

National Ability Supports System (NASS) 2019

Supplementary bulletin – Physical/Sensory Disability

Overview

There were 2,747 people registered on NASS with a primary disability of a physical and/or sensory disability. For the purposes of NASS, a physical or sensory disability includes those who reported a disability type as either:

- Hearing loss/deafness;
- Neurological;
- Physical;
- Speech and/or language; and/or
- Visual

As per the main bulletin, those in the 40-59 years age group make up the greatest proportion of the total.

Neurological disability was the most commonly reported primary disability type (1,861, 68%) within this group, followed by physical disabilities (665, 24%).

In 2019, 6% of those recorded on NASS were in receipt of a residential service; 30% accessed day¹ services; 1% accessed day respite services, 4% overnight respite services; 38% were in receipt of supports for daily living and 70% accessed specialist supports.

Introduction

This bulletin is a supplementary bulletin to be read in conjunction with the main NASS

bulletin. NASS replaces two disability databases - the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD). NASS differs from the NPSDD in that on the NPSDD, registration criteria only covered individuals up to the age of 65; on NASS there is no upper age limit for registration.

In 2019, there were 22,434 people registered on the National Ability Supports System (NASS). Of those, 9,571 reported a physical and/or sensory disability (including neurological) as either their primary or an additional disability type.

This supplementary bulletin presents an overview of the number of people recorded on NASS whose **primary** disability type was physical/sensory (including neurological) (n=2,747, 12.2%).

As outlined in the main bulletin, coverage achieved in the first year of NASS is incomplete but the patterns in the data received give insights into the overall population of people who receive or require a disability-funded service.

¹ Day services include non-HSE services such as Department of Education services.

Physical/sensory disability service users

The tables and text below are based on the 2,747 people whose primary disability type is physical/sensory.

Neurological disability was the most commonly reported primary disability type (1,861, 68%) within this group, followed by physical disabilities (665, 24%) (Table 1).

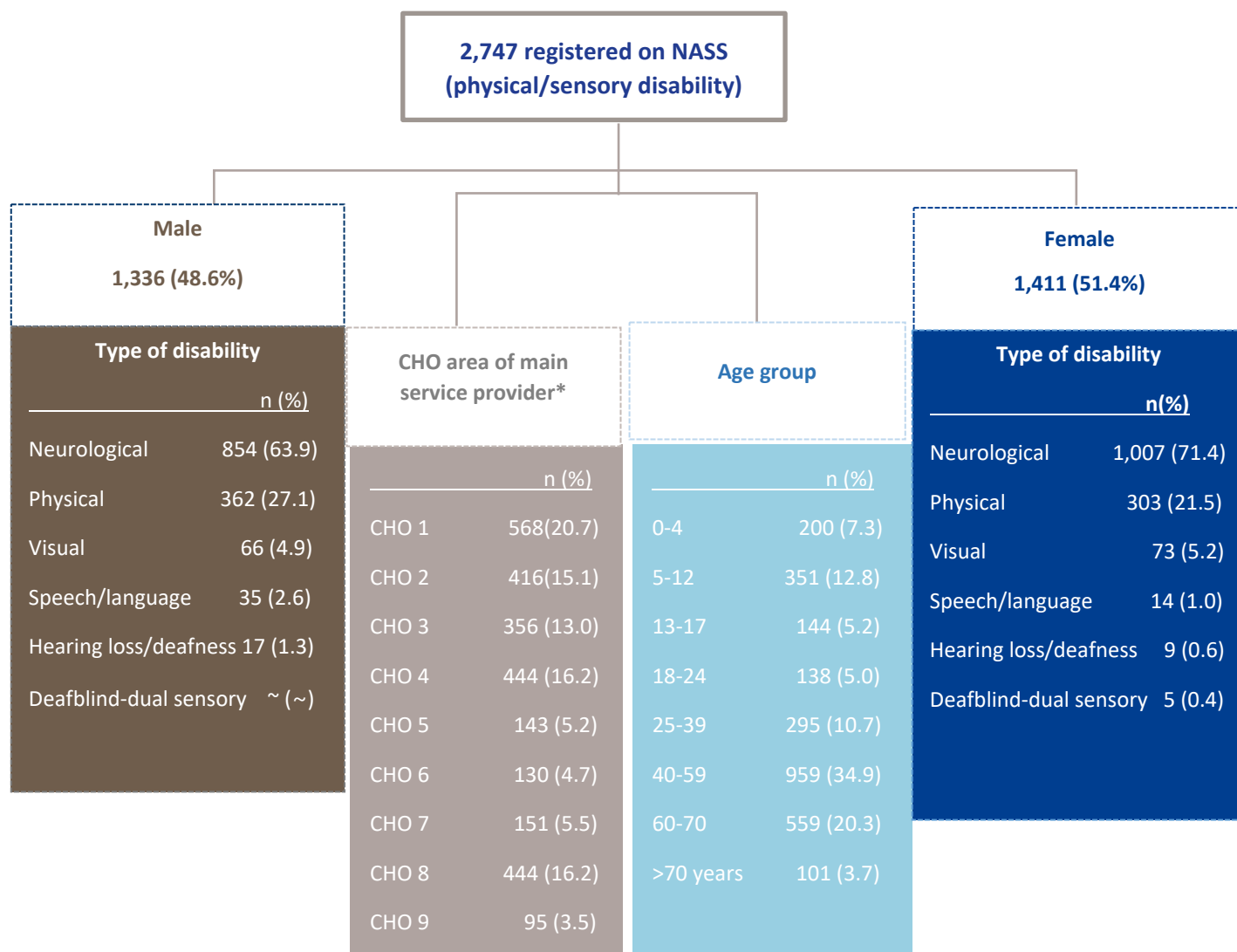
Table 1: Primary disability breakdown of those with a physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019

Primary disability	n (%)
Neurological	1,861 (67.7)
Physical	665 (24.2)
Visual	139 (5.1)
Speech and/or language	49 (1.8)
Hearing loss/deafness	26 (0.9)
Deafblind-dual sensory	7 (0.3)
Total	2,747 (100.0)

Figure 1 below displays a summary profile of the number of people registered on NASS (whose primary disability type is physical/sensory) by gender, age group and CHO area of registration.

Figure 2 shows that there were more males than females registered in all age groups from 0-24 years however, from 25 years onwards, there were more females than males registered.

Figure 1 Number of people with a physical/sensory disability as primary disability type registered on NASS in 2019



*** The 9 Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) are:**

Area 1 - Donegal, Sligo/ Leitrim/West Cavan, Cavan/Monaghan

Area 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo

Area 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary/East Limerick

Area 4 - Kerry, North Cork, North Lee, South Lee, West Cork

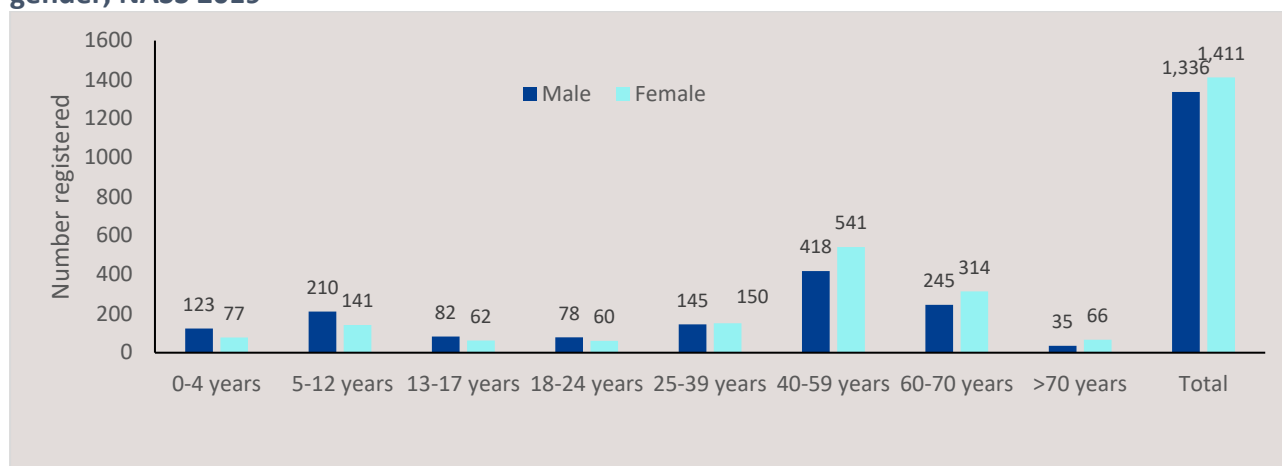
Area 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford

Area 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East

Area 7 - Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West

Area 8 - Laois/Offaly, Longford/West Meath, Louth/Meath

Area 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West

Figure 2 Number of people with physical/sensory disability registered by age group and gender, NASS 2019

Employment status

The employment status of those registered on NASS shows that, where known, the majority were unable to work due to their disability² (n=707, 26%), followed by student/pupil (n=615, 22%).

The response option 'not known' was used where this information could not be acquired in the review period.

Table 2 Employment status of service users with physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019

	n (%)
Unable to work due to disability	707 (25.7)
Student/Pupil	615 (22.4)
Training/day programme	230 (8.4)
In paid employment	213 (7.8)
Unemployed	209 (7.6)
Retired	190 (6.9)
Housewife/husband	137 (5.0)
Other	72 (2.6)
Not known	374 (13.6)
Total	2,747 (100.0)

Ethnic/cultural background

The ethnic/cultural background is based on the response options for the same question on the Central Statistics Office national census form. The service user's ethnic/cultural background is self-determined by the service user. Ethnicity is an important indicator of potential barriers to social participation and this information is useful to ensure that health services are as inclusive as possible.

The most frequently self-reported ethnicity/cultural background was Irish (n= 2,253, 82%). As with 'employment status', the 'not known' response option is over-represented due to this information not being readily available to service providers in the review period.

² Receiving benefits for people who are sick or have a disability (e.g. disability allowance, illness benefit)

Table 3 Ethnic/cultural background of service users with physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019

	n (%)
Irish	2,253 (82.0)
Any other white background	127 (4.6)
Any other Asian background	21 (0.8)
Irish Traveller	16 (0.6)
Black African	6 (0.2)
Any other black background	~
Asian-Chinese	~
Do not wish to answer this question	7 (0.3)
Not known	313 (11.4)
Total	2,747 (100.0)

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

Living accommodation

Living accommodation refers to the service user's living situation for the majority of the week. A total of 1,701 (62%) people recorded on NASS were living in private accommodation (i.e. owner occupied) and 410 people (15%) were in rented accommodation. 185 people (7%) were residing in residential services and 7 people reported living in unstable accommodation.

Unstable accommodation refers to situations where an individual may be homeless, living in temporary accommodation such as a B&B/guesthouse/hostel/hotel, staying with friends on a temporary basis; or in Direct Provision accommodation.

Table 4 Living accommodation of service users with physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019

	n (%)
Private accommodation (owner occupied)	1,701 (61.9)
Rented from county council/public authority/service provider	317 (11.5)
Residential service*	185 (6.7)
Rented on open market	93 (3.4)
Unstable accommodation	7 (0.3)
Not known	444 (16.2)
Total	2,747 (100.0)

*Includes those that are not disability-funded.

Living arrangements

Most people registered on NASS were residing with family members (n=2,118, 77%) and 374 people (14%) were living alone. The living arrangements for 41 people (2%) was recorded as unknown and the remaining 8%

(214) described their living arrangements as living with non-relatives, in a residential service or with foster family.

Table 5 Living arrangements of those with physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019

	n (%)
Living with family	2,118 (77.1)
Both parents	519 (18.9)
One parent	164 (6.0)
Parent(s) and sibling(s)	360 (13.1)
Wife/husband/partner and children	480 (17.5)
Wife/husband/partner, no children	437 (15.9)
Sibling(s)	50 (1.8)
Daughter(s)/son(s)	101 (3.7)
Other relative(s)	7 (0.3)
Living alone	374 (13.6)
Alone	374 (13.6)
Residential	185 (6.7)
In a residential service*	185 (6.7)
Living with non-family	29 (1.1)
Foster family	10 (0.4)
Non-relative(s)	19 (0.7)
Not known	41 (1.5)
Not known	41 (1.5)
Total	2,747 (100.0)

*Includes those that are not disability-funded.

Additional disabilities

A total of 1,059 (39%) people recorded at least one additional disability (Table 6).

The most commonly reported additional disability was physical (n=679, 64%) followed by intellectual disability (n=137, 13%).

Table 6 Additional disabilities of those whose primary disability is physical/sensory, NASS 2019

Additional disability	n (%)
Physical	679 (64.1)
Intellectual	137 (12.9)
Speech and/or language	116 (11.0)
Visual	88 (8.3)
Neurological	63 (5.9)
Mental health	61 (5.8)
Hearing loss/deafness	31 (2.9)
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	44 (4.2)
Developmental delay (under 10 years only)	24 (2.3)
Specific learning disorder (other than intellectual)	11 (1.0)
Not verified	13 (1.2)
DeafBlind - dual sensory	~
Total	

Note that more than one additional disability may be recorded for a person.

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

Diagnostic category

It is optional to record information on the diagnosis(es) of those registered on NASS. The recording of diagnosis (es) is not limited to those relating to their primary disability type.

NASS uses the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10) to code the diagnosis entered. The exact ICD-10 code is captured but for the purposes of reporting, the higher level grouping code is presented in tabular format below using ICD-10 terminology.

There were 1,240 diagnoses recorded for 966 service users during this data collection period. The most frequently reported ICD-10 diagnosis for individuals with a physical/sensory disability is 'diseases of the nervous system', this includes conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's disease followed by 'mental and behavioural disorders' which includes intellectual disabilities, dementia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (Table 7).

Table 7 ICD-10 Diagnostic code of those whose primary disability is physical/sensory, NASS 2019

	n (%)
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)	617 (63.9)
Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99)	136 (14.1)
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99)	118 (12.2)
Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)	93 (9.6)
Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)	66 (6.8)
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)	47 (4.9)
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)	38 (3.9)
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00-T98)	36 (3.7)
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E90)	31 (3.2)
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (H60-H95)	11 (1.1)
Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)	9 (0.9)
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)	9 (0.9)
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99)	9 (0.9)
Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)	6 (0.6)
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	~
Neoplasms (C00-D48)	~
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)	~
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)	~
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-D89)	~
Total	966 (100.0)

Note that more than one diagnosis may be recorded for a person.

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Primary carer

For the purposes of NASS, a primary carer is someone such as a family member (e.g. parent or sibling), friend or neighbour, who has been identified as providing regular and sustained care and assistance (also referred to as ‘informal carers’).

Primary carers include those who are unpaid for this role and/or those who receive a pension or benefit for their caring role, but do not include paid or volunteer carers organised by formal services. This includes host families or foster families where the family is paid to care for the service user. The care is provided on an ongoing basis.

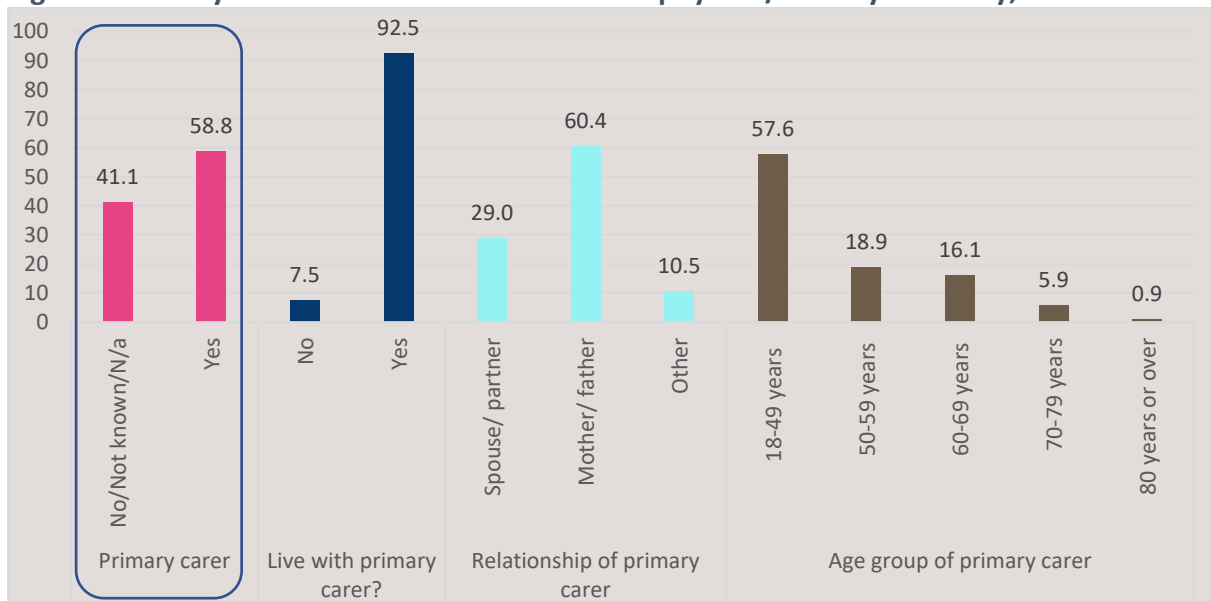
Primary carer information was missing for 3 people. Of those registered on NASS with a primary disability of physical/sensory, 1,615 people (59%) reported having a primary carer.

Most of those with a primary carer lived with their primary carer (1,494, 93% of those who reported having a primary carer) (Figure 3).

60% (976) of primary carers were parents and 29% (469) were a spouse/partner.

The majority of primary carers (931, 58%) were aged between 18 and 49 years of age and 109 (4%) were 70 years or more. There were no reported primary carers under the age of 18.

Figure 3 Primary carer information of those with physical/sensory disability, NASS 2019



Service provision and future requirements

The service use in 2019 and the service need for the next 5 years of those with a physical/sensory disability registered on NASS are displayed in the following tables and figures.

Reference is made to the NPSDD,2017³ data for context. Comparisons are a guide only; definitions have been altered and services have changed and therefore comparisons are not always like for like.

Residential services

165 (6%) of people whose primary disability was a physical/sensory disability were in receipt of residential services. In 2017, 3% of records reviewed in the NPSDD (n=172) were in receipt of residential services.

In addition, those reporting an unmet need for residential service on NASS was 2% compared to 0% on the NPSDD in 2017.

Comparisons are as a guide only, there are a number of differences in how NASS captures residential services compared to the NPSDD.

Table 8 Residential services of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type; use, enhancement required and unmet need, NASS 2019

Residential service [‡]	Current n (%) [*]	Enhancement required n (%) ^{**}	Unmet need n (%) ^{***}
House in community (1-4 residents)	50 (1.8)	7 (14.0)	26 (1.0)
Community group home (5-9 residents)	24 (0.9)	5 (20.8)	~
Residential centre/on campus (10+ residents)	23 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Nursing home	52 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	~
Specialist facility - challenging behaviour	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Specialist facility - neurological	6 (0.2)	~	7 (0.3)
Specialist facility - physical	5 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	~
Specialist facility - mental health co-morbidity	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other hospital	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hospice	0 (0)	0 (0.0)	~
Home sharing - shared living family	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Total	166	15	39

*% based on total with a physical or sensory disability as primary disability type (n=2,747)

** % based on number currently accessing the service

*** % based on the number not currently accessing the service

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

‡ An individual may be in receipt of more than one residential service, services with no recorded current use or unmet need include: Specialist facility – dementia, and Psychiatric hospital

³ Doyle, A., Carew, AM. (2018). Annual Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee 2017: Main Findings. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Day services

In 2019, 828 people (30%) were in receipt of one or more day services and in 2017, the NPSDD reported 3,276 people (58%) attended a day service. Table 9 below refers to the number of services used and required. A number of individuals may be in receipt of

more than one day service hence the total is more than 828.

As previously mentioned, gaps exist in the NASS data, especially in relation to special schools, the data presented below is not exhaustive, rather is the information collected to date.

Table 9 Day services of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type; use, enhancement required and unmet need, NASS 2019

Day Services [‡]	Current Use n (%) [*]	Enhancement required n (%) ^{**}	Unmet need n (%) ^{***}
Activation and high support services			
Day activation/activity	325 (11.8)	32 (9.8)	22 (0.9)
High support day service	38 (1.4)	10 (26.3)	7 (0.3)
Training, work and employment services			
Rehabilitative training	76 (2.8)	7 (9.2)	16 (0.6)
Neuro-rehabilitative training	53 (1.9)	9 (17.0)	6 (0.2)
Vocational training	19 (0.7)	~	6 (0.2)
Supported employment	12 (0.4)	~	17 (0.6)
Sheltered work - therapeutic	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
All other day services (schools, 3rd level, home tutor)	316 (11.5)	19 (6.0)	48 (1.8)
Total	841	79	122

*% based on total with a physical or sensory disability as primary disability type (n=2,747)

** % based on number currently accessing the service

*** % based on the number not currently accessing the service

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

‡ An individual may be in receipt of more than one day service, services with no recorded current use or unmet need include: Sheltered work-like work, Sheltered work – commercial, Sheltered employment and External work

Respite services (day and overnight)

13 (0.5%) people whose primary disability was a physical or sensory disability accessed day respite services and 10 (0.4%) required a day respite service in the next 5 years.

Comparable data is not available from the NPSDD.

Table 10 presents the overnight respite use and need in 2019. It shows that 118 people (4%) with a physical/sensory disability accessed overnight respite in 2019. In 2017, 8% of people whose records were reviewed on the NPSDD were reported to have accessed overnight respite

Table 10 Overnight respite of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type ; use, enhancement required and unmet need, NASS 2019

Overnight respite‡	Current use n (%)*	Enhancement required n (%)**	Unmet need n (%)***
House in community/centre based	96 (3.5)	30 (31.3)	23 (0.8)
Holiday (Residential/centre-based/holiday)	7 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	8 (0.3)
Own home	6 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	~
Holiday (Hotel/B&B/Hostel)	~	~	9 (0.3)
Nursing home	~	~	0 (0.0)
Total	118	36	41

*% based on total with a physical or sensory disability as primary disability type (n=2,747)
 ** % based on number currently accessing the service
 *** % based on the number not currently accessing the service

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

‡ An individual may be in receipt of more than one overnight respite service, services with no recorded current use or unmet need include: Home sharing-short breaks and Home sharing-contract family.

Supports for daily living services

In 2019, 1,228 supports for daily living were accessed by 1,033 (38%) people with a physical/sensory disability, an individual may access more than one of these services so figures in Table 11 are based on services used/required rather than the number of people.

1,520 people (27%) accessed personal assistance and support services on the NPSDD in 2017. Comparably, those reporting an unmet need for supports for daily living on NASS was 6% and was also, 6% on the NPSDD in 2017.

Table 11 Supports for daily living of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type; use, enhancement required and unmet need, NASS 2019

Supports for daily living [¥]	Current use n (%) [*]	Enhancement required n (%) ^{**}	Unmet need n (%) ^{***}
Personal assistant	415 (15.1)	71 (17.1)	18 (0.7)
Home support	328 (11.9)	58 (17.7)	46 (1.7)
Peer support	260 (9.5)	12 (4.6)	13 (0.5)
Community support	118 (4.3)	6 (5.1)	16 (0.6)
Advocacy services	58 (2.1)	~	~
Transport services	44 (1.6)	7 (15.9)	
Participation in voluntary work	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Guide dog/assistance dog	~	0 (0.0)	~
Total	1,228	155	155

*% based on total with a physical or sensory disability as primary disability type (n=2,747)

** % based on number currently accessing the service

*** % based on the number not currently accessing the service

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

¥Note that an individual may be in receipt of more than one of the supports for daily living services.

Specialist support services

Specialist supports were referred to as therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation services on the NPSDD.

In 2019, 1,924 people (70%) accessed 4,335 specialist support services. On the NPSDD in 2017, 88% of people used at least one therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation service.

In addition, those reporting an unmet need for a specialist support on NASS was 17% compared to 30% on the NPSDD in 2017. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy were the two most frequently required supports in both NASS, 2019 and NPSDD, 2017.

Table 12 Specialist supports of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type; use, enhancement required and unmet need, NASS 2019

Specialist supports‡	Current use	Enhancement required	Unmet need
	n (%)*	n (%)**	n (%)***
Physiotherapy	975 (35.5)	118 (12.1)	164 (9.3)
Occupational therapy	691 (25.2)	84 (12.2)	117 (5.7)
Key worker	482 (17.5)	18 (3.7)	~
Speech and language therapy	386 (14.1)	77 (19.9)	54 (2.3)
Nursing	340 (12.4)	34 (10.0)	12 (0.5)
Complementary therapy	166 (6.0)	5 (3.0)	35 (1.4)
Case manager	165 (6.0)	14 (8.5)	5 (0.2)
Social work	151 (5.5)	12 (7.9)	8 (0.3)
Assistive technology/client technical	116 (4.2)	19 (16.4)	9 (0.3)
Dietetics	96 (3.5)	10 (10.4)	14 (0.5)
Orthotics/prosthetics	85 (3.1)	12 (14.1)	5 (0.2)
Resource teacher	84 (3.1)	6 (7.1)	~
Neurorehabilitation	80 (2.9)	~	~
Special Needs Assistant	77 (2.8)	6 (7.8)	13 (0.5)
Creative therapy	70 (2.5)	~	7 (0.3)
Chiropody	69 (2.5)	5 (7.2)	79 (2.9)
Clinical psychology	64 (2.3)	11 (17.2)	63 (2.3)
Vision rehabilitation	58 (2.1)	11 (19.0)	14 (0.5)
Neuro psychology	46 (1.7)	~	31 (1.1)
Counselling psychology	29 (1.1)	6 (20.7)	12 (0.4)
Vision communication	28 (1.0)	9 (32.1)	14 (0.5)
Dentistry/orthodontics	20 (0.7)	~	7 (0.3)
Aural rehabilitation	19 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Psychiatry	16 (0.6)	5 (31.3)	5 (0.2)
Behaviour therapy	10 (0.4)	~	~
Aural communication- IT/AT and alternative format	6 (0.2)	~	~
Educational psychology	~	0 (0.0)	6 (0.2)
Play therapy	~	0 (0.0)	~
Palliative care	~	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Animal assisted therapy	~	~	~
Total	4,335	474	689

*% based on total population (n=2,747)

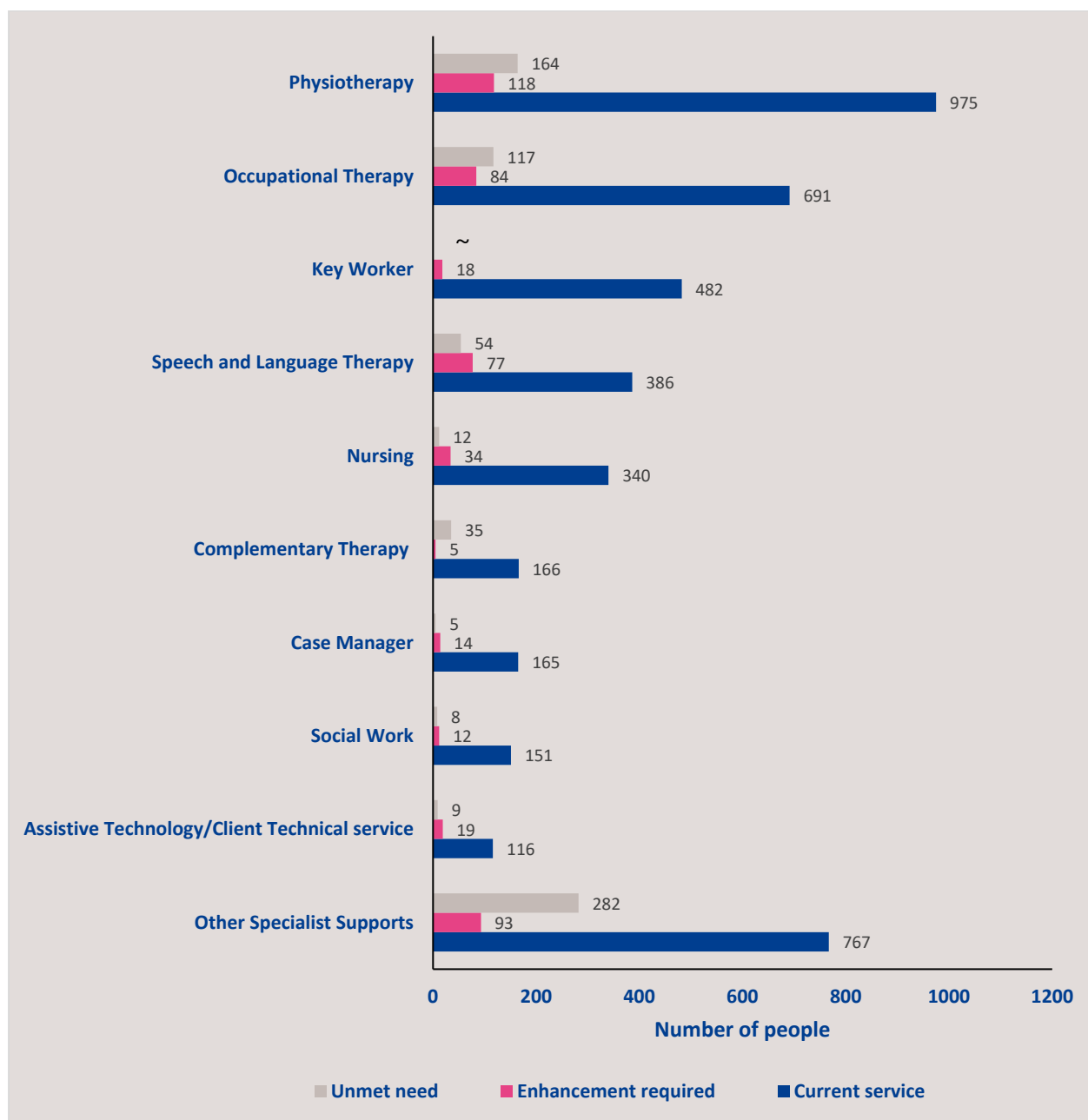
** % based on number currently accessing the service

*** % based on the number not currently accessing the service

~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

‡ An individual may be in receipt of more than one specialist support

Figure 3 Specialist supports of those with a physical/sensory disability as their primary disability type; use, enhancement required, unmet need, NASS 2019



~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in bars containing less than five cases have been suppressed.

World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule V.2 (WHODAS 2.0)

The WHODAS 2.0 captures information on the extent of difficulty an individual has with functioning in daily activities in the previous thirty days. The extent of difficulty can be recorded as mild, moderate, severe, extreme/cannot do. The data presented below groups these four categories into one category of ‘some’ difficulty. The WHODAS questions are **not** completed by those aged under 16 years or those whose primary disability type is intellectual.

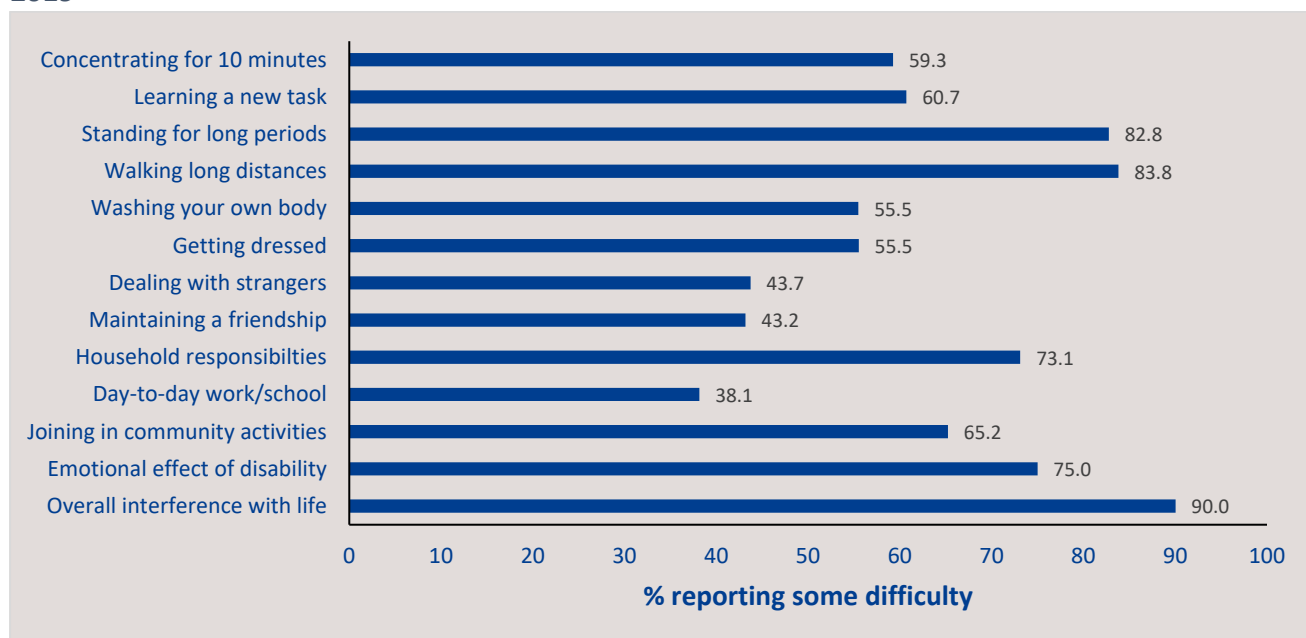
The percentages presented are based on those who completed WHODAS (2,008 people out of 2,101 eligible).

The majority of those who completed WHODAS had a neurological condition (n=1,600, 80%).

In 1,052(52%) cases the answers were provided by the service user and the remainder were provided by proxy.

1,808 people (90%) reported that their disability had an overall interference with their life (Figure 4). The areas where people reported the most difficulty were walking long distances (n=1,683, 84%), standing for long periods (n=1,662, 83%), the emotional effect of their disability (n=1,506, 75%), and household responsibilities (n=1,468, 73%).

Figure 4 WHODAS 2.0 - World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule, NASS 2019



Summary

This bulletin is a supplementary bulletin to be read in conjunction with the main NASS bulletin. It represents the people registered on NASS in 2019 who reported a physical and/or sensory (including neurological) disability as their primary disability type (n=2,747).

As outlined in the main bulletin, the data is incomplete but it is envisaged that the number of registrations on NASS will continue to grow so that there will be fuller picture of service use and need for people with disabilities.

As with the main bulletin, this supplementary bulletin sets out the day, residential and respite service data recorded on NASS for those with physical/sensory disabilities as well as data on assistive products and on supports for daily living.

Although gaps exist in the data overall, this cohort of the NASS population provides a snapshot of service provision and need for 2019. Efforts to increase the levels of return from major service providers in the physical, sensory and neurological categories will be undertaken by the HRB in the next NASS period.

A further supplementary report has been developed for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Additional breakdowns of NASS 2019 data are available on request from the Health Research Board.

Please visit <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/request-data/> to access a data request form and return it to nass@hrb.ie

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