



Persons with a Disability  
in New Brunswick  
June 2024



# Table of Contents

- Context..... 2
- Disability Prevalence ..... 2
  - Overview ..... 2
  - Types of Disability ..... 3
  - Prevalence by Gender ..... 4
- Barriers to Accessibility ..... 5
- Education ..... 7
- Labour Force Characteristics..... 9
  - Overview ..... 9
  - Challenges Faced by Persons with a Disability in the Labour Market (National) ..... 10
- Appendix: Glossary ..... 12

## Context

All statistics in this report are based on Statistics Canada’s Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD). Conducted every five years, the purpose of the CSD is to provide information about Canadians aged 15 years and over whose everyday activities (labour force participation, participation in education, leisure activities, etc.) are impacted due to a long-term condition or health-related problem. Disability status in the CSD is determined based on a rigorous set of questions referred to as the Disability Screening Questions (DSQ).

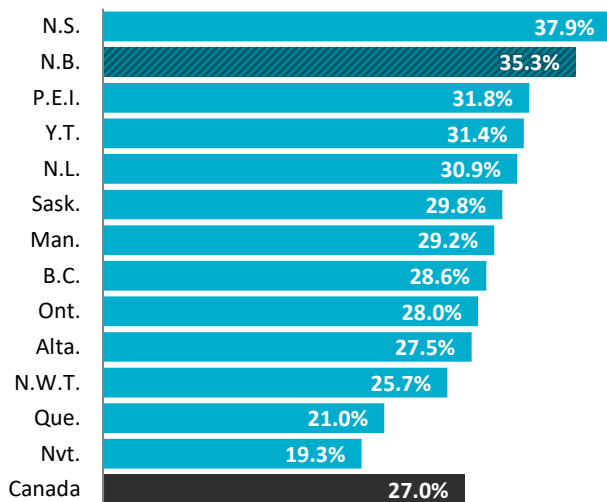
Note: Individuals living in collective dwellings are excluded from this survey.

## Disability Prevalence<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

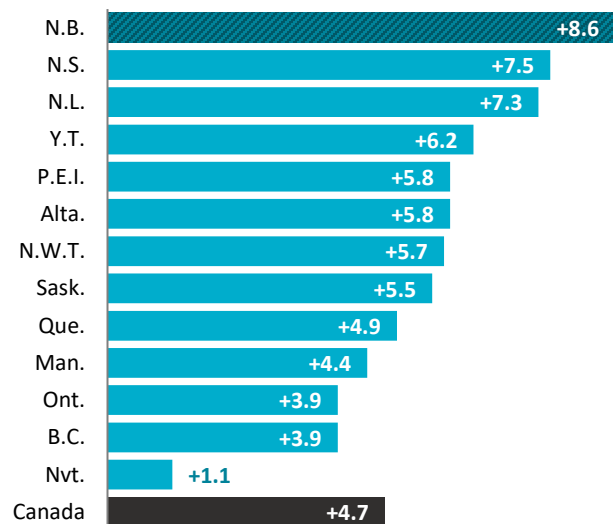
As of 2022, there were an estimated 221,900 New Brunswickers aged 15 years and over who identified that they had one or more disabilities<sup>2</sup>. This represented 35.3% of the province’s total population, the second highest percentage among the provinces and territories, and well above the national rate (27.0%).

### Disability Prevalence Among the Population Aged 15 and Over – 2022



The gap between New Brunswick’s disability rate and the rest of country’s has been growing in recent years. Between 2017 and 2022, the number of New Brunswickers aged 15 years and over with a disability grew by more than 60,000 (161,590 → 221,900), while the number of New Brunswickers without a disability declined by 36,500 (443,910 → 407,410). This increased the province’s disability rate from 26.7% to 35.3%, the largest increase among the provinces and territories during this time.

### Change in Disability Prevalence Among the Population Aged 15 Years and Over Between 2017 and 2022 (Percentage Points)



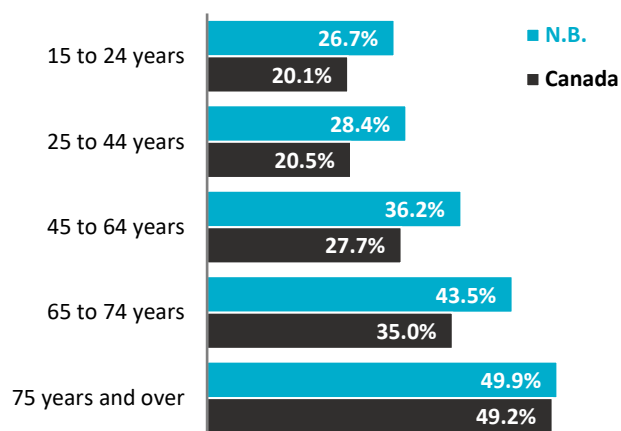
One factor that contributed to New Brunswick’s high disability prevalence (and the rate at which it is increasing) was the province’s relatively older population. In 2022, with a median age of 46.0 years, New Brunswick had the second oldest population in the country. However, while a portion of the gap in disability prevalence between New Brunswick and other provinces can be attributed to this, differences persist even when age is accounted for. At the time of the survey, New Brunswick had one of the highest disability rates in the country across nearly all age categories for both men and women, with the one exception being the population aged 75 years and over<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada – Canadian Survey on Disability (Tables 13-10-0374 and 13-10-0376).

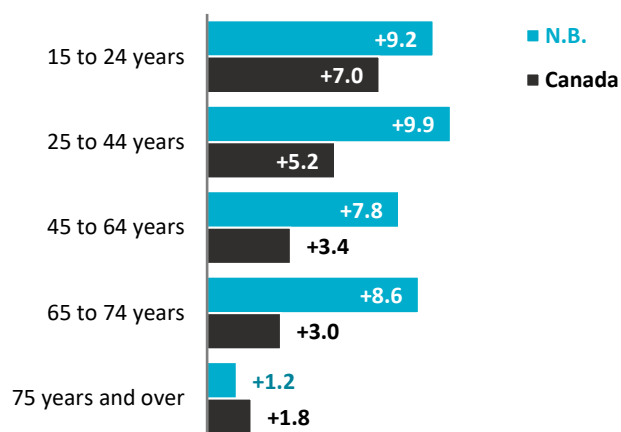
<sup>2</sup> 71.9% of persons with a disability in New Brunswick had 2 or more co-occurring disabilities.

<sup>3</sup> Among the thirteen provinces and territories, New Brunswick ranked in the top four in terms of disability prevalence for both men and women, across the following age categories: 15 to 24 years, 25 to 44 years, 45 to 64 years, 65 to 74 years.

### Prevalence of Disability by Age Group – 2022



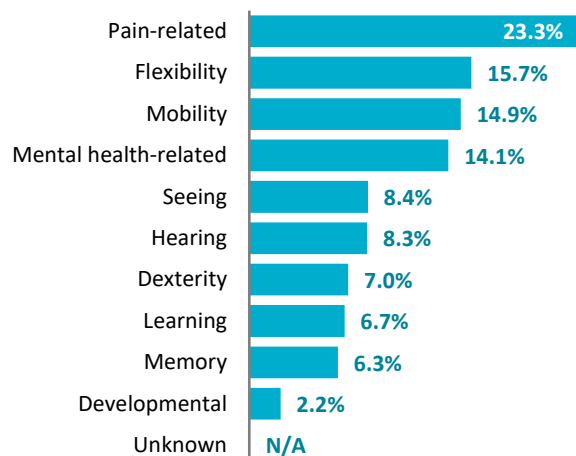
### Change in Disability Prevalence Between 2017 and 2022 by Age Group (Percentage Points)



### Types of Disability

The most common disability type in the province in 2022 was pain-related, with 23.3% of New Brunswickers aged 15 years and over reporting this type of disability. Flexibility (15.7%), mobility (14.9%), and mental health-related (14.1%) were the next most prevalent types of disability.

### Prevalence of Disability Among the Population Aged 15 and Over by Disability Type – New Brunswick – 2022



The types of disabilities that New Brunswickers experienced varied significantly by age group. While prevalence of disabilities related to pain, mobility, flexibility, hearing, dexterity and seeing was higher among older individuals, prevalence of developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and disabilities related to mental health were highest among younger age groups.

### Prevalence of Disability by Disability Type and Age Group – New Brunswick – 2022

	Age Group			
	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
<b>Pain-related</b>	9.5%	16.5%	26.6%	33.3%
<b>Flexibility</b>	3.5%	7.0%	18.7%	27.3%
<b>Mobility</b>	3.6%	5.5%	16.4%	29.1%
<b>Mental health</b>	19.3%	16.8%	14.4%	8.0%
<b>Seeing</b>	4.4%	4.6%	10.0%	12.2%
<b>Hearing</b>	3.0%	4.1%	8.8%	15.1%
<b>Dexterity</b>	N/A	2.8%	7.7%	13.3%
<b>Learning</b>	12.7%	7.0%	6.9%	3.2%
<b>Memory</b>	6.0%	5.0%	7.5%	6.0%
<b>Developmental</b>	5.1%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
<b>Unknown</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A = estimate too unreliable to be published

In general, disability rates were higher in New Brunswick compared to the rest of the country across most age groups and disability types, particularly younger age groups. Among the population 15 to 44, compared to the rest of the country, New Brunswickers were roughly 1.8 times as likely to have a hearing disability, 1.7 times as likely to have a flexibility disability, 1.6 times as likely to have a dexterity disability, 1.5 times as likely to have a pain-related disability, and 1.5 times as likely to have a mental health-related disability.

#### Prevalence of Disability Among the Population Aged 15 to 44 years by Disability Type – 2022

	New Brunswick	Rest of Canada
<b>Pain-related</b>	14.3%	9.6%
<b>Flexibility</b>	5.9%	3.5%
<b>Mobility</b>	4.9%	3.2%
<b>Mental health</b>	17.6%	12.3%
<b>Seeing</b>	4.6%	4.5%
<b>Hearing</b>	3.7%	2.1%
<b>Dexterity</b>	2.5%	1.6%
<b>Learning</b>	8.8%	6.9%
<b>Memory</b>	5.3%	3.7%
<b>Developmental</b>	3.3%	2.3%
<b>Unknown</b>	N/A	N/A

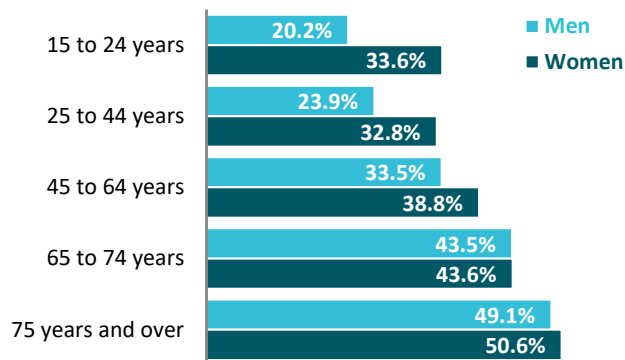
N/A = estimate too unreliable to be published

Compared to 2017, disability prevalence was up across all disability types, both at a provincial and national level. Some of the disability types that saw the greatest increases in prevalence during this time included mental health-related (9.2% → 14.1%), learning (4.4% → 6.7%), and developmental (1.3% → 2.2%).

#### Prevalence by Gender<sup>4</sup>

In general, both within New Brunswick and across Canada, women were significantly more likely to have a disability than men. At the time of the survey, 38.5% of New Brunswick women had a disability (29.9% nationally), compared to 31.9% of men (23.9% nationally). The gap in disability prevalence rates between men and women was particularly high among younger age groups.

#### Prevalence of Disability by Age Group and Gender – New Brunswick – 2022



#### Persons with a Disability Aged 15 and Over by Age Group and Gender – New Brunswick – 2022

	Men	Women	Total
15 to 24 years	8,150	12,910	21,060
25 to 44 years	20,690	28,640	49,330
45 to 64 years	36,250	43,260	79,510
65 to 74 years	20,250	22,930	43,180
75 years and over	12,800	16,020	28,820
<b>Total (15+)</b>	<b>98,130</b>	<b>123,760</b>	<b>221,900</b>

Women were particularly more likely than men to have disabilities related to mental health, memory, dexterity, pain, mobility or seeing. In contrast, men were more likely to have developmental or hearing disabilities.

#### Prevalence of Disability Among the Population Aged 15 Years and Over by Gender, Age Group and Disability Type – New Brunswick – 2022

	15 to 44 Years		45 Years and Over	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>Pain-related</b>	11.3%	17.4%	26.6%	32.0%
<b>Flexibility</b>	5.4%	6.4%	21.9%	22.7%
<b>Mobility</b>	3.8%	6.0%	19.9%	23.3%
<b>Mental health</b>	12.4%	22.8%	9.9%	13.4%
<b>Seeing</b>	3.2%	6.0%	10.5%	11.4%
<b>Hearing</b>	3.7%	3.7%	12.2%	10.7%
<b>Dexterity</b>	2.1%	3.0%	8.9%	11.0%
<b>Learning</b>	8.0%	9.5%	5.3%	5.4%
<b>Memory</b>	4.2%	6.5%	6.3%	7.5%
<b>Developmental</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Unknown</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this report non-binary persons were distributed into the other two gender categories for confidentiality reasons.



## Barriers to Accessibility

To support the Canadian Government’s commitment to the Accessibility Action Plan (which aims to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to Canadians), a section on accessibility barriers was added to the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability. This section included questions related to twenty-seven types of barriers. These barriers can be divided into four categories:

- Features inside or outside public spaces<sup>5</sup>
- Communicating
- Behaviour, misconceptions or assumptions
- Use of the internet

Approximately seven out of ten (71%) persons with disabilities in New Brunswick reported that, at some point in the last year, they had experienced at least one of the types of barriers asked about in survey. This rate was even higher for young men (79%), who were more likely to experience barriers across all four broad categories (with a particularly high percentage experiencing communication related barriers).

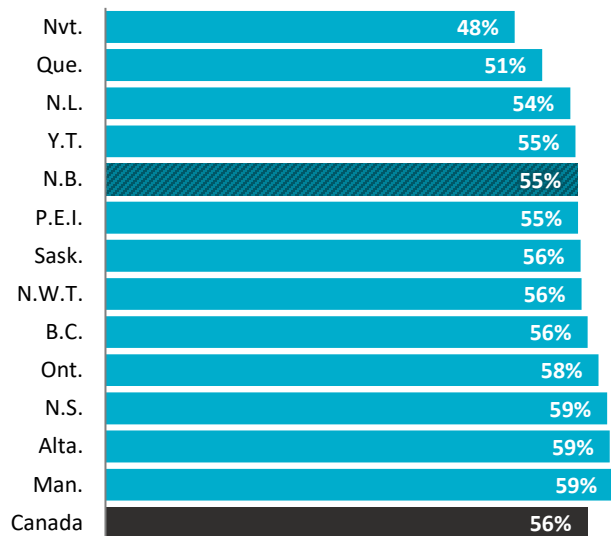
### Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Accessibility by Age Group and Gender – 2022

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
15 to 24 years	79%	67%	67%	71%
25 to 64 years	67%	70%	65%	73%
65+ years	73%	76%	75%	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>75%</b>

Barriers related to features inside or outside public spaces, such as entrances or exits and sidewalks, were the most commonly experienced (55%), followed by barriers related to communication (47%), barriers related to behaviours, misconceptions or assumptions (35%) and barriers to using the internet (13%).

In general, barriers related to behaviour, misconceptions or assumptions, communicating, and internet usage were more commonly experienced by younger New Brunswickers, while barriers related to features inside or outside public spaces were more often experienced by older individuals. How likely it is for an individual to experience a specific barrier is in large part shaped by their disability type(s), along with the types of activities that the individual tends to engage in (e.g. younger individuals may be more likely than seniors to want to, or have to, use the internet).

### Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Features Inside or Outside Public Spaces – 2022

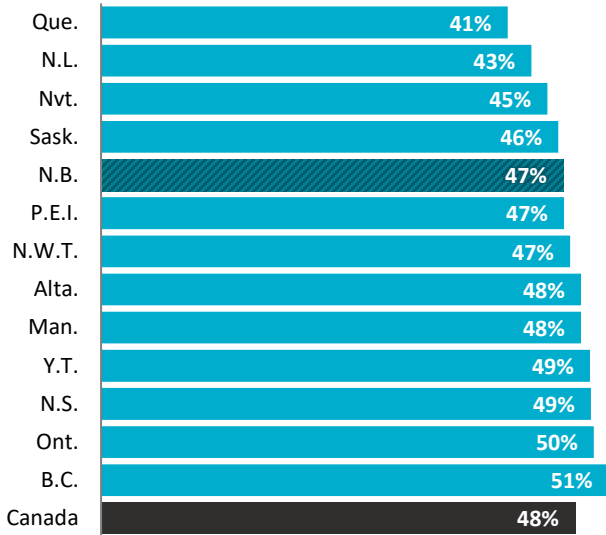


### Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Features Inside or Outside Public Spaces by Age Group and Gender – 2022

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
15 to 24 years	47%	34%	42%	41%
25 to 64 years	49%	53%	47%	56%
65+ years	63%	70%	65%	72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>59%</b>

<sup>5</sup> Including: building entrances and exits, floorplans, lighting and sound, public washrooms, wait lines, self-serve technology, announcements or alarm systems, signage, pedestrian infrastructure, ice or snow covered sidewalks, and/or other problems with sidewalks.

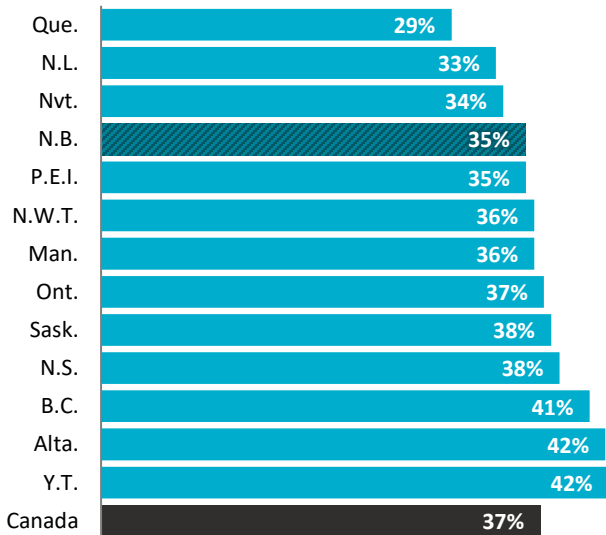
**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier to Communicating – 2022**



**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier to Communicating by Age Group and Gender – 2022**

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
15 to 24 years	69%	45%	54%	54%
25 to 64 years	44%	47%	43%	47%
65+ years	45%	46%	51%	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>

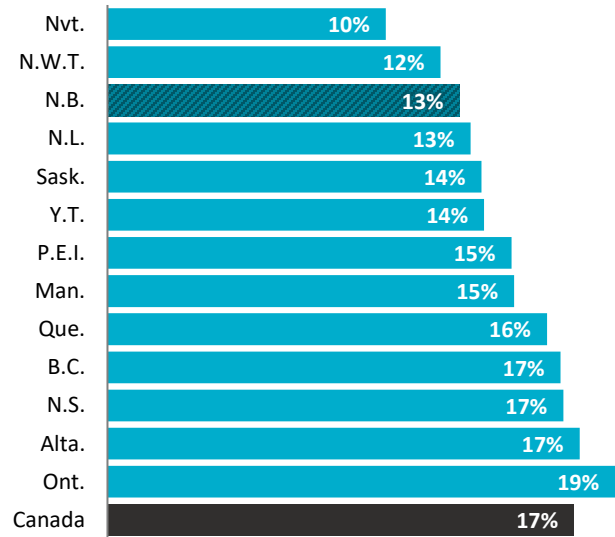
**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Behaviour, Misconceptions or Assumptions – 2022**



**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Behaviour, Misconceptions or Assumptions by Age Group and Gender – 2022**

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
15 to 24 years	55%	50%	42%	54%
25 to 64 years	37%	42%	35%	44%
65+ years	20%	25%	25%	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>40%</b>

**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Using the Internet – 2022**



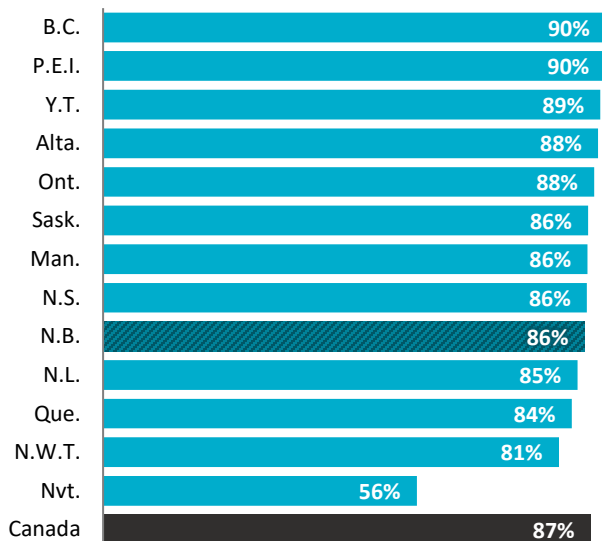
**Percentage of Population Who Experienced at Least One Barrier Related to Using the Internet by Age Group and Gender – 2022**

	N.B.		Canada	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
15 to 24 years	18%	14%	17%	14%
25 to 64 years	15%	14%	18%	17%
65+ years	10%	10%	18%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>

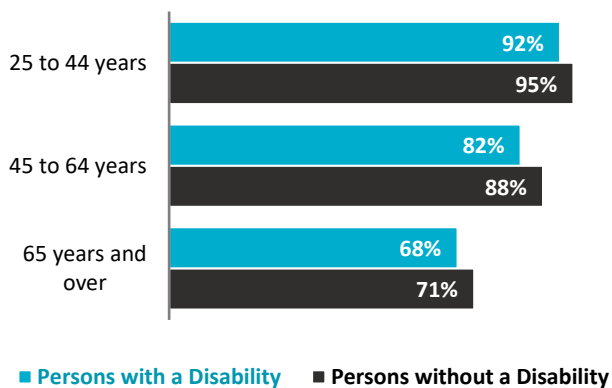
## Education<sup>6</sup>

As of May 2021, 86% of persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years in New Brunswick had at least a high school diploma<sup>7</sup>, compared to 91% of persons without a disability. This represented the fourth largest gap (5.1 p.p.) among the provinces and territories.

### Percentage of Persons with a Disability Aged 25 to 64 With at Least a High School Diploma – May 2021



### Percentage of Population With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group and Disability Status – New Brunswick – May 2021

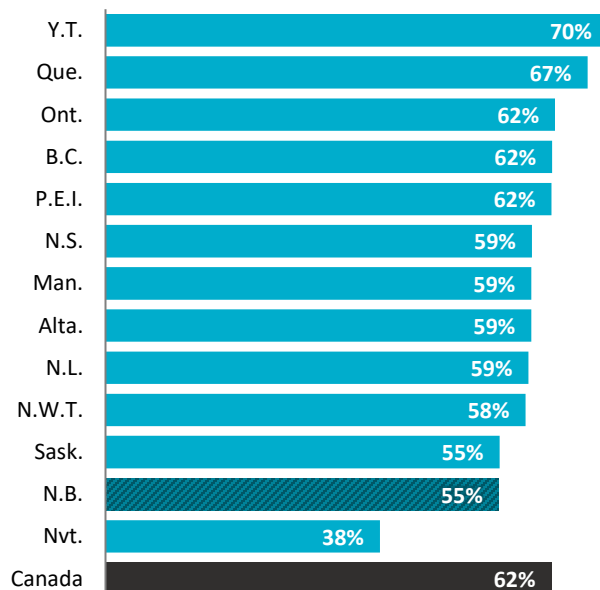


### Percentage of Persons with a Disability With at Least a High School Diploma by Age Group, Gender and Disability Status – May 2021

	Persons with a Disability		Persons without a Disability	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>N.B.</b>				
25 to 44 years	92%	91%	93%	96%
45 to 64 years	79%	86%	83%	92%
65+ years	65%	70%	71%	71%
<b>Canada</b>				
25 to 44 years	87%	91%	92%	95%
45 to 64 years	83%	87%	88%	91%
65+ years	74%	70%	81%	79%

On the post-secondary side, as of May 2021, 55% of persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years in New Brunswick had completed some form of post-secondary education, compared to 64% of persons without a disability. This represented the largest gap (9.6 p.p.) among the provinces and territories.

### Percentage of Persons with a Disability Aged 25 to 64 with Post-Secondary Credentials – May 2021

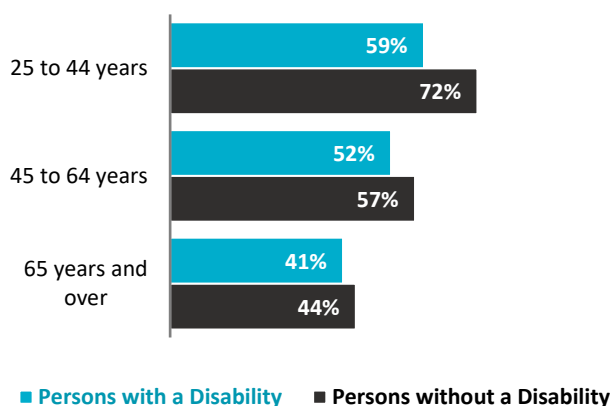


<sup>6</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada – Canadian Survey on Disability (Table 13-10-0378).

<sup>7</sup> i.e., a high school diploma (or equivalency certificate) and/or a post-secondary education.



**Percentage of Population with Post-Secondary Credentials by Age Group and Disability Status – New Brunswick – May 2021**



**Percentage of Population with Post-Secondary Credentials by Age Group, Gender and Disability Status – May 2021**

	Persons with a Disability		Persons without a Disability	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>N.B.</b>				
25 to 44 years	50%	66%	67%	77%
45 to 64 years	50%	53%	53%	62%
65+ years	42%	39%	48%	40%
<b>Canada</b>				
25 to 44 years	58%	71%	70%	78%
45 to 64 years	59%	60%	62%	66%
65+ years	51%	41%	56%	46%

Persons with a disability were particularly less likely than persons without a disability to have university degrees. As of May 2021, only 17% of persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years had a degree, compared to 26% of those without a disability.

**Highest Level of Education Among Population Aged 25 to 64 by Gender and Disability Status – New Brunswick – May 2021**

	Men	Women	Total
<b>Persons with a Disability</b>			
Less than High School	17%	12%	14%
High School	33%	30%	31%
Post-Secondary	50%	58%	55%
Apprenticeship/Trades	13%	5%	8%
Other Certificate/Diploma	25%	33%	29%
Degree	13%	21%	17%
<b>Persons without a Disability</b>			
Less than High School	12%	6%	9%
High School	28%	25%	27%
Post-Secondary	60%	69%	64%
Apprenticeship/Trades	13%	4%	9%
Other Certificate/Diploma	25%	34%	30%
Degree	22%	31%	26%

Physical or systemic barriers appear to contribute to the lower educational attainment levels among persons with a disability. In 2022, at the national level, 46.3% of current or recent students who required devices, support services or modifications had unmet needs. This percentage was 20.1% for students who required accessible features of the physical environment had unmet needs, and 26.7% for students who required specialized transportation.

**Requirements for Educational Accommodations or Modifications for Current or Recent Students with Disabilities Aged 15 Years and Over – Canada – 2022**

Need	% With Need	Among Students That Had Need	
		All Needs Met	Unmet Needs
Accessible features of the physical environment	5.3%	79.9%	20.1%
Specialized transportation	3.6%	73.3%	26.7%
Devices, support services or modifications	34.7%	53.7%	46.3%

## Labour Force Characteristics

Note: Given the economic shutdowns and restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the pandemic throughout 2020 and 2021, it is important to consider the following estimates in the context of the pandemic.

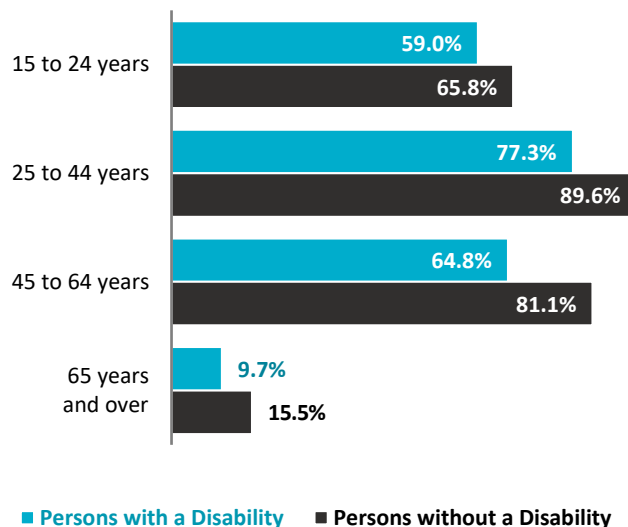
### Overview<sup>8</sup>

#### Labour Force Characteristics of Population Aged 25 to 64 by Disability Status – New Brunswick – May 2021

	25 to 44 Years	45 to 64 Years	Total
<b>Persons with a Disability</b>			
Population	49,330	79,510	<b>128,840</b>
Not in Labour Force	11,170	27,980	<b>39,160</b>
Labour Force	38,150	51,530	<b>89,690</b>
Employment	35,890	46,470	<b>82,350</b>
Unemployment	2,260	5,060	<b>7,330</b>
Participation Rate	77.3%	64.8%	<b>69.6%</b>
Employment Rate	72.8%	58.4%	<b>63.9%</b>
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	9.8%	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Persons without a Disability</b>			
Population	124,580	140,170	<b>264,750</b>
Not in Labour Force	12,920	26,450	<b>39,370</b>
Labour Force	111,660	113,720	<b>225,380</b>
Employment	104,450	105,070	<b>209,510</b>
Unemployment	7,220	8,650	<b>15,870</b>
Participation Rate	89.6%	81.1%	<b>85.1%</b>
Employment Rate	83.8%	75.0%	<b>79.1%</b>
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	7.6%	<b>7.0%</b>

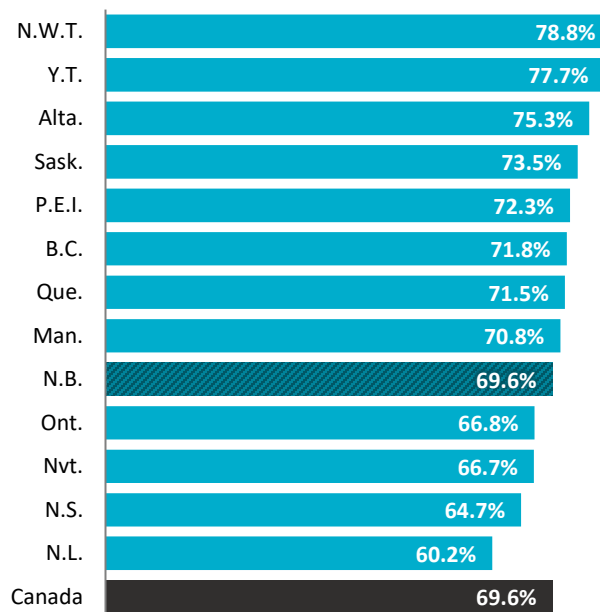
Both within New Brunswick and across Canada, persons with a disability are noticeably less likely to participate in the labour force than persons without a disability. At the time of the 2021 Census, 69.6% of persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years in the province were either working or looking for work, compared to 85.1% of those without a disability. While this gap was partially attributable to differences in age structures between these populations (as persons with a disability are generally older than those without disabilities), differences persist even when age structure is accounted for.

#### Participation Rate by Age Group and Disability Status – New Brunswick – May 2021



New Brunswick's participation rate among persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years was consistent with the national rate for this population (69.6%), with women faring slightly better (70.6% in N.B. compared to 68.1% nationally), and men faring slightly worse (68.4% in N.B. compared to 71.7% nationally).

#### Participation Rate of Persons with a Disability Aged 25 to 64 – May 2021



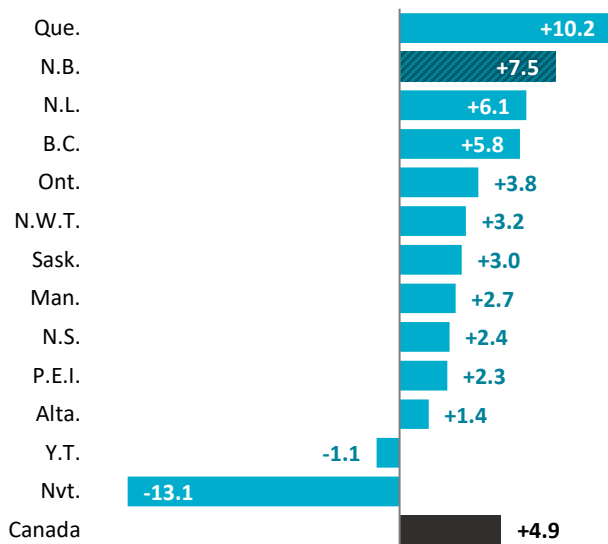
<sup>8</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada – Canadian Survey on Disability (Table 13-10-0377).

**Participation Rate by Age Group, Gender and Disability Status – May 2021**

	Persons with a Disability		Persons without a Disability	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>N.B.</b>				
15 to 24 years	58.7%	59.1%	65.5%	66.0%
25 to 44 years	73.8%	79.9%	87.2%	91.8%
45 to 64 years	65.3%	64.4%	76.2%	85.8%
65 years and over	13.2%	6.8%	11.9%	19.6%
<b>Canada</b>				
15 to 24 years	52.1%	60.9%	62.7%	60.8%
25 to 44 years	77.0%	76.9%	83.3%	91.6%
45 to 64 years	68.2%	61.1%	76.2%	84.9%
65 years and over	16.3%	8.8%	14.4%	25.9%

While there remains a significant gap in labour force participation between those with a disability and those without one (both at a provincial and national level), this gap is shrinking. Between May 2016 and May 2021, the participation rate of persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years increased 7.5 percentage points (62.1% → 69.6%) at the provincial level, and 4.9 percentage point (64.7% → 69.6%) at the national level. New Brunswick’s increase represented the second largest increase among the provinces and territories.

**Change in Participation Rate of Persons with a Disability Aged 25 to 64 Between May 2016 and May 2021 (Percentage Points)**



**Challenges Faced by Persons with a Disability in the Labour Market (National)<sup>9</sup>**

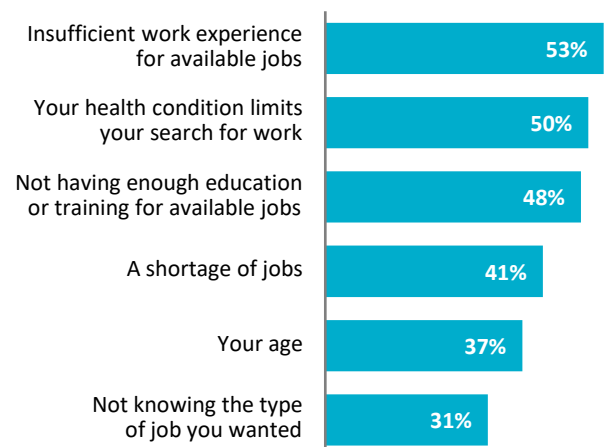
While New Brunswick-specific data is not currently publicly available: at the national level in 2022, among persons with a disability aged 25 to 64 years who were not currently employed, it was estimated that 42% had work potential, with the remaining 58% indicating that they were either completely retired or that their condition completely prevented them from working and that no workplace accommodation existed that would enable them to work.

**Work Potential for Non-Employed Persons with a Disability Aged 25 to 64 – Canada – 2022**



However, even among those with work potential, persons with a disability faced numerous obstacles in finding work, whether it be directly (e.g. accessibility issues), or indirectly (e.g. insufficient experience, training or education) related to their disability.

**Most Common Reasons for Difficulty in Finding Work for Persons with Disabilities – Canada – 2022**



<sup>9</sup> Source(s): Statistics Canada – Canadian Survey on Disability (Tables 13-10-0896, 13-10-0887, 13-10-0895 and 13-10-0886).

Persons with a disability who were already employed often faced barriers as well. Among those aged 25 to 64 years who required workplace accommodations, only 65% were having all their accommodation needs met, while 19% were having some of their needs met, and 17% were having none of their needs met. Among those who were not having their needs met, oftentimes it was because the individual either was too uncomfortable to ask, did not want to cause difficulty for their employer, did not want to disclose the need for accommodations, or was afraid of negative outcomes if they were to ask.

Employed persons with a disability also faced challenges when it come to advancing in their careers. In 2022, 41% of employed persons with a disability indicated that they consider the possibility of a job change or advancing at their present job difficult due to their condition.

## Appendix: Glossary

**Labour Force:** refers to the working age population (15+) that is employed or unemployed.

**Employment:** refers to people who, during the reference week, did any work at all at a job or business; or had a job but were not at work due to factors such as illness, personal, family responsibilities or labour disputes.

**Unemployment:** refers to people who during the reference week were without work but had actively looked for work in the past four weeks and were available for work; or were on temporary layoff during the reference week with an expectation of recall and were available for work.

**Unemployment Rate:** represents the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

**Participation Rate:** represents the labour force as a percentage of the working age population.

**Employment Rate:** represents the employed as a percentage of the working age population.

**Gender:** Gender refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman). For the purposes of this report, non-binary persons were distributed into the other two gender categories for confidentiality reasons.