

#26 – Disability statistics – poverty and income inequalities

Short description

Type of object: Paper and Dataset

Source (organisation): Eurostat

Issues: The intersection of disability with poverty and social exclusion. The data on disability includes: prevalence of disability; barriers to social integration of disabled people, health problems of disabled people; access to education and training for disabled people; access to labour market for disabled labour; housing conditions of disabled people; income distribution and poverty among disabled people; material deprivation among disabled people; social participation of disabled people.

Time span: The length of the time series can vary depending on the indicator concerned (from 1994-2022)

Geographical coverage: European Union, all EU countries. In total 32 countries

Link: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Disability_statistics_-_poverty_and_income_inequalities&oldid=561947

The data on disability can be downloaded here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/data/database>

Note/Interpretations

The article presents data and figures on disabilities. It is part of a set of articles on disability and presents various aspects of the income, social and employment situation of people with a disability (activity limitations). Income is a key measure of the economic well-being of individuals. The data are included in the [European Union's \(EU\) statistics on income and living conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#). These are based on respondents' assessments of their limitations as well as their [household's](#) income, social and employment situation.

In EU-SILC, disability is approximated according to the concept of global activity limitation, which is defined as a 'limitation in activities people usually do because of health problems for at least the past six months'. This is an adequate proxy for disability, both by the scientific community and organisations representing people with disabilities. This definition is in also in line with the concept of disability as set out in the European disability strategy 2010–2020 and its successor, the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021–2030. In particular, in 2011, the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) included an ad hoc module (AHM) on employment of disabled people. The module consisted of 11 variables dealing with:

- Health problems and difficulties in basic activities
- Limitations in work caused by health problems/difficulties in basic activities
- Special assistance needed or used by people with health problems/difficulties in basic activities
- Limitation in work because of other reasons.

On the basis of how the module was operationalised, the following two main definitions for disability were considered for presenting the results:

- Disabled persons = People having a basic activity difficulty (such as seeing, hearing, walking, communicating)
- Disabled persons = People having a work limitation caused by a longstanding health condition and/or a basic activity difficulty.

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