# Disability Statistics and Facts

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## Demographics

* In 2015, almost one in five Australians reported living with disability (18.3% or 4.3 million people). *[3]*
* 18% of men, and 18.6% of women have disability. *[3]*
* Almost one third of people with disability had a profound or severe disability  *[3]*
* 43% of people over 55 years have one or more disabilities.*[10]*
* 2.1 million Australians of working age (15 – 64 years) have disability.  *[3]*
* People with disability are twice as likely to be in the bottom 20% of gross household incomes*[1]*

## Types of Disability

* 3.4 million (15%) Australians have a physical disability *[1]*
* 1 in 6 Australians are affected by hearing loss. There are approximately 30,000 Deaf Auslan users with total hearing loss *[2]*
* Vision Australia estimates there are currently 357,000 people in Australia who are blind or have low vision [Source: Vision Australia]
* An estimated 10% of the population has dyslexia. That’s more than two million Australians *(Source: Dyslexia Australia).*
* 45% of the population will experience a mental health disorder during their lifetime. (Source: SANE Australia)
* Every week, 5 Australians sustain a spinal cord injury *[6]*
* Every week 10 - 15 Australians sustain a severe brain injury *[6]*
* Every 15 hrs, a child is born with cerebral palsy *[6]*
* Every 7 hrs, a child is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder *[6]*
* Every 2 hrs, a child will be diagnosed with an intellectual disability *[6]*

## Employment of People with Disability

* In 2015, the unemployment rate for people with disability was 10.0%; higher than that for people without disability at 5.3%. This difference was consistent with 2012 *[3]*
* 2.1 million Australians of working age (15 – 64 years) have disability.  *[3]*
* 1 million people with disability are employed and another 114,900 are looking for work. *[3]*
* 53.4% of people with a disability aged 15-64 years participate in the workforce, compared with 83.2% of people without a disability *[3]*
* 46.6% of people with disability are not in the labour force, compared with 16.8% of those without disability. *[3]*
* 27.0% of people with disability work full-time, while 21% of people with disability work part-time *[3]*
* Almost half of people with disability were not in the labour force (46.6%), compared with 16.8% of those without disability.
* 28% of jobseekers with disability who registered with a DES reached a 26 week outcome. Unpublished research from the former DEEWR indicated that only 3% of employers who know about the DES system use it.
* 36% of people with a severe or profound disability participate in the workforce *[7]*
* One in seven unemployed people with disability will need supports or special arrangements at work.
* Australia ranks 21 out of 29 OECD countries for labour force participation of people with a disability *[6]*

## Disability and education

* 36% of people with a disability aged 18-64yrs, have completed Year 12, compared with 60% of those without a disability *[7]*
* 25% of people with a profound or severe disability aged 15 – 64 have completed Year 12 *[6]*

## Disability and the community

* 95.5% of Australians with disability live in households, 4.5% live in cared accommodation such as hospitals, nursing homes and aged care hostels.  *[3]*
* 2.4 million people with disability living in households (60%) needed assistance with at least one broad area of activity *[7]*

## Disability and financial circumstance

* 45% of those with a disability in Australia are living either near or below the poverty line, more than double the OECD average of 22%*[6]*
* People with a disability in Australia are 2.5 times more likely to be at risk of poverty than other OECD countries *[6]*

## Abuse of People with Disability

* The highest rates of violence against people with disability are among people with psychological disability (14.8% or 132,500 people), and intellectual disability (14.3% or 67,900 people).
* Women and girls with disabilities are twice as likely as women and girls without disabilities to experience violence throughout their lives. [11]
* Women with disability are more likely to experience violence than women without disability, 5.9% or 172,800 women with disability, compared to 4.3% or 274,400 of women without disability.
* Further links to resources on violence and abuse of women with disabilities is available at [http://www.wdv.org.au/documents/Fact%20Sheet%203%20-%20Violence%20against%20women%20with%20disabilities\_final%20(May%202016).pdf](http://www.wdv.org.au/documents/Fact%20Sheet%203%20-%20Violence%20against%20women%20with%20disabilities_final%20%28May%202016%29.pdf)
* Men with disability are equally likely to experience violence as men without disability, 5.6% or 158,100 men with disability, compared to 6.2% or 383,200 of men without disability.

Source:

*Except where stated otherwise, data is taken from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC).*[*http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4430.0*](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4430.0)

*[1] Australian Network on Disability*<http://www.and.org.au/pages/disability-statistics.html>

*[2] VicDeaf*

<http://www.vicdeaf.com.au/files/editor_upload/File/Research%20Reports/Final%20Report%20Why%20Auslan%20Interpreting%20Matter.pdf>

*[3] Source: ABS 4430.0 - Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015*<http://linkis.com/www.abs.gov.au/ausst/Il7gj>

*[5] Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4446.0) and Disability, Ageing and Carers:  Summary of Findings, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4430.0).*

*[6] Price Waterhouse Coopers, 2011. 'Disability expectations - Investing in a better life, a stronger Australia'.*

*[7] Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2012 (cat. no.4430.0)*

*[8] General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4159.0)*

*[9] Australian Bureau of Statistics. Disability and Labour Force Participation, 2012*[http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4433.0.55.006](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs%40.nsf/mf/4433.0.55.006)

*[10] Australian Network on Disability*<http://www.and.org.au/pages/disability-statistics.html>

[11] Krnjacki L, Emerson E, Llewellyn G, Kavanagh A: [‘Prevalence and risk of violence against people with and without disabilities: Findings from an Australian populationbased study’](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288817321_Prevalence_and_risk_of_violence_against_people_with_and_without_disabilities_Findings_from_an_Australian_population-based_study), Aust NZ J Public Health 2016, 40(1):16-21.