



2022

Canadian Survey on Disability Nova Scotia Results



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The Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate is pleased to provide a summary of currently available Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) data for Nova Scotia.

The CSD is published every five years by Statistics Canada, and is Canada's primary source of data on persons with disabilities. It provides key demographic, economic, labour and educational data on a provincial/territorial and national level. The survey also provides important information on disability type and severity; use of assistive aids, devices and technologies; daily help received or required; use of various health-care therapies and services; requirements and unmet needs for accommodations, accessibility barriers; and the experience of being housebound, social isolation, food security, homelessness.

The target population of the survey is Canadians aged 15 and older who live in private dwellings and who report having a difficulty or long-term condition to the Activities of Daily Living question on the 2021 Census. The survey does not include persons living on a First Nations reserve, or those living in collective dwellings such as institutional residences or Canadian Armed Force bases.

For more information on the CSD, including a new [infographic](#) and [data visualization tool](#) please visit the [Statistics Canada website](#).

Please contact us at accessibility@novascotia.ca if you have any questions.

Disability Rate in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's disability rate is 37.9%.

That means 37.9% of Nova Scotians aged 15 and older report having one or more disabilities.

Nova Scotia has the highest disability rate in the country.

The rate for Canada overall is 27%. That means the Nova Scotia rate is almost 11% higher than the national rate. The other Atlantic provinces also have high rates of disability with New Brunswick at 35.3%, Prince Edward Island at 31.8%, and Newfoundland at 30.9%. Quebec has the lowest rate at 19.3%.

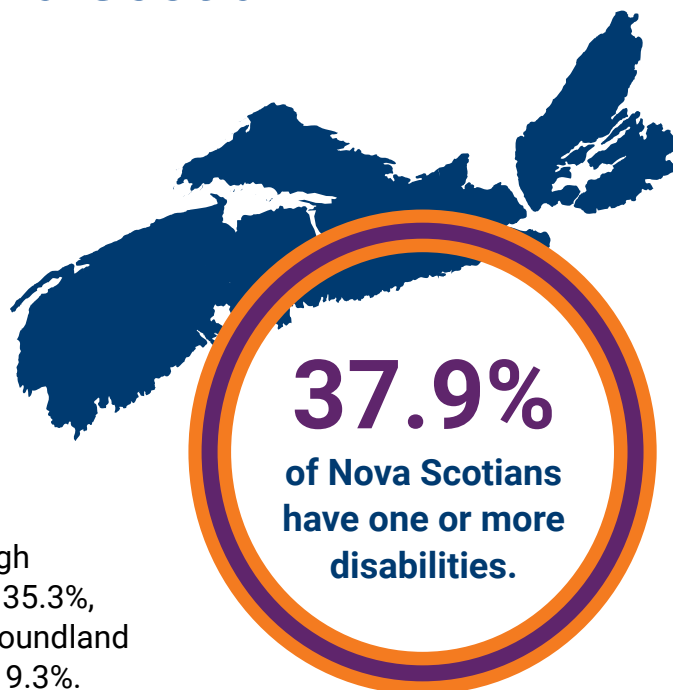
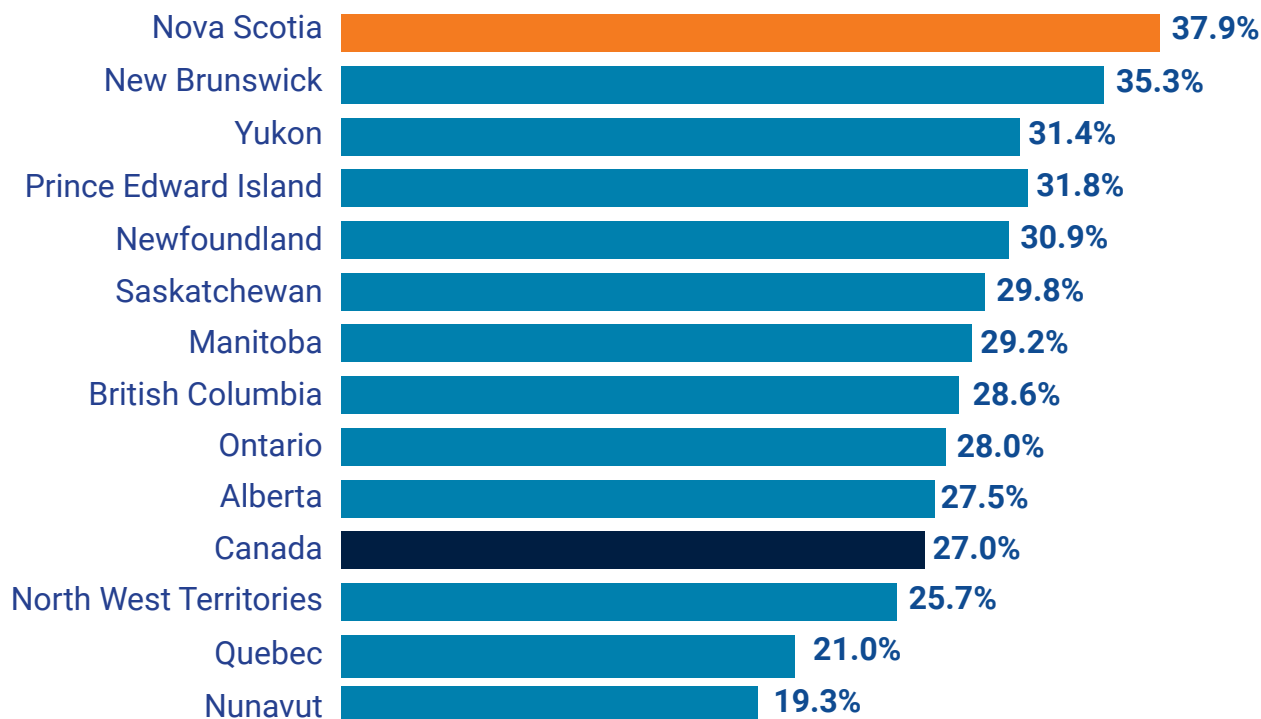


Figure 1: Prevalence of disability in Canada, provinces and territories (%), CSD 2022



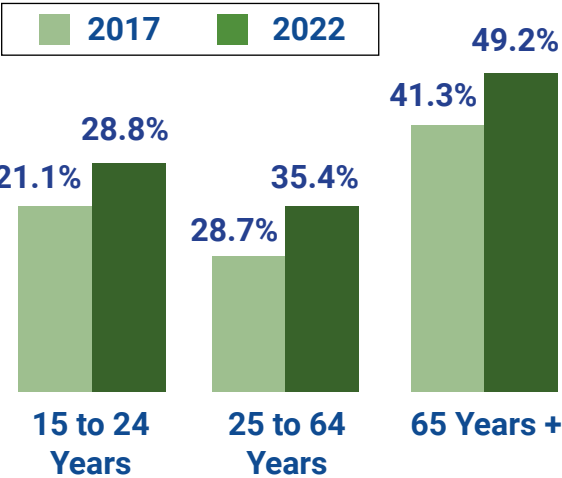
Disability Rate and Age

49.2% of Nova Scotians aged 65 and older report having one or more disabilities.

Disability increases with age. This is an increase of 7.9 % from 2017.

In 2022, 35.4% of Nova Scotians 25 to 64 years of age, and 28.8% of youth (15 to 24 years) reported having one or more disabilities, compared to 28.7% and 21.1 % respectively in 2017.

Figure 2: Prevalence of disability by age (%), all Nova Scotians, CSD 2022, 2017



Disability and Gender¹

More women than men in Nova Scotia, 15 years of age and older, have disabilities.

Among all Nova Scotians, the disability rate for women is 41.8%, compared to men at 33.8%. In 2017, the disability rate was 32.4% for women and 28.1% for men.

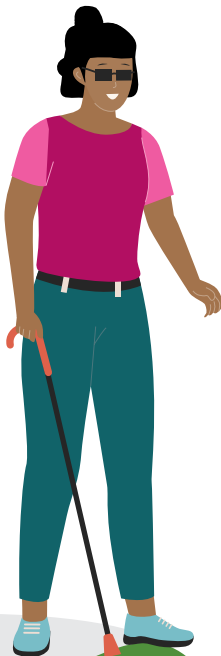
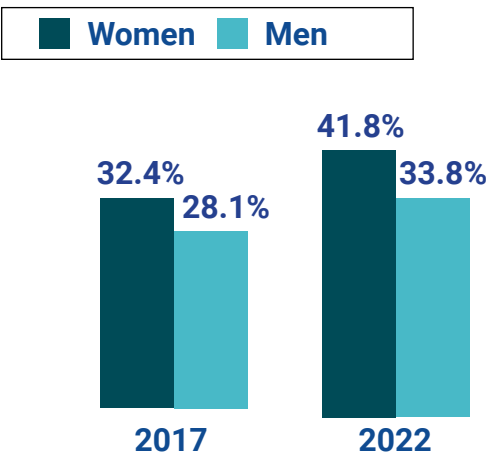


Figure 3: Prevalence of disability by gender (%), all Nova Scotians, CSD 2022, 2017

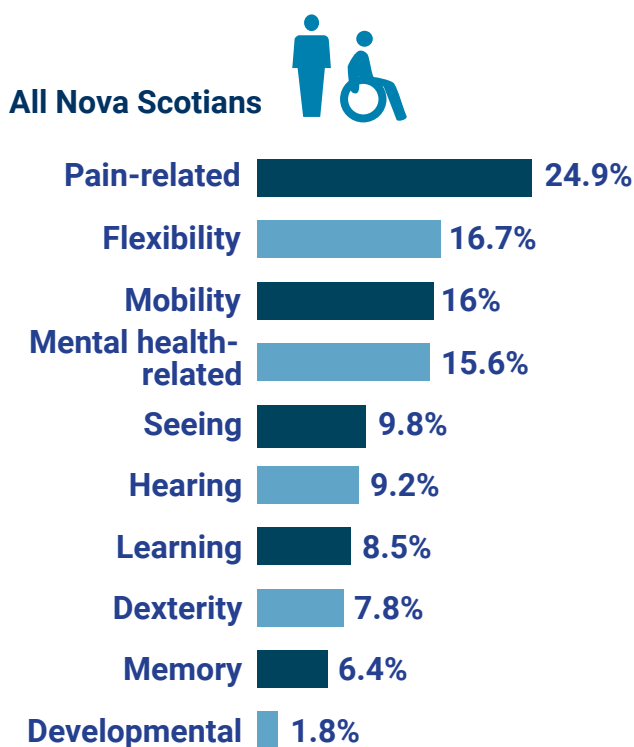


¹The CSD data is only available for women and men gender categories at this time and does not include data on diverse genders.

Disability Rate and Type of Disability

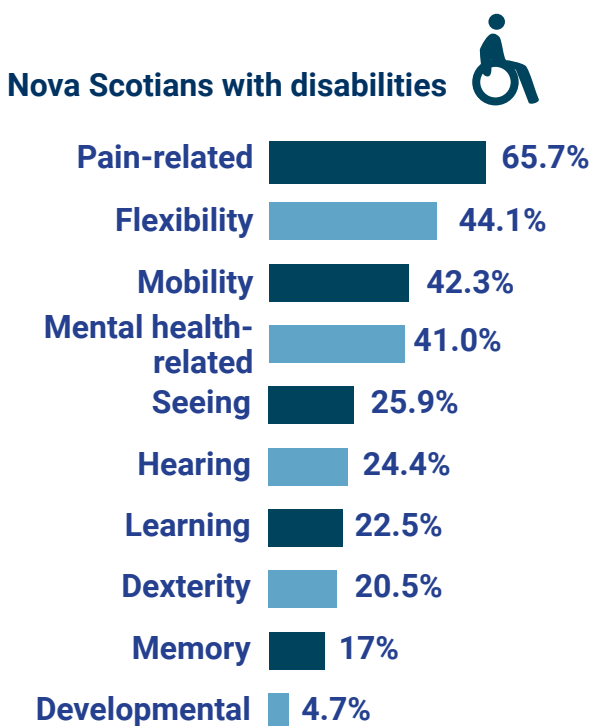
Among all Nova Scotians, age 15 years and older, pain-related disabilities are the most common type of disability in Nova Scotia (24.9%), followed by flexibility (16.7%), mobility (16.0%) and mental health-related (15.6%) disabilities. The prevalence of other types of disabilities is as follows: seeing (9.8%), hearing (9.2%), learning (8.5%), dexterity (7.8%), memory (6.4%), and developmental (1.8%) disabilities.

Figure 4: Prevalence of Disability by type (%), all Nova Scotians, CSD 2022



Among Nova Scotians with disabilities, age 15 years and older, 65.7% report a pain-related disability, followed by flexibility (44.1%), mobility (42.3%), and mental health-related (41.0%) disabilities. Other reported types of disabilities include seeing (25.9%), hearing (24.4%), learning (22.5%), dexterity (20.5%), memory (17.0%), and developmental (4.7%).²

Figure 5: Prevalence of disability by type (%), Nova Scotians with disabilities, CSD 2022

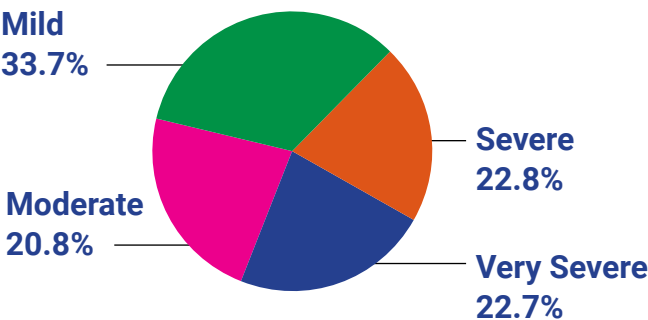


² Respondents could report multiple types of disabilities.

Severity of Disability

Almost half of Nova Scotians with disabilities report their disability as severe or very severe, at 22.8% and 22.7% respectively. About a third (33.7%) report their disability as mild and 20.8% report their disability as moderate.

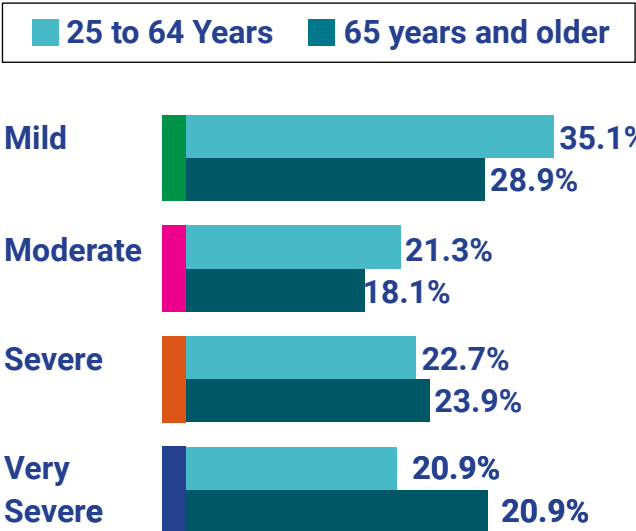
Figure 6: Severity of disability (%), Nova Scotians with disability, CSD 2022



Severity of Disability and Age

Severity of disability increases with age. The majority of Nova Scotians with disability aged 25-64 years report having a mild to moderate disability (56.4% combined), whereas the majority of Nova Scotians aged 65 years and older report having a severe to very severe disability (43.6%).

Figure 7: Severity of disability by age (%), Nova Scotians with disability, CSD 2022



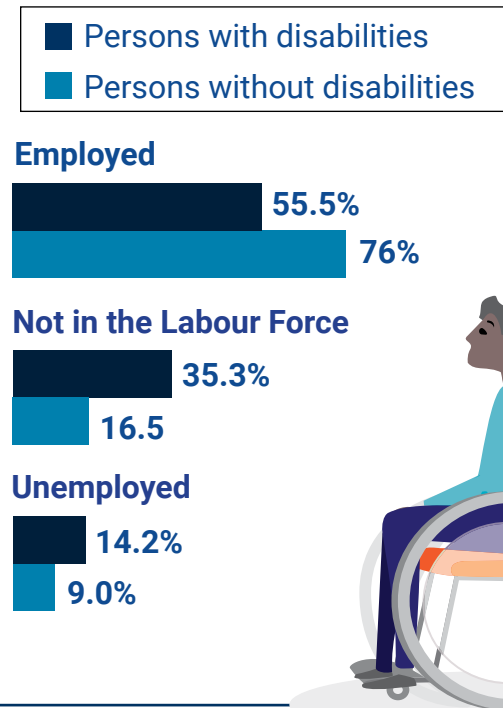
Labour Force Participation

Nova Scotians with disabilities have a lower rate of employment compared to those without a disability. In 2022, 55.5% of people aged 25-64 years with disabilities were employed, compared to 76.0% of people without disabilities.

The unemployment rate (those looking for work and are not employed) of Nova Scotians with disabilities is slightly higher than those without disabilities (14.2% compared to 9.0%).

Another statistic related to labour force participation is the percentage of people who are not in the labour force: people not employed and not actively seeking employment. 35.3% of Nova Scotians with disabilities are not in the labour force, compared to 16.5% of Nova Scotians without disabilities.

Figure 8: Labour force participation (%), Nova Scotians with and without disabilities, CSD 2022



Income

Overall, people with disabilities have lower incomes than people without disabilities. The median annual after-tax income for persons with disabilities aged 25-64 years is \$34,910, compared to \$42,000 for those without disabilities.

Income levels change depending on the severity of disability. People who have a mild disability earn slightly more (\$42,200) than the median annual after-tax income of people without disabilities (\$42,000).

Figure 9: Median annual after-tax income, Nova Scotians with and without disabilities, CSD 2022



People who have moderate disabilities earn \$36,810 in median annual after-tax income, about \$5,000 less than Nova Scotians without disabilities.

People who have severe disabilities earn \$30,060 in median annual after-tax income, about \$12,000 less than Nova Scotians without disabilities.

People who have very severe disabilities have a median annual after-tax income of about \$25,100, about \$17,000 less than Nova Scotians without disabilities.

This trend is consistent for men and women. Men without disabilities have a median annual after-tax income of about \$18,000 more than men with very severe disabilities.

Figure 10: Median annual after-tax income of people with and without disabilities by severity of disability, Nova Scotians, CSD 2022

Persons without disabilities

\$42,000

Mild disabilities

\$42,200

Moderate disabilities

\$36,810

Severe disabilities

\$30,060

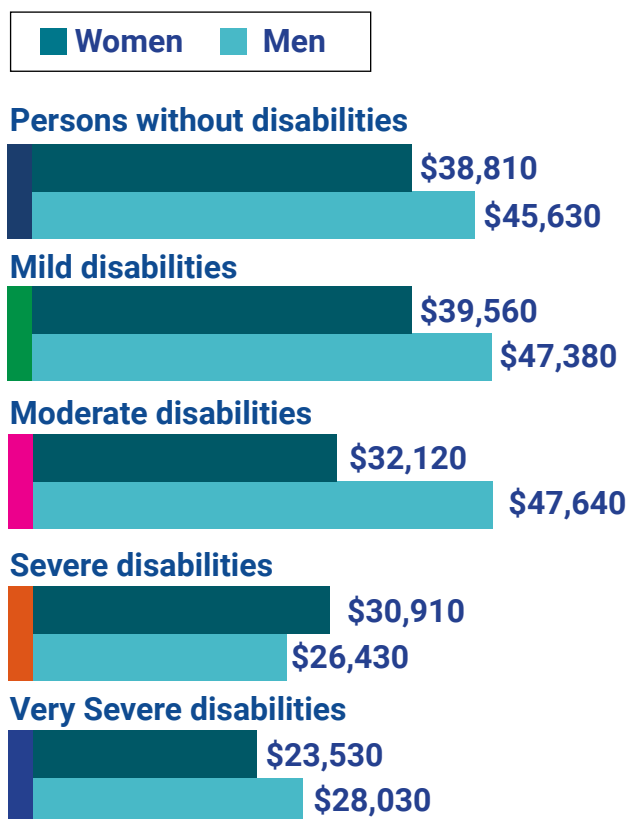
Very Severe disabilities

\$25,100

Women without disabilities have a median annual income of about \$15,000 more than women with very severe disabilities.

A comparison of income levels between men and women with disabilities shows that, overall, women earn less than men: \$33,500 compared with \$37,370 respectively. This is consistent across mild, moderate and very severe categories of severity of disability, and largest for those with moderate disabilities where women have a median annual income of about \$15,000 less than men. However, women with severe disability earn more than men: \$30,910 compared to \$26,430 for men.

Figure 11: Median annual income for Nova Scotian women and men with disabilities by severity of disability, CSD 20223



³The CSD data is only available for women and men gender categories at this time and does not include data on diverse genders.

Accessibility Barriers

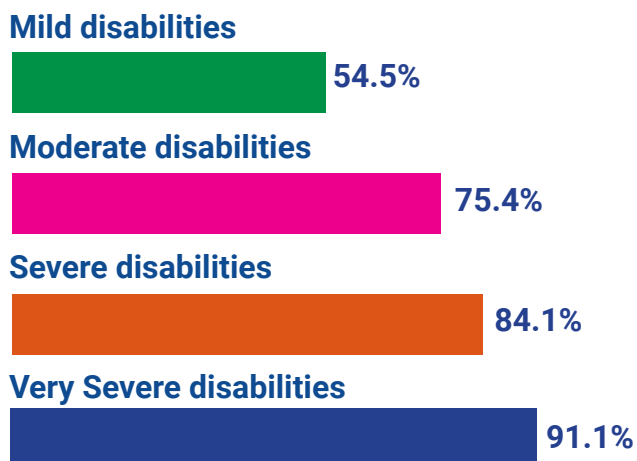
Almost three quarters (73.9%) of Nova Scotians with disabilities experience accessibility barriers.

The percentage increases with severity of disability. 91.1% of Nova Scotians who have very severe disabilities reported experiencing barriers, compared to 54.5% of Nova Scotians with mild disabilities.



73.9% of people with disabilities in Nova Scotia experience accessibility barriers.

Figure 12: Accessibility barriers experienced by Nova Scotians with disabilities (%) by severity of disability, CSD 2022

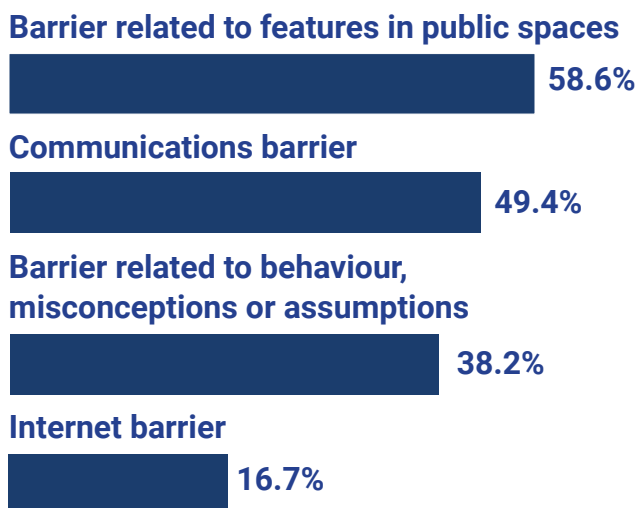


Types of Barriers

Nova Scotians with disabilities 15 years and older report experiencing barriers to accessing the built environment (58.6%), followed by barriers to communication (49.4%), barrier related to behaviour, misconceptions or assumptions (38.2%), and barriers using the internet (16.7%).⁴

⁴ Respondents could report multiple types of disabilities, so percentages do not sum to 100%

Figure 13: Types of barriers experienced by Nova Scotians with disabilities (%), CSD 2022







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