

National Physical and Sensory Disability Database



A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS - JUNE 2004

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December 2004

This short report presents the first publicly available data from the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) which is managed by the Health Research Board (HRB). The purpose of this preliminary analysis is to provide evidence to inform decision-making by disability service planners in relation to resource allocation for 2005 and to provide a foundation for policies and interventions that will improve the lives of people with physical or sensory disabilities. The report highlights current trends in service use and future requirements for specialised health and personal social services. A complete report on the 2004 data from the NPSDD will be published in Spring 2005.

INTRODUCTION

National implementation of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) commenced in January 2002. The NPSDD evolved through a detailed, discursive, evaluative and collaborative process with the health boards, the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA), non-statutory agencies, Health Research Board (HRB), and Department of Health and Children. The implementation of the database meets one of the key recommendations of *Towards an Independent Future* (Review Group on Health and Personal Social Services for People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities, 1996).

The NPSDD has been established to ensure that information is available to enable the Department of Health and Children, the health boards and the non-statutory sector to provide appropriate services designed to meet the changing needs of the population of people with a physical or sensory disability. The database is intended to provide a comprehensive and accurate information base for decision-making in relation to the planning, funding and management of services for people with a physical or sensory disability and, for the first time, set priorities based on an objective evaluation of the needs of the population receiving or requiring specialised health and personal social services.

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The database provides a picture of the specialised health and personal social service needs of people with a physical or sensory disability by monitoring current service provision and future service requirements over a five-year period. Individuals under the age of 66 years who currently receive specialised health and personal social services and/or require such services within a five-year period can be included, with their consent, on the database. Specialised health and personal social services are defined as:

the range of health and personal social services, additional to generic services, which may be required by people with physical or sensory disabilities for the purpose of achieving health and social gain and maximum quality of life. These services are provided by, or on behalf of, or in partnership with the health boards (Gallagher 2001)

Specialised health and personal social services refer to therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation services, personal assistance and support services, respite, day and residential services.

The information for the database is collated by the health boards and the Eastern Regional Health Authority through interviews with individuals who meet the registration criteria, and it is managed nationally by the Health Research Board. The protocols for the collection and management of NPSDD information are outlined in the *Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Development Committee* (Gallagher 2001).

UPDATE ON NPSDD IMPLEMENTATION

In June 2004 there were 20,825 active records on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database. Achieving the target coverage for the NPSDD yielded by the estimates generated following the pilot

implementation of this database in 2001 (Gallagher, 2001) is an ongoing process. Two health boards are still in the early stages of data collection and their data (737 records) are not included in this analysis. By June 2004, the remaining health boards included in this report had made varying progress towards achieving their estimated target coverage for the NPSDD, ranging from 48% to 89%. There were 411 people who were registered on the NPSDD but were aged over 65 years at the time of reporting and, as responsibility for the provision of their services lies with Services for Older People, their records are not included in this analysis. Excluding these records reduces the number of active records analysed in this report to 19,677. The HRB and the health boards are still validating a number of these records and the data published in 2005 may differ slightly from those reported in this paper.

IMPROVING NPSDD COVERAGE

As the efficient planning and provision of services is dependent on reliable information on the numbers and service needs of people with disabilities, it is essential that everyone who is eligible for inclusion on the database is encouraged to participate. The cooperation of all interested parties is crucial in terms of ensuring that complete data emerges and that as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate in the compilation of the regional and national datasets.

INTERPRETING THE DATA

In interpreting the data in this report it is important to note the following:

- The primary focus of the NPSDD is to facilitate service planning and provision and it aims to record details of people availing of, or requiring, a specialised health and personal social service.
- As not everyone in this country with a physical or sensory disability is availing of, or requiring, such services, the NPSDD

will not provide any definitive epidemiological statement on the number of people with a particular type of disability.

- Participation in the NPSDD is voluntary and the number of people availing of, or requiring, specialised health and personal social services may exceed the numbers who choose to participate in the database.
- The data presented represent the situation as at June 2004 and, as progress towards achieving target coverage for the NPSDD is ongoing, these data are not intended to provide a comprehensive picture of service use and service need, but rather an indication of the pattern of current service use and possible future need.
- As this document is a planning tool for disability service planners and providers, it does not include those who were aged over 65 years at the time of reporting as responsibility for their service provision lies with Services for Older People rather than Disability Services.
- A small number of records reported in this paper are still subject to validation by the HRB and health boards and the comprehensive report scheduled for publication early in 2005 may contain slightly different data to that contained in this preliminary analysis.

POPULATION PROFILE

Age and Gender

In June 2004, there were 10,373 males (52.7%) and 9,304 females (47.3%) registered on the NPSDD.

Thirty-three per cent of all registrations (6,412 people) were below the age of 18 years, 54.8% (10,874 people) were between the ages of 18 and 59 years, and 12.6% (2,481 people) were between the ages of 60 and 65 years. In the age groups up to 24 years, males exceeded females but in the age groups from 25 upwards, females exceeded males (Table 1, p8).

Living Accommodation and Arrangements

There were 15,244 (77.5%) individuals living in private accommodation, 3,753 (19.1%) in rented accommodation, 485 (2.5%) in full-time residential services and the balance of less than 1% were residing in caravans or mobile homes, or other accommodation, or were homeless (Table 2, p8). Twenty-three per cent of all those registered on the NPSDD reported that their living accommodation had been adapted.

The majority of individuals (86.2%), were residing with family members, 9.3% were living alone, 2.5% were living in full-time residential services, and 0.7% were living with non-relatives (Table 3, p8).

More than half of the individuals registered on the NPSDD (57.8%) reported that they had a primary carer.

Type of Disability

The most frequently reported type of disability was 'physical disability only' (82.6%, 16,246 people), second to this was 'hearing loss/deafness only' at 6.8% (1,347) and the third most frequently reported type of disability was 'visual disability only' at 6.1% (1,193). The remaining 4.6% (890 people) reported a combination of these disability types (Table 4, p9).

Diagnostic Category

The NPSDD collects information on the primary and secondary diagnosis giving rise to the physical and sensory disability. The individual diagnoses reported are grouped according to the main headings of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth revision (World Health Organization, 1992).

The three most frequently reported primary diagnostic groups were the nervous system group, which incorporates disabilities such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy,

epilepsy, and spina-bifida (39.0%, 7,670 people), the musculo-skeletal system group which includes arthritis, back problems, and rheumatism (14.3%, 2,810 people) and the communication group which includes dyspraxia, speech problems, and dysphasia (9.9%, 1,945 people).

Only one-third of all those registered on the NPSDD reported a secondary diagnosis. The most commonly reported secondary diagnostic group was the musculo skeletal system group at 6.4% or 1,254 people (Table 5, p10).

In terms of individual diagnoses, the top three most frequently reported diagnoses were multiple sclerosis, (9.1%, 1,791 people), cerebral palsy (7.5%, 1,470 people), and diabetes (6.0%, 1,187 people) (Table 6, p11).

SERVICE PROVISION

Of all people registered on the NPSDD (N=19,677) in June 2004, 89.5% were accessing at least one of the following service groupings: therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation services, personal assistance and support services, respite, day or residential services.

THERAPEUTIC, INTERVENTION AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

The use of therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services, the numbers requiring assessment for these services and the numbers wait-listed for these services are summarised in Table 7 on page 12.

There were 15,492 people (78.7% of all NPSDD registrations) availing of therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services; 64.8% of this group were accessing more than one type of service in this category. The most commonly received therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services were physiotherapy (26.9%), public health nursing (24.7%), and

occupational therapy (21.9%).

There were 11,740 people (59.7% of all NPSDD registrations) who required assessment for therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services; 62.1% of this group required assessment for more than one type of service in this category. The most common therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services for which people required an assessment were physiotherapy (20.3%), occupational therapy (19.0%), and chiropody (14.1%).

There were 1,299 people (6.6% of all NPSDD registrations) who had been assessed and were wait-listed for therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services, with 15.2% of this group wait-listed for more than one type of service in this category. The most common therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services for which people were wait-listed included speech and language therapy (2.1%), occupational therapy (1.4%), and physiotherapy (1.3%).

Smaller numbers of people (n=133, 0.7% of all NPSDD registrations) had been assessed as requiring therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services but were unable to take up such services for a variety of reasons, such as financial considerations, transport issues, or the need for access to a personal assistant to be able to avail of the service.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The use of personal assistance and support services, the numbers requiring assessment for these services and the numbers wait-listed for these services are summarised in Table 8 on page 13.

There were 5,255 people (26.7% of all NPSDD registrations) availing of personal assistance and support services; 25.5% of this group were accessing more than one type of service in this category.

The most commonly received personal assistance and support services were home help (9.8%), peer support (6.9%), and personal assistant service (5.0%).

There were 6,262 people (31.8% of all NPSDD registrations) who required assessment for personal assistance and support services; 44.0% of this group required assessment for more than one type of service in this category. The most common personal assistance and support services for which people required an assessment were home help (10.4%), peer support (9.6%), and personal assistant service (9.2%).

There were 359 people (1.8% of all NPSDD registrations) who had been assessed and were wait-listed for personal assistance and support services, with 18.7% of this group wait-listed for more than one type of service in this category. The most common personal assistance and support services for which people were wait-listed included personal assistant service (0.6%), home help (0.3%), and the tape library service for the visually impaired (0.2%).

Smaller numbers of people (n=126, 0.6% of all NPSDD registrations) had been assessed as requiring personal assistance and support services but were unable to take up such services for a variety of reasons.

DAY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The use of day services and activities and the numbers who required these services are summarised in Table 9 on pages 14-15. There were 10,099 people (51.3% of all NPSDD registrations) engaged in some form of day service or activity; 4.9% of this group were engaged in more than one type of activity in this category. The most commonly availed of day services and activities were mainstream primary school (without health-related services) (12.0%), full-time open employment or self-employment (5.4%), and mainstream

secondary school (without health-related services) (4.3%).

A group of 408 individuals were availing of day services or activities and needed some changes to their existing circumstances. Small numbers of people in day services or activities needed to have their service enhanced or changed. Others were availing of day services or activities but needed alternative or additional services. The details of the services required by both groups are recorded in Table 9.

A further group of 209 individuals were not availing of day services or activities but required such supports. The biggest demand within this group (47 individuals) was for a social and recreational service for people with physical or sensory disability. Twenty-nine individuals required rehabilitative training and 23 people needed to access a resource centre for people with physical or sensory disability. The remainder of the unmet need for day services is detailed in Table 9.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The use of residential services, the numbers requiring enhanced or alternative services, and the numbers currently wait-listed for residential services are summarised in Table 10 on pages 16-17. There were 628 people (3.2% of all NPSDD registrations) availing of residential services. The most commonly used residential services were dedicated high-support placements with nursing care and therapy services for people with physical or sensory disabilities (0.8% of NPSDD registrations), nursing home placements (0.4% of all NPSDD registrations), and dedicated high-support placements with nursing care for older people (0.2% of all NPSDD registrations).

There were four people in residential placements who needed to have their placement enhanced or changed.

Two of these individuals needed to move to the same service in a different location and the remaining two individuals did not have details of the required change recorded on the NPSDD.

A further 11 individuals who were in receipt of residential services needed alternative placements. The details of the changes required are recorded in the footnote at the end of Table 10.

There were 91 individuals (0.5% of all NPSDD registrations) who were awaiting residential services. The majority of this group (42 individuals) wished to live independently in the community and either required their house to be adapted or needed to be re-housed to achieve this. Nine people wished to live independently in the community but required high support of at least ten hours per week to ensure that this happened. Eight people wished to live independently in a dedicated complex with high support, again of at least ten hours per week. The remainder of the unmet need for residential services is detailed in Table 10.

RESPIRE SERVICES

The use of planned and emergency respite services, the numbers requiring assessment for planned respite services and the numbers wait-listed for planned respite services are summarised in Table 11 on page 18.

There were 2,060 people (10.5% of all NPSDD registrations) availing of planned respite services, of whom 1,709 availed of one respite service and 351 availed of two or more types of planned respite services. The most commonly received planned respite services were holiday respite placement (2.9%), day summer camps (2.8%), and planned home-based respite (2.7%).

Emergency respite services were used by 334 people (1.7%) in the twelve-month

period prior to their NPSDD interview, of whom 320 availed of one type of emergency respite service and 14 availed of two types of emergency respite service. Of the group accessing emergency respite services, 174 also accessed planned respite services and are also included in the figures in the previous paragraph. Emergency residential respite services with low support were used by 92 people for a total of 3,242 nights in the year prior to NPSDD registration, or an average of 35.2 nights per person.

Emergency residential respite services with high support were used by 180 people for a total of 7,002 nights in the year prior to NPSDD registration, or an average of 38.9 nights per person. Emergency home-based respite services were used by 76 people for a total of 1,496 nights in the year prior to NPSDD registration, or an average of 19.7 nights per person.

There were 4,693 people (23.9% of all NPSDD registrations) who required assessment for planned respite services; 44.1% of this group required assessment for more than one type of service in this category. The most common planned respite services for which people required an assessment were holiday respite placements (10.1%), day summer camps (7.7%), and planned home-based respite (5.4%).

There were 336 people (1.7% of all NPSDD registrations) who had been assessed and were wait-listed for planned respite services, with 13.7% of this group wait-listed for more than one type of service in this category. The most common planned respite services for which people were wait-listed included holiday respite placements (0.3%), day summer camps (0.3%), and residential summer camps (0.2%).

Smaller numbers of people (n=103, 0.5%) had been assessed as requiring planned respite services but were unable to take up these services for a variety of reasons.

TECHNICAL AIDS AND APPLIANCES

There were 12,554 people (63.8% of all NPSDD registrations) who were availing of at least one technical aid or appliance. The three most commonly used technical aid and appliance groups were aids to mobility (33.5%), special furniture and aids to personal care (28.4%) and Orthotics/Prosthetics (12.3%) (Table 12, p19). The three most frequently reported technical aids and appliances used were walking sticks, canes and crutches (14.1%), manual regular wheelchairs (12.1%), and shower aids (10.0%) (Table 13, p19).

At least one future technical aid or appliance was requested by 8,446 people (42.9% of all NPSDD registrations). The three most commonly requested future technical aids or appliances were from special furniture and other aids to personal care (22.9%), visual aids (20.4%), and aids to mobility (12.8%) (Table 14, p20). The most frequently requested technical aids and appliances were shower aids (6.7%), bathroom grab rails and bars (6.1%), and alerting devices such as visual doorbell systems and flashing alarm clocks (4.2%) (Table 15, p20).

REFERENCES

Gallagher P (2001) *Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Development Committee*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the commitment and co-operation of all who have been involved in the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the NPSDD:

- Staff of the Physical and Sensory Disability Services Section of the Department of Health and Children
- Members of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee (NPSDDC)
- Database Co-ordinators, Administrators, Resource Officers and Clerical Officers in the health boards and the ERHA.
- Staff of statutory and non-statutory service providers who have facilitated the registration of individuals on the NPSDD and, most importantly,
- All those with physical and sensory disabilities who have shared their information and helped to build this valuable planning tool.

Their assistance is much appreciated and valued. We thank the members of the NPSDDC and Dr Teresa Maguire, HRB, for reviewing the paper, and Ms Joan Moore for editing this paper.

This report is available in PDF and HTML formats on the HRB website at www.hrb.ie. Audio and Braille copies are available on request from the HRB.

TABLE 1

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Age group and gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	% of 19677
0-4 years	373	4.0	488	4.7	861	4.4
5-12 years	1412	15.2	2493	24.0	3905	19.8
13-17 years	711	7.6	935	9.0	1646	8.4
18-24 years	670	7.2	755	7.3	1425	7.2
25-39 years	1404	15.1	1362	13.1	2766	14.1
40-59 years	3467	37.3	3126	30.1	6593	33.5
60-65 years	1267	13.6	1214	11.7	2481	12.6
Total	9304	100.0	10373	100.0	19677	100.0

TABLE 2

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Type of living accommodation

	n	% of 19674*
Private accommodation - adapted	3368	17.1
Private accommodation - not adapted	11876	60.4
Rented accommodation - adapted-co council	938	4.8
Rented accommodation - adapted-private housing	155	0.8
Rented accommodation - adapted-housing association	87	0.4
Rented accommodation - not adapted-co council	1958	10.0
Rented accommodation - not adapted-private housing	520	2.6
Rented accommodation - not adapted-housing association	95	0.5
Full-time residential service	485	2.5
Mobile home / caravan	86	0.4
Homeless	5	0.0
Other	101	0.5
Total	19674*	100.0

* 3 people did not provide a response

TABLE 3

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Type of living arrangements

	n	% of 19675*
Alone	1829	9.3
With husband/wife or partner and no children	2246	11.4
With husband/wife or partner and children	4317	21.9
With one parent	1075	5.5
With both parents	2223	11.3
With parent(s) and sibling(s)	5808	29.5
With sibling(s)	411	2.1
With son(s)/daughter(s)	633	3.2
With other family relative(s)	252	1.3
With non-relative(s) (e.g. friends, neighbours)	147	0.7
In full-time residential service	500	2.5
With foster family	56	0.3
Other	178	0.9
Total	19675*	100.0

* 2 people did not provide a response

TABLE 4
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Type of disability by age group and gender

Type of disability	Female						Male							
	Under 18		18 and over		All ages		Under 18		18 and over		All ages		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	% of 19676*
Physical only	2023	81.1	5571	81.8	7594	81.6	3397	86.7	5255	81.4	8652	83.4	16246	82.6
Hearing loss/deafness only	216	8.7	473	6.9	689	7.4	220	5.6	438	6.8	658	6.3	1347	6.8
Visual only	117	4.7	470	6.9	587	6.3	126	3.2	480	7.4	606	5.8	1193	6.1
Physical and hearing loss/ deafness	48	2.0	105	1.5	153	1.6	83	2.1	117	1.8	200	1.9	353	1.8
Physical and visual	57	2.3	143	2.1	200	2.1	67	1.7	115	1.8	182	1.8	382	2.0
Hearing loss/deafness and visual	13	0.5	19	0.3	32	0.3	6	0.2	21	0.3	27	0.3	59	0.3
Physical, hearing loss/ deafness and visual	21	0.8	27	0.4	48	0.5	17	0.4	31	0.5	48	0.5	96	0.5
Total	2495	100.0	6808	100.0	9303	100.0	3916	100.0	6457	100.0	10373	100.0	19676*	100.0

* 1 person did not provide a response

TABLE 5
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Primary and secondary diagnostic categories by age group

Diagnostic category	Primary Diagnostic Category						Secondary Diagnostic Category					
	Under 18		18 and over		All ages		Under 18		18 and over		All ages	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Infectious and parasitic	10	0.2	217	1.6	227	1.2	0	0.0	18	0.1	18	0.1
Neoplasms	45	0.7	114	0.9	159	0.8	3	0.0	57	0.4	60	0.3
Endocrine and metabolic	203	3.2	1199	9.0	1402	7.1	26	0.4	446	3.4	472	2.4
Blood and blood forming organs	47	0.7	30	0.2	77	0.4	4	0.1	18	0.1	22	0.1
Nervous system	1683	26.2	5987	45.1	7670	39.0	338	5.3	790	6.0	1128	5.7
Eye complaints	270	4.2	1094	8.2	1364	6.9	122	1.9	343	2.6	465	2.4
Ear complaints	516	8.0	1128	8.5	1644	8.4	115	1.8	267	2.0	382	1.9
Circulatory system	140	2.2	314	2.4	454	2.3	46	0.7	517	3.9	563	2.9
Respiratory system	384	6.0	325	2.5	709	3.6	186	2.9	330	2.5	516	2.6
Digestive system	50	0.8	70	0.5	120	0.6	31	0.5	151	1.1	182	0.9
Genito-urinary system	39	0.6	61	0.5	100	0.5	26	0.4	106	0.8	132	0.7
Skin disease or disorders	15	0.2	56	0.4	71	0.4	15	0.2	50	0.4	65	0.3
Musculo skeletal system	369	5.8	2441	18.4	2810	14.3	94	1.5	1160	8.7	1254	6.4
Congenital	488	7.6	96	0.7	584	3.0	69	1.1	24	0.2	93	0.5
Communication	1855	28.9	90	0.7	1945	9.9	521	8.1	131	1.0	652	3.3
Behavioural	132	2.1	24	0.2	156	0.8	187	2.9	182	1.4	369	1.9
Intellectual/developmental	166	2.6	19	0.1	185	0.9	194	3.0	82	0.6	276	1.4
Not applicable	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4435	69.2	8593	64.8	13028	66.2
Total	6412	100.0	13265	100.0	19677	100.0	6412	100.0	13265	100.0	19677	100.0

TABLE 6
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Ten most frequently reported primary diagnoses by age group and gender

Diagnosis	Female						Male							
	Under 18		18 and over		Total		Under 18		18 and over		Total		Overall Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	% of 19677
Multiple sclerosis	5	0.2	1216	17.9	1221	13.1	4	0.1	566	8.8	570	5.5	1791	9.1
Cerebral palsy	300	12.0	320	4.7	620	6.7	488	12.5	362	5.6	850	8.2	1470	7.5
Diabetes	39	1.6	447	6.6	486	5.2	38	1.0	663	10.3	701	6.8	1187	6.0
Stroke hemiplegia	26	1.0	318	4.7	344	3.7	46	1.2	460	7.1	506	4.9	850	4.3
Specific speech and language disorder	204	8.2	4	0.1	208	2.2	627	16.0	13	0.2	640	6.2	848	4.3
Rheumatoid arthritis	18	0.7	486	7.1	504	5.4	8	0.2	165	2.6	173	1.7	677	3.4
Congenital deafness	133	5.3	182	2.7	315	3.4	105	2.7	172	2.7	277	2.7	592	3.0
Epilepsy	64	2.6	210	3.1	274	2.9	73	1.9	210	3.3	283	2.7	557	2.8
Head injury	9	0.4	106	1.6	115	1.2	18	0.5	306	4.7	324	3.1	439	2.2
Cystic fibrosis	145	5.8	68	1.0	213	2.3	145	3.7	78	1.2	223	2.1	436	2.2
Total with top ten reported diagnoses	943	37.8	3357	49.5	4300	46.1	1552	39.8	2995	46.5	4547	43.9	8847	44.8

TABLE 7

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Current use of, and unmet need for, therapeutic, intervention and rehabilitation services

	Currently receiving		Assessment required		Assessed and on waiting list		Assessed but unable to take up		Total unmet need	
	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
General services										
Physiotherapist	5298	26.9	4003	20.3	248	1.3	59	0.3	4310	21.9
Occupational Therapist	4319	21.9	3745	19.0	272	1.4	15	0.1	4034	20.5
Speech and Language Therapist	3320	16.9	1301	6.6	416	2.1	18	0.1	1735	8.8
Chiropodist	2479	12.6	2780	14.1	53	0.3	9	0.0	2842	14.4
Clinical Nutritionist	2644	13.4	1745	8.9	81	0.4	6	0.0	1832	9.3
Orthotist/Prosthetist	1935	9.8	612	3.1	43	0.2	3	0.0	658	3.3
Public Health Nurse	4864	24.7	1419	7.2	37	0.2	3	0.0	1459	7.4
Continence Advisor	856	4.4	1154	5.9	22	0.1	2	0.0	1178	6.0
Social Worker	1991	10.1	1149	5.8	38	0.2	1	0.0	1188	6.0
Psychologist	2151	10.9	1797	9.1	124	0.6	15	0.1	1936	9.8
Counsellor	790	4.0	1911	9.7	51	0.3	7	0.0	1969	10.0
Play Therapist	219	1.1	691	3.5	7	0.0	1	0.0	699	3.6
Creative Therapy	539	2.7	1277	6.5	10	0.1	1	0.0	1288	6.5
Complementary Therapy	1177	6.0	2401	12.2	25	0.1	2	0.0	2428	12.3
Assistive Technology/ Client Technical Service	1191	6.1	1351	6.9	56	0.3	3	0.0	1410	7.2
Community Resource Worker	1710	8.7	982	5.0	15	0.1	0	0.0	997	5.1
Visual impairment-specific services										
Mobility/Rehabilitation Worker for the blind	366	1.9	299	1.5	22	0.1	2	0.0	323	1.6
Hearing impairment-specific services										
Audiologist	1923	9.8	820	4.2	40	0.2	3	0.0	863	4.4
Aural Rehabilitation	145	0.7	267	1.4	4	0.0	2	0.0	273	1.4
Tinnitus Retraining	47	0.2	185	0.9	4	0.0	1	0.0	190	1.0

TABLE 8
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Current use of, and unmet need for, personal assistance and support services

	Currently receiving		Assessment required		Assessed and on waiting list		Assessed but unable to take up		Total unmet need	
	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
General services										
Personal Assistant	980	5.0	1820	9.2	111	0.6	11	0.1	1942	9.9
Home Help	1923	9.8	2050	10.4	66	0.3	30	0.2	2146	10.9
Homecare Assistant	553	2.8	1228	6.2	31	0.2	13	0.1	1272	6.5
Twilight Nurse	51	0.3	275	1.4	4	0.0	1	0.0	280	1.4
Driving Instructor (Adapted Car)	418	2.1	936	4.8	23	0.1	7	0.0	966	4.9
Communication Assistant	83	0.4	334	1.7	6	0.0	5	0.0	345	1.8
Peer Support	1358	6.9	1898	9.6	21	0.1	8	0.0	1927	9.8
Visual impairment-specific services										
Guide Dog Service	98	0.5	161	0.8	9	0.0	6	0.0	176	0.9
Personal Reader	45	0.2	240	1.2	11	0.1	4	0.0	255	1.3
Tape (Library Support)	675	3.4	400	2.0	40	0.2	7	0.0	447	2.3
Braille (Library Support)	107	0.5	80	0.4	8	0.0	2	0.0	90	0.5
Large Print (Library Support)	242	1.2	365	1.9	26	0.1	11	0.1	402	2.0
Sighted Guide	68	0.3	395	2.0	30	0.2	15	0.1	440	2.2
Hearing impairment-specific services										
Sign Language Interpreter	183	0.9	312	1.6	13	0.1	3	0.0	328	1.7
Speed Text	74	0.4	289	1.5	28	0.1	16	0.1	333	1.7
Lip Speaking	91	0.5	275	1.4	11	0.1	9	0.0	295	1.5
Sign Language Tuition	158	0.8	281	1.4	18	0.1	11	0.1	310	1.6

TABLE 9

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Current use of, and unmet need for, day services and activities

	Currently receiving		Need existing service enhanced		Need this service as alternative/addition to existing day service		Unmet need for day service	
	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
Baby and toddler groups								
Mainstream baby and toddler group	141	0.7	1	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.0
Specialist baby and toddler group	70	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Pre-school								
Mainstream (without health-related services) pre-school	385	2.0	0	0.0	2	0.0	11	0.1
Mainstream (with health-related services) pre-school	43	0.2	0	0.0	5	0.0	6	0.0
Mainstream (with dedicated class but without health-related services) pre-school	14	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Mainstream (with dedicated class and with health-related services) pre-school	17	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (physical and sensory disability) pre-school	92	0.5	2	0.0	7	0.0	1	0.0
Specialist (intellectual disability) pre-school	31	0.2	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Combined (specialist and mainstream) pre-school	12	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Primary school								
Mainstream (without health-related services) primary school	2355	12.0	4	0.0	23	0.1	5	0.0
Mainstream (with health-related services) primary school	416	2.1	1	0.0	29	0.1	3	0.0
Mainstream (with dedicated class but without health-related services) primary school	207	1.1	0	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.0
Mainstream (with dedicated class and with health-related services) primary school	280	1.4	4	0.0	10	0.1	3	0.0
Specialist (intellectual disability) residential primary school	7	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (physical and sensory disability) residential primary school	16	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (intellectual disability) day primary school	171	0.9	0	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0
Specialist (physical and sensory disability) day primary school	266	1.4	1	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0
Combined (specialist and mainstream) primary school	31	0.2	1	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0
Primary school education provided at home	19	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0

TABLE 9 (CONTINUED)

	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
Secondary school								
Mainstream (without health-related services) secondary school	847	4.3	0	0.0	61	0.3	0	0.0
Mainstream (with health-related services) secondary school	76	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.1
Mainstream (with dedicated class but without health-related services) secondary school	51	0.3	1	0.0	18	0.1	2	0.0
Mainstream (with dedicated class and with health-related services) secondary school	18	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (intellectual disability) residential secondary school	5	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (physical and sensory disability) residential secondary school	30	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (intellectual disability) day secondary school	40	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0
Specialist (physical and sensory disability) day secondary school	79	0.4	0	0.0	6	0.0	0	0.0
Combined (specialist and mainstream) secondary school	13	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0
Secondary school education provided at home	9	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0
Third level education	291	1.5	2	0.0	33	0.2	7	0.0
Training, work and employment services								
Rehabilitative Training	337	1.7	4	0.0	6	0.0	29	0.1
Vocational Training	506	2.6	5	0.0	17	0.1	22	0.1
Sheltered employment	84	0.4	0	0.0	12	0.1	2	0.0
Supported employment	119	0.6	2	0.0	16	0.1	3	0.0
Sheltered work	127	0.6	1	0.0	5	0.0	3	0.0
Part-time open employment/self employment	580	2.9	2	0.0	14	0.1	22	0.1
Full-time open employment/self employment	1057	5.4	2	0.0	30	0.2	14	0.1
Activation services								
Resource centre for older people	75	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Resource centre for people with an intellectual disability	25	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Resource centre for people with a physical or sensory disability	553	2.8	9	0.0	9	0.0	23	0.1
Social and recreational service (older people)	91	0.5	1	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.0
Social and recreational service (intellectual disability)	21	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
Social and recreational service (physical and sensory disability)	516	2.6	6	0.0	24	0.1	47	0.2
Rehabilitation service (older people)	8	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rehabilitation service (physical and sensory disability)	118	0.6	3	0.0	8	0.0	6	0.0
Special care unit (intellectual disability)	16	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Specialised day service for people with head injuries	64	0.3	1	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.0
Other day service	290	1.5	0	0.0	9	0.0	5	0.0

TABLE 10
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Current use of, and unmet need for, residential services

	Currently receiving		Need existing service enhanced		Need this service as alternative/addition to existing residential service		Unmet need for residential service	
	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
Dedicated high support with nursing care (elderly)	49	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dedicated high support with nursing care (intellectual disability)	10	0.1	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dedicated high support with nursing care (physical and sensory disability)	32	0.2	1	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0
Dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (elderly)	26	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (intellectual disability)	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (physical and sensory disability)	162	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0
Nursing home	82	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Welfare home	10	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Independent unit in a dedicated complex with high support	33	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.0	8	0.0
Independent unit in a dedicated complex with low support	40	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.0	6	0.0
Independent unit in a dedicated complex with no support	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0

TABLE 10 (CONTINUED)

	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
Living in community in agency accommodation with agency support	35	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.0	5	0.0
Specialist unit (e.g. group home for people with brain injury)	20	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
Acute general hospital ^a	27	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
District/Community hospital ^a	46	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specialist hospital (e.g. NRH, Cappagh) ^a	13	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental health residential facility	15	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Living independently in community with high support (> 10 hrs)	—	—	0	0.0	4	0.0	9	0.1
Living independently in community with low support (< 10 hrs)	—	—	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.0
Living independently in community with no support	—	—	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Living independently in community with house adapted or re-housing	—	—	0	0.0	0	0.0	42	0.2
Other	20	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	628	3.2	4	0.0	11 ^b	0.1	91	0.5

a A future requirement for these services cannot be recorded on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database.

b Three people requiring *Dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (physical and sensory disability)* are currently either in an acute general hospital (two people) or a district/Community Hospital (one person).
 Two people requiring *Independent unit in a dedicated complex with high support* are currently in a dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (physical and sensory disability).
 One person requiring *Independent unit in a dedicated complex with low support* is currently in a dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (intellectual disability).
 One person requiring *Living in community in agency accommodation with agency support* is currently in an acute general hospital.
 Four people requiring *Living independently in community with high support (> 10 hrs)* are currently in a dedicated high support with nursing care and therapy service (physical and sensory disability) (one person); *Living in community in agency accommodation with agency support* (one person); a District/Community hospital (one person) and a Mental health residential facility (one person).

TABLE 11
NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004
Current use of, and unmet need for, respite services

	Currently receiving		Assessment required		Assessed and on waiting list		Assessed but unable to take up		Total unmet need	
	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677	n	% of 19677
Planned respite services	537	2.7	523	2.7	26	0.1	22	0.1	571	2.9
Planned residential respite with high support	310	1.6	695	3.5	27	0.1	12	0.1	734	3.7
Planned residential respite with low support	121	0.6	1066	5.4	11	0.1	11	0.1	1088	5.5
Planned home-based respite	268	1.4	830	4.2	31	0.2	22	0.1	883	4.5
Summer camps (residential)	556	2.8	1518	7.7	64	0.3	30	0.2	1612	8.2
Summer camps (day)	123	0.6	1027	5.2	17	0.1	16	0.1	1060	5.4
Breakaway and befriending schemes	575	2.9	1990	10.1	68	0.3	35	0.2	2093	10.6
Holiday respite placement	92	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Emergency respite services	180	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Emergency residential respite with low support	76	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Emergency residential respite with high support										
Emergency home-based respite										

TABLE 12

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Current use of technical aids and appliances groups by age group

	Under 18		18 and Over		Number using at least one technical aid and appliance in each group	% of 19677	Number of technical aids and appliances currently in use from each group
	n	%	n	%			
Aids to mobility	864	13.5	5730	43.2	6594	33.5	10758
Special furniture and other aids to personal care	1020	15.9	4568	34.4	5588	28.4	12736
Orthotics/prosthetics	916	14.3	1497	11.3	2413	12.3	2870
Other	301	4.7	1661	12.5	1962	10.0	2142
Hearing aids	503	7.8	1140	8.6	1643	8.3	2662
Visual aids	208	3.2	965	7.3	1173	6.0	2998
Incontinence aids	188	2.9	888	6.7	1076	5.5	1309
Respiratory aids	484	7.5	556	4.2	1040	5.3	1668
Communication aids	88	1.4	105	0.8	185	0.9	196

TABLE 13

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Ten most frequently reported current technical aids and appliances

	n	% of 19677
Walking sticks/canes/crutches	2765	14.1
Manual regular wheelchair	2385	12.1
Shower aids (e.g. chairs/trolley/shield)	1962	10.0
Bathroom grab rails and bars	1488	7.6
Hearing aids (including cochlear implant devices/digital hearing aids)	1354	6.9
Lower limb orthoses (e.g. leg/foot supports and splints)	1150	5.8
Grab rails and bars (including stair rails)	1046	5.3
Powered wheelchair	1004	5.1
Manual specialised wheelchair	997	5.1
Glucometer and associated equipment	986	5.0

TABLE 14

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004

Future requirements for technical aids and appliances by age group

	Under 18		18 and Over		Number requiring at least one technical aid and appliance in each group	% of 19677	Number of technical aids and appliances required from each group
	n	%	n	%			
Special furniture and other aids to personal care	880	19.5	3630	80.4	4510	22.9	8847
Visual aids	238	23.5	773	76.5	1011	20.4	2065
Aids to mobility	505	20.1	2013	79.9	2518	12.8	3217
Other	630	43.4	822	56.6	1452	7.4	1914
Hearing aids	297	26.4	826	73.6	1123	5.7	2278
Orthotics/prosthetics	318	38.6	505	61.4	823	4.2	950
Communication aids	119	43.9	152	56.1	271	1.4	288
Incontinence aids	40	30.3	92	69.7	132	0.7	146
Respiratory aids	68	49.6	69	50.4	137	0.7	177

TABLE 15

NATIONAL PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITY DATABASE, IRELAND 2004.

Ten most frequently required future technical aids and appliances

	n	% of 19677
Shower aids (e.g. chairs/trolley/shield)	1320	6.7
Bathroom grab rails and bars	1207	6.1
Alerting devices (e.g. flashing alarm clocks, visual doorbell systems)	828	4.2
Grab rails and bars (including stair rails)	781	4.0
Specialised chairs	659	3.3
Standard computers (including laptop) for social/educational purposes	613	3.1
Powered wheelchair	564	2.9
Special computer equipment	469	2.4
Powered beds	454	2.3
Kitchen aids (trolley)	451	2.3