

“The measurement of disability in Argentina”

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Preparing the Census 2010

In occasion of the preparations for the Census 2010 and the inclusion of a question related to disability, we tried several times the short set of questions and the categories of responses:

the first time in the Cognitive Test for the Measurement of Disability, it was carried out during the first semester of the year 2006 in City of Buenos Aires

the second time in the 1st Jointly Pilot Field Test, it was carried out in November 2006 in four locations: Posadas and Puerto Iguazú (Misiones, Argentina) and Ciudad del Este (Alto Paraná, Paraguay) and Foz de Iguazú (Paraná, Brazil)

the third time in the 1st Pilot Test of Conceptual Design of the Questionnaires – Bariloche, Posadas and City of Buenos Aires in November 2007



Preparing the Census 2010

And the results were:

With respect to the set of questions:

a conclusion was reached that the categories for the question about “type of difficulty or permanent limitation” will correspond to disabilities for the visual field, hearing, upper and lower motor function of the body, as well as the cognitive functions.

In relation to the response categories:

the analysis of Non Participant Observers showed the detection of the many difficulties that had an incidence in the quality of the data obtained in terms of its validity and accuracy. The lack of precision was linked directly to the tool which data were obtained and the lack of validity was the result of the poor measurement or lack of accuracy of the information.



Some results of the problems identified during the interviews:

its grasping the meaning

tendency to rephrase the question from the interviewers part

caused doubts among the interviewed about the precise degree of difficulty that they had independently to the dominion that was being considered

people assessed their own disability as well as when they referred to a third person that lived in the same household

the interviewers ended doing some sort of diagnosis of the situation about the people who showed some kind of difficulty, trying to reach to a response category

it was constructed thru a various sub questions that each interviewer asked according to his/her understanding to the interviewee.



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All this plus, that this topic is impinged with a variety of complexities that go from the concept level to the operational level and that its measurement is charged with subjectivities, prejudices, and fears with respect of the dissemination of the phenomena, (particularly in Argentina) it is considered a topic that is very difficult to measure in a Population Census.

Then we took off the categories of answers and start trying new ways to respond.

We conclude that the better question is shown below and is part of the census questionnaire:

14 ¿Tiene dificultad o limitación permanente para...

Si	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ver, aún con anteojos o lentes puestos?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	oír, aún cuando usa audifono?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	caminar o subir escalones?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	agarrar objetos y/o abrir recipientes con las manos?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	entender y/o aprender?

¿Do you have a permanent difficulty or limitation...
seeing, even with your glasses on? Yes/No
hearing even with the help of a hearing aid? Yes/No
walking or climbing the steps? Yes/No
in grasping objects and/or opening recipients with your hands? Yes/No
in understanding and/or learning? Yes/No



Final results Census 2010

The results on disability will be ready from December 2011 (including rural areas) of Argentina, can obtain information on:

housing
housing with indigenous population
housing with afro-descendant population
homeless
age and sex
formal education
special education
marital status
work
fertility
health coverage
social security
migration



Other ways of gathering data

National Survey of Risk Factors 2009 (Encuesta Nacional de Factores de Riesgo), INDEC.

Between December 2009 throughout the whole national territory. In the chapter that deals with the analysis of the sociodemographic characteristics of the household members, there you can find a question (number 13) about “if the person has any difficulty or permanent limitation referring to disabilities in the visual, hearing, inferior and superior motor functions, cognitive, communicative, and self help.”

Permanent Households Survey (Encuesta Permanente de Hogares), INDEC.

It is carried out every three months from the year 2003. In the questionnaire related to “Households”, in the chapter that deals with “Household organization” in question number 3, it inquires about if in “this household exists a person with any disability”, and the only thing that is written down is the name of the household member. This data are published periodically and are broken down by big urban population areas throughout the national territory.

National Rehabilitation Service, Ministry of Health.

Has a record in the entire country of people with disabilities, by sex, age and disability. But this figure depends on the person to declare itself.

Thank you very much
and have a good return to
their countries !!!

