



did you know?

The Facts on Housing and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

- Using a median 2% prevalence rate and Canadian census data, there are an estimated 686,000 Canadians with intellectual disabilities.ⁱ

Housing and Homelessness

- A disproportionate number of people with intellectual disabilities are in core housing need in Canada. 18.5% of persons aged 15 years or older with developmental disabilities live in a household in core housing need in Canada – more than twice the average for all households in Canada (9.1%) and higher even than persons with other disabilities (16.6%).ⁱⁱ
- Adults with intellectual disabilities are over twice as likely as others to still be living at home with one or more parents.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Adults with intellectual disabilities are over twice as likely as others to still be living at home with one or more parents, increasingly in situations where senior parents remain the primary support for the adult son or daughter.^{iv}
- A CMHC funded study found that adults with intellectual disabilities, like other adults, usually want to live independently. However it found that those who wish to live independently face serious obstacles including:
 - limited support services for planning and transition to independent living and subsequently support services needed to live independently;
 - a system that is geared to accommodating them within existing housing, rather than creating housing situations geared to their needs; and
 - fear on the part of families and support organizations that fear for their safety or question their ability to live on their own.^v
- While homelessness and intellectual disability is an area that has not been widely investigated, a 2005 study of homelessness and intellectual disability in Ottawa suggests, on the basis of interviews with staff at shelters, that people with intellectual disabilities are over-represented in the shelter system.^{vi}
- International studies have found over-representation of people with intellectual disabilities among the homeless. Findings of a U.K. study published in late 2008 found that “homeless people are significantly more likely to have an intellectual disability than the general population.”^{vii}

Access to Disability Supports

- People with intellectual disabilities are nearly twice as likely as others with disabilities to have only partially-met needs for help with everyday activities such as meal preparation, everyday housework, heavy household chores, getting to appointments/ errands, personal finances, child care because of the respondent's disability, personal care, nursing care/ medical treatment at home and moving about at home. They are also about twice as likely as others with disabilities to have none of their needs met for assistive aids / devices, such as for mobility, agility, hearing, seeing, communicating, learning and pain management.^{viii}
- In Ontario a variety of residential and community supports are provided for approximately 16,000 people.^{ix} This represents only a small portion of the more than 250,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities in Ontario. There are currently 13,400 on waiting lists for support services for people with intellectual disabilities in Ontario.^x

Poverty

- The poverty rate among adults with intellectual disabilities is much higher than the general population. 73 per cent of working age adults with intellectual disabilities who live on their own are living in poverty, compared to 23 per cent of those in the same cohorts among the general population.^{xi}
- People with intellectual disabilities are far less likely than others to have access to paid employment and disproportionately rely on government sources of income assistance. Only 25.5% of working age people with intellectual disabilities have any paid employment compared to the national average of 75.5%.^{xii}
- The average income for working age people with intellectual disability is less than half of that of Canadians without a disability.^{xiii}
- Nearly half (43.7%) of working-age people with intellectual disabilities received provincial/territorial social assistance at some point in 2009.^{xiv}
- Parents of children with intellectual disabilities report that they have to turn down employment opportunities (27.8%); have to work less hours per week (33.6%); and/or decline promotions (17.1%).^{xv}

Endnotes

ⁱ Estimates of the prevalence of intellectual disability vary from 0.6% to 3% of the general population. Statistics Canada's 2006 *Participation and Activity Limitations Survey* (PALS) indicates a 0.7% prevalence rate or about 207,000 people in 2006. However, because of the identification methods used by Statistics Canada, this estimate is largely restricted to people with 'severe' or 'very severe' levels of disability and under-estimates the total population of people with intellectual disabilities.¹ A more realistic estimate is that approximately 686,000 Canadians of all ages have some level of intellectual disability. This estimate is based on a prevalence rate of about 2%, which is between the 1% and 3% estimates that have been used in the United States. See: Cameron Crawford, *People with Learning Difficulties: A Demographic Snapshot* (Toronto: Institute for Research on Inclusion and Society, 2009)

ⁱⁱ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) classifies households in core housing need as those which are unable to afford shelter that meets adequacy, suitability, and affordability norms. A household is said to be in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of CMHC's adequacy, suitability or affordability standards and if the household would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *2001 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Issue 7 - Profile of the Housing Conditions of Canadians aged 15 Years and Older with a Developmental Disability*, Socio-economic Series 10-013 (Ottawa: CMHC, July 2010)

ⁱⁱⁱ Canadian Association for Community Living, *2007 National Report Card on Inclusion of Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities* (Toronto: Canadian Association for Community Living, 2007)

^{iv} Canadian Association for Community Living, *2008 National Report Card on Inclusion of Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities* (Toronto: Canadian Association for Community Living, 2008)

^v Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, *Housing for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*, Socio-economic Series 06-008 (Ottawa: CMHC, March 2006)

^{vi} Ottawa Ginger Group Collaborative Cluster, *Adults with Developmental Disabilities Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness: Report to Ottawa's Community Capacity Building Team* (September 2005).

^{vii} Peter M Oakes & Ros C Davies, "Intellectual Disability in Homeless Adults: A Prevalence Study" (2008) 12:4 *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*.

^{viii} Crawford, 2011.

^{ix} Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, "The evolution of government policy and legislation: 2000 and beyond" (12 April 2011), online: Ontario Government <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/dshistory/legislation/2000s_beyond.aspx>.

^x All Together Now, "Introduction", online: All Together Now <<http://www.alltogether-now.ca>>.

^{xi} Canadian Association for Community Living, *2009 National Report Card on Inclusion of Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities* (Toronto: Canadian Association for Community Living, 2009)

^{xii} *Ibid.*

^{xiii} *Ibid.*

^{xiv} Cameron Crawford, *The Employment of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Canada: A Statistical Profile* (Toronto: Institute for Research on Inclusion and Society, 2011)

^{xv} Canadian Association for Community Living, *Policy Position on Housing* (Toronto: Canadian Association for Community Living, 2010)