

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

**Overview of
people engaging
with disability
services, 2024**

**Sarah Fanagan, Nicola Caffrey,
Lorna Cassidy, Joseph Beegan
and Ena Lynn**

Irish Statistical Code of Practice (ISSCOP)



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The Central Statistics Office developed this code to enhance the national data ecosystem, based on the European Statistics Code of Practice. A key objective of ISSCOP is safeguarding trust in Irish official statistics. To achieve this, official statistics must demonstrate adherence to the key principles aligned to ISSCOP. There are five key principles:

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- The representative bodies for the providers of services to people with disabilities, specifically the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies, and the Disability Federation of Ireland, 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 is based on validated data extracted from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) at the end of December 2024. 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 due to 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 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 2024. This is due to the delayed rollout of the HSE's dedicated children's case management system (CDNT-IMS) for use by the CDNTs. The majority of children in receipt of specialist disability services receive multidisciplinary services through a CDNT. 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 2025 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

Overall, the records of 40,210 people are included in this bulletin, as they were confirmed as being up to date by their service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2024. Of these, 5,558 are children and 34,652 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 2024, the overall budget for disability services was €2.9 billion. See <https://annergabritte.ie/ministers-roderic-o-gorman-and-anne-rabritte-host-pre-estimates-forum-for-disability-services/>

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 2024

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 5,558 children on NASS receiving residential, respite, home support and/or specialised⁴ support services in 2024.

Adults engaging with disability services

There were 34,652 adults on NASS accessing or requiring a disability service in 2024. There was a 9% increase in the number of adults reviewed on NASS in 2024, compared to 2023 (34,652 in 2024 and 31,698 in 2023).

- More male (18,924; 55%) than female (15,728; 45%) adults were reviewed on NASS in 2024.
- Nearly one-in-five (18%; 6,219) adults were aged 18 to 24 years and more than one-in-three (35%; 12,115) adults were in the 40–59 years age group:
 - 18–24 years: 6,219 (18%)
 - 25–39 years: 8,430 (24%),
 - 40–59 years: 12,115 (35%),
 - 60–69 years: 5,233 (15%), and
 - 70 years and over: 2,655 (8%).
- The most frequently reported primary disability type was intellectual disability (ID) (19,261; 56%), followed by neurological disability (6,068; 18%), and autism (3,146; 9%).
- Sixty-one percent (16,010) of adults on NASS reported having a primary carer; the majority of these adults live with their primary carer (91%; 14,610). Age was recorded for more than four-fifths (82%; 13,180) of primary carers, of whom 39% (5,071) were aged 60 years and over.
 - Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over; 3,006 (59%) were aged between 60–69 years, 1,565 (31%) were aged between 70–79 years, and 500 (10%) were aged 80 years and over.

⁴ Specialised supports are those provided by disability service providers targeted towards people with specific needs such as vision/aural rehabilitation services, assistive technology and animal-assisted therapy.

Services

Please note the limitations of 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 being 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 2024 data for current service provision.

- Overall, 8,036 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 7,844 were adults and 192 were children.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (3,665; 46%), followed by a community group home with 5-9 residents (2,842; 35%).
 - Eighty-nine percent (7,112) of those living in a residential setting had a primary disability of ID.
- Overall, 7,733 people were in receipt of 7,921 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, and personal assistant (PA).
 - Of these, 6,417 were adults and 1,316 were children.
 - Almost four-in-ten (37%; 2,893) of those who received assisted living services were aged 55 years or over.
 - Of the 7,921 assisted living services:
 - 5,805 (73%) were home support, and
 - 2,116 (27%) were PA services.
 - Nearly seven-in-ten (69%; 4,879) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and over one-quarter (27%; 1,868) were living alone.
- Three-in-five (20,796; 60%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - Of the 20,991 day services:
 - 18,976 (90%) were day programmes, and
 - 2,015 (10%) were rehabilitative training

- In total, 1,623 people accessed 1,673 day respite places.
 - Of these, 800 were adults and 823 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2024, 1,169 were centre-based respite places, and 382 were home sharing places.
- Overnight respite was provided to 5,310 people.
 - Of these, 4,202 were adults and 1,108 were children.
 - A total of 133,351 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 17 nights (17 nights for adults, 18 nights for children) during 2024.
- Over one-half (53%; 18,302) of adults received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2024.
 - A total of 10,910 (57%) adults with a primary disability of ID received one or more support services. The most commonly accessed support services were social work (4,476), nursing (3,925), and speech and language therapy (3,685).
 - Fifty-eight percent (6,823) of adults with a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability received one or more support service.
 - A key worker was accessed by 2,785 people.
 - The most commonly accessed support services were vision rehabilitation (1,452), physiotherapy (1,164), and assistive technology/client technical service (1,094).

New services required for 2024–2029

The following outlines data regarding new services required for 2024–2029, as identified by service providers.

- Overall, 2,053 people are reported as requiring a residential service.
 - Of these, 2,044 were adults and 9 were children.
 - Ninety-four percent (1,930) of residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - Almost two thirds of residential services required are needed immediately i.e. required in 2024 (64%; 1,315).
 - More than four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (81%; 1,665) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, nearly one-half (48%; 796) are aged 60 years and over.

- Service providers identified 709 people as requiring 741 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 688 were adults and 21 were children.
 - Sixty-five percent (464) are aged 35 years or over, more than three-in-ten people (32%; 244) are aged 18–34 years, and 3% (21) are aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 709 assisted living services required:
 - 537 were identified as home support, and
 - 204 were identified as PA services.
 - Nearly three-in-five (59%; 416) have an ID, and 30% (215) have a physical or sensory disability.
- Information on day services required in 2025 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).
 - Overall, 3,209 people require a HSE funded day service in 2025. Of these:
 - 2,416 were identified as requiring an adult day service, and
 - 793 were identified as requiring rehabilitative training.
- Overall, 1,316 people require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 1,219 were adults and 97 were children.
 - Nearly three-quarters (74%; 974) of those who require overnight respite services have an ID, 13% (172) have a physical or sensory disability, and 11% (142) are Autistic.

New services required for 2024–2029 (identified for adults only)

The following outlines data regarding new services required for 2024–2029 that are identified for adults only.

- One-tenth (10%; 3,422) of adults require at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service.
 - The support services most commonly required are occupational therapy (742), physiotherapy (735), and speech and language therapy (609), and clinical psychology (558).

1 Background

This bulletin is based on validated data extracted from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) at the end of December 2024. 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 due to 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 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 of day services required in 2025 was provided by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

Overall, data pertaining to 40,210 people are included in this bulletin, as they were confirmed as being up to date by their service provider or were newly registered on NASS in 2024. Of these, 5,558 are children and 34,652 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 targeted towards people with specific needs 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 within the next five years. Coverage of data provided by service providers has continuously improved and is virtually complete for major providers of HSE funded disability services.

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 2024. This is due to the delayed rollout of the HSE's dedicated children's case management system (CDNT-IMS) for use by the CDNTs. The majority of children in receipt of specialist disability services receive multidisciplinary services through a CDNT. 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. It is hoped that NASS will have improved coverage of children accessing HSE funded disability services for 2025 as a result of a planned upload of data from CDNT-IMS to NASS by year end.

Complete national coverage of information on the breakdown of multidisciplinary services received by service users from one Section 38 service provider was not submitted to NASS for adults. This will be remedied in 2025 so that NASS can provide a more complete picture of the support services received by adults with a disability.

Information on day services received in 2024 reported to NASS were compared to the HSE NDSD. Information on day services received in 2024 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 2024

There were **5,558** children on NASS in 2024 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, 2024

	NASS 2024 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	394	7.1
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	447	8.0
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	197	3.5
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	591	10.6
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	588	10.6
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	269	4.8
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	954	17.2
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	898	16.2
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	1,220	22.0
Total	5,558	100

3 Adults engaging with disability services

3.1 Number of adults on NASS in 2024

There were **34,652** adults recorded as accessing or requiring a HSE funded disability service in 2024. This represents 99% of all adult records registered on NASS. There was a 9% increase in the number of adults reviewed on NASS in 2024, compared to 2023 (34,652 in 2024 and 31,698 in 2023).

The breakdown by CHO of service is listed in Table 2. CHO 4 had the highest number of registrations (6,031; 17%), followed by CHO 9 (4,639; 13%) and CHO 8 (4,183; 12%).

Table 2 Number of adults on NASS by CHO area of service, 2024

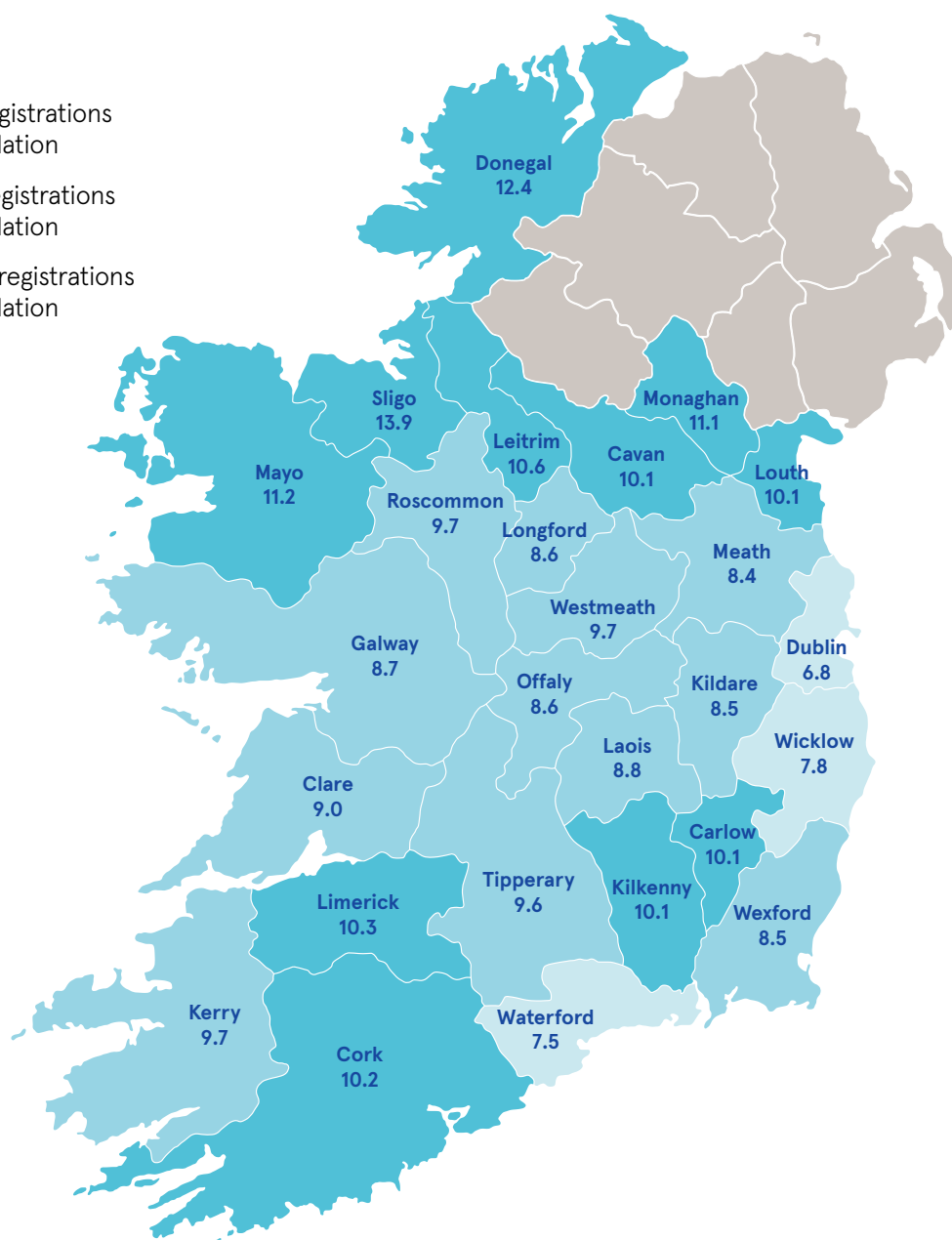
	NASS 2024 registrations	Share of NASS registrations
CHO of service	n	%
CHO 1 - Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan	3,876	11.2
CHO 2 - Galway, Roscommon, Mayo	3,485	10.1
CHO 3 - Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	2,978	8.6
CHO 4 - Kerry, Cork	6,031	17.4
CHO 5 - South Tipperary, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford	3,716	10.7
CHO 6 - Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin South East	1,819	5.2
CHO 7 - Kildare, West Wicklow, Dublin West, Dublin South City, Dublin South West	3,925	11.3
CHO 8 - Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Meath	4,183	12.1
CHO 9 - Dublin North, Dublin North Central, Dublin North West	4,639	13.4
Total	34,652	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 8.8 (population data are based on the 2022 Census).⁵ Figure 1 shows the proportion of adults accessing a disability service across Ireland by county of residence. Sligo (13.9 per 1,000 of the adult population) had the highest proportion, while Dublin (6.8 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 2024

Key:

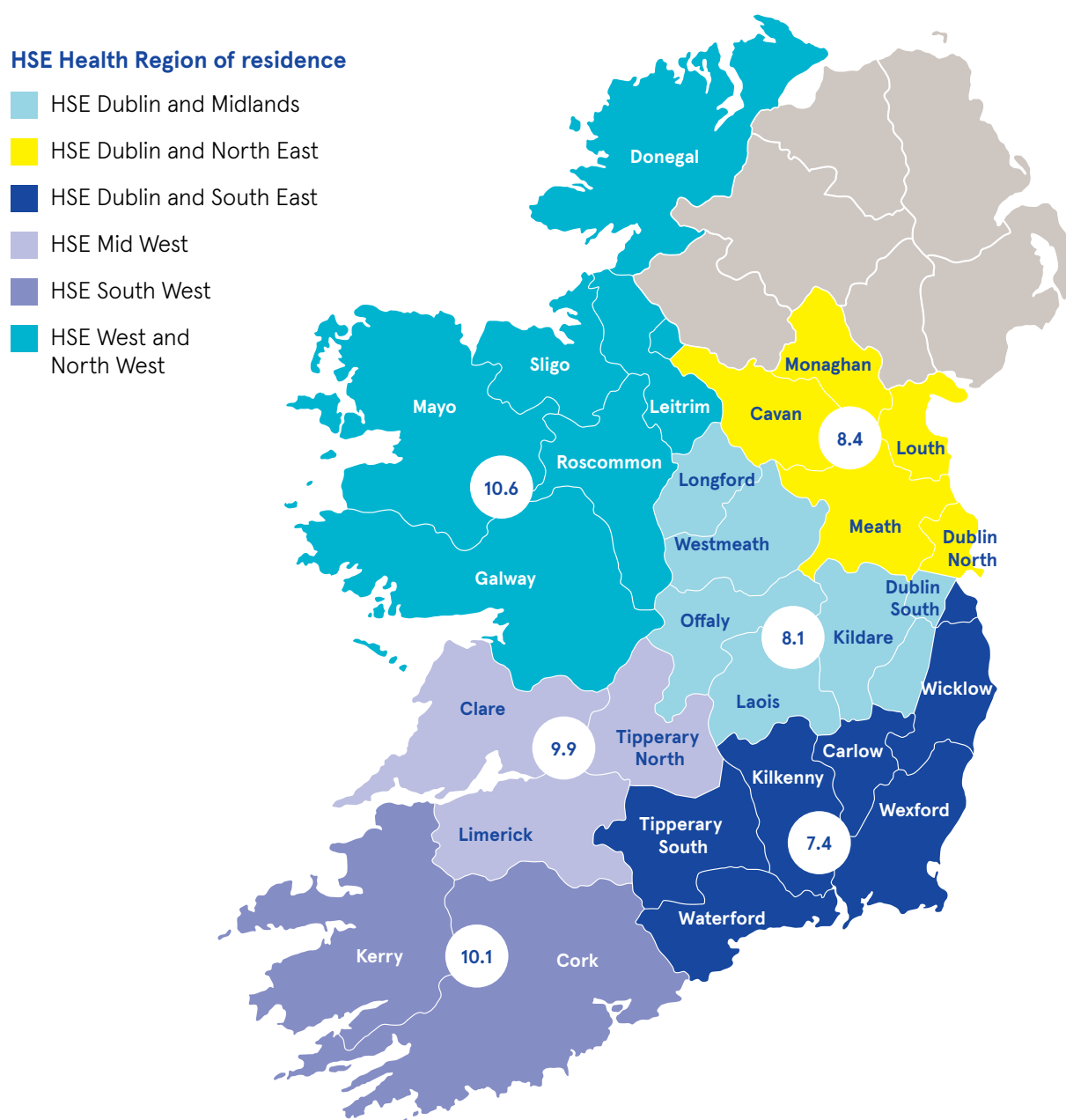
- 6.3–7.9 NASS registrations per 1,000 population
- 8.0–9.9 NASS registrations per 1,000 population
- 10.0–14.4 NASS registrations per 1,000 population



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

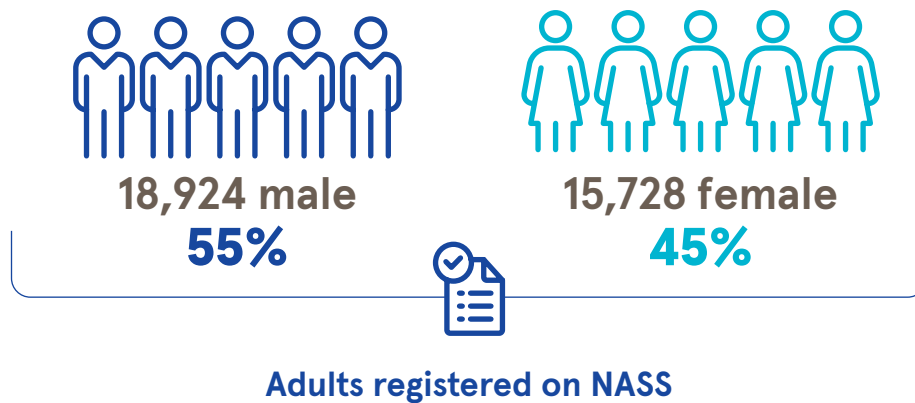
Figure 2 shows the proportion of adults accessing a disability service across Ireland by HSE Health Region of residence. HSE West and North West (10.6 per 1,000 of the adult population) had the highest proportion, while HSE Dublin and South East (7.4 per 1,000 of the adult population) had the lowest.

Figure 2 Proportion of adults accessing disability services per 1,000 of the general population aged 18 years and older, by HSE Health Region of residence, NASS 2024



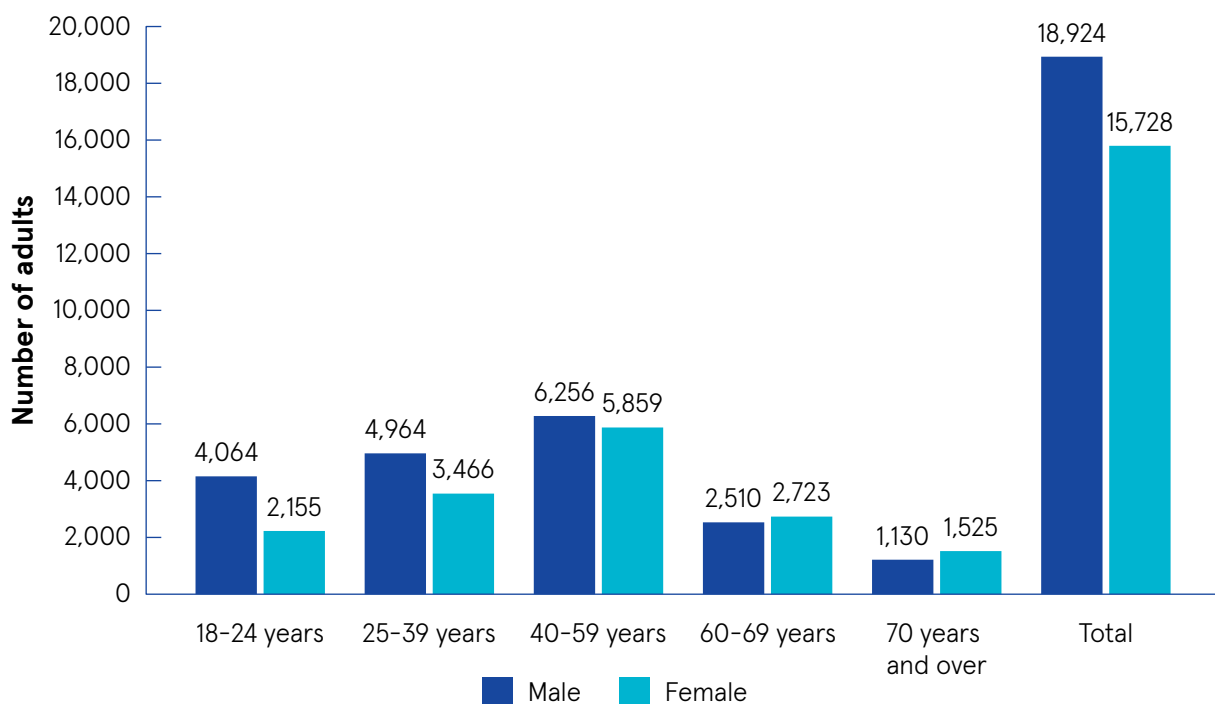
3.2 Demographic profile

More male (18,924; 55%) than female (15,728; 45%) adults were recorded on NASS as attending a disability service in 2024.



Nearly one-in-five (18%; 6,219) adults were aged 18 to 24 years and more than one-in-three (35%; 12,115) were in the 40–59 years age group (Figure 3). Of note, there are a higher proportion of males in the age groups to 59 years and a higher proportion of females aged 60 years and over.

Figure 3 Number of adults registered in disability services on NASS by age group and sex, 2024



3.3 Occupational status

Information on occupational status was available for 92% (31,918) of the 34,652 adults accessing or requiring a disability service in 2024, of whom:

- Over two-fifths (42%; 13,394) were in a training or day programme.
- Over one-in-four (27%; 8,720) were unable to work due to a disability.
- One-tenth (10%; 3,022) were unemployed.
- Nearly one-tenth (9%; 2,928) were in paid employment. Of those who were in paid employment, 1,164 (40%) were known to be in supported employment.
- The remaining 12% were retired (6%; 1,944), students (5%; 1,448), were engaged in home duties (1%; 309) or listed 'other' as their occupational status (1%; 153).

3.4 Living arrangements

Information on living arrangements was available for 94% (32,400) of the 34,652 adults accessing or requiring a disability service in 2024, of whom:

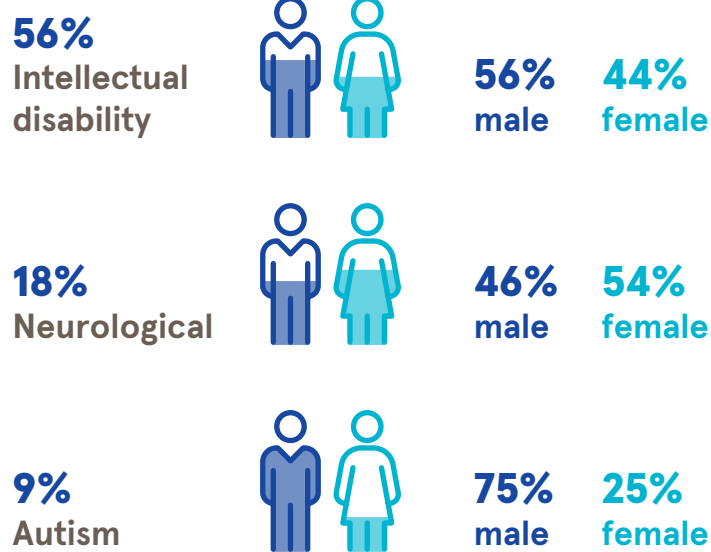
- Over three-fifths (61%; 19,874) were residing with family members.
- One-quarter (25%; 8,225) were living in a residential service setting.
- Over one-tenth (12%; 3,819) were living alone.
- The remaining 2% (482) were living with non-relatives.

3.5 Reported disabilities

The most frequently reported primary disability type was ID (19,261; 56%), followed by neurological disability (6,068; 18%), and autism (3,146; 9%) (Table 3). Of note, the percentage of Autistic adults in receipt of HSE funded disability services is the highest ever reported on NASS.

Adults

Primary disability



Of those with a primary disability of ID, almost two-thirds (64%) had a moderate, severe, or profound ID (Figure 3). Nearly one in five adults (17%) with a primary disability of ID were aged 60 years and over; 200 of whom were aged 80 and over.

Figure 4 Degree of ID in adults on NASS whose primary disability was ID, 2024

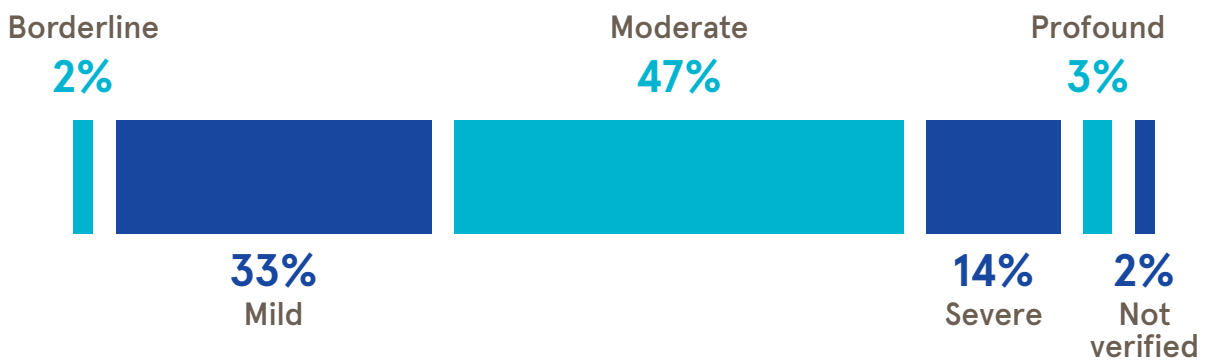


Table 3 Primary disability among adults on NASS by sex, 2024

Primary Disability	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Intellectual	10,792	56.0	8,469	44.0	19,261	55.6
Neurological	2,772	45.7	3,296	54.3	6,068	17.5
Autism	2,351	74.7	795	25.3	3,146	9.1
Physical	1,387	47.7	1,521	52.3	2,908	8.4
Visual	837	49.8	844	50.2	1,681	4.9
Hearing loss and/or deafness	429	45.7	509	54.3	938	2.7
Mental health	240	57.1	180	42.9	420	1.2
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	40	49.4	41	50.6	81	0.2
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	31	46.3	36	53.7	67	0.2
Speech and/or language	11	68.8	5	31.3	16	0.0
Not verified*	29	54.7	24	45.3	53	0.2
Total	18,919	54.6	15,720	45.4	34,639	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 13 adults (5 male, 8 female).

3.6 Additional disabilities

More than one-half of adults (53%; 18,341) with any type of primary disability had an additional disability recorded. The most commonly reported additional disability type was physical disability (5,308; 15%), followed by a speech and language disability (3,271; 9%), and autism (2,215; 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, 2024

Additional disability	Primary disability type									
	Intellectual disability		Physical or Sensory*		Autism		Other**		Total population	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total population	19,261	100.0	11,678	100.0	3,146	100.0	554	100	34,639	100.0
Physical	3,475	18.0	1,747	15.0	53	1.7	33	6.0	5,308	15.3
Speech and/or Language	2,890	15.0	288	2.5	85	2.7	8	1.4	3,271	9.4
Autism	2,129	11.1	58	0.5	0	0.0	28	5.1	2,215	6.4
Mental health	1,223	6.3	275	2.4	255	8.1	5	0.9	1,758	5.1
Visual	1,278	6.6	324	2.8	28	0.9	10	1.8	1,640	4.7
Neurological	916	4.8	533	4.6	74	2.4	15	2.7	1,538	4.4
Intellectual	0	0.0	362	3.1	788	25.0	79	14.3	1,229	3.5
Hearing loss and/or deafness	955	5.0	117	1.0	17	0.5	12	2.2	1,101	3.2
Specific learning difficulty (other than intellectual)	116	0.6	49	0.4	74	2.4	~	~	241	0.7
DeafBlind (dual sensory)	29	0.2	11	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	40	0.1
No additional disability	6,250	32.4	7,914	67.8	1,772	56.3	362	65.3	16,298	47.1

* 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.

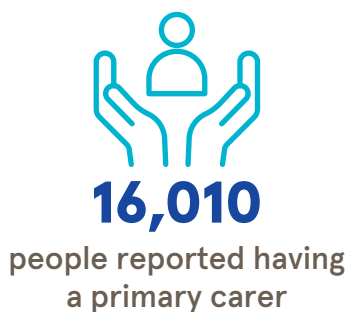
Note that more than one additional disability may be recorded for a person and, as a result, total percentages may sum up to more than 100%. Note that primary disability type is missing for 13 individuals.

3.7 Primary carer

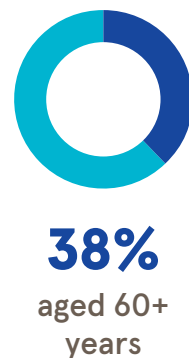
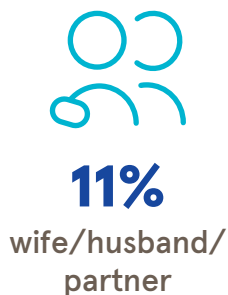
Of adults (34,652) who do not live in a residential setting (26,409; 76%), over three-fifths (61%; 16,010) were reported as having a primary carer; almost all of these individuals live with their primary carer (91%; 14,610).

The majority (73%; 11,631) of primary carers were parents, 11% (1,793) were a wife/husband/partner, and 10% (1,617) were siblings. Age was recorded for more than four-fifths (82%; 13,180) of primary carers, 38% (5,071) of whom were aged 60 years and over. Of the primary carers aged 60 years and over, 3,006 (59%) were aged between 60–69 years, 1,565 (31%) were aged between 70–79 years and 500 (10%) were aged 80 years and over.

Primary Carer



Of the primary carers:



4 Services

This section reports on the HSE funded disability services people with disabilities receive or require (either currently or within the next five years⁶), 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.

⁶ 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 (2024) and the next five years (2025–2029).

4.1 Current service provision

Adults and children



8,036

lived in
a residential
setting



5,805

received
home
support



2,116

accessed
a personal
assistant



1,623

accessed
day respite



5,310

availed of
overnight respite
133,351 nights

Adults only



20,796

adults accessed
day services



18,302

adults received
support services

4.1.1 Residential and assisted living services

Residential services include HSE funded disability accommodation and services that provide support 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.

Personal assistance⁷ refers to where an individual supports a disabled person and that support is directed and led by the disabled person. This includes person-to-person assistance for a range of daily activities, both inside and outside the home. This remains at the discretion and direction of the individual, thus promoting choice and control to empower the disabled person to live a life of self-determination. The disabled person may devolve administrative functions for their PA to a service provider.

The following outlines 2024 data for residential and assisted living services:

- A total of 8,036 people were recorded as living in a residential setting.
 - Of these, 7,844 were adults and 192 were children.
 - A residential house in the community with four or fewer residents was the most commonly accessed residential service (3,665; 46%).
 - One-fifth (20%; 1,596) of current residential places accessed require an enhancement.
 - Eighty-nine percent (7,112) of people living in a residential setting had an ID, of whom 81% (5,753) had either a moderate, severe, or profound ID. This group comprised of 7,008 adults and 104 children.
- A total of 7,733 people were in receipt of 7,921 assisted living services. Assisted living services include services captured on NASS as home support, or PA.
 - Of these, 6,417 were adults and 1,316 were children.
 - Almost four-in-ten (37%; 2,893) of those who received assisted living services were aged 55 years or over.
 - Of the 7,921 assisted living services:
 - 5,805 were home support, and
 - 2,116 were PA services.
 - More than one-tenth (12%; 943) of assisted living services require an enhancement.
 - More than one-half (55%; 4,188) of those who received assisted living services had a primary disability of physical or sensory, and 36% (2,761) had an ID.
 - Nearly seven-in-ten (69%; 4,879) people in receipt of assisted living services were living with family, and over one-quarter (27%; 1,868) were living alone.

7 Preliminary definition of personal assistance from the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth PA working group – September 2024.

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 2024 data for day service provision:

- Service providers reported 20,796 (60%) adults accessed either a day programme, and/or rehabilitative training.
 - A day programme was the most commonly accessed (18,976; 90%) type of day service.
 - An enhancement is required for 3,306 (17%) day programme places.
 - Rehabilitative training was received by 2,015 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, 2024

	Intellectual disability		Physical or Sensory*		Autism		Other**		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total population	19,261	100.0	11,678	100.0	3,146	100.0	554	100.0	34,639	100.0
Day programme [†]	14,459	75.1	2,069	17.7	2,137	67.9	310	56.0	18,975	54.8
Rehabilitative training	1,134	5.9	274	2.4	453	14.4	151	27.3	2,012	5.8
Total	15,463	80.3	2,316	19.8	2,553	81.2	460	80.0	20,792	60.0

[†] 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 Model⁸.

* 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 13 adults, four of whom were accessing a day programme.

8 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>

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 2024 data for day respite services:

- A total of 1,623 people accessed 1,673 day respite places in 2024.
 - Of these, 800 were adults and 823 were children.
 - Of the day respite places provided in 2024, 1,169 were centre-based respite places, and 382 were home sharing places.
 - Seventeen percent (287) of current day respite places accessed in 2024 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 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 2024 data for overnight respite services:

- There were 5,310 people who availed of 5,520 overnight respite places in 2024.
 - Of these, 4,202 were adults and 1,108 were children.
 - Respite in a house in the community or a dedicated respite centre (4,627) was the most commonly accessed type of overnight respite, followed by holiday respite in a hotel, B&B or hostel (296), and holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (284).
 - A total of 133,351 nights were accessed, with individuals accessing a median of 17 nights (17 nights for adults, 18 nights for children) during 2024.
 - Overall, 26 people received 260 or more nights of overnight respite during 2024.
 - Of those, 9 received 365 nights of overnight respite.
 - Almost one-quarter (23%; 1,284) of overnight respite places accessed in 2024 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 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 883 children accessed the services of a case manager. The most commonly received specialised support services were vision rehabilitation (836), physiotherapy (633), and occupational therapy (592).

Adults

- Over one-half (53%; 18,302) of adults received at least one support service from either a multidisciplinary team or a specialised disability service in 2024.
- A total of 10,910 (57%) adults with an ID received one or more support services. The most commonly accessed support services were social work (4,476), nursing (3,925), and speech and language therapy (3,685) (Figure 5).
 - Of the 4,476 people accessing social work, 38% (1,710) require an enhancement to that service. Additionally, of the 3,925 people accessing nursing, 36% (1,408) require an enhancement.
- Fifty-eight percent (6,823) of adults with a physical or sensory disability received one or more support services. The most commonly accessed support services were vision rehabilitation (1,452), physiotherapy (1,164), and assistive technology/client technical service (1,094) (Figure 6).
 - Of the 1,452 people receiving vision rehabilitation services, 12% (174) require an enhancement to their service while 18% (207) of those accessing physiotherapy (1,164) require an enhancement to their current 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), 2024

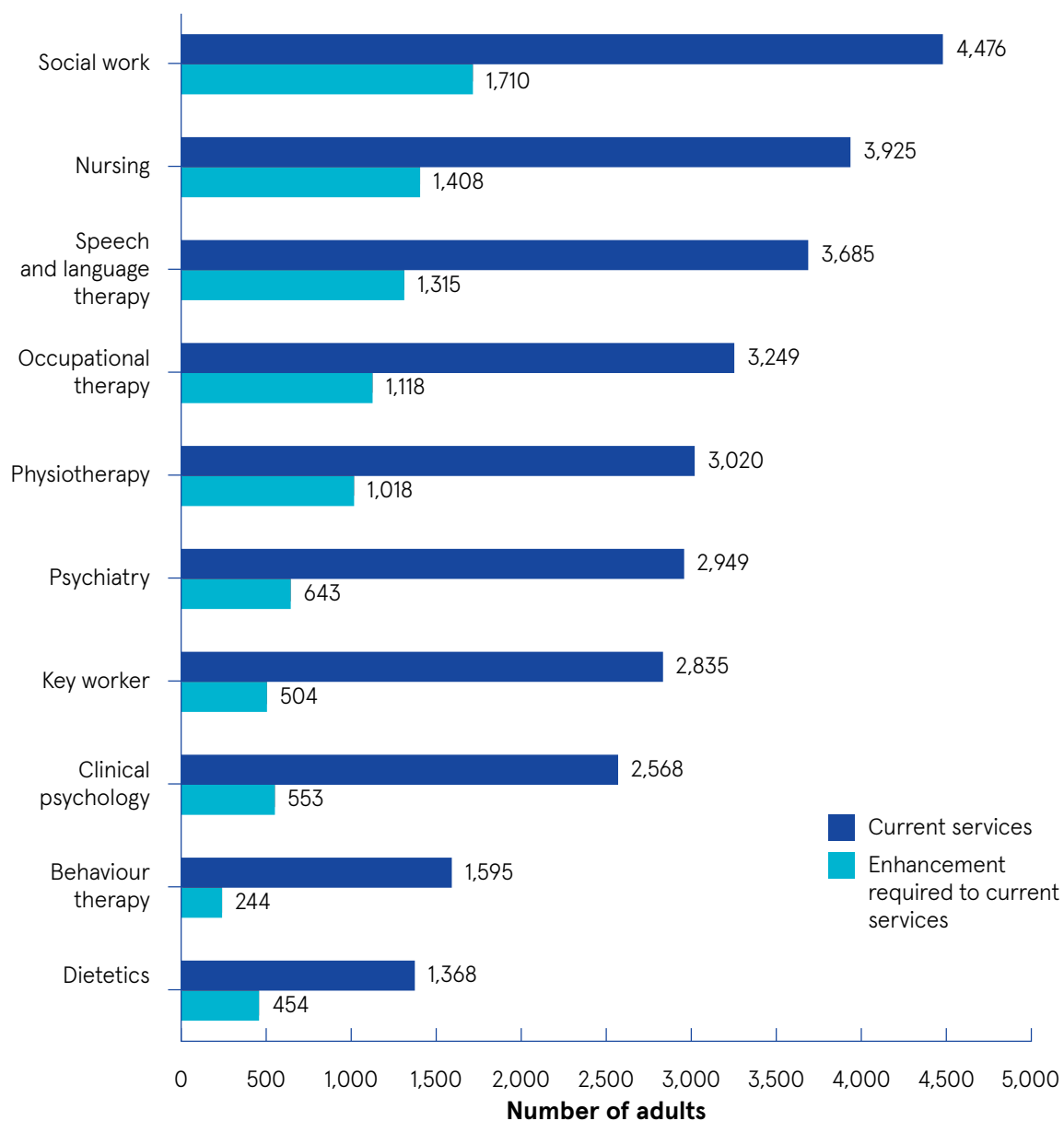
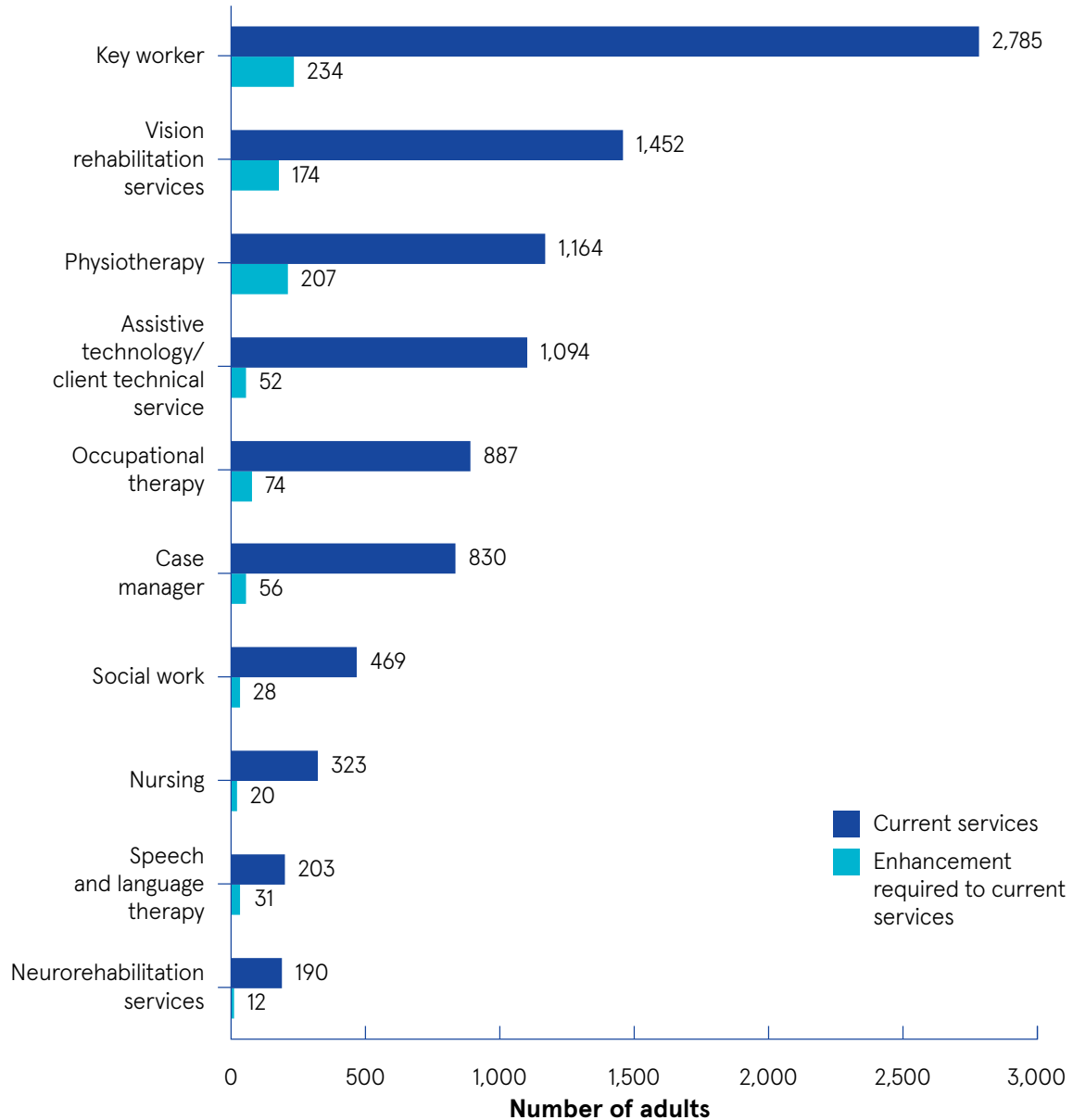


Figure 6 Most commonly received support services for adults on NASS with a primary disability of a physical or sensory disability (places currently being accessed and enhancements required to current places), 2024



4.2 New services required for 2024–2029

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 2024. Therefore, support services are presented for adults only.

Adults and children



2,053

residential
places
required



537

home
support places
required



204

personal
assistant
services
required



1,316

people
require
overnight
respite



3,209

people
require a
day service
in 2024*

* information provided by the HSE National Day Service Database

Adults only



3,422

adults require
support services

Main support services required:



Occupational
Therapy



Physiotherapy



Speech and
Language Therapy



Clinical
psychology

4.2.1 Residential and assisted living requirements

The following outlines 2024 data for residential and assisted living requirements:

- A total of 2,053 people were identified by service providers as requiring a residential service.
 - Of these, 2,044 were adults and nine were children.
 - Nearly three-fifths (59%; 1,205) of those in need of residential services were aged 35 years or over.
 - Ninety-four percent (1,930) of residential services required are for a place in a house in the community with four or fewer residents.
 - Over three-fifths of residential services required are needed immediately i.e. required in 2024 (64%; 1,315).
 - Eighty-nine percent (1,833) of people in need of residential services have an ID, 74% (1,357) of whom have a moderate, severe, or profound ID.
 - More than four-in-five adults requiring a residential service (81%; 1,665) have a primary carer; of those primary carers, nearly one-half (48%; 796) are aged 60 years and over.
- Service providers identified 709 people as requiring 741 assisted living services.
 - Of these, 688 were adults and 21 were children.
 - Sixty-five percent (464) were aged 35 years or over, more than three-in-ten people (32%; 224) were aged 18–34 years, and 3% (21) were aged under 18 years.
 - Of the 709 assisted living services required:
 - 537 were identified as home support, and
 - 204 were identified as PA services.
 - Nearly three-in-five (59%; 416) have an ID and 30% (215) have a physical or sensory disability.
 - Of those with an ID, 355 of the assisted living services required are for home support, and 84 are for a PA.
 - Of those with a physical or sensory disability, 117 of the assisted living services required are for home support, and 104 are for a PA.

4.2.2 Day service requirements

Information on referrals for day services required in 2025 was provided for this bulletin by the HSE National Day Service Database (NDSD).

- Overall, 3,209 people require a HSE funded day service in 2025. Of these:
 - 2,416 were identified as requiring an Adult Day Service, and
 - 793 were identified as requiring Rehabilitative Training.

As referrals continue throughout the year the final number of people that require day services in 2025 was not available at the time of publication. Table 6 shows the breakdown of adult disability day service requirements by CHO.

Table 6 Day Services required in 2025 by CHO, HSE National Day Service Database

CHO	Day Service	Rehabilitative Training	Total number of people
CHO 1	192	36	228
CHO 2	162	96	258
CHO 3	198	46	244
CHO 4	563	187	750*
CHO 5	273	64	337
CHO 6	118	64	182
CHO 7	305	83	388
CHO 8	299	58	357
CHO 9	306	159	465
Total	2,416	793	3,209**

* There are 235 people awaiting part-time autism supports in CHO 4.

** As referrals continue throughout the year the final number of people that require day services in 2025 was not available at the time of publication.

4.2.3 Day respite requirements

In 2024, service providers reported the following day respite services were required:

- Overall, 172 people require a day respite service.
 - Of these, 150 were adults and 22 were children.
 - Centre-based respite (including clubs and camps) is the most commonly required day respite service (124 places).

4.2.4 Overnight respite requirements

In 2024, service providers reported the following overnight respite services were required:

- Overall, 1,316 people require overnight respite.
 - Of these, 1,219 were adults and 97 were children.
 - Overnight respite in a house in the community or dedicated respite centre is the most commonly required (870), followed by holiday respite in a residential centre or summer camp (221), and holiday respite in a hotel or bed and breakfast (196).
 - Nearly three-quarters (74%; 974) of those who require overnight respite services have an ID, 13% (172) have a physical or sensory disability, and 11% (142) are Autistic.

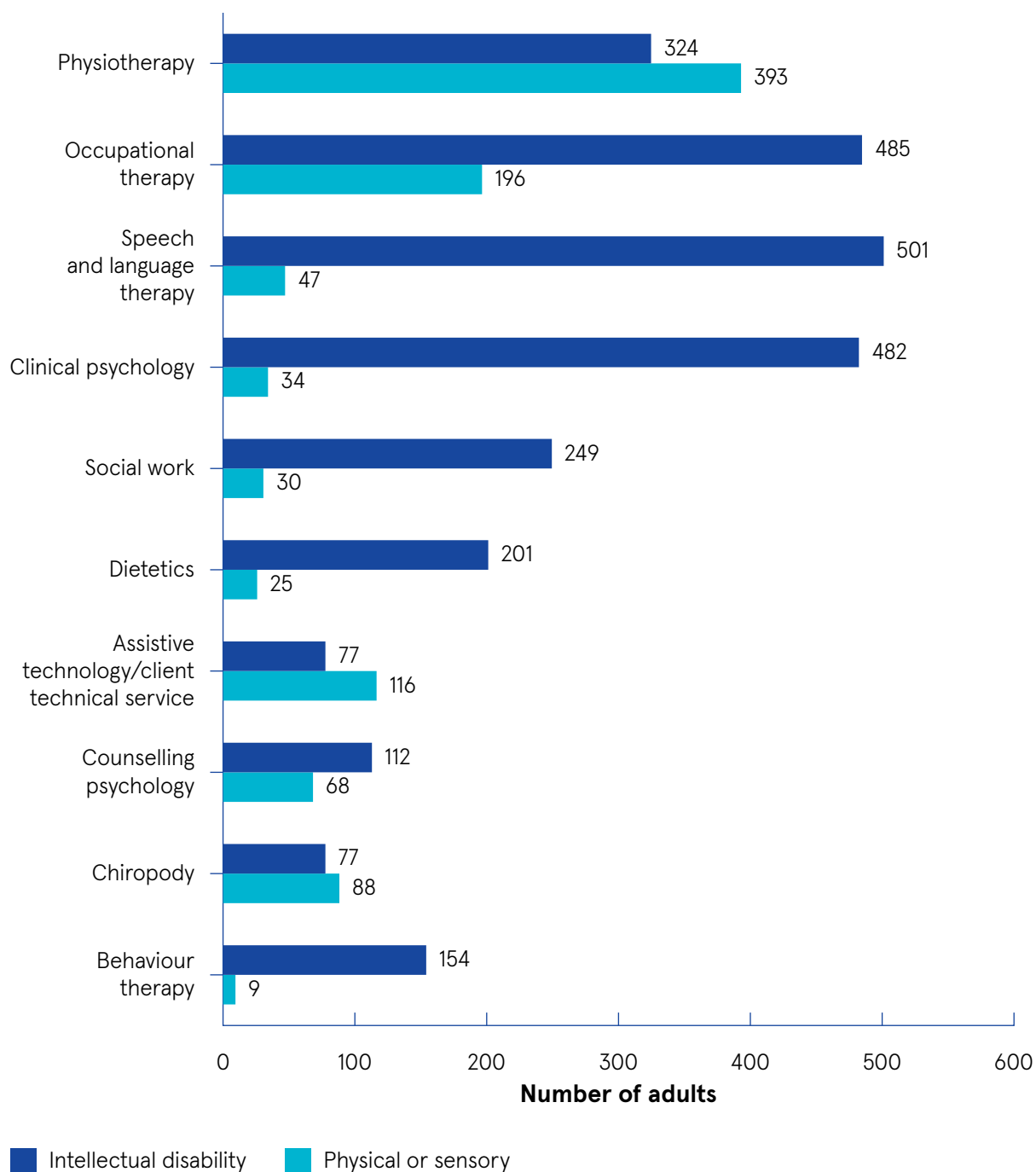
4.2.5 Support service requirements (identified for adults only)

In 2024, service providers reported the following support services were required for adults only:

- Overall, one-tenth (10%; 3,422) of adults require a support service.
 - The support services most commonly required are occupational therapy (742), physiotherapy (735), speech and language therapy (609), and clinical psychology (558).

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, 2024



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. Supplementary infographics presenting information by CHO area and Health Region (HR) are also available on the HRB website at <https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/disability-service-use-and-need/>.

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/about-disability-service-use-and-need-data/> to access a data request form and return it to nass@hrb.ie.



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