



Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland

Disability Research Series **8**

nDA

National Disability Authority
Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais

Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland

Report of Findings
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Executive Summary

Introduction

This report presents the findings of a comprehensive survey of public attitudes towards people with disabilities in the Republic of Ireland. This survey was conducted during 2006 and is a follow up of a similar study that was conducted in 2001.

The survey was commissioned by the National Disability Authority and was undertaken by Insight Statistical Consulting. In total 1,004 members of the Irish adult population (aged 18+) were interviewed using a face-to-face, interviewer completed survey. A further booster sample of people with disabilities was also collected to allow more in-depth analysis of this subset. This booster sample contained an additional 257 responses from people that had a disability. Fieldwork was conducted between November 1st and December 8th, 2006.

The findings of the research cover a diverse range of topics on attitudes relating to disability, including knowledge of disability and general attitudes, education, employment, relationships, access to buildings and public facilities, level of comfort living near people with disabilities, State benefits and awareness of disability related organisations/legislation/initiatives. Where possible in this report comparison is made with the 2001 results.

Unless otherwise stated only statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences between groups are described in the report. Where differences are not discussed, then it can be assumed that they are not statistically significant.

What is a Disability

When asked without prompting, what illnesses, conditions or disabilities the term 'people with disabilities' referred to the most frequent answer was 'physical disability', mentioned by 86% of respondents. Next most frequently mentioned was 'intellectual or learning disability' by 54% of respondents and this was followed by 'mental health difficulty' by 43%. Less frequently mentioned disabilities were 'visual difficulties', 34%, 'hearing loss', 26% and 'long-term illness' 22%. For all disabilities mentioned there has been an increased awareness amongst the general public compared to 2001 except for 'HIV/AIDs' that has remained unchanged.

When the results were examined by presence or absence of a disability for the respondent the only significant differences were for 'long-term illness' and 'frailty in old age' with people with disabilities having higher awareness of these disability types.

Familiarity with People with Disabilities

Just over one-in-ten respondents from the national sample (11%) had a disability and 71% of respondents knew someone with a disability. In the 2001 study 48% of respondents knew someone with a disability so there has been a noticeable increase. The most frequent disability the respondents had, or knew someone that had, was a physical disability. When asked the relationship respondents had with the person or people they knew

with a disability, a relation was the most frequent answer with 3% of respondents stating 'spouse or partner', 20% 'member of immediate family' and 17% 'other relative'. Other frequent responses were 'friend' (17%), 'neighbour' (17%) and 'acquaintance' (16%). However, only 6% knew a 'colleague/work contact' with a disability. People that had a disability were more likely to have a 'spouse/partner' with a disability or know a 'friend', 'neighbour' or 'acquaintance' with a disability.

General Attitudes to People with Disabilities

Just over six-in-ten respondents (61%) agreed that it is society, which disables people by creating barriers and only 45% of respondents thought people with disabilities were treated fairly in Irish society. People that had a disability were more likely to agree that it is society, which disables people by creating barriers. Four-fifths of respondents (80%) believed there were occasions or circumstances when it was all right to treat people with disabilities more favourably than others. However, regardless of the disability, more than half of respondents agreed that people with disabilities are not able to participate fully in life.

Disability and Education

Just over half (52%) of respondents thought people with disabilities did not receive equal opportunities in terms of education. There was not a significant difference in response to this question regardless of presence or absence of a disability by the respondent. When asked should children with disabilities attend the same schools as children without disabilities the highest level of acceptance was for those that had physical disabilities with three-quarters of respondents (75%) agreeing that they should attend the same schools as children without disabilities. The lowest level of acceptance was for mental health difficulties with only 36% of respondents agreeing that they should be in the same schools as children without disabilities. Respondents that had a disability were more likely to agree that people with intellectual or learning, physical or visual/hearing disability should be in the same school as other children.

Mental health difficulty was also the only disability category that had a relatively high level of objection to having children with that disability in the same class as non-disabled children. Just over one-in-five respondents (21%) said they would object. Respondents that had a disability themselves were less likely to object to children with mental health difficulties being in the same class as their child with 15% objecting compared to 21% of people with no disability.

Disability and Employment

Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) thought people with disabilities do not receive equal opportunities in terms of employment. There was not a significant difference in response to this question regardless of presence or absence of a disability by the respondent. Respondents thought employers were most willing to employ people with

physical disabilities (32%), followed by hearing disabilities (27%). By far the lowest level of willingness to employ people was for those that had mental health difficulties with only 7% of respondents thinking employers would be willing to hire people with this disability.

When asked how comfortable respondents would be having people with different disabilities as work colleagues, there were similar high levels of comfort for all disability categories except for the lower rated mental health difficulties. Respondents with a disability were more comfortable working with people with disabilities regardless of disability type compared to respondents that had no disability.

Disability and Relationships

Nine-in-ten respondents (90%) agreed that people with visual or hearing disabilities should have sexual relationships and 87% agreed for people with physical disabilities. Three-quarters of respondents (75%) agreed that people with intellectual or learning disabilities should have sexual relationships and only 61% agreed for people with mental health difficulties.

Compared with having sexual relationships there was lower levels of agreement that people with disabilities should have children if they wish. Again the highest levels of agreement for this question were for people with visual/hearing disabilities or physical disabilities with agreement percentages of 87% and 84% respectively. However, only 64% of respondents agreed that people with intellectual or learning disabilities should have children and just 41% agreed for mental health difficulties. People with disabilities were more likely to agree that people with intellectual or learning disabilities or physical disabilities should have children if they wish.

Disability and Access to Buildings

Six-in-ten respondents (61%) thought buildings and public facilities in Ireland are not adequately accessible for people with disabilities. People that had a disability were more likely to have the opinion that buildings and public facilities in Ireland are not adequately accessible for people with disabilities. Nearly nine-in-ten respondents (87%) agreed that in general, access to buildings and public facilities for people with disabilities has improved in the last five years. However, 92% of respondents agreed that more could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities. Again people with disabilities were more likely than others to agree that more could be done regarding access to buildings and public facilities.

Level of Comfort Living near People with Disabilities

When asked how comfortable respondents would be having someone with a disability living in their neighbourhood respondents had comparable high level of comfort for all disability categories except for the lower rated mental health difficulties. This is comparable to the finding for comfort and work colleagues.

Compared to the 2001 survey there were higher comfort levels recorded for all disability types. While comfort living near people with mental health difficulties had increased since 2001 it remains lower than other types of disability. People with disabilities had slightly higher comfort levels living near people with disabilities compared to others.

Disability and State Benefits

Approximately three-fifths of respondents (57%) thought 'all' people with disabilities receive State benefits with 23% believing 'some' people with disabilities receive State benefits and 1% thinking they 'do not' receive State benefits. The remaining 19% answered 'don't know' to this question. Not surprisingly, a higher percentage of people with disabilities knew people with disabilities receive State benefits, 68% compared to 57% for others. When asked about the current level of State benefits received half of respondents (50%) thought that the State do not provide enough benefits. People with disabilities were more likely to say that the State does not provide enough State benefits (68% compared to 47% of others).

Awareness of Disability Related Organisations, Legislation and Strategies

Just over one-third (34%) of respondents were aware of the National Disability Authority (NDA), 22% were aware of the Disability Act 2005, 16% were aware of the National Disability Strategy and only 5% were aware of the sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act. In 2001 only 12% of respondents were aware of the NDA so there has been a major increase in awareness of this organisation in the past five years. People with disabilities were more likely than others to be aware of the NDA, the National Disability Strategy and the sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act.

When asked how they had heard about the organisations, legislation and strategies related to disability, the most frequent answer in all cases was primarily TV or radio and secondly newspaper or magazines.

Factors Impacting on Attitudes

The results of the study show that more positive attitudes to disability are found amongst people with some personal experience of disability, whether they had a disability themselves or knew someone with a disability. There were also differences in response for certain questions depending on the respondent's age, gender and social class. These differences are outlined further in the report but examples of these findings include; in general females had more positive attitudes to people with disabilities, older people were more likely to know someone with a disability and people from the ABCI social class were less comfortable having a work colleague with a intellectual or learning disability or hearing disabilities.

Summary of Key Findings

- ➔ Compared to the 2001 study there has been an increased awareness of disability types both unprompted and prompted.
- ➔ Physical disability was the most frequently mentioned disability type, with 86% of respondents in the national sample having unprompted awareness of this disability type.
- ➔ Physical disability had far higher unprompted awareness than other disability categories with the next highest awareness being intellectual or learning disabilities at 54%.
- ➔ Compared to 2001 more respondents are aware of people with disabilities, in this study 71% of respondents knew someone with a disability compared to 48% in 2001.
- ➔ Less than half of respondents (45%) thought people with disabilities were treated fairly in Irish society.
- ➔ Just over half (52%) of respondents thought people with disabilities did not receive equal opportunities in terms of education.
- ➔ Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) thought people with disabilities do not receive equal opportunities in terms of employment.
- ➔ Respondents thought employers would be most willing to employ people with physical disabilities with 32% of respondents giving this response.
- ➔ The most negative attitudes relate to people with mental health difficulties. In relation to education only 36% of respondents agreed that children with mental health difficulties should be in the same school as other children and 21% of respondents said they would object if children with mental health difficulties were in the same class as their child. Similar to views on education, in terms of employment only 7% of respondents thought employers were willing to employ people with mental health difficulties. Respondents also said they would be least comfortable having people with mental health difficulties as work colleagues. In relation to parenting, only 41% of respondents thought people with mental health difficulties should have children if they wish.
- ➔ Although respondents believe access to buildings and public facilities has improved more than nine in ten respondents (92%) agreed that more could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities.
- ➔ Respondents believe people with disabilities are treated unfairly by the State. Half of respondents (50%) who were aware that people with disabilities receive State benefits thought that the State does not provide enough benefits for them.
- ➔ Awareness of the National Disability Authority has increased from 12% in 2001 to 34% in this study.

1



Introduction

1.1 Background

The National Disability Authority (NDA) is an independent statutory agency whose principal function is to advise the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on disability issues. Promoting the full inclusion of people with disabilities is a key objective for the National Disability Authority. Challenging negative attitudes and prejudice which pose major obstacles to the equal social, cultural and economic participation for people with disabilities is identified as a strategic priority for the NDA in its 2004 – 2006 Strategic Plan.

In 2001, the NDA conducted a survey on public attitudes to disability of 1,000 adults 18 years old and over resident in Ireland. The survey examined

- 1) Understanding of disability.
- 2) Knowledge of disability.
- 3) Awareness of disability.
- 4) Views on disability.
- 5) Specific questions on education, employment, transport, health, relationships and leisure.
- 6) Gaps in policy.
- 7) Knowledge and understanding of the National Disability Authority.

The 2001 survey results showed that attitudes varied significantly by gender and by whether the respondent had some personal experience of disability. Given the legislative and other changes that have occurred in Ireland during the period since the last attitude to disability survey it was an opportune time to reassess the impact of these changes on the perceptions and attitudes to disability. These changes include, among others, the National Disability Strategy, the Equality Act 2004, the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 and the Disability Act 2005.

A follow up national attitudes survey was conducted in November and early December 2006 utilising key questions from the 2001 Irish survey and other pertinent questions. The marketing and social research company, Insight Statistical Consulting, conducted this study. The results of the survey will be used to facilitate the planning of interventions that address attitudinal barriers and promote positive attitudes to people with disabilities, particularly pertinent to 2007, which has been designated as European Year of Equal Opportunities for all.

1.2 Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of the survey was to provide evidence on attitudes to disability among a representative population of males and females aged 18 and over living in the Republic of Ireland with specific analysis across a range of variables including gender, age, and disability status. This evidence will be used to guide future interventions and to assess, where possible, changes and the cause for such, in public attitudes to disability as measured against benchmarks established in 2001 and 2006 national surveys.

2

Methodology



2.1 Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was designed to cover current topics of relevance to the NDA and also allow for comparison of key questions with the 2001 study. The questionnaire covered many topics related to attitudes to disability including: knowledge of what was a disability and general attitudes to disability, disability and education, disability and employment, disability and relationships, disability and access, level of comfort living near people with disabilities, disability and state benefits and awareness of disability related organisations, legislation and strategies.

A person with a disability was defined using the 2006 census definition of disability. The question wording was ‘Do you have any of the following long lasting conditions?’ Table 2.1 shows the response categories for this question. If the respondent answered ‘other’ to this question their answer was classified during data processing.

Table 2.1 Definition of a person with Disability

Blindness
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying
A intellectual or learning disability
A psychological or emotional condition
Chronic illness
Other (specify)

Certain questions in the questionnaire were broken down by type of disability. The disabilities were mental health difficulties, intellectual or learning disabilities, physical disability and visual or hearing disabilities. For the questions on employment where disability type was broken down, visual and hearing disability was broken down into two separate categories.

2.2 Data Collection

Face-to-face interviews were used to collect the data. This method was chosen because of the duration of the survey (approximately 20 minutes) and consistency with the 2001 survey. The questionnaire used contains questions that could have some social desirability bias associated with them. Social desirability bias is when in some circumstances, respondents may be tempted to give the socially desirable response rather than describe what they actually think, believe or do. This has typically been assumed to be a function of two factors, the general strength of need for approval felt by an individual (personality trait) and the demands of a particular situation. In a questionnaire survey the demands of a particular situation would include the perceived relative desirability/undesirability of the behaviour referred to in a question (say, donating to a cancer or in this survey saying you are willing to employ a person with a disability). There appears to be no certain way of totally eliminating or circumventing a socially desirable response if a question is thought to invite this type of response. The problem may be reduced in certain situations but there is no way of establishing how much has still taken place. A number of methods were used to reduce any possible social desirability effect including appeals for the respondent to provide honest answers and assurances of confidentiality. Where comparison is made with 2001 it is assumed any social desirability effect will be similar as the same methodology was used.

A representative sample of the Irish adult population was used. It was planned to interview 1,000 adults 18 years old and over and also collect a booster sample of 250 people with disabilities so this subset could be analysed in greater detail. The definition of disability for the booster sample was the same wording as the disability question used in the 2006 Census of population. On completion of the data collection 1,004 surveys were compiled for the national sample and 257 for the booster sample of people with disabilities.

For the national survey the data was collected from 100 randomly allocated locations around the country. These locations were based on the list of District Electoral Divisions (DEDs). Households were randomly selected at each location. Only one person per household was eligible to participate in the study. Quotas were set for age, gender, region and social class. Respondents were representative of the national population of adults aged 18 and over. The data collection guidelines as set out by ESOMAR (World Association of Opinion and Market Research Professionals) were followed. For the booster sample of people with disabilities quota controls were set by region.

2.3 Other Methodology Issues

The following notes should explain how to read and interpret the text, tables and charts presented within this report.

Base: Each tabular or graphical output contains a base from which the percentages are calculated. This is the number of people who responded to a particular question.

Margin of Error: The margin of error for a random sample of 1,004 respondents from a large population is approximately +/- 3%. Quota sampling was employed for this study where approximately 10 respondents were selected from a stratified random sample of 100 sampling points. The sampling employed in this research provides a reasonable approximation of random sampling.

Rounding Error: Some rounding error may occur in the data tables and charts. This means that, for single response questions, not all figures will add up to 100% due to rounding. For example, 48.5% and 51.5% may be rounded to 49% and 52% respectively.

Social Class: The occupation of the chief income earner for the household was captured and categorised into social class. The social class definitions used are derived from the occupation of the head of household. A is Upper Middle Class; B is Middle Class; C1 is Lower Middle Class; C2 is Skilled Working Class; D is Other Working Class; E is Casual Workers and those dependent on welfare. Farmers are classified as F1 and F2, F1 being farmers who farm more than 50 acres, F2 being those with smaller farms.

3

Results

3.1 Introduction

This study was designed to collect detailed information on how the general population in Ireland perceives disability and people with disabilities. A booster sample was also collected for people that had disabilities to supplement the data for this subset of the population. This section describes the results of the survey under the following headings: knowledge of disability and general attitudes, education, employment, relationships, access to buildings and public facilities, level of comfort living near people with disabilities, State benefits and awareness of disability related organisations/legislation/initiatives.

The results in each instance are presented in tabular or graphical format, with commentary describing the key findings. Unless otherwise stated only statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences between groups are described in the narrative. Where differences are not discussed, then it can be assumed that they are not statistically significant. Appendices in this report provide data tables for all questions for all respondents in the national sample ($n = 1,004$) and also data tables for the subset of people that had a disability taken from the national sample and the booster sample ($n=372$).

3.2 Knowledge of Disability and General Attitudes

Respondents were asked had they heard of the term ‘people with disabilities’, 97% of respondents had heard of this term. Respondents that knew someone with a disability were more likely to have heard of the term, 98% compared to 94% for respondents that did not know anyone with a disability.

When asked without prompting what illnesses, conditions or disabilities the term ‘people with disabilities’ refers to the most frequent answer was ‘physical disability’, mentioned by 86% of respondents. Next most frequently mentioned was ‘intellectual or learning disability’ by 54% of respondents and this was followed by ‘mental health difficulty’ by 43%. Less frequently mentioned disabilities were ‘visual difficulties’, 34%, ‘hearing loss’, 26% and ‘long-term illness’ 22%. Table 3.1 displays the results with comparison made with the 2001 study. Except for ‘HIV/AIDs’ that has remained unchanged since 2001, for all other illnesses, conditions or disabilities mentioned there has been an increased awareness amongst the general public. The largest increase in unprompted awareness was for ‘hearing loss’/visual difficulties’ with awareness increasing 13 percentage points from 26% in 2001 to 39% in 2006. The much higher awareness of ‘physical disability’ compared to other categories shows that people still predominately associate disability with conditions that are visually apparent.

When the results were examined by respondent demographics, in general there was higher awareness amongst the ABCI social class group. The only noticeable difference for age of respondent was for ‘intellectual or leaning disability’ with 59% of 18 to 34 year olds mentioning this compared to 51% of 35 to 54 year olds and 49% of 55 years

old and older. When the results were examined by presence or absence of a disability for the respondent the only significant differences were for 'long-term illness' and 'frailty in old age'. Nearly three-in-ten (29%) of those having a disability mentioned 'long-term illness' compared to 21% of those that had no long lasting condition and more than one-in-ten (11%) respondents having a long lasting condition mentioned 'frailty in old age' compared to 8% of others.

If the respondent knew someone with a disability they were more likely to mention 'visual difficulties' (35% compared to 30% for people that did not know someone with a disability), 'intellectual or learning disability' (56% compared to 48%), 'mental health difficulties' (46% compared to 35%), 'long term illness' (24% compared to 17%) and 'addiction' (9% compared to 5%).

Table 3.1 Illnesses, conditions or disabilities the term 'people with disabilities' refer to (unprompted)

	Percent	
	2001	2006
Physical disability	80%	86%
Hearing loss*		26%
Visual difficulties*		34%
Hearing loss/visual difficulties	26%	39%
Intellectual or learning disability (e.g. mental handicap - Down Syndrome, slow learner)	48%	54%
Mental health difficulty (mental illness - depression, schizophrenia)	34%	43%
Long-term illness (e.g. diabetes, dialysis)	12%	22%
HIV/AIDS	5%	5%
Addiction	4%	7%
Frailty in old age**		9%
Other	3%	0.5%
None mentioned	2%	2%
Total n = 1,004 (2006)	100%	100%

*combined category in 2001 **not a category in 2001

The respondents were again asked this question when prompted with a list of illnesses, conditions or disabilities, see Table 3.2 for this list. The results in Table 3.2 combine both prompted and unprompted awareness of disabilities in comparison with 2001.

Table 3.2 Illnesses, conditions or disabilities the term ‘people with disabilities’ refers to (prompted and unprompted)

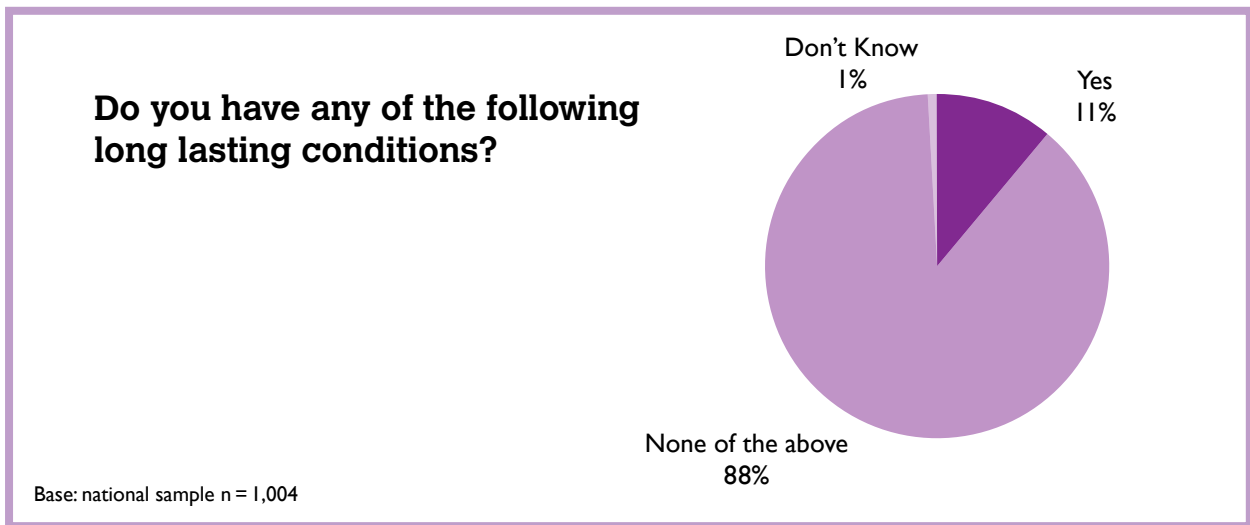
	Percent	
	2001	2006
Physical disability	97%	99%
Hearing loss*		91%
Visual difficulties*		95%
Hearing loss/visual difficulties	81%	96%
Intellectual or learning disability	90%	97%
Mental health difficulty	77%	90%
Long-term illness	60%	76%
HIV/AIDS	41%	51%
Addiction	34%	48%
Frailty in old age**		64%
Total n = 1,004 (2006)		

* illnesses, conditions or disabilities ** not asked in 2001

From Table 3.2 for all illnesses, conditions or disabilities listed there was higher awareness in 2006, either prompted or unprompted compared to 2001. The largest increase in awareness was for ‘long-term illness’ increasing 16 percentage points from 60% to 76%. ‘Hearing loss/visual difficulties’ increased 15 percentage points, ‘addiction’ increased 14 percentage points and ‘mental health difficulty’ increased 13 percentage points.

Similar to unprompted awareness having a disability or knowing someone with a disability meant respondents were more likely to mention a disability for many of the categories listed. There was very little difference in the proportion of respondents that answered ‘Yes’ for ‘HIV/AIDS’ being a disability when examined by age group. However, respondents aged 55 and over were more uncertain compared to younger age groups about ‘HIV/AIDS’ being a disability with 19% of 55 year olds and over answering ‘don’t know’ for this disability compared to 11% of 18 to 34 year olds.

Figure 3.1 Percentage of respondents with a long lasting condition



From Figure 3.1, just over one-in-ten respondents from the nationally representative survey (11%) had a long lasting condition as specified in Table 3.3. The most frequent condition mentioned was ‘a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying’ with 6% of all respondents in the national survey having this disability. Respondents with disabilities were more likely to be older with 53% of 55 year olds and over having a disability compared to 14% of 18 to 34 year olds and 23% of 35 to 54 year olds.

Table 3.3 Long lasting condition respondent mentioned (national sample)

	Percent
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	6%
Chronic illness	3%
Intellectual or learning disability	2%
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	1%
Psychological or emotional condition	1%
Blindness	1%
None Mentioned/Don't Know	89%
Total n = 1,004	100%

* Multiple responses possible as respondents can have multiple disabilities

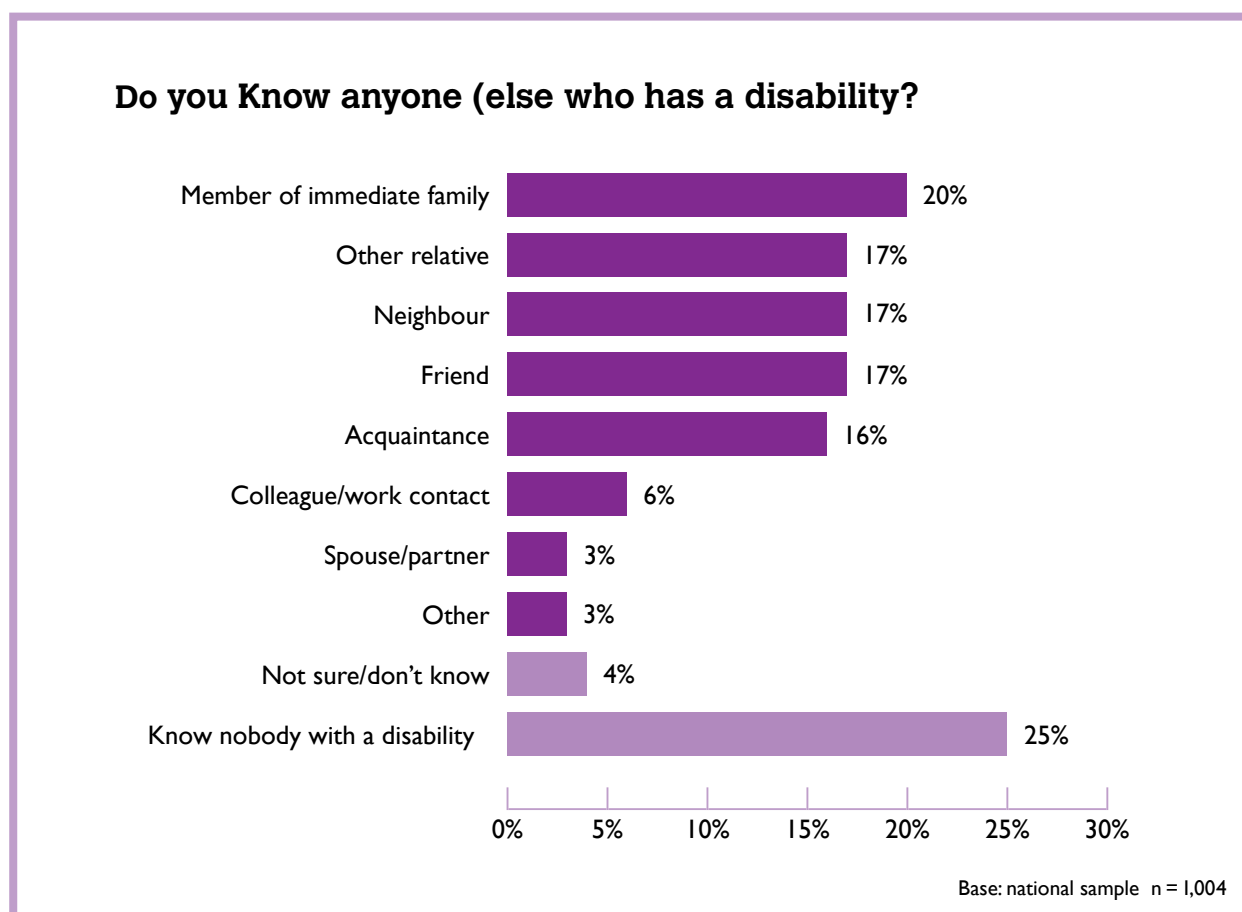
People with a disability were more likely to know someone with a disability, 83% of respondents with a disability knew someone that had a disability compared to 65% for respondents that did not have a disability.

Table 3.4 Long lasting condition respondent mentioned (booster sample)

	Percent*
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	55%
Chronic illness	28%
A psychological or emotional condition	12%
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	11%
Blindness	9%
A intellectual or learning disability	7%
Other	2%
Total n = 257	100%

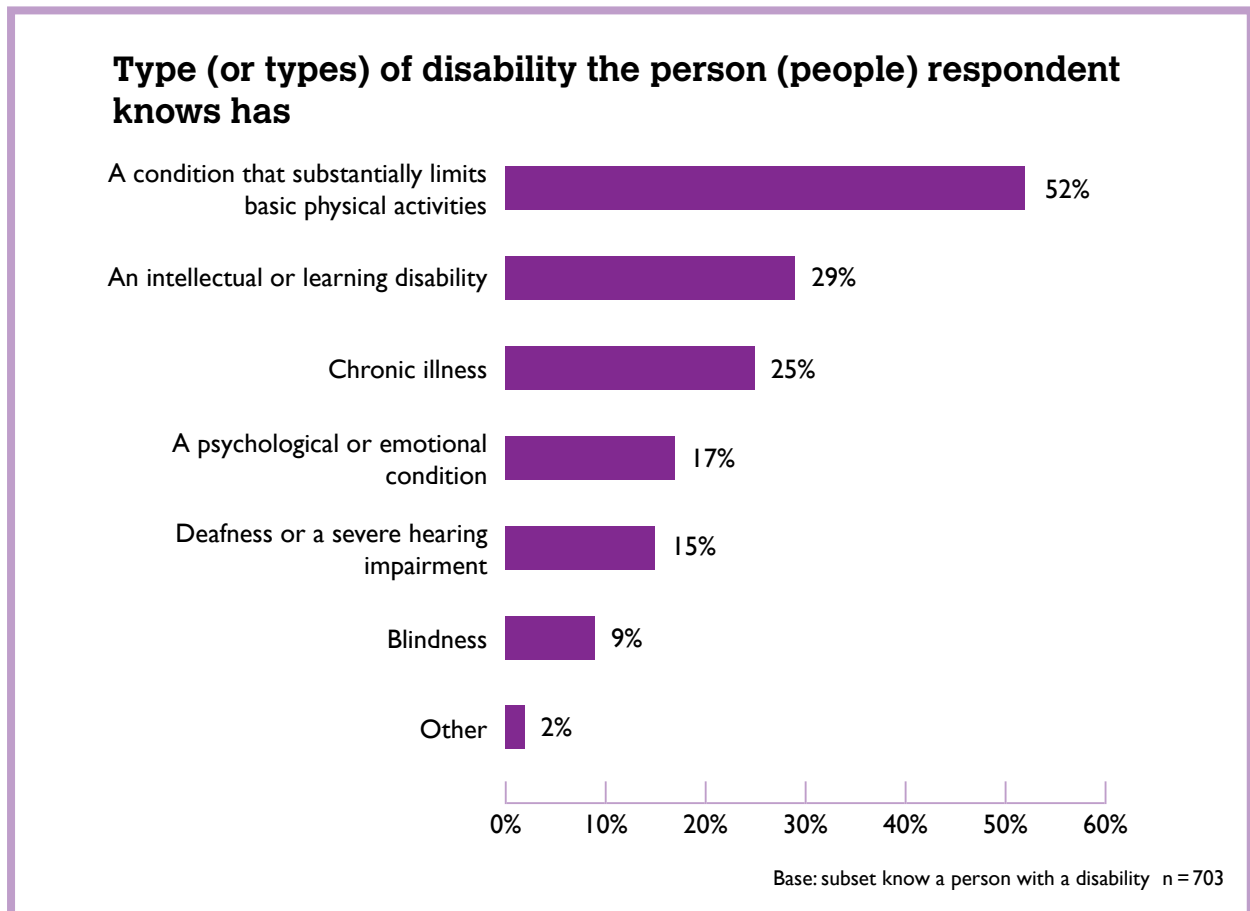
* Multiple responses possible as respondents can have multiple disabilities

From Table 3.4., one can see that in the booster sample the most frequent disability type mentioned was a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities with 55% of people in the booster sample stating this disability. Second most frequent disability mentioned was chronic illness with 28% of respondents in the booster sample mentioning this condition.

Figure 3.2 Percentage of respondents that knew someone with a disability

Just over seven-in-ten respondents (71%) knew someone with a disability. In the 2001 study 48% of respondents knew someone with a disability so there has been a noticeable increase. From Figure 3.2, the person or people they knew came from a variety of social contacts including relative, friend, neighbour and work colleague. Older people are more likely to know someone with a disability with 78% of 55 year olds and over knowing someone with a disability compared to 67% of 18 to 34 year olds.

Figure 3.3 Disability of the person the respondent knows

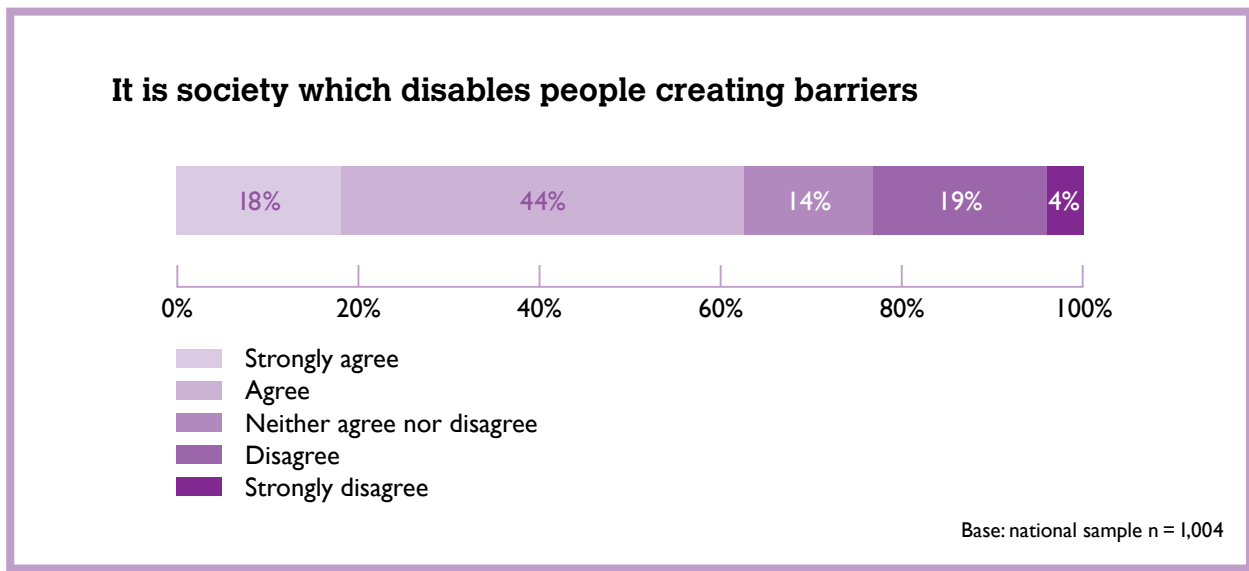


From Figure 3.3 the most frequent type of disability mentioned was ‘a condition that substantially limits basic physical activities’ with just over half (52%) of respondents that knew someone with a disability stating this condition. This was followed by an intellectual or learning difficulty with 29% of respondents knowing someone with that disability, chronic illness 25% and a psychological or emotional condition 17%.

Up to this point the interview did not provide any clarification to the respondent on the definition of a disability. For all results from this point forward the respondent is aware that people with disabilities refers to those that have physical, hearing, visual, intellectual, learning or mental health difficulties. The charts that follow display the results of attitudes of respondents regarding the treatment of people with disability in Irish society.

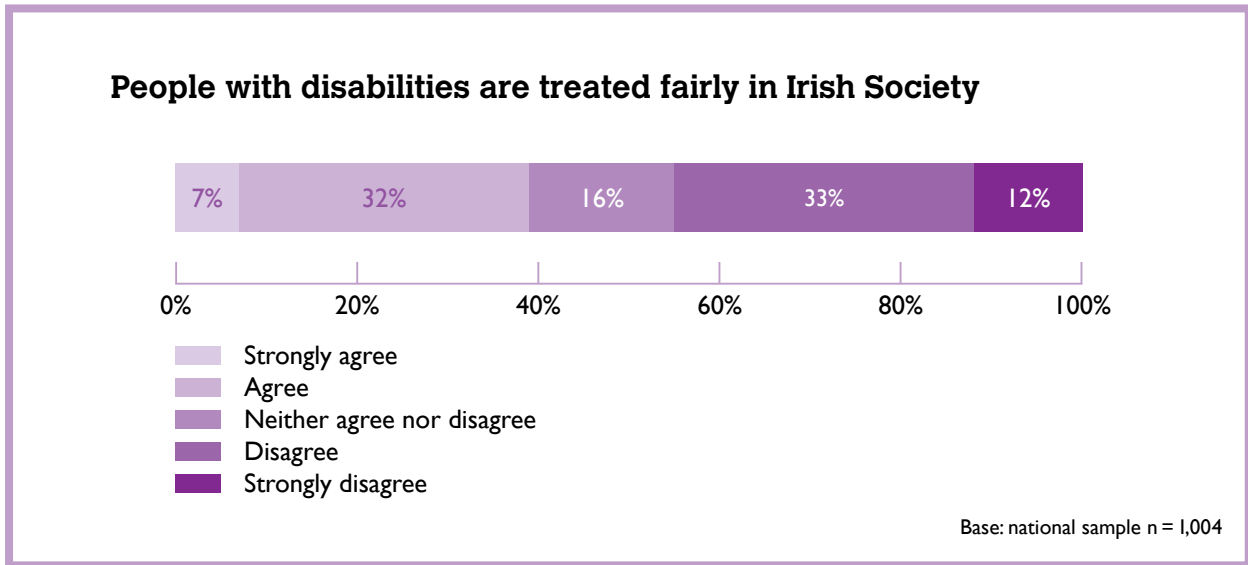
Figure 3.4 displays the difference in attitude to the statement ‘It is society which disables people by creating barriers’. Just over three-in-five respondents (62%) either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. In 2001 a slightly different scale was used so it was not possible to make a direct comparison.

Figure 3.4 Level of agreement with the statement ‘it is society which disables people by creating barriers’



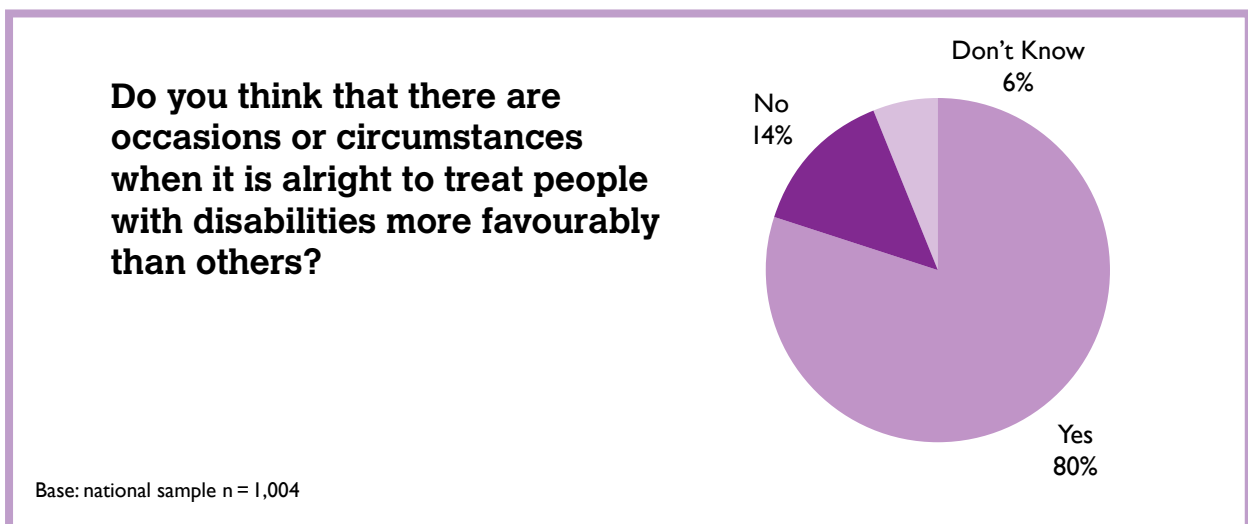
Respondents that had a disability or knew someone with a disability were more likely to agree with this statement. From Figure 3.5, when respondents were asked did they think ‘people with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society’, nearly half (45%) disagreed (answered disagree or strongly disagree) with this statement.

Figure 3.5 Level of agreement with the statement ‘people with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society’



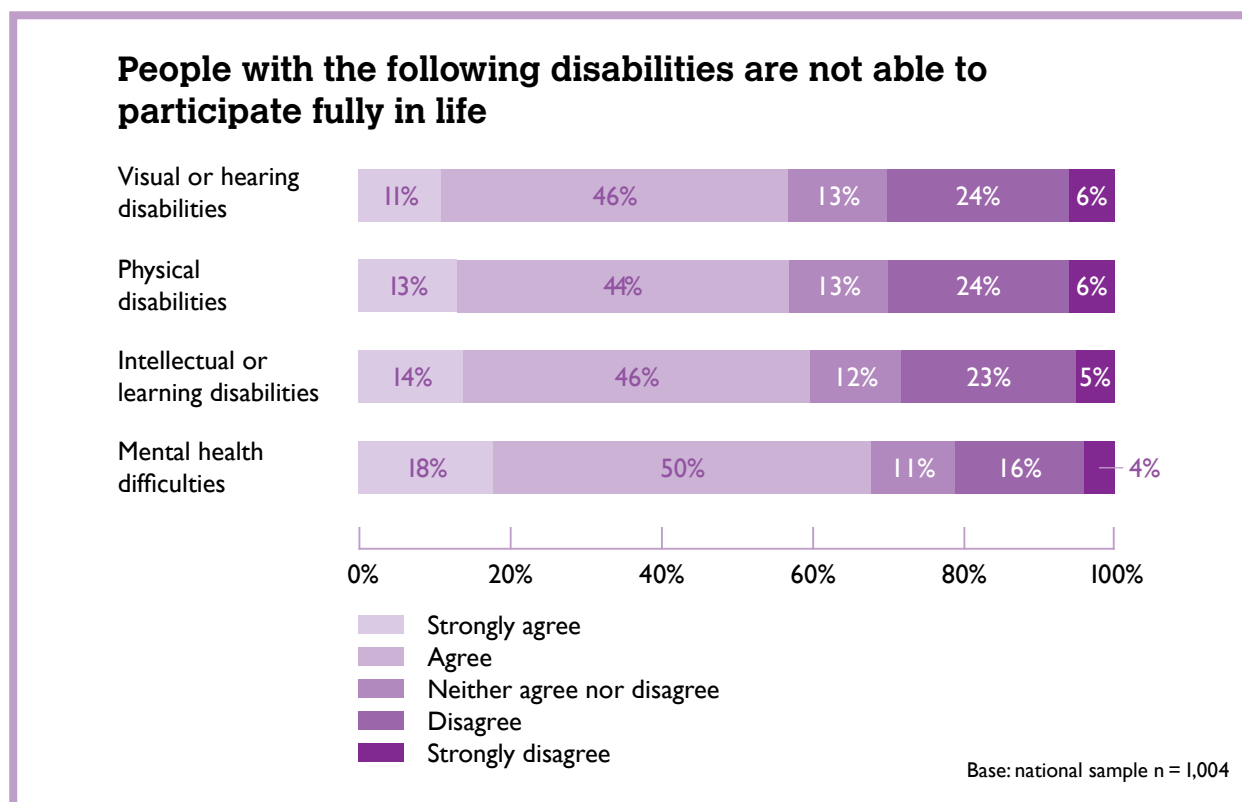
Again respondents that knew someone with a disability were more likely to disagree with this statement (48% compared to 37% for people not knowing someone with a disability) although there was no significant difference between people with and without a disability.

Figure 3.6 Percentage of respondents that think people with disabilities should be treated more favourably than others



From Figure 3.6, Four-fifths of respondents (80%) believed there were occasions or circumstances when it is all right to treat people with disabilities more favourably than others. A higher proportion of respondents that know someone with a disability agreed with this statement, 83% compared to 74% of others.

Figure 3.7 Level of agreement with the statement ‘ability to participate fully in life’ for different disability types

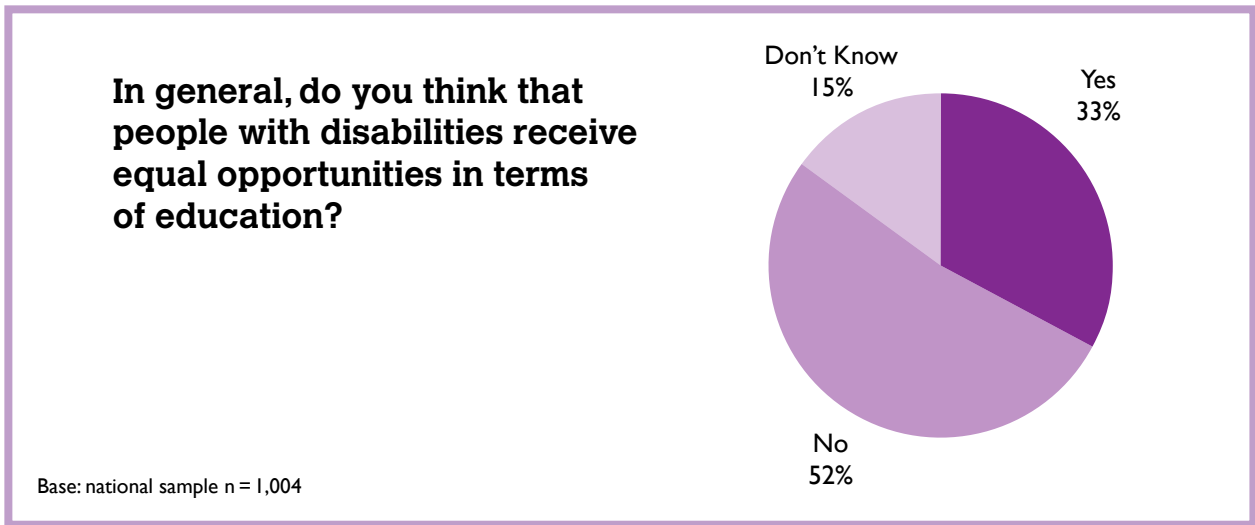


Of the disability categories listed, respondents thought people with mental health difficulties had most problems participating fully in life with 68% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement. Respondents that knew someone with a disability were more likely to agree that people with disabilities were not able to participate fully in life for all disability categories listed. Respondents that had a disability were more likely to agree with the statement for mental health, intellectual or learning and visual or hearing disabilities. Females were more likely than males to agree that people with intellectual/learning, physical or visual/hearing disabilities were not able to participate fully in life.

3.3 Disability and Education

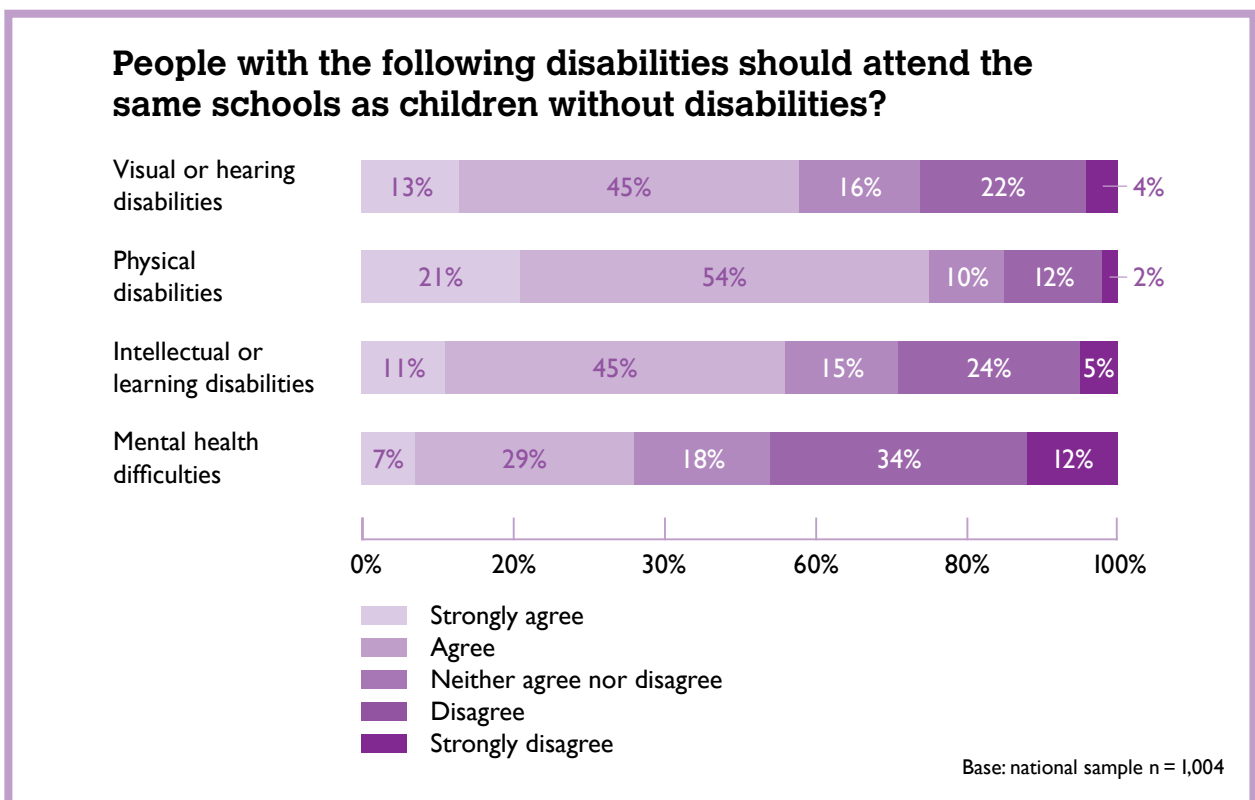
From Figure 3.8 just over half (52%) of respondents did not think people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education.

Figure 3.8 Do people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education



Females were more likely to think people with disabilities did not receive equal opportunities in terms of education compared to males (55% of females answered ‘No’ compared to 49% of males). Also respondents that knew someone with a disability were more likely to answer ‘No’.

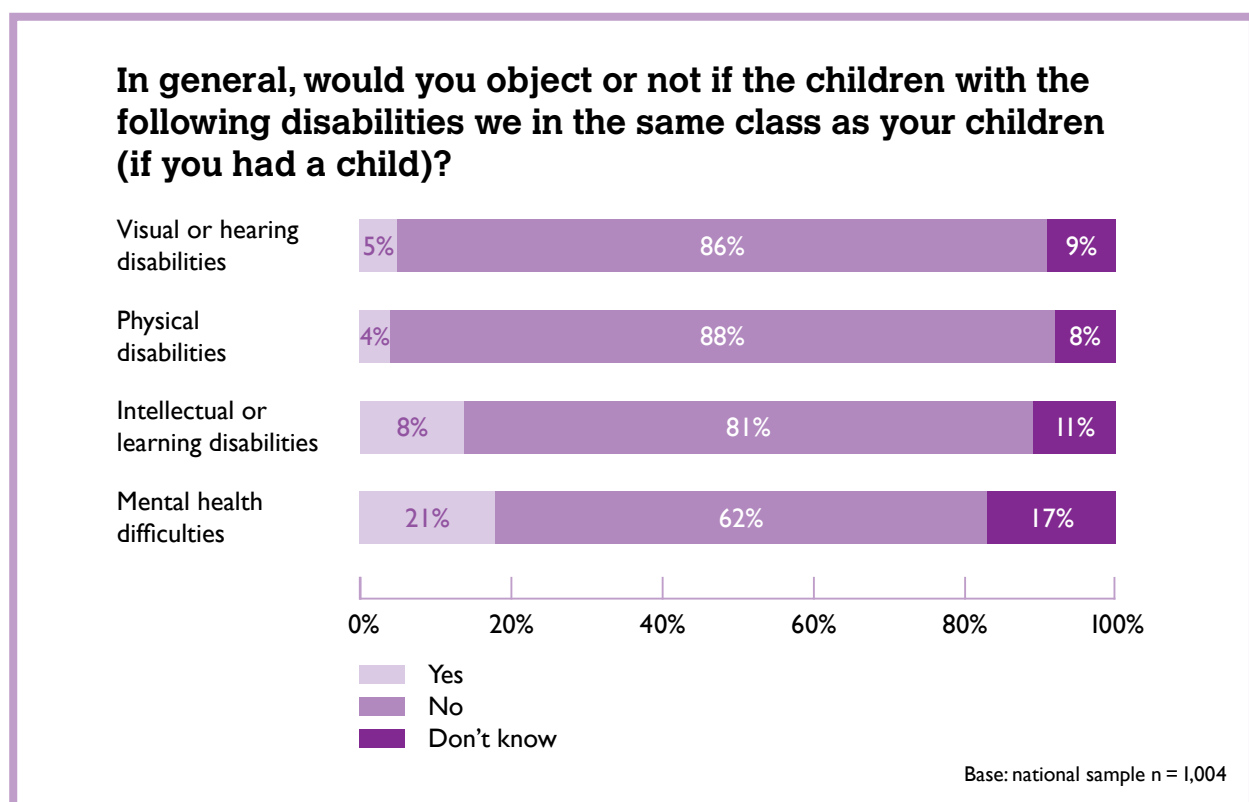
Figure 3.9 Level of agreement with the statement ‘children with disabilities should attend the same schools as children without disabilities?’



Respondents were asked did they think children with disabilities should attend the same schools as children without disabilities. The highest level of acceptance of children with disabilities was for those that had physical disabilities with three-quarters (75%) of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that they should attend the same schools as children without disabilities. There were lower levels of acceptance for children with visual or hearing disabilities with 58% agreeing with the statement and for children with intellectual or learning disabilities with 56% agreeing. The lowest level of acceptance was for mental health difficulties with only 36% of respondents agreeing that they should be in the same schools as children without disabilities.

Respondents 55 years old and over were less likely to agree that people with intellectual or learning, physical or visual/hearing disability should be in the same school as other children. Respondents that had a disability were more likely to agree that people with intellectual or learning, physical or visual/hearing disability should be in the same school as other children. Respondents that knew someone with a disability were also more likely to agree that all children should attend the same schools for all disabilities mentioned.

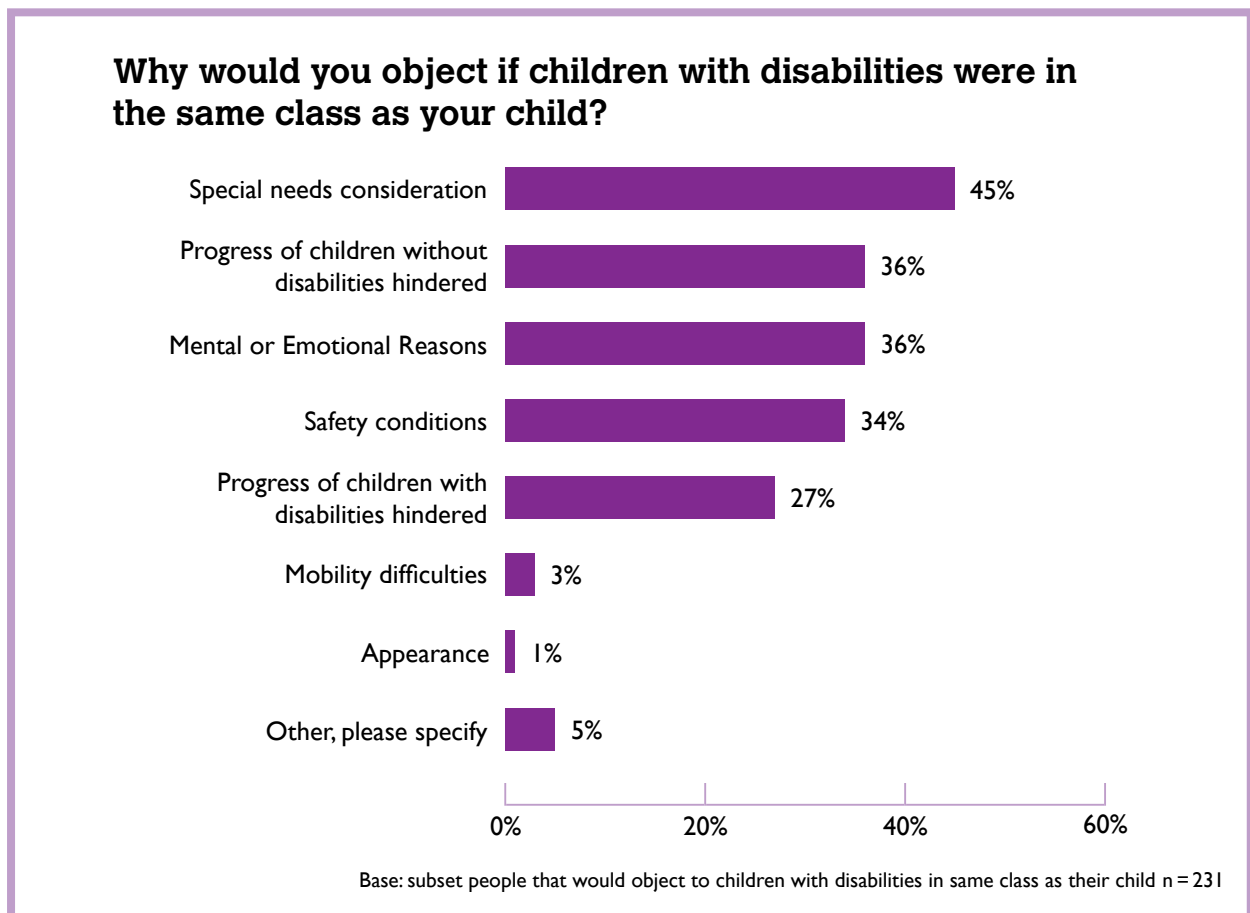
Figure 3.10 Object or not if children with disabilities were in the same class as your child (if you had a child) for different disability types



A mental health difficulty was the only disability category that had a relatively high level of objection to having children with that disability in the same class as non-disabled children. Just over one-in-five respondents (21%) said they would object.

If the respondent had a child with a disability, had a disability themselves or were female they were less likely to object if a child with a mental health difficulty was in their child's class. Respondents aged 55 years old and over were more likely to object if a child with an intellectual/learning or physical disability was in their child's class. Respondents that knew someone with a disability were also more likely to agree that all children should attend the same class for all disabilities mentioned.

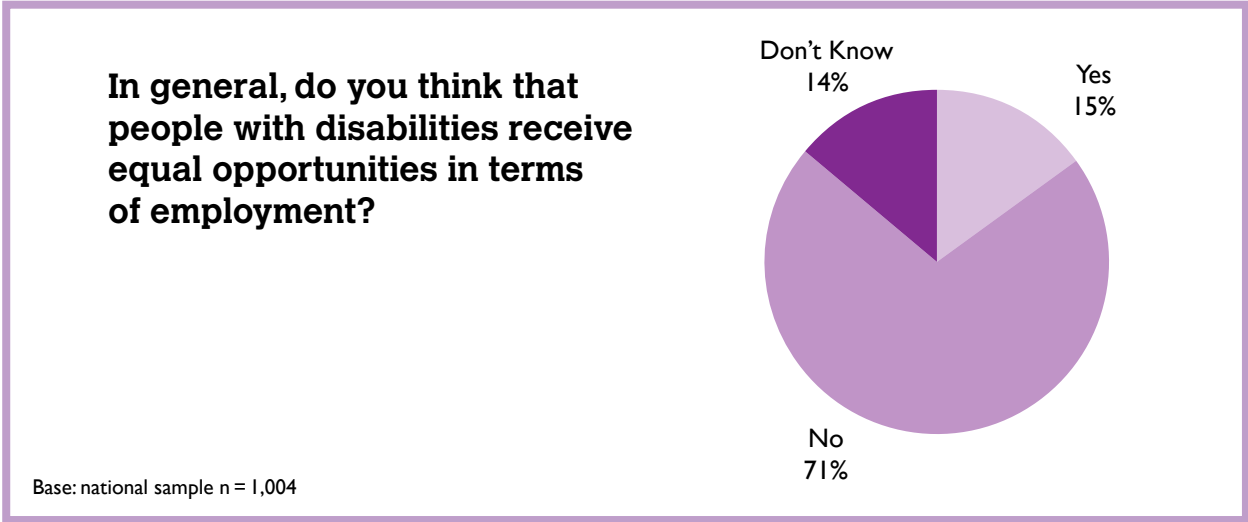
Figure 3.II Reason for objection to children with disabilities in the same class as your child



Respondents that said they would object to having children with disabilities in the same class as their child were asked why they would object. From Figure 3.11 the most frequent responses related to hindering the progress of either children with or without disabilities. Other frequent responses were special needs considerations, mental and emotional reasons and safety considerations.

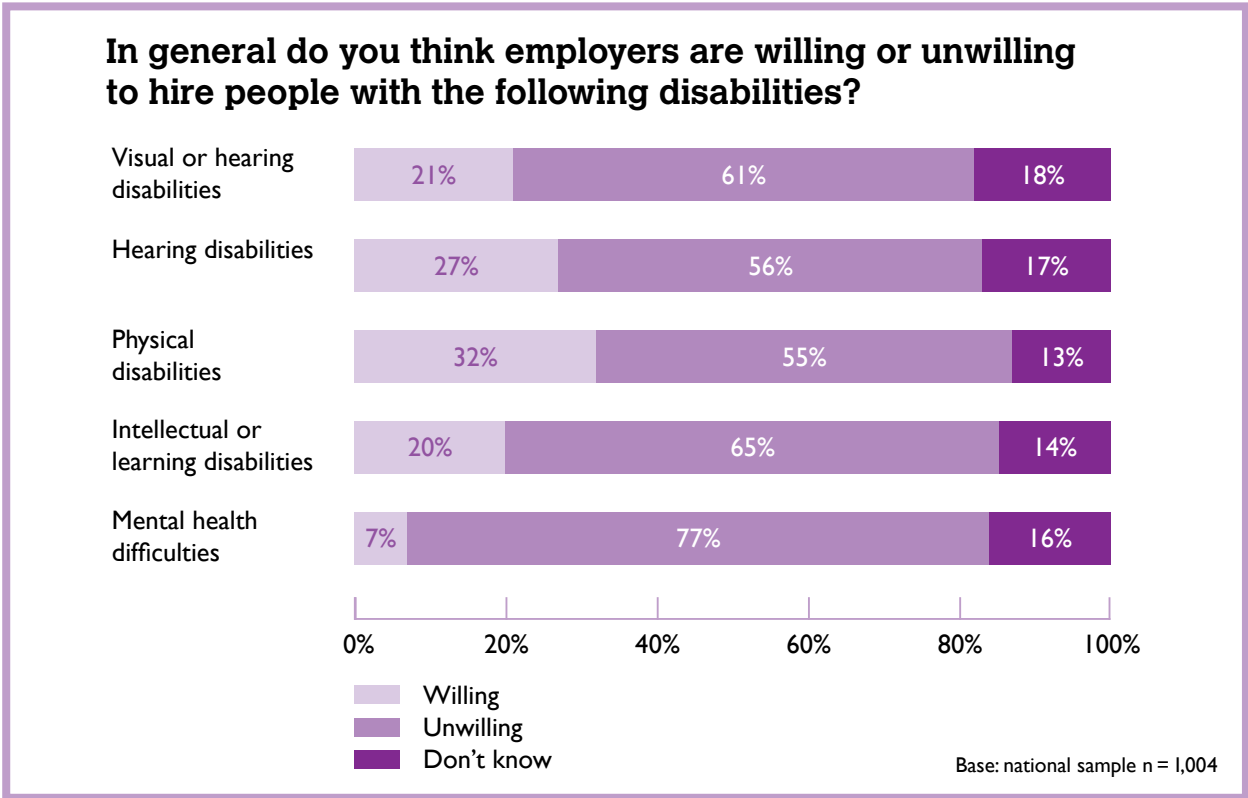
3.4 Disability and Employment

Figure 3.12 Disability and equal opportunities in terms of employment



From Figure 3.12 Nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) thought people with disabilities do not receive equal opportunities in terms of employment. Respondents that knew someone with a disability were more likely to believe that people with disabilities do not receive equal opportunities in terms of employment.

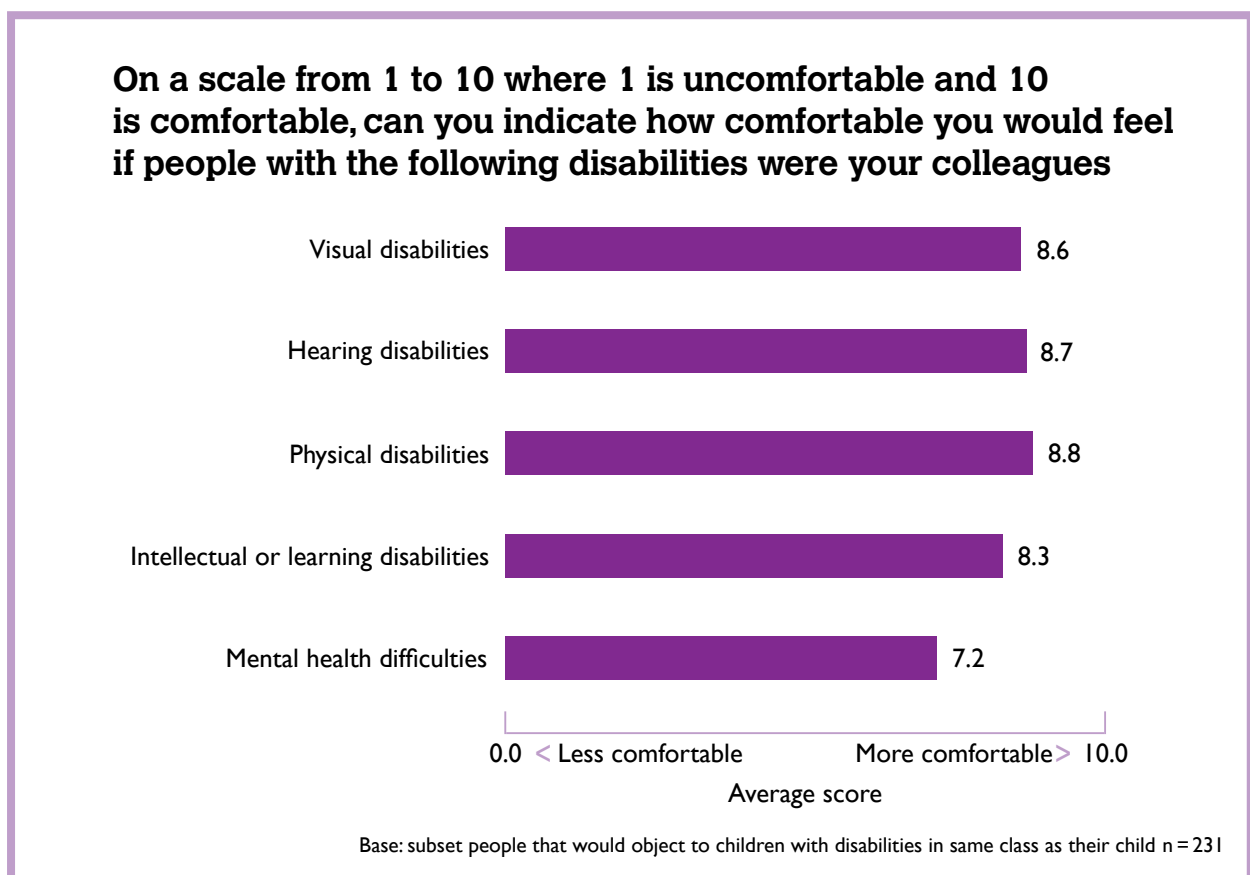
Figure 3.13 Willingness of employers to hire people with disabilities for different disability types



From Figure 3.13, respondents thought employers were most willing to employ people with physical disabilities (32%) followed by hearing disabilities (27%). By far the lowest perceived level of willingness to employ people was for those that had mental health difficulties with only 7% of respondents thinking employers would be willing to hire people with this disability. People that did not know anybody with a disability were less certain about employers' willingness to hire people with disabilities with more of this group responding 'don't know' for all disability categories.

Respondents that are currently employers or have been in the past were more willing than non-employers to hire people with physical disabilities and visual disabilities.

Figure 3.14 Level of comfort working with people with disabilities for different disability types

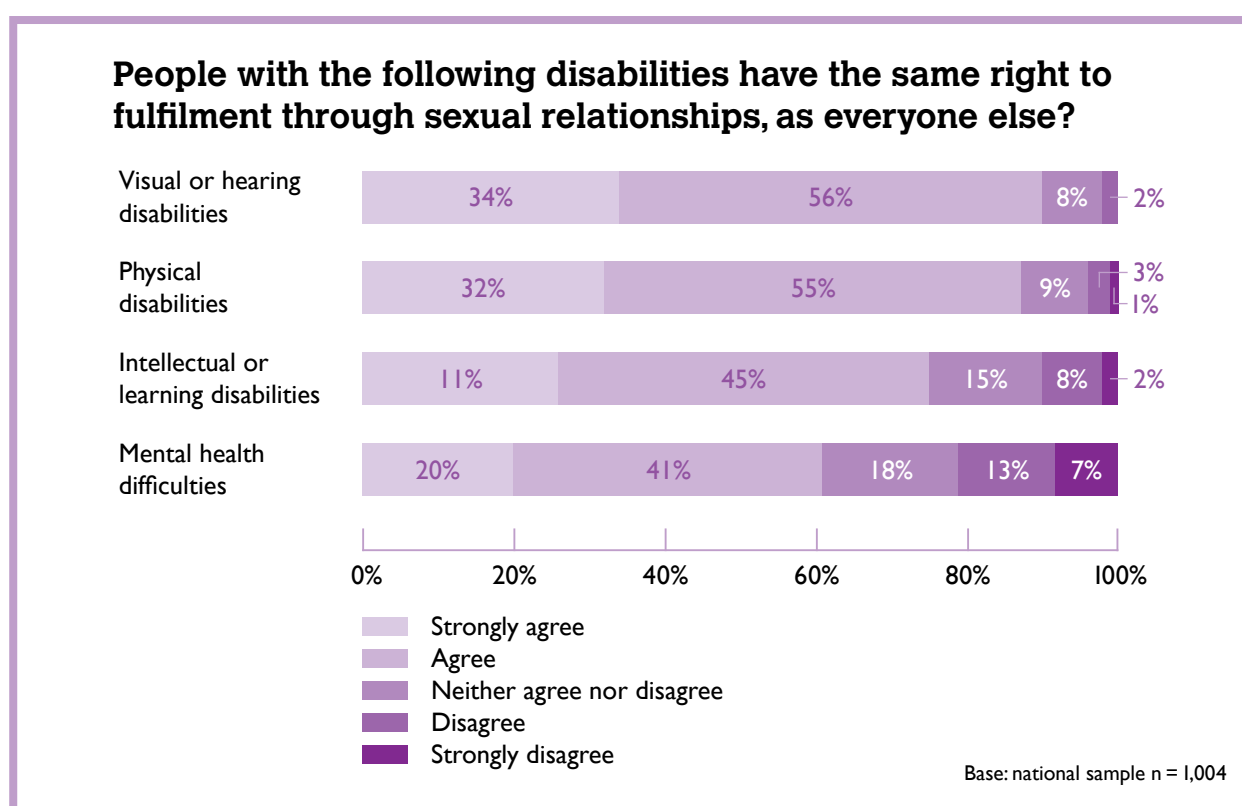


From Figure 3.14, when asked how comfortable respondents would be having people with different disabilities as work colleagues there were fairly similar high levels of comfort for all disability categories, except for mental health difficulties. This category was considerably lower than the others with an average comfort score of 7.2 out of 10. Respondents with a disability or who knew someone with a disability had higher comfort scores than others regardless of disability type. Respondents that were classified as having non-manual occupations (social classes A, B or C1) were more likely to be uncomfortable working with people with intellectual or learning disabilities and hearing disabilities compared to the manual occupation social class groups.

3.5 Disability and Relationships

Respondents were asked did they think people with disabilities had the same right to fulfilment through sexual relationships as everyone else. Respondents were most agreeable for people with physical, visual or hearing disabilities to have sexual relationships. Nine-in-ten respondents (90%) agreed or strongly agreed that people with visual or hearing disabilities should have sexual relationships with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing for people with physical disabilities.

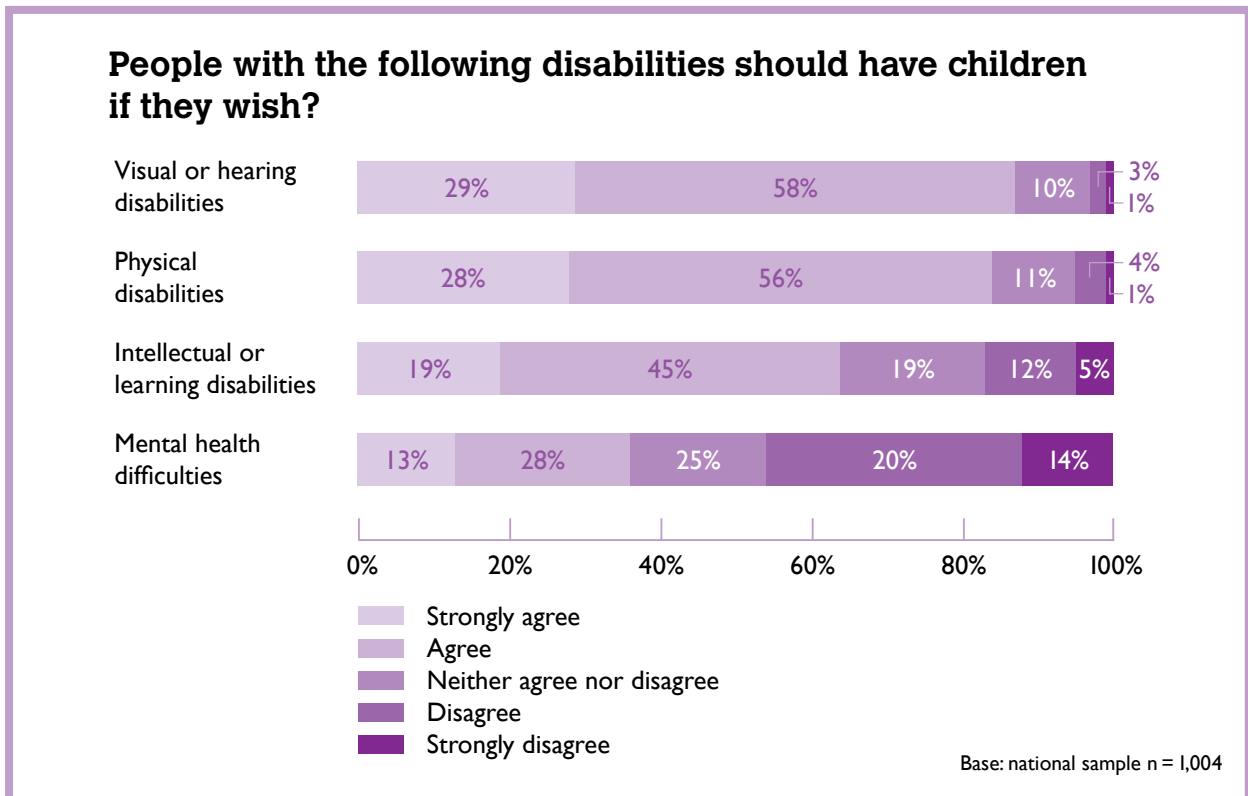
Figure 3.15 Level of agreement with the statement ‘right to fulfilment through sexual relationships’ for different disability types



From Figure 3.15 fewer respondents agreed that people with intellectual/learning disabilities or mental health difficulties should have sexual relationships. Three-quarters of respondents (75%) either agreed or strongly agreed that people with intellectual or learning disabilities should have sexual relationships and only 61% agreed or strongly agreed for mental health difficulties.

If respondents knew someone with a disability they were more likely to agree with the statement for mental health difficulties, physical and visual or hearing disabilities. Females were more likely than males to agree with the statement for people with physical disabilities.

Figure 3.16 Level of agreement with the statement ‘ should have children if they wish’ for different disability types



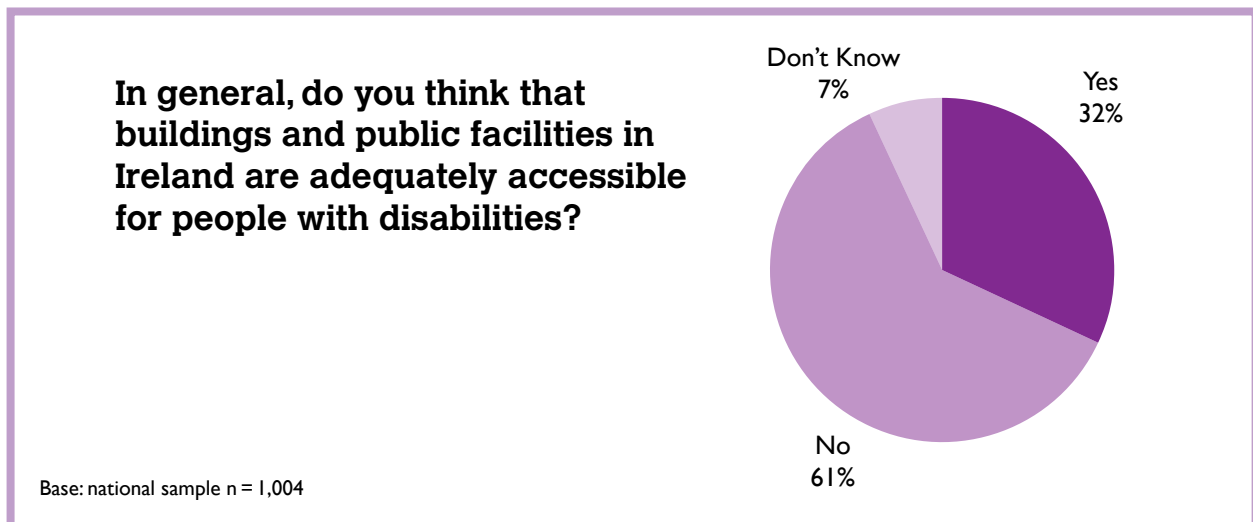
From Figure 3.16, compared with having sexual relationships there was lower levels of agreement that people with disabilities should have children if they wish. Again the highest levels of agreement for this question were for people with visual/hearing disabilities or physical disabilities. Nearly nine-tenths of respondents (87%) agreed or strongly agreed that people with visual or hearing disabilities should have children if they wish and 84% agreed or strongly agreed for physical disabilities. However, only 64% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed for intellectual or learning disabilities and just 41% for mental health difficulties.

If respondents knew someone with a disability or had a disability themselves they were more likely to agree that people with intellectual or learning disabilities and physical disabilities should have children if they wish. If the person knew someone with a disability they were also more likely to agree with the statement for visual or hearing disabilities. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were more likely than other age categories to agree with the statement that they should have children if they wish for visual or hearing disabilities.

3.6 Disability and Access to Buildings

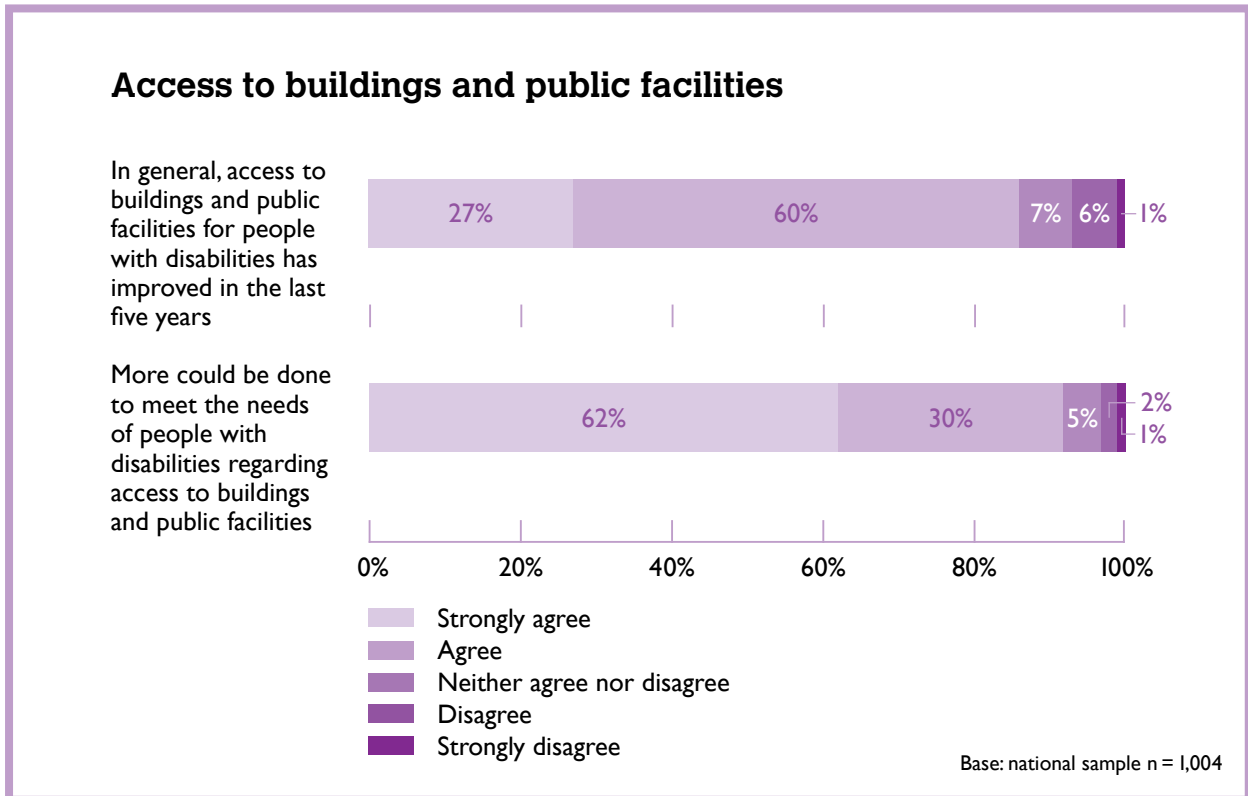
From Figure 3.17 just over three-fifths of respondents (61%) thought buildings and public facilities in Ireland are not adequately accessible for people with disabilities.

Figure 3.17 Accessibility of buildings and public facilities in Ireland for people with disabilities



Females were less likely to think buildings and public facilities are adequately accessible with 66% answering 'No' to this question compared to 57% of males. If the respondent knew someone with a disability or had a disability they were also more likely to say buildings and public facilities are not adequately accessible compared to other respondents.

Figure 3.18 Level of agreement with statements relating to access to buildings and facilities in Ireland

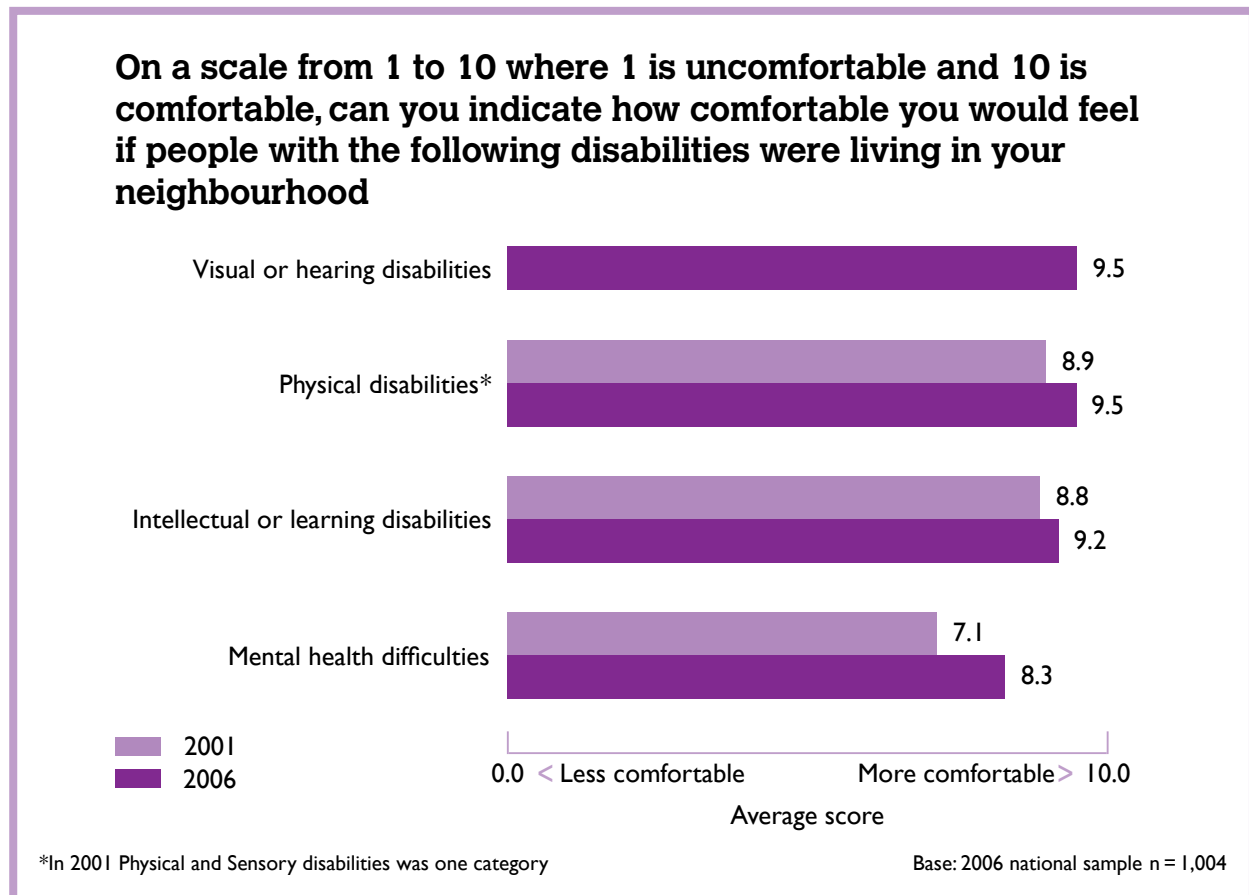


From Figure 3.18, nearly nine-in-ten respondents (87%) either agreed or strongly agreed that in general, access to buildings and public facilities for people with disabilities has improved in the last five years. At the same time 92% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that more could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities.

If the respondent knew someone with a disability they were more likely to agree with both these statements. However, if the respondent had a disability themselves they were only more likely to agree that more could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities.

3.7 Level of Comfort Living Near People with Disabilities

Figure 3.19 Level of comfort living near people with disabilities for different disability types

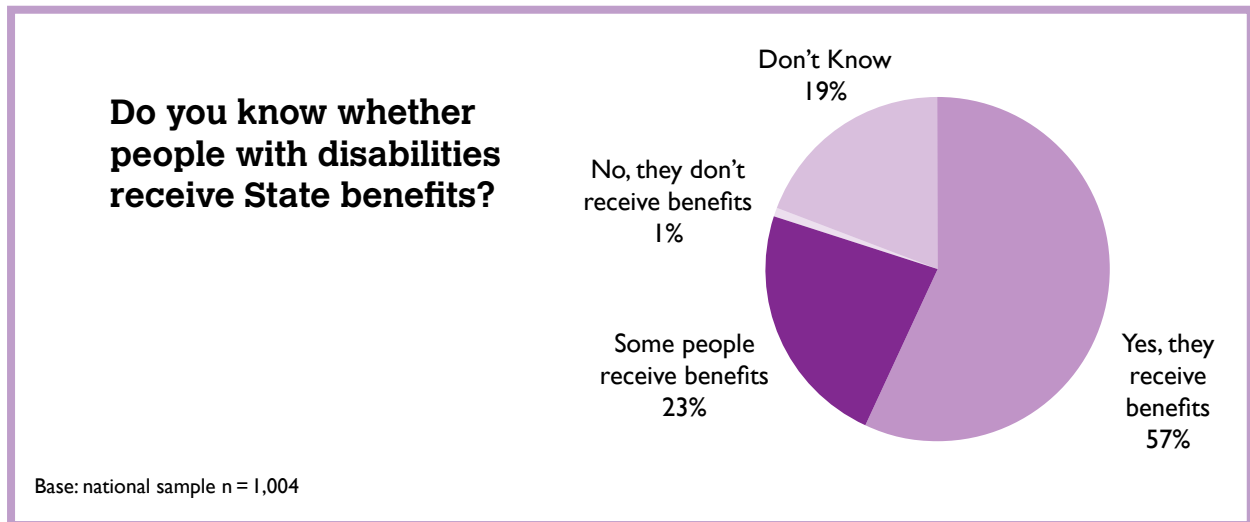


From Figure 3.19, examining the 2006 results, there were similar high levels of comfort for living near people with visual or hearing, physical and intellectual or learning disabilities with average scores ranging from 9.2 to 9.5 out of 10. The average comfort score for mental health difficulties was rated lower than the other disability categories with a score of 8.3 out of 10. Compared to the 2001 results there were higher comfort levels recorded for all disability types.

Respondents with a disability or respondents that knew someone with a disability had slightly higher average comfort level scores compared to others.

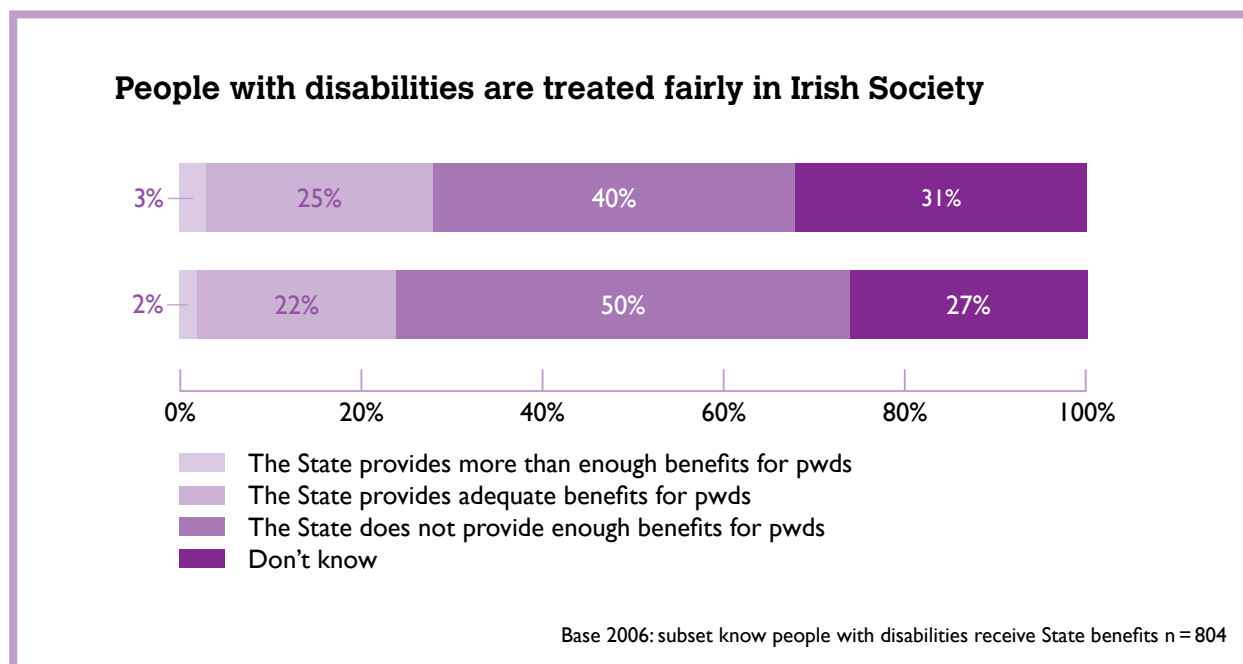
3.8 Disability and State Benefits

Figure 3.20 Knowledge of state benefits received by people with disabilities



From Figure 3.20, approximately three-fifths of respondents (57%) thought 'all' people with disabilities receive State benefits with 23% believing 'some' people with disabilities receive State benefits and 1% thinking they 'do not' receive State benefits. The remaining 19% answered 'don't know' to this question. Younger people were less likely to think people with disabilities receive State benefits. If the respondent had a disability or knew someone with a disability they were more likely to think people with disabilities receive State benefits.

Figure 3.21 Opinion of respondents on adequacy of State benefits for people with disabilities



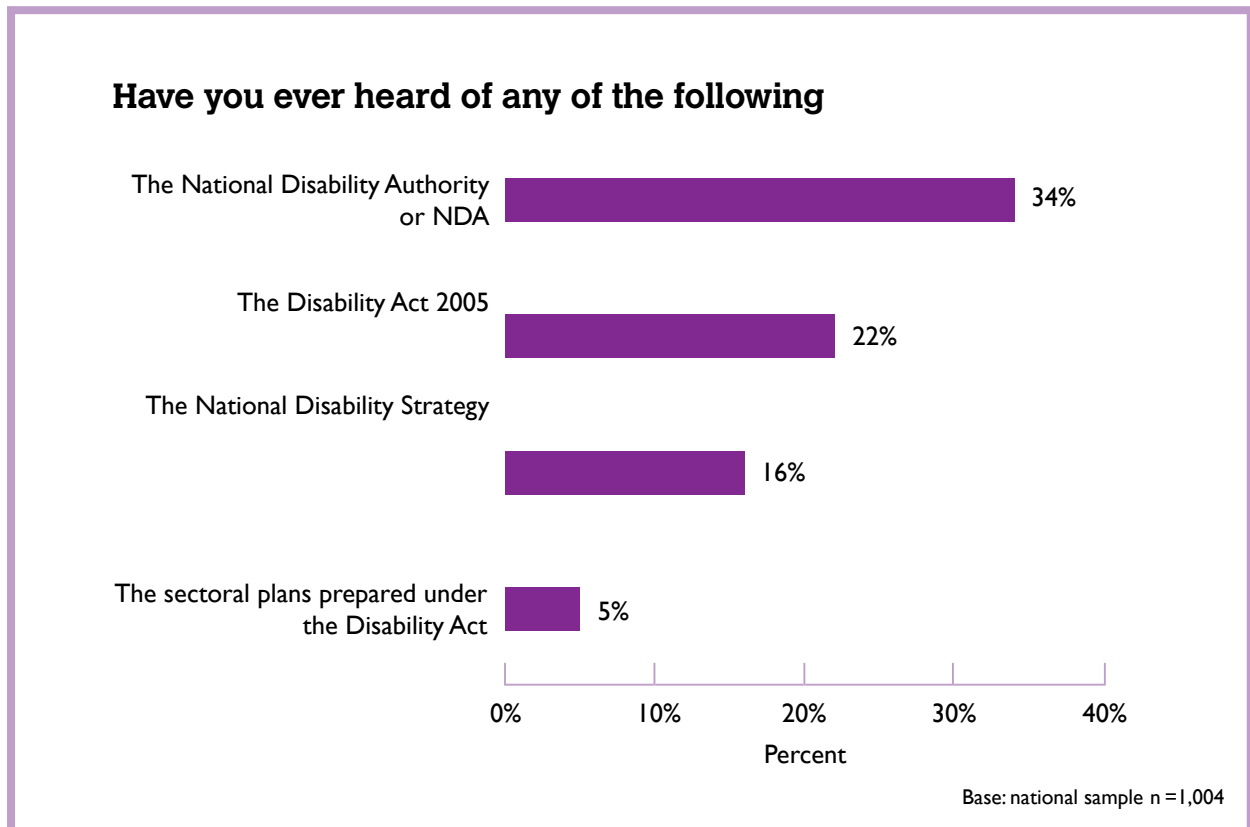
The respondents that thought people with disabilities receive State benefits were asked about the level of benefits received. From Figure 3.21, in the 2006 survey, half of respondents (50%) thought the State do not provide enough benefits. Approximately one-in-five respondents (22%) thought adequate benefits were provided and only 2% thought more than enough benefits are provided. More than a quarter of respondents (27%) answered 'don't know' to this question. Compared to the 2001 results a higher proportion of respondents now believe the State do not provide adequate benefits, 50% in 2006 compared to 40% in 2001.

If the respondent had a disability, knew someone with a disability or was in older age groups they were more likely to say the State does not provide enough benefits.

3.9 Awareness of Disability Related Organisations, Legislation and Strategies

Respondents were asked were they aware of particular organisations, legislation and strategies related to disability. The results of this question are presented in Figure 3.22

Figure 3.22 Awareness of Disability Related Organisations, Legislation and Strategies



Just over one-third of respondents were aware of the National Disability Authority (NDA), 22% were aware of the Disability Act 2005, 16% were aware of the National Disability Strategy and only 5% were aware of the sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act. Only awareness of the National Disability Authority was asked in the 2001 survey when 12% of respondents were aware of that organisation.

The ABCI social class group had higher levels of awareness for all questions. Females had higher levels of awareness of The Disability Act 2005 than males. People that knew someone with a disability were more likely to be aware of the National Disability Authority, the Disability Act 2005 and the National Disability Strategy. People that had a disability were more likely to be aware of the National Disability Authority, the National Disability Strategy and the sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act.

Respondents were also asked how they had heard about the organisations, legislation and strategies related to disability. The most frequent answer in all cases was primarily TV or radio and secondly newspaper or magazines.



Appendix 1

Univariate Data Tables (Nationally Representative Sample)

Q1.1 Have you ever heard or seen the term ‘people with disabilities’?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	973	97	97	97
	No	26	3	3	100
	Don't Know	3	0	0	100
Total		1002	100	100	
Missing	System	2	0		
Total		1004	100		

Q1.2 What particular sorts of illnesses, conditions or disabilities do you think the term ‘people with disabilities’ refer to (unprompted)

	Count	Valid Percent
Physical disability	862	86
Hearing loss	262	26
Visual difficulties	338	34
Intellectual or learning disability (e.g. mental handicap - Down Syndrome, slow learner)	537	54
Mental health difficulty (mental illness -depression, schizophrenia)	429	43
Long-term illness (e.g. diabetes, dialysis)	218	22
HIV/AIDS	53	5
Addiction	74	7
Frailty in old age	86	9
Other	5	0
None mentioned	21	2
Total	1002	100

Q1.4 Do you have any of the following long lasting conditions?

	Count	Valid Percent
Blindness	7	1
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	15	1
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	65	6
A intellectual or learning disability	17	2
A psychological or emotional condition	15	1
Chronic illness	35	3
Other		
None of the above	881	88
Don't Know	8	1
Total	1004	100

Q1.3 Do you think the term 'people with disabilities' refers to any of the following: (unprompted and prompted)

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Physical disability	997	99%	5	0%	2	0%	1004	100%
Hearing loss	913	91%	76	8%	14	1%	1003	100%
Visual difficulties	951	95%	40	4%	12	1%	1003	100%
Intellectual or learning disability	973	97%	23	2%	7	1%	1003	100%
Mental health difficulty	899	90%	79	8%	26	3%	1004	100%
Long-term illness	766	76%	188	19%	49	5%	1003	100%
HIV/AIDS	515	51%	355	35%	134	13%	1004	100%
Addiction	478	48%	409	41%	116	12%	1003	100%
Frailty in old age	639	64%	286	29%	72	7%	997	100%

Q2.1 Do you know anyone (else) who has a disability?

	Count	Valid Percent
Spouse/partner	27	3
Member of immediate family	203	20
Other relative	173	17
Friend	170	17
Neighbour	172	17
Acquaintance	159	16
Colleague/work contact	61	6
Other	34	3
Not sure/don't know	45	4
Know nobody with a disability	253	25
Total	1004	100

Q2.2 What type (or types) of disability does the person (people) you know have?

	Count	Valid Percent
Blindness	64	9
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	106	15
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	366	52
An intellectual or learning disability	203	29
A psychological or emotional condition	122	17
Chronic illness	177	25
Other	15	2
Total	703	100

Q3.1 and Q3.2

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
It is society which disables people by creating barriers	177	18%	423	44%	137	14%	186	19%	35	4%	958	100
People with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society	70	7%	303	32%	154	16%	314	33%	113	12%	954	100%

Q4.I Do you think that there are occasions or circumstances when it is alright to treat people with disabilities more favourably than others?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	802	80	80	80
	No	136	14	14	94
	Don't Know	65	6	6	100
	Total	1003	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
	Total	1004	100		

Q5 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities are not able to participate fully in life

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	175	18%	492	50%	108	11%	160	16%	40	4%	975	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	135	14%	455	46%	117	12%	226	23%	46	5%	979	100%
physical disabilities	132	13%	437	44%	127	13%	237	24%	56	6%	989	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	110	11%	453	46%	124	13%	240	24%	58	6%	985	100%

Q6 In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	330	33	33	33
	No	521	52	52	85
	Don't Know	153	15	15	100
	Total	1004	100	100	

Q7 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities should attend the same schools as children without disabilities?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
	mental health difficulties	65	7%	270	29%	163	18%	313	34%	110	12%	921
intellectual or learning disabilities	106	11%	424	45%	144	15%	231	24%	47	5%	952	100%
physical disabilities	207	21%	524	54%	100	10%	115	12%	22	2%	968	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	119	13%	428	45%	153	16%	209	22%	42	4%	951	100%

Q8.I Do you have any children with a disability?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	62	6	6	6
	No	930	93	94	100
	Total	992	99	100	
Missing	System	12	1		
Total		1004	100		

Q8.2 In general, would you object or not if children with the following disabilities were in the same class as your child?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	208	21%	623	62%	173	17%	1004	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	81	8%	816	81%	107	11%	1004	100%
physical disabilities	45	4%	880	88%	79	8%	1004	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	52	5%	866	86%	86	9%	1004	100%

Q8.3 Why would you object if children with disabilities were in the same class as your child?

	Count	Valid Percent
Special needs considerations	104	45
Safety considerations	79	34
Progress of children without disabilities hindered	84	36
Progress of children with disabilities hindered	62	27
Appearance	3	1
Mobility Difficulties	7	3
Mental or Emotional Reasons	83	36
Other, please specify	11	5
Total	231	100

Q9 In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	155	15	15	15
	No	712	71	71	86
	Don't Know	137	14	14	100
	Total	1004	100	100	

Q10 In general do you think employers are willing or unwilling to hire people with the following disabilities?

	Willing		Unwilling		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	67	7%	775	77%	162	16%	1004	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	205	20%	656	65%	143	14%	1004	100%
physical disabilities	322	32%	549	55%	133	13%	1004	100%
hearing disabilities	276	27%	558	56%	170	17%	1004	100%
visual disabilities	211	21%	614	61%	178	18%	1003	100%

Q11 On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were your work colleagues

	Valid N	Median	Mean	Std Deviation	Percentile 25	Percentile 75
mental health difficulties	928	8.00	7.21	2.71	5.00	10.00
intellectual or learning disabilities	956	9.00	8.25	2.09	7.00	10.00
physical disabilities	972	10.00	8.85	1.77	8.00	10.00
hearing disabilities	974	10.00	8.69	1.90	8.00	10.00
visual disabilities	967	10.00	8.57	2.07	8.00	10.00

Q12 Are you an employer or do you manage people currently or have you done so in the past?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	152	15	15	15
	No	846	84	85	100
	Total	998	99	100	
Missing	Don't Know	4	0		
	System	2	0		
	Total	6	1		
Total		1004	100		

Q13 People with the following disabilities have the same right to fulfilment through sexual relationships, as everyone else?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	171	20%	349	41%	155	18%	113	13%	55	7%	843	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	231	26%	438	49%	135	15%	68	8%	21	2%	893	100%
physical disabilities	297	32%	512	55%	87	9%	25	3%	4	0%	925	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	315	34%	522	56%	74	8%	16	2%	3	0%	930	100%

Q14 People with the following disabilities should have children if they wish?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	107	13%	233	28%	206	25%	170	20%	114	14%	830	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	170	19%	399	45%	165	19%	108	12%	49	5%	891	100%
physical disabilities	256	28%	515	56%	104	11%	40	4%	7	1%	922	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	272	29%	544	58%	91	10%	21	2%	8	1%	936	100%

Q15 In general, do you think that buildings and public facilities in Ireland are adequately accessible for people with disabilities?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	320	32	32	32
	No	616	61	61	93
	Don't Know	67	7	7	100
	Total	1003	100	100	
	Missing	System	1	0	
Total		1004	100		

Q16.1 and Q16.2

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
In general, access to buildings and public facilities for people with disabilities has improved in the last five years	258	27%	580	60%	67	7%	55	6%	12	1%	972	100%
More could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities	610	62%	296	30%	51	5%	17	2%	6	1%	980	100%

Q17 On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were living

	Valid N	Median	Mean	Std Deviation	Percentile 25	Percentile 75
mental health difficulties	958	10.00	8.34	2.38	7.00	10.00
intellectual or learning disabilities	993	10.00	9.21	1.51	9.00	10.00
physical disabilities	995	10.00	9.48	1.22	10.00	10.00
visual or hearing disabilities	994	10.00	9.48	1.22	10.00	10.00

Q18.1 Do you know whether people with disabilities receive State benefits?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes, they receive benefits	577	57	58	58
	Some people receive benefits	227	23	23	80
	No, they don't receive benefits	7	1	1	81
	Don't Know	192	19	19	100
Total	1003	100	100		
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		1004	100		

Q18.2 In the context of State benefits for people with disabilities, which statement do you agree with most?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The State provides more than enough benefits for people with disabilities	14	1	2	2
	The State provides adequate benefits for people with disabilities	174	17	22	23
	The State does not provide enough benefits for people with disabilities	399	40	50	73
	Don't know	217	22	27	100
	Total	804	80	100	
Missing	System	200	20		
Total		1004	100		

Q19.1 Have you ever heard of any of the following

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
The National Disability Authority or NDA	337	34%	631	63%	36	4%	1004	100%
The National Disability Strategy	157	16%	810	81%	37	4%	1004	100%
The Disability Act 2005	217	22%	754	75%	33	3%	1004	100%
The sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act	52	5%	915	91%	37	4%	1004	100%

Q19.2 How did you hear about the following

	NDA	National Disability Strategy	Disability Act 2005	The sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Newspaper/magazine	44	45	38	38
TV / Radio	55	46	51	44
Colleagues	8	11	9	8
Family	9	9	8	12
Friends	7	8	6	10
NDA contact		4	4	28
School	2	1	5	
Conferences		4	5	36
NDA website		1	3	14
NDA publications	4	4	3	12
Other	9	10	11	12
Don't Know		5	6	22
Total	100	100	100	100

Demographic Variables

c1 Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	487	49	49	49
	Female	517	51	51	100
	Total	1004	100	100	

c2 Age Categories

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	188	19	19	19
	25-29	99	10	10	29
	30-34	107	11	11	39
	35-39	98	10	10	49
	40-44	84	8	8	57
	45-49	80	8	8	65
	50-54	95	9	9	75
	55-59	110	11	11	86
	60-64	60	6	6	92
	65+	83	8	8	100
	Total	1004	100	100	

c3 Marital Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	501	50	50	50
	Living as married	49	5	5	55
	Single	375	37	37	92
	Widowed, divorced or separated	77	8	8	100
	Total	1002	100	100	
Missing	System	2	0		
Total		1004	100		

c5 Social Class

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AB	55	5	5	5
	CI	347	35	35	40
	C2	270	27	27	67
	DE	243	24	24	91
	F50 +	72	7	7	98
	F50 -	17	2	2	100
	Total	1004	100	100	

c6.1 Working Status Chief Income Earner

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working full-time	631	63	64	64
	Working part-time	63	6	6	71
	Self-employed	36	4	4	74
	Unemployed [seeking employment]	48	5	5	79
	Full-time homemaker	35	3	4	83
	Full-time farmer	59	6	6	89
	Part-time farmer	7	1	1	90
	Retired	102	10	10	100
	Total	981	98	100	
Missing	System	23	2		
Total		1004	100		

c6.2 Working Status respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working full-time	459	46	49	49
	Working part-time	147	15	16	65
	Self-employed	29	3	3	68
	Unemployed [seeking employment]	48	5	5	73
	Full-time homemaker	154	15	16	90
	Full-time farmer	12	1	1	91
	Part-time farmer	3	0	0	91
	Retired	83	8	9	100
	Total	935	93	100	
	Missing	System	69	7	
Total		1004	100		

c7 Educational Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Primary level	92	9	9	9
	2nd level	545	54	54	64
	Still at 2nd level	52	5	5	69
	3rd level undergraduate	150	15	15	84
	3rd level postgraduate	97	10	10	94
	Still at 3rd level	52	5	5	99
	No formal education	13	1	1	100
	Total	1001	100	100	
Missing	System	3	0		
Total		1004	100		

c8 Have you got any children [of any age]

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	580	58	58	58
	No	422	42	42	100
	Total	1002	100	100	
Missing	System	2	0		
Total		1004	100		

c9 Respondent location

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	City or city suburb	372	37	37	37
	Town	243	24	24	61
	Village or rural	386	38	39	100
	Total	1001	100	100	
Missing	System	3	0		
Total		1004	100		

Appendix 2

Univariate Data Tables (People with a Disability subset)

Q1.1 Have you ever heard or seen the term ‘people with disabilities’?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	359	97	97	97
	No	10	3	3	100
	Total	369	99	100	
Missing	System	3	1		
Total		372	100		

Q1.2 What particular sorts of illnesses, conditions or disabilities do you think the term ‘people with disabilities’ refer to (unprompted)

	Count	Column %
Physical disability	333	90
Hearing loss	109	29
Visual difficulties	129	35
Intellectual or learning disability (e.g. mental handicap- Down Syndrome, slow learner)	185	50
Mental health difficulty (mental illness -depression, schizophrenia)	174	47
Long-term illness (e.g. diabetes, dialysis)	106	29
HIV/AIDS	21	6
Addiction	35	9
Frailty in old age	42	11
Other 1	1	0
Other 2		
None mentioned	5	1
Total	371	100

Q1.3 Do you think the term ‘people with disabilities’ refers to any of the following: (unprompted and prompted)

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Physical disability	370	99%	2	1%			372	100%
Hearing loss	344	93%	24	6%	2	1%	370	100%
Visual difficulties	361	97%	9	2%	2	1%	372	100%
Intellectual or learning disability	361	98%	6	2%	3	1%	370	100%
Mental health difficulty	347	94%	19	5%	5	1%	371	100%
Long-term illness	324	87%	35	9%	13	3%	372	100%
HIV/AIDS	218	59%	104	28%	49	13%	371	100%
Addiction	205	55%	129	35%	38	10%	372	100%
Frailty in old age	269	73%	79	21%	21	6%	369	100%

Q1.4 Do you have any of the following long lasting conditions?

	Count	Column %
Blindness	31	8
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	44	12
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	207	56
A intellectual or learning disability	35	9
A psychological or emotional condition	47	13
Chronic illness	106	28
Other	5	1
None of the above		
Don't Know		
Total	372	100

Q2.1 Do you know anyone (else) who has a disability?

	Count	Column %
Spouse/partner	28	8
Member of immediate family	82	22
Other relative	74	20
Friend	103	28
Neighbour	86	23
Acquaintance	73	20
Colleague/work contact	19	5
Other	14	4
Not sure/don't know	12	3
Know nobody with a disability	51	14
Total	372	100

Q2.2 What type (or types) of disability does the person (people) you know have?

	Count	Column %
Blindness	29	9
Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	42	14
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	181	59
An intellectual or learning disability	53	17
A psychological or emotional condition	57	19
Chronic illness	94	31
Other	11	4
Total	308	100

Q3

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
It is society which disables people by creating barriers	85	25%	150	43%	43	12%	52	15%	16	5%	346	100%
People with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society	37	10%	120	33%	53	14%	111	30%	45	12%	366	100%

Q4.I Do you think that there are occasions or circumstances when it is alright to treat people with disabilities more favourably than others?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	314	84	85	85
	No		35	9	94
	Don't Know	22	6	6	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
	Total	372	100.0		

Q5 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities are not able to participate fully in life

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	76	21%	182	51%	29	8%	49	14%	22	6%	358	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	64	18%	172	48%	34	9%	71	20%	20	6%	361	100%
physical disabilities	54	15%	167	46%	38	10%	77	21%	30	8%	366	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	56	15%	164	45%	35	10%	79	22%	30	8%	364	100%

Q6 In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	120	32	32	32
	No	188	51	51	83
	Don't Know	64	17	17	100
	Total	372	100	100	

Q7 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities should attend the same schools as children without disabilities?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	40	12%	101	29%	55	16%	109	32%	38	11%	343	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	53	15%	154	44%	43	12%	71	20%	29	8%	350	100%
physical disabilities	95	27%	186	52%	29	8%	30	8%	16	4%	356	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	66	19%	164	47%	33	9%	68	19%	20	6%	351	100%

Q8.I Do you have any children with a disability?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	27	7	7	7
	No	340	91	93	100
	Total	367	99	100	
Missing	System	5	1		
Total		372	100.0		

Q8.2 In general, would you object or not if children with the following disabilities were in the same class as your child?

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	57	15%	264	71%	51	14%	372	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	25	7%	314	84%	33	9%	372	100%
physical disabilities	17	5%	332	89%	23	6%	372	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	18	5%	332	89%	21	6%	371	100%

Q8.3 Why would you object if children with disabilities were in the same class as your child?

	Count	Column %
Special needs considerations	29	45
Safety considerations	28	44
Progress of children without disabilities hindered	15	23
Progress of children with disabilities hindered	14	22
Appearance	1	2
Mobility Difficulties	3	5
Mental or Emotional Reasons	17	27
Other, please specify	7	11
Total	64	100

Q9 In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	62	17	17	17
	No	265	71	71	88
	Don't Know	44	12	12	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		372	100		

Q10 In general do you think employers are willing or unwilling to hire people with the following disabilities?

	Willing		Unwilling		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	28	8%	292	79%	51	14%	371	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	63	17%	262	71%	46	12%	371	100%
physical disabilities	105	29%	218	59%	45	12%	368	100%
hearing disabilities	102	27%	220	59%	49	13%	371	100%
visual disabilities	76	20%	243	65%	52	14%	371	100%

Q11 On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were your work colleagues

	Valid N	Median	Mean	Std Deviation	Percentile 25	Percentile 75
mental health difficulties	333	9.00	8.01	2.58	6.00	10.00
intellectual or learning disabilities	345	10.00	8.72	2.00	8.00	10.00
physical disabilities	353	10.00	9.20	1.54	9.00	10.00
hearing disabilities	353	10.00	9.18	1.54	9.00	10.00
visual disabilities	352	10.00	9.09	1.68	9.00	10.00

Q12 Are you an employer or do you manage people currently or have you done so in the past?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	38	10	10	10
	No	328	88	90	100
	Total	366	98	100	
Missing	Don't Know	4	1		
	System	2	1		
	Total	6	2		
Total		372	100.0		

Q13 People with the following disabilities have the same right to fulfilment through sexual relationships, as everyone else?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	71	22%	136	42%	51	16%	42	13%	21	7%	321	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	98	30%	159	48%	37	11%	27	8%	10	3%	331	100%
physical disabilities	118	34%	179	52%	35	10%	9	3%	3	1%	344	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	124	36%	191	55%	26	7%	4	1%	3	1%	348	100%

Q14 People with the following disabilities should have children if they wish?

	Strongly agree		Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Don't know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
mental health difficulties	52	14%	95	26%	63	17%	62	17%	40	11%	59	16%	371	100%
intellectual or learning disabilities	87	26%	141	43%	46	14%	37	11%	18	5%	0	0%	329	100%
physical disabilities	118	35%	159	47%	40	12%	17	5%	5	1%	0	0%	339	100%
visual or hearing disabilities	122	35%	185	53%	29	8%	8	2%	3	1%	0	0%	347	100%

Q15 In general, do you think that buildings and public facilities in Ireland are adequately accessible for people with disabilities?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	103	28	28	28
	No	254	68	69	96
	Don't Know	14	4	4	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		372	100		

Q16

	agree		Strongly Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
In general, access to buildings and public facilities for people with disabilities has improved in the last five years	83	23%	226	62%	20	6%	26	7%	7	2%	362	100%
More could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities	264	72%	93	25%	6	2%	4	1%	2	1%	369	100%

Q17 On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were living

	Valid N	Median	Mean	Std Deviation	Percentile 25	Percentile 75
mental health difficulties	355	10.00	8.73	2.24	8.00	10.00
intellectual or learning disabilities	362	10.00	9.36	1.43	9.00	10.00
physical disabilities	367	10.00	9.60	1.10	10.00	10.00
visual or hearing disabilities	366	10.00	9.62	1.00	10.00	10.00

Q18.1 Do you know whether people with disabilities receive State benefits?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes, they receive benefits	253	68	68	68
	Some people receive benefits	86	23	23	91
	No, they don't receive benefits	2	1	1	92
	Don't Know	31	8	8	100
Total		372	100	100	

Q18.2 In the context of State benefits for people with disabilities, which statement do you agree with most?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The State provides more than enough benefits for people with disabilities	8	2	2	2
	The State provides adequate benefits for people with disabilities	75	20	22	25
	The State does not provide enough benefits for people with disabilities	232	62	68	93
	Don't know	24	7	7	100
	Total	339	91	100	
Missing	System	33	9		
Total		372	100		

Q19.1 Have you ever heard of any of the following

	Yes		No		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
The National Disability Authority or NDA	149	40%	213	57%	10	3%	372	100%
The National Disability Strategy	88	24%	273	73%	11	3%	372	100%
The Disability Act 2005	88	24%	268	72%	15	4%	371	100%
The sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act	37	10%	319	86%	15	4%	371	100%

Q19.2 How did you hear about the following

	NDA	National Disability Strategy	Disability Act 2005	The sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Newspaper/magazine	42	42	36	42
TV / Radio	44	43	46	28
Colleagues	11	10	11	8
Family	7	7	10	6
Friends	9	8	10	11
NDA contact	15	16	4	6
School	4	1	1	
Conferences	3	6	6	8
NDA website	5	6	3	8
NDA publications	13	15	11	22
Other	7	7	8	14
Don't Know	8	2	2	
Total	100	100	100	100

Demographic Variables

c1 Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	198	53	53	53
	Female	174	47	47	100
	Total	372	100	100	

c2 Age Categories

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-24	23	6	6	6
	25-29	19	5	5	11
	30-34	16	4	4	16
	35-39	17	5	5	20
	40-44	19	5	5	25
	45-49	28	8	8	33
	50-54	31	8	8	4
	55-59	54	15	15	56
	60-64	50	13	13	69
	65+	115	31	31	100
Total	372	100	100		

c3 Marital Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	161	43	43	43
	Living as married	12	3	3	47
	Single	117	32	32	78
	Widowed, divorced or separated	81	22	22	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		372	100		

c5 Social Class

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AB	15	4	4	4
	C1	80	22	22	25
	C2	67	18	18	43
	DE	173	47	47	90
	F50 +	28	8	8	98
	F50 -	8	2	2	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		372	100		

c6.1 Working Status CIE

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working full-time	110	30	30	30
	Working part-time	23	6	6	37
	Self-employed	12	3	3	40
	Unemployed [seeking employment]	39	10	11	51
	Full-time homemaker	28	8	8	59
	Full-time farmer	14	4	4	63
	Part-time farmer	4	1	1	64
	Retired	131	35	36	100
	Total	361	97	100	
	Missing	System	11	3	
Total		372	100		

c6.2 Working Status respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Working full-time	63	17	18	18
	Working part-time	38	10	11	28
	Self-employed	10	3	3	31
	Unemployed [seeking employment]	46	12	13	44
	Full-time homemaker	71	19	20	64
	Full-time farmer	2	1	1	65
	Part-time farmer	4	1	1	66
	Retired	122	33	34	100
	Total	356	96	100	
	Missing	System	16	4	
Total		372	100		

c7 Educational Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Primary level	100	27	27	27
	2nd level	188	51	51	78
	Still at 2nd level	14	4	4	82
	3rd level undergraduate	30	8	8	90
	3rd level postgraduate	13	3	4	93
	Still at 3rd level	11	3	3	96
	No formal education	14	4	4	100
	Total	370	99	100	
Missing	System	2	1		
Total		372	100		

c8 Have you got any children [of any age]

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	198	53	54	54
	No	170	46	46	100
	Total	368	99	100	
Missing	System	4	1		
Total		372	100		

c9 Respondent location

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	City or city suburb	122	33	33	33
	Town	103	28	28	61
	Village or rural	146	39	39	100
	Total	371	100	100	
Missing	System	1	0		
Total		372	100		

Appendix 3

Questionnaire

Section 1

Knowledge of Disability and General Attitudes

ASK ALL

- Q1.1** Have you ever heard or seen the term ‘people with disabilities’?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

ASK ALL

- Q1.2** What particular sorts of illnesses, conditions or disabilities do you think the term ‘people with disabilities’ refer to:

DO NOT PROMPT PROBE: Any Others? **PROBE:** Any Others? **CODE ALL MENTIONED IN GRID BELOW**

ASK ALL

- Q1.3** Do you think the term ‘people with disabilities’ refers to any of the following:

READ OUT THOSE NOT MENTIONED IN Q1.2 AND CIRCLE IN COLUMN Q1.3

	Q1.2		Q1.3	
	MULTI CODE		MULTI CODE	
		Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Physical disability	1	1	2	99
2. Hearing loss	1	1	2	99
3. Visual difficulties	1	1	2	99
4. Intellectual or learning disability (e.g. mental handicap – Down Syndrome, slow learner)	1	1	2	99
5. Mental health difficulty (mental illness –depression, schizophrenia)	1	1	2	99
6. Long-term illness (e.g. diabetes, dialysis)	1	1	2	99
7. HIV/AIDS	1	1	2	99
8. Addiction	1	1	2	99
9. Frailty in old age	1	1	2	99
10. Other, specify	1			
11. Other, specify	1			
12. None mentioned	1	1		

ASK ALL

Q1.4 SHOW CARD I Do you have any of the following long lasting conditions? (Code all that apply)

	MULTI CODE
1 Blindness	
2 Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	
3 A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	
4 An intellectual or learning disability	
5 A psychological or emotional condition	
6 Chronic illness	
7 Other, please specify	
8 None of the above	
9 Don't Know	

ASK ALL

Q2.1 Do you know anyone (else) who has a disability? DO NOT PROMPT WHAT DISABILITY MEANS

	MULTI CODE	
1 Spouse/partner		IF YES GO TO Q2.2
2 Member of immediate family		
3 Other relative		
4 Friend		
5 Neighbour		
6 Acquaintance		
7 Colleague/work contact		
8 Other		
9 Not sure/don't know		IF NO GO TO Q3
10 No		

Q2.2 (Ask if coded 1 - 8 at Q2.1. Others go to Q3) What type (or types) of disability does the person (people) you know have?

DO NOT PROMPT	MULTI CODE
1 Blindness	
2 Deafness or a severe hearing impairment	
3 A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying	
4 An intellectual or learning disability	
5 A psychological or emotional condition	
6 Chronic illness	
7 Other, please specify	

READ OUT STATEMENT BELOW BEFORE YOU CONTINUE!!

From this point forward, when we speak of people with disabilities I mean those with physical, hearing, visual, intellectual, learning or mental health difficulties.

ASK ALL

Q3 SHOW CARD 2 I am going to read out some statements about people with disabilities. For each one, please rate your level of agreement or disagreement. SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ⬇	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
3.1 It is society which disables people by creating barriers	1	2	3	4	5	99
3.2 People with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society	1	2	3	4	5	99

ASK ALL

Q4.1 Do you think that there are occasions or circumstances when it is alright to treat people with disabilities more favourably than others?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

ASK ALL

Q5 SHOW CARD 2 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities are not able to participate fully in life

SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ↓	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
5.1 mental health difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	99
5.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
5.3 physical disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
5.4 visual or hearing disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99

Section 2

Education

- Q6 ASK ALL**
In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

- Q7 ASK ALL**
SHOW CARD 2 Do you agree or disagree that people with the following disabilities should attend the same schools as children without disabilities? SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ↓	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q7.1 mental health difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q7.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q7.3 physical disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q7.4 visual or hearing disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99

- Q8.1 ASK ALL**
Do you have any children with a disability?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No/No children	2

ASK ALL

Q8.2 In general, would you object or not if children with the following disabilities were in the same class as your child? (PROMPT IF REQUIRED – Say you have children)

READ OUT ↓	Yes (I would object)	No (I would not object)	Don't know
Q8.2.1 mental health difficulties	1	2	99
Q8.2.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	99
Q8.2.3 physical disabilities	1	2	99
Q8.2.4 visual or hearing disabilities	1	2	99

ASK IF YES TO ANY PART OF Q8.2 GO TO Q8.3 ELSE GO TO Q9

Q8.3 Why would you object if children with disabilities were in the same class as your child (children)

DO NOT PROMPT	MULTI CODE
1 Special needs considerations e.g. ↻ facilities in the study area, need special medication ↻ require facilities, equipment to assist ↻ require special care	1
2 Safety considerations e.g. ↻ worries about infection ↻ worries about tendency towards aggression ↻ possibilities of sudden relapse	1
3 Progress of children without disabilities hindered	1
4 Progress of children with disabilities hindered	1
5 Appearance	1
6 Mobility Difficulties	1
7 Mental or Emotional Reasons e.g. ↻ poor mental health ↻ emotionally unstable ↻ more irritable	1
8 Other, please specify	1

Section 3

Employment

- Q9 ASK ALL**
In general, do you think that people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

- Q10 ASK ALL**
In general do you think employers are willing or unwilling to hire people with the following disabilities?

READ OUT ⓘ	Yes (Willing)	No (Unwilling)	Don't know
	Q10.1 mental health difficulties	1	2
Q10.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	99
Q10.3 physical disabilities?	1	2	99
Q10.4 hearing disabilities	1	2	99
Q10.5 visual disabilities	1	2	99

- Q11 ASK ALL**
On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were your work colleagues:

READ OUT ⓘ	SCORE 1-10	Don't Know
	Q11.1 mental health difficulties	
Q11.2 intellectual or learning disabilities		99
Q11.3 physical disabilities		99
Q11.4 hearing disabilities		99
Q11.5 visual disabilities		99

- Q12 ASK ALL**
Are you an employer or do you manage people currently or have you done so in the past?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

Section 4

Relationships

ASK ALL

Q13 SHOW CARD 2 Please rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

People with the following disabilities have the same right to fulfilment through sexual relationships, as everyone else?

SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ↓	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q13.1 mental health difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q13.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q13.3 physical disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q13.4 visual or hearing disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99

ASK ALL

Q14 Show Card 2 Please rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement.

People with the following disabilities should have children if they wish?

SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ↓	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q14.1 mental health difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q14.2 intellectual or learning disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q14.3 physical disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q14.4 visual or hearing disabilities	1	2	3	4	5	99

Section 6

General

Accessibility

ASK ALL

- Q15** In general, do you think that buildings and public facilities in Ireland are adequately accessible for people with disabilities?

	SINGLE CODE
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	99

ASK ALL

- Q16** **Show Card 2** Please rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements.
SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

READ OUT ↓	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Q16.1 In general, access to buildings and public facilities for people with disabilities has improved in the last five years	1	2	3	4	5	99
Q16.2 More could be done to meet the needs of people with disabilities regarding access to buildings and public facilities	1	2	3	4	5	99

Your Neighbourhood**ASK ALL**

Q17 On a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is uncomfortable and 10 is comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were living in your neighbourhood, people with:

READ OUT ↓	SCORE 1-10	Don't Know
Q17.1 mental health difficulties		99
Q17.2 intellectual or learning disabilities		99
Q17.3 physical disabilities		99
Q17.4 visual or hearing disabilities		99

State Benefits**ASK ALL**

Q18.1 Do you know whether people with disabilities receive state benefits?

	SINGLE CODE	
Yes, they receive benefits	1	GO TO Q18.2
Some people receive benefits	2	
No, they don't receive benefits	3	GO TO Q19.1
Don't know	99	

Q18.2 In the context of state benefits for people with disabilities, which statement do you agree with most?

READ OUT ↓	SINGLE CODE
The State provides more than enough benefits for people with disabilities	1
The State provides adequate benefits for people with disabilities	2
The State does not provide enough benefits for people with disabilities	3
Don't know	99

Knowledge of NDA and other Disability Initiatives

ASK ALL

Q19.1 Have you ever heard of any of the following: Single code per line

READ OUT ↓	Yes	No	Don't know	
Q19.1a The National Disability Authority or NDA	1	2	99	IF YES ASK Q19.2
Q19.1b The National Disability Strategy	1	2	99	IF YES ASK Q19.2
Q19.1c The Disability Act 2005	1	2	99	IF YES ASK Q19.2
Q19.1d The sectoral plans prepared under the Disability Act	1	2	99	IF YES ASK Q19.2
IF NO TO ALL END SURVEY				

Ask if “yes” code 1 to any at Q19.1. Others thank respondent and close interview

Q19.2 How did you hear about it? CODE ALL MENTIONS UNDER RELEVANT HEADING

DO NOT PROMPT	Q19.1a NDA	Q19.1b N D STRATEGY	Q19.1c 2005 ACT	Q19.1d PLANS
MULTI CODE				
1 Newspaper/magazine	1	1	1	1
2 TV / Radio	1	1	1	1
3 Colleagues	1	1	1	1
4 Family	1	1	1	1
5 Friends	1	1	1	1
6 NDA contact	1	1	1	1
7 School	1	1	1	1
8 Conferences	1	1	1	1
9 NDA website	1	1	1	1
10 NDA publications	1	1	1	1
11 Others (please specify)	1	1	1	1
12 Don't Know	1	1	1	1

THANK RESPONDENT, COMPLETE CLASSIFICATION & CLOSE.



National Disability Authority

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NDA is the lead state agency on disability issues, providing independent expert advice to Government on policy and practice.