

HRB Bulletin
**National Ability Supports
System (NASS)**

**Overview of
people engaging
with disability
services, 2023**

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National Ability Supports System (NASS)

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- The parents and families of people with a disability and their representative bodies, as well as all service users throughout Ireland.

Overview

This bulletin is based on validated data extracted from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) at the end of December 2023. NASS is a national database that records information about Health Service Executive (HSE) funded disability services that are received or identified as required by a service provider as a result of an intellectual disability; developmental delay; physical, sensory, neurological,¹ learning, and speech and/or language disabilities; or autism.

The purpose of NASS is to gather information in order to aid the planning, development, and organisation of HSE funded disability services.² A person is eligible to be registered on NASS if they receive or require (either currently or within the next five years) a HSE funded disability service as identified by their service provider.

There are some 18-year-olds who have moved to adult services while others remain in children's services until they finish secondary school. In this bulletin, 'children' includes service users aged 19 years and under³ who are engaging with children's disability services, and 'adults' refers to those aged 18 years and older engaging with adult disability services.

It is important to note that information from the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) was not provided to NASS in 2023. This is due to the delayed rollout of the HSE's dedicated children's case management system (CDNT-IMS) for use by the CDNTs. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of children's services reported on NASS for 2023 compared to 2022. There were over 33,000 children who were engaged in CDNTs in 2022 that were **not** reviewed on NASS in 2023. Data for children in receipt of residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services was provided to NASS. Therefore, the children that are included in this analysis are those who received residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services, outside of a CDNT.

Information on the number of adult day services required in 2024 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

Overall, the records of 35,528 people are included in this bulletin, as they were confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 3,830 are children and 31,698 are adults.

1 A neurological disability can include epilepsy, spina bifida, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, acquired brain injury, and Parkinson's disease. This term applies to impairments of the nervous system.

2 'HSE funded disability services' refers to the budget the HSE uses to fund services for people with disabilities. In 2023, the overall budget for disability services was €2.4 billion. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/59a35-minister-anne-rabbitte-announces-disability-services-budget-for-2023/>

3 There are a small number of people who remain in children's services past the age of 18, as they are still attending school.

Number of children on NASS in 2023

The majority of children receive multidisciplinary services through a CDNT. National data was not received from CDNTs therefore this report only includes data for children in receipt of services outside of a CDNT.

There were 3,830 children who were on NASS as receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services in 2023.

Adults engaging with disability services

There were 31,698 adults on NASS as accessing or requiring a disability service in 2023. There was a 10% increase in the number of adults reviewed on NASS in 2023, compared to 2022 (31,698 in 2023 and 28,859 in 2022).

- More male (17,170; 54%) than female (14,528; 46%) adults were reviewed on NASS in 2023.
- A similar number and proportion of adults was reported in each of the three age groups:
 - 18–34 years: 10,865 (34%)
 - 35–54 years: 10,609 (34%), and
 - 55 years and over: 10,224 (32%).
- The most frequently reported primary disability type was intellectual disability (ID) (18,874; 60%), followed by neurological disability (5,357; 17%), and autism (2,271; 7%).
- Sixty percent (14,274) of adults on NASS reported having a primary carer; the majority of these adults live with their primary carer (92%; 13,061). Age was recorded for more than four-fifths (82%; 11,636) of primary carers, of whom 41% (4,739) were aged 60 years and over.
 - Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 2,774 (59%) were aged between 60–69 years, 1,494 (31%) were aged between 70–79 years, and 471 (10%) were aged 80 years and over.

Services

Please note the limitations to this data as outlined in section 1.2. Information on residential services, assisted living services, and respite (day and overnight) services is presented for the full cohort of people registered with NASS. Information on multidisciplinary services for children is incomplete due to national CDNT information not provided to NASS; therefore, data on support services are only presented for adults. Records underwent review by the service providers, throughout the reported year.

Current service provision

The following outlines 2023 data for current service provision.

- Overall, 7,892 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 7,799 were adults and 93 were children.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (3,365; 43%), followed by a community group home with 5-9 residents (2,866).
 - Ninety percent (7,108) of those living in a residential setting had a primary disability of ID.
- Overall, 6,533 people were in receipt of 6,713 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, and personal assistant (PA).
 - Of these, 5,534 were adults and 999 were children.
 - Almost four-in-ten (38%; 2,461) of those who received assisted living services were aged 55 years or over.
 - Of the 6,713 assisted living services:
 - 4,899 were home support, and
 - 1,814 were PA services.
 - Nearly seven-in-ten (69%; 4,048) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and over one-quarter (27%; 1,569) were living alone.
- Three-in-five (19,453; 61%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - Day programme: 17,752 adults (90%), and
 - Rehabilitative training: 1,917 adults (10%).

- In total, 1,203 people accessed 1,231 day respite places.
 - Of these, 624 were adults and 579 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2023, 897 were centre-based respite places, and 295 were home sharing places.

- Overnight respite was provided to 3,954 people.
 - Of these, 3,142 were adults and 812 were children.
 - A total of 108,895 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 17 nights (17 nights for adults, 19 nights for children) during 2023.

- Over one-half (53%; 16,705) of adults received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2023.
 - A total of 10,000 (53%) adults with a primary disability of ID received one or more support service. The most commonly accessed support services were social work (4,097), nursing (3,804), and speech and language therapy (3,584).
 - Sixty-two percent (6,221) of adults with a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability received one or more support service.
 - A key worker was accessed by 2,196 people.
 - The most commonly accessed support services were vision rehabilitation (1,426), physiotherapy (1,315), and assistive technology/client technical service (1,063).

New services required for 2023–2028

The following outlines data regarding new services required for 2023–2028, as identified by service providers.

- Overall, 1,952 people are reported as requiring a residential service.
 - Of these, 1,932 were adults and 20 were children.
 - Ninety-two percent (1,790) of residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - Three-in-four residential services required are of immediate need i.e. required in 2023 (74%; 1,434).
 - Four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (80%; 1,554) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, one-half (50%; 771) are aged 60 years and over.

- Service providers identified 663 people as requiring 694 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 624 were adults and 39 were children.
 - Sixty-five percent (433) are aged 35 years or over, three-in-ten people (29%; 191) are aged 18–34 years, and 6% (39) are aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 694 assisted living services required:
 - 495 were identified as home support, and
 - 199 were identified as PA services.
 - Nearly three-in-five (58%; 384) have an ID, and 32% (210) have a physical or sensory disability.

- Information on day services required in 2024 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).
 - Overall, 3,119 people require a HSE funded day service in 2024. Of these:
 - 2,118 were identified as requiring an adult day service, and
 - 1,001 were identified as requiring rehabilitative training.

- Overall, 1,212 people require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 1,119 were adults and 93 were children.
 - Nearly three-quarters (74%; 894) of those who require overnight respite services have an ID, 15% (176) have a physical or sensory disability, and 11% (136) are Autistic.

New services required for 2023–2028 (identified for adults only)

The following outlines data regarding new services required for 2023–2028 that are identified for adults only.

- One-tenth (10%; 3,110) of adults require at least one support service.
 - The support services most commonly required are physiotherapy (683), occupational therapy (625), and speech and language therapy (567).

1 Background

This bulletin is based on validated data extracted from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) at the end of December 2023. NASS is a national database that records information about current Health Service Executive (HSE) funded disability services and services required now, or in the next five years. HSE funded disability services can be required as a result of an intellectual disability (ID); developmental delay; physical, sensory, neurological, learning, and speech and/or language disabilities; or autism. Mental health is only recorded on NASS where an individual is in receipt of a HSE funded disability service.

The purpose of NASS is to gather information from service providers in order to aid the planning, development, and organisation of HSE funded disability services. A person is eligible to be registered on NASS if they receive or require (either currently or within the next five years) a HSE funded disability service as identified by their service provider.

There are some 18- year-olds who have moved to adult services while others remain in children's services until they finish secondary school. In this bulletin, 'children' includes service users aged 19 years or under who are engaging with children's disability services, and 'adults' refers to those 18 years and older who are engaging with adult disability services.

Information on the number day services required in 2024 was provided by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

Overall, data pertaining to 35,528 people are included in this bulletin, as they were confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 3,830 are children and 31,698 are adults.

1.1 Data collection



Information on NASS is captured under four headings:

- Service user details
- Primary carer details
- Disability type and diagnosis, and
- Services.

A primary disability should be recorded by the service provider for every person on NASS. There is also an option for reporting additional disability type(s). A primary disability refers to the disability which most restricts a person's ability to take part in daily life and/or the disability that gives rise to using/needing the most HSE funded disability services.

Within the Services heading, NASS captures 77 service options across six service types:

- Residential setting
- Day services
- Day respite
- Overnight respite
- Supports for daily living (for example, home support, a personal assistant, or community support), and
- Specialist supports/support services– including multidisciplinary services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy and other specialised support services such as vision/aural rehabilitation services, assistive technology and animal-assisted therapy.

Service providers record information about current services funded through the HSE disability budget and services identified as being currently required or that will be required now or within the next five years.

1.2 Limitations of the data



It is important to note that information from the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) was not provided to NASS in 2023. This is due to the delayed rollout of the HSE's dedicated children's case management system (CDNT-IMS) for use by the CDNTs. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of children's services reported on NASS for 2023 compared to 2022. There were over 33,000 children who were engaged in CDNTs in 2022 that were **not** reviewed in 2023. It is hoped that NASS will have improved coverage of children accessing HSE funded disability services for 2024 as a result of a planned upload of data from CDNT-IMS to NASS by year end.

Information on the breakdown of multidisciplinary services received by service users from two Section 38 service providers was not provided to NASS for adults. It is hoped this will be remedied for 2024 so that NASS will be able to provide a more complete picture of the support services received by adults with a disability.

Information on day services received in 2023 reported to NASS were compared to the HSE NDSD. Information on day services received in 2023 on NASS is lower than what was reported in the NDSD. Work is underway to identify service providers who are not on NASS and, service providers who are underreporting their data to NASS.

2 Number of children on NASS in 2023

There were **3,830** children on NASS in 2023 as receiving either residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services. As mentioned in Section 1.2, NASS did not receive complete updated data from the CDNTs due to the delayed roll out of the CDNT-IMS. Therefore, it is not possible to report on children attending CDNTs for their multidisciplinary services.

Table 1 shows the number of children receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services in each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area.

Table 1 Number of children receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services on NASS by CHO of service, 2023

	NASS 2023 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	427	11.1
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	252	6.6
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	78	2.0
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	222	5.8
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	391	10.2
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	108	2.8
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	724	18.9
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	675	17.6
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	953	24.9
Total	3,830	100.0

3 Adults engaging with disability services

3.1 Number of adults on NASS in 2023

There were **31,698** adults recorded as accessing or requiring a HSE funded disability service in 2023. There was a 10% increase in the number of adults reviewed on NASS in 2023, compared to 2022 (31,698 in 2023 and 28,859 in 2022).

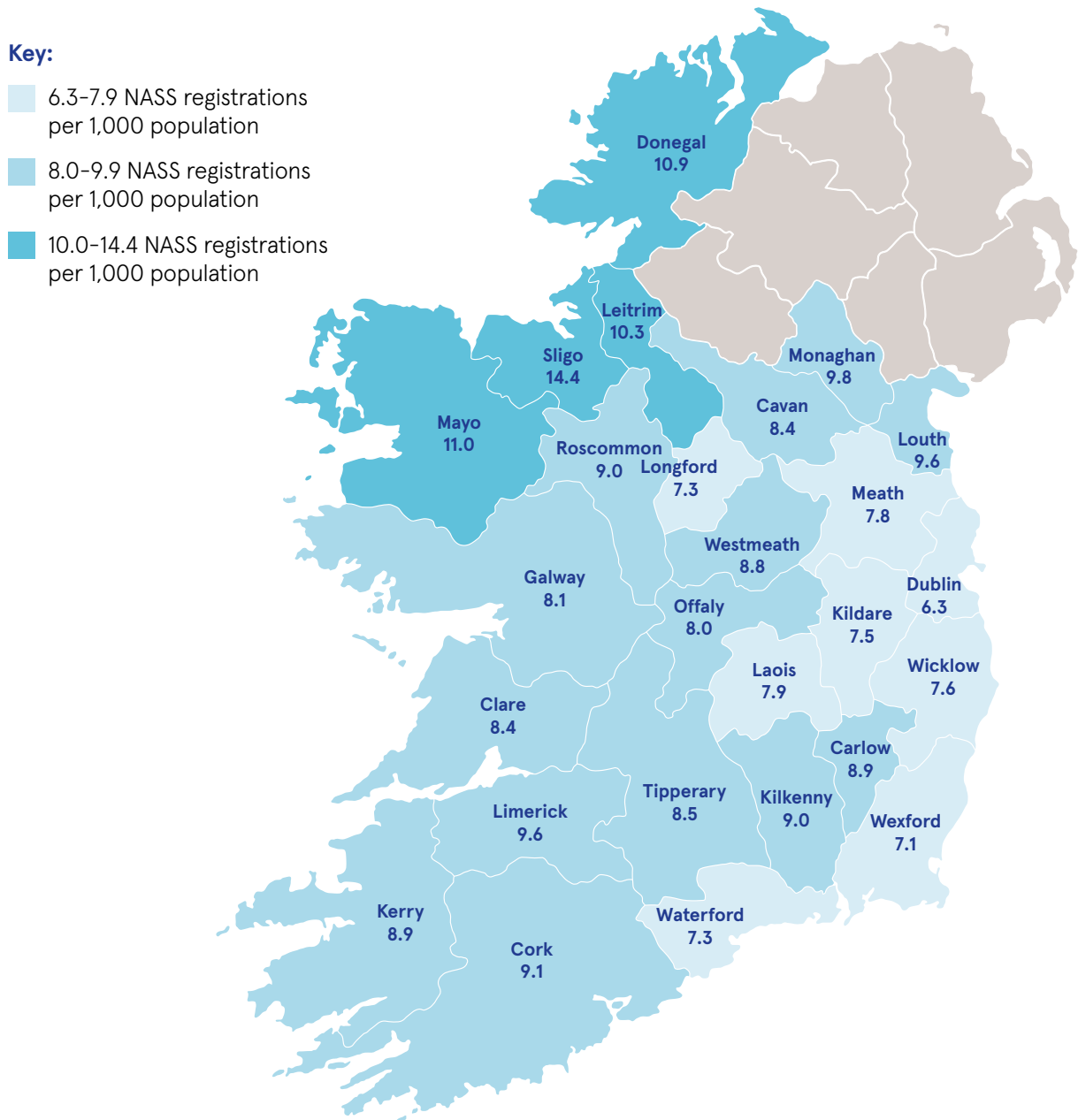
The breakdown by CHO of service is listed in Table 2. CHO 4 had the highest number of registrations (5,615; 18%), followed by CHO 9 (4,167; 13%) and CHO 8 (3,853; 12%).

Table 2 Number of adults on NASS by CHO area of service, 2023

	NASS 2023 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	3,543	11.2
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	3,299	10.4
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	2,732	8.6
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	5,615	17.7
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	3,251	10.3
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	1,798	5.7
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	3,440	10.9
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	3,853	12.2
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	4,167	13.1
Total	31,698	100

The proportion of the adult population accessing disability services in Ireland per 1,000 of the general population aged 18 years or over was 8.1 (population data are based on the 2022 Census).⁴ Figure 1 shows the proportion of adults accessing a disability service across Ireland by county of residence. Sligo (14.4 per 1,000 of the adult population) had the highest proportion, while Dublin (6.3 per 1,000 of the adult population) had the lowest.

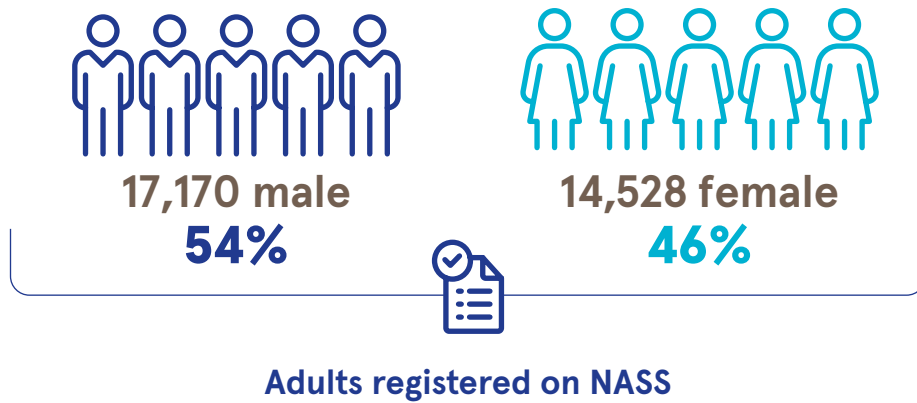
Figure 1 Proportion of adults accessing disability services per 1,000 of the general population aged 18 years and older, by county of residence, NASS 2023



4 Central Statistics Office (2023) Census 2023 Summary Results. www.cso.ie

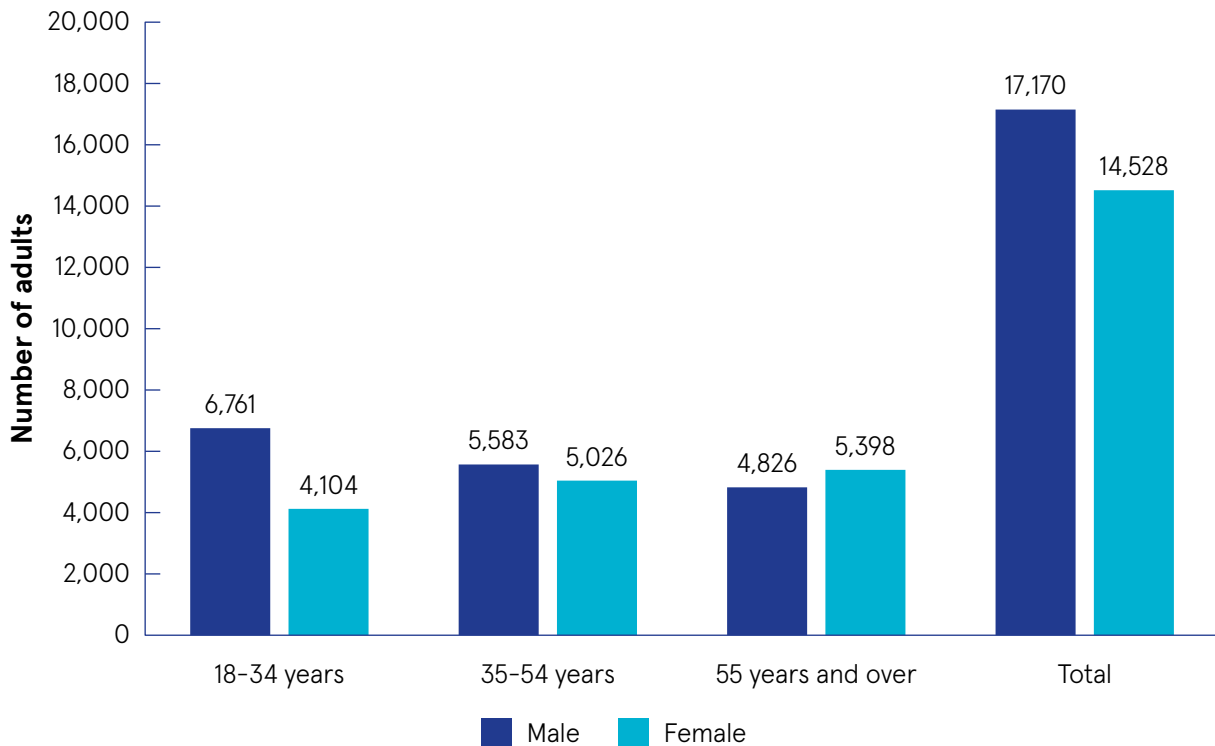
3.2 Demographic profile

More male (17,170; 54%) than female (14,528; 46%) adults were recorded on NASS as attending a disability service in 2023.



There was a similar sex distribution across the three age groups of 18–34 years, 35–54 years, and 55 years and over (Figure 2). Of note, there are a higher proportion of males in the 18–34 year age group.

Figure 2 Number of adults registered in disability services on NASS by age group and sex, 2023



3.3 Occupational status

Information on occupational status was available for 93% (29,376) of the 31,698 adults accessing or requiring a disability service in 2023, of whom:

- Over two-fifths (41%; 12,088) were in a training or day programme.
- Nearly three-in-ten (28%; 8,206) were unable to work due to a disability.
- Over one-tenth (11%; 3,148) were in paid employment. Of those who were in paid employment, 1,212 (38%) were known to be in supported employment.
- Nearly one-tenth (9%; 2,596) were unemployed.
- The remaining 11% were retired (6%; 1,808), students (3%; 1,000), were engaged in home duties (1%; 311) or listed 'other' as their occupational status (1%; 219).

3.4 Living arrangements

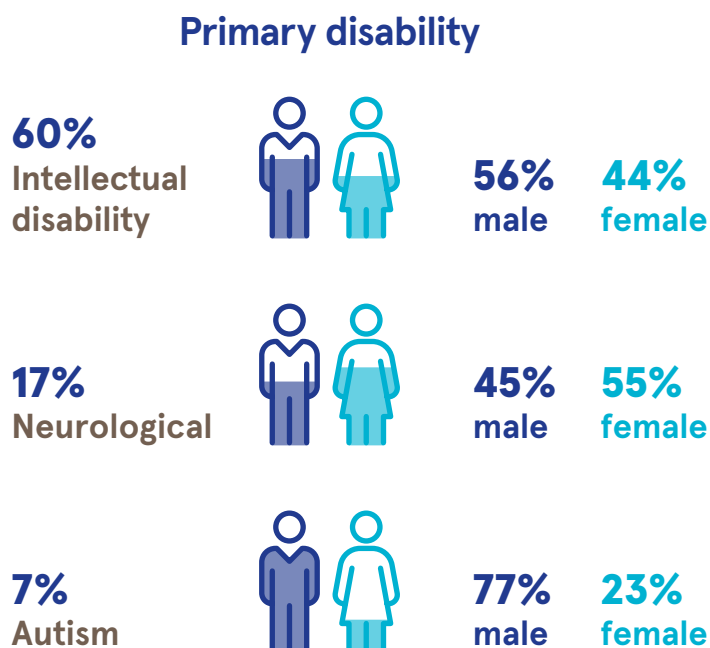
Information on living arrangements was available for 94% (29,781) of the 31,698 adults accessing or requiring a disability service in 2023, of whom:

- Three-fifths (60%; 17,941) were residing with family members.
- Over one-quarter (27%; 8,027) were living in a residential service setting.
- Over one-tenth (11%; 3,361) were living alone.
- The remaining 2% (452) were living with non-relatives.

3.5 Reported disabilities

The most frequently reported primary disability type was ID (18,874; 60%), followed by neurological disability (5,357; 17%), and autism (2,271; 7%) (Table 3). Of note, the percentage of Autistic adults in receipt of HSE funded disability services is the highest ever reported on NASS.

Adults



Of those with a primary disability of ID, almost two-thirds (64%) had a moderate, severe, or profound ID (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Degree of ID in adults on NASS whose primary disability was ID, 2023

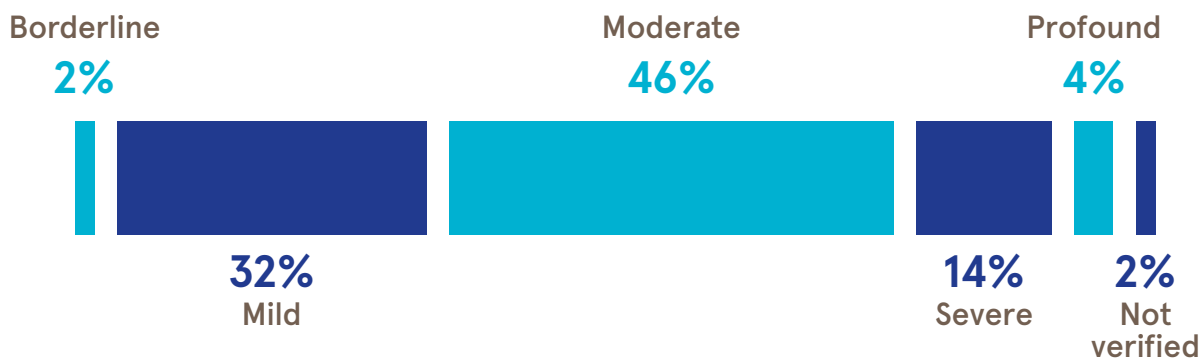


Table 3 Primary disability among adults on NASS by sex, 2023

Primary Disability	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Intellectual	10,542	55.9	8,332	44.1	18,874	59.6
Neurological	2,397	44.7	2,960	55.3	5,357	16.9
Autism	1,738	76.5	533	23.5	2,271	7.2
Physical	1,032	46.3	1,196	53.7	2,228	7.0
Visual	803	49.8	809	50.2	1,612	5.1
Hearing loss and/ or deafness	376	44.8	463	55.2	839	2.7
Mental health	191	60.1	127	39.9	318	1.0
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	27	47.4	30	52.6	57	0.2
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	25	46.3	29	53.7	54	0.2
Speech and/or language	10	66.7	5	33.3	15	0.0
Not verified*	8	34.8	15	65.2	23	0.1
Total	17,149	54.2	14,499	45.8	31,648	100

* Not verified - Where the type of disability has not been verified for an individual by an appropriate healthcare professional.

Primary disability type was missing for 50 people (21 male, 29 female).

3.6 Additional disabilities

One-half of adults (51%; 16,029) with any type of primary disability had an additional disability recorded. The most commonly reported additional disability type was physical disability (4,941; 16%), followed by a speech and language disability (3,025; 10%), and autism (1,848; 6%).

The breakdown of additional disability types by primary disability is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Additional disabilities among adults on NASS by primary disability, 2023

Additional disability	Primary disability type									
	Intellectual disability		Physical or Sensory*		Autism		Other**		Total population	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total population	18,874	100.0	10,105	100.0	2,271	100.0	398	100	31,648	100.0
Physical	3,278	17.4	1,600	15.8	36	1.6	27	6.8	4,941	15.6
Speech and/or language	2,698	14.3	262	2.6	56	2.5	9	2.3	3,025	9.6
Autism	1,774	9.4	54	0.5	0	0.0	20	5.0	1,848	5.8
Visual	1,225	6.5	293	2.9	23	1.0	8	2.0	1,549	4.9
Mental health	998	5.3	238	2.4	163	7.2	5	1.3	1,404	4.4
Hearing loss and/or deafness	918	4.9	121	1.2	10	0.4	7	1.8	1,056	3.3
Intellectual	0	0.0	325	3.2	584	25.7	67	16.8	976	3.1
Neurological	678	3.6	231	2.3	57	2.5	10	2.5	976	3.1
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	110	0.6	48	0.5	49	2.2	~	~	211	0.7
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	33	0.2	10	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	43	0.1
No additional disability	7,162	37.8	6,923	68.5	1,293	56.9	241	60.5	15,619	49.4

* Physical or sensory includes DeafBlind (dual sensory), hearing loss and/or deafness, neurological, physical, speech and/or language, and visual.

** Other includes specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual), mental health, and not verified.

~ In order to protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values less than 5 have been suppressed.

Note that more than one additional disability may be recorded for a person and, as a result, total percentages may sum up to more than 100%.

Note that primary disability type is missing for 50 individuals.

3.7 Primary carer

Of adults (31,698) who do not live in a residential setting (23,660; 75%), three-fifths (60%; 14,274) were reported as having a primary carer; almost all of these individuals live with their primary carer (92%; 13,061).

The majority (73%; 10,425) of primary carers were parents, 11% (1,539) were a wife/husband/partner, and 10% (1,476) were siblings. Age was recorded for more than four-fifths (82%; 11,636) of primary carers, 41% (4,739) of whom were aged 60 years or over. Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 2,774 (58.5%) were aged between 60–69 years, 1,494 (31.5%) were aged between 70–79 years and 471 (10%) were aged 80 years and over.

Primary Carer



14,274

people reported having a primary carer



92%

live with their primary carer

Of the primary carers:



73%

parents



11%

wife/husband/partner



10%

sibling



41%

aged 60+ years

4 Services

The section reports on the HSE funded disability services people with disabilities receive or require (either currently or within the next five years⁵), as identified by their service providers, in the following categories:

- Residential and assisted living services
- Day services
- Day and overnight respite, and
- Support services (including multidisciplinary, and specialised support services).

The information presented in this section represents whether a service was recorded as:

- **Current services:** The number of places accessed in the reporting year.
- **Enhancement required to current services:** The number of places accessed which require an enhancement in the next 12 months; for example, additional hours/days or additional support.
- **New services required:** The number of new places required for those not in receipt of that service but who require it now or will require it within the next five years.

Information on residential services, assisted living services and, respite (day and overnight) services is presented for the full cohort of people. Information on specialised support services for children is incomplete; therefore, these data are only presented for adults.

Individuals may access one or more services within our broad categories of services outlined e.g. a person can access both centre-based overnight respite and holiday overnight respite over the calendar year.

⁵ Service providers who identify that a service is required must select the year in which it is needed. The options for the year the service is required includes the current year (2023) and the next five years (2024–2028).

4.1 Current service provision

Adults and children



7,892
lived in
a residential
setting



4,899
received
home
support



1,814
accessed
a personal
assistant



1,203
accessed
day respite



3,954
availed of
overnight respite
108,895 nights

Adults only



19,453
adults accessed
day services



16,705
adults received
support services

4.1.1 Residential and assisted living services

Residential services include HSE funded disability accommodation and services that provide support in order to enable people with disabilities to remain in their existing accommodation or to move to more appropriate accommodation.

Assisted living services include services reported on NASS as either Home Support or Personal Assistant (PA). Home support allows a person to live independently, and actively participate in society. It includes general home support, home care assistant service, and home help. A PA is employed by the person with a disability to enable them to live an independent life. The PA provides assistance, at the discretion of the person with the disability, thus promoting choice and control for the person with the disability to live independently.

The following outlines 2023 data for residential and assisted living services:

- A total of 7,892 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 7,799 were adults and 93 were children.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (3,365; 43%).
 - One-fifth (21%; 1,604) of current residential places accessed require an enhancement.
 - Ninety percent (7,108) of people living in a residential setting had an ID, of whom 81% (5,728) had either a moderate, severe, or profound ID. This group comprised 7,045 adults and 63 children.

- A total of 6,533 people were in receipt of 6,713 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, or PA.
 - Of these, 5,534 were adults and 999 were children.
 - Almost four-in-ten (37%; 2,461) of those who received assisted living services were aged 55 years or over.
 - Of the 6,713 assisted living services:
 - 4,899 were home support, and
 - 1,814 were PA services.
 - More than one-tenth (13%; 862) of assisted living services require an enhancement.
 - More than one-half (55%; 3,501) of those who received assisted living services had a primary disability of physical or sensory, and 38% (2,438) had an ID.
 - Nearly seven-in-ten (69%; 4,048) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and over one-quarter (27%; 1,569) were living alone.

4.1.2 Day services

HSE funded disability day services captured on NASS include day programme, and rehabilitative training, which may be accessed by those aged 18 years and over.

The following outlines 2023 data for day service provision:

- Service providers reported 19,453 (61%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - A day programme was the most commonly accessed (17,752; 90%) type of day service. An enhancement is required for 3,468 (20%) day programme places.
 - Rehabilitative training was received by 1,917 people.
 - The breakdown of day services by primary disability type is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Day services accessed by adults on NASS by primary disability type, 2023

	Intellectual disability		Physical or Sensory*		Autism		Other**		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total population	18,873	100.0	10,099	100.0	2,271	100.0	395	100.0	31,639	100.0
Day programme [†]	14,155	75.0	1,928	19.1	1,442	63.6	225	57.0	17,750	56.0
Rehabilitative training	1,213	6.4	231	2.3	374	16.5	99	25.1	1,917	6.0
Total	15,200	80.5	2,133	21.1	1,795	79.1	323	81.8	19,451	64.5

[†] A day programme aims to provide a supportive environment which addresses a person's needs. These day programmes provide, or are moving towards providing, the 12 supports outlined in the New Directions Model⁶.

* Physical or sensory includes DeafBlind (dual sensory), hearing loss and/or deafness, neurological, physical, speech and/or language, and visual.

** Other includes specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual), mental health, and not verified.

Note: Primary disability type is missing for 50 adults, two of whom were accessing a day programme.

4.1.3 Day respite

Day respite consists of short-term care in the local community. It may be provided in a centre-based facility, or through a home sharing arrangement.

The following outlines 2023 data for day respite services:

6 New Directions: review of HSE day services and implementation plan 2012-2016: personal support services for adults with disabilities. Naas: Health Service Executive, 2012. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/newdirections/new%20directions%20report.pdf>

- A total of 1,203 people accessed 1,231 day respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 624 were adults and 579 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2023, 897 were centre-based respite places, and 295 were home sharing places.
 - Sixteen percent (197) of current day respite places accessed in 2023 require an enhancement.

4.1.4 Overnight respite

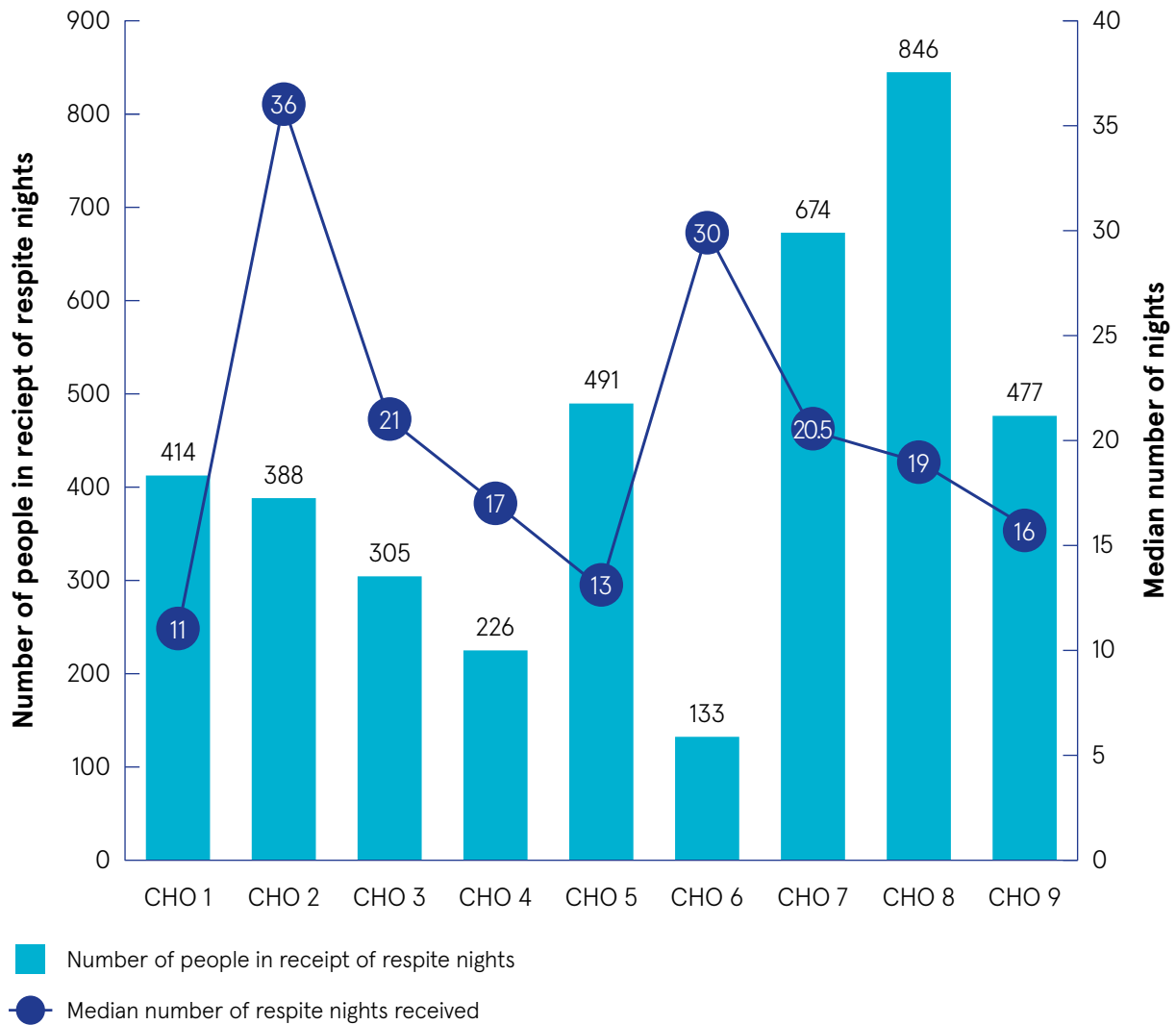
Overnight respite care may involve providing alternative family or residential care for a person with a disability in order to enable their carer to take a short break, a holiday, or a rest while providing a positive experience for the service user. It includes short-term respite (such as a weekend) and longer respite arrangements (for example, in order to cover a holiday or hospital stay for the primary carer).

The number of overnight respite nights are shown as 'median'. The median is the value at the mid-point in a sequence of numerical values ranged in ascending or descending order. It is defined as the value above or below which half of the values lie. Unlike the mean (average), the median is not influenced by extreme values (or outliers).

The following outlines 2023 data for overnight respite services:

- There were 3,954 people who availed of 4,107 overnight respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 3,142 were adults and 812 were children.
 - Respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre (3,468) was the most commonly accessed type of overnight respite, followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (212), and overnight respite through home sharing arrangements (228).
 - A total of 108,895 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 17 nights (17 nights for adults, 19 nights for children) during 2023.
 - Overall, 26 people received 260 or more nights of overnight respite during 2023.
 - Of those, 13 received 365 nights of overnight respite.
 - Figure 4 shows the overnight respite provision in each of the CHO areas as reported by service providers.
 - The majority of people were receiving respite in the CHO in which they reside. Over one-quarter of people living in CHO 6 who received respite did not receive it in CHO 6 and had to travel outside their CHO for overnight respite (27%).
 - Over one-quarter (27%; 1,125) of overnight respite places accessed in 2023 require an enhancement.

Figure 4 Respite nights accessed by CHO area of service, NASS 2023



The number of overnight respite nights are shown as ‘median’. The median is the value at the mid-point in a sequence of numerical values ranged in ascending or descending order. It is defined as the value above or below which half of the values lie. Unlike the mean (average), the median is not influenced by extreme values (or outliers).

4.1.5 Support services

Multidisciplinary and specialised support services which aim to develop or restore a person's capabilities are outlined in this section. Due to the differences in the availability of information for children and adults in relation to these service types, the service use of the two groups is described separately below.

Children

- Children with neurological, physical, or sensory disabilities may receive specialised support services from dedicated organisations which engage with their service users independently of the CDNTs. Service providers reported 618 children accessed the services of a case manager. The most commonly received specialised support services were vision rehabilitation (607), occupational therapy (488), and physiotherapy (473).

Adults

- Over one-half (53%; 16,705) of adults received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2023.
- A total of 10,000 (53%) adults with an ID received one or more support services. The most commonly accessed support services were social work (4,097), nursing (3,804), and speech and language therapy (3,584) (Figure 5). Of the 4,097 people accessing social work, 43% (1,752) require an enhancement to that service. Additionally, of the 3,804 people accessing nursing, 40% (1,531) require an enhancement.
- Sixty-two percent (6,221) of adults with a physical or sensory disability received one or more support services. Service providers reported that 2,196 adults accessed the services of a key worker. The most commonly accessed support services were vision rehabilitation (1,426), physiotherapy (1,315), and assistive technology/client technical service (1,063) (Figure 6). Of the 1,426 people receiving vision rehabilitation services, 10% (136) require an enhancement to their service.

Figure 5 Most commonly received support services for adults on NASS with a primary disability of ID (places currently being accessed and enhancements required to current places), 2023

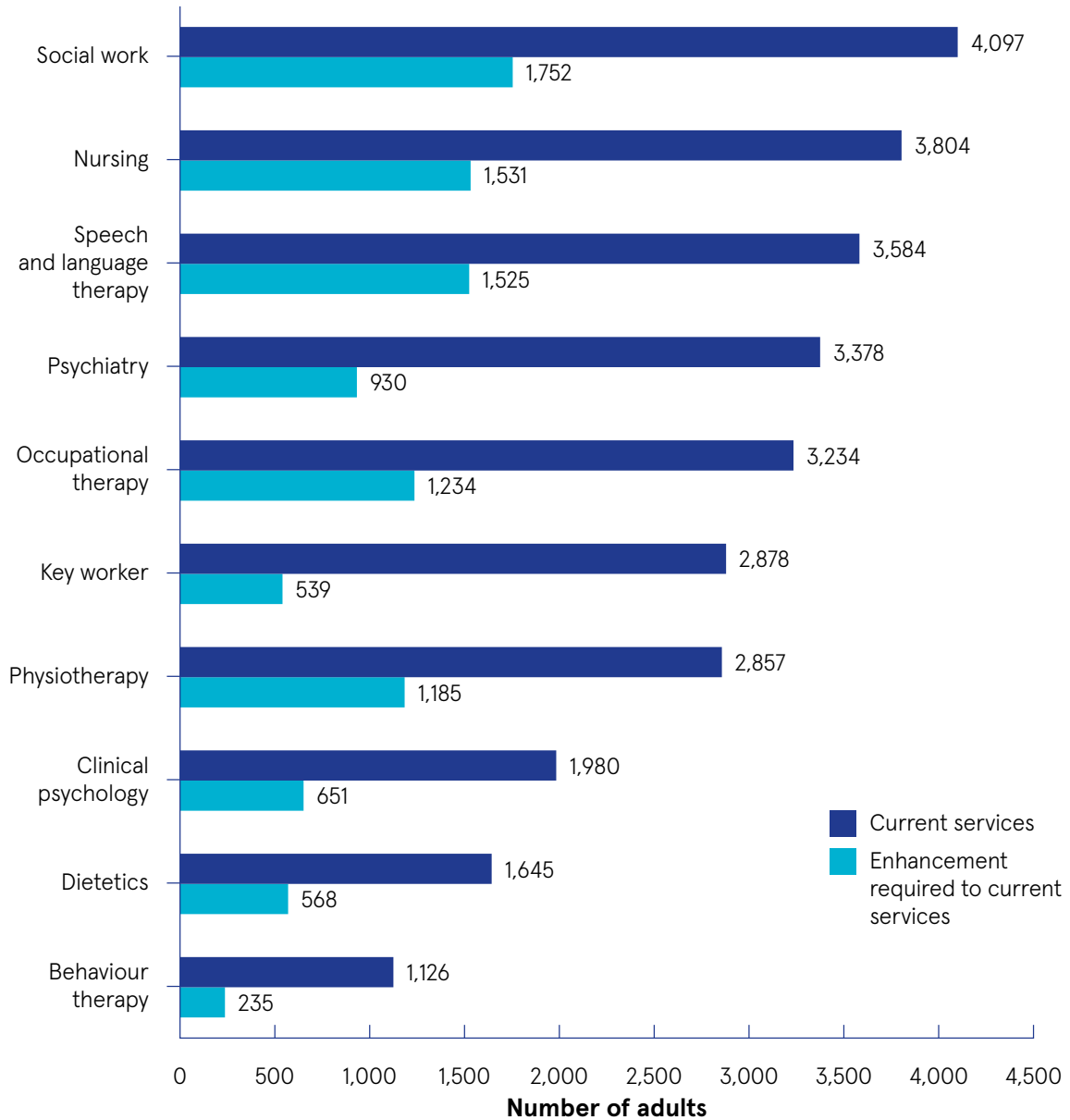
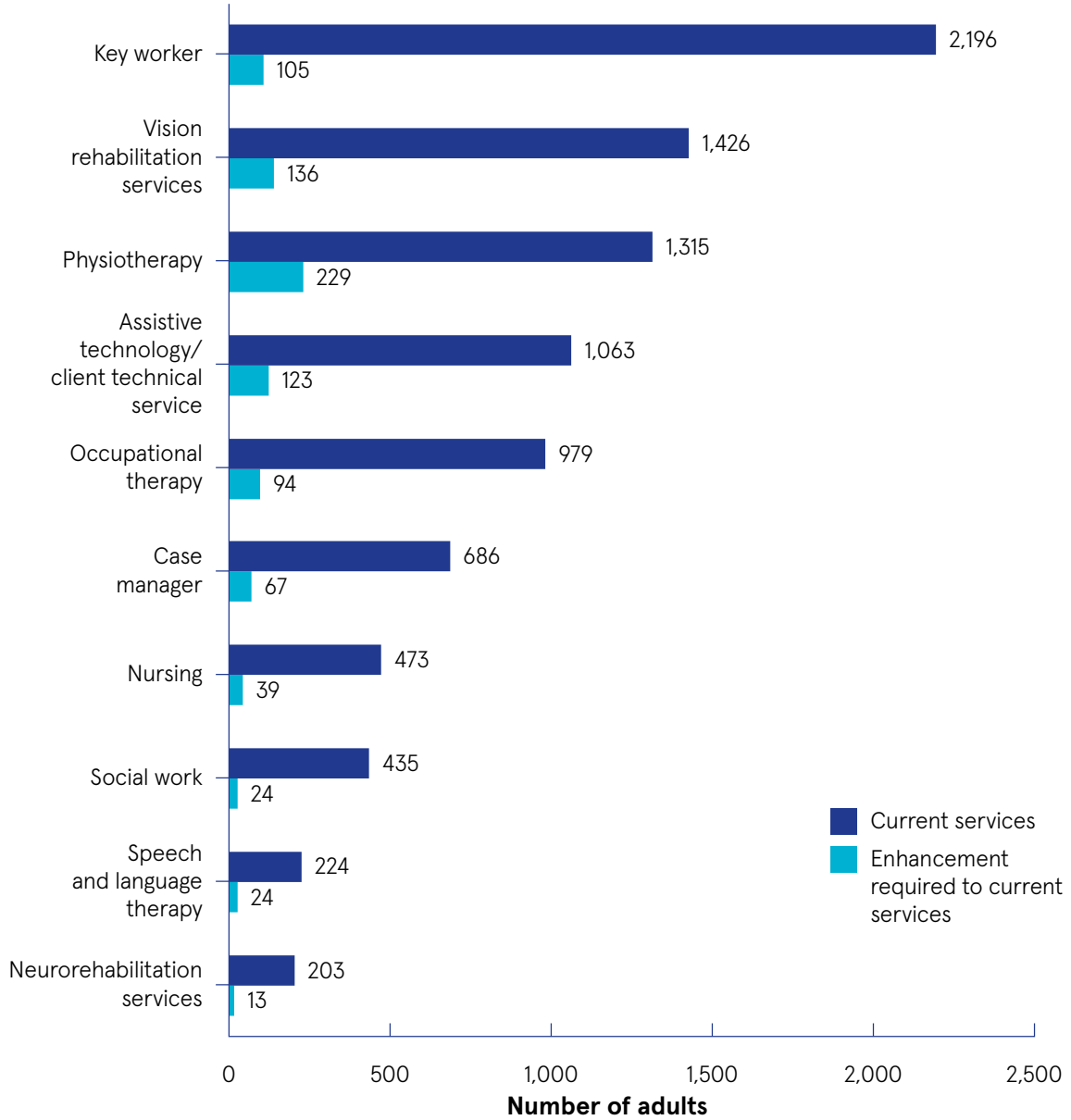


Figure 6 Most commonly received support services for adults on NASS with a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability (places currently being accessed and enhancements required to current places), 2023



Physical or sensory includes DeafBlind (dual sensory), hearing loss and/or deafness, neurological, physical, speech and/or language and visual.

4.2 New services required for 2023–2028

As outlined in Section 1, NASS collects information on the HSE funded disability services that people with disabilities currently use and/or will require in the next five years. New services required are the number of new places that service providers have identified as being required by people who are not yet in receipt of a particular type of service but who need it now or will need it within the next five years.

Services are identified as required by a service provider. As stated in Section 1.2, data on children’s services are incomplete for some service provision due to the nature of data collection for this cohort in 2023. Therefore, support services are presented for adults only.

Adults and children



1,952

residential
places
required



495

home
support places
required



199

personal
assistant
services
required



1,212

people
require
overnight
respite



3,119

people
require a
day service
in 2024*

* information provided by the HSE National Day Service Database

Adults only

Main support services required:



3,110

adults require
support services



Physiotherapy



Occupational
Therapy



Speech and
Language Therapy

4.2.1 Residential and assisted living requirements

The following outlines 2023 data for residential and assisted living requirements:

- A total of 1,952 people were identified by service providers as requiring a residential service.
 - Of these, 1,932 were adults and 20 were children.
 - Nearly three-fifths (59%; 1,169) of those in need of residential services were aged 35 years or over.
 - Ninety-two percent (1,790) of residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - Nearly three-quarter of residential services required are of immediate need i.e. required in 2023 (74%; 1,434).
 - Ninety percent (1,762) of people in need of residential services have an ID, 74% (1,297) of whom have a moderate, severe, or profound ID.
 - Four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (80%; 1,554) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, one-half (50%; 771) are aged 60 years or over.

- Service providers identified 663 people as requiring 694 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 624 were adults and 39 were children.
 - Sixty-five percent (433) were aged 35 years or over, three-in-ten people (29%; 191) were aged 18–34 years, and 6% (39) were aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 694 assisted living services required:
 - 495 were identified as home support, and
 - 199 were identified as PA services.
 - Nearly three-in-five (58%; 384) have an ID and 32% (210) have a physical or sensory disability.
 - Of those with an ID, 290 of the assisted living services required are for home support, and 94 are for a PA.
 - Of those with a physical or sensory disability, 122 of the assisted living services required are for home support, and 95 are for a PA.

4.2.2 Day service requirements

Information on day services required in 2024 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

- Overall, 3,119 people require a HSE funded day service in 2024. Of these:
 - 2,118 were identified as requiring an Adult Day Service, and
 - 1,001 were identified as requiring Rehabilitative Training.

Table 6 shows the breakdown of adult disability day service requirements by CHO.

Table 6 Day Services required in 2024 by CHO, HSE National Day Service Database

CHO	Day Service	Rehabilitative Training	Total number of people
CHO 1	182	100	282
CHO 2	195	101	296
CHO 3	180	76	256
CHO 4	478	188	666
CHO 5	261	102	363
CHO 6	146	70	216
CHO 7	206	120	326
CHO 8	223	96	319
CHO 9	247	148	395
Total	2,118	1,001	3,119

4.2.3 Day respite requirements

In 2023, service providers reported the following day respite services were required:

- Overall, 195 people require a day respite service.
 - Of these, 149 were adults and 46 were children.
 - Centre-based respite (including clubs and camps) is the most commonly required day respite service (137 places).

4.2.4 Overnight respite requirements

In 2023, service providers reported the following overnight respite services were required:

- Overall, 1,212 people require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 1,119 were adults and 93 were children.
 - Overnight respite in a house in the community or dedicated respite centre is the most commonly required (822), followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (210), and holiday respite in a hotel or bed and breakfast (158).
 - Nearly three-quarters (74%; 894) of those who require overnight respite services have an ID, 15% (176) have a physical or sensory disability, and 11% (136) are Autistic.

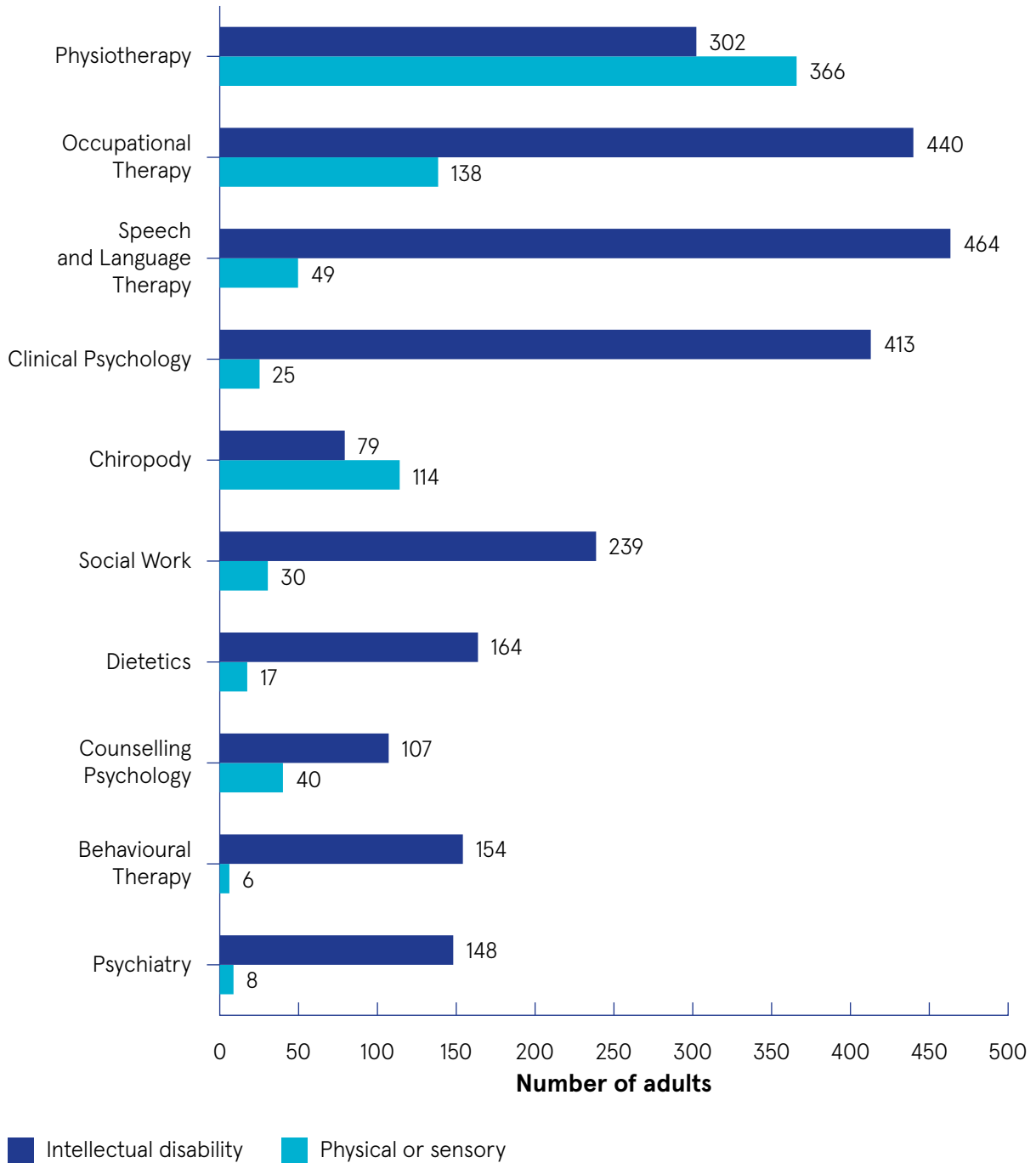
4.2.5 Support service requirements (identified for adults only)

In 2023, service providers reported the following support services were required for adults only:

- Overall, one-tenth (10%; 3,110) of adults require a support service.
 - The support services most commonly required are physiotherapy (683), occupational therapy (625), and speech and language therapy (567).

See Figure 7 for the breakdown of support services required for those with a primary disability of ID and for those with a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability.

Figure 7 Most commonly required support services for adults on NASS with a primary disability of ID or physical or sensory disability, 2023



Physical or sensory includes DeafBlind (dual sensory), hearing loss and/or deafness, neurological, physical, speech and/or language and visual.

5 Publications and analysis

This bulletin provides a national overview of data from NASS. Additional supplementary bulletins presenting information by disability type (ID, and physical or sensory) and by CHO area are also available on the HRB website at <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.



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