

HRB Supplementary Bulletin
National Ability Supports System (NASS)

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

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- Service providers
- The representative bodies for the providers of services to people with disabilities, specifically the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, the Disability Federation of Ireland, and the Not-for-Profit Association, and
- The parents and families of people with a disability and their representative bodies, as well as all service users throughout Ireland.

Overview

This bulletin presents an overview of the information recorded for people with an intellectual disability (ID) reported as either a primary or additional disability on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) for 2023. The data on which the bulletin is based is validated data extracted from the NASS at the end of December 2023. NASS is a national database that records information about Health Service Executive (HSE) funded disability services¹ that are received or identified as required by a service provider as a result of an intellectual disability; developmental delay; physical, sensory, neurological,² 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. 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, of these approximately 7,000 children had an intellectual disability. 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.

¹ '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-rabbinne-announces-disability-services-budget-for-2023/>

² 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.

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.

Overall, 21,465 people with an ID are included in this bulletin, as their records on NASS were confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 19,850 were adults and 1,615 were children.

Number of children with an intellectual disability 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 1,615 children with an intellectual disability who were on NASS as receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services in 2023.

Adults with an intellectual disability engaging with disability services

There were 19,850 adults with an intellectual disability on NASS as accessing or requiring a disability service in 2023.

- A total of 18,874 people engaging with adult disability services had ID reported as their primary disability.
- The remaining 976 had ID reported as an additional disability. Amongst those, the most common primary disability reported was autism (584; 60%).
- Over one-half were male (57%; 11,224).
- A quarter of adults were aged 55 years and over, and two-fifths were aged between 18 and 34 years:
 - 18–34 years: 7,895 (40%)
 - 35–54 years: 7,003 (35%), and
 - 55 years and over: 4,952 (25%).
- Among adults with an ID who did not live in a residential setting (12,532), over four-fifths (10,167; 81%) reported having a primary carer.
 - The majority of these adults live with their primary carer (84%; 3,084).
 - Age was recorded for over four-fifths (81%; 8213) of primary carers; of whom 43% (3,535) were aged 60 years and over.
 - Of these, 957 (24%) primary carers were aged between 60-69 years, 1,156 (14%) were aged between 70-79 years and 422 (5%) 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 with an ID registered with NASS. Information on multidisciplinary services for children is incomplete; therefore, data on support services are only presented for adults. Records underwent review by the service providers, throughout the reported year.

Current service provision for people with an intellectual disability

The following outlines 2023 data for current service provision.

- Overall, 7,337 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 7,258 were adults and 79 were children.
 - Most were living in a residential house in the community with four or fewer residents (3,147; 43%), followed by a community group home with between five and nine residents (2,745; 37%) and a residential centre with ten or more residents (1215, 17%).
 - 7,108 had a primary disability of ID.
- A total of 2,688 people with an ID were in receipt of 2,722 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 2,139 were adults and 549 were children.
 - Nearly one-fifth (501; 18%) were aged 55 years and over.
 - Seven-in-ten (1,937; 72%) were living with family, and nearly one-fifth (463; 17%) were living alone.

Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, or personal assistant (PA).

- Of the 2,722 assisted living services:
 - 2,423 were home support, and
 - 299 were PA services.
- Overall, 15,938 (80%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - Day programme: 14,787 adults (75%), and
 - Rehabilitative training: 1,337 adults (7%).

- In total, 917 people accessed 937 day respite places.
 - Of these, 599 were adults and 318 were children.
 - Of the day respite services provided in 2023, 699 were centre-based respite places, 223 were home sharing places.
- Overnight respite was provided to 3,371 people.
 - Of these, 2,783 were adults and 588 were children.
 - A total of 97,579 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 18 nights during 2023.
- At least one support service was provided to 10,373 adults. The most commonly accessed support services were social work (4,181), nursing (3,927), and speech and language therapy (3,656).
 - 10,000 (96%) of these adults reported ID as their primary disability.

New services required by people with an intellectual disability for 2023-2028

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

- Overall, 1,859 people require a residential service.
 - Of these, 1,840 were adults and 19 were children.
 - 1,724 new places are required in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - Nearly three-quarters of residential services required are of immediate need i.e. required in 2023 (73%; 1,363).
 - Four-in-five of those requiring a residential service (81%; 1,510) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, nearly one-half (48%; 738) are aged 60 years or over.
- Service provider identified 419 people as requiring 433 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 396 were adults, 23 were children
 - Three-in-five (251) are aged 35 years or over, over three-in-ten people (35%; 145) are aged 18–34 years, and 5% (23) are aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 433 assisted living services required:
 - 339 were identified as requiring home support
 - 104 were identified as requiring PA services
- 161 people required a day respite service.
 - Of these, 127 were adults and 34 were children.
- 1,000 people require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 926 were adults and 74 were children.

New support 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:

- A total of 2,071 adults required at least one support service.
 - Overall, 3,056 support services were identified as required. Speech and language therapy is the most commonly required support (501), followed by occupational therapy (471).

1 Background

This bulletin presents an overview of the information recorded for people with an intellectual disability on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) in 2023. This is a supplementary bulletin to be read in conjunction with 'Overview of people engaging with disability services, 2023' (<https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/publications/>).

This bulletin is based on validated data extracted from 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, 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 and 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.

Overall, 21,465 people with an ID are included in this bulletin, as their records on NASS were confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 19,850 were adults and 1,615 were children.

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 or needing the most HSE funded disability services.

Within the Services section, 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 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 on NASS in 2023, of these over 7,000 children had an intellectual disability. 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 National Day Service Database (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 with an intellectual disability (ID) on NASS in 2023

There were **1,615** children with an ID 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.

Of these 1,615 children, 85% (1,375) had ID recorded as their primary disability. The remaining 15% (240), had ID recorded as an additional disability.

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 with an intellectual disability (ID) 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 area of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	254	15.7
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	124	7.7
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	30	1.9
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	70	4.3
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	129	8.0
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	98	6.1
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	306	18.9
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	293	18.1
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	311	19.3
Total	1,615	100

* As outlined in Section 1.2 - children supported through a CDNT only are not included.

3 Adults with an intellectual disability (ID) engaging with disability services

3.1 Number of adults with an intellectual disability on NASS in 2023

There were 19,850 adults with an intellectual disability (ID) recorded as accessing or requiring a HSE funded disability service in 2023.

Of the 19,850 adults, 95% (18,874) had ID recorded as their primary disability and the remaining 5% (976) had ID recorded as an additional disability.

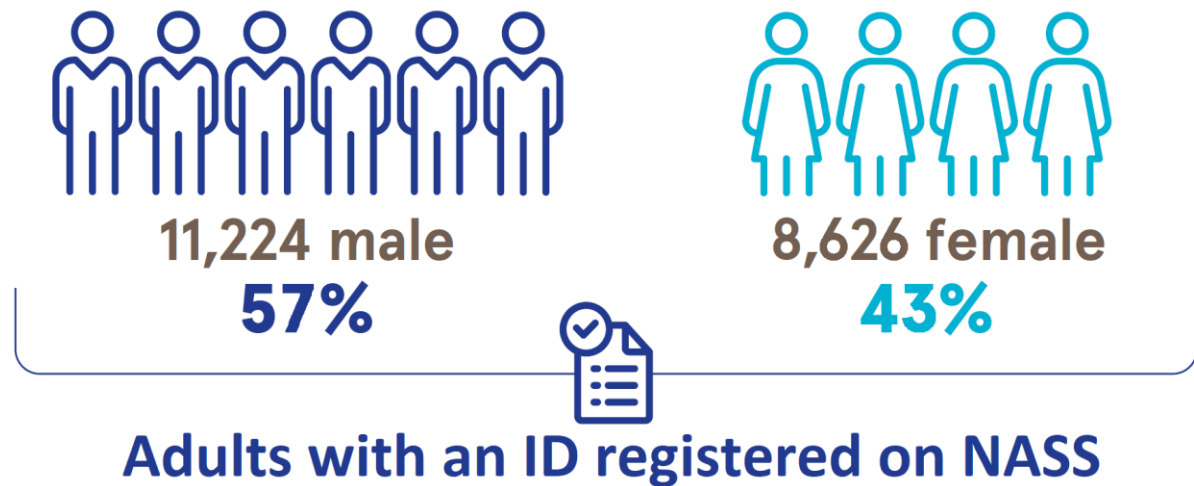
The breakdown of registrations by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area of service is listed in Table 1. CHO 4 had the highest number of registrations (3,107; 16%) followed by CHO 7 (2,702; 14%).

Table 2 Number of adults with an intellectual disability (ID) on NASS by CHO of service, 2023

	NASS 2023 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO area of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	1,579	8.0
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	2,142	10.8
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	1,711	8.6
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	3,107	15.7
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	2,396	12.1
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	1,248	6.3
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	2,702	13.6
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	2,554	12.9
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	2,411	12.1
Total	19,850	100.0

3.2 Demographic profile

More male (11,224; 57%) than female (8,626; 43%) adults with an intellectual disability (ID) were recorded on NASS as attending a disability service in 2023.



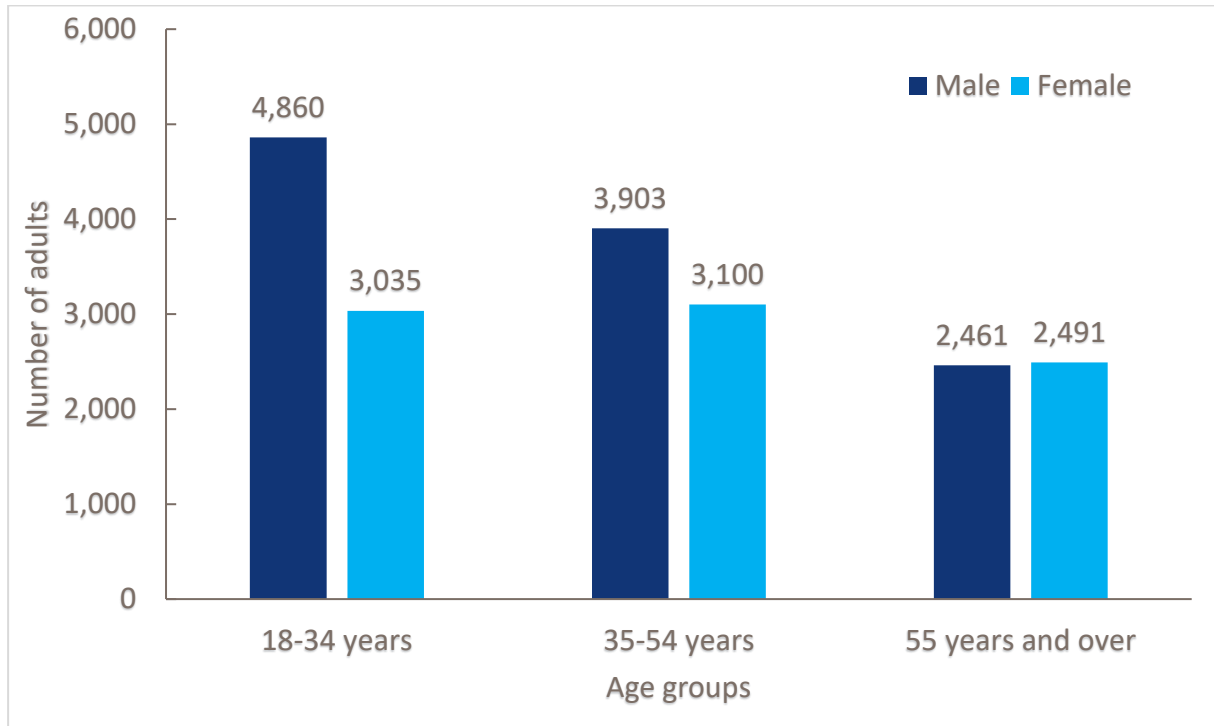
Over one-in-three (35%; 7,010) adults with an ID registered on NASS were aged between 40 and 59 years. Over one tenth of adults (11%; 2,209) were aged between 60 and 69 years (Table 3).

Table 3 Age breakdown of adults with an intellectual disability (ID) registered on NASS, 2023

Age group	n	%
18-24 years	3,741	18.8
25-39 years	5,827	29.4
40-59 years	7,010	35.3
60-69 years	2,209	11.1
≥ 70 years	1,063	5.4
Total	19,850	100.0

A larger proportion of people with an ID were male in each age group under 55 years; however, slightly more females were present in the 55 years and over age group. Figure 1 below shows the sex breakdown for each age group.

Figure 1 Number of adults with an intellectual disability (ID) registered in disability services on NASS by age group and sex, 2023



3.3 Additional sociodemographic data for adults

This section provides information on employment status, living arrangements and primary carers:

- Where information was known (19,084; 96%), over half of adults with ID were in a training/day programme (53%; 10,209), while a quarter (25%; 4,854) were unable to work due to disability. One-in-ten (10%; 1,865) were in paid employment. A further six percent (1,061) reported being unemployed while the remaining six percent were retired (498), students/pupils (460), and others (137).
- Where information was known (19,570; 99%), over half of adults with ID (56%; 10,977) were living with family members, more than a third were living in a residential setting (37%; 7,309), 997 (5%) were living alone, and 287 (2%) lived with non-relatives.
- Among adults with an ID who did not live in a residential setting (12,532), over four-fifths (10,167; 81%) reported having a primary carer. Nearly all of whom (94%; 9,573) live with their primary carer.
 - Over four-fifths (85%; 8,678) of primary carers were parents, and 11% (1,153) were siblings. Other relatives made up a further 187 (2%) of primary carers while one percent (149) were non-relatives.
 - Age was recorded for over four-fifths (81%; 8213) of primary carers; of whom, 57% (4,678) were aged between 18 and 59 years and 43% (3,535) were aged 60 years and over.
 - Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 1,957 (55%) were aged between 60-69 years, 1,156 (33%) were aged between 70-79 years and 422 (12%) were aged 80 years and over.

3.4 Reported disabilities

Of the 19,850 adults with an intellectual disability, 12,552 (63%) had a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability. Of the total, profound ID was recorded for 674 (3%) people, severe ID for 2,790 (14%) people and a moderate ID for 9,088 (46%) people. Mild ID was recorded for 6,570 (33%) people and a borderline ID was recorded for 332 (2%).

3.5 Additional disabilities

Of the 18,874 adults with ID as a primary disability, 44% (8,232) had at least one additional disability. Table 4 shows the most common additional disability was a physical disability, present in 17% (3,278) of people with ID as their primary disability.

Table 4 Additional disabilities among adults with an intellectual disability (ID) as a primary disability, NASS 2023

Additional disabilities	Adults	
	n	%
Total population	18,874	100.0
Physical	3,278	17.4
Speech and/or language	2,698	14.3
Autism	1,774	9.4
Visual	1,225	6.5
Hearing loss and/or deafness	918	4.9
Mental health	998	5.3
Neurological	678	3.6
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	110	0.6
DeafBlind-dual sensory	33	0.2

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

3.6 People with ID as an additional disability

Of the 976 adults with an ID as an additional disability the most common primary disability reported was autism (584; 60%, Table 5).

Table 5 Primary disabilities among adults with an intellectual disability (ID) as an additional disability, NASS 2023

Primary disability	Adults	
	n	%
Total population	976	100
Autism	584	59.8
Physical	159	16.3
Neurological	88	9.0
Visual	45	4.6
Mental health	59	6.0
Hearing loss and/or deafness	22	2.3
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	7	0.7
Speech and/or language	~	~
DeafBlind-dual sensory	10	1.0
Not verified*	~	~

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

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

4 Services

This section reports on the HSE funded disability services people with an intellectual disability receive or require (either currently or within the next five years⁴), 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 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 day respite and day respite in their own home over the calendar year.

⁴ 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

The following outlines 2023 data for current service provision for the 21,465 people with an ID who are included in this bulletin.

Adults and children



7,337

lived in
a residential
setting



2,423

received
home
support



299

accessed
a personal
assistant



917

accessed
day respite



3,371

availed of
overnight respite
97,579 nights

Adults only



15,938

adults accessed
day services



10,373

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 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 7,337 (34%) people with an ID were recorded as living in a residential setting. ID was identified as the primary disability for 7,108 people.
 - Of the total, 7,258 were adults and 79 were children.
 - A house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most common residential setting (3,147; 43%), followed by a community group home with between five and nine residents (2,745; 37%) and a residential centre with ten or more residents (1215, 17%).
 - Just over one-fifth (21%; 1,562) of those currently living in a residential setting require an enhancement; of which, 566 relate to places in community group homes with five to nine residents, and 544 to places in houses in the community with four or fewer residents.

- A total of 2,688 people accessed 2,722 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, or PA.
 - Of these, 2,139 were adults and 549 were children.
 - Of the 2,722 assisted living services:
 - 2,423 were home support and
 - 299 were PA services.
 - The primary disability recorded was ID for 2,438 people.
 - Over one-tenth (15%; 402) of those currently accessing an assisted living service require an enhancement to their service.
 - Nearly one-in-five (501; 18%) of those with an ID who received an assisted living service were aged 55 and over.
 - Seven-in-ten (72%; 1,937) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and nearly one fifth (17%; 463) 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:

- In total, 15,938 adults with an ID accessed either a day programme, or rehabilitative training. Of these, 15,200 adults had a primary intellectual disability.
 - A day programme was most commonly accessed (14,787; 93%) type of day service. An enhancement is required to 2,963 (20%) day programme places.

- Rehabilitative training was received by 1,337 adults, with an enhancement required to 230 (17%) of those places.

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:

- A total of 917 people accessed 937 day respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 599 were adults were 318 were children.
 - Of the day respite services provided, 699 were centre-based respite places, 223 were home sharing places.
 - One-in-five (20%; 185) day respite services were reported as requiring an enhancement.

4.1.4 Overnight Respite

Overnight respite care may involve providing alternative family or residential care for a person with a disability 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, 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 3,371 people who availed of 3,500 overnight respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 2,783 were adults were 588 were children.
 - Respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre (3,016) was the most commonly accessed type of overnight respite, followed by overnight respite through home sharing arrangements (207) and holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (150).
 - A total of 97,579 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 18 nights during 2023.

- Overall, 26 people received 260 or more nights of overnight respite during 2023.
 - Of those, 13 received 365 nights of overnight respite.
- Nearly one third (29%; 1,005) of overnight respite services required an enhancement.

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 adults only is described below.

- A total of 10,373 adults received at least one support service. Overall, 33,360 support services were accessed.
 - The most commonly provided supports were social work (4,181), nursing (3,927), and speech and language therapy (3,656).
 - Over two-in-five adults required an enhancement to at least one of their support services (43%; 4,429).

4.2 Services required 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 currently need it 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 only presented for adults with a primary physical or sensory disability.

Adults and children



1,859

residential
places
required



339

home
support places
required



104

personal
assistant
services
required



1,000

people
require
overnight
respite

4.2.1 Residential and assisted living requirements

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

- A total of 1,859 people with an ID were identified by service providers as requiring a residential service. Of these, 1,762 have a primary disability of ID.
 - Of the total, 1,840 were adults and 19 were children, and of these nearly three quarters (73%; 1353) have a moderate, severe, or profound ID.
 - Nearly three-fifths (59%; 1,106) of those in need of residential services are aged 35 years and over.

- 1,724 new places are required in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
- Nearly three-quarters of residential services required are of immediate need i.e. required in 2023 (73%; 1,363).
- Four-in-five of those requiring a residential service (81%; 1,510) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, nearly one-half (48%; 738) are aged 60 years and over.
- An assisted living service is required by 419 people with an ID, of those 384 have a primary disability of ID.
 - Of these, 396 were adults and 23 were children.
 - Three-in-five (251) are aged 35 years or over, over three-in-ten people (35%; 145) are aged 18–34 years, and 5% (23) are aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 443 assisted living services required:
 - 339 were identified as home support, and
 - 104 were identified as PA services.

4.2.2 Day respite requirements

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

- A total of 161 people require a day respite service.
 - Of these, 127 were adults and 34 were children.
 - Centre-based respite (including clubs and camps) is the most commonly required day respite service (115 places).

4.2.3 Overnight respite

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

- A total of 1,000 people require overnight respite, 894 have a primary ID.
 - Of these, 926 were adults and 74 were children.
 - Overnight respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre is the most commonly required (723), followed by holiday respite in a hotel, B&B or hostel (154), and holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (113).

4.2.4 Support service requirements (identified for adults only)

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

- A total of 2,071 adults required at least one support service.
 - Overall, 3,056 supports were identified as required. The support services most commonly required are, speech and language therapy (501), followed by occupational therapy (471) and clinical psychology (426).

5 Publications and analysis

This bulletin provides an overview of data from NASS about people with an ID. This bulletin should be read in conjunction with the main NASS bulletin 'Overview of people engaging with disability services, 2023'. Additional supplementary bulletins presenting information on people with physical or sensory disabilities, and by CHO area are 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.

