

HRB Supplementary Bulletin

National Ability Supports System (NASS)

Overview of people with a physical or sensory disability engaging with disability services, 2023

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- The Health Service Executive (HSE), in particular the NASS personnel and National Disability Operations Team
- 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 a physical or sensory disability reported as a primary disability on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) for 2023. The data on which this bulletin is based is 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,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 engaging 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 3,600 children had a physical or sensory 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 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-rabbinette-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.

Overall, 18,490 people with a physical or sensory disability had their records on NASS confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 11,449 had a physical or sensory disability reported as their primary disability and 7,041 had an additional physical or sensory disability.

The main analysis focuses on those who had physical or sensory disability recorded as their primary disability (11,449), of whom 1,344 are children and 10,105 are adults.

Number of children with a primary physical or sensory 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 1,344 children with a primary physical or sensory disability who were on NASS as receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised support services in 2023.

Adults with a primary physical or sensory disability engaging with disability services

There were 10,105 adults with a primary physical or sensory disability on NASS as accessing or requiring a disability service in 2023.

- Over one-half reported a neurological disability (53%; 5,357), more than one-fifth (22%; 2,228) reported a physical disability, and 16% reported a visual disability (1,612) as their primary disability type.
- Over one-half were female (5,462; 54%).
- Just over one-half were aged 55 years and over:
 - 18–34 years: 1,567 (16%)
 - 35–54 years: 3,405 (34%), and
 - 55 years and over: 5,133 (51%).
- Among adults with a primary physical or sensory disability who did not live in a residential setting (9,491), nearly two-in-five (3,693; 39%) were reported as having a primary carer.
 - The majority of these adults live with their primary carer (84%; 3,084).
 - Age was recorded for more than four-in-five primary carers (85%; 3,145), of whom 37% (1,170) were aged 60 years and over.
 - Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 794 (25%) were aged between 60-69 years, 330 (11%) were aged between 70-79 years and 46 (2%) 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 a primary physical or sensory disability 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 for people with a primary physical or sensory disability

The following outlines 2023 data for current service provision.

- A total of 462 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 98% (454) were adults.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (148; 32%), followed by a residential centre with ten or more residents (104; 23%) and a community group home with between five and nine residents (99; 21%).
- A total of 3,501 people with a primary physical or sensory disability were in receipt of 3,654 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 3,371 were adults and 130 were children.
 - Over one-half (53%; 1,933) were aged 55 years and over.
 - Almost two thirds (64%; 1,968) were living with family, and over one-third (36%; 1,088) were living alone.

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

- Of the 3,654 assisted living services:
 - 2,128 were home support, and
 - 1,526 were PA services.
- Overall, 2,133 (21%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - Day programme: 1,928 adults (90%), and
 - Rehabilitative training: 231 adults (11%).

- In total, 37 people accessed 38 day respite places.
 - Of these, 14 were adults and 23 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2023, 21 were centre-based respite places, and 12 were home sharing places.
- Overnight respite was provided to 378 people.
 - Of these, 351 were adults and 27 were children.
 - A total of 7,269 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 12 nights during 2023.
- Sixty-two percent (6,221) of adults received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2023.
 - 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 by people with a primary physical or sensory disability for 2023-2028

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

- Overall, 82 people were reported as requiring a residential service.
 - Almost all of these (99%; 81) were adults.
 - More than three-in-five (62%; 51) residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - More than seven-in-ten (72%; 59) residential services required represent an immediate need (reported as required in 2023).
 - Four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (80%; 52) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, almost two-thirds (64%; 33) are aged 60 years or over.
- Service providers identified 210 people as requiring 217 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 205 were adults and 5 were children.
 - Eighty-six percent (180) are aged 35 years and over and more than one-in-ten people (12%; 25) are aged 18–34 years.

- Of the 217 assisted living services required:
 - 122 were identified as home support, and
 - 95 were identified as PA services.
- Overall, 176 people require overnight respite, the majority of whom (95%; 168) are adults.

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%; 969) of adults required at least one support service.
 - The support services most commonly required are physiotherapy (366), occupational therapy (138), chiropody (114), assistive technology/client technical service (99) and neuro psychology (96).

1 Background

This bulletin presents an overview of the information recorded for people with a physical or sensory 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, 18,490 people with a physical or sensory disability had their records on NASS confirmed as being up to date by their main service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2023. Of these, 11,449 had a physical or sensory disability reported as their primary disability and 7,041 had an additional physical or sensory disability but did not have a primary physical or sensory disability.

To avoid masking the specialised services used and required by people with a primary physical or sensory disability (11,449) the analysis focuses on this group, of whom 1,344 are children and 10,105 are adults.

A profile of those with an additional physical or sensory disability is also provided.

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 section, NASS captures 77 service options across 6 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 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, of these approximately 3,600 children had a primary physical or sensory 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 day services received in 2023 reported to NASS were compared to the HSE’s National Day Services 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 a physical or sensory disability as a primary disability on NASS in 2023

There were **1,344** children with a primary physical or sensory disability 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 with a primary physical or sensory disability 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	78	5.8
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	78	5.8
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	26	1.9
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	118	8.8
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	160	11.9
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	~	~
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	236	17.6
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	178	13.2
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	467	34.7
Total	1,344	100.0

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

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

3 Adults with a primary physical or sensory disability engaging with disability services

3.1 Number of adults with a primary physical or sensory disability on NASS in 2023

There were **10,105** adults with a primary physical or sensory disability recorded as accessing or requiring a HSE funded disability service in 2023.

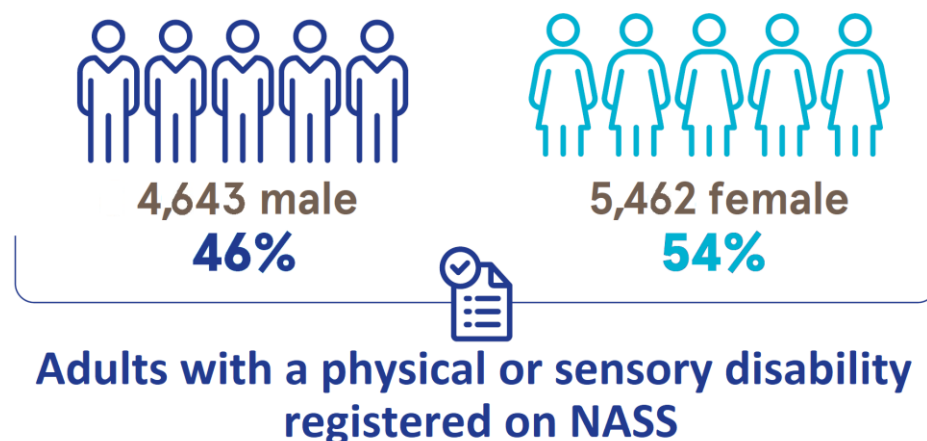
The breakdown of registrations by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area of service is listed in Table 2. The majority of adults availed of their service in CHO area 1 (1,902; 19%) followed by CHO area 4 (1,778; 18%).

Table 2 Number of adults with a primary physical or sensory disability on NASS by CHO area of service, 2023

	NASS 2023 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO area of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	1,902	18.8
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	890	8.8
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	977	9.7
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	1,778	17.6
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	788	7.8
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	497	4.9
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	636	6.3
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	1,069	10.6
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	1,568	15.5
Total	10,105	100.0

3.2 Demographic profile

More female (5,462; 54%;) than male (4,643; 46%) adults with a primary physical or sensory disability were recorded on NASS as attending a disability service in 2023.



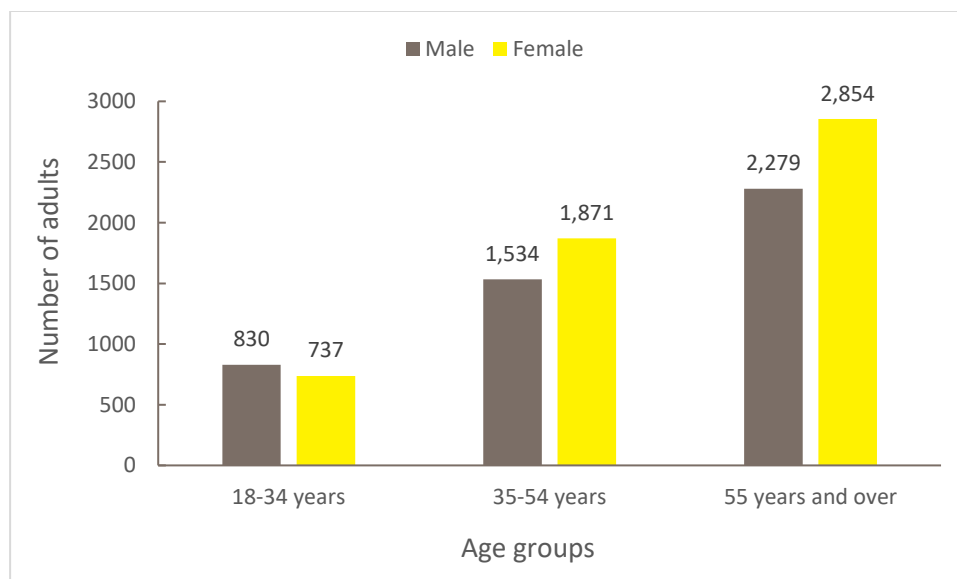
Just over two-in-five (41%; 4,124) adults were aged between 40 and 59 years, and one in four 25% (2,504) were aged between 60 and 69 years (Table 2).

Table 2 Age breakdown of adults with a primary physical or sensory disability registered on NASS, 2023

Age Group	n	%
18-24 years	747	7.4
25-39 years	1,416	14.0
40-59 years	4,124	40.8
60-69 years	2,504	24.8
≥70 years	1,314	13.0
Total	10,105	100.0

More adults with a primary physical or sensory disability were male in the younger age group (18-34 years), and the opposite was true for the older age groups (35-54 years and 55 years and over) in which more adults were female. Figure 1 below shows the sex breakdown in each age group.

Figure 1 Number of adults with a primary physical or sensory disability 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 (8,672; 86% of adults), 37% (3,177) reported being unable to work due to disability. A further 16% (1,385) reported being unemployed; 15% (1,303) reported being retired; and 14% (1,222) reported being in paid employment. A further nine percent (808) were in a training/day programme while the remaining nine percent were students/pupils (395), engaged in home duties (302) and others (80).
- Where information was known (9,168; 91% of adults), most adults were living with family members (68%; 6,196). Almost one quarter of adults were living alone (24%; 2,206), 7% (614) were living in a residential setting, while 2% (152) were living with non-relatives.
- Of the adults who do not live in a residential setting (9,491), nearly two-in-five (3,693; 39%) reported having a primary carer. Most of these adults report living with their primary carer (3,084; 84%).
 - Two-in-five primary carers were a wife/husband or partner (41%; 1,502) or a parent (37%; 1,361), and 8% (306) were siblings. Other relatives made up a further 293 (8%) of primary carers while six percent (231) were non-relatives.
 - Age was recorded for 85% (3,145) of primary carers; of whom, 30% (932) were aged less than 50 years, 33% (1,043) were aged between 50 and 59 years, and 37% (1,170) were aged 60 years and older.

- Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 794 (68%) were aged between 60-69 years, 330 (28%) were aged between 70-79 years and 46 (4%) were aged 80 years and over.

3.4 Reported primary disabilities

The most frequently reported primary disability type was a neurological disability (5,357; 53%), followed by physical (2,228; 22%), and visual (1,612; 16%) disability (Table 4).

Table 4 Primary physical and sensory disabilities, by sex, of adults registered on NASS, 2023

Primary disability	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Neurological	2,397	44.7	2,960	55.3	5,357	53.0
Physical	1,032	46.3	1,196	53.7	2,228	22.0
Visual	803	49.8	809	50.2	1,612	16.0
Hearing loss and/or deafness	376	44.8	463	55.2	839	8.3
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	25	46.3	29	53.7	54	0.5
Speech and/or language	10	66.7	5	33.3	15	0.1
Total	4,643	45.9	5,462	54.1	10,105	100.0

3.5 Additional disabilities

Almost one-in-three of those recorded on NASS with a primary physical or sensory disability had an additional disability recorded (3,182; 32%). The most commonly recorded additional disability type was physical disability (1,600; 16%), followed by intellectual disability (325; 3%), and visual disability (293; 3%).

The breakdown of additional disability types by primary disability is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Additional disabilities among adults with a primary physical or sensory disability on NASS by primary disability, 2023

Additional disability	Primary disability categories													
	Neurological		Physical		Visual		Hearing loss and/or deafness		Speech and/or language		DeafBlind (dual sensory)		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total population	5,357	100	2,228	100	1,612	100	839	100	15	100	54	100	10,105	100
Physical	1,478	27.6	0	0.0	78	4.8	37	4.4	~	~	6	11.1	1,600	15.8
Intellectual	88	1.6	159	7.1	45	2.8	22	2.6	~	~	10	18.5	325	3.2
Visual	200	3.7	79	3.5	0	0.0	12	1.4	~	~	~	~	293	2.9
Speech and/or language	160	3.0	55	2.5	5	0.3	37	4.4	0	0.0	5	9.3	262	2.6
Mental Health	139	2.6	62	2.8	23	1.4	8	1.0	0	0.0	6	11.1	238	2.4
Neurological	0	0.0	185	8.3	37	2.3	7	0.8	0	0.0	~	~	231	2.3
Hearing loss and/or deafness	61	1.1	33	1.5	22	1.4	0	0.0	~	~	~	~	121	1.2
Autism	15	0.3	10	0.4	19	1.2	7	0.8	~	~	~	~	54	0.5
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	20	0.4	13	0.6	~	~	7	0.8	~	~	~	~	48	0.5
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	~	~	~	~	0	0.0	~	~	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.1

~ In order to protect against the risk of indirect identification of individuals, values less than 5 have been suppressed.
 Note more than one additional disability may be recorded for a person and as a result, total percentages add up to more than 100.

3.6 People with a physical or sensory disability as an additional disability

In addition to the 11,449 people who had a physical or sensory disability reported as their primary disability type on NASS, there were 7,041 people with an additional physical or sensory disability who did not have a primary physical or sensory disability.

Of these, the majority have a primary disability type of intellectual disability (ID) (6,726; 96%). The remainder are autistic (240; 3%) or have a primary disability type covered in the 'other' category on NASS (75; 1%) which includes mental health, developmental delay (under 10 years only), specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual), and not verified.

Details of those with ID reported as either a primary or additional disability on NASS in 2023 are provided in the supplementary bulletin 'Overview of people with an intellectual disability engaging with disability services, 2023' which can be accessed on the HRB website: <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/publications/>.

4 Services

This section reports on the HSE funded disability services people with a primary physical or sensory disability receive or require (either currently or within in the next 5 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 overnight respite and holiday overnight respite 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 include 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 11,449 people with a primary physical or sensory disability.

Adults and children



462

lived in
a residential
setting



2,128

received
home
support



1,526

accessed
a personal
assistant



378

availed of
overnight respite
7,269 nights



37

accessed
day respite

Adults only



2,133

adults accessed
day services



6,221

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 462 people with a primary physical or sensory disability were recorded as living in a residential setting.

- Of these, 98% (454) were adults.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (148; 32%), followed by a residential centre with ten or more residents (104; 23%) and a community group home for between five and nine residents (99; 21%).
 - One-tenth (10%; 44) of those currently living in a residential setting require an enhancement to their service with 13 of these enhancements required for a house in the community with four or fewer residents, and 11 for a community group home with five to nine residents.
 - Of those living in a residential setting, 15% (68) had an additional disability type of intellectual disability recorded.
- A total of 3,501 people were in receipt of 3,654 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, or PA.
 - Of these, 3,371 were adults and 130 were children.
 - Of the 3,654 assisted living services:
 - 2,128 were home support, and
 - 1,526 were PA services.
 - More than one-tenth (13%; 445) of those currently accessing an assisted living service require an enhancement to their service.
 - More than one-half (53%; 1,933) of those who received assisted living services were aged 55 years or over.
 - Almost two-thirds (64%; 1,968) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and over one-third (36%; 1,088) 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 2,133 (21%) adults with a primary physical or sensory disability accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - A day programme was the most commonly accessed (1,928; 90%) type of day service. An enhancement is required for 472 (22%) day programme places.

- Rehabilitative training was received by 231 adults.

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 37 people with a primary physical or sensory disability accessed 38 day respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 14 were adults and 23 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2023, 21 were centre-based respite places, and 12 were home sharing places.

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 378 people who availed of 399 overnight respite places in 2023.
 - Of these, 351 were adults and 27 were children.
 - Respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre (264) was the most commonly accessed type of overnight respite, followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (65) and holiday respite in a hotel or bed and breakfast (51 places).
 - A total of 7,269 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 12 nights during 2023.
 - Over one-quarter (26%; 103) of overnight respite places accessed in 2023 require 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 the two groups is described separately below.

Children

Children with primary 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 384 children with a primary physical or sensory disability accessed a case manager.
- The most commonly received support services were vision rehabilitation (561), physiotherapy (314) and occupational therapy (259).

Adults

- More than three-in-five (62%; 6,221) adults with a primary physical or sensory disability received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2023.
- Service providers reported that 2,196 adults accessed the services of a key worker.
- The most commonly accessed specialist support services were vision rehabilitation (1,426), physiotherapy (1,315), and assistive technology/client technical service (1,063).
- Seventeen per cent (229) of adults receiving physiotherapy required an enhancement to their service while one-in-ten (10%; 136) adults receiving vision rehabilitation services and more than one-in-ten (12%; 123) adults accessing assistive technology/client technical service required an enhancement to their service.

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 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 only presented for adults with a primary physical or sensory disability.

Adults and children



82

residential
places
required



122

home
support places
required



95

personal
assistant
services
required



176

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 82 people with a primary physical or sensory disability were identified by service providers as requiring a residential service.
 - Almost all of these (99%; 81) were adults.
 - Nearly three-quarters (74%; 61) of those in need of residential services are aged 35 years or over.
 - More than three-in-five (62%; 51) residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - More than seven-in-ten (72%; 59) residential services required represent an immediate need (reported as required in 2023).

- Four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (80%; 52) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, almost two-thirds (64%; 33) are aged 60 years or over.
- Service providers identified 210 people with a primary physical or sensory disability as requiring 217 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 205 were adults and 5 were children.
 - Eighty-six percent (180) are aged 35 years and over and more than one-in-ten people (12%; 25) are aged 18-34 years.
 - Of the 217 assisted living services required:
 - 122 were identified as home support, and
 - 95 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 29 people with a primary physical or sensory disability require a day respite service.
 - Of these, 24 were adults and 5 were children.
 - Centre-based respite (including clubs and camps) is the most commonly required day respite service (20 places) followed by own home respite (10 places).

4.2.3 Overnight respite

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

- A total of 176 people with a primary physical or sensory disability require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 168 were adults and 8 were children.
 - Overnight respite in a house in the community or dedicated respite centre is the most commonly required (73 places), followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (59 places) and holiday respite in a hotel or bed and breakfast (36 places).

4.2.4 Support service requirements (identified for adults only)

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

- One-tenth (10%; 969) of adults with a primary physical or sensory disability require a support service.

- The support services most commonly required are physiotherapy (366), occupational therapy (138), chiropody (114), assistive technology/client technical service (99) and neuro psychology (96).

5 Publications and analysis

This bulletin provides an overview of data from NASS about people with a primary physical or sensory disability. 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 an intellectual disability and by CHO area are available on the 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.

