

2001 PALS: ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES

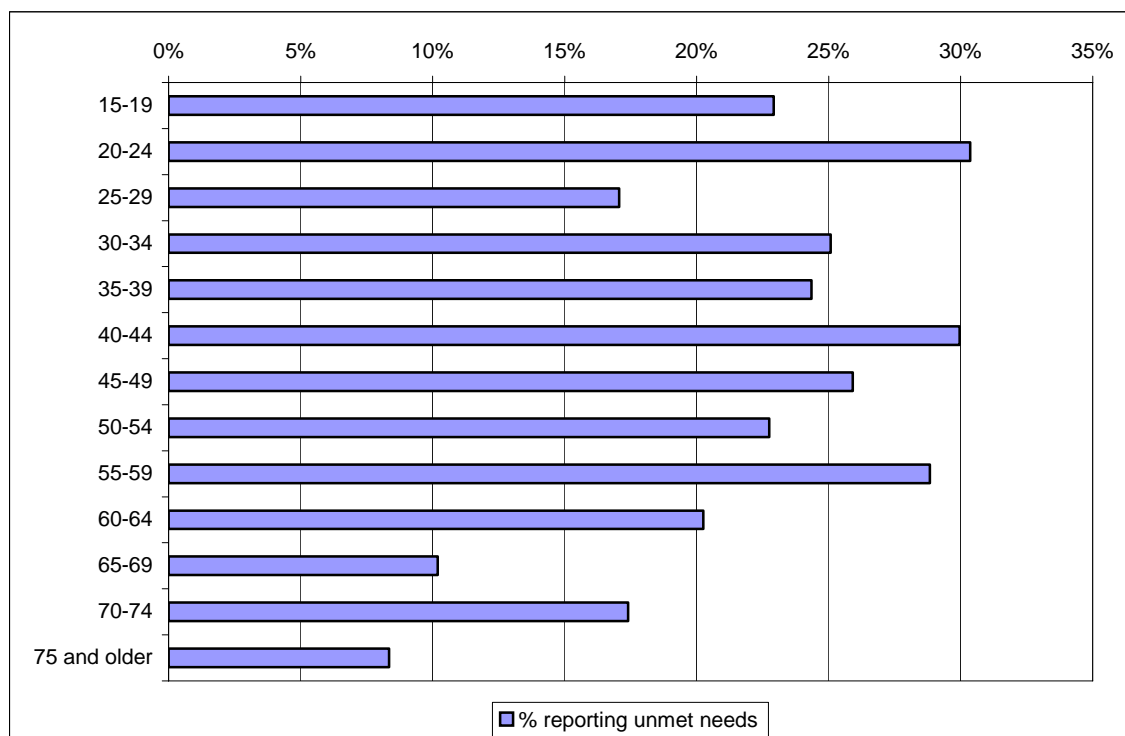
Do Parents of Children with Disabilities have Access to the Health Services Required for their Children?

Not always. Of the 78,340 children with disabilities aged from birth to 14 years, there were 12,475 or 16% who needed health services because of their condition but did not receive them. Among those whose children needed health services and did not receive them,

- 54% cited a long waiting period;
- 44% said that the health service was too expensive;
- 38% reported that the particular health service was not covered by their insurance; and
- 34% said that the particular service was not available locally.

Do Adults with Disabilities have Access to the Health Care or Social Services that They Felt that They Needed?

Many do, but 19% said that did not get the health care or social services that they needed. Some age groups are noticeably higher than others in terms of reporting unmet needs.



The reasons given by the 272,565 adults with disabilities who did not get access to the health care or social services that they felt they needed differed somewhat from those articulated by parents of children with disabilities. They included:

- 39% stated that the services were too expensive;
- 31% said that the needed service was not covered by insurance;
- 17% said that the needed services were not available in the area; and
- 14% stated that they did not know where or how to obtain the needed service.

Do Parents of Children with Disabilities Need Support with the Coordination of their Child's Health Care?

Some do. The parent or guardian of 16,240 or 21% of children with disabilities aged from birth to 14 years reported that they had difficulty with the coordination of their child's health care. Among those who reported some difficulty,

- 50% reported that they did not have the time required to make appointments, telephone, or visit;
- 47% reported that the difficulty was work conflicts;
- 47% reported the difficulty was getting the required appointment;
- 33% reported that the health professional or specialist was not available locally;
- 33% reported that the difficulty was a lack of communication between health professionals; and
- 32% reported the difficulty was obtaining the information that was needed.

Do Parents of Children with Disabilities have Access to the Help that They Need to Support Them with Everyday Activities?

Many parents with a child with disabilities do not need help or additional help with everyday activities such as everyday housework, meal preparation, nor do they need help or additional help so that they can attend to other family responsibilities or take time off for personal activities. But, 19,020 or 24% of parents with children with disabilities aged from birth to 14 years need help or additional help with these activities and the reasons cited for not being able to get all of the help that is needed include:

- the help needed is too expensive (70%);
- help from family and friends is not available (67%);
- services and special programs for the help required is not available locally (40%)
- not knowing where to look for help (40%); and
- child is presently on a waiting list (16).

Have Any Children with Disabilities Aged from Birth to 14 Years been Refused Access to a Child Care Program or Service because of Their Condition or Health Problem?

Yes, 14% of parents report that their child has been refused access to a child care program or service because of his/her condition or health problem. Of the 10,900 who have been refused access,

- 40% reported that it was a day care centre that refused access;
- 31% reported that it was care in someone else's home;
- 19% reported that it was a before or after school program; and
- 19% reported that it was a nursery school.

Do Parents Report Having Any Difficulty with their Attempts to Get Special Education Services for their Children with Disabilities who are Aged 5 to 14 Years?

Yes, 30% of parents report having difficulty with their attempts to obtain special education services for their disabled child. Of the 23,550 who reported having difficulty,

- 78% cited insufficient level of staffing or special education services;
- 53% reported communication problems with school officials;
- 52% reported difficulty in getting their child tested for special education services; and
- 40% stated that the required special education services were not available locally.

Are Adults with Disabilities Prevented from Doing More During their Spare Time Because of Community-Based Barriers?

There were 593,115 adults with disabilities who felt that they were prevented from doing more activities during their spare time. This number represents 41% of all Ontario adults with disabilities. While the most often cited reason was "my condition prevents me from doing more", there were

- 18% who reported that they were prevented from doing more because they needed someone to assist them;
- 16% who reported that they were prevented from doing more because transportation services were inadequate or not accessible;
- 8% who reported that their community did not have appropriate facilities or programs; and
- 6% reported that the facilities, equipment or programs were not accessible.