

Disability Statistics



Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais
National Disability Authority

The definition of 'disability' varies and disability status can change over time. In Ireland the most common source of data on disability comes from the Central Statistics Office (CSO). CSO data on disability is based on the information provided by persons with a disability.

The information in this factsheet is taken from the 2016 Census and from work done by National Disability Authority researchers.

This factsheet looks at the number of people with a disability and some of their characteristics.



How many people have a disability in Ireland?

643,131

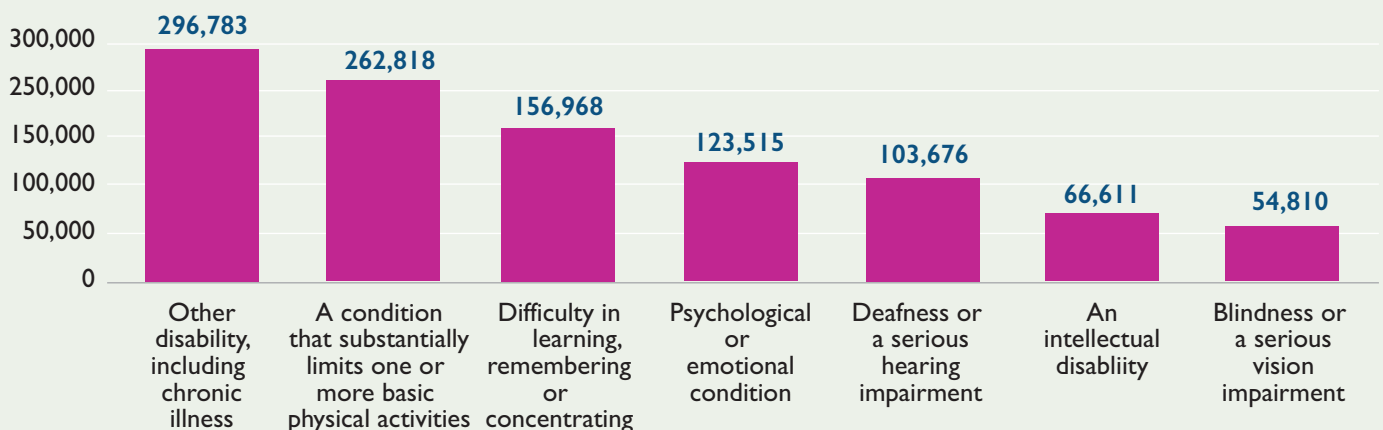
According to the 2016 Census



That's 1 in 7 people,
a slight increase since 2011

What are the most common types of disability?

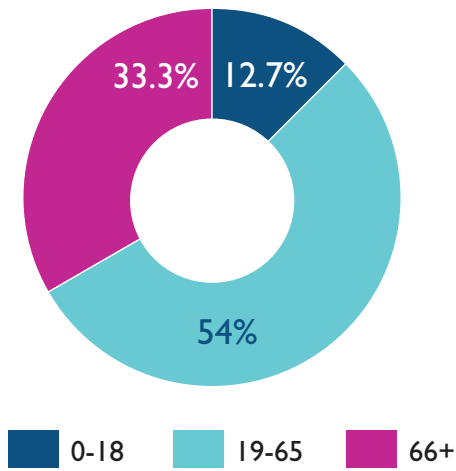
The most common type of disability is 'other disability, including chronic illness'. This might include, for example, asthma, diabetes or heart disease. The next most common is 'a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities', like arthritis or a spinal injury. However, people can have more than one disability.



Age and disability

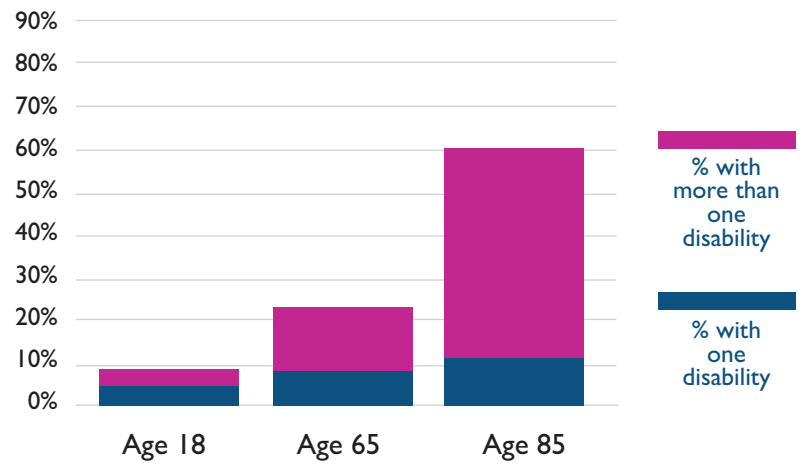
Most people with a disability are of working age.

Disability by age group



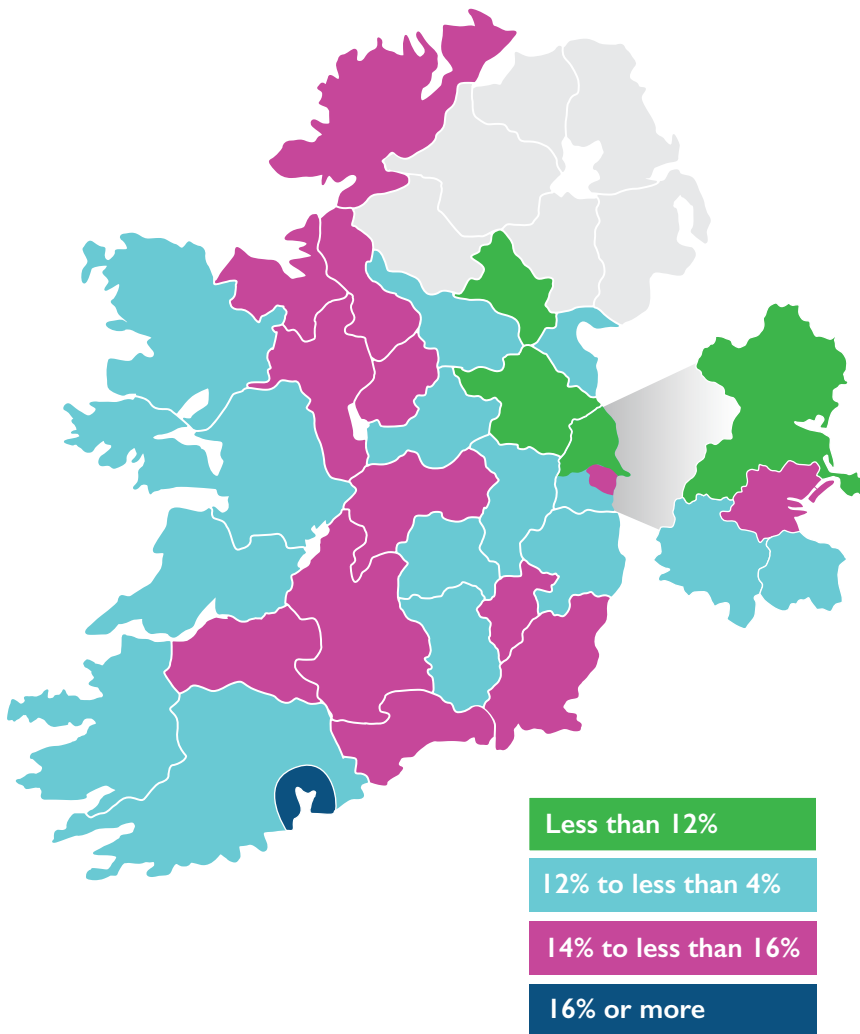
But as most disability is acquired during our lives, older people are more likely to have a disability than younger people.

% of people with one or more disability by age



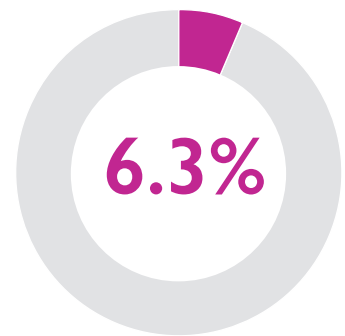
Disability rates by area

As disability increases with age, areas with a high proportion of older people also have a high rate of people with disabilities.

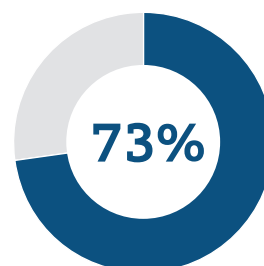


Employment

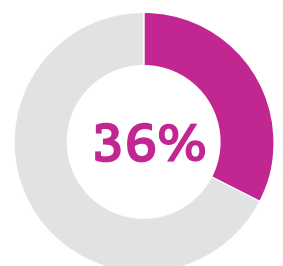
Only 6.3% (120,775) of all workers have a disability



% of people without a disability aged 20-64, who are working

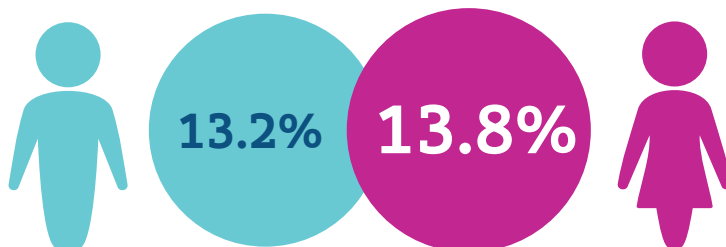


% of people with a disability aged 20-64, who are working



Men and Women

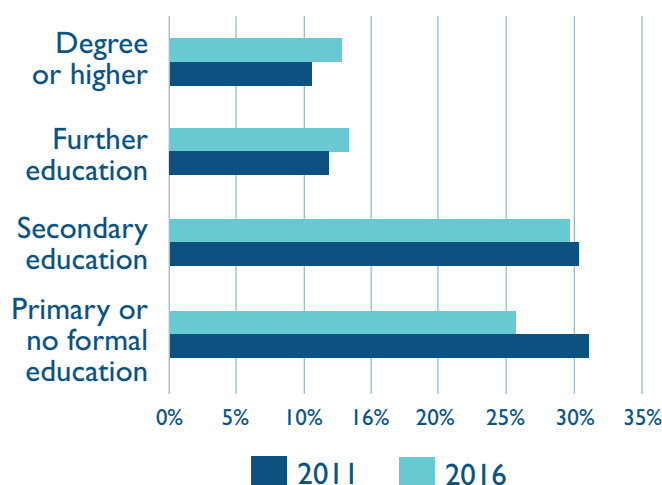
Slightly more females than males have a disability, mostly because women live longer than men.



Education



The education level of people with a disability is increasing. This graph shows the education level of people with disability in 2011 and 2016.



What will happen in the future?

The Irish population will grow to 5.2 million by 2026. Because there will be both more people and more older people, there will be more people with a disability. By 2026, we expect that the number of people with a disability will have increased by 20%.

The 2018 budget for disability services is €1.8 billion. The NDA estimates that by 2026 this will need to increase by up to 33% to support the increased number of people with a disability.

See <http://nda.ie/Publications/Disability-Supports/Transforming-Lives.html>



For further information on any of the statistics in this factsheet visit www.nda/Resources/Factsheets