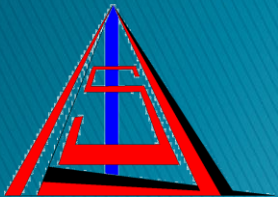


APPROACHES USED TO MEASURE DISABILITY

JAMAICAN EXPERIENCE

*UN Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement and
Statistics in Support of 2030 Agenda*

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Introduction

- ❑ The main source for disability statistics in Jamaica is the Population Census.
- ❑ The latest data are available in Volume 3 of the 2011 Census Report
- ❑ Some information on disability is also captured in the annual Survey of Living Conditions

Census Approach

- ❑ The 1991 Census was the first census that tried to capture data on disability in Jamaica.
- ❑ The “disability” approach, rather than the “impairment” or “handicap” approach was used.
- ❑ A screening question was asked to identify persons with a disability which limits their activities and a list of specific types were listed for scoring the answer.

Census– 1991

Questions :

1. *“Do you suffer from any long–standing illness or disability or infirmity?”*

If yes,

2. *“Does this limit your activities compared with people of the same age?”*

If yes,

3. *“What type of disability or impairment do you have?”*

□ A list of possible disabilities was given.

2001 Census

- ❑ In 2001, the question on illness and disability was separated – pre-testing confirmed that responses to the question in many instances focused on the illnesses.
- ❑ A weakness of the 1991 and 2001 Census results was that the count on disabilities could have included information on persons suffering from “long-standing illnesses”, and not necessarily disabilities.

Census 2011

- ❑ In the 2011 census, Jamaica was guided by the recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics
- ❑ The activities identified were:
 - seeing
 - hearing
 - walking or climbing stairs
 - remembering and concentrating
 - self-care
 - lifting
 - reaching and carrying
 - communicating.

Census 2011

- ❑ The levels of difficulty scored were:
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - much difficulty
 - cannot do it at all

- ❑ Questions were asked of all persons 5 years old and older

- ❑ Three pre-tests were conducted for census 2011.

Results of Pre-test 1

- ❑ [disability questions.docx](#)
- ❑ The concept of “disability” was not clearly defined– persons had their own interpretation
- ❑ Persons who had been disabled from a very young age do not (or tend not to) know the age at which the disability began
- ❑ Respondents unable to assess difficulty with the use of aids(such as glasses) as they had never tried using these aids

Results of Pre-test 2

- ❑ [disability questions.docx](#)
- ❑ The interviewers found it challenging, in cases where respondents reported more than one condition, to decide for which condition the 'Age' should be scored.
- ❑ *Cause of Condition* –In cases where respondents experienced more than one condition that causes difficulty, the interviewers faced challenges determining for which condition the cause should be scored.

Census 2011

**1.7 Do you/does ... experience difficulty doing any of the following:
(Read the categories and insert a code for each that applies)**

	Level of difficulty (Code)	Aid Code	Medication Code
Seeing			
Hearing			
Walking or climbing stairs			
Remembering & concentrating			
Self care			
Lifting, Reaching & Carrying			
Communicating			
<i>Codes for Levels of Difficulty: No difficulty - 0, Some difficulty - 1, Much difficulty - 2, Cannot do it at all - 3, Not Stated - 9</i>			
<i>Codes for Uses Aid or Medication: Yes - 1, No - 2, Not Stated - 9</i>			

Findings of the Census 2011

- ❑ The 2011 Census Disability Indicators report did not attempt to identify a disabled population due to recognized deficiencies in the data collection process.
- ❑ The findings related specifically to the questions as asked, referring to the levels of difficulty associated with the activity areas recognized.
- ❑ Data are only released at the parish level due to confidentiality considerations

Findings of the Census 2011

- ❑ The findings were presented in relation to two separate age groups, the 5–14 years and the 15 years and over
- ❑ The analysis of the difficulties experienced by the 5–14 years age group was confined to the activities of seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs and communicating
- ❑ The activities related to the adults in addition to the above included lifting, reaching and carrying, remembering and concentrating and self-care.

Findings of the Census 2011

- ❑ Excluded were persons enumerated in correctional and mental institutions, homes for children the elderly, infirm and needy, homes for the handicapped, homes providing specialized care, hospices and hospitals for chronic ailments
- ❑ Persons may be counted several times depending on the number of areas in which he/she experienced difficulties

Findings of the Census, 2011

- Levels of difficulty were classified as mild and severe.
 - Mild represents the "some difficulty" responses
 - Severe represents "much difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" responses

Limitations of the Census

- ❑ The census is limited to basic socio-economic and demographic statistics so the range and depth of the interviews on the special situation of the disabled are limited.
- ❑ Given the training requirements for a census, interviewers may be limited in the amount of training received on the subject of disability

Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC)

- ❑ Questions relating to disability are included in the annual JSLC
- ❑ The sample size of the JSLC is approximately 2,700 dwellings
- ❑ The number of responses to the disability question is too low to arrive at any meaningful conclusion on the disabled population
- ❑ The questions present some of the difficulties found in developing the census questionnaire

Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC)

Questions:

1. *“Do you/ doeshave a disability?”*
If yes,
2. *“Does the disability limit your activities compared with people of the same age?”*
▶ *If yes,*
3. *“What type of disability or impairment do you have?”*

Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC)

- ❑ List of disability or impairment
 - Sight only
 - Hearing only
 - Speech only
 - Physical disability
 - Learning disability
 - Intellectual disability
 - Multiple disability
 - Other (specify)
 - Not stated
- ❑ Data are only released at the national level given the sample size

Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC)

TABLE 3.5

DISTRIBUTION OF DISABILITIES, 2008- 2013

Type of Disability	2008 (n=708)	2009 (n=183)	2010 (n=189)	2012 (n=752)	2013 (n=275)
Physical Disability	22.1	21.9	22.4	29.5	31.7
Sight Only	34.1	26.4	20.7	22.5	19.8
Intellectual Disability	11.8	13.6	15.8	17.5	17.2
Multiple Disability	7.7	8.7	14.3	6.9	7.9
Hearing Only	11.8	10.2	9.1	6.5	4.9
Slowness of Learning	5.8	11.0	6.1	6.9	11.6
Speech Only	2.4	3.3	4.6	4.6	3.3
Other	4.3	5.0	7.0	5.6	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Source: Compiled by the PIOJ from data supplied by STATIN, 2008-2013					

Conclusion

- ❑ Given the needs of stakeholders, STATIN will have to explore the use of administrative sources
- ❑ This could allow for more in-depth analysis especially with regards to intellectual disability.