

ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS

NEWSLETTER

AODA Law Update

To help improve conditions for the nearly 2 million Ontarians with disabilities, a law was passed in 2005 called the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). AODA's purpose is simple and clear: to achieve accessibility for people with disabilities with respect to "goods, services, facilities, accommodations, employment, buildings, structures and premises" by 2025.

Statistics Canada data shows that 27 per cent of people 15 and older -- about eight million Canadians -- reported having at least one disability in 2022, about twice the percentage of people who reported a disability 10 years ago.
(see New Data on Disability fact sheet)

NCDSB Accessibility Barrier Review

For the majority of Ontarians who lack a disability, it's easy to miss many barriers that exist for disabled peers. Let's start with a simple question, "What is a barrier?"

A barrier is anything that stops or makes it difficult for a person with a disability to take part in society. When we think of barriers to accessibility, most of us think of physical barriers – like a person who uses a wheelchair not being able to enter a public building because there is no ramp. The fact is there are many kinds of barriers. Some are visible. Many are invisible. The goal of AODA is to identify, remove and prevent the barriers that make life difficult for our fellow citizens with disabilities.

The number one physical barrier identified within our schools is automatic accessible doors. We are conducting a current review through a third-party specialist to rectify this accessible issue within our schools. More details on this operational plan will be provided once the review of all schools is completed.



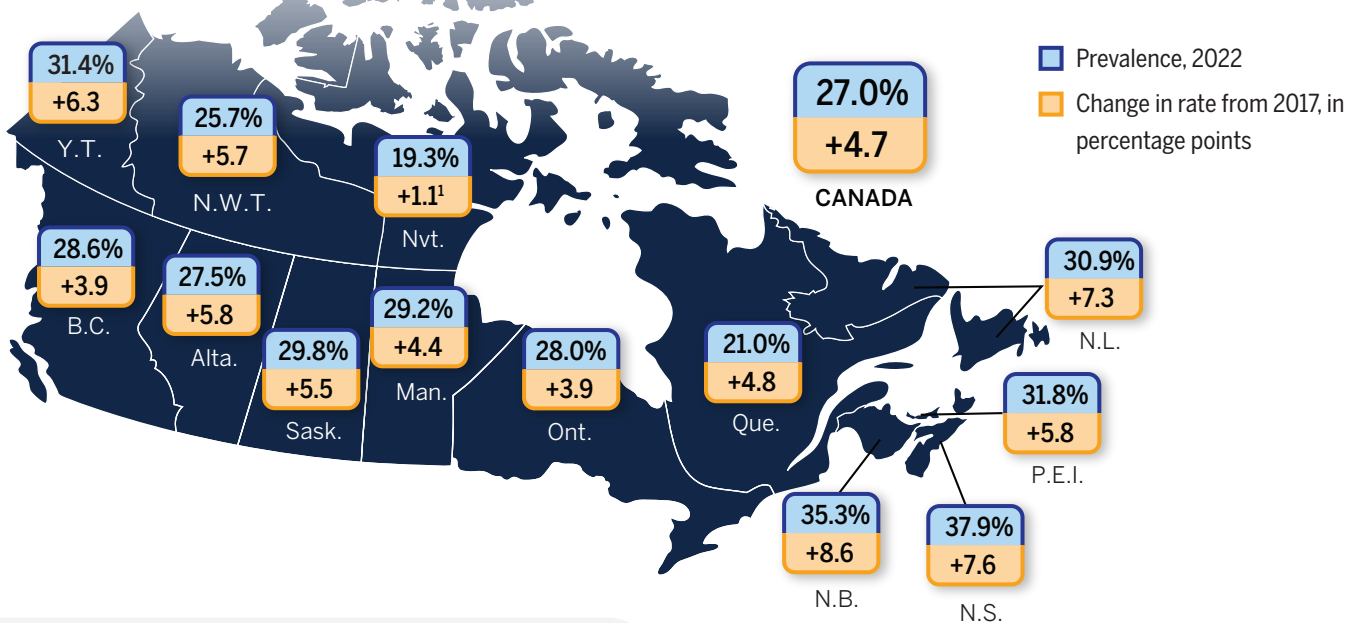
NEW DATA ON DISABILITY

in Canada, 2022

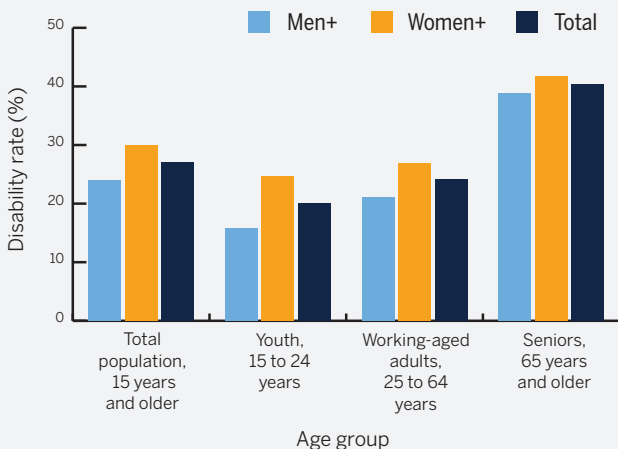
In 2022, **27.0%** of Canadians aged 15 and older, or **8.0 million** people, had at least one disability. This represents an **increase of 4.7 percentage points** from 2017.



From 2017 to 2022, the disability rate rose in all provinces and most of the territories

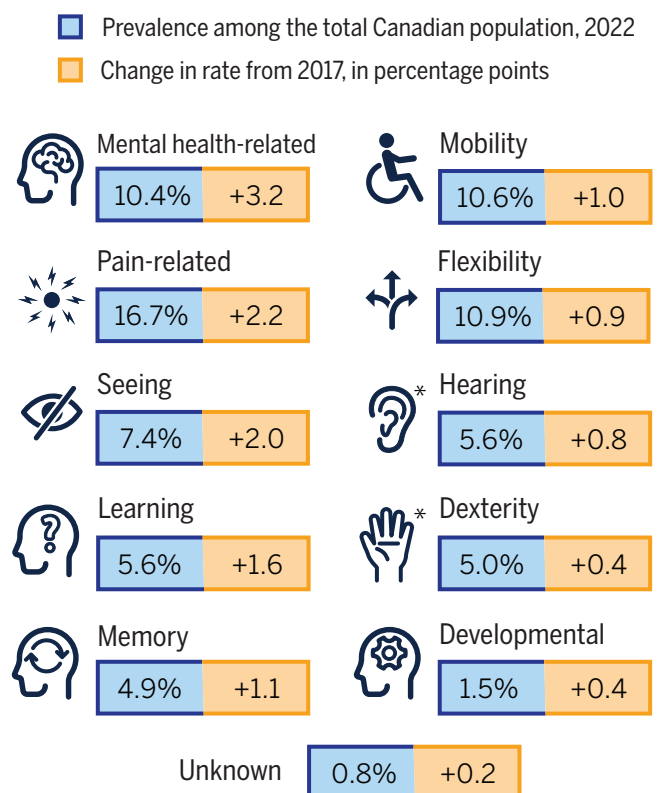


The disability rate increases with age. Growth of Canada's senior population between 2017 and 2022 contributed to the overall increase in the disability rate.



Women of all ages are more likely than men to have a disability²

From 2017 to 2022, **mental health-related, pain-related, and seeing** disabilities had the largest increases, contributing the most to the rise in the Canadian disability rate.



* Updated image

¹ The change observed since 2017 is not statistically significant at a 5% significance level, meaning that it is likely due to sampling variability.

² The category "Women+" includes women and some non-binary persons, while the category "Men+" includes men and some non-binary persons. Given the small size of the non-binary population, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is most of the time necessary to protect the confidentiality of the responses provided.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2022.

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