



In 1991, information on long-term health conditions, that is those that lasted for more than six months, was collected from only those persons who thereby were limited or prevented in their participation in any of the activities of daily life. These activities included working, going to school, home duties, taking care of personal needs such as bathing or eating, and being confined to a wheelchair. The 2000 round of the Census captured the long-term health conditions of all persons irrespective of whether any limitation in daily life activities was attached. This provides the first comprehensive benchmark on the state of health of Bermuda's people.

In 2000, the five most commonly reported conditions affecting Bermuda's population were: high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, arthritis and heart condition. (See Table 1.) With the exception of heart condition, women reported a higher incidence in these five conditions. It is noteworthy that the greatest sex differential in the incidence of these conditions was found in the case of hypertension, where the percentage of women reporting was twice as high as that for males.

Data collected for the first time in a Bermuda census on health insurance coverage revealed that 95% of the population was covered by some type of health insurance policy. The majority (86%) was covered by major medical while 9% had basic coverage. Fifty-seven percent of uninsured persons were males.

TABLE 1
HEALTH CONDITIONS BY SEX, 2000

Health Condition	Number of Persons Reporting a Health Condition			Persons Reporting a Health Condition Expressed as a Percentage of Total		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	11,102 ¹	4,916 ¹	6,186 ¹	100	44	56
High Blood Pressure or Hypertension	2,633	895	1,738	24	8	16
Asthma	2,246	985	1,261	20	9	11
Diabetes	1,743	775	968	16	7	9
Arthritis or Rheumatism	1,466	419	1,047	13	4	9
Heart Condition	1,173	639	534	11	6	5
Back/Spine Problem	1,125	464	661	10	4	6
Seeing Difficulty/Blindness	706	308	398	6	3	4
Mobility Difficulties	533	223	310	5	2	3
Hearing Difficulty/Deafness	509	245	264	5	2	2
Cancer	473	208	265	4	2	2
Stomach, Kidney or Liver Problem	424	198	226	4	2	2
Mental/Emotional Disorder	410	193	217	4	2	2
No/Limited Use or Absence of Legs	314	182	132	3	2	1
Body Movement Difficulties	313	142	171	3	1	2
Learning/Concentration Difficulty	294	168	126	3	2	1
Other Respiratory or Lung Problem	228	95	133	2	1	1
Speaking Difficulty	173	104	69	2	1	1
Gripping/Holding Difficulty	163	83	80	1	1	1
Epilepsy	154	81	73	1	1	1
Muscular Disease/Impairment	155	58	97	1	1	1
No/Limited Use or Absence of Arms	115	62	53	1	1	**
Senility/Alzheimer's	111	30	81	1	**	1
Behavioural Difficulties	69	45	24	1	**	**
Mental Retardation	65	32	33	1	**	**
Other Conditions	1,315	531	784	12	5	7
Not stated	138	71	67	1	1	1

¹ The total number of persons reporting does not equal the total number of conditions reported because respondents were invited to report multiple responses.
** Less than 1%

Disabled Population

In 2000, there were 2,832 persons in the civilian non-institutional population suffering from a long-term condition that affected some aspect of their daily lives. (See Table 2.) Although this was fewer than the number of disabled persons in 1991, the proportion of the total population with disabilities remained constant at 5%. Blacks were represented in the disabled population to a greater extent than their numbers in the overall population would imply. They accounted for 60% of the disabled population, as opposed to 55% of the total population. Whites, on the other hand, constituted 30% of the disabled population, compared with 34% of the wider population.

The median age of the disabled population had declined from 55 to 53 years in 2000. This is attributable to a 14% fall in the number of disabled elders. This may be an indication of an improvement in the general

TABLE 2
DISABLED POPULATION BY RACE AND SEX, 2000 AND 1991

Race	Sex						Percentage Change 1991-2000		
	2000			1991			Total	Male	Female
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female			
Total	2,832	1,265	1,567	2,984	1,361	1,623	-5%	-7%	-3%
Black	1,696	771	925	1,852	848	1,004	-8%	-9%	-8%
White	862	382	480	975	447	528	-12%	-15%	-9%
Mixed & Other ¹	252	101	151	151	63	88	+67%	+60%	+72%
Not Stated	22	11	11	6	3	3			
Percentage Distribution									
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100			
Black	60	61	59	62	62	62			
White	30	30	31	33	33	33			
Mixed & Other ¹	9	8	10	5	5	5			
Not Stated	1	1	1	**	**	**			

¹ Includes Asian and other races.

** Less than 1%

health of persons in this age category. The decline was partially offset by the rise in the numbers of two age groups of the disabled, the under 20 and those between the ages of 40 and 64, which grew in number by 8% and 4%, respectively. (See Table 3.)

TABLE 3
DISABLED POPULATION BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS AND SEX, 2000 AND 1991

Age Group	Sex						Percentage Change 1991-2000		
	2000			1991			Total	Male	Female
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female			
Total	2,832	1,265	1,567	2,984	1,361	1,623	-5%	-7%	-3%
0 to 19	297	162	135	276	140	136	+8%	+16%	-1%
20 to 39	474	224	250	511	278	233	-7%	-19%	+7%
40 to 64	1,021	479	542	981	466	515	+4%	+3%	+5%
65 and over	1,040	400	640	1,216	477	739	-14%	-16%	-13%
Percentage Distribution									
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100			
0 to 19	10	13	9	9	10	8			
20 to 39	17	18	16	17	20	14			
40 to 64	36	38	35	33	34	32			
65 and over	37	32	41	41	35	46			

Disabling Health Conditions

The most frequently reported disabling conditions affecting Bermuda's residents were arthritis, spine problems and respiratory illnesses. These conditions have replaced heart condition and high blood pressure, which were most common in 1991 along with arthritis. Forty-one percent of those reporting back or spine problems were between the ages of 35 and 54. Of the 469 persons with respiratory problems, those between the ages of 5 and 14 accounted for 109 or 23%, which was a rise of six percentage points since 1991. The frequency of stomach, kidney or liver ailments, back or spine problems and respiratory problems jumped by at least 80% in each case, and surpassed by far the relative changes in the occurrence of any other disabling conditions. (See Table 4.)

TABLE 4
PERSONS WITH DISABLING HEALTH CONDITIONS BY SEX, 2000 AND 1991

Health Condition	Sex						Percentage Change 1991-2000
	2000			1991			
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total	2,832 ¹	1,265 ¹	1,567 ¹	2,984 ¹	1,361 ¹	1,623 ¹	-5%
Arthritis or Rheumatism	524	149	375	590	197	393	-11%
Back/Spine Problem	498	208	290	276	120	156	+80%
Asthma/Respiratory or Lung Problem	469	173	296	253	118	135	+85%
High Blood Pressure or Hypertension	463	153	310	398	140	258	+16%
Heart Condition	443	220	223	473	238	235	-6%
Diabetes	360	163	197	360	155	205	0%
No/Limited Use or Absence of Legs	239	133	106	324	164	160	-26%
Seeing Difficulty/Blindness	238	95	143	295	116	179	-19%
Mental/Emotional Disorder	186	100	86	156	94	62	+19%
Stomach, Kidney or Liver Problem	184	92	92	98	45	53	+88%
Hearing Difficulty/Deafness	164	77	87	206	89	117	-20%
Cancer	157	67	90	106	40	66	+48%
Speaking Difficulty	102	55	47	64	48	16	+59%
Senility/Alzheimer's	99	29	70	85	33	52	+16%
Muscular Disease/Impairment	97	36	61	82	41	41	+18%
No/Limited Use or Absence of Arms	86	45	41	112	62	50	-23%
Mental Retardation	55	26	29	69	29	40	-20%
Mobility Difficulties	417	171	246	..	..	..	..
Body Movement Difficulties	223	100	123	..	..	..	..
Learning/Concentration Difficulty	161	90	71	..	..	..	..
Gripping/Holding Difficulty	130	65	65	..	..	..	..
Epilepsy	54	27	27	..	..	..	..
Behavioural Difficulties	39	26	13	..	..	..	..
Other Conditions	490	210	280	436	204	232	+12%
Not stated	6	1	5	36	16	20	

¹ The number of disabling conditions does not equal the total number of disabled persons because respondents were invited to report multiple responses.
.. Not asked in 1991.

Effect of Disabilities

Most disabled persons were restrained in the kind or amount of activities they could do at home or school. Eighty percent reported such limitations and 47% were prevented from working at a job. (See Table 5.) At both census dates, women had a higher representation for these conditions than males. By the end of the nineties, the number of persons who were prevented from taking care of their personal needs had increased by 40% and more persons were unable to leave home alone in 2000 than in 1991. The number of persons who were prevented from working at a job had declined by 6%.

TABLE 5
IMPACT OF DISABILITY BY SEX, 2000 AND 1991

Impact of Disability	Sex						Percentage Change 1991-2000
	2000			1991			
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Limited activities at home or school	2,262	982	1,280	1,917	840	1,077	+18%
Prevented from leaving home alone	847	277	570	635	226	409	+33%
Prevented from taking care of personal needs	551	207	344	393	148	245	+40%
Confined to a wheelchair	193	67	126	15 ¹	53	98	+28%
Prevented from working at a job	1,339	581	758	1,423 ¹	604 ¹	819 ¹	-6%
Limited kind or amount of work	793	372	421	796 ¹	416 ¹	380 ¹	0%
Limited in some other way	663	300	363	..	..	..	..
Percentage Distribution²							
Limited activities at home or school	80	78	82	64	62	66	
Prevented from leaving home alone	30	22	36	21	17	25	
Prevented from taking care of personal needs	19	16	22	13	11	15	
Confined to a wheelchair	7	5	8	5	4	6	
Prevented from working at a job	47	46	48	48	44	50	
Limited kind or amount of work	28	29	27	27	31	23	
Limited in some other way	23	24	23	..	..	..

¹ These numbers had to be adjusted to be comparable with the 2000 analysis.

² Number of persons with a specific activity limitation expressed as a percentage of all persons with disabilities within each gender group.

.. Not asked in 1991.

Hired Care

Twenty-two percent of the disabled population received hired care for their health conditions. More than half of these persons (55%) hired health professionals from the private sector only while 34% used public services solely. (See Table 6.) More than half of those who received hired care were seniors and they selected private practitioners 59% of the time.

TABLE 6
DISABLED POPULATION BY TYPE OF HIRED CARE AND SELECTED AGE GROUPS, 2000

Age Group	Type of Hired Care			
	Total	Private	Public	Both
Total	609	337	209	63
0 to 14	45	22	13	10
15 to 24	27	16	9	2
25 to 44	93	49	36	8
45 to 64	104	49	45	10
65+	340	201	106	33
Percentage Distribution				
Total	100	55	34	10
0 to 14	100	49	29	22
15 to 24	100	59	33	7
25 to 44	100	53	39	9
45 to 64	100	47	43	10
65+	100	59	31	10

Health Insurance Coverage of the Disabled Population

Eighty-nine percent of the Island's disabled population, who did not reside in institutions, had some type of medical insurance. Most of the disabled population (62%) had major medical while 27% had basic coverage; however, there were variations by age. The population under 25 years was most likely to have major medical, while the elderly were least likely. Nearly half of these seniors had basic coverage. Of the 284 disabled persons without health insurance, 61% were 45 years or older. (See Table 7.)

TABLE 7
DISABLED POPULATION BY TYPE OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, 2000

Age Group	Type of Coverage				
	Total	Major Medical	Basic	None	Not Stated
Total	2,832	1,763	770	284	15
0 to 14	219	202	5	10	2
15 to 24	151	125	12	13	1
25 to 44	620	441	87	89	3
45 to 64	802	535	164	99	4
65+	1,040	460	502	73	5
Percentage Distribution					
Total	100	62	27	10	1
0 to 14	100	92	2	5	1
15 to 24	100	83	8	9	1
25 to 44	100	71	14	14	**
45 to 64	100	67	20	12	**
65+	100	44	48	7	**

** Less than 1%