

# Developmental Disabilities or Disorders in Canada

## Highlights from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability

This infographic uses data from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)<sup>1</sup>, a national survey of Canadians aged 15+ years living in private dwellings whose daily activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health related problem, to profile individuals with a diagnosed developmental disability or disorder.

The 2017 CSD provides a range of data on 10 different disability types: hearing, vision, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain, learning, mental health, memory and developmental. Respondents with a developmental disability or disorder were identified by answering 'yes' to the following question: *Has a doctor, psychologist or other health care professional ever said that you had a developmental disability or disorder? This may include Down syndrome, autism, Asperger syndrome, mental impairment due to lack of oxygen at birth, etc.*

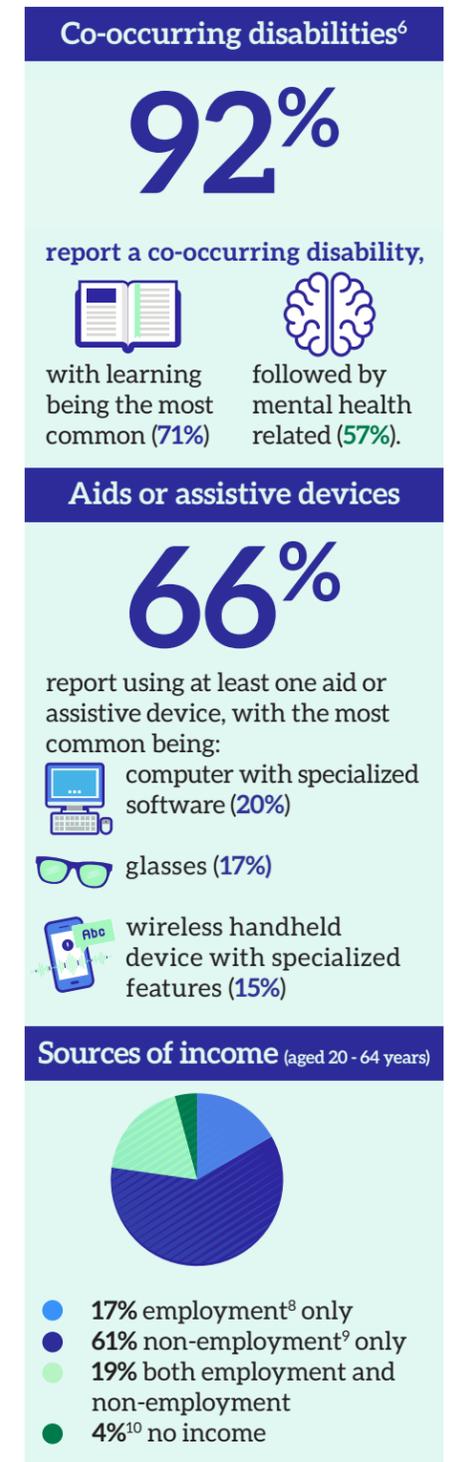
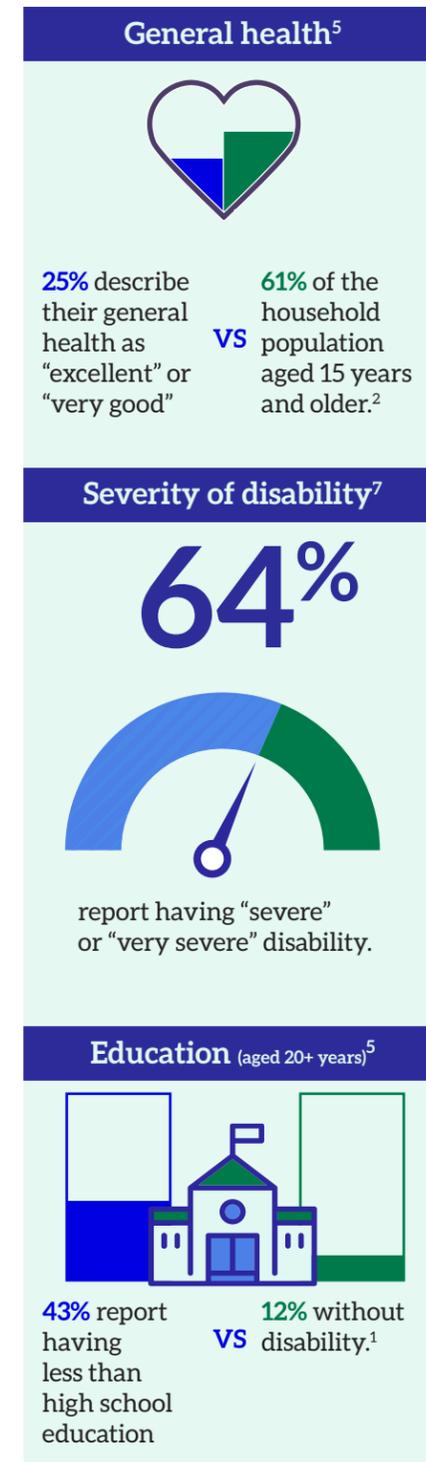
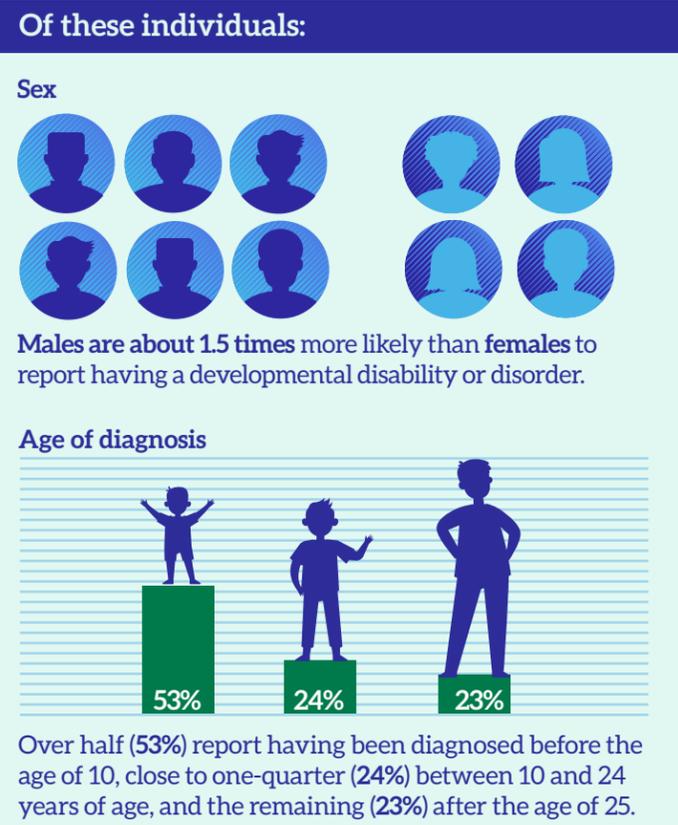
Where relevant, comparisons are made to those without disability, using data from the 2017 CSD or the household population, using data from the 2017 Canadian Community Health Survey: Annual Component.<sup>2</sup>



About 315,500 or **5.1%**

of Canadians aged 15+ years with a disability report having a developmental disability or disorder<sup>3,4</sup>

1 Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017 drew from the 2016 Census and consists of two distinct samples, those with a disability and those without disability allowing data users to compare the census characteristics of persons with and without a disability.  
 2 Canadian Community Health Survey: Annual Component, 2017  
 3 Estimates represent the proportion of Canadians aged 15+ with a disability that report having a developmental disability or disorder, not the prevalence of developmental disabilities or disorders among Canadians aged 15+ years.  
 4 About 42% of these respondents' interviews were completed by the person most knowledgeable about their condition. This was deemed necessary when the selected person was away for the duration of the survey, did not speak English or French, was unable to participate due to health problems, or when a parent chose to respond for their child.



5 After adjusting for differences in age distribution, estimates compared remained significantly different.  
 6 Co-occurring disabilities refer to the presence of a developmental disability or disorder and one or more of the other nine disability types.  
 7 Severity of disability estimates represent a derived score based on all disability types a respondent may have as well as the intensity and frequency of limitation resulting from each.  
 8 Employment income sources include wages, salaries, tips, commissions or gratuities.  
 9 Non-employment income sources include workers' compensation, pensions and annuities, employment insurance, provincial or municipal social assistance or welfare, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, investment income, spousal support, child support, scholarships, child tax credit, Northern allowance, etc.  
 10 Interpret with caution due to high sampling variability.

COVID-19 has brought unprecedented changes to Canadians. Data from the 2017 CSD were collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The experiences presented within reflect the experiences and challenges of Canadians with developmental disabilities or disorders at 'For additional information on COVID-19 and people with disabilities in Canada visit [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca).

