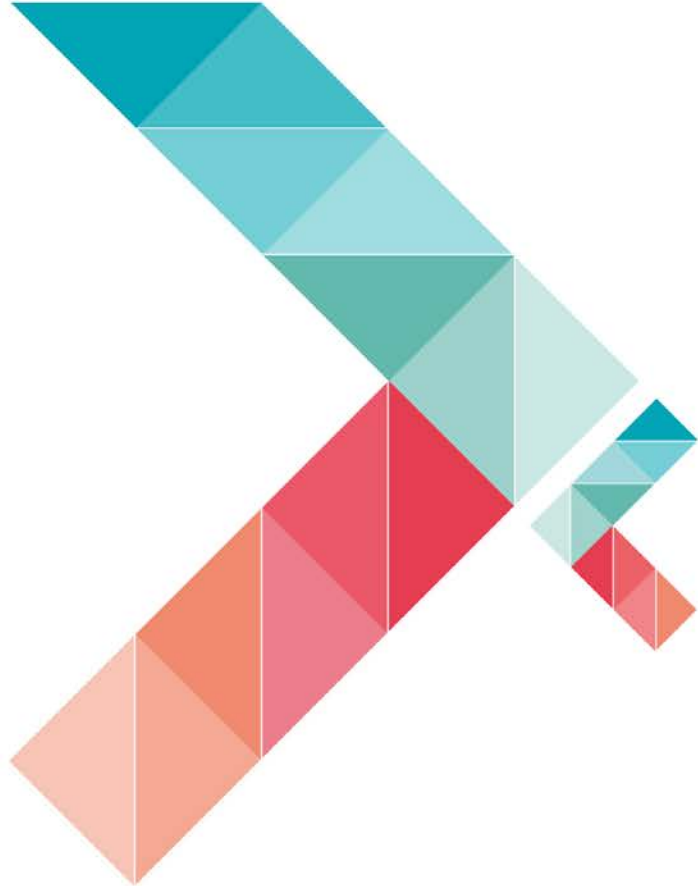




Current Disability Data Options: Surveys

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Purpose

- To overview:
 - the history of data collection on persons with disabilities in Canada
 - survey data on persons with disabilities that are currently available (or will be in near future)
- To help prepare for a discussion of:
 - data sources that could be used for measuring/monitoring progress in employment for persons with disabilities
 - data gaps and how to fill them



Evolution of Canada's Disability Data Strategy

Phase 1: Health and Activity Limitation Survey (1986/1991)

- Post-Censal design, using short filter questions on the 1986 and 1991 Census long form to generate sampling frame for the HALS
- Set mostly within medical model, focused primarily on physical and sensory disabilities
 - Complemented with a short set of questions on disability on general population surveys (such as the General Social Surveys)—the questions often changed over time and differed across surveys

Phase 2: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001/2006)

- Post-Censal design, using short filter questions on the 2001 and 2006 Census long form to generate sampling frame for the PALS
- Followed a hybrid medical and social model and was weak in terms of full capture of mental health-related and cognitive disability types
 - Complemented with a short set of questions (the same as those on the Census) on general population surveys (General Social Survey, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, etc.)



The Current Disability Data Strategy

Phase 3: Canadian Survey on Disability (2012/2017)

- Inspired by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UNCRPD), ratified by Canada in 2010—implements a social model of disability
- New disability screening questions (DSQ) developed between 2010 and 2012. DSQ improves capture of all disability types (in particular mental health-related and cognitive)
- Post-Censal design used filter questions on the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) and the 2016 Census long form to develop sampling frames
- Had to be implemented in a two-step process since the DSQ filter questions were not finalized in time to be placed on the 2011 NHS—therefore, the sampling frames differ (and results of the two surveys cannot be compared as a result)

Phase 3(a) CSD 2012:

- Uses DSQ on the CSD itself to identify persons with disabilities
- Sampling frame for the CSD 2012, however, is based on filter questions used for PALS which were still on the NHS 2011

Phase 3(b) CSD 2017:

- Uses DSQ on the CSD itself to identify persons with disabilities (like the CSD 2012)
- Sampling frame for the CSD 2017, however, is based on DSQ filter questions which appeared for the first time on the 2016 Census long form

See Appendix for more detailed description of the evolution of disability data strategies in Canada



Overview of Current Survey Options for Data on Persons with Disabilities in Canada

- Flagship post-censal survey—Canadian Survey on Disability 2017
- Other post-censal surveys—Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2017
- General population surveys
 - Canadian Income Survey (since 2013)
 - General Social Surveys (each cycle since 2014)
 - Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (Wave 2 in 2014, Wave 3 in 2016, and Wave 4 in 2018)
 - National Graduates Survey (2018)



Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)

- Post-censal, cross-sectional every 5 years; will be comparable 2017 to 2022
- Large sample size of persons with disabilities (32,630 adults aged 15+)
- Detailed information on disability, type, severity, age of onset of each type, underlying cause
- Detailed information on requirements and unmet needs for aids/devices, special architectural features, home supports, therapeutic/counselling services, medication
- Education: attainment, impact of disability, requirements and unmet needs for aids, devices, and supports in school
- Employment: basic labour market indicators, requirements and unmet needs for job accommodations, requests for job accommodations, labour market barriers faced, ability to relocate for work, etc.
- Income: amount of income, type of income, poverty, etc.
- ***New Content in 2017:*** Episodic disability, veterans with disabilities, requirements and unmet needs for therapeutic/counselling services, Internet use and barriers, barriers to accessing government services



Aboriginal Peoples Survey 2017

- Post-censal, cross-sectional every 5 years, DSQ appeared for the first time in 2017
- Off-reserve population only
- Large sample size of Indigenous peoples (24,220) —First Nations, Métis, Inuit
- Extensive information on labour market, training, assets, income, education, etc.
- Sampling methodology specifically designed to provide estimates representative of the Indigenous population—yields larger underlying sample of Indigenous peoples with disabilities than CSD
- While official rates and numbers of Indigenous adults with disabilities will be taken from the APS (not the CSD), both surveys can be used to generate data on labour market issues for this population. The CSD provides more disability-specific information about job accommodation needs; but the APS contains more extensive labour market and training data in general.



General Population Surveys



Canadian Income Survey (CIS)

- Annual, cross-sectional survey with same screening questions (DSQ) from 2013 onward
- Supplement to the Labour Force Survey (can utilize LFS variables, but LFS has no disability screening questions on it)—goes to about 56,000 households
- CIS interviews everyone in the household for most information—however, only one person selected at random receives the DSQ to save time overall. This sample of PWD has a separate weighting scheme.
- Can support yearly monitoring, tracking, and comparisons with other groups
- Covers: Labour market activity throughout the previous year, school attendance, self-employment, when last worked, class of worker, minimum wage job, reasons for part-time work (voluntary/involuntary), detailed information on income from numerous sources, market income, housing (CMHC variables)
- Not much disability specific information; nothing on job accommodation requirements, etc.



General Social Survey (GSS)

- Series of cross-sectional surveys conducted annually (sometimes more often)
- Sample size target of 25,000 each cycle
- Different content rotates over 5 year cycles
- Has contained the DSQ since 2014, Cycle 28
- Provides a data on a wide range of socio-economic issues (corresponding to many Articles of the UNCRPD)



General Social Survey (GSS)

Cycle 28, 2014, Victimization

Cycle 29, 2015-16, Time Use

Cycle 30, 2016, Canadians at Work & at Home

Cycle 31, 2017, Families

Cycle 32, 2018, Caregiving and Care Receiving

Cycle 33, 2018, Giving, Volunteering & Participating



General Social Survey (GSS) – Some Content Examples

- **Cycle 28** contains information on previous experiences with homelessness and victimization
- **Cycle 30** contains information on work/life balance
- **Cycle 32** contains information on care giving and receiving—impact on labour market, etc.
- **Cycle 33** contains information on volunteer work



Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA)

- Longitudinal data since 2012, every 2 years, no refreshment of sample (attrition impacts sample size over time—but includes new people joining existing households and follows individuals moving to different or separate households)
- Began in 2012 with:
 - 11,460 households / 32,130 individuals
- In 2018 there remains:
 - 10,510 households / 22,520 individuals
- Some rotating content, entire household included; linked to tax data going back 20 years
- DSQ since Wave 2 in 2014
- Representative of a cohort over time—not for monitoring change in society, but how a particular cohort ages and lives through a particular time period
- Could be used to examine transitions into and out of the labour market—questions around early exits due to disability, etc.
 - However, data every 2 years may not be granular enough for some questions



National Graduates Survey 2018

- Survey of individuals graduating from post-secondary educational institutions in 2015
- Contains DSQ for the first time in 2018
- Examines academic path, funding for post-secondary education, and transitions into the labour market 3 years after graduation



Appendix— Evolution of Disability Data in Canada



Data Gaps for Disability & Employment

- Lack of surveys of employers/workplaces focussing on disability issues
 - Barriers employers face in hiring workers with disabilities (measurement of the level of understanding of disabilities, attitudes toward PWD, understanding of accommodations, misconceptions, lack of resources, etc.)
 - Some method of evaluating or measuring change among employers and workplaces over time.
 - Action with regard to ensuring accessibility and accommodation on the job
 - Availability of resources, toolkits for helping employers, labour groups



History of Disability Survey Data in Canada

Phase 1: Health and Activity Limitation Survey (1986/1991)

- Flowed from 1981 *Obstacles* report calling for long-term disability data strategy.
- Post-Censal design, using short filter questions on the 1986 and 1991 Census long form to generate sampling frame for the HALS; HALS contained extensive series of screening questions to identify disability. Filter questions not as accurate as desired, therefore sampling frame also included a large number of those not captured by the filter questions (to find “false negatives”)—this was not efficient, it was very expensive, and it involved large numbers of people without disabilities needlessly being contacted to answer questions about disability.
- Set mostly within medical model, focused primarily on physical and sensory disabilities.
 - This was complemented with a short set of questions on disability on general population surveys (such as the General Social Surveys, GSS)—the questions often changed over time and differed across surveys.



Phase 2: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (2001/2006)

- Flowed from *In Unison* (a 1998 federal/provincial/territorial “vision” document), confirming a commitment to collect data on persons with disabilities, resulting in new data strategy.
- Post-Censal design, using short filter questions on 2001 & 2006 Census long form to generate sampling frame for PALS; but filter and screening questions were identical—one module, double duty (additional questions on the PALS used only to identify type and severity of disability). Sampling frame contained only those captured by filter questions (no possibility of capturing false negatives—assumed accuracy of filter questions).
- Followed a hybrid medical/social model. Inconsistent treatment of different disability types.
 - Also complemented with a short set of questions (identical to those used on Census) on general population surveys (such as the GSS, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, etc.).
 - The intent of having one short set of questions to act as both filters on the Census and screening questions on the PALS and general population surveys was to achieve consistency across all surveys with one module and efficiency in terms of time and money.
 - However, these questions were ultimately found to be weak in terms of properly capturing those with cognitive and mental health-related disabilities--efficient in terms of time, but lacked quality in terms of full capture. Filter questions were not as accurate or inclusive as assumed.
 - Generated quite different results across different surveys and from year to year (consistency not achieved).



Phase 3: Canadian Survey on Disability (2012/2017) – Current Disability Data Strategy

- Inspired by the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (UNCRPD), ratified by Canada in 2010—the new disability data collection strategy implements a fully social model of disability and aims to “leave no one behind”.
- New disability screening questions (DSQ) were developed for this purpose between 2010 and 2012. DSQ is a two-part module with coordinated filter and screening questions.
 - The filter questions achieve efficiency by identifying an inclusive pool of people most likely to have a disability, and only this group goes on to answer the actual screening questions.
 - DSQ improves capture of all disability types by being more inclusive than its predecessor. There are separate filter questions to capture those with hearing, seeing, physical, cognitive, and mental health-related disabilities, along with a “catch-all” question for less specific disability types.
 - More extensive screening questions are asked of those identified by the filters. This results in the identification of 10 types of disabilities: hearing, seeing, pain, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, mental health-related, learning, developmental, and memory—plus an “unknown/other” category for those not elsewhere classified.
- The DSQ was designed for use on both the flagship disability survey and general population surveys. Like the previous strategy, one goal was to use a consistent instrument that would generate consistent results across surveys—while the previous set of questions used by the PALS did not achieve this goal, the DSQ of the current strategy has been generating remarkably consistent results across general population surveys.



Phase 3: Canadian Survey on Disability (2012/2017) – Continued

- The flagship survey, the CSD, is, like its predecessors HALS and PALS, a post-censal design, relying on filter questions on the Census to develop the sampling frame.
- The full implementation of the new data strategy relies on the use of the DSQ filter questions on the Census to develop the sampling frame for the CSD, and the DSQ screening questions being used on the CSD itself to identify those with disabilities.
- Because the DSQ filter questions were not fully developed in time to be placed on the 2011 National Household Survey (which replaced the Census long form in 2011), the sampling frame for the 2012 CSD was created using the older filter questions that were used by the PALS—known to be weak in terms of fully capturing all types of disabilities.
- This meant that fully implementing the DSQ on the CSD would be a two stage process:
 - **Phase 3(a):** PALS filter questions on 2011 NHS used to develop sampling frame; DSQ screening questions used on 2012 CSD to identify PWD
 - **Phase 3(b):** DSQ filter questions on 2016 long form Census used to develop sampling frame; DSQ screening questions used on 2017 CSD to identify PWD
- This change in the filter questions between the 2012 and 2017 CSDs means that results from the two surveys cannot be compared due to methodological improvements—it is now a more inclusive sampling frame.



Phase 3: Canadian Survey on Disability (2012/2017) – Continued

- This flagship survey, the CSD, is also complemented with DSQ being placed on general population surveys such as GSS (since 2014), Canadian Income Survey (since 2013), Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (since 2014), the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (2017), and the National Graduate Survey (2018).
- The full implementation of the strategy to use the DSQ on the CSD in 2017 has resulted in the flagship survey results being more similar to those of general population surveys than ever before.
- This has addressed the weaknesses of the previous strategies:
 - Cost effective because a NO sample is no longer required
 - Consistent results across surveys
 - More inclusive of all types of disabilities
 - Social model of disability consistent with the UNCRPD
- Because disability type (in some cases broader groupings for physical disabilities) is now included on the gen pop flags, these surveys can provide more analytical power than ever before.

