons with disabilities in terms of being physically or mentally challenged.”<sup>122</sup>

Table 33: How Canadians Define “Disability” by Disability Status, 2004		
Theme	Non-disabled	Persons with disabilities
Physical disability	55%	47%
Limited activities	41%	47%
General	26%	25%
Mental disability	24%	13%
Health problems	6%	10%
Other responses	13%	16%

Source: **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, p. 8.

The majority of Canadians (75%) reported knowing a disabled person, most likely a family member or friend. Table 34 shows the personal reactions of Canadians to meeting someone with a disability. Over three-quarters of respondents reported feelings of admiration ‘often’ (45%) or ‘occasionally’ while over half of respondents reported feeling sorry ‘often’ (21%) or ‘occasionally’ (33%). “By comparison, considerably fewer admit they ‘often’ or ‘occasionally’ feel **awkward** or **indifferent** in this type of situation, while almost no one claims that they find themselves to be **afraid** of an unfamiliar person with a disability.”<sup>123</sup>

<sup>121</sup> **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>122</sup> **Ibid.**

<sup>123</sup> **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, op. cit., p. 16.

**Table 34: Personal Reaction to Someone with a Disability, 2004**

Reaction	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Admiration	45%	31%	8%	9%
Sorry	21%	33%	17%	24%
Awkward	5%	26%	22%	43%
Indifferent	6%	12%	19%	58%
Afraid	-- <sup>124</sup>	4%	13%	80%

Source: **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, p. 16.

“Canadians are most likely to believe people in general will be comfortable around persons with conventionally-defined disabilities involving physical handicaps, and much less so in cases of ‘hidden’ disabilities, such as chronic depression and HIV/AIDS.”<sup>125</sup>

The survey also determined Canadians’ attitudes towards the inclusion of disabled people in the workplace:

- “The public believes, based partially on experience, that persons with disabilities are largely accepted in the workplace, but at the same time acknowledge they face discrimination because of their condition.”<sup>126</sup>
- Nearly a third of respondents (31%) reported that persons with disabilities were employed at their workplace.
- Nearly three quarters of all respondents (73%) ‘strongly agreed’ that disabled persons were *contributing as much as others* in the workplace while 68% indicated that disabled persons were *fully accepted by others*.
- Respondents ‘strongly agreed’ (40%) or ‘somewhat agreed’ (24%) that *my workplace is accessible to employees with visible and non-visible disabilities* while ‘strongly agreeing’ (34%) or ‘somewhat agreeing’ that *Canadians with disabilities are less likely to be hired for a job, even if qualified*.
- As a result, respondents indicated that they ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘somewhat agreed’ that, *I would hide a non-visible disability from my employer and co-workers*.

In addition, Figure 17 shows there was wide support to fund people with challenging disabilities to live independently in the community in 2004. The majority of respondents strongly ‘agreed’ (49%) or ‘somewhat agreed’ (35%) that

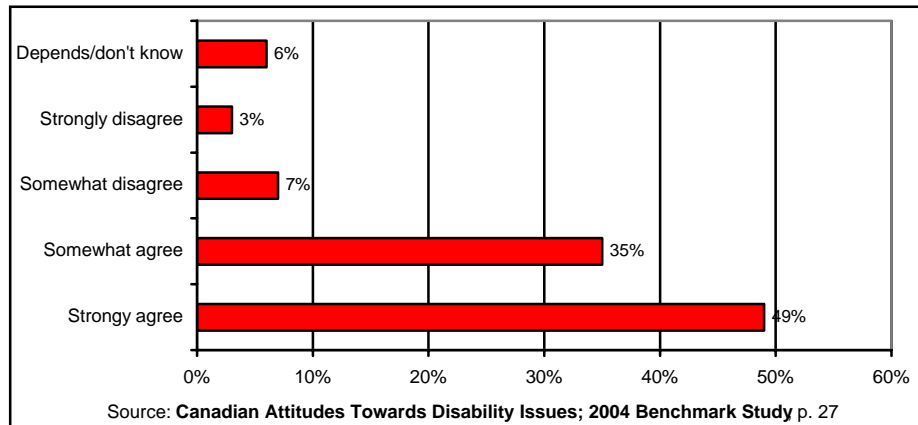
<sup>124</sup> Less than one percent.

<sup>125</sup> **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, op. cit., p. 17.

<sup>126</sup> **Ibid.**, p. 22.

*“persons with even the most challenging disabilities should be supported by public funds to live in the community rather than in institutional settings.”<sup>127</sup>*

**Figure 17: Should Canadians with Even the Most Challenging Disabilities Be Supported by Public Funds to Live in Community Rather than Institutional Settings, 2004**



## 20. PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

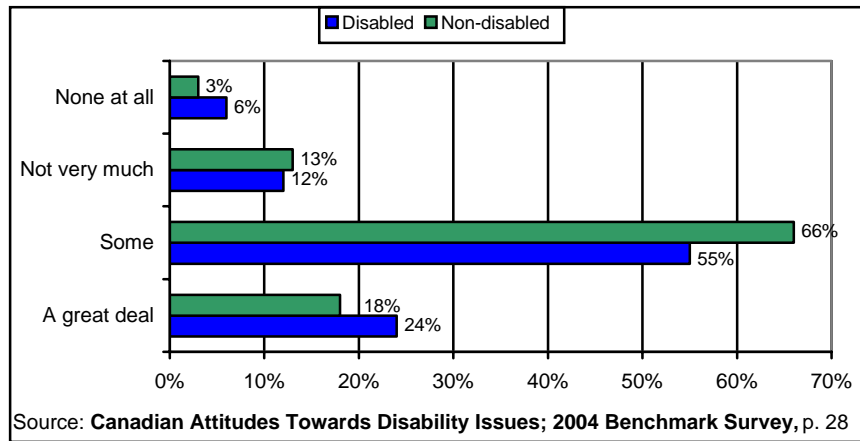
Figure 18 shows that the majority of disabled (55%) and non-disabled (66%) Canadians in 2004 believed that disabled people faced ‘some’ discrimination. Moreover, 24% of disabled and 18% of non-disabled Canadians believed the disabled population faced ‘a great deal’ of discrimination. Only 6% of disabled and 3% of non-disabled Canadians indicated they felt the disabled population faced ‘none at all.’

“Among persons with disabilities, however, the belief in a great deal of discrimination is notably higher among those with a psychological disability, those with a more severe condition, and those whose disabilities began prior to age 18 (with this view least evident among those whose disabilities developed in the past five years).”<sup>128</sup>

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

**Figure 18: Perceived Extent of Discrimination Against Disabled Canadians by Disability Status, 2004**



At the same time, the majority of disabled and non-disabled Canadians indicated they believed there had been 'significant' (27%) or 'some' (56%) progress in including disabled people in Canadian Society over the past ten years. Only one percent of Canadians felt there had been 'no progress at all' while 13% believed 'little progress' had been made (Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Perceived Progress Over the Past Ten Years in Including Disabled Persons in Canadian Society, 2004**

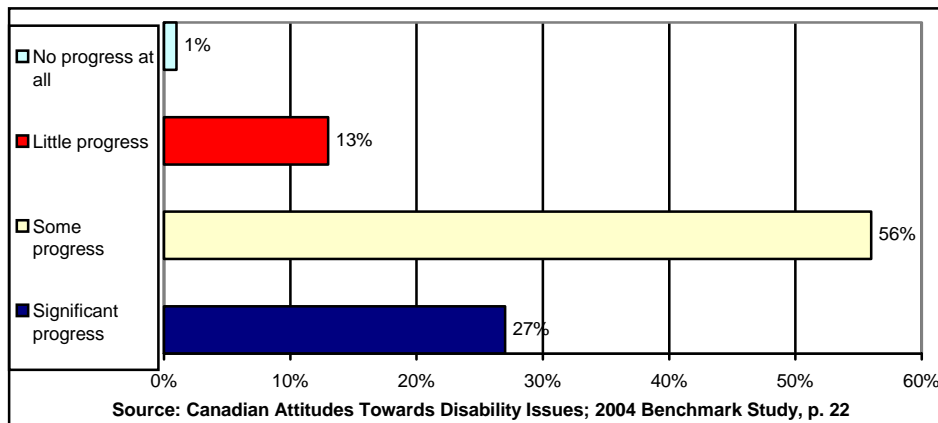


Table 35 shows the personal experiences of disabled people in eight areas of life with respect to discrimination. While the majority of disabled Canadians has rarely or never faced discrimination in any of the areas, one in four has experienced discrimination 'regularly' or 'occasionally' with their social life, financial security, employment, and health care.

**Table 35: Personal Experiences of Canadians with Disabilities with Discrimination Due to a Disability, Canada, 2004**

Aspect of life	Regularly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
Financial security	14	12	10	62
Social life	11	14	10	63
Stable employment	11	11	7	65
Good health care	10	14	7	68
Recreation opportunities	8	14	11	66
Reliable transportation	7	11	6	72
Good education	7	9	8	72
Raising a family	5	6	5	77

Source: Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey, p. 30.

## 21. PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION

Table 36 shows the solutions proposed by Canadians when they were asked (without prompting) what they believed to be the most important ways to stop discrimination against the disabled population.

**Table 36: Solutions to Stopping Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities, Canada, 2004**

Suggested solutions	%
<b>Increased awareness</b>	<b>62</b>
Public education/awareness	46
Raise awareness/talk about it	15
Teach it in school	9
Exposure to the disabled	7
More media/campaigns	5
<b>Increased acceptance</b>	<b>30</b>
Acceptance/equality	18
Inclusion/integration	10
More opportunities/jobs	4
<b>Increase support to people with disabilities</b>	<b>9</b>
Government programs/services/legislation	6
Help/assistance/support	3
<b>Other solutions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Don't know/no answer</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability; 2004 Benchmark Survey, p. 31.

The majority of Canadians (62%) responded in terms of *increased awareness*. Nearly half (46%) identified the principle solution as more public education/awareness. Respondents also mentioned raising awareness by *talking about it* (15%), *teaching it in school* (9%), *exposure to the disabled* (7%), and more *media/campaigns* (5%). “This emphasis on increasing awareness is

consistent with the public's view that prejudice and attitudes constitute the greatest barrier facing persons with disabilities."<sup>129</sup> (See Table 30, page 44.)

A second, related theme identified by 30% of Canadians was *increasing acceptance* (e.g., improving equality for persons with disabilities, ensuring integration into Canadian society, offering more social and job opportunities). Only 9% of respondents mentioned *increased government supports and other assistance* while 15% were not able to provide any solutions.

The survey also asked the public what types of assistance they believed caregivers needed most in order to support people with disabilities. Table 37 shows financial assistance was believed by 52% of Canadians to be the most needed. Other major needs were medical assistance (e.g., in-home support, home visits) mentioned by 34% of respondents; education/counselling, 21%; and physical assistance (transportation, housing, equipment), 17%. Note, though, that "among those who live with a person who has a disability, many were concerned about 'burn-out' among caregivers."<sup>130</sup>

Table 37: Types of Assistance Felt Most Needed by Family Caregivers, Canada, 2004	
Theme	%
Financial assistance	52
Medical assistance (in-home support, home visits)	34
Educational counselling	21
Physical assistance (transportation, housing, equipment)	17
Government programs	5
Respite care	4
Other types of support	13
Don't know/no answer	16

Source: **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues; 2004 Benchmark Survey**, p. 39.

## 22. ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

"Many Canadians with disabilities require some type of support or service related to their disability. These supports and services can cover a broad range, from something relatively minor and fairly inexpensive to something quite complex and rather costly. In some instances, what is required is an item or a service that must be purchased – such as a wheelchair, a

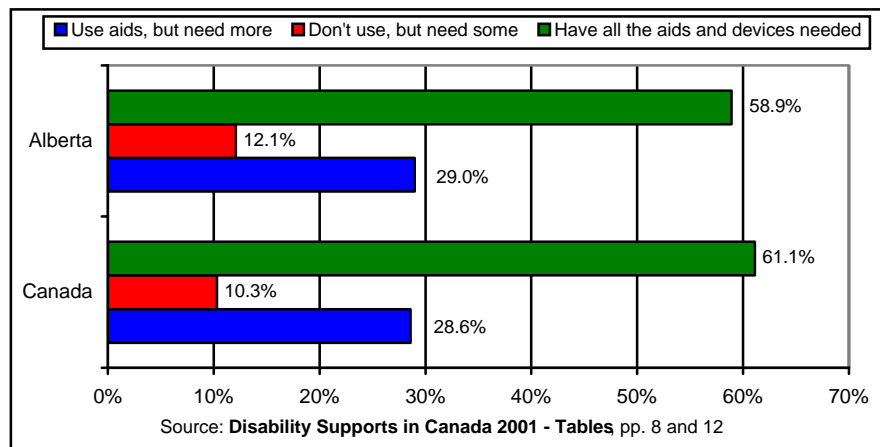
<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30.

<sup>130</sup> **Canadian Attitudes Towards Disability Issues: A Qualitative Study**, Final Report, Environics Research Group Limited, prepared for the Office for Disability Issues, Social Development Canada, 2004, p. 14.

hearing aid, help with household duties, or a tutor – while in other instances what is required involves a change in practice -- such as how buildings are constructed or having employers allow a job redesign and modified work hours.”<sup>131</sup>

Results from the 2001 PALS showed that 1,604,610 Canadians aged 15+ years with disabilities needed assistive aids and devices. The majority of them (61.1%) had all the equipment needed; however, 28.6% had some equipment, but needed more while 10.3% did not have any of the equipment they required (Figure 20). The results for Albertans were very similar with 58.9% of disabled individuals with all the assistive aids and devices needed; 29.0%, with some equipment but requiring more; and 12.1%, without the equipment needed.

**Figure 20: Use of and Need for Assistive Aids and Devices for Adults Aged 15+ Years with Disabilities, Alberta and Canada, 2001**



The 2001 PALS results also showed that approximately the same percentage of disabled Canadian men and women (39%) used aids, but needed more or didn't use aids, but need some. In addition:

- The more severe the disabilities, the higher was the percentage of disabled Canadians aged 15+ years requiring more specialized equipment (10% for those with mild limitations; 22%, for those with moderate limitations; 33%, for those with severe limitations; and 50%, for those with very severe limitations). “Also, regardless of the severity of the disability, approximately 10% of respondents had none of the assistive aids needed.”<sup>132</sup>

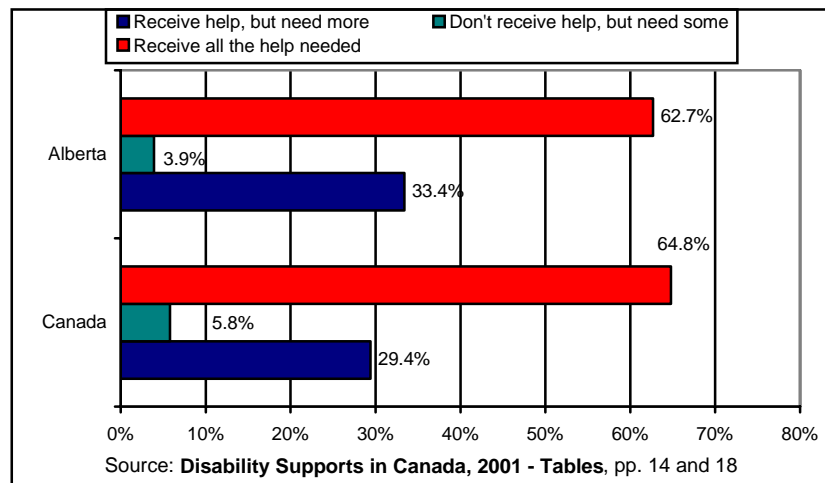
<sup>131</sup> Persons with Disabilities and Health, CCSD's Disability Information Sheet, No. 17, 2005, p.1

<sup>132</sup> Disability Supports in Canada, 2001, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 89-580-XIE, 2003, p. 6.

- Of disabled Canadians aged 15+ years, 48% indicated that they lacked the equipment due to its high cost; 36% indicated the equipment was not covered by insurance; 13% said they did not know how to obtain the aids and devices; and 11% felt their condition was not severe enough to need the equipment.

PALS also reported that 2,176,530 Canadians with disabilities aged 15+ years (63.6%)<sup>133</sup> required help for every day activities (e.g., meal preparation, everyday housework [dusting and tidying up], heavy household chores, transportation [grocery shopping and getting to appointments], personal finances [banking and paying bills], child care, personal care, and moving around within the home). Figure 21 shows that 29.4% of Canadians received help, but needed more; 5.8%, don't receive help, but need some; and 64.8% receive all the help needed. Note that a slightly lower percentage of Albertans (62.7%) reported having all the assistance required. A slightly higher percentage indicated the need for more help (33.4%) while only 3.9% reported that they didn't receive help, but needed some.

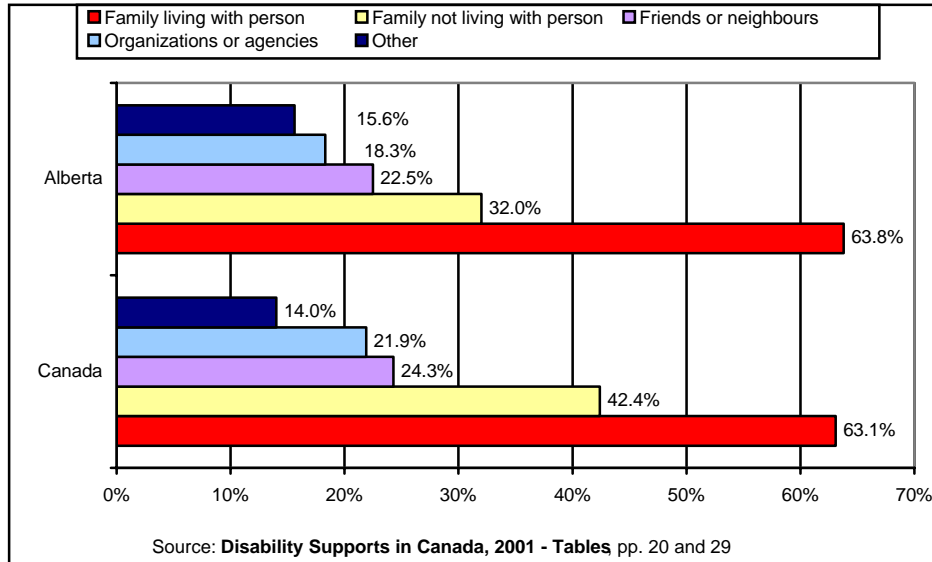
**Figure 21: Use and Need for Help with Everyday Activities for Adults Aged 15+ Years with Disabilities, Alberta and Canada, 2001**



Help for disabled Canadians aged 15+ years of age comes from many sources. Figure 22 shows that over 60% of disabled Albertans (63.8%) and Canadians (63.1%) reported receiving help from family members living with them in 2001. A significantly higher percentage of disabled Canadians (42.4%) than disabled Albertans (32.0%) indicated receiving help from family members not living with them. Disabled Canadians and Albertans also received assistance from friends or neighbours, organizations and agencies, and other sources.

<sup>133</sup> Based on the number of Canadians with disabilities aged 15+ years (3,420,340) reported by PALS.

**Figure 22: Who Provides Help to Disabled Adults Aged 15+ Years? Alberta and Canada, 2001<sup>134</sup>**



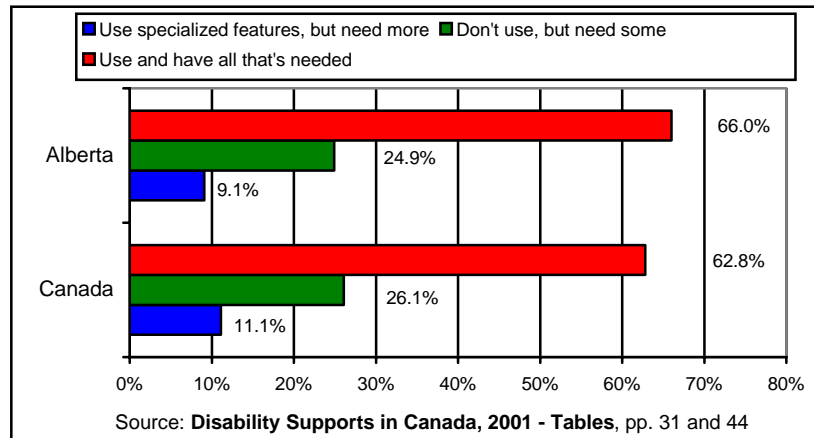
“In 2001, just over 771,000 persons [Canadians] with disabilities needed help and did not receive it for a variety of reasons (respondents could indicate more than one). For half of them, the cost of help was cited as a reason for not having the help required. A quarter of respondents reported that informal help (from family or friends) was not available, and a quarter also indicated that the cost of help was not covered by their insurance plan. Lastly, just under a quarter of respondents also stated that they did not know how to obtain the help required.”<sup>135</sup>

Figure 23 shows that of the 483,000 disabled Canadians aged 15+ years who required specialized features in their homes (e.g., handrails, visual alarms or audio warning devices, adapted bathrooms, ramps to permit entrance and egress) in 2001, 62.8% indicated that they had everything that was needed; 26.1% currently didn’t use any specialized features, but needed them; and 11.1%, used specialized features but needed more.

**Figure 23: Use of and Need for Specialized Features in Homes of Disabled Adults Aged 15+, Alberta and Canada, 2001**

<sup>134</sup> Disabled people could report more than one source of help.

<sup>135</sup> Disability Supports in Canada, 2001, op. cit., p. 8.



Of Albertan aged 15+ years and older with disabilities, somewhat more (66.0%) of those using specialized features in their homes had all that they needed. Only 9.1% needed specialized features, but had none, while 24.9% of those who used specialized features needed more.

Of those disabled adults who did not have all the modifications needed, 62% blamed high costs while 42% said the recommended changes were not covered by their insurance plans. In addition, 6% said they were not recommended by a health care professional and 5% indicated that they were on a waiting list.

PALS also recognized the importance of affordable, available and easily accessible transportation for disabled people. "The ability to travel, either locally or long distance, is a crucial factor in social participation. For many persons with disabilities in 2001, local and long distance transportation posed problems."<sup>136</sup>

2001 PALS reported long distance travel was not possible for 270,520 (7.9%) of Canadians aged 15+ with disabilities.<sup>137</sup> A further 4.3% reported that they travelled with difficulty while 17.7% traveled without difficulty. The majority of disabled Canadians (70.1%) fell into the category of 'other' (i.e., "includes persons who did not travel by bus, train or airplane, persons who did not travel long distance and were not prevented, and those who did not provide a response to one or more of the long-distance questions)."<sup>138</sup>

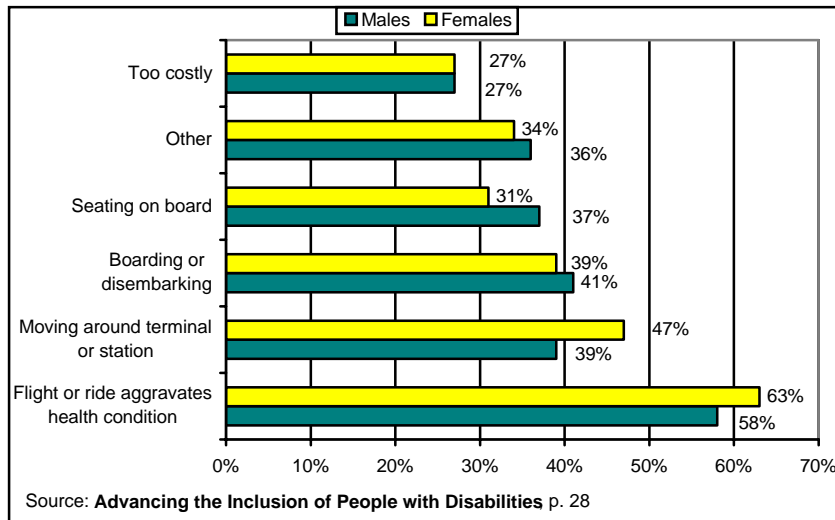
<sup>136</sup> **Ibid.**, p. 9.

<sup>137</sup> Includes all modes of transportation.

<sup>138</sup> **Disability Supports in Canada, 2001 – Tables**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 89-581-XIE, 2003, p. 64.

Figure 24 shows the results of surveying the major barriers preventing Canadian seniors with disabilities from travelling long distances. Note that only those actually prevented by disability from travelling long distances provided information and that multiple responses be permitted.

**Figure 24: Major Barriers Preventing Male and Female Seniors with Disabilities from Travelling Long Distances, Canada, 2001**



The greatest barrier for 58% of male and 63% of female seniors in travelling long-distances was that the flight or ride would aggravate their condition. Other barriers included: moving around the terminal or station, boarding or disembarking, seating on board, and 'other' difficulties. Note that 27% of both male and female seniors found long-distance travelling too expensive.

Another question included in the 2001 PALS asked disabled Canadians aged 15+ years utilized public transportation (i.e., buses, taxis, specialized buses, subways). Four percent of Canadian respondents were completely prevented from using the services while 5.2% used them with difficulty. In comparison, 3.0% of Albertan respondents could not use these services while 4.4% could use them only with difficulty.<sup>139</sup>

Lastly, 2001 PALS reported that 58,870 disabled Canadians aged 15+ years (1.7% of the total number of Canadians with disabilities) reported that they were completely prevented from driving locally by car.<sup>140</sup> In addition, 16.2% of those

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 42 and 51.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 53.

with disabilities aged 15+ years reported difficulties while driving locally. (For Albertans, the percentages were 1.9% and 17.4%, respectively.)<sup>141</sup>

### **23. EDMONTON'S DATS**

Edmonton's Disabled Adult Transit Service or DATS is a shared ride transportation service that operates within the City of Edmonton. It provides door-to-door public transportation service for pre-booked passengers 16+ years who are unable to use regular transit due to physical or cognitive disabilities. Wheelchair lift equipped vehicles, sedans, mini-vans, and passenger vans provide the services.

Prospective DATS' users must complete a registration form, including a recommendation from a health or social services practitioner. Once registered as a user, trips may be booked. DATS takes reservation bookings three days in advance of travel, two days in advance of travel, and the day before until 10:00 a.m. Subscription bookings are available for trips required on a regular basis (i.e., for work or school). Trips are scheduled in advance in order to design routes that ensure maximum use of this shared ride service.

As of April 2006, DATS had 6,140 ambulatory and 3,839 wheelchair/scooter users for a total of 9,979 registrants.<sup>142</sup> For the 2005 calendar year, DATS provided 822,987 trips for 10,951 registrants (7,008 ambulatory and 3,943 wheelchair/scooter users) or an average of 75 trips per registrant.<sup>143</sup>

In 2004,<sup>144</sup> DATS received a total of 258,665 calls from clients to arrange rides. DATS booked and scheduled 1,078,569 trips of which 17.9% were cancelled and 2.8% were 'no-trip.' The actual trips represented DATS trips and ACT trips (77.4% and 1.8% of trips booked and scheduled, respectively). The average number of trips per registrant per month was 7.5; the average number scheduled per month was 9.4.

DATS users pay fares based on regular Edmonton Transit System fares. These fares are approved by Edmonton City Council annually and are currently: \$2.25 for those 6+ years; \$18.50 for an adult ticket book with ten tickets; or \$58.00 for a monthly DATS pass.<sup>145</sup> A designated mandatory attendant travels free when

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<sup>141</sup> **Ibid.**, p. 62.

<sup>142</sup> This number reflects the annual housecleaning of registrants that did not use DATS in the past year.

<sup>143</sup> Private communication from DATS administration.

<sup>144</sup> Statistics are from DATS 2004 Annual Report.

<sup>145</sup> Monthly passes are sold at various sales outlet locations throughout the City.

accompanying a fare paying DATS registrant.<sup>146</sup> In addition, children aged 5 years and younger travel free when with a registered user.

## 24. CITY OF EDMONTON INITIATIVES

The following represents a listing of key initiatives, services, and programs currently endorsed by City of Edmonton Departments for people with disabilities:

**The Advisory Board on Services for Persons with Disabilities (ABSPD)** advocates on behalf of Edmontonians with special needs. The ABSPD:

- Facilitates changes in City policy and practice;
- Provides advice to Council and City departments on disability issues;
- Promotes accessible transit and audible traffic signals;
- Provides consultation on new construction and retrofitting; and
- Increases public awareness, gathers and disseminates information.

The Accessibility Committee of ABSPD recently completed a user-friendly checklist to facilitate inclusion of accessibility and universal design principles in new construction and retrofit projects. The **Checklist for Accessibility and Universal Design in Architecture** highlights major universal design principles in a concise manner (two pages) for use by architects, project officers, and other parties involved in the design phase of construction.

ABSPD is consulting regarding accessibility issues in the revamping of Queen Elizabeth pool and the Lois Hole Library. ABSPD will also assist in the development of plans for new recreational centres in addition to working to “*ensure 100% visitability and 10 percent adaptable suites in an all new multi-family development are incorporated into Cornerstones: Edmonton’s Plan for Affordable Housing, 2006-2011.*”

ABSPD will participate in events for the annual International Day of Disabled Persons on December 1, 2006, and is planning for a Disabled Parking Awareness Day in November. In addition, the first edition of the electronic version of the **Barrier Free Press e-Newsletter** was published in February 2006. This electronic newsletter provides information on issues, events, and activities that impact the lives of people with disabilities and may be viewed through [http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_1654188\\_0\\_0\\_18/Advisoryboard.htm](http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_1654188_0_0_18/Advisoryboard.htm).

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<sup>146</sup> This is also the policy on regular Edmonton Transit System.

## Asset Management and Public Works Department

On August 30, 2005 City Council approved the following motion:

*“That Administration, in consultation with the Advisory Board on Services for Persons with Disabilities, ensure that 100 percent visitability and 10 percent adaptable suites in all new multi-family developments is incorporated into Cornerstones: Edmonton’s Plan for Affordable Housing. 2006-2011.”*

Since then, staff of the Office of Housing and Planning and Development has been meeting with the Housing Committee of the Advisory Board on Services for Persons with Disabilities (ABSPD) to clarify ABSPD expectations regarding interpretation and successful implementation of the motion, in particular, the terms “visitability” and “adaptable units.”

Meanwhile, the Office of Housing and Planning and Development is encouraging all project proposals that receive capital funding commitments under the Canada/Alberta Affordable Housing Program to meet the Barrier-Free Design guidelines of Alberta Building Code 1997, including the 10% “adaptable dwelling unit” requirements for all residential projects that are funded in whole or in part by the Government of Alberta.

## Community Services Department

**Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)** is a joint municipal/provincial partnership that funds and supports the development and delivery of preventive social service programs in Edmonton. FCSS funding is directed to community-based social service programs that are preventive in nature and promote and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Table 38 shows that in 2006 the Y.W.C.A.’s Family Services for Children with Disabilities: In-Home Support Program was funded in the amount of \$161,379.

<b>Table 38: 2006 FCSS Funded Programs for People with Disabilities and Program Information</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Program Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Y.W.C.A.	<b>Family Services for Children with Disabilities: In-Home Support Program</b>	Provides respite workers for families caring for a youth with special needs and his/her siblings for a minimum of 4 hrs/day to a maximum of 10 hrs/day. Families may also access respite workers for 24 hrs/day if required.	\$161,379

Note that programs receiving FCSS funding must be registered not-for-profit organizations that have been incorporated for a minimum of a year. Programs that provide primarily for the recreation needs or leisure pursuits of individuals; offer direct financial assistance, including money, food, clothing, or shelter to an individual or family; are primarily rehabilitative; or duplicate services ordinarily provided by a government or government agency are not funded by FCSS.

**The City of Edmonton Community Investment Operating Grant program** provides operating assistance to Edmonton's non-profit organizations whose activities result in benefits to the citizens of Edmonton. Organizations are eligible for grants if they are based in Edmonton, if they primarily serve Edmontonians, and if their programs/services have a social, multicultural, or recreation/amateur sport character. Table 39 lists the organizations serving people with disabilities that received Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006.

<b>Table 39: Organizations Providing Programs/Services for People with Disabilities Receiving Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Alberta Northern Lights Wheelchair Basketball Society	\$15,000
Autism Society of Edmonton Area	\$10,007
Capital City Gymnastics Club	\$15,000
Edmonton Brain Injury Relearning Society	\$15,000
Gateway Association of Community Living	\$11,252
Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association	\$13,221
Networks Activity Centre Society of Alberta	\$4,515
Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society	\$15,000
Paralympic Sports Association	\$14,791
Special Olympics Alberta Association	\$15,000

Organizations requesting grants must be registered (under appropriate provincial or federal legislation) as a non-profit for at least one year and have open membership; should not substantially duplicate the activities of other applicants or other government-supported organizations; and may apply for up to twenty-five percent of their total operating expenditures for the previous fiscal year (to a maximum of \$15,000).

Community Services is also committed to improving accessibility of facilities for everyone and to provide and promote recreational opportunities for people with special needs. With these ends in mind, the **Recreation Facilities Accessibility Guide** was developed to inform people with disabilities whether facility accessibility was good,<sup>147</sup> very good,<sup>148</sup> good,<sup>149</sup> or limited.<sup>150</sup>

<sup>147</sup> Facility is fully accessible.

<sup>148</sup> Majority of the facility is accessible; however, there are some accessibility barriers. Entrance, washrooms, and majority of recreation area are accessible.

<sup>149</sup> Facility is partially accessible. Entranceway and a portion of the recreation area are accessible; however, there may be no accessible washroom available.

Also available through Community Services is **Leisure Opportunities for Persons with Special Needs**. The publication lists leisure opportunities throughout Edmonton available for individuals with disabilities. Note that while some programs are designed specifically for individuals with disabilities, many are open to everyone.

Another initiative began in 2005, the **Play Area Accessibility Design Standard**. All new play areas will be universally designed and incorporate a minimum level of accessibility. This means park designs will use the most current approaches to designing children's play areas and play areas will have a base level of accessibility to ensure everyone in the community will be able to participate.

### Corporate Services Department

The City of Edmonton is committed to ensuring that Edmontonians living with hearing loss are able to enjoy access to City events and services. **American Sign Language (ASL) and Real Time Captioning Services** are automatically offered at all major civic events held at City Hall or Churchill Square (including Family Day, Canada Day, Canadian Finals Rodeo Events at City Hall; Arts District Open House at City Hall; all election forums; and major civic celebrations (i.e., the Royal Visit).

For other civic events, meetings, and open houses, ASL and Real Time Captioning Services are provided upon request through the **Citizen Action Centre**. In addition, an assistive listening device is available for all civic events held at City Hall. The system is patched into the sound system in City Council Chambers, transmitting sound signals through infrared to special headphones worn by hard of hearing users. A portable system is available in other City Hall rooms upon request.<sup>151</sup>

Recently, the City of Edmonton invested in a new computer based system that allows Teletype (TTY) users to communicate with more City of Edmonton employees. This computer system replaces physical TTY machines with computer hardware and software that "rings" an employee's computer. Callers dial 944-5555 and select from the menu. If the transfer code is known, the caller selects XFER and waits for a prompt to enter the transfer code. If the transfer code is not known, the caller types INFO for a listing or ZERO to be transferred to an operator. A complete listing of City of Edmonton Transfer Codes is in the blue pages of the Telus phone book directly under the phone number of the contact person/department.

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<sup>150</sup> Facility has poor accessibility. Accessibility barriers may exist at entranceway, recreation area, and washrooms. Alternate facility is recommended.

<sup>151</sup> Note that two weeks' notice is required when requesting these services.

The City's **Human Resources Branch** is in the process of hiring four individuals to help recruit people with diverse backgrounds into the work force – three Human Resource Consultants (for Aboriginal Employment Outreach, Youth Employment Outreach, and Employment Outreach) and an Employment Outreach and Duty to Accommodate Consultant. This latter position will take the lead in developing non-tradition employment “bridging” programs to the community and in attracting, developing, and retaining a diverse, skilled, productive, and engaged workforce.

The individual will provide recruitment advice and coaching to hiring supervisors and Human Resources staff on approaches to engage diverse populations in order to secure qualified job applicants; recommend recruitment and retention strategies to promote sustainable progress towards workforce diversification; consult on accommodations for successful external applicants to City positions; develop, coordinate and implement work experience, training and placement programs; source qualified applicants to meet long term organizational workforce requirements; and develop, implement, and manage all permanent accommodations for current employees. It is anticipated that, among other qualifications, the individual will possess an outreach focus on people with disabilities and/or professional experience in rehabilitation or case management, advanced knowledge of assistive technology and types of disabilities, and an ability to foster productive relationships with organizations that promote and enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

### **Edmonton Public Library**

Library Access, located on the first floor of the Stanley A. Milner Library, responds to the needs of people with disabilities and has specialized collections helpful to people with various disabilities. A collection of Large Print fiction and non-fiction of over 20,000 volumes which include hardcover and lightweight softcover books is available at all library locations in Edmonton with the largest selection housed at the main library. These are books for readers who have trouble seeing regular print and who find that their eyes tire easily.

The **Library Access Division (LAD)** also has a collection of over 15,000 **Talking Books**, some of which require a medical certificate. They are specifically designed for people who are unable to read or hold conventional books and include cassettes and a few CDs, but not Spoken Word.

**Spoken Word** materials are located in 15 branches, but not the main library. Spoken Word includes CDs and cassettes, but not Talking Books. In addition there are descriptive videos (DVs) that describe the visual elements for people who are blind or have low vision and American Sign Language Videos (ASL) for the deaf or hearing-impaired.

Adaptive Technologies provide assistance for people with visual impairments. The Stanley A. Milner Library has **The Reading Edge** that translates printed materials into computerized speech and **The Optelec Print Enhancer** that modifies print, handwriting, and photographs up to 60 times their normal size.

Library Access also offers home services to people who unable to come to the library for a period exceeding three months. Carefully screened and trained volunteers deliver the service.

## **Transportation Department**

The City of Edmonton's Transportation Department operates a shared ride transportation service, **Disabled Adult Transit Service (DATS)**, which provides door-to-door public transportation service for pre-booked passengers 16+ years who are unable to use regular transit due to physical or cognitive disabilities. Wheelchair lift equipped vehicles, sedans, mini-vans, and passenger vans provide the services.

DATS users pay fares based on regular Edmonton Transit System fares as approved by Edmonton City Council annually. These currently are: \$2.25 for those 6+ years; \$18.50 for an adult ticket booklet with ten tickets; or \$58.00 for a monthly DATS pass.

In 2005, DATS accomplished the following:

- New DATS administration/garage facility and lift-equipped vans.
- Recruited over 50 new drivers, operations supervisor, and other personnel into the new DATS service model.
- Tendered DATS sedan and passenger van services request for proposal.

How specific DATS goals were met:

- To ensure a barrier free and accessible system to meet diverse needs, a 91 DATS lift-equipped van fleet was commissioned<sup>152</sup> and the Mobility Choices travel training streaming video was implemented (<http://www.takeets.com>).
- To ensure a modern and progressive system, utilizing proven advanced technologies and practices, radio communications were reduced with the use of mobile data computers on DATS fleet and in the service control centre.

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<sup>152</sup> Excluding contracted vehicles.

- For more effective and efficient utilization of limited resources, a new DATS driver collective agreement and new payroll systems and working conditions (including shift design and sign-up process) were implemented.

**Key Initiatives for 2006 – 2008:**

- To conduct DATS customer attitudinal survey and establish standards for operational/business practices, use of conventional services, and customer service.
- To use origin-destination study, mobile data systems analysis, and demand forecasting to predict DATS service requirements.
- To implement DATS business model and conduct evaluation.
- To continue Mobility Training program for challenged clients.
- To complete DATS mobile data systems installation (fleet and dispatch centre).
- To implement fully new IVR (interactive voice response) for DATS trip arrivals.<sup>153</sup>
- To develop DATS business needs requirement for computer system upgrades versus replacement.
- To develop specifications for DATS computer system upgrade and scheduling system.
- To conduct DATS organizational review.
- To implement workplace safety initiatives by conducting health and injury study of operators and slip/trip/fall study for DATS operators/drives.

**Community Transportation Planning** of the City of Edmonton is committed to improving accessibility throughout the city as identified in the Transportation Master Plan approved by City Council in April 1999. The adopted policy states that transportation systems and services will be provided in a manner which will reduce physical barriers to accessibility and enable mobility challenged citizens to participate more fully in all facets of life in Edmonton.

Some of the initiatives to increase accessibility are:

- Through a **Curb Ramp Program**, operated on a request basis to ensure the funds are directed in a fair and equitable manner throughout Edmonton, approximately 180 curb ramps are constructed annually. The Program will only install curb ramps at intersections and mid-block crosswalks; however, approximately 200 more curb ramps are constructed yearly through road and neighbourhood rehabilitation programs.<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>153</sup> The driver phones the DATS passenger approximately ten minutes prior to pickup to advise that the bus is on the way. This means a DATS user has a shorter waiting period for services.

<sup>154</sup> Note that any individuals or businesses that would benefit from a curb ramp in front of home or business is responsible for any and all costs associated with the curb ramp. Any construction on City right-of-way requires the necessary approvals and permits to ensure the privately built ramp meets current municipal standards.

- **Audible Signals** are provided at key signalized intersections to assist the visually impaired to cross the roadway. The Transportation Department reviews and coordinates all locations with The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Currently, there are 53 full signal and pedestrian sign locations equipped with audible signals. Approximately three locations, identified on a request basis, are retrofitted annually; eighteen locations are on a “wait list.” Priority is given to locations with unusual intersection geometry or high vehicle-turning volumes.
- **A Pole Locator (Audible Signal)**, also called audible signals with vibratory pole locator buttons, was installed in downtown Edmonton as a pilot project in 2005.<sup>155</sup> The location was selected because of the inconvenient positioning of the signal light poles where activation buttons would be mounted. The buttons emit a vibration and a tone that adjusts to nearby traffic noise levels to attract users effectively. Directional arrows provide tactile information as to which direction to cross while the frequency of the vibration and tone adjust to confirm activation and the signals walk phase.
- **Bus Pad Accessibility** is another Edmonton concern. In 2005, as a pilot project, The City of Edmonton reviewed bus stops considered inaccessible (i.e., lacking either a sidewalk connection, bus pad, or curb ramps). While accessibility needs are addressed in Edmonton’s newer developments, it is within older areas that these issues are most prominent. It also means in areas without bus pad accessibility, people with mobility problems will have difficulties utilizing low floor buses as well as regular ETS buses.
- Note that CNIB provides **Mobility Training** for individuals who are visually impaired. Each orientation and mobility program is designed to suit an individual’s goals and abilities and to enable the individual to travel whether or not technology upgrades are available.

## **Planning and Development Department**

On August 29, 2006, City Council approved \$300,000 towards the cost of converting 35 taxi cabs to accommodate people with disabilities, as well as 35 new cab licenses. The funding for retrofitting will be available in the form of repayable loans.

The City of Edmonton Taxi Cab Commission will determine the tendering process with the intent of having the retrofitted cabs operating within six to eight months.

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<sup>155</sup> This is the first installation in Edmonton; assessment is ongoing.

## 25. SOURCES

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