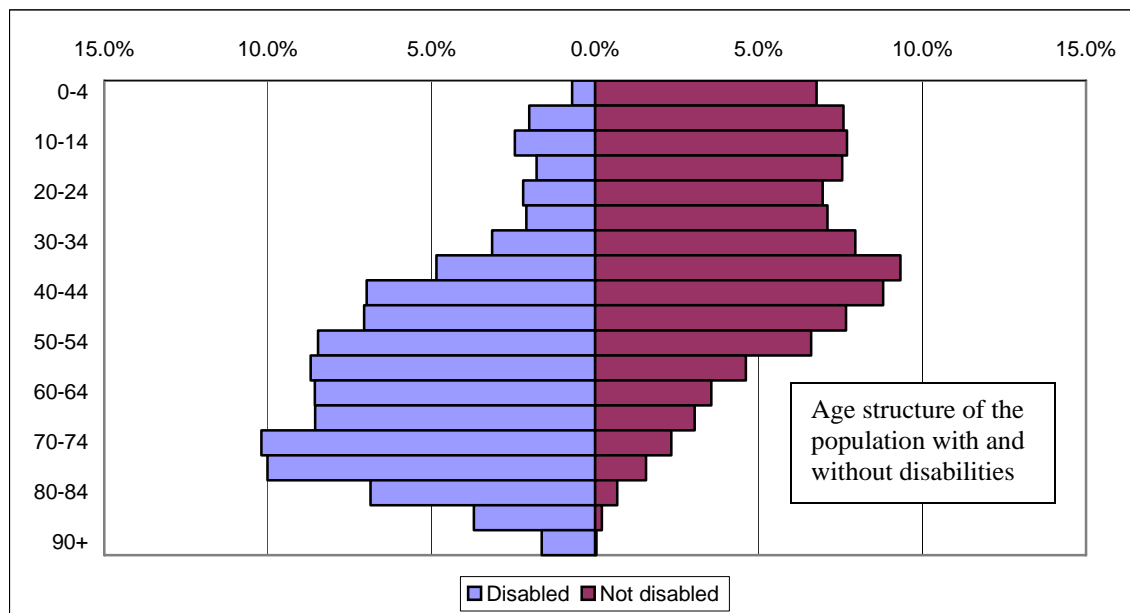


2001 PALS: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES AND ONTARIANS WITHOUT DISABILITIES

Is the Age Structure the Same for Ontarians with Disabilities and Ontarians without Disabilities?

No. The age structure for the population with disabilities is very different from the population without disabilities. The rate of disability increases as age increases, and so for the population with disabilities, there are proportionately more in the older age groups than in the younger age groups. In fact, two-thirds of the population with disabilities is aged 50 years and older. The opposite is true for the population without disabilities. This population is skewed to the young with 77% aged 49 years and younger.



Does the Same Age Pattern Hold True for Both Males and Females?

Yes. A very similar pattern exists for both males and females.

Is it Important to Know that the Age Structure is Different Between the Two Populations?

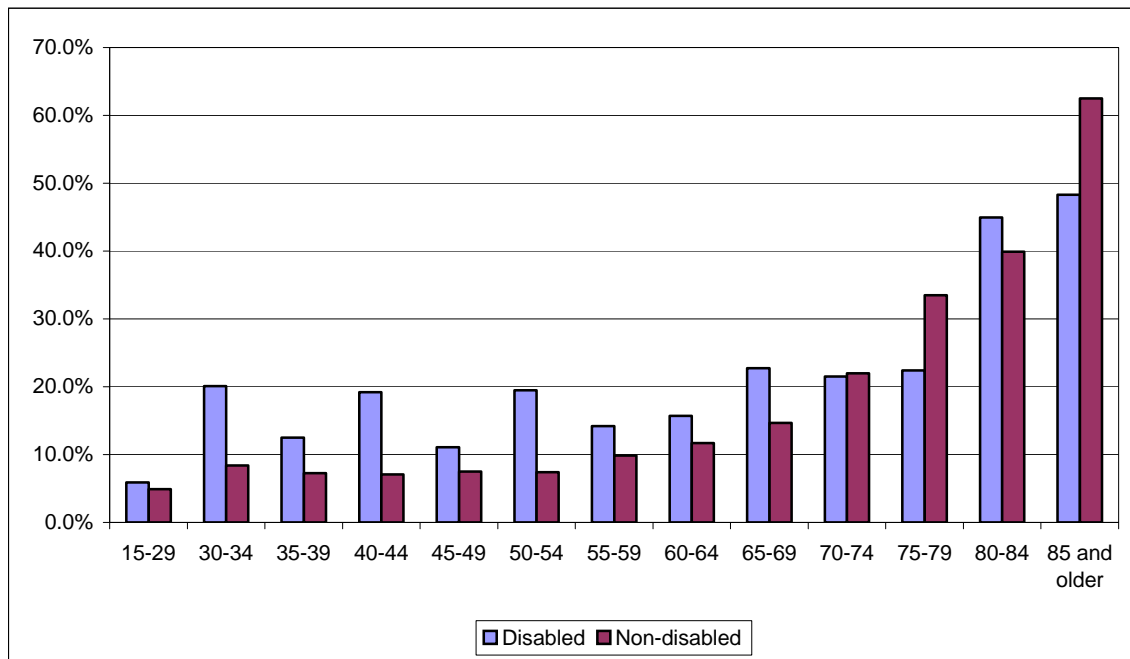
Yes, for most social policy issues. For example, to measure the impact of policy changes to:

- education, it makes sense to exclude those individuals who would not have been in the school system during and after the change. For the population with disabilities, this means excluding a large part of the population, while for those without disabilities, a much smaller proportion would be excluded.

- employment strategies, it makes sense to look at the working age population only and this means excluding a large proportion of the population with disabilities and a much smaller proportion of the population without disabilities.

Are Ontarians with Disabilities More Likely to Live Alone?

Yes, except for the majority of seniors with disabilities. Up to age 69, Ontarians with disabilities are more likely to live alone than their non-disabled peers. The difference is more than double for persons aged 30 to 34 years, 40 to 44 years and 50 to 54 years where one in five adults with disabilities report that they live alone compared to less than one in five of their non-disabled peers.



Is an Ontario Adult with a Disability More Likely to be Part of a Low Income Family than His/Her Non-Disabled Peer?

Yes. An Ontario adult with a disability is more likely to be a member of a low income family than his non-disabled peer. Overall, 20.3% of disabled Ontario adults are a member of a low income family compared to 13.2% of non-disabled Ontarians. This is based on a family income measure developed by Statistics Canada in 1968 and updated regularly since then based on changes to the consumer price index.

The Low Income Cut-off (LICO) is based on family size and geographic location of the family. A family or unattached individual living below the LICO is a family or an unattached individual who spends 20% more of their total income than the average on basic expenditures of food, shelter, and clothing. Individuals who are part of this family are often referred to as “member of a low income family”. For example, if an individual with a disability is a member of a 4-person family and lives in a community with a population of 500,000 or more and this family has a total income of \$30,000, this individual would be a member of a low income family.

Low Income Cut-offs for Families and Unattached					
Individuals, 2000					
Size of Area of Residence					
Family size	500,000 or more	100,000 to 499,999	30,000 to 99,999	Small urban regions	Rural (farm and non-farm)
1	18,371	15,757	15,648	14,561	12,696
2	22,964	19,697	19,561	18,201	15,870
3	28,560	24,497	24,326	22,635	19,738
4	34,572	29,653	29,448	27,401	23,892
5	38,646	33,148	32,917	30,629	26,708
6	42,719	36,642	36,387	33,857	29,524
7+	46,793	40,137	39,857	37,085	32,340

Source: Statistics Canada

With the exception of very young adults aged 15 to 19 years and seniors aged 75 to 79 years, Ontarian adults in every other age group are much more likely to be part of a low-income family than their non-disabled peers. This difference is particularly pronounced during the middle years and most significant among persons aged 45 to 49 years and 50 to 54 years.

