

**HRB StatLink Series 3**

**NASS Physical and  
Sensory Disability  
Supplementary  
Report 2020**

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HRB StatLink Series 3 ISSN: 2737-7652

The StatLink Series is a new series that covers all of the reports and bulletins that are published by the Health Research Board from its national health information systems. Data for the reports are collected through the HRB's LINK system. The Statlink Series replaces previous series including the HRB Statistics Series and HRB Trend Series.

## Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1.1 Background	2
1.2 Data collection	2
1.3 Limitations of the data	3
1.4 Publications and analysis	4
<b>2 Service users with a physical or sensory disability</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1 Numbers registered	6
2.2 Demographic profile	7
2.3 Disability and diagnosis	13
2.4 Primary Carer	16
2.5 Services	17
2.6 Assistive products	30
2.7 World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule V.2 (WHODAS 2.0)	31
<b>3 Summary</b> .....	<b>32</b>

## Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge the continuing commitment and co-operation of the following groups who are involved in the ongoing maintenance of the National Ability Supports System (NASS):

- NASS Committee
- National Health Information Systems Unit, Health Research Board, in particular, Mary O’Gorman, Sarah Craig and Anne O’Donohoe;
- Disability Services Unit, Department of Health;
- Health Service Executive, in particular NASS personnel and National Disability Operations Team;
- Service providers;
- Representative bodies for the providers of services to people with disabilities - National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, Disability Federation of Ireland and the Not for Profit Association;
- Parents and families of people with a disability and their representative bodies; and all service users throughout Ireland.

## Overview

This supplementary report presents an overview of the information recorded for service users with a primary physical or sensory disability on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) for 2020. This is a supplementary report to be read in conjunction with the NASS annual report 2020.

In 2020, there were 22,178 people registered on NASS with a physical or sensory disability. Of these, 8,125 service users had a physical or sensory disability as their primary disability and 14,053 service users had a physical or sensory disability recorded as an additional disability. This supplementary report is based on the 8,125 people whose primary disability is a physical or sensory disability.

Whilst every effort was made to ensure a comprehensive review and update of the NASS data, the information for 2020 remains incomplete due to some service providers who were unable to return data for the 2020 collection period.

The main findings of this supplementary report are:

- More males than females with a physical or sensory disability were registered on NASS in the 2020 data collection period.
- Service users in the 10–14-year age group were the most represented.
- A neurological disability was the most commonly recorded physical or sensory disability followed by a physical disability and a visual impairment.
- Forty three percent of service users reported having a primary carer, the majority of whom were parents.
- In 2020, 4% of service users recorded on NASS with a primary physical or sensory disability were in receipt of a residential service; 21% accessed at least one day service; 25% were in receipt of at least one support for daily living and 73% accessed at least one specialist support.
- 1,027 nights of respite were accessed by service users throughout the 2020 data collection period.

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<sup>1</sup> Day services include HSE funded day services, rehabilitative training and education services provided by the Department of Education as well as employment services funded through the Department of Social Protection.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This is a supplementary report to be read in conjunction with the National Ability Supports System (NASS) annual report. This supplementary report provides an overview of the service users on NASS whose primary disability is recorded as a physical or sensory disability.

NASS is a national database that records information about Health Service Executive (HSE) disability-funded services<sup>2</sup> that are received or required as a result of an intellectual disability (ID), developmental delay, physical, sensory, neurological, learning, speech and/or language disabilities or autism. Mental health as a type of disability is also recorded on NASS where an individual is in receipt of a HSE disability-funded service. This may occur where the individual has more than one type of disability or where no suitable mental health service is available.

The purpose of NASS is to gather information to aid the planning, development, and organisation of HSE disability-funded services. A person is eligible to be registered on NASS if they receive or require (now or within the next five years) a HSE disability-funded service.

References to the last published National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD)<sup>3</sup> data are given throughout this report but are provided as context only as definitions have been altered and services have changed. Comparisons are, therefore, not always like for like.

## 1.2 Data collection

Information on NASS for service users with ID is captured under five headings:

- Service user details
- Primary carer details
- Disability type and diagnosis
- Services
- Assistive products; and
- WHODAS 2.0 (World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule). WHODAS is only recorded for service users over the age of 16 years and for all primary disability types except intellectual disability.

Within the Services section, NASS captures 86 service options across six service types:

- Residential services
- Day services
- Day respite

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<sup>2</sup> HSE disability-funded refers to the budget the HSE uses to fund services for people with disabilities. In 2020, a total of €1.9 billion was allocated by the HSE for these services.

<sup>3</sup> Doyle, A. & Carew, A. (2018). Annual report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee 2017: Main findings. Dublin: Health Research Board.

- Overnight respite
- Supports for daily living
- Specialist supports

Service information is recorded if a service is funded by the HSE disability budget and the service is currently received or is required now or within the next five years. Provision is made to record services received via Primary Care and the Department of Education. This allows for a more holistic view of the supports provided to an individual.

This supplementary report presents information on services received in the year 2020. Service users are included in the 2020 report if they had their record reviewed by 31st of December 2020 by their main service provider. Overall, 8,125 service user records are included in this report.

### **1.3 Limitations of the data**

Whilst every effort was made to ensure a comprehensive review and update of NASS data, the information for 2020 remains incomplete. There are gaps where data for the 2020 data collection period was not returned by some special schools, HSE disability teams and service providers.

Overall, while progress has been made in relation to NASS coverage for 2020, inconsistencies remain in the level of returns nationally. Of the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) where returns were low, insufficient resources were available to NASS for much of the data collection period. It is hoped that the importance of the provision of data to NASS is recognised and that the situation will improve in 2021, as work proceeds towards achieving a full picture of HSE funded service provision.

### **Impact of Covid-19**

The aforementioned resource issues were further compounded by Covid-19 and the redeployment of HSE staff in some areas to work on Covid-19 related work.

Information included in this report spans the entire year of 2020. Reviews of some service user records took place in early - mid 2020, before Covid-19 impacted disability service delivery. Therefore, the information in this report is a mixture of pre- and mid-Covid-19 service provision. It portrays a picture of service provision and need both in the initial wave of Covid-19 and when services were reopened in the latter part of 2020. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify from the data the extent to which disability services were impacted by Covid-19 in 2020.

Also, as a result of Covid-19, guidance for data entry was adapted from March 2020 onwards in response to situations where it was not possible to get particular information from service users or their families. This guidance allowed the response option of 'Not known' to be used for specific NASS questions. This primarily affected information relating to occupational status, living accommodation, self-reported ethnicity or cultural background, age of primary carer, and the WHODAS 2.0 questions.

Additionally, in some instances, the main service provider may not have had full details about services delivered by secondary service providers as opportunities for communication were limited due to Covid-19 working arrangements. This mainly affected respite and specialist support information.



## 1.4 Publications and analysis

This report represents an overview of available data from NASS on service users with a primary physical or sensory disability. An annual report and additional supplementary reports presenting information by other disability types (autism and intellectual disability) and by CHO are also available on the Health Research Board (HRB) website <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/publications/>.

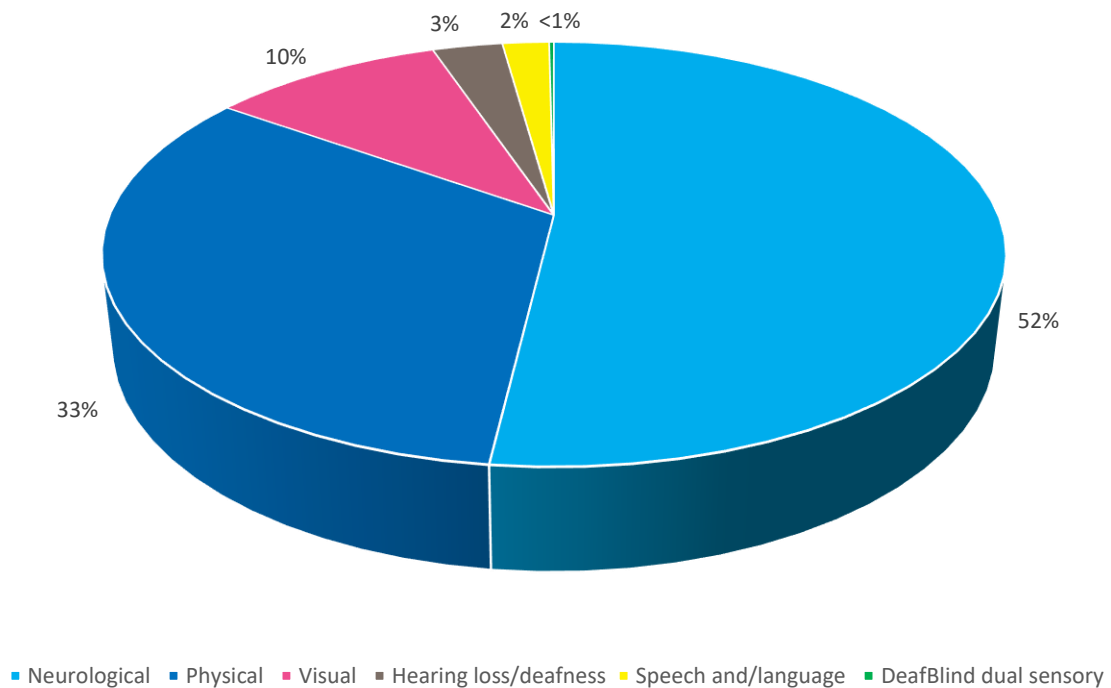
Requests for further analysis with more detailed or different breakdowns are welcomed. Please visit <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/request-data/> to access a data request form and return it to [nass@hrb.ie](mailto:nass@hrb.ie).

## 2 Service users with a physical or sensory disability

There were 22,178 of people registered on NASS in the 2020 data collection period with a physical or sensory disability. Of these, 8,125 service users recorded their primary disability as a physical or sensory disability and 14,053 service users recorded a physical or sensory disability as an additional disability. There are fewer registrations of service users with a physical or sensory disability on NASS than were previously recorded on NPSDD (20,676 registrations in 2017).

This supplementary report is based on the 8,125 service users who have recorded their primary disability as a physical or sensory disability. A neurological disability was the most commonly recorded physical or sensory disability (4,201, 52%) followed by physical (2,726, 33%), visual (828, 10%), hearing loss/deafness (211, 3%), speech and/language (143, 2%) and DeafBlind dual sensory (16, <1%) disabilities. A breakdown of physical or sensory primary disability type is shown in Figure 2.1.

**Figure 2.1 Primary physical or sensory disability type, NASS 2020**



## 2.1 Numbers registered

Table 2.1 shows the registration of service users on NASS by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO). The nine CHOs and the areas they cover are as follows:

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

CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo

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

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

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

CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East

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

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

CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West

Overall, CHO 9 had the most registered service users (1,839, 23%), followed by CHO 1 (1,589, 20%).

**Table 2.1 Distribution of service users with a physical or sensory disability registered on NASS by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO), NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
CHO 1	1,589	19.6
CHO 2	1,087	13.4
CHO 3	483	5.9
CHO 4	703	8.7
CHO 5	615	7.6
CHO 6	208	2.6
CHO 7	666	8.2
CHO 8	934	11.5
CHO 9	1,839	22.6
Outside Ireland	~	~

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

## 2.2 Demographic profile

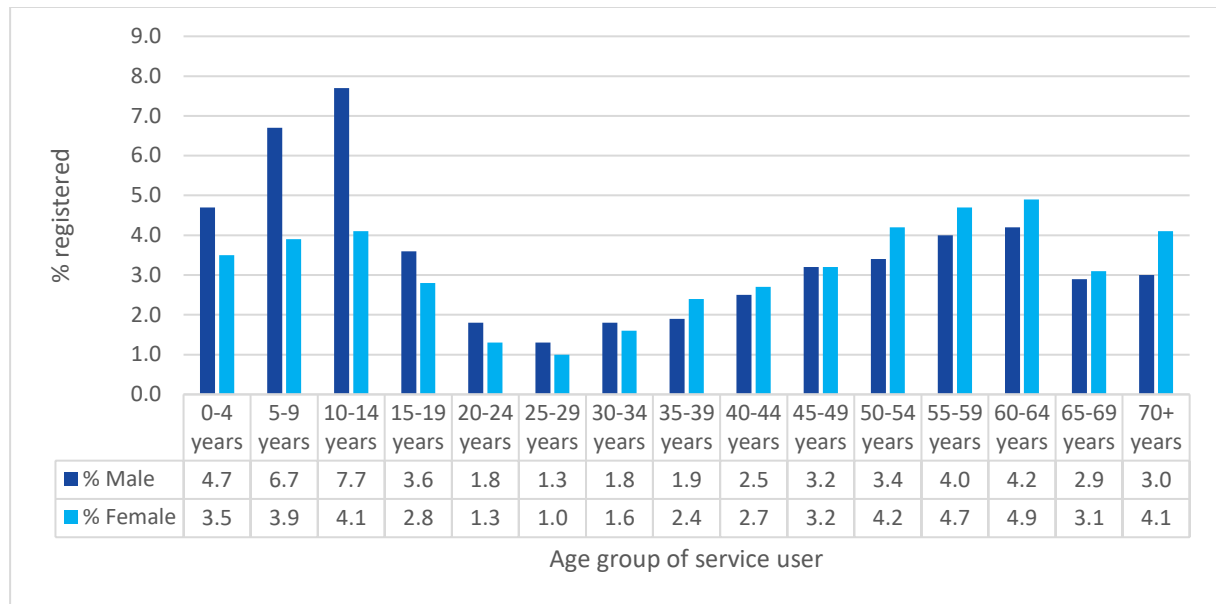
More males (4,263, 52%) than females (3,862, 48%) with a physical or sensory disability were registered on NASS during the 2020 data collection period. Over one third of those registered were aged under 18 years and more males than females were registered in this cohort. Of those aged under 18 years, males and females aged between 10-14 years were the most represented. Of those aged 18 years and over, males and females aged between 60-64 years were the most represented.

Table 2.2 and Figure 2.2 present a breakdown of service users by age and sex.

**Table 2.2 Number of service users with a physical or sensory disability by age and sex, NASS 2020**

	Male	Female	Total
0-4 years	378	288	666
5-9 years	541	314	855
10-14 years	624	332	956
15-19 years	291	231	522
20-24 years	150	107	257
25-29 years	104	85	189
30-34 years	144	127	271
35-39 years	152	191	343
40-44 years	203	222	425
45-49 years	264	259	523
50-54 years	275	339	614
55-59 years	327	380	707
60-64 years	338	399	737
65-69 years	232	254	486
≥ 70 years	240	334	574
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>8,125</b>

**Figure 2.2 Percentage of service users with a physical or sensory disability by age group and sex, NASS 2020**



## Occupational status<sup>4</sup>

Service users aged under 18 years were mostly students/pupils (1,084, 39%). Service users aged 18 years and over were mostly unable to work due to their disability (1,596, 30%) followed by those who had retired (604, 11%) and those who were unemployed (441, 8%) (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3 Occupational status of service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	Less than 18 years		18 years and over		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
Unable to work due to disability	~	~	1,596	30.0	1,600	19.7
Student/pupil	1,084	38.6	121	2.3	1,205	14.8
Retired	0	0.0	604	11.4	604	7.4
Unemployed	~	~	441	8.3	442	5.4
In paid employment	0	0.0	422	7.9	422	5.2
Training day/programme	6	0.2	404	7.6	410	5.0
Housewife/husband	0	0.0	189	3.6	189	2.3
Other	119	4.2	51	1.0	170	2.1
Not known	1,591	56.7	1,492	28.0	3,083	37.9

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

<sup>4</sup> Occupational status information was captured as 'employment status' on NASS in 2020.

## Ethnicity or cultural background

The most frequently self-reported ethnicity or cultural background was Irish (4,336, 53%) followed by any other white background (227, 3%) (Table 2.4).

**Table 2.4 Ethnicity or cultural background of service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
Irish	4,336	53.4
Any other white background	227	2.8
Any other Asian background	35	0.4
Black African	29	0.4
Irish Traveller	25	0.3
Do not wish to answer this question	18	0.2
Any other black background	5	0.1
Asian-Chinese	~	~
Not known	3,446	42.4

~ 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 was recorded for the majority of service users who have a physical or sensory disability (4,635, 57%). Service users most frequently resided in owner occupied private accommodation (3,327, 41%), followed by those who lived in accommodation which was rented from a county council, public authority or service provider (640, 8%). A total of 368 (5%) service users were residing in a residential setting (Table 2.5).

**Table 2.5 Living accommodation of service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
Private accommodation-owner occupied	3,327	40.9
Rented from county council/public authority/service provider	640	7.9
Residential setting*	368	4.5
Rented on open market	268	3.3
Unstable accommodation	32	0.4
Not known	3,490	43.0

\* Includes those that are not funded by the HSE disability budget.



## Living arrangements

Most service users with a physical or sensory disability lived with family members (4,485, 55%) and 1,018 (13%) service users lived alone. Three hundred and sixty-five service users lived in a residential service (5%) and 67 (1%) lived with non-family, that is, non-relatives or a foster family (Table 2.6).

**Table 2.6 Living arrangement of service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Living with family</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>55.2</b>
Both parents	1,028	12.7
Wife/husband/partner, no children	979	12.0
Wife/husband/partner and children	961	11.8
Parent(s) and sibling(s)	707	8.7
One parent	392	4.8
Daughter(s)/ son(s)	273	3.4
Sibling(s)	113	1.4
Other relative(s)	32	0.4
<b>Residential setting*</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>4.5</b>
In a residential service	365	4.5
<b>Living alone</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Alone	1,018	12.5
<b>Living with non-family</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Foster family	20	0.2
Non-relatives	47	0.6
<b>Not known</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>27.0</b>
Not known	2,190	27.0

\* Includes those that are not funded by the disability budget.

## 2.3 Disability and diagnosis

### Additional disabilities<sup>5</sup>

A total of 2,677 (33%) service users who had a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability also recorded having at least one additional disability resulting in a total of 2,963 additional disabilities in this group. The most reported additional disability was a physical disability (1,196, 15%) followed by a neurological disability (694, 9%) and a visual impairment (239, 3%) (Table 2.7).

**Table 2.7 Additional disabilities of those whose primary disability is a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
Physical	1,196	14.7
Neurological	694	8.5
Visual	239	2.9
Speech and/or language	230	2.8
Intellectual	184	2.3
Mental health	164	2.0
Hearing loss/deafness	99	1.2
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	52	0.6
Not verified*	44	0.5
Developmental delay (under 10 years, only)	31	0.4
Specific learning disorder (other than intellectual)	25	0.3
DeafBlind-dual sensory	5	0.1

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

\*Not verified - where the type of disability has not been verified for an individual.

<sup>5</sup> Additional disabilities were captured as 'secondary disabilities' on NASS in 2020.

## Diagnostic category

In addition to disability type, information on any diagnoses received from a healthcare professional can also be recorded on NASS using the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision (ICD-10) coding principles. It is optional to record this information.

There were 2,969 diagnoses recorded for 2,501 service users during the 2020 data collection period. The most frequently reported ICD-10 diagnosis category was diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99) which includes conditions such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and Parkinson's disease. Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99) was the second most frequently reported diagnosis category which includes intellectual disabilities, dementia, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59) was the third most frequently reported diagnosis category which includes disorders of choroid and retina and glaucoma (Table 2.8).

It should be noted that diagnosis is optional to record on NASS and therefore information on diagnosis is not necessarily reflective of those registered on the system. Diagnosis information is a new field for most service providers completing NASS. The importance of completing diagnosis information will continue to be highlighted to service providers for 2021.

**Table 2.8 ICD-10 diagnostic category for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	n	%
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>
Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)	1,258	15.5
Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99)	364	4.5
Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)	346	4.3
Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99)	216	2.7
Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)	190	2.3
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00-T98)	131	1.6
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)	98	1.2
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases (E00-E90)	93	1.1
Symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)	57	0.7
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (H60-H95)	42	0.5
Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)	35	0.4
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99)	31	0.4
Neoplasms (C00-D48)	26	0.3
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)	13	0.2

Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93)	10	0.1
Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)	10	0.1
Mental, behavioural or neurodevelopmental disorders (ICD-11)	6	0.1
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)	6	0.1
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)	6	0.1
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-D89)	~	~
<b>Total diagnoses</b>	<b>2,969</b>	

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

## 2.4 Primary Carer

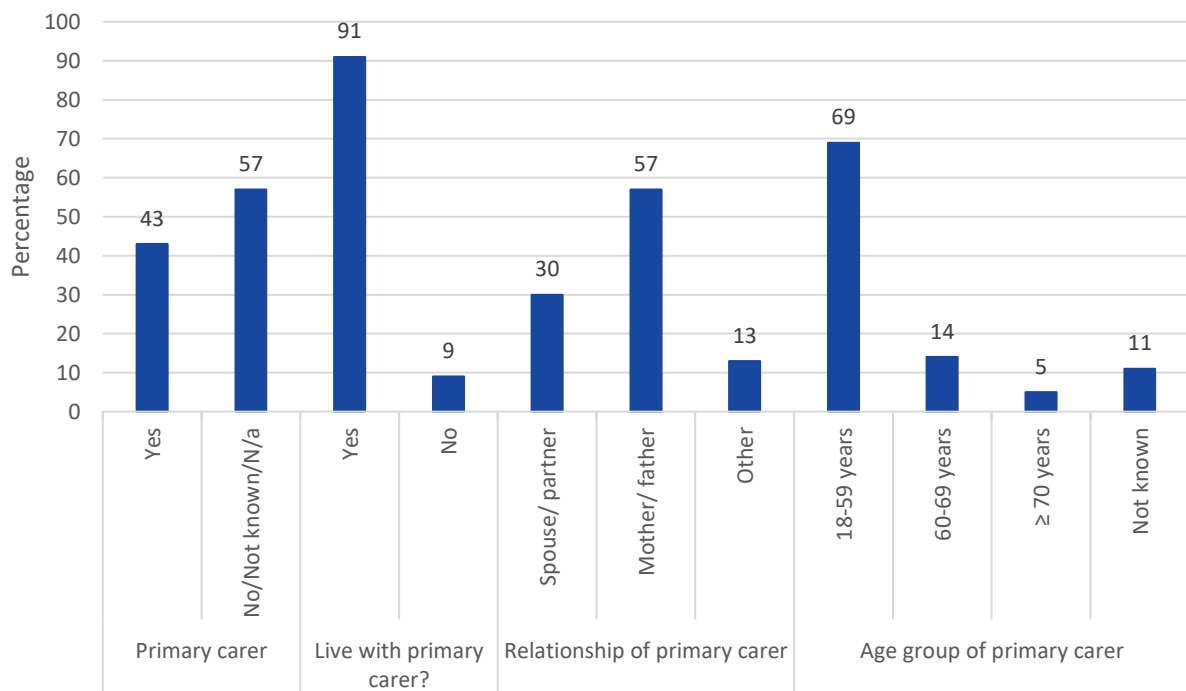
Of those service users with a physical or sensory disability who do not live in a residential setting (7,647), 3,299 (43%) service users reported having a primary carer.

The majority of those with a primary carer lived with their primary carer (3,000, 91%) (Figure 2.3). Of those with a primary carer, the majority of primary carers were parents (1,877, 57%) followed by a spouse or partner (976, 30%). Primary carers were aged between 18-59 years (2,282, 69%), 60-69 years (457, 14%) and 70 years and over (191, 5%). Less than five primary carers were aged under 18 years.

In terms of service user age, 47% (1,304) of those aged 18 years or less had a primary carer, 42% (1,056) of those aged 19-54 years had a primary carer, and 40% (939) of service users aged 55 years and over had a primary carer.

In terms of disability type, 84% (115) of those with a speech and/language impairment had a primary carer, 55% (6) of those with a DeafBlind dual sensory impairment had a primary carer, 46% (370) of those with a visual impairment had a primary carer, 45% (1,740) of those with a neurological disability had a primary carer, 39% (1,022) with a physical disability had a primary carer and 22% (46) of those with hearing loss/deafness had a primary carer.

**Figure 2.3 Primary carer information for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**



7,647 not living in a residential setting

3,299 with a primary carer

## 2.5 Services

This section outlines current service use and future service requirements for those with a physical or sensory disability in the following categories:

- Residential
- Day
- Respite (day and overnight)
- Supports for daily living
- Specialist supports

The service tables presented in this section represent whether a service was recorded as:

- **Places currently being accessed:** The number of places accessed in the reporting year.
- **Enhancement required to current places:** The number of places accessed which require an enhancement for example, additional hours/days or additional support.
- **Unmet need for places:** The number of additional places required for those not in receipt of that service but who require it now or within the next five years.

References are made to the NPSDD 2017 data for context. It is important to note that comparisons are a guide only as definitions have been altered and services have changed. Comparisons, therefore, are not always like for like.

### Residential services

In the 2020 data collection period, 322 (4%) service users accessed a total of 323 disability-funded residential services (one service user accessed more than one residential service). A nursing home was the most common residential service, followed by a house in the community (Table 2.9). The majority of residential services were provided to those aged 40-59 years (149, 46%) followed by those aged 60-70 years (84, 26%). In 2017, 3% of service users whose records were reviewed in the NPSDD were in receipt of residential services.

Of those accessing residential services and where information on support was available (315):

- 167 (53%) had 24/7 staff and awake cover at night
- 79 (25%) had 24/7 staff and sleepover cover at night.
- 22 (7%) had 1 to 1 support
- 21 (7%) had greater than 1 to 1 support
- 14 (4%) had less than 24/7 care

- 12 (4%) had less than 24/7 staff and sleepover cover at night

Where information was available on how many nights per week service users accessed their residential service (321), 302 (94%) availed of their residential service 7 nights per week.

Although NASS does not yet have complete capture of residential service use and need, the 2020 data suggests that at least 59 residential places are required now or within the next five years for service users who have a physical or sensory disability (Table 2.9). This is an increase of 18% on the current level of provision. Almost two thirds (63%) of the residential places required are places in a house in the community, with most of these places being required by those aged 19-54 years (31, 84%). Of the 37 service users requiring a place in a house in the community now or within the next five years, the majority of these service users have a neurological disability (26, 70%).

**Table 2.9 Residential services; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

Residential service	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>		
Nursing home	104	1.3	0	5
House in community (1-4 residents)	88	1.1	11	37
Residential centre/on campus (10+ residents)	50	0.6	9	0
Specialist facility - neurological	34	0.4	12	11
Community group home (5-9 residents)	32	0.4	5	0
Specialist facility - physical	6	0.1	~	~
Specialist facility – challenging behaviour	~	~	0	~
Specialist facility – mental health co-morbidity	~	~	0	0
Other hospital	~	~	0	0
Home sharing – shared living family	~	~	0	~
Hospice	0	0.0	0	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>59</b>

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

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

Services with no recorded current or unmet need include specialist facility – dementia and psychiatric hospital.

## Day Services

Day services recorded on NASS in 2020 were selected from 23 service options. Some of the data recorded in 2020 used the following codes: day activation/activity, high support day service, sheltered work-therapeutic, sheltered work-commercial, sheltered work-like work, sheltered employment and external work. In keeping with service providers transitioning to the New Directions model<sup>6</sup> of day service provision, these codes have been rolled up to 'day programme' for reporting purposes. Educational services have also been rolled up so that primary and secondary options are reported together. Baby and toddler groups and pre-schools have been rolled up to "early childhood education and care". These groupings will apply in the future from the NASS 2021 data collection period onwards.

In the 2020 data collection period, a total of 1,725 (21%) service users with a physical or sensory disability accessed at least one day service in 2020 accounting for a total of 1,748 day service places (service users can attend more than one day service) (Table 2.10). In 2017, the NPSDD reported that 3,276 (58%) service users attended a day service.

The most frequently accessed day service was a day programme<sup>7</sup> (1,020, 13%). Day programmes also had the highest proportion of unmet need of all day services with 53 day programme places required now or within the next five years. In the 2020 data collection period, 167 day service placements required an enhancement to the existing service (Table 2.10).

The level of support was recorded for 1,345 (78%) of service users with a physical or sensory disability and was as follows:

- 459 (34%) had a staff to service user ratio of between 1-to-6 and 1-to-9.
- 210 (16%) had a staff to service user ratio of 1-to-1.
- 190 (14%) had a staff to service user ratio of 1-to-10+.
- 187 (14%) had a staff to service user ratio of 1-to-3.
- 182 (14%) had a staff to service user ratio of between 1-to-4 and 1-to-5.
- 89 (7%) had a staff to service user ratio of 1-to-2.
- 28 (2%) had a staff to service user ratio of greater than 1-to-1.

Of those service users accessing day services and where information was available (1,707), 638 (37%) accessed their day service five days per week, 427 (25%) accessed their day service one day per week and 254 (15%) accessed their day service two days per week.

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<sup>6</sup> New Directions: review of HSE day services and implementation plan 2012-2016: personal support services for adults with disabilities. Naas: Health Service Executive, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> A day programme aims to provide a supportive environment which addresses the service user's needs. Service users may be aged under 18 years or above 18 years. For those service users aged above 18 years, day programmes provide, or are moving towards providing, the 12 supports outlined in the New Directions Model.



**Table 2.10 Day services; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>		
Day programme†	1,020	12.6	115	53
Supported employment	24	0.3	~	14
Rehabilitative training	135	1.7	16	13
Neuro-rehabilitative training	60	0.7	10	6
Mainstream early childhood education and care	28	0.3	~	~
Special early childhood education and care	44	0.5	16	0
Mainstream primary/secondary school	294	3.6	~	24
Special primary/secondary school	63	0.8	~	~
Special class/unit in mainstream primary/secondary school	22	0.3	~	~
Home tutor	0	0.0	0	~
Vocational training	38	0.5	~	~
Third level education	20	0.2	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,748</b>		<b>167</b>	<b>131</b>

† A day programme aims to provide a supportive environment which addresses the service user's needs. Service users may be aged under 18 years or above 18 years. For those service users aged above 18 years, day programmes provide, or are moving towards providing, the 12 supports outlined in the New Directions Model.

~ 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 day service.

Tables 2.11 and 2.12 present a breakdown of day services by age - under 18 years and 18 years and over, respectively.

Table 2.11 shows that most day services accessed in 2020 by service users aged under 18 years were educational services (440, 96%). Twenty-three enhancements were required to existing educational services, with most enhancements (16) required in special early childhood education and care settings. Of those service users aged under 18 years, 34 individuals had an unmet need for day service places. Of these, the highest proportion of unmet need was for places in a mainstream primary or secondary school (24, 71%).

**Table 2.11 Day services for service users aged under 18 years with a physical or sensory disability; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places, NASS 2020**

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,805</b>	<b>100</b>		
Day programme	19	0.7	0	0
Mainstream early childhood education and care	28	1.0	~	~
Special early childhood education and care	44	1.6	16	0
Mainstream primary/secondary school	287	10.2	~	24
Special primary/secondary school	60	2.1	~	~
Special class/unit in mainstream primary/secondary school	21	0.7	~	~
Home tutor	0	0.0	0	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>

~ 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 day service.

Services with no recorded current or unmet need include supported employment, rehabilitative training, neurorehabilitative training, vocational training and third level education.

Table 2.12 shows that a day programme was the most frequently accessed day service by those aged 18 years and over (1,001, 19%) and 115 enhancements were required to existing day programmes in this cohort. Of those service users aged 18 years and over, 92 individuals had an unmet need for a total of 97 day service places. Of these, the highest proportion of unmet need was for a day programme placement (53 places).

**Table 2.12 Day services for service users aged 18 years and over with a physical or sensory disability; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places, NASS 2020**

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>100</b>		
Day programme†	1,001	18.8	115	53
Supported employment	24	0.5	~	14
Rehabilitative training	135	2.5	16	13
Neuro-rehabilitative training	60	1.1	10	6
Mainstream primary/secondary school	7	0.1	0	0
Special primary/secondary school	~	~	0	0
Special class/unit in mainstream primary/secondary school	~	~	0	0
Vocational training	38	0.7	~	~
Third level education	19	0.4	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,288</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>97</b>

† A day programme aims to provide a supportive environment which addresses the service user's needs. These day programmes provide, or are moving towards providing, the 12 supports outlined in the New Directions model.

~ 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 day service.

Services with no recorded current or unmet need include mainstream early childhood education and care, special early childhood education and care and home tutor.

## Respite services

The reporting of respite data on NASS in 2020 has been greatly improved since 2019 by HRB processes so that each service must be closed out by recording an end date and verified by the service provider at the end of the reporting period. As a result, some verified respite data applies to service users who are not included in any other section of the 2020 annual report. Since some service providers are not returning data, the respite data recorded is incomplete. Additionally, the impact of COVID-19 on respite service provision and the recording of respite data on NASS cannot be quantified for 2020.

### Day respite

In the 2020 data collection period, less than five individuals with a physical or sensory disability accessed a disability-funded day respite service. A total of 12 day respite places were recorded as required now or within the next five years. Of these, 7 (58%) are centre-based respite places, 4 (33%) are respite services at home and 1 (8%) is a respite home sharing short break place. Day respite data is not available from the NPSDD 2017 data.

### Overnight respite

In the 2020 data collection period, 1% (51) of service users with a physical or sensory disability accessed 51 disability-funded overnight respite services whereas in 2017 NPSDD reported that 8% (443) service users availed of at least one respite overnight service. NASS 2020 data shows that the most availed of overnight respite service was in a house in the community/centre-based (42 places) (Table 2.13).

1,027 nights of respite were recorded on NASS with the majority recorded in a house in the community/centre-based respite setting (816 nights). The average number of respite nights received by those who accessed this service was 19.4 nights.

Of those accessing overnight respite services and where information on support was available (49):

- 25 (51%) had 24/7 staff and awake cover at night
- 13 (27%) had 24/7 staff sleepover cover at night

Twenty-two current overnight respite service recipients require an enhancement to their existing service. Of these, 20 receive their respite service in a house in the community/centre-based. Seventy-five overnight respite places are required now or within the next five years, the majority of which are for a house in the community/centre-based respite (42 places) (Table 2.13).

**Table 2.13 Overnight respite; number of respite nights accessed, places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	Respite nights accessed in 2020	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>		<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>		
House in the community/centre-based respite	816	42	0.5	20	42
Holiday respite (residential/centre-based/ summer camp)	31	5	0.1	1	13
Home sharing short breaks family	7	1	0.0	0	0
Holiday Respite (hotel/B&B/hostel)	6	1	0.0	0	14
Own home respite	151	1	0.0	0	5
Nursing home respite	16	1	0.0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>51</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>75</b>

~ 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 respite service.

Services with no recorded current or unmet need include home sharing contract family.

## Supports for Daily Living

In 2020, 2,043 (25%) service users with a physical or sensory disability were in receipt of at least one support for daily living and a total of 2,291 supports for daily living were accessed. In 2017, as reported by the NPSDD, 1,520 (27%) service users accessed personal assistance and support services.

The most frequently accessed supports for daily living in the 2020 data collection period were home supports which included supported self-directed living supports (1,011, 12%) and personal assistants (685, 8%) (Table 2.14).

The majority of supports for daily living were accessed by those aged ≥50 years (1,385, 68%), 608 (30%) were accessed by those aged 30-49 years, 163 (8%) were accessed by those aged 18-29 years and 135 (7%) services were accessed by those aged under 18 years.

Two hundred supports for daily living are required now or within the next five years and home support is recorded as the most required service (68 requirements).

**Table 2.14 Supports for daily living; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>		
Home support	1,011	12.4	111	68
Personal assistant	685	8.4	117	27
Peer support	276	3.4	23	17
Community support	188	2.3	19	25
Advocacy services	66	0.8	~	5
Transport services	59	0.7	7	55
Guide dog/Assistance dog	~	0.0	0	~
Voluntary work	~	0.0	~	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,291</b>		<b>279</b>	<b>200</b>

~ 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 support for daily living.

## Specialist supports

In 2020, almost three quarters of service users with a physical or sensory disability (73%, 5,902) availed of one or more specialist support services. Of these, 58% (3,432) availed of one specialist support service, 20% (1,189) availed of two specialist support services and 11% (629) availed of three specialist support services. In total, these 5,902 service users availed of 10,818 specialist support services in 2020 (Table 2.15).

Overall, the specialist supports that were most frequently accessed were a case manager (2,159, 27%), physiotherapy (1,854, 23%) and occupational therapy (1,430, 18%). These figures align with the last published NPSDD data (2017) in which physiotherapy and occupational therapy were the two most accessed supports. Additionally, 688 service users require at least one specialist support service now or within the next five years. This equates to 971 requirements for specialist supports, of which physiotherapy (250 places) and occupational therapy (176 places) are the most required.

**Table 2.15 Specialist supports; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
<b>Total population</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>100</b>		
Case manager	2,159	26.6	59	16
Physiotherapy	1,854	22.8	162	250
Occupational therapy	1,430	17.6	141	176
Speech and language therapy	831	10.2	116	82
Key worker	729	9.0	32	11
Vision rehabilitation	630	7.8	102	40
Nursing	559	6.9	52	14
Assistive technology/client technical service	450	5.5	55	31
Social work	381	4.7	24	22
Dietetic services	194	2.4	13	17
Complementary therapy	185	2.3	5	30
Orthotics/prosthetics	161	2.0	22	6
Clinical psychology	153	1.9	13	68
Neurorehabilitation	131	1.6	6	8

	Places currently being accessed		Enhancement required to current places	Unmet need for places
	n	%	n	n
Educational psychology	119	1.5	~	6
Special Needs Assistant (SNA)	106	1.3	9	9
Neuropsychology	96	1.2	~	35
Resource teacher	95	1.2	~	~
Vision communication-IT/AT and alternative formats	93	1.1	29	18
Chiropody	79	1.0	9	85
Creative therapy	77	0.9	~	5
CDNT (Child disability network teams)	71	0.9	59	~
Psychiatry	62	0.8	9	~
Counselling	55	0.7	10	18
Aural rehabilitation services	35	0.4	~	~
Dentistry/orthodontic	26	0.3	~	~
Behaviour therapy	22	0.3	~	8
Aural communication-IT/AT and alternative format services	20	0.2	10	~
Play therapy	9	0.2	0	~
Palliative care	~	~	~	0
Animal assisted therapy	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,818</b>		<b>959</b>	<b>971</b>

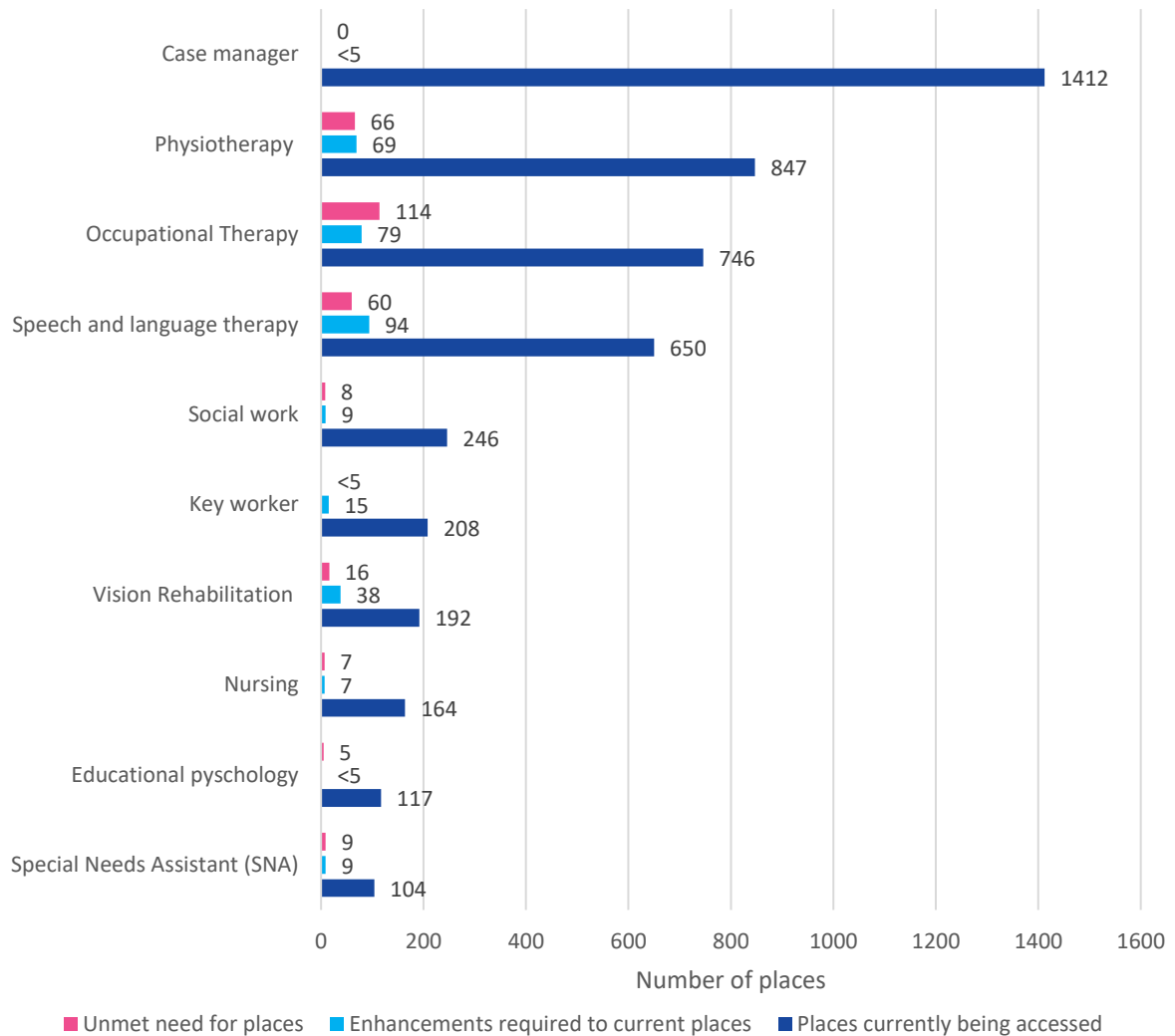
~ To protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values in cells containing less than five cases have been suppressed

Note that an individual may be in receipt of more than one specialist support

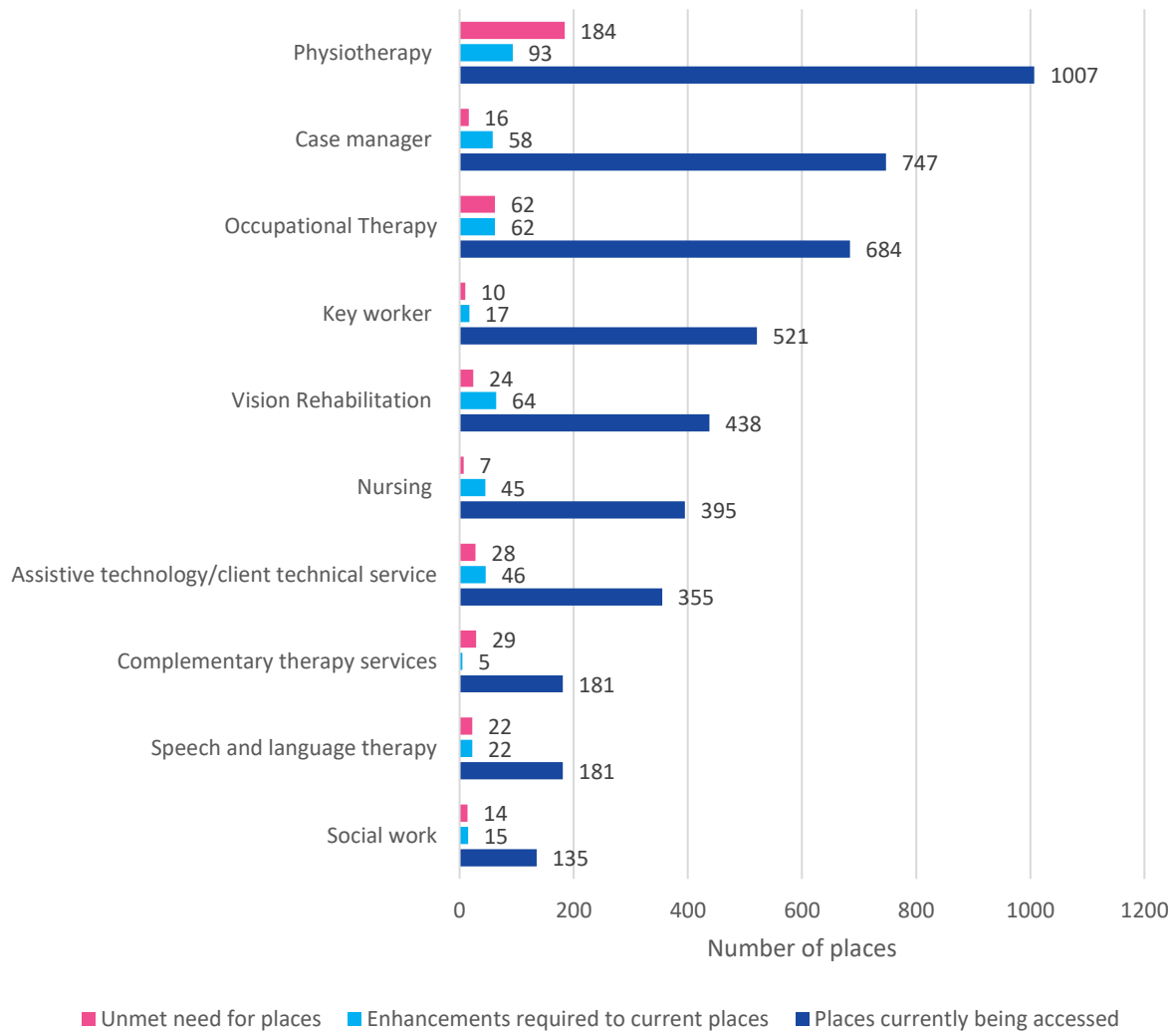
The specialist supports most availed of by service users aged under 18 years were case managers (1,412, 27%), physiotherapy (847, 16%) and occupational therapy (746, 14%). The specialist supports most availed of by service users aged 18 years and over were physiotherapy (1,007, 18%), case managers (747, 13%) and occupational therapy (684, 12%). A breakdown of the top ten most received specialist support services by age (under 18 years and over 18 years) is provided in Figures 2.4 and 2.5.



**Figure 2.4 Specialist supports for service users aged under 18 years with a physical or sensory disability; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places, NASS 2020**



**Figure 2.5 Specialist supports for service users aged over 18 years with a physical or sensory disability; places currently being accessed, enhancement required to current places and unmet need for places, NASS 2020**



## 2.6 Assistive products

Assistive products were used by 16% (1,304) of service users with a physical or sensory disability with a total of 3,045 assistive products used overall. The most used product groups and products were:

- Assistive products for activities and participation relating to personal mobility and transportation (1,518, 50%). Of these, manual wheelchairs (356), powered wheelchairs (286) and assistive products for walking manipulated by one arm (280) were the most used products.
- Assistive products for communication and information management (847, 28%). Of these, assistive products for seeing (434) and assistive products for hearing (162) were the most used.
- Furnishings, fixtures, and other assistive products for supporting activities in indoor and outdoor human-made environments and adaptations to homes (596, 20%). Of these, beds and bed equipment (193), supporting handrails and grab bars (182) and sitting furniture (105) were the most used.

Overall, 1,069 service users had an unmet need for at least one assistive product and 1,927 assistive products were reported as being required now or in the next five years. The most frequently required assistive product groups and products were:

- Furnishings, fixtures, and other assistive products for supporting activities in indoor and outdoor human-made environments and adaptations to homes (706, 37%). Of these, supporting handrails and grab rails (313) and sitting furniture (180) were the most required.
- Assistive products for communication and information management (369, 19%). Of these, assistive products for seeing (151) and computers and terminals (107) were the most required.
- Assistive products for personal mobility and transportation (300, 16%). Of these, assistive products for walking (using both arms) for example, walking sticks, crutches, rollators or frames (166) and powered wheelchairs (58) were the most commonly required.

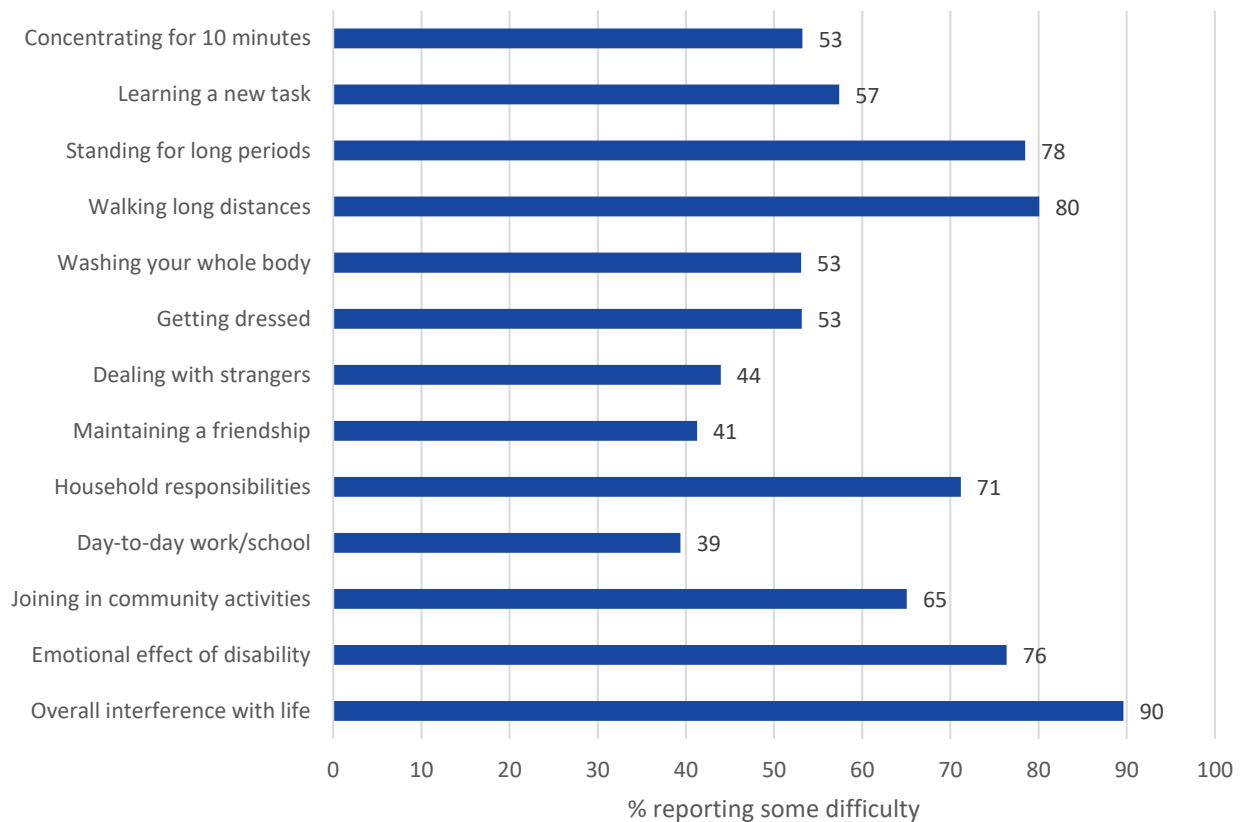
## 2.7 World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule V.2 (WHODAS 2.0)

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 percentages presented are based on those who completed WHODAS 2.0 (3,810 out of 5,542 eligible service users). The majority of those who completed WHODAS 2.0 had a neurological disability (2,578, 68%), followed by those with a physical disability (666, 18%) and a visual impairment (405, 11%). In 1,823 (48%) cases the answers were provided by the service user. The remainder were provided by proxy.

As shown in Figure 2.6, the areas of greatest difficulty were walking long distances (3,051, 80%), standing for long periods (2,990, 78%), the emotional effects of disability (2,910, 76%), and household responsibilities (2,712, 71%). For the majority (3,415, 90%), difficulties due to their disability resulted in an overall interference with their life.

**Figure 2.6 WHODAS 2.0 – World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule V.2 outcomes for service users with a physical or sensory disability, NASS 2020**



### 3 Summary

This is a supplementary report to be read in conjunction with the NASS annual report. This report is based on information collected from 8,125 service users registered on NASS with a physical or sensory primary disability at the end of December 2020. It represents the recorded service use and need of people with a physical or sensory disability accessing HSE disability-funded services in 2020.

As outlined in the annual report, information included in this report spans the entire year of 2020. Some reviews of service user records took place in early - mid 2020, before Covid-19 had impacted service delivery. Therefore, the information in this report is a mixture of pre- and mid- Covid-19 service provision. It is difficult to identify and quantify the extent to which Covid-19 impacted the delivery of services and the ability of service providers to update NASS in this challenging year. This is unfortunate as 2020 is the first full data collection year for NASS and uncertainty remains around a current benchmark of disability service use and need and the variation in service provision attributable to Covid-19. Going forward for 2021 data collection, a mechanism for service providers to identify services which are impacted by Covid-19 has been included. Use of this marker will be encouraged so that the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of HSE disability-funded services can be more accurately assessed.

Although gaps exist in the data overall, this cohort of the NASS population provides a snapshot of service provision and need for 2020 for service users with a physical or sensory disability. Efforts to increase the levels of return will be undertaken by the Health Research Board for future data collections.

Separate supplementary reports have been developed for those recorded on NASS with autism and ID. Additional breakdowns of NASS 2020 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](mailto:nass@hrb.ie).