



Disability in Cabo Verde

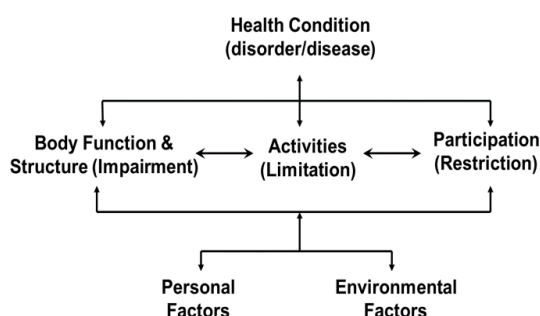
The Importance of Disability

Disability is both a multidimensional concept and experience. Disability can affect anyone at any time – from birth through childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Worldwide, many people with disabilities do not have equal access to education, employment, and health care. In addition, those with disability may experience barriers to participating in civic and social life activities.

Defining Disability

No single definition of disability exists. Definitions vary depending on the purpose for measurement. Moreover, the nature and severity of disabilities can vary greatly depending on cultural contexts¹. Yet, data on the size and characteristics of the population with disability, which also allow for cross-cultural comparisons, require standardization in both the conceptualization and the measurement of disability.

The ICF Model of Disability



The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), developed by the World Health Organization², provides the necessary and consistent definition of disability. According to the ICF model, disability arises from the interaction between an individual and

that individual's contextual (personal and environmental) circumstances. Thus, the degree to which participation in life activities is restricted depends on the interaction between the individual's functioning (ability to perform basic functional activities) and the environment.

The Washington Group

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), a city group established under the United Nations Statistical Commission, was formed to address the need for population-based measures of disability by promoting and coordinating international co-operation in the area of health statistics, focusing on disability data collection tools suitable for censuses and national surveys.

The WG has developed, tested and adopted the Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) to collect such data. The questions use the ICF as a conceptual framework. The WG-SS is comprised of 6 questions measuring difficulty functioning in basic actions, with response categories that capture the full spectrum of difficulty functioning, from mild to severe. Disability is defined as having “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one WG-SS question.

The WG Short Set on Functioning

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Response categories: No difficulty / Some difficulty / A lot of difficulty / Cannot do at all

Cabo Verde Data on Disability and Methods

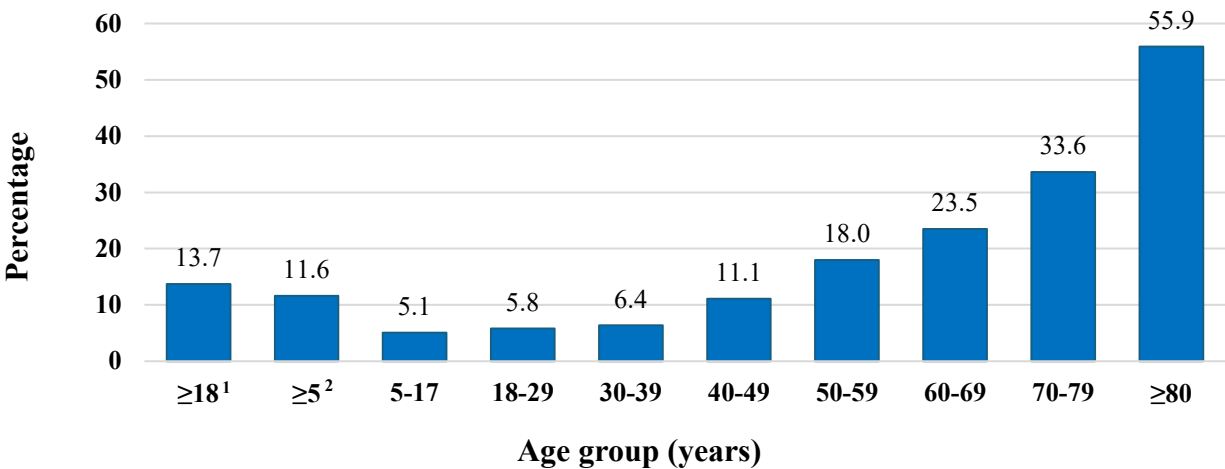
The data used to produce this report comes from the 5th General Population and Housing Census of Cabo Verde (V-RGPH), conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INE). The RGPH is the INE's most complex statistical operation, mobilising significant human and financial resources and requiring several years of preparation. The V-RGPH was funded by the Government of Cabo Verde, Spanish Cooperation, Luxembourg Cooperation, the United Nations Joint Office and the European Union. Data collection was carried out through direct interviews by duly accredited census takers from 15 to 30 June 2021. The survey was extended by one week (until 7 July 2021). For more information on the V-RGPH, visit: <https://ine.cv/censo-2021/#publicacoes-tematicas>.

Some of the estimates reported in this report are age-adjusted using the 2020 world population³ to facilitate cross-country comparisons.

Prevalence of Disability

- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability in the population aged 18 and over is 13.7%.
- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability in the population aged 5 and over is 11.6%.
- The prevalence of disability increases significantly with age, from 5.1% among children aged 5 to 17, to 11.1% among adults aged 40 to 49 and then reaching 55.9% for adults aged 80 or older, a difference of 50.9 percentage points.

Figure 1. Prevalence of disability: age-adjusted and age-specific percentage of the population 18 years and over and by age group, Cabo Verde, 2021



¹Total for ≥18 is age-adjusted using the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](#)) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

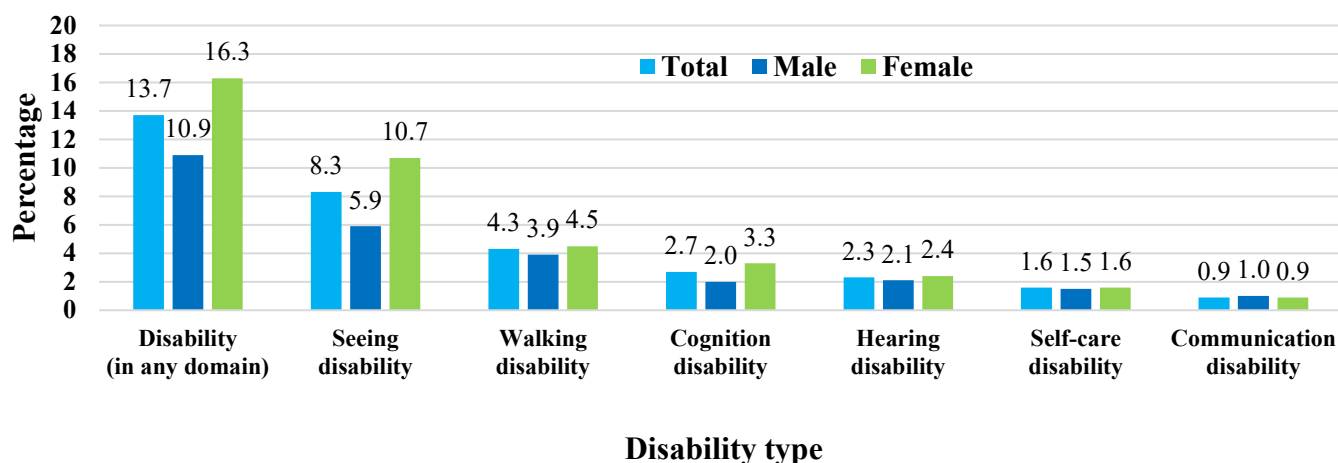
²Total for 5 years and over is age-adjusted using the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](#)) using the following age groups: 5–17, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability (in any domain) is higher among females aged 18 and over (16.3%) than among males in the same age group (10.9%), a difference of about 5 percentage points.
- The most common disability type is seeing, reported by 8.3% of the adult population. The percentage of adults with seeing disabilities is higher among females (10.7%) than among males (5.9%).
- Walking is the second most common disability type, reported by 4.3% of adults. Walking disabilities are reported by 4.5% of females and 3.9% of males.
- The third most common disability is cognition, reported by 2.7% of adults, 3.3% of females and 2.0% of males.
- Hearing is the fourth most common disability, with a prevalence of 2.3% (2.4% among females and 2.1% among males).
- Self-care disability is reported by 1.6% of adults (1.6% among females and 1.5% among males).
- Finally, communication is the least common disability, with a prevalence of 0.9% among females and 1.0% among males.

Figure 2. Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain: age-adjusted percentage of the population 18 years and over, by sex, Cabo Verde, 2021



Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/)) using the following age groups: 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, and ≥80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as having disability (in any domain). Disability in each domain is defined by a response of “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” in that domain.

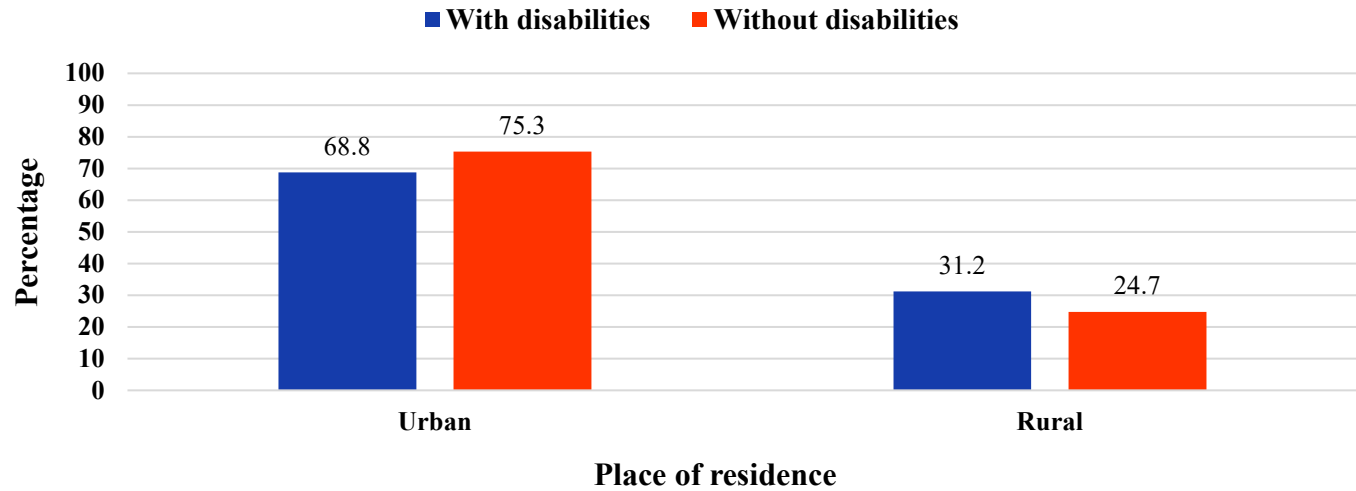
Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Distribution of the Population with Disabilities

Urbanicity

- Although a larger percentage of the population with disabilities (31.2%) resides in rural areas, compared to the population without disabilities (24.7%), the majority of the population with disabilities (68.8%) lives in urban areas.

Figure 4. Urbanicity by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cabo Verde, 2021



Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Outcomes Disaggregated by Disability

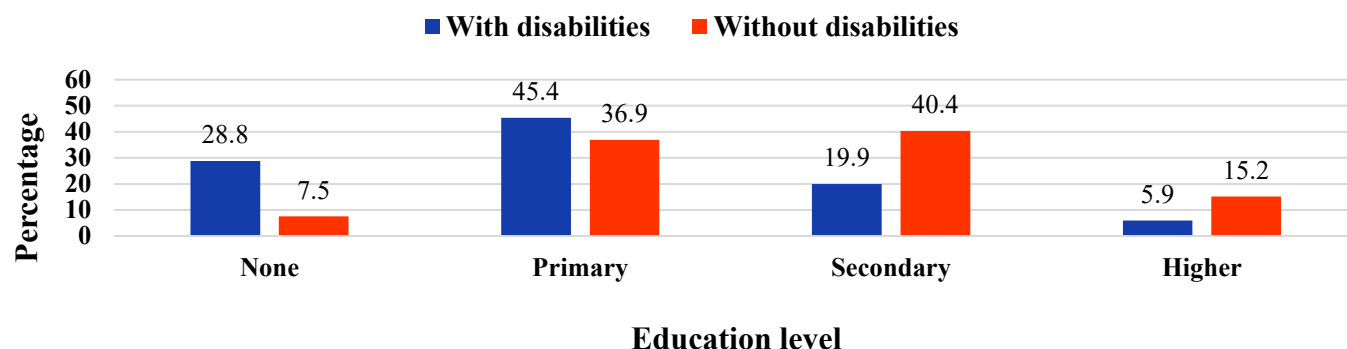
Disaggregating data by disability status allows for the comparison of outcomes for people with and without disabilities and is a necessary first step towards addressing disparities. Outcome indicators, such as educational attainment and employment, any of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals⁴, or specific programmatic objectives, can be monitored over time to determine if gaps exist between those with and without disabilities and whether those gaps are increasing or decreasing across time. In this section, data on educational attainment and employment status are disaggregated by disability status.

Educational Attainment

- Approximately 3 in 10 adults aged 18 or over with disabilities (28.8%) have no formal education, compared to 7.5% of those without disabilities.
- Most of the population aged 18 or over with disabilities attended no higher than primary school level education.

- At secondary and higher education levels, the difference between adults with and without disabilities is highest, with the absolute difference being largest for secondary level education, exceeding 20 percentage points.

Figure 3. Education level by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cabo Verde, 2021



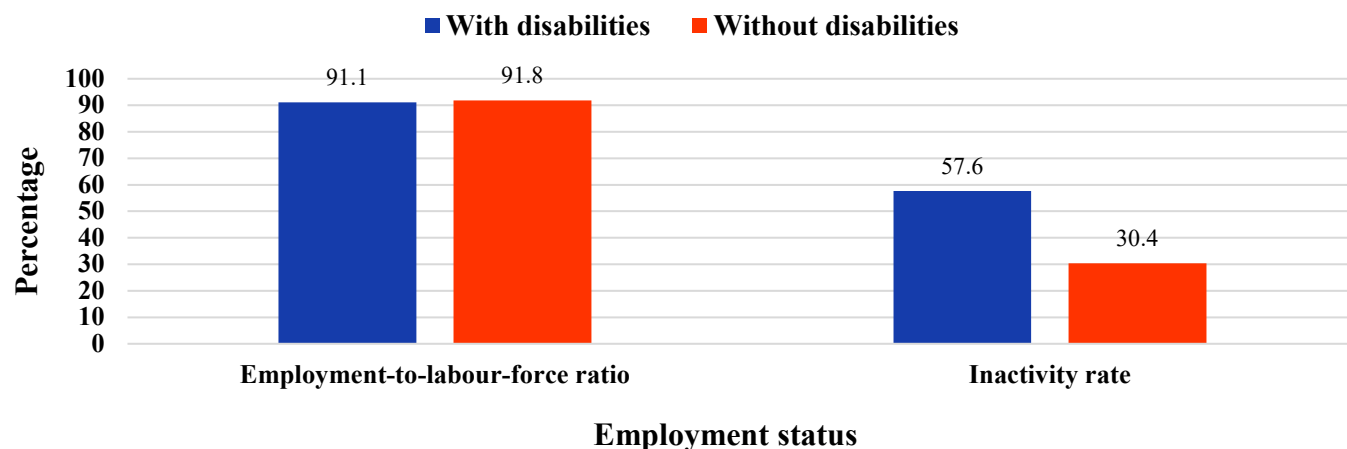
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Employment Status

- In 2021, 91.1% of adults aged 18 or over in the labour force with disabilities were employed, compared to 91.8% of adults in the labour force without disabilities.
- 57.6% of adults with disabilities belonged to the inactive population, compared to 30.4% of adults without disabilities.

Figure 5. Employment status by disability status: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cabo Verde, 2021



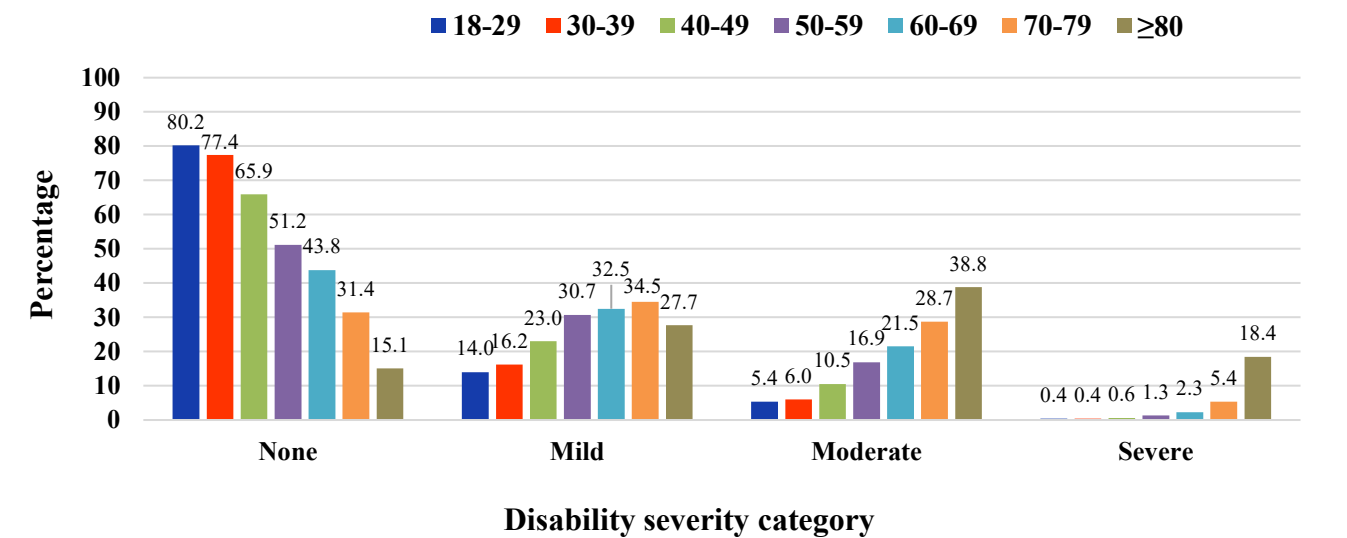
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Severity of Disability

- Older people (aged 70-79 and 80 or over) are more likely to have moderate and severe disabilities than other age groups.
- In fact, 18.4% of people aged 80 or over and 5.4% of people aged 70 to 79 reported more severe difficulties, compared to 2.3% of adults aged 60-69 and less than 2% of adults aged 18-59.
- The percentage of adults aged 70-79 and 80 or over experiencing moderate difficulties was 28.7% and 38.8%, respectively.

Figure 6. Severity of disability, by age: percentage of the population 18 years and over, Cabo Verde, 2021



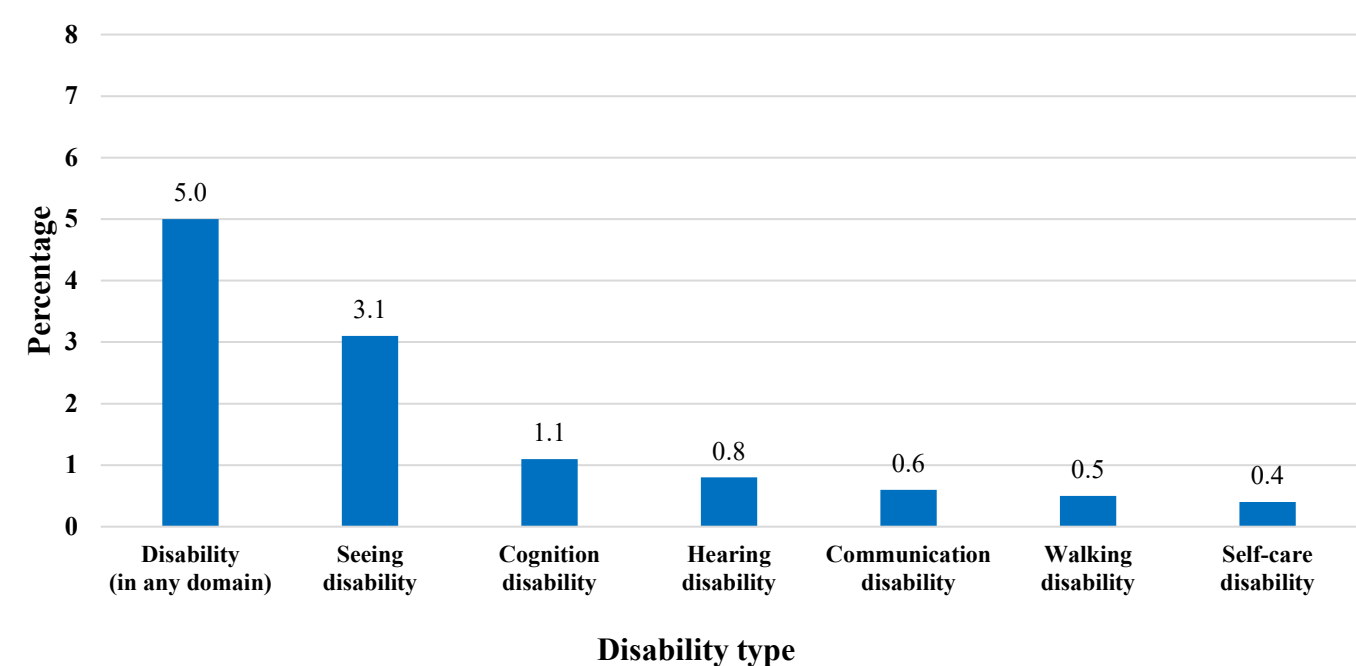
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. The disability severity indicator expands the two disability indicator categories (“with disabilities” and “without disabilities”) into four categories based on the highest level of difficulty reported in all six domains. The measure better reflects the full range of functioning in the population. A continuous disability severity score (SS-Sco) is calculated by assigning values to the responses to each of the six domain questions, then summing the values across the domains. The values assigned to the responses to each domain are: No difficulty = 0; Some difficulty = 1; A lot of difficulty = 6 and Cannot do at all = 36. After summing across all domains, thresholds are set at different levels of the disability spectrum to create severity categories. The resulting disability severity indicator is based on the following categories: SS-Sco = 0 corresponds to "No difficulties"; SS-Sco = 1 - 4 corresponds to "Mild difficulties"; SS-Sco = 5 - 23 corresponds to "Moderate difficulties" and SS-Sco = 24 - 216 corresponds to "More severe difficulties".

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Prevalence of Disability in the 5-17 Age Group

- The percentage of children aged 5 to 17 with disabilities (in any domain) is 5.0%.
- The most common type of disability is seeing (3.1%), followed by cognition (1.1%).

Figure 7. Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain: age-adjusted percentage of the population aged 5-17 years, Cabo Verde, 2021



Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: [World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations](#)) using the following age groups: 5-9, 10-14, 15-17 years.

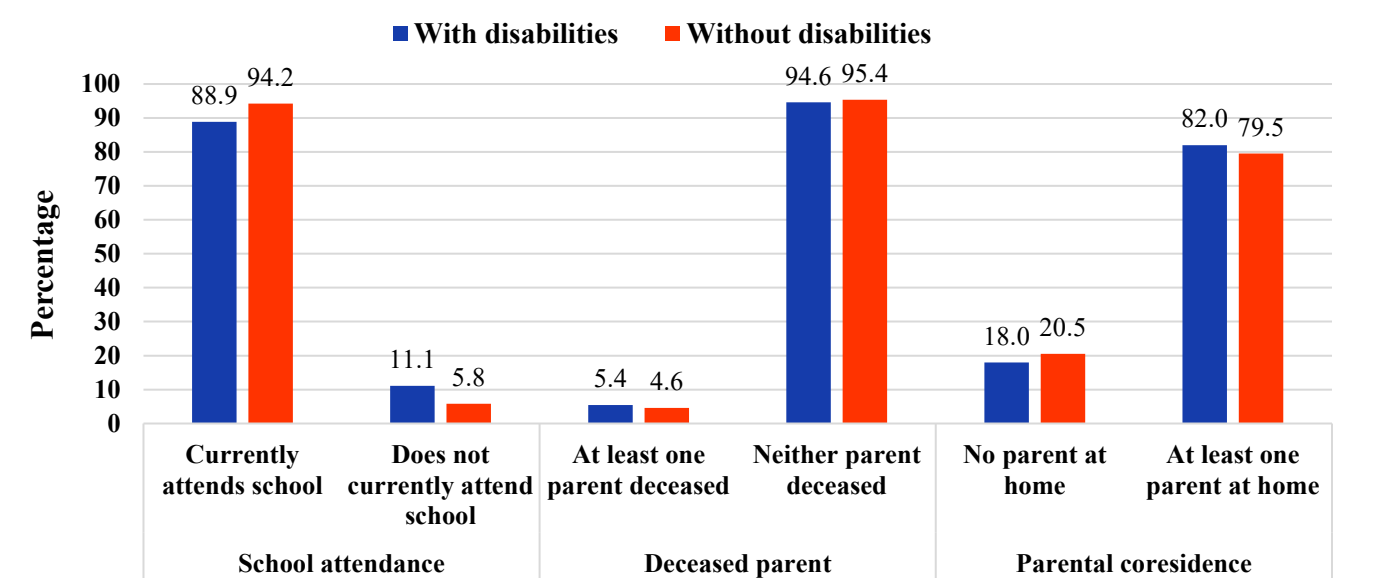
Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as having disability (in any domain). Disability in each domain is defined by a response of “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” in that domain.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

Outcomes Disaggregated by Disability in the 5-17 Age Group

- The percentage of children with disabilities aged 5 to 17 who do not currently attend school (11.1%) is higher than that of children without disabilities (5.8%), a difference of about 5.0%.
- Among children living with disabilities, 5.4% have at least one deceased parent, while this percentage is 4.6% among children without disabilities.
- Children with disabilities are more likely to live in a household with at least one parent (82.0%), compared to children without disabilities (79.5%).

Figure 8. School attendance, loss of parent, and parental coresidence by disability status: percentage of the population aged 5-17 years, Cabo Verde, 2021



Disability is defined using the WG Short Set on Functioning, which asks about difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as washing all over or dressing. Respondents who indicated “a lot of difficulty” or “cannot do at all” to at least one of the six functioning domains were classified as with disabilities.

Data source: Cabo Verde National Institute of Statistics, V-RGPH, 2021.

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Appendix 1: Processing and analysis team

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Appendix 2: Analysis tables

Table DS.1: Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain by socio-demographic characteristics: population aged 18 and over, Cape Verde, V-RGPH, 2021

Socio-demographic characteristics	Percentage of the population aged 18 or over with disabilities in each domain ¹						Percentage of individuals with disability (in any domain) ²	Population size
	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Communication	Cognition	Self-care		
Age-adjusted prevalence based on the 2020 world population								
Sex								
Male	5.9	2.1	3.9	1.0	2.0	1.5	10.9	
Female	10.7	2.4	4.5	0.9	3.3	1.6	16.3	
Total	8.3	2.3	4.3	0.9	2.7	1.6	13.7	
Unadjusted prevalences								
Sex								
Male	5.0	1.7	3.0	0.9	1.8	1.2	9.2	162,239
Female	10.4	2.5	4.6	0.9	3.3	1.8	15.9	163,624
Region								
Santo Antão	9.4	3.1	6.0	1.4	3.0	2.6	16.2	25,981
São Vicente	9.13	2.2	3.8	1.0	2.2	1.7	13.7	54,497
São Nicolau	8.67	3.3	5.8	1.4	2.1	2.6	15.3	8,603
Salt	6.35	1.6	1.9	0.5	1.3	0.8	9.1	22,243
Boavista	6.15	1.3	1.8	0.3	0.7	0.8	8.5	8,378
May	11.02	3.1	5.2	1.0	2.5	1.9	16.7	4,293
Santiago	7.32	2.0	3.6	0.9	2.9	1.4	12.3	176,448
Fire	5.62	1.8	3.6	1.0	1.8	1.5	10.3	21,740
Brava	10.60	2.0	6.9	1.1	2.7	1.9	17.3	3,680
Urbanicity								
Urban	7.42	1.8	3.3	0.8	2.1	1.3	11.6	242,604
Rural	8.5	2.9	5.3	1.3	3.7	2.1	15.4	83,259
Age								
18-29 years	4.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	5.8	98,369
30-39 years	4.1	0.8	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.4	6.4	81,555
40-49 years	7.5	1.3	2.1	0.5	1.8	0.5	11.1	53,695
50-59 years	11.6	2.3	4.9	0.9	3.1	0.9	18.0	43,164
60-69 years	13.5	3.7	8.9	1.3	4.7	2.3	23.5	27,307
70-79 years	18.0	7.2	15.5	2.4	7.5	5.7	33.6	10,153
80 years and over	27.4	19.1	32.7	6.9	17.6	21.5	55.9	11,620
Level of education								
None	17.7	8.8	16.6	5.7	10.9	9.4	35.7	33,027
Primary	9.3	2.3	4.4	0.7	2.8	1.3	15.0	123,798
Secondary	4.8	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.2	6.6	123 167
Higher	4.0	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.2	5.3	45,871
Total	7.7	2.1	3.8	0.9	2.5	1.5	12.6	325,863

¹Having a response of “A lot of difficulty” or “Cannot do at all” in the domain.

²Having at least one question marked as “A lot of difficulty” or “Cannot do at all”.

Table DS.2: Percentage distribution of socio-demographic characteristics by disability status and severity of disability by socio-demographic characteristics: population aged 18 and over, Cape Verde, V-RGPH, 2021.

Socio-demographic characteristics	Percentage distribution by disability status ¹		Severity of disability					Population size
	Without disability	With disability	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total	
Sex								
Male	51.7	36.5	74.3	16.4	8.0	1.3	100.0	162,239
Female	48.3	63.5	58.6	25.4	14.3	1.8	100.0	163,624
Region of residence								
Santo Antão	7.6	10.2	58.4	25.3	13.9	2.4	100.0	25,981
São Vicente	16.5	18.3	63.5	22.7	12.2	1.7	100.0	54,497
São Nicolau	2.6	3.2	60.1	24.3	13.1	2.4	100.0	8,603
Salt	7.1	5.0	71.3	19.5	8.5	0.7	100.0	22,243
Boavista	2.7	1.7	69.4	22.0	8.1	0.5	100.0	8,378
May	1.3	1.7	58.2	25.0	15.2	1.6	100.0	4,293
Santiago	54.3	52.8	67.9	19.7	10.9	1.4	100.0	176,448
Fire	6.8	5.4	71.5	18.1	8.9	1.5	100.0	21,740
Brava	1.1	1.6	49.7	32.8	15.6	2.0	100.0	3,680
Urbanicity								
Urban	75.3	68.8	67.7	20.6	10.4	1.3	100.0	242,604
Rural	24.7	31.2	62.6	21.9	13.5	2.0	100.0	83,259
Age group								
18-29 years	32.5	13.8	80.2	14.0	5.4	0.4	100.0	98,369
30-39 years	26.8	12.8	77.4	16.2	6.0	0.4	100.0	81,555
40-49 years	16.8	14.5	65.9	23.0	10.5	0.6	100.0	53,695
50-59 years	12.4	19.0	51.2	30.7	16.9	1.3	100.0	43,164
60-69 years	7.3	15.7	43.8	32.5	21.5	2.3	100.0	27,307
70-79 years	2.4	8.3	31.4	34.5	28.7	5.4	100.0	10,153
80 years and over	1.8	15.8	15.1	27.7	38.8	18.4	100.0	11,620
Level of education								
None	7.5	28.8	36.4	27.3	27.1	9.2	100.0	33,027
Primary	36.9	45.4	60.7	24.2	13.9	1.2	100.0	123,798
Secondary	40.4	19.9	76.4	16.9	6.4	0.2	100.0	123,167
Higher	15.2	5.9	76.3	18.4	5.1	0.2	100.0	45,871
Employment status								
Employed	63.9	38.6	72.1	19.9	7.9	0.2	100.0	197,869
Unemployed	5.7	3.8	73.0	18.4	8.5	0.1	100.0	17,826
Inactive	30.4	57.6	55.0	23.3	17.5	4.2	100.0	110,168
Total	100.0	100.0	66.4	20.9	11.2	1.5	100.0	325,863

¹Having at least one question marked as “A lot of difficulty” or “Cannot do at all”.

Table DS.3: Prevalence of disability in any domain and disability in each domain by socio-demographic characteristics and percentage distribution of socio-demographic characteristics by disability status: population aged 5 – 17, Cape Verde, V-RGPH, 2021

Socio-demographic characteristics	Percentage of the population aged 5 – 17 with disabilities ¹ in each domain						Percentage of individuals with disability (in any domain) ²	Percentage distribution by disability status ²		Population Size
	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Communication	Cognition	Self-care		Without disability	With disability	
Age-adjusted prevalence based on the 2020 world population										
Total	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	5.0			
Unadjusted prevalence rates										
Sex										
Male	2.8	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.5	4.9	51.0	49.8	61,013
Female	3.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.4	5.2	49.0	50.2	58,817
Region										
Santo Antão	4.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.5	0.7	6.3	7.0	8.8	8,443
São Vicente	4.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	6.5	12.8	16.8	15,611
São Nicolau	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	4.9	2.4	2.3	2,812
Salt	3.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	4.9	6.7	6.5	7,968
Boavista	2.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	4.2	2.5	2.1	3,000
May	3.5	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	5.3	1.2	1.3	1,495
Santiago	2.7	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	4.8	58.9	55.4	70,422
Fire	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	3.5	7.3	5.0	8,658
Brava	4.1	1.5	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.6	7.5	1.2	1.8	1,421
Urbanicity										
Urban	3.2	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.0	73.1	72.1	87,572
Rural	2.9	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.5	5.2	26.9	27.9	32,258
Age										
5-9 years	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	3.8	39.4	29.4	46,619
10-14 years	3.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.4	0.4	5.8	38.6	44.5	46,580
15-17 years	4.1	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.3	5.9	22.0	26.1	26,631
School enrollment status										
Currently attends school	3.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.2	4.8	94.2	88.9	112,612
Does not currently attend school	3.4	1.4	3.2	4.4	4.4	4.0	9.3	5.8	11.1	7,218
Deceased parent										
At least one parent deceased	3.3	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.7	5.9	4.6	5.4	5,533

Neither parent deceased	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.0	95.4	94.6	114,297
Parental coresidence										
No parent at home	2.4	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.3	4.5	20.5	18.0	24,410
At least one parent at home	3.3	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.5	5.2	79.5	82.0	95,420
Total	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	5.1	100.0	100.0	119,830

¹ Having a response of "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all" in the domain.

² Having at least one question marked as "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all".