2006 Census Analysis

Persons with Disabilities Profile

Population Employment Unemployment

Income Education Participation

Barriers to Employment



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This report, Persons with Disabilities Profile, is one of three reports in the 2006 Census Analysis series that present results and analyses with findings from the 2006 Canadian Census. The 2006 Census Analysis series focus on labour market activities in Alberta and, where available, include analysis for the current and previous Census year(s) and make comparisons between Alberta and Canada's statistics. The other two reports in the series are the Alberta Profile and Aboriginal People in Alberta.

The information and data in this report are from Statistics Canada's 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). The PALS is a post-censal survey that uses a subset of the Census population who reported disabilities and were living in Canada at the time of the Census. The PALS does not include the population living on First Nation reserves, institutionalized residents, persons living on military bases, on vessels, or in campgrounds and parks.

The PALS is a self-reported measure of activity limitation. The type of answers a person provides is greatly influenced by the person's perception of what constitute a disability, and his or her willingness to report the limitation. The perception of disability changes as society continues to evolve. A disability refers to the difficulties with daily activities and the reduction in the amount or kind of activities due to physical or mental conditions or health problems¹.

Statistics and analysis in this report relate to adult Albertans with disabilities. The analysis covers employment, income, educational attainment, as well as types and severity of disabilities, and perceived barriers to employment.

Definitions for some key terms can be found in the Glossary of Key Terms at the end of the report. Also included are links to all publications released by Statistics Canada from the PALS 2006 survey.

¹2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, Analytical Report, Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 89-628-XIE No. 002. In 2006, adults with disabilities made up 15.8% of all of Alberta's adult population 15 years of age and over. The comparable proportion for Canada was 16.6%.

Figure 1 shows the number of people with disabilities in Canada and the provinces. At 11.9%, Quebec had the lowest proportion of the adult population that had disabilities, while Nova Scotia had the highest percentage of the ten provinces, at 23.0%.

Adults with Disabilities, Canada and Provinces, 2006					
	Total Population	Persons with Disabilities	% of Population with Disabilities		
Canada	25,422,280	4,215,530	16.6%		
Newfoundland and Labrador	421,190	71,500	17.0%		
Prince Edward Island	109,880	20,770	18.9%		
Nova Scotia	750,240	172,570	23.0%		
New Brunswick	595,480	117,860	19.8%		
Quebec	6,157,510	731,160	11.9%		
Ontario	9,777,220	1,770,760	18.1%		
Manitoba	871,690	160,880	18.5%		
Saskatchewan	735,850	138,680	18.8%		
Alberta	2,596,410	410,600	15.8%		
British Columbia	3,332,410	612,120	18.4%		

Figure 1

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Distribution by Age and Sex

Figure 2, on the next page, shows the percentage of adult Albertans who reported disabilities by age and gender for 2006. There was a small gender difference of under four per cent in the prevalence of disability across all age groups. The gender difference was the smallest for the 15 to 24 age group at 0.2 percentage points. The largest difference in disability prevalence between male and female occurred in the 75 and over age group, as the per cent of female reporting disabilities in 2006 was 3.6 percentage points higher than the per cent for males.

Population Characteristics

For both males and females in Alberta, the proportion of persons reporting disabilities as a per cent of their own age cohort is increasing with age and reflects the national pattern. In Canada, the largest proportion of persons with disabilities within their age cohort was in the 75 years and older age group. Of Canadian males over the age of 75, 52.1% had disabilities, and 54.1% of Canadian females age 75 and over reported disabilities. The comparable rates for Albertans over 75 years were 57.9% for males and 61.5% for females.

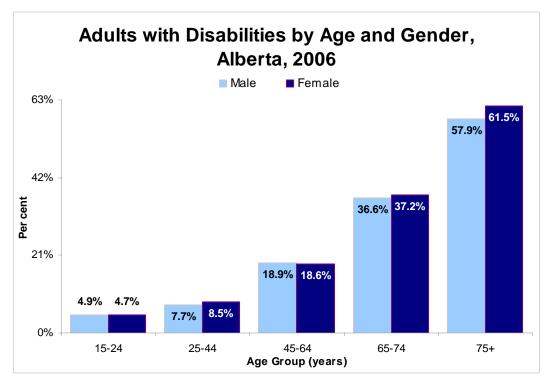
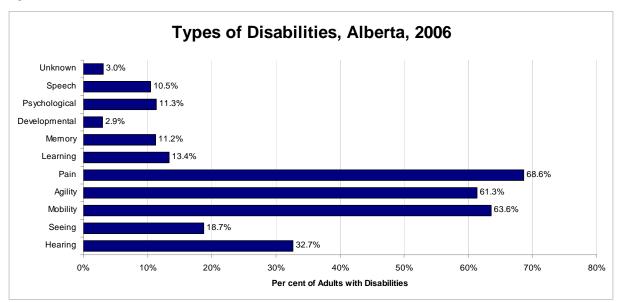


Figure 2

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Types of Disabilities

The following types of disabilities were reported in PALS: unknown, speech, psychological, developmental, memory, learning, pain, agility, mobility, seeing, and hearing. Respondents could report more than one type of disability.





Pain was the most commonly reported disability in 2001 and in 2006 in Alberta. The proportion of persons with disabilities who reported a pain limitation in 2006, at 68.6%, was lower than 2001, at 72.0%. Mobility and agility were the second most common types of disability, reported by 63.6% and 61.3% of adults with disabilities. Developmental disability affects the smallest proportion, 2.9% of adult Albertans with activity limitations (Figure 3). For Canada, the two most commonly reported disabilities were mobility and agility.

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Types of Disabilities by Age Group, Alberta, 2006						
Disability	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+	Тс	otal
Disability	%	%	%	%	%	Number
Hearing	2.4%	11.7%	35.6%	50.3%	100%	134,200
Seeing	3.6%	20.4%	38.9%	42.4%	100%	76,970
Mobility	3.6%	14.7%	38.3%	43.5%	100%	260,950
Agility	3.1%	16.5%	38.1%	42.3%	100%	251,810
Pain	4.4%	19.7%	41.6%	34.2%	100%	281,650
Learning	19.5%	37.5%	31.6%	11.4%	100%	54,920
Memory	9.5%	25.8%	33.9%	30.9%	100%	46,110
Developmental	39.3%	29.0%	30.1%	N/A	100%	12,080
Psychological	10.2%	31.1%	48.7%	10.9%	100%	46,600
Speech	11.6%	26.8%	35.0%	75.8%	100%	43,090
Unknown	10.9%	14.8%	39.4%	35.0%	100%	12,470

Figure 4

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006

Adults age 15 and over

E: Use with caution

F: Too unreliable to be published

X: Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act Note: Respondents could report more than one type of disability

Figure 4 displays reported types of disabilities by age groups in Alberta. The proportion of people reporting hearing, seeing, mobility, agility, and speech disabilities increased with age. The 65 years and older age group reported proportionately higher rates of disabilities in hearing and speech, followed by mobility, seeing and agility. For Canada, mobility and agility were the two most-reported disabilities for the 65 years and older age group. Almost a third of adults with hearing and seeing disabilities in Alberta were 75 years and older.

For Albertans between 45 and 64 years of age, pain and psychological disability were the more commonly reported limitations. For Canadians with disabilities aged 45 to 64, it was pain, mobility and agility that were reported the most.

The 25 to 44 years age group of Albertans with disabilities reported learning and psychological disabilities to be the most common types of activity limitation. Younger Albertans between 15 and 24 years old were more afflicted with developmental and learning disabilities. In Canada, developmental and learning disabilities were most prevalent among the 15 to 24 and the 25 to 44 age groups respectively.

7

Severity of Disabilities

Four levels of severity of activity limitation were identified in PALS: mild, moderate, severe and very severe. Severity levels are based on both intensity and frequency of limitations to activity reported by the respondent.

64.8% of adult Albertans with disabilities, which was equivalent to 10.2% of all adult Albertans, had a mild to moderate disability. Also, 9.9% of adults with disabilities, which represented 1.6% of all adult Albertans, had a very severe disability. Of all adult Albertans who reported some disabilities, 39.5% reported a mild disability; which was equivalent to 6.2% of all adult Albertans (Figure 5).

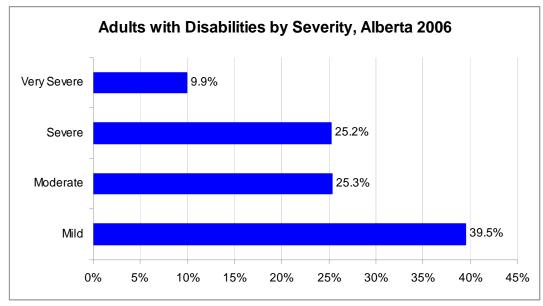
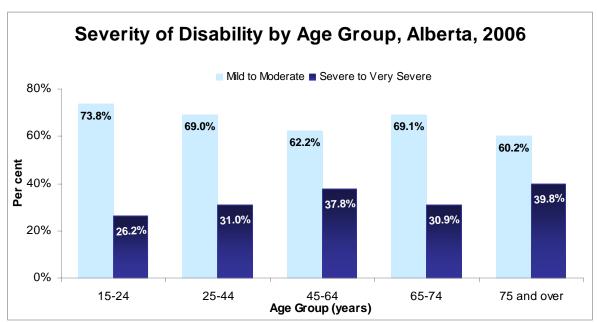


Figure 5

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Severity of Disabilities

Across all age groups among Albertans who reported some activity limitation, the 15 to 24 years reported the most frequencies of mild to moderate severity; and the 75 and over age group, severe to very severe degree of limitations (Figure 6).





Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over Educational attainment of Albertans over 15 years of age with and without disabilities by gender is shown in Figure 7. Adults with disabilities are more likely to have attained lesser levels of education than those without disabilities. The proportion of adult Albertans without disabilities and with less than high school education was 21.6%. The comparable proportion of adult Albertans with disabilities was 32.3%. In 2001, the proportion of adult Albertans with disabilities who had less than high school was 31.6%.

Figure 7

Educational Attainment of Albertans With and Without Disabilities by Gender, 2006						
	With Disabilities			Without Disabilities		
	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All
Less than High School Diploma	30.1%	34.4%	32.3%	22.3%	20.8%	21.6%
High School Graduate	20.2%	24.6%	22.5%	25.6%	28.7%	27.2%
Trades Certificate or Diploma	21.3%	7.7%	14.2%	14.1%	6.4%	10.3%
College	16.3%	19.4%	17.9%	15.7%	20.4%	18.1%
University	12.0%	14.0%	13.0%	22.2%	23.6%	22.9%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

A larger proportion of persons with disabilities had trades certificates or diplomas, 14.2%, than persons without disabilities, 10.3%, in 2006. This is true for males and for females.

Figure 7 also shows that regardless of the presence or absence of disabilities, a greater percentage of females attained college or university graduation, 14.0% and 23.6% for females with and without disabilities respectively, compared to males, 12.0% and 22.2%.

Also, more males with or without disabilities had trades certificates or diplomas, 21.3% and 14.1% respectively, than females, 7.7% and 6.4% respectively in 2006.

Figure 8 shows that Albertans with disabilities had a participation rate of 69.6% in 2006, which was above the national rate of 56.2%. The participation rate for Albertans with disabilities was the highest of the ten provinces.

Participation rates across all provinces went up from those in 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the participation rate increase for Albertans of 0.9 percentage points was more than double the national average participation rate increase of 0.4 percentage points.

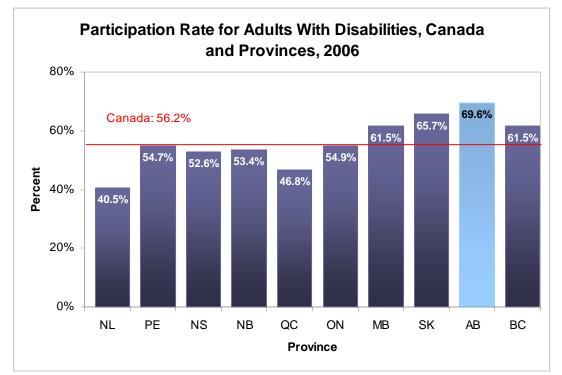
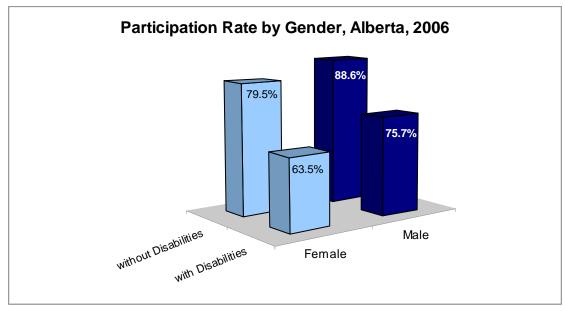


Figure 8

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over Female participation rates were lower than male participation rates for Albertans with or without disabilities. (Figure 9)

Figure 9



Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

In 2006, the male participation rate in Alberta was 9.1 percentage points higher than the female rate; it was 11.3 percentage points higher in 2001. The gap in participation rates between males and females with disability has widened over the five-year period from six percentage points to 12.2 percentage points, even though the participation rates for both males and females with disability were higher in 2006 compared to 2001.

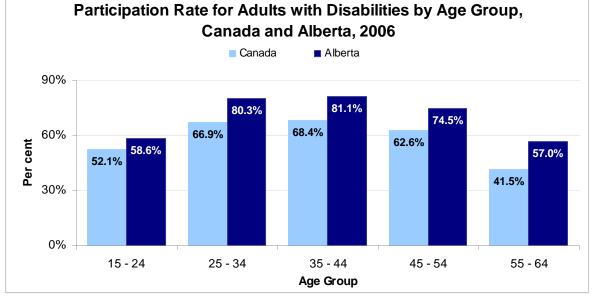


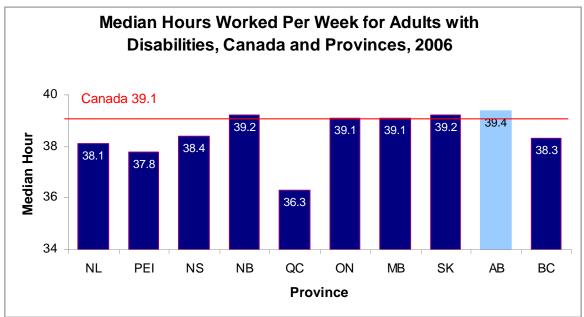
Figure 10

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

The participation rates for Albertans with disabilities were higher than the participation rates for Canadians with disabilities across all age groups in 2006. The difference in participation rates between Albertans and Canadians with disabilities ranged from 6.5 percentage points higher for the 15 to 24 years age group to 15.5 percentage points higher for the 55 to 64 age groups.

Persons with disabilities in Alberta worked the longest median hours per week than their counterparts of all the provinces in 2006.



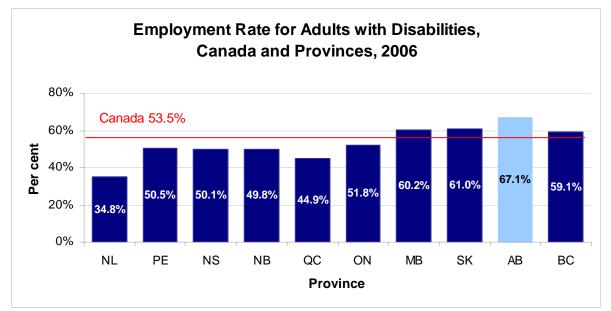


Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

The median hours worked per week for Albertans with activity limitations was 39.4 hours. The median hours worked per week for Canadians with disabilities was 39.1 hours in 2006.

At 67.1%, Albertans with disabilities had the highest employment rate among all the provinces in 2006. The employment rate for Canadians with disabilities was 53.5%. (Figure 12)





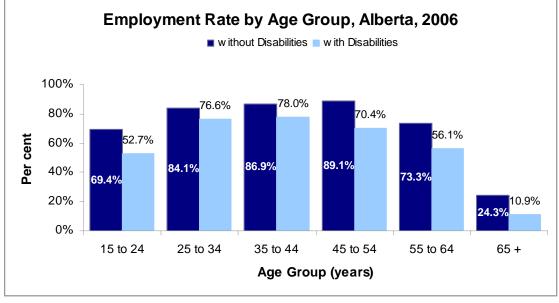
Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Of Albertans with disabilities, the 35 to 44 age group had the highest employment rate of 78.0 per cent in 2006 (Figure 13 on the next page).

The difference in the employment rates between persons with and without disabilities in Alberta was 7.5 percentage points for the 25 to 34 years age group and 18.7 percentage points for the 45 to 54 years age group. These differences have narrowed since 2001. In 2001, the employment rate differential for the 25 to 54 years age group was 24.6 percentage points.

Employment

Figure 13



Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

Males have a higher employment rate than females in Alberta (Figure 14). The gender gap in employment rates in 2006 between Alberta males and females was 10.6 and 8.9 percentage points for persons with and without disabilities respectively.

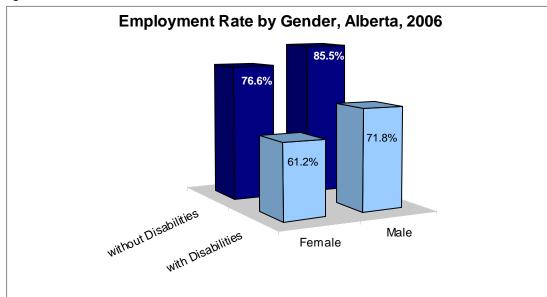
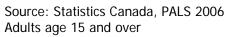
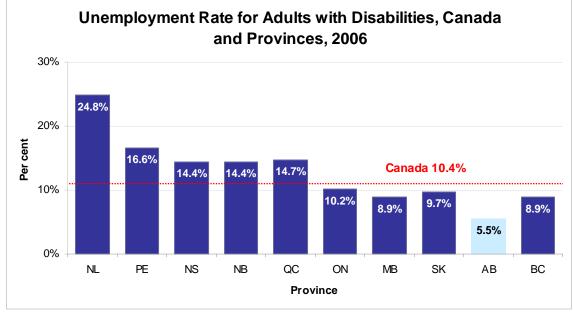


Figure 14



Unemployment



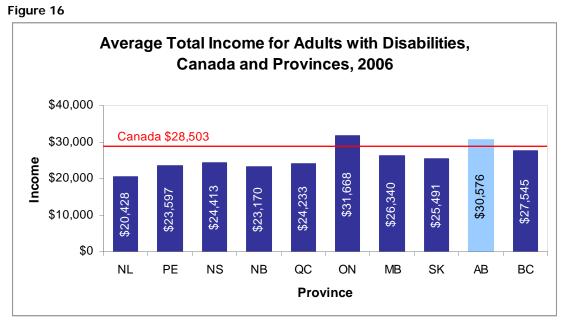


Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

In 2006, Albertans with disabilities had a 5.5% unemployment rate, the lowest of all the provinces. The 2006 unemployment rate was 4.9 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate of 10.4% for Canadians with disabilities.

Income

In 2006, Alberta adults with disabilities had an average total income of \$30,576, the second highest after Ontario, of all provinces. (Figure 16)



Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Adults age 15 and over

The average total income of Alberta's adults with disabilities was \$2,073 more than the national average of \$28,503.

The distributions of the average total income for Albertans with and without disabilities in 2006 were dissimilar (Figure 17 on the next page). Almost half, or 47.6%, of Albertans without disabilities had average income above \$30,000. It was 34.5% for Albertans with disabilities. However, there were fewer Albertans with disabilities having under \$9,000 average income in 2006, 13.0% compared to 15.1% for Albertans without disabilities.

Figure 17

Distribution of Average Total Income, Adults with and without Disabilities, Alberta, 2006					
	% with Disabilities (15yrs +)	% without Disabilities (15 yrs +)			
Less than \$3,000	5.1%	6.5%			
\$3,000 to \$8,999	7.9%	8.6%			
\$9,000 to \$11,999	7.8%	4.5%			
\$12,000 to \$15,999	9.5%	6.1%			
\$16,000 to \$18,999	10.5%	5.3%			
\$19,000 to \$23,999	10.5%	7.0%			
\$24,000 to \$29,999	10.1%	7.6%			
\$30,000 to \$39,999	11.0%	12.5%			
\$40,000 to \$59,999	12.6%	15.4%			
\$60,000 or more	11.2%	19.7%			

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006

The proportion of adult Albertans with and without disabilities having an average total income of less than \$12,000 was comparable in 2006, 20.8% and 19.6% respectively. (Figure 17)

Over half, or 55.2%, of Albertans without disabilities had over \$24,000 average income in 2006, while over half, or 55.4%, of Albertans with disabilities had over \$19,000 average income.

The disparity in the proportions of Albertans with and without disabilities was larger at the higher income range. For Albertans with disabilities, 23.8% had over \$40,000 average income in 2006, it was 35.1% for Albertans with no disabilities.

In the PALS, the survey explored barriers to employment and to participating in the workforce for persons with disabilities. These barriers that prevented some people with disabilities from working could include the condition itself, or the person was prevented by family responsibilities, or worried that the person would lose some or all of additional supports, or worried about being isolated by other workers, and so on.

Three potential barriers presented in this profile are the disability or the condition itself that limits the amount or the kind of work, workplace accommodations that include modifications to the work or work environment, and perceived discrimination.

Figure 18 below shows the proportion of adults with disabilities, age 15 to 64, in Canada and the provinces, who felt that their conditions limited them in the ability to work.

For adult Albertans with disabilities, 21.8% felt that their condition was a barrier to employment. This percentage was the second lowest in the country, behind Newfoundland and Labrador. The percentage for Canadians with disabilities was 28.0%.

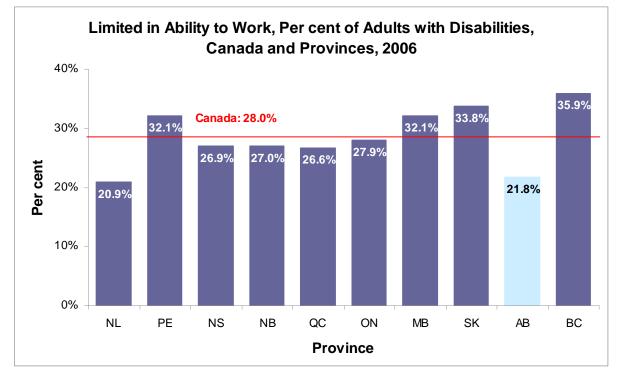


Figure 18

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006

Figure 19 shows the percentage of Albertans and Canadians by age group who reported that their condition was a limitation to employment and participating in the workforce.

Across the three age groups, more Albertans with disabilities felt that their conditions limited their ability to work compared to Canadians with disabilities. The difference is larger for the 45 to 64 age group: 12.6% of adult Albertans with disabilities compared to 9.9% of adult Canadians with disabilities felt that their conditions limited their ability to work. The difference of 0.8 percentage points for the 15 to 29 age group was the smallest between Albertans and Canadians with disabilities.

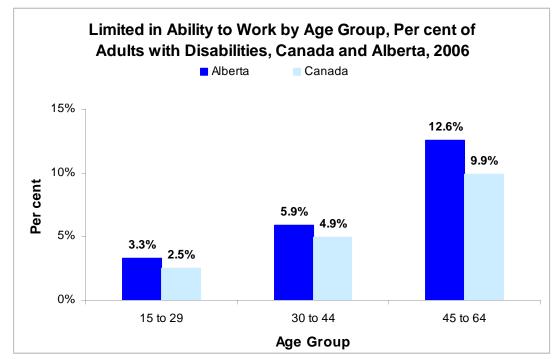


Figure 19

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006

The second barrier to employment presented in this profile is workplace accommodations. Examples of workplace accommodations are job redesign, special chairs, modified hours, or special aids, such as computer with Braille, voice recognition or large print. For this barrier, it would be helpful and informative to look at the work environment through the workplace approach to training.

Figure 20 displays the percentage of employed adults with disabilities who reported the workplace encouraged training in Canada or the provinces.

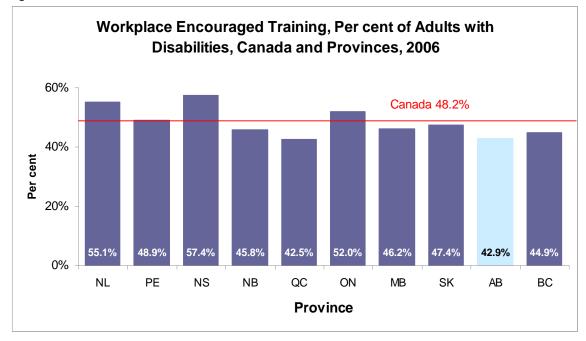


Figure 20

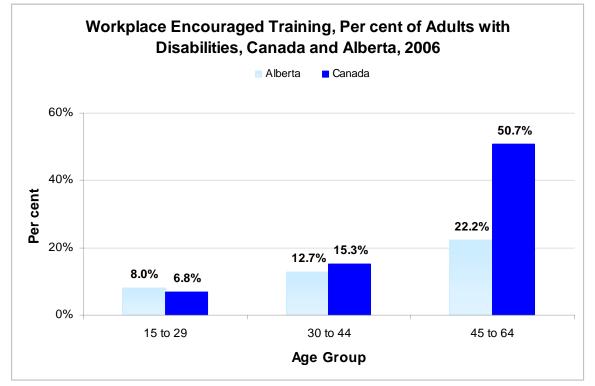
In 2006, 42.9% of employed Albertans age 15 to 64 reported the workplace encouraged training. This percentage was lower than the Canadian average of 48.2%.

Figure 21, on the next page, shows the per cent of adults with disabilities in Canada and Alberta by age group who reported their workplace had encouraged training.

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Age 15 to 64

Barriers to Employment





Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Age 15 to 64

A higher percentage of employed adult Albertans with disabilities in the 45 to 64 age group than the younger age groups reported the workplace had encouraged training.

For the 15 to 29 age groups, there were more employed Albertans with disabilities that were encouraged to receive training at the workplace than their Canadian counterparts, 8.0% for Albertans and 6.8% for Canadians.

Figure 22 showed the per cent of employed adults who had received on-the-job training in the last twelve months for Canada and the provinces. In 2006, 35% of employed Canadian adults with disabilities reported receiving on-the-job training in the last 12 months. Of employed Albertan adults with disabilities, 35.2% received on-the-job training in the last 12 months.

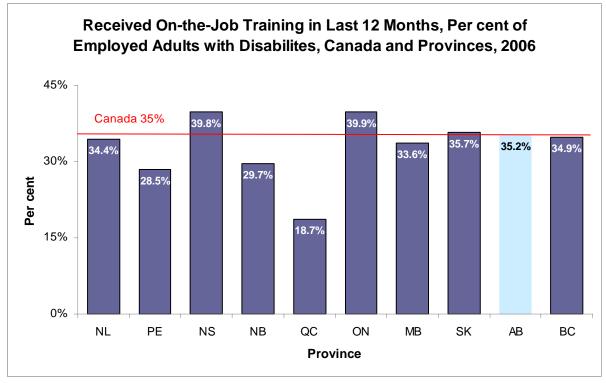


Figure 22

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Age 15 to 64

Barriers to Employment

The third barrier to employment is perceived discrimination (Figure 23).

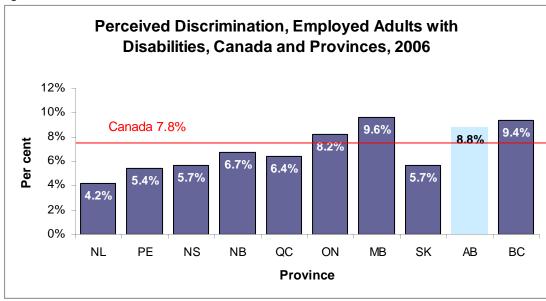


Figure 23

Of employed adults with disabilities, aged 15 to 64, the highest percentage of whom perceived some discrimination was in Manitoba, at 9.6%. Under nine per cent, or 8.8% of employed adult Albertans reported perceived discrimination.

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Age 15 to 64

An important factor that supports persons with disabilities is the provision of aids and specialized equipment. What merits attention is the proportion of the needs of specialized equipment and aids that have been met. Figure 24 shows this proportion for Canada and the provinces.

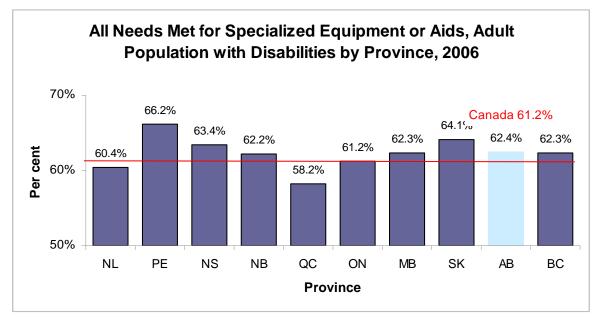


Figure 24

Source: Statistics Canada, PALS 2006 Age 15 to 64

In Alberta, 62.4% of all adult population with disabilities reported that all their needs for specialized equipment or aids were met. The Alberta percentage was among the provinces with higher percentages of adult populations with their needs met.

Summary

In 2006, the Alberta population with disabilities as a share of the Canadian population with disabilities remained the same as in 2001 at 9.7%. The proportion of persons with disabilities in Alberta, 15 years of age and over, was 15.8% in 2006 and 14.8% in 2001. The largest percentage of persons with disabilities was over the age of 75 in 2001 and in 2006.

The most commonly reported type of disability in Alberta in both 2001 and 2006 was pain, followed by mobility and agility. The number of people with hearing, seeing, mobility, agility and speech disabilities all increased with age.

In 2006, 30.9% of Albertans with disabilities completed college or university education. There were more Albertans with disabilities that had trades certificates or diplomas than persons without disabilities. In 2006, 32.3% of Albertans with disabilities had less than high school education; it was 31.6% in 2001.

Participation rates for Albertans with disabilities increased between 2001 and 2006, from 55.6% to 69.6%. Female participation rates went up by 10.7 percentage points, while male participation rates increased by 16.9 percentage points.

Employment rates went up from 52% in 2001 to 67.1% in 2006 for Albertans with disabilities. The respective employment rates for females and males with disabilities in Alberta rose by 12 percentage points and 16.6 percentage points.

Albertans with disabilities worked the longest median hours per week, 39.4 hours, among their counterparts in the ten provinces. Average total income for Albertans with disabilities was \$30,576, which was the second highest of the provinces, after Ontario. The average total income for Canadians with disabilities was \$28,503.

One factor that impacted the level of participation and employment for the people with disabilities in the labour market is barriers to employment. There are many forms of barriers – the disability itself, as well as environmental barriers such as workplace accommodations or perceived discrimination. Overall, 21.8% of adult Albertans with disabilities felt that their condition was a barrier to employment, the second lowest percentage in the country. In 2006, 42.9% of employed adult Albertans reported that the workplace encouraged training; 35.2% reported they had received on-the-job training in the last 12 months, and 8.8% perceived discrimination in the workplace.

All explanations and methodology can be downloaded from Statistics Canada, PALS :

 <u>Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Technical and methodological report</u> <u>(The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada) (PDF</u> <u>Version, 472 kb)</u>

Disability: Disability is an activity limitation or participation restriction associated with a physical or mental condition or health problem.

Persons with Disabilities: For the purpose of PALS, persons with disabilities are those who reported difficulties with daily living activities, or who indicated that a physical or mental condition, or health problem reduced the kind or amount of activities they could do. The respondents' answers to the disability questions represent their perception of the situation and are therefore subjective.

PALS releases published: the following publications were released by Statistics Canada with results from the PALS survey.

- <u>89-628-X2008004</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: A Profile of Education for Children with Disabilities in Canada
- <u>89-628-X2007002</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Analytical Report
- <u>89-628-X2008009</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Families of Children with Disabilities in Canada
- <u>89-628-X2008007</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Labour Force Experience of People with Disabilities in Canada
- <u>89-628-X2007003</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables
- <u>89-628-X2008006</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part II)
- <u>89-628-X2008008</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part III)
- <u>89-628-X2008010</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part IV)
- <u>89-628-X2008011</u> Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part V)