

## Background Information

In recognition of the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006, the Department of Statistics in collaboration with the National Office for Seniors and the Physically Challenged produced this snapshot on the state of the Bermuda population with disabilities.

The objective of this fact sheet is to heighten the public's awareness of the socio-economic profile of the population with disabilities.

## Defining Disability

According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census, a disability is a long-term health condition that has lasted for more than 6 months and affects a person's activity of daily living.

The information provided below is based on the respondents self-reporting these disabling health conditions.

## Scope of Fact Sheet

The data is based on the 2000 census of people with disabilities who do not reside in institutions.

Where possible, comparisons are made between the disabled population under 16, 16-64 and 65 years and over. These three age categories were selected to provide a broad overview of children, the working population and seniors with disabilities.

## Disabling Health Conditions Vary by Age

The most frequently reported disabling health conditions affecting Bermuda's residents were arthritis, back/spine problem and respiratory illness.

An analysis by the broad age groups, shows the leading health conditions for the disabled population as follows:

- 56% of the children experienced respiratory problems,
- 23% of the working population reported back/spine problems, and
- 33% of seniors stated arthritis

**Table 1**

**Number of Persons Reporting a Disabling Health Condition by selected age groups, 2000**

| Condition                           | Age group          |          |         |       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|
|                                     | Total <sup>1</sup> | Under 16 | 16 - 64 | 65 +  |
| <b>Total</b>                        | 2,832              | 239      | 1,553   | 1,040 |
| Arthritis or Rheumatism             | 524                | *        | 175     | 347   |
| Back/ Spine Problem                 | 498                | 6        | 358     | 134   |
| Other Conditions                    | 490                | 63       | 300     | 127   |
| High Blood Pressure or Hypertension | 463                | *        | 194     | 267   |
| Heart Condition                     | 443                | *        | 155     | 284   |
| Mobility Difficulties               | 417                | 24       | 163     | 230   |
| Asthma                              | 372                | 126      | 185     | 61    |
| Diabetes                            | 360                | *        | 159     | 201   |
| No/Limited Use or Absence of Legs   | 239                | 7        | 131     | 101   |
| Seeing Difficulty/ Blindness        | 238                | 13       | 87      | 138   |
| Body Movement Difficulties          | 223                | 19       | 109     | 95    |
| Mental/ Emotional Disorder          | 186                | 11       | 146     | 29    |
| Stomach, Kidney or Liver Problem    | 184                | 6        | 104     | 74    |
| Hearing Difficulty/ Deafness        | 164                | 14       | 48      | 102   |
| Learning/ Concentration Difficulty  | 161                | 33       | 85      | 43    |
| Cancer                              | 157                | 0        | 65      | 92    |
| Gripping/ Holding Difficulty        | 130                | 11       | 56      | 63    |
| Speaking Difficulty                 | 102                | 24       | 43      | 35    |
| Senility/ Alzheimer's               | 99                 | 0        | *       | 97    |
| Other Respiratory or Lung Problem   | 97                 | 6        | 47      | 44    |
| Muscular Disease/ Impairment        | 97                 | 11       | 56      | 30    |
| No/Limited Use or Absence of Arms   | 86                 | 6        | 51      | 29    |
| Mental Retardation                  | 55                 | 6        | 46      | *     |
| Epilepsy                            | 54                 | 9        | 36      | 9     |
| Behavioural Difficulties            | 39                 | 14       | 20      | 5     |
| Not stated                          | 6                  | 0        | 6       | 0     |

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

<sup>1</sup> The number of disabling conditions does not equal the total number of disabled persons because respondents were invited to report multiple responses.

\*less than 5 respondents

## Limitation at Home or School Ranks Highest

The greatest impact of disabilities on the lives of disabled persons, was the limited activities at home or at school. Each age group reported at least three-quarters of the population with this limitation. (Table 2) The second highest reported impact was prevention from working at a job. Six out of 10 seniors listed this restriction compared to 5 out of 10 of the working population.

**Table 2**

**Impact of disability by selected age groups, 2000 - Percentage distribution**

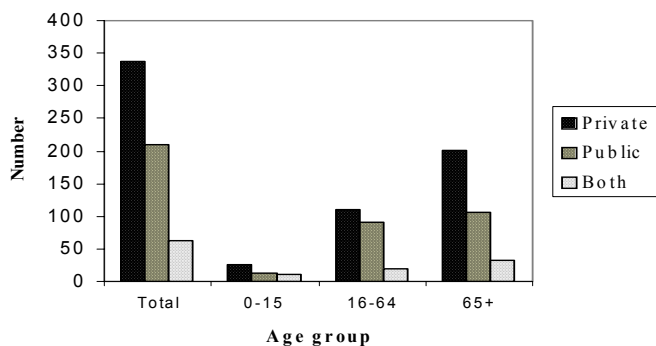
| Impact of Disability                  | Total | Age group |         |     |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|
|                                       |       | Under 16  | 16 - 64 | 65+ |
| Limited activities at home or school  | 80    | 85        | 75      | 87  |
| Prevented from working at a job       | 47    | -         | 45      | 62  |
| Prevented from leaving home alone     | 30    | 30        | 17      | 49  |
| Limited kind or amount of work        | 28    | -         | 36      | 22  |
| Limited in some other way             | 23    | 10        | 27      | 21  |
| Prevented from care of personal needs | 19    | 23        | 12      | 30  |
| Confined to a wheelchair              | 7     | 6         | 4       | 12  |

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

**Private Hired Care Most Popular**

Regardless of age, the majority of disabled persons who required hired care utilized private services. Persons 65 years and older were more likely to use private services than any other age group (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
**Disabled population by type of hired care and selected age groups, 2000**



**Majority of Disabled Persons are Insured**

Eighty-nine percent of the island’s disabled population had some type of medical insurance. Most of the disabled population (62%) had major medical insurance, while 27% had basic coverage. The population under 16 were most likely to have major medical (92%) while the elderly were least likely (44%).

**Disabled Employees Earn Less than \$32,000 annually**

In 2000, there were 845 disabled persons aged 16-64 who were employed, and 59 persons who were looking for work. Of those persons with disabilities who were employed, the median annual income from their main job was \$30,637.

**Disabled Employees are primarily Blue Collar Workers**

The leading occupational groups of disabled persons were production, transport and related, service and clerical. Both genders held primarily traditional jobs. Men dominated production-related jobs, while women were concentrated in clerical positions.

**Table 3**

**Employed disabled population by occupational group and gender, 2000 - Percentage distribution**

| Occupational group                | Total | Gender |        |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
|                                   |       | Male   | Female |
| Total                             | 100   | 100    | 100    |
| Professional, Technical & Related | 16    | 11     | 20     |
| Administrative & Managerial       | 7     | 9      | 6      |
| Clerical                          | 20    | 7      | 30     |
| Sales                             | 9     | 7      | 10     |
| Service                           | 21    | 14     | 26     |
| Agriculture & Fisheries           | 2     | 5      | *      |
| Production, Transport & Related   | 25    | 47     | 6      |
| NA                                | *     | 1      | *      |

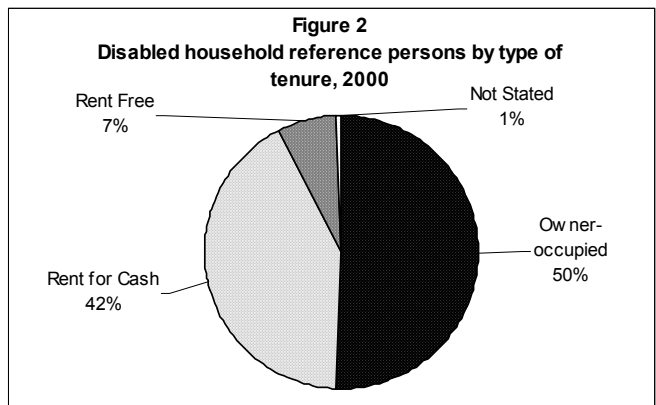
Source: Population and Housing Census, 2000

\* Less than 1 percent

**Half of Disabled Householders are Homeowners**

The owner-occupancy rate for household reference persons with disabilities was 50% ( Figure 2). Six out of 10 disabled seniors were owner occupiers, while 4 out of 10 of the working population with disabilities fell into this category.

**Figure 2**  
**Disabled household reference persons by type of tenure, 2000**



**Age Distribution**

In 2000, among 2,832 people with disabilities in Bermuda

- 8 percent were ages 0 – 15
- 55 percent were ages 16 – 64
- 37 percent were 65 years and older

**Gender**

- 55 percent were women
- 45 percent were men

With the exception of children under 16 years and senior citizens, the gender distribution by age of the disabled population is relatively similar. For children under 16, there were nearly three times more disabled boys than girls. In contrast, at the opposite end of the age spectrum, there were disproportionately more disabled women than men because of the greater longevity of women.

**Race**

In 2000, among people with disabilities in Bermuda

- 65 percent were black
- 35 percent were white