Disability Statistics: Canadian Experience

UN Headquarters, New York

12-14 July, 2017
Over 30 years of collecting survey data on disability in Canada

Drivers:
- Special Parliamentary Committee on the Disabled and Handicapped (Obstacles Report, 1981)
- Commitments to reporting under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Legislative requirements under the Employment Equity Act

Surveys:
- Post-censal surveys:
  - Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS), 2001, 2006
- Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), 2012, 2017
Disability: An Evolving Concept

| Medical Model               | • Health and Activity Limitation Survey |
| Hybrid                     | • Participation and Activity Limitation Survey |
| Social Model               | • Canadian Survey on Disability |
Different Concepts, Different Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical model</th>
<th>Social model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Disability is a diagnosed condition, functional health issue resulting in a damaged body.</td>
<td>• Disability is a limitation of daily activities impacting one’s participation and inclusion in society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not recognize the role of the person’s environment</td>
<td>• Recognizes the role of environment and social factors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three Different Measures: Health Status, Functional Health, Disability

- The Health Utilities Index Mark 3 (HUI3)
- Washington Group set of questions
- Disability Screening Questions (DSQ)
**What are the Disability Screening Questions (DSQ)?**

With the New Disability Data Strategy (2010), better efforts to identify persons with disabilities led to the creation of DSQ.

Two-step approach:

1) 6 filter questions asked to all respondents to first identify if they are likely to have a disability;

2) Up to 30 screener questions asked to persons identified in step 1 to see if they have a disability as well as the type and severity

Identifies 10 disability types + other

DSQ used on post-censal and other social surveys
Use of DSQ Filters for Post-Censal Survey

**Step 1: Filter Questions on Census**

### Activities of Daily Living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) difficulty seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses)?</th>
<th>b) difficulty hearing (even when using a hearing aid)?</th>
<th>c) difficulty walking, using stairs, using his/her hands or fingers or doing other physical activities?</th>
<th>d) difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating?</th>
<th>e) emotional, psychological or mental health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, anorexia, etc.)?</th>
<th>f) other health problem or long-term condition that has lasted or is expected to last for six months or more? (Exclude: any health problems previously reported above.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Does this person have any:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Often</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Always</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>Always</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

For those who meet the criteria in Step 1, proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2: Screeners**

- **If has a disability – Type & Severity**
- **Eligible for CSD Sample**
- **Screened in/Identifies persons likely to have disability**
- **Sometimes, Often, or Always**
2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)

- Jointly developed with policy partner: Employment and Social Development Canada
- Sample: 50,000 persons
- Eligible population: adults aged 15 or older who live in private dwellings in one of the ten provinces or three territories, and who report a disability in the DSQ (1st module of the CSD).
- Collection modes: Electronic questionnaire and telephone interview
- New content in 2017
- Milestones
  - Collection – March 2017- August 2017
  - Processing and validation – fall 2017-summer 2018
  - Dissemination – late 2018
2017 CSD content: Disability-Related information

- Identify type (s) of disability (s)
- Determine severity of disability (s)
- Age of onset
- Age of limitation
- Episodic disability
- Main medical conditions creating the limitation and cause of condition
# 2017 CSD contents: Major themes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aids and Assistive Devices</th>
<th>Labour Force Activities</th>
<th>Education &amp; Education Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Use</td>
<td>• Employment status</td>
<td>• School attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Types of devices</td>
<td>• Workplace experience</td>
<td>• Attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reason of need but not have</td>
<td>• Discrimination</td>
<td>• Special needs for schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports/Therapy/Medication</td>
<td>Health and Well-being</td>
<td>• Experience in education environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use</td>
<td>• Self-rated general health &amp; mental health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Therapies/services required but not received</td>
<td>• Life satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Help received</td>
<td>• Housebound</td>
<td>• Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Access to internet, government services</td>
<td>• Income sources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dissemination – Products from 2012 CSD

- Analytical papers
- Short Fact sheets
- Data tables
- Infographic
- Metadata

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/health/disability
More Timely Data from other Social Surveys by Incorporating the DSQ

- General Social Survey (GSS)
  - 2014 Victimization
  - 2015 Time Use
  - 2016 Canadians at Work and Home
  - 2017 Family
- Canadian Income Survey (CIS), from 2013
- Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA)
- Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) 2017
DSQ on Social Surveys

- To allow DSQ to be added to other social surveys, shorter version was created that collapsed certain disability types.

- This version takes on average two minutes to administer. Not all questions are asked to everyone.

- Filters are asked to save interviewer time and skip screeners that do not apply to the person.

- 10 disability types collapsed into 5 categories.
Similar Disability Rates by Type Across Social Surveys Using DSQ
Moving Forward – Survey and Administrative Data on Disability

Survey Data
- Canadian Survey on Disability
- Longitudinal and International Study of Adults
- General Social Survey
- Canadian Income Survey

Collecting Information on Disability

Administrative Data
- Canada Pension Plan Disability
- Registered Disability Savings Program
- Opportunities Fund
- Canada Student Loan Program
Challenges and Next Steps

Need for a multi-faceted, multi-sourced approach to data development
- Potential of data linkage, e.g., survey data to be linked to administrative data

Data gaps:
- Small area data
- Up to date information on disability among children and youth
- Need for longitudinal data to understand episodic nature of disability, impact of accommodation on participation in work and society
- No time series between past post-censal surveys and 2017 CSD due to changes in operational definition of disability and survey methodology.
- Coverage of institutional population and on-reserve Indigenous population.

Challenges in concept and measurements, survey design, need multi-modes for respondents who have various types of disabilities (response burden)
Questions/Comments/Further information

2017 CSD at Statistics Canada website:
http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/survey/household/3251

Statistics Canada Client Services:
Email: sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca
Revision to Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics

- Establish comparable definition and measurement for international studies
  - Studies to use existing measures in different countries and in different types of survey (e.g., health-focused survey vs general population survey) to establish robustness of measures.
- Share best practices of ‘newer’ survey design, including mode of collection (e.g., Electronic questionnaire, etc.)
- Update on emerging issues for content
- Further develop guidelines & principles of using administrative data for statistical purposes
- Identify issues and share best practices on data linkage approach to data development
Addendum
Example DSQ used for 2017 CSD

Learning Screeners

S19. Do you think you have a condition that makes it difficult in general for you to learn? This may include learning disabilities such as dyslexia, hyperactivity, attention problems, as well as other conditions.
  • Yes, No

S20. Has a teacher, doctor or other health care professional ever said that you had a learning disability?
  • Yes, No => If No to S19 and S20, Go to Developmental screeners

S21. How often are your daily activities limited by this condition?
  • Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Always => If Never, Go to Developmental screeners

S22. How much difficulty do you have with your daily activities because of this condition?
  • No difficulty
  • Some (difficulty)
  • A lot (of difficulty)
  • You cannot do most activities

For more information on the DSQ please visit: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2016003-eng.htmà