

## Background Information

In recognition of the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006, the Department of Statistics in collaboration with the National Office for Seniors and the Physically Challenged produced this snapshot on the state of the Bermuda population with disabilities.

The objective of this fact sheet is to heighten the public's awareness of the socio-economic profile of the population with disabilities.

## Defining Disability

According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census, a disability is a long-term health condition that has lasted for more than 6 months and affects a person's activity of daily living.

The information provided below is based on the respondents self-reporting these disabling health conditions.

## Scope of Fact Sheet

The data is based on the 2000 census of people with disabilities who do not reside in institutions.

Where possible, comparisons are made between the disabled population under 16, 16-64 and 65 years and over. These three age categories were selected to provide a broad overview of children, the working population and seniors with disabilities.

## Disabling Health Conditions Vary by Age

The most frequently reported disabling health conditions affecting Bermuda's residents were arthritis, back/spine problem and respiratory illness.

An analysis by the broad age groups, shows the leading health conditions for the disabled population as follows:

- 56% of the children experienced respiratory problems,
- 23% of the working population reported back/spine problems, and
- 33% of seniors stated arthritis

**Table 1**

**Number of Persons Reporting a Disabling Health Condition by selected age groups, 2000**

Condition	Age group			
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Under 16	16 - 64	65 +
<b>Total</b>	2,832	239	1,553	1,040
Arthritis or Rheumatism	524	*	175	347
Back/ Spine Problem	498	6	358	134
Other Conditions	490	63	300	127
High Blood Pressure or Hypertension	463	*	194	267
Heart Condition	443	*	155	284
Mobility Difficulties	417	24	163	230
Asthma	372	126	185	61
Diabetes	360	*	159	201
No/Limited Use or Absence of Legs	239	7	131	101
Seeing Difficulty/ Blindness	238	13	87	138
Body Movement Difficulties	223	19	109	95
Mental/ Emotional Disorder	186	11	146	29
Stomach, Kidney or Liver Problem	184	6	104	74
Hearing Difficulty/ Deafness	164	14	48	102
Learning/ Concentration Difficulty	161	33	85	43
Cancer	157	0	65	92
Gripping/ Holding Difficulty	130	11	56	63
Speaking Difficulty	102	24	43	35
Senility/ Alzheimer's	99	0	*	97
Other Respiratory or Lung Problem	97	6	47	44
Muscular Disease/ Impairment	97	11	56	30
No/Limited Use or Absence of Arms	86	6	51	29
Mental Retardation	55	6	46	*
Epilepsy	54	9	36	9
Behavioural Difficulties	39	14	20	5
Not stated	6	0	6	0

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

<sup>1</sup> The number of disabling conditions does not equal the total number of disabled persons because respondents were invited to report multiple responses.

\*less than 5 respondents

## Limitation at Home or School Ranks Highest

The greatest impact of disabilities on the lives of disabled persons, was the limited activities at home or at school. Each age group reported at least three-quarters of the population with this limitation. (Table 2) The second highest reported impact was prevention from working at a job. Six out of 10 seniors listed this restriction compared to 5 out of 10 of the working population.

**Table 2**  
**Impact of disability by selected age groups, 2000 - Percentage distribution**

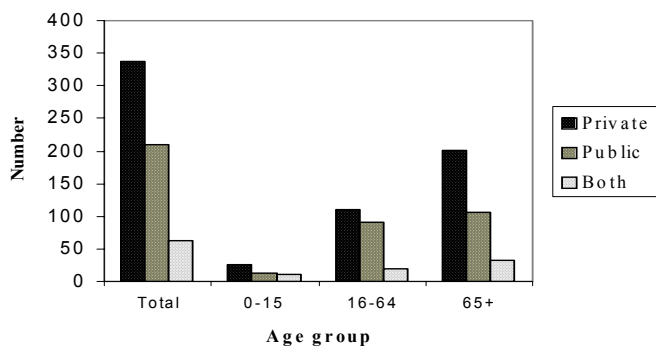
Impact of Disability	Total	Age group		
		Under 16	16 - 64	65+
Limited activities at home or school	80	85	75	87
Prevented from working at a job	47	-	45	62
Prevented from leaving home alone	30	30	17	49
Limited kind or amount of work	28	-	36	22
Limited in some other way	23	10	27	21
Prevented from care of personal needs	19	23	12	30
Confined to a wheelchair	7	6	4	12

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

**Private Hired Care Most Popular**

Regardless of age, the majority of disabled persons who required hired care utilized private services. Persons 65 years and older were more likely to use private services than any other age group (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
**Disabled population by type of hired care and selected age groups, 2000**



**Majority of Disabled Persons are Insured**

Eighty-nine percent of the island’s disabled population had some type of medical insurance. Most of the disabled population (62%) had major medical insurance, while 27% had basic coverage. The population under 16 were most likely to have major medical (92%) while the elderly were least likely (44%).

**Disabled Employees Earn Less than \$32,000 annually**

In 2000, there were 845 disabled persons aged 16-64 who were employed, and 59 persons who were looking for work. Of those persons with disabilities who were employed, the median annual income from their main job was \$30,637.

**Disabled Employees are primarily Blue Collar Workers**

The leading occupational groups of disabled persons were production, transport and related, service and clerical. Both genders held primarily traditional jobs. Men dominated production-related jobs, while women were concentrated in clerical positions.

**Table 3**

**Employed disabled population by occupational group and gender, 2000 - Percentage distribution**

Occupational group	Total	Gender	
		Male	Female
Total	100	100	100
Professional, Technical & Related	16	11	20
Administrative & Managerial	7	9	6
Clerical	20	7	30
Sales	9	7	10
Service	21	14	26
Agriculture & Fisheries	2	5	*
Production, Transport & Related	25	47	6
NA	*	1	*

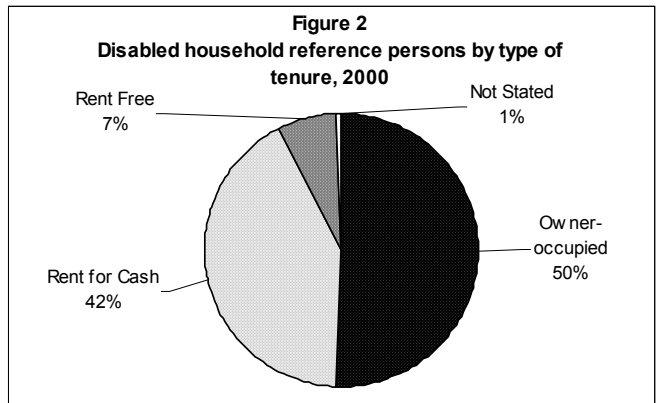
Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

\* Less than 1 percent

**Half of Disabled Householders are Homeowners**

The owner-occupancy rate for household reference persons with disabilities was 50% (Figure 2). Six out of 10 disabled seniors were owner occupiers, while 4 out of 10 of the working population with disabilities fell into this category.

**Figure 2**  
**Disabled household reference persons by type of tenure, 2000**



**Age Distribution**

In 2000, among 2,832 people with disabilities in Bermuda

- 8 percent were ages 0 – 15
- 55 percent were ages 16 – 64
- 37 percent were 65 years and older

**Gender**

- 55 percent were women
- 45 percent were men

With the exception of children under 16 years and senior citizens, the gender distribution by age of the disabled population is relatively similar. For children under 16, there were nearly three times more disabled boys than girls. In contrast, at the opposite end of the age spectrum, there were disproportionately more disabled women than men because of the greater longevity of women.

**Race**

In 2000, among people with disabilities in Bermuda

- 65 percent were black
- 35 percent were white