



Disability statistics : **collection of survey data on vision-related** **difficulties**

Eurostat – F5

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Visit of European Coalition for Vision



Outline

1. Existing data sources

2. Dissemination of disability statistics





Data sources on disability at EU level

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



EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

- Annual survey
- Includes the Minimum European Health Module (MEHM) ⇒ 2 single-question items on self-perceived health and chronic conditions + the Global Activity Limitations Indicator (GALI) question

For at least the past 6 months, to what extent have you been limited because of a health problem in activities people usually do?

Would you say you have been *severely limited*, *limited but not severely* or *not limited at all*?



European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)

- **Periodicity:** every 5 years
- **Survey year:**
 - 2007-2009 (1st round): no legal basis (not all EU MS participated)
 - 2013-2015 (2nd round): EU legal basis
- **Content:** modules on health status, health care, lifestyle and Eurostat core social variables
- **Health status module:** inter alia, variables on difficulties in:
 - basic activities (seeing, hearing, walking, stretching, etc.)
 - more complex activities:
 - Activities of Daily Living (personal care)
 - Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (household care)



EHIS variables on difficulties in seeing

Physical and sensory functional limitations			
PL1	Wearing glasses or contact lenses	1 Yes 2 No 3 blind or cannot see at all -1 missing (don't know, refusal)	Everybody
PL2	Difficulty in seeing, even when wearing glasses or contact lenses	1 No difficulty 2 Some difficulty 3 A lot of difficulty 4 Cannot do at all / Unable to do -1 missing (don't know, refusal) -2 not applicable	If PL1 = 1 or 2

- Similar questions proposed in the Budapest Initiative survey module for measuring health state and the Washington Group short set of questions for inclusion in national censuses







Labour Force Survey, 2011 ad-hoc module on employment of disabled people

- **Aim:** main source for assessing the participation of disabled people in the labour market and in education and training
- **EU legal basis:** yes (Commission Regulation)
- **Content :**
 - Health problems and difficulties in basic activities
 - Limitations in work caused by health problems or difficulties in basic activities
 - Special assistance needed or used by people with health problems/difficulties in basic activities
 - Limitations in work because of other reasons



LFS ad-hoc module variables on difficulties in seeing

DIFFICMA	201-202		First basic activity difficulty (code the most important difficulty)	Everybody aged 15 to 64	
		01	Seeing, even if wearing glasses		
		02	Hearing, even if using a hearing aid		
DIFFICSE	203-204		Second basic activity difficulty (code the second most important difficulty)	Everybody aged 15 to 64 and DIFFICMA = 1-10	
		01	Seeing, even if wearing glasses		
		02	Hearing, even if using a hearing aid		



Main results (provisional, EU-28)

- Around 6 million people aged 15-64 have difficulties in seeing, even if wearing glasses (1,9% of the population aged 15-64)
- Data available by country, sex and age groups





European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS)

- **Aim:** to meet the needs for disability statistics as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- **Survey year:** 2012-2013
- **EU legal basis:** no (implementation via **call for tender** in EU MS + Iceland + Norway)
- **Release of aggregated results:** 2nd half of 2014

EHSIS: content of questionnaire

- Eurostat core social variables
- Questions about general health and longstanding health problems (Minimum European Health Module, impairments, Activities of Daily Living - ADL, Instrumental Activities of Daily Living - IADL)
- Questions on barriers in 10 life domains:
 - Mobility
 - Transport
 - Accessibility to buildings
 - Education and training
 - Employment
 - Internet use
 - Social contact and support
 - Leisure pursuits
 - Economic life
 - Attitudes and Behaviour

EHSIS question on difficulties in basic activities

[*] Here is a list of some basic activities. For each of them can you tell me whether you usually have difficulties doing it? Would you say...?

RUNNING PROMPT

- 1) No difficulty
- 2) Some difficulty
- 3) A lot of difficulty
- 4) Cannot do at all / Unable to do

- 8) don't know
- 9) refusal

SHOWCARD H2

- 1) Seeing, even if wearing glasses or contact lenses
- 2) Hearing, even if using a hearing aid
- 3) Walking 100 meters on level ground (that would be about the length of a football field)
- 4) Walking up or down 12 steps
- 5) Remembering (for instance, recent events, appointments, household tasks, taking medications) or concentrating
- 6) Communicating (for instance, understanding what is said by others or being understood by others)





Actions in 2013-2014 for improving the dissemination of disability data

- Creation of a Disability sub-section in the new *Health* dedicated section on Eurostat website
- Dissemination in Eurobase of new data sets derived from the data sources previously mentioned
- Grouping in Eurobase all existing disability-related statistics
- Creation of an online publication in Statistics Explained





Thank you

