



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

1 / 10



WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Fact 1: Over a billion people live with some form of disability

This corresponds to about 15% of the world's population. Between 110 and 190 million people have significant difficulties in functioning. Rates of disability are increasing, due to a global increase in chronic health conditions.

Related links

[World report on disability](#)

[Fact sheet on disability and health](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

2 / 10



Fact 2: Disability disproportionately affects vulnerable p

Lower-income countries have a higher prevalence of disability than high-income countries. Disability is more common among women, older people and children and adults with low education levels.

Related links

[World report on disability](#)

[Fact sheet on disability and health](#)

[Disability and rehabilitation](#)

WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

3 / 10



WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Fact 3: People with disabilities often do not receive need

Half of disabled people cannot afford health care, compared to a third with disabilities are more than twice as likely to find health-care providers. People are four times more likely to report being treated badly and need denied health care.

Related links

[World report on disability](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

4 / 10



WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Fact 4: Children with disabilities are less likely to attend children

Education completion gaps are found across all age groups in all settings pronounced in poorer countries. For example, the difference between the percentage of non-disabled children attending primary school and the percentage of children with disabilities attending primary school is pronounced in Indonesia.

Related links



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

5 / 10



Fact 5: People with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed people

Global data show that employment rates are lower for disabled men (44%) than for non-disabled men (65%) and non-disabled women (30%). In (2014), the rate of people with disabilities (44%) was slightly over half that for people without disabilities (84%).

Related links

[World report on disability](#)

WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

6 / 10



WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Fact 6: People with disabilities are vulnerable to poverty

People with disabilities have worse living conditions—including insufficient access to safe water and sanitation—than non-disabled people. Because of a lack of care, assistive devices or personal support, people with disabilities are disabled people with similar income.

Related links

[World report on disability](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

7 / 10



WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Fact 7: Rehabilitation helps to maximize functioning and

In many countries rehabilitation services are inadequate. Data from fact 7 shows that only 26–55% of people received the medical rehabilitation they needed and only 10% received the assistive devices they needed (e.g. wheelchairs, prostheses, hearing aids).

Related links

[World report on disability](#)

[Fact sheet on disability and health](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

8 / 10



Fact 8: People with disabilities can live and participate in

40% of people with disabilities do not generally have their needs met in daily activities. In the United States of America, 70% of adults rely on family for daily activities.

Related links

[World report on disability](#)

[Fact sheet on disability and health](#)

WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

9 / 10



Fact 9: Disabling barriers can be overcome

Governments can:

- * promote access to mainstream services;
- * invest in specific programmes for people with disabilities;
- * adopt a national strategy and plan of action;
- * improve staff education, training and recruitment;
- * provide adequate funding;
- * increase public awareness and understanding on disability;
- * strengthen research and data collection; and
- * ensure the involvement of people with disabilities in implementing pc

WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)



10 facts on disability

Updated November 2017

People with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups in the world. People with disabilities have poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities.

Disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together. The WHO/World Bank *World report on disability* shows the way forward.

10 / 10



Fact 10: The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities promotes, protects and ensures the human rights for all

So far, more than 170 countries and regional integration organizations over 130 have ratified it. The WHO/World Bank report provides the best way to improve the health and well-being of people with disabilities in line with

WHO media centre

[Fact sheets](#)

[Fact files](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Photos and posters for download](#)

[Questions and answers](#)

[Stories from countries](#)

[Videos](#)

[More mediacentre news, events](#)

[Receive WHO features via RSS](#)

[What is RSS?](#)

Related links

[World report on disability](#)