



European disability statistics : progress and challenges

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Outline

- 1. Measurement of disability**
- 2. Data sources: present and future**
- 3. Dissemination of disability statistics**

1. Measurement of disability

- **What to measure?**
 - Impairments
 - Functional limitations
 - Restrictions in participation
- **Various surveys and approaches**
 - Health or disability-centred surveys
 - Generalist surveys (labour market, living conditions, etc.)

⇒ **Constraints in operationalisation:** in non-dedicated surveys/modules disability can only be measured with a limited number of questions reflecting only some aspects of the concept

Various means of operationalisation

- one-question instrument: Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI)

For at least the past six months, to what extent have you been limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do?

- Multiple-questions instruments: Activities of Daily Living (ADL), Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL), etc.
- Dedicated survey

2. Data sources: present and future

2.1 Current ESS sources on disability

- European Health and Social Integration Survey (**EHSIS**)
- European Health Interview Survey (**EHIS**)
- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (**SILC**)
- Labour Force Survey ad hoc module on employment of disabled people (**LFS AHM**)

Current ESS sources on disability

Main characteristics	EHSIS	EHIS	SILC	LFS AHM
Main topics covered	Disability as defined by UNCRPD	Health status, health determinants and health care use	Income, social inclusion and living conditions	Employment of disabled people
Legal basis	no	yes	yes	yes
Periodicity	one time (2012/2013)	every 5 years	annual	irregular (2002 and 2011)

Instruments and measures of disability

Concepts	EHSIS	EHIS	SILC	LFS AHM
Limitations in usual activities caused by a health problem	√	√	√	
Difficulties in carrying out basic activities	√	√		√
Difficulties in performing personal care activities	√	√ (65+)		
Difficulties in performing household care activities	√	√ (65+)		
Participation restriction linked to a health condition and/or a basic activity difficulty	√			
Limitation in work caused by health problems and/or difficulties in basic activities	√			√

2.2 Future of disability statistics - proposal

- **Two health core variables** (incl. GALI)
 - Allow for breakdown of all key (Europe 2020) indicators
 - But drop LFS ad-hoc module
- **Health module in SILC every 3 years**
 - Includes functional limitations variables
- **Improve comparability of GALI**
 - Source for Healthy Life Years
- **Discontinue EHSIS** but incorporate a disability module into EHIS

Measuring disability for children

- Only people aged 15+ living in private households covered by current EU-wide surveys
- National initiatives for measuring disability for children (AT, NL, EE): adaptation of GALI
- Discussions in 2015 on the possibility for including a **child module** in the future EHIS wave



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3. Dissemination of disability statistics:

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European Commission **eurostat** Your key to European statistics

Health dedicated section

European Commission > Eurostat > Health > Disability

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- Health
 - Introduction
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 - Database**
 - Ad-hoc module
 - ▶ Causes of death
 - Accidents at work and work related health problems
 - Legislation
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 - Statistical books/Pocketbooks
 - Statistical articles
 - News releases
 - Methodological publications
 - Links

Disability

Main features of disability statistics

The United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities states that "persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others". Disability statistics provides data on the number of disabled persons as well as on their involvement in the society, through data related to living conditions, social inclusion, labour market, health, or education.

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 is the EU framework for implementing the UN Convention. Disability statistics should monitor the situation of disabled people with reference to the Europe 2020 targets and the areas for action included in the Strategy.

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/disability>


















See also

- **Statistics explained**
Your guide to European statistics
- Income and living conditions statistics
- Labour market statistics

Links

- European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- DG Justice
- Academic Network of European Disability experts

Dissemination of disability statistics – data tree

- [-]  **Disability** (hlth_dsb)
 - +  Prevalence of disability (source LFS) (hlth_dsb_prv) 
 - +  Health problems of disabled people (sources SILC or EHIS) (hlth_dsb_hlth) 
 - +  Access to education and training for disabled people (source LFS) (hlth_dsb_educ) 
 - +  Access to labour market for disabled people (source LFS) (hlth_dsb_lm) 
 - +  Housing conditions of disabled people (source SILC) (hlth_dsb_hcon) 
 - +  Income distribution and poverty among disabled people (source SILC) (hlth_dsb_pe) 
 - +  Material deprivation among disabled people (source SILC) (hlth_dsb_md) 
 - +  Social participation of disabled people (source SILC) (hlth_dsb_socp) 

Useful links

European Health Interview Survey (EHIS wave 2)

- Legislation (incl. list of variables):
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/49ffc060-d19f-4257-963b-419c5add312f>
- Guidelines and other documents:
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/16a94958-5e07-4dd6-bfd9-478fdd2ebfa2>
- Methodological manual - 2013 edition:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-13-018

Useful links

- **European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS)** – Questionnaire and interviewers instructions: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/3d77833d-9d3d-4311-ab4c-9393cd076a73>
- **Labour Force Survey ad hoc module on employment of disabled people** – Legislation and explanatory notes: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ec58cf67-ed60-4011-a749-4fc397621304>
- **Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)** – dedicated section: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income_social_inclusion_living_conditions/introduction



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Thank you