



# Disability in Nauru

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SDD

Statistics for Development Division

The Government of Nauru has committed to support and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities by signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012 and through the establishment of a number of support systems for persons with disabilities, such as disability pensions, modification of houses and special schools for children and adults with disabilities.

In 2019, the Government, through the Bureau of Statistics, included the Washington Group (WG) short set of questions on disability in the 2019 Nauru Mini-census questionnaire in order to collect disability related information to inform sound decision making and targeted interventions in this area. The WG disability questions asked persons 5 years and older about any difficulties they have in the following six functional domains: seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care and communication. Respondents had the choices to respond that they have: no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all for all of the six functional domains. The census counted a total population of 11,550, of which 10,060 are persons aged 5 years and older.

## Prevalence of difficulties by functional domains

Figure 1 shows the prevalence of difficulties by functional domains for the population aged 5 years and older. The six functional domains of seeing, hearing, mobility, memory, self-care and communication are being assessed. The prevalence rate of persons with disabilities using the 'at least some difficulties' cut-off point includes persons who responded having 'some difficulties', 'a lot of difficulties' or 'cannot do at all' in at least one of the six functional domains. The prevalence rate of persons with disabilities using 'at least a lot of difficulties' cut-off point includes persons who responded having 'a lot of difficulties' or 'cannot do at all' in at least one of the six functional domains. The prevalence rate of persons with disabilities using 'cannot do at all' cut-off point includes persons who reported 'cannot do at all' in at least one of the six functional domains.

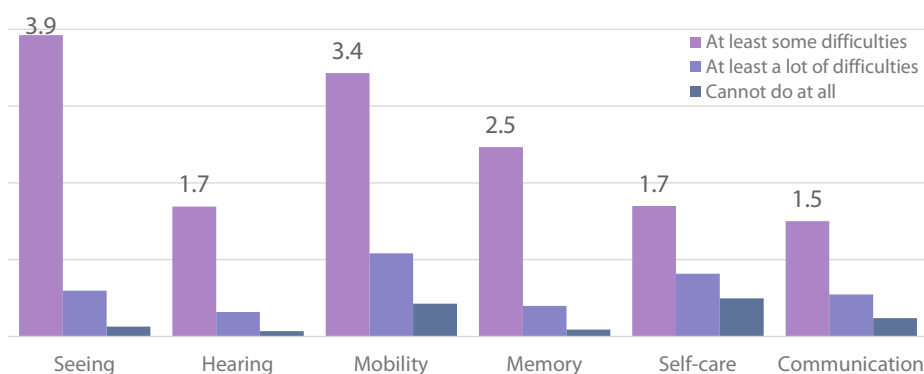


Figure 1: Prevalence of difficulties by functional domains for persons aged 5+ years

The seeing domain has the highest prevalence rate of 3.9% for at least some difficulties followed by mobility domain (3.4%) and memory domain (2.4%). Hearing, self-care and communication domains reported less than 2% of at least some difficulties. Mobility is the domain with the highest prevalence rate using the cut-off point

of 'at least a lot of difficulties', with 1.1% of the reference population reporting at least a lot of difficulties in this domain. Self-care has the highest prevalence rate for 'cannot do at all' with 0.5% of the population reporting cannot do at all in the self-care domain.

## Prevalence of disability at different cut-off points

Disability is conceptualized as a continuum, from minor functioning difficulties to severe difficulties that significantly impact one's life. The answer categories are purposefully designed to reflect this continuum from 'no difficulty' to 'cannot do at all'. The prevalence of disability at various cut-off points gives data users and policy makers options to use different cut-off points according to the intended use of data. Figure 2 shows the disability prevalence at various cut-off points across all six functional domains. If the level of disability includes 'at least some difficulties' (some difficulties, a lot of difficulties or cannot do at all in one or more of the six functional domains), 8.9% (855 persons) of the population are classified as having a disability. If the level of inclusion for disability is set at 'at least a lot of difficulties' (a lot of difficulties or cannot do at all in one or more of the six functional domains), 2.5% (252 persons) of the population is classified as having a disability. When using the cut-off point of 'cannot do at all' (cannot do at all in one or more of the six functional domains), 1.0% (105 persons) of the population is classified as having a disability.

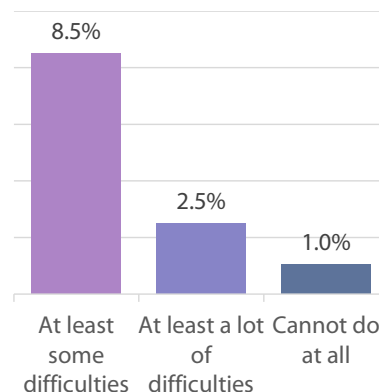


Figure 2: Prevalence of disabilities at various cut-off for the population aged 5+ years

The disability indicators presented below follows the WG recommendation to use the disability cut-off point at 'at least a lot of difficulties'. That is, a person is considered having a disability if they have a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all in at least one of the six functional domains.

## Prevalence of disability by background characteristics

Figure 3 shows that, when adopting the WG recommended cut off point, the prevalence of persons aged 5 years and older in Nauru is 2.5%.

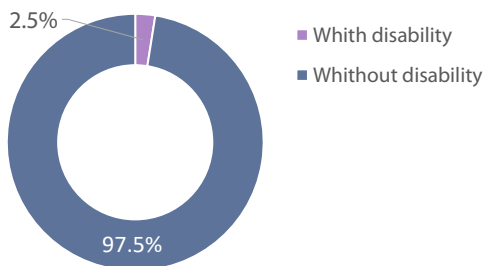


Figure 3: Prevalence of disability using the Washington Group recommendation

As illustrated in Figure 4, disability prevalence rates are higher among the female population, with 3% of females being classified as having disabilities according to the WG definition (2% of males). The prevalence of disability tends to be higher among the older population, with 9.5% of the population aged 50 years and older having disabilities, which may be due to health problems and functional limitations associated with an ageing population.

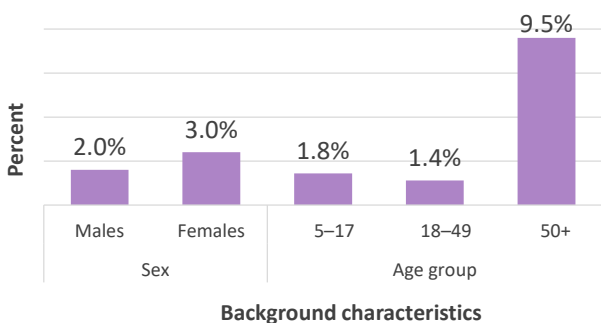


Figure 4: Prevalence of disability for population aged 5+ years by background characteristics



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Table 1 present the distribution of the population aged 5 years and older by maximum education attainment and disability status. The data shows that out of the total persons with disabilities (252), 63.1% had completed secondary education, 13.5% attained primary level, 4.4% completed preschool, 2.8% completed other schools and only 1.2% gained higher education. The data also show that 15.1% of persons with disabilities have no education at all. In comparison to persons without disabilities, the data in Table 1 clearly indicate that persons with disabilities do not have equal education opportunities as persons without disabilities. For instance, 63.1% of persons with disabilities achieved secondary level compared to 67.2% of persons without disabilities; a gap of about 4%. Similar pattern between the two groups is also seen in other level of education.

Table 1: Proportion of the population aged 5+ years by maximum educational attainment and disability status

Educational attainment	With disabilities	Without disabilities
Preschool	4.4	5.5
Primary	13.5	18.2
Secondary	63.1	67.2
Higher education	1.2	3.2
Others	2.8	0.5
Never been to school/No education	15.1	5.4
<b>Total population</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>9,808</b>

The distribution of the population by marital and disability status is presented in Figure 5. Among persons with disabilities aged 15 years and older (203), 35.5% were never married, 36% are married, 20% are widowed while 3% and 5.4% were divorced/separated and in a de facto relationship, respectively. Similarly for persons without disabilities (7,041), data shows a higher proportion of married (43.5%) or never married (35.9%) while a low proportion for those in a de facto relationship (13.2%), divorced/separated (3%) and widowed (4.4%). Generally, a lower proportion of the population with disabilities are in union (married or in a de facto relationship) when compared with the population without disabilities. A higher proportion of the population of persons with disabilities are widowed, which is likely a function of a greater proportion of older persons having disabilities.

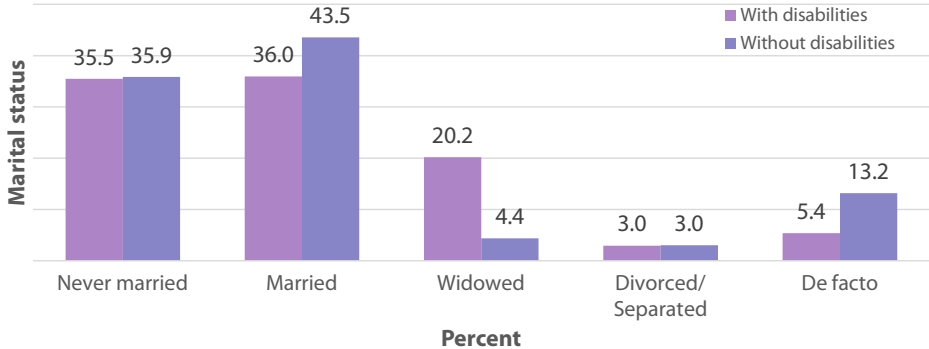


Figure 5: Proportion of the population aged 15+ years by marital and disability status