



# Measuring Accessibility on the Canadian Survey on Disability

Presentation to Disability and Work in Canada Conference

Ottawa, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

by

Pamela Lahey, Ph.D., Employment and Social Development Canada

Mike Burns, Statistics Canada

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

# 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)

- Jointly developed in partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada
- Sample: 50,000+ persons
- Eligible population: adults aged 15 or older who live in private dwellings in one of the ten provinces or three territories, identified in 2021 Census (ADL) and who report a disability in the DSQ (1<sup>st</sup> module of the CSD).
- Collection modes: Electronic questionnaire and telephone interview
- New content in 2022 around accessibility
- Milestones:
  - Development/Testing – 2020-2021
  - Collection – January to June 2022
  - Processing – Fall 2022
  - Dissemination – 2023



# Canadian Survey on Disability: Themes

## Aids and Assistive Devices

- Use
- Types of devices
- Met & unmet needs

## Labour Force Activities

- Employment status
- Workplace experience
- Discrimination
- Employment equity

## Education & Education Experience

- School attendance
- Attainment
- Special needs for schooling
- Experience in education environment

## Supports/Therapy/Medication

- Use
- Therapies/services required but not received
- Help received

## Health and Well-being

- Self-rated general health & mental health
- Life satisfaction
- Housebound
- Access to internet, government services

## Economic Well-being

- Income
- Income sources



# Questionnaire Design Process

**Statistics Canada aims to ensure questionnaires:**

- are adequately tested
- are easy to administer
- collect accurate information
- are easy to process
- are respondent and interviewer-friendly

# Questionnaire Design Players

- **Subject Matter Experts**

- Managers of survey
- Consultations with external clients
- Develop survey content

- **Data Collection Partners**

- Main role is collect the data
- Design/Build Internet & Telephone collection applications

- **Questionnaire Design Resource Centre (QDRC)**

- Advice on questionnaire design
- Questionnaire evaluators (expert review & testing)
- Recommend questionnaire to Chief Statistician for approval

# Questionnaire Design Considerations

- Relevant
- Simple (generally, shorter is better)
- Easy to read (by respondents and interviewers)
- Based on questions from other surveys, when applicable
- Precise and well-defined
- Minimize respondent burden





# Accessibility Module

Creating an accessible future

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada



# Project Objectives

- Accessibility module design for potential placement on the 2022 Canadian Survey of Disability has begun
- Joint project between STC and ESDC
- This module represents only one small part of a much larger accessibility data strategy undertaken by multiple Canadian government branches
- This module is not intended to provide all data required for the Accessible Canada Act (ACA)



# Methodological Approach

- Question design informed by relative approach
  - Relative measures are more nuanced and sensitive to the user's perception. (Compared to absolute accessibility)
  - This approach can provide information on issues such as equality, ease of use, independence—i.e., true full inclusion. (e.g. a ramp at the front of the building in line with a curb cut will allow a person with mobility issues to experience entry into the building on par with someone who does not have a mobility issue.)
  - Aligns with Canadian Human Rights, ACA, UN CRPD vision



# Question Design

- Survey questions from a range of international instruments (that either touch on accessibility or could be appropriated for this purpose) have been examined

## **Below is just a brief sampling of approaches:**

- Gap approach (ask about desire to engage in a particular activity and then about actual experience of participation)
- Questions about specific experiences of barriers to accessibility





# Considerations

---

- Space available on the survey(s) and size of the module
- Potential impact on other survey content (comparability)
- Passing rigorous qualitative testing requirements





# Next Steps

---

- Feedback from internal (government) and external stakeholders will be taken into consideration
- Question development
- Testing





# Questions for DWC conference delegates

---

- What are the strengths or weaknesses of using the relative approach to accessibility?
- What else should we consider in our question design? (keeping in mind financial and time constraints)

