

Measuring disability prevalence

A tale of two surveys





- History and context behind the project
- Results
- Next steps

Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers



**Prevalence of
disability in
Australia**

**Socioeconomic
information**

**Carers
information**

**Demographic
information**



**Older
Australians**

**Need for
support of those
with disability**



- Conducted at irregular intervals since 1981
- Includes people living in households, retirement villages and care establishments
- Total sample of approx. 70,000 people
- Very long survey
- Benchmarked to the Australian population

The 2016 Supplementary Disability Survey



The 2016 SDS was conducted in collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide an internationally comparable disability measure for Australia

- Washington Group Short Set on Functioning questions
- Voluntary follow-up survey, sampled from SDAC
- 6,213 households (13,837 people)
- Computer-assisted telephone interviews



- Respondents were asked about their level of difficulty because of a health problem
- Weights calculated based on SDAC 2015
- Estimated resident population benchmarks (ERP) and person level benchmarks from the SDAC



Comparing disability surveys



When comparing disability prevalence rates from Australia it's important to be aware of the different approaches used

	SDAC	SDS	WG Short Set
Age	All ages	Aged 5 years and over	Adult population
Scope	Households and establishments	Households only	
Interview method	Computer-assisted personal interviews	Computer-assisted telephone interviews	Face-to-face
Respondent	Any adult followed by personal interviews or proxy interviews	Adult providing information on behalf of household	Individual (self-response)
Number of questions	39 questions	6 questions	6 questions



- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech
- Pain
- Breathing
- Seizures
- Use of arms/hands
- Difficulty gripping things
- Difficulty learning or understanding
- Use of feet/legs
- Able to do physical work
- Mental health problem that requires supervision
- Nervous or emotional problem
- Periods of memory loss or confusion
- Social or behavioural problems
- Disfigurement or deformity
- head injury, stroke or other acquired brain injury, with long-term effects
- receiving treatment or medication for any other long-term conditions or ailments and still restricted in everyday activities
- any other long-term conditions resulting in a restriction in everyday activities



- Vision
- Hearing
- Remembering and Concentrating
- Mobility
- Self care
- Communication



Washington Group

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

No – no difficulty

Yes – some difficulty

Yes – a lot of difficulty

Cannot do at all

SDAC

Do you have any loss of sight?

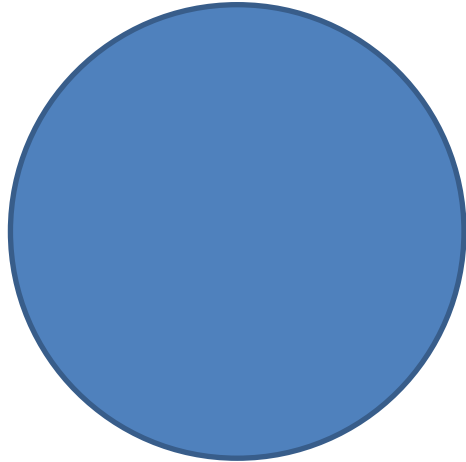
Can you see normally wearing glasses or contact lenses?

Do you have total loss of sight?

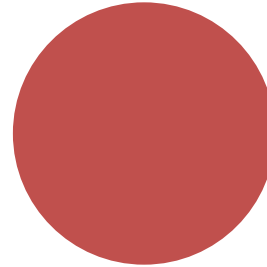
People aged 18 years + with disability by survey (recommended Washington Group threshold)



SDAC – 3.7 million



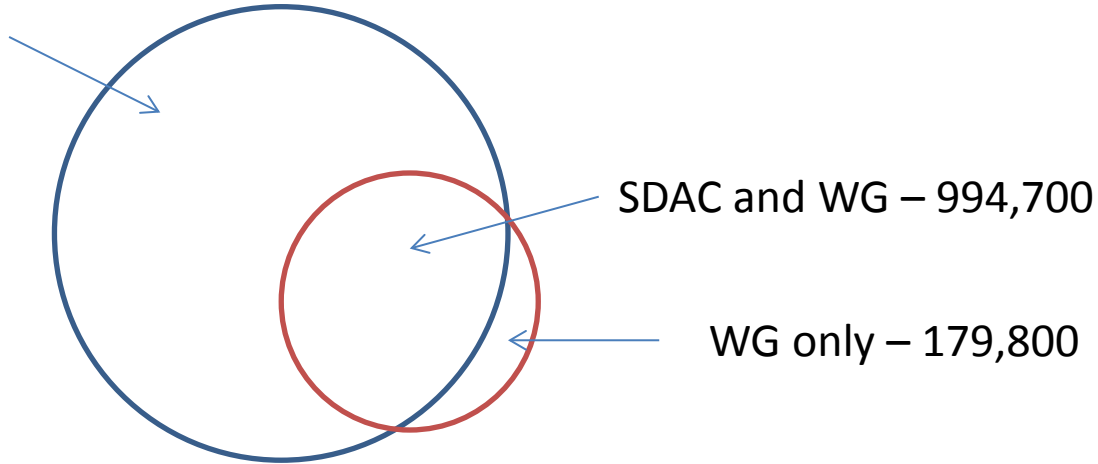
WG – 1.2 million



The overlap between the surveys



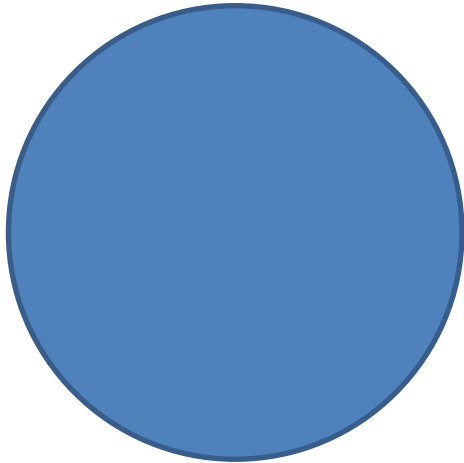
SDAC only – 2.7 million



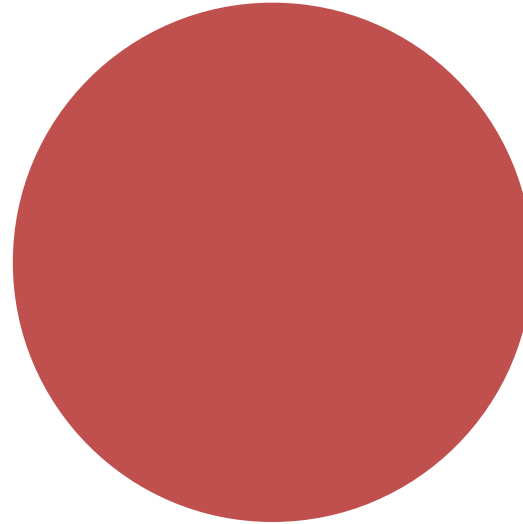
People aged 18 years + with disability by survey (lower Washington Group threshold)



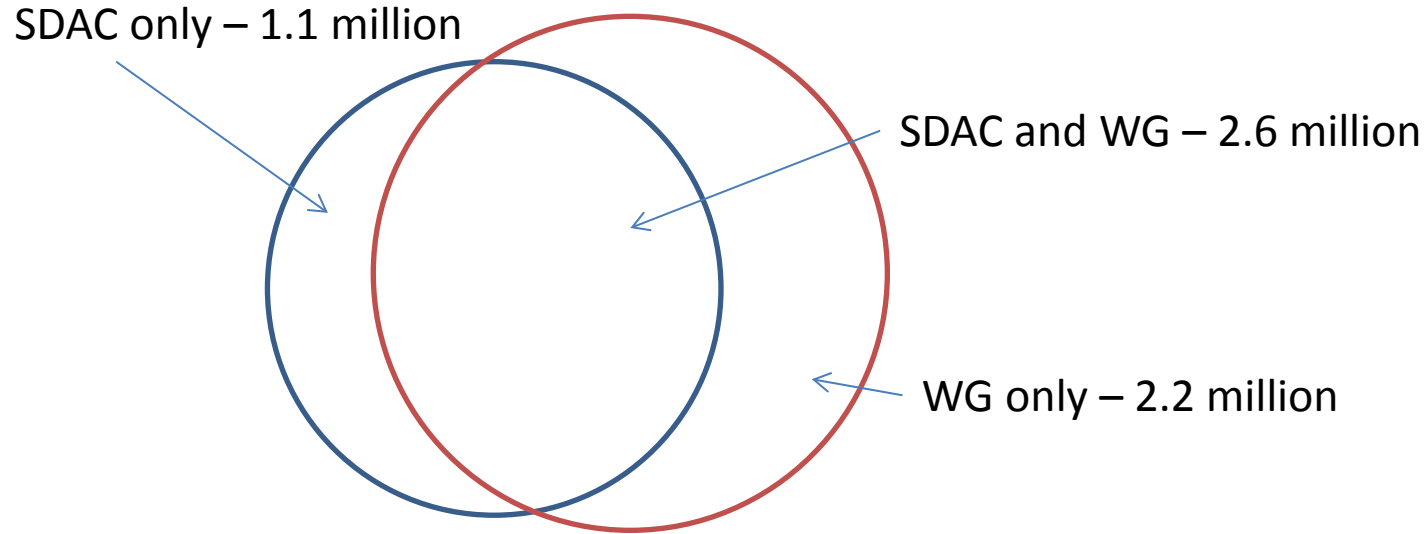
SDAC – 3.7 million



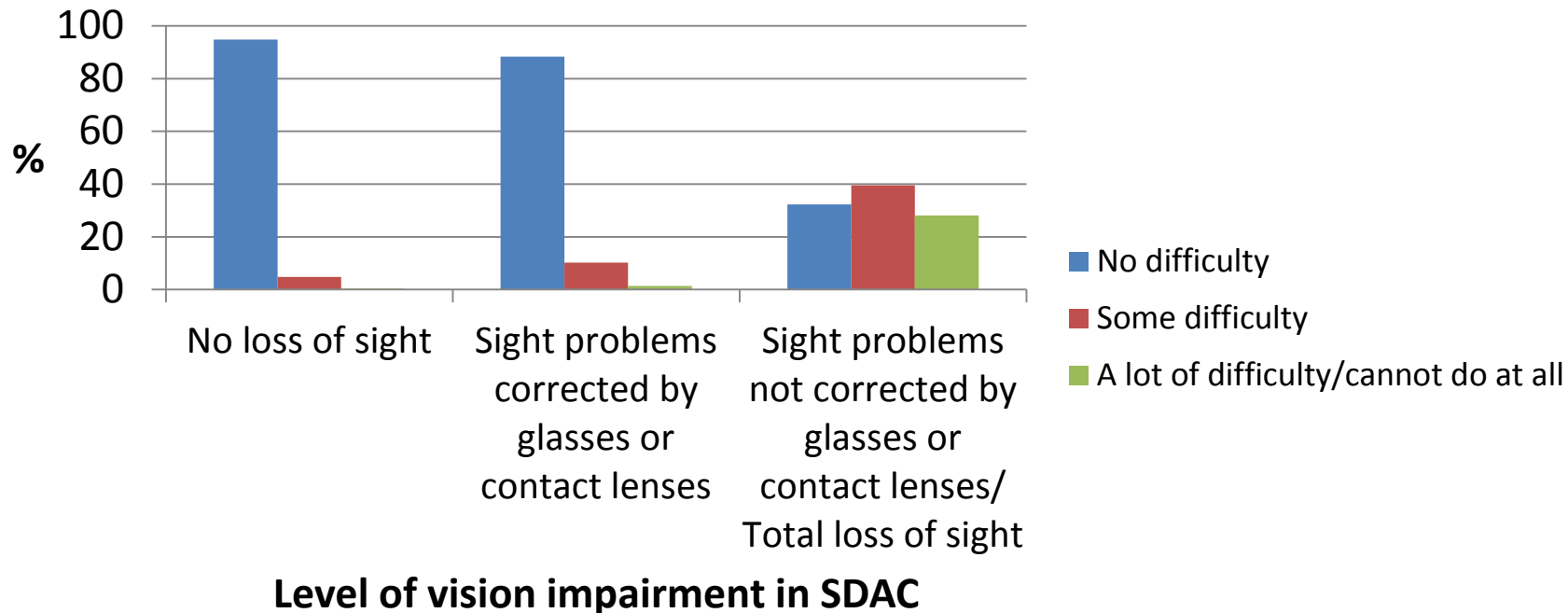
WG – 4.8 million



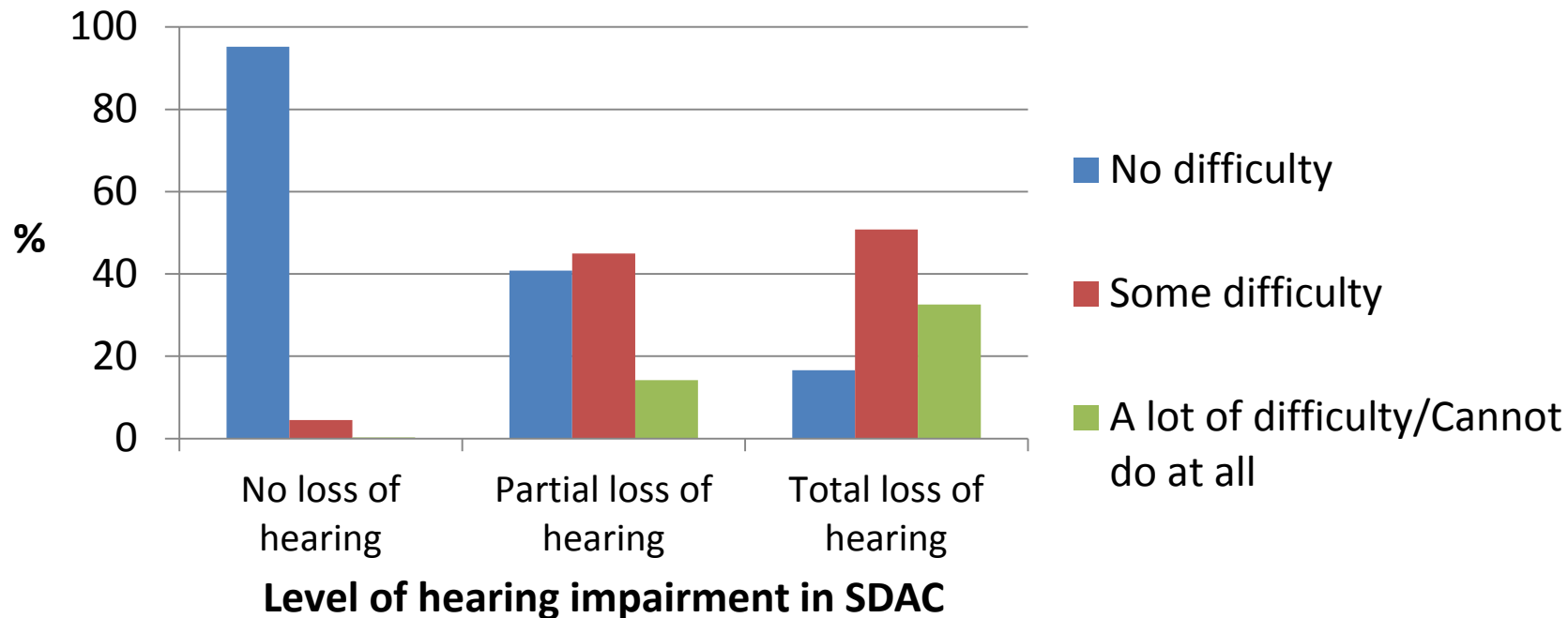
The overlap between the surveys

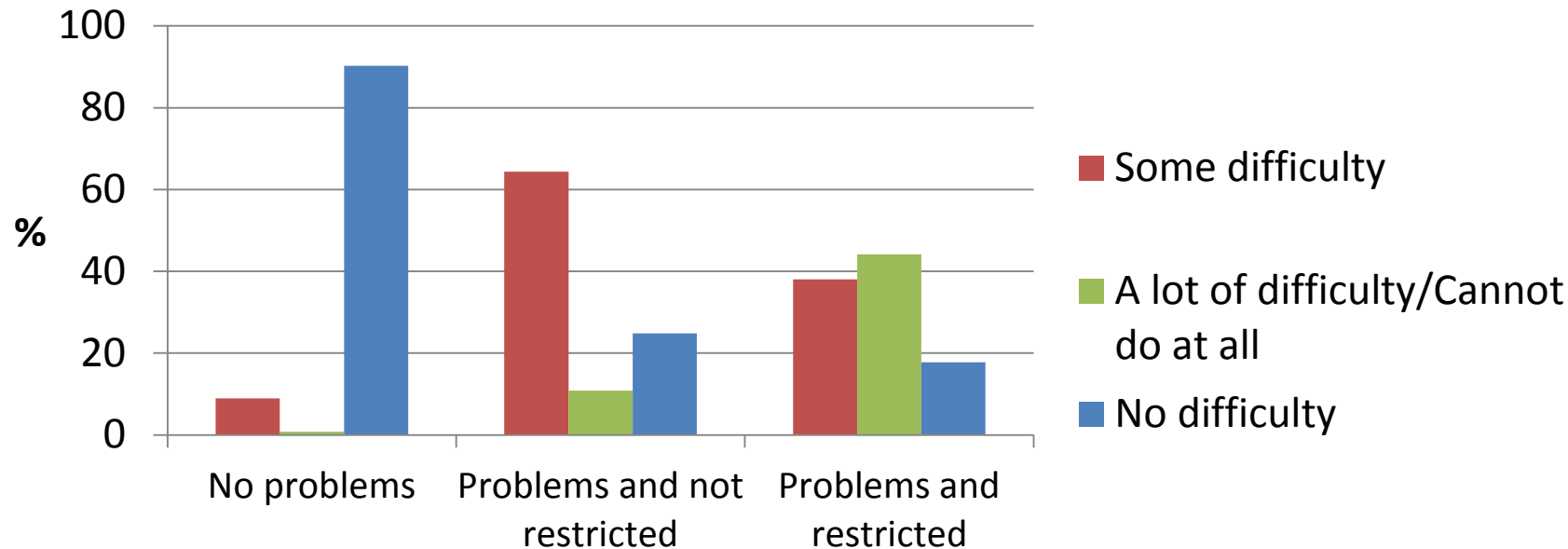


Difficulty with vision in Washington Group short set as proportion of whether have vision impairment in SDAC



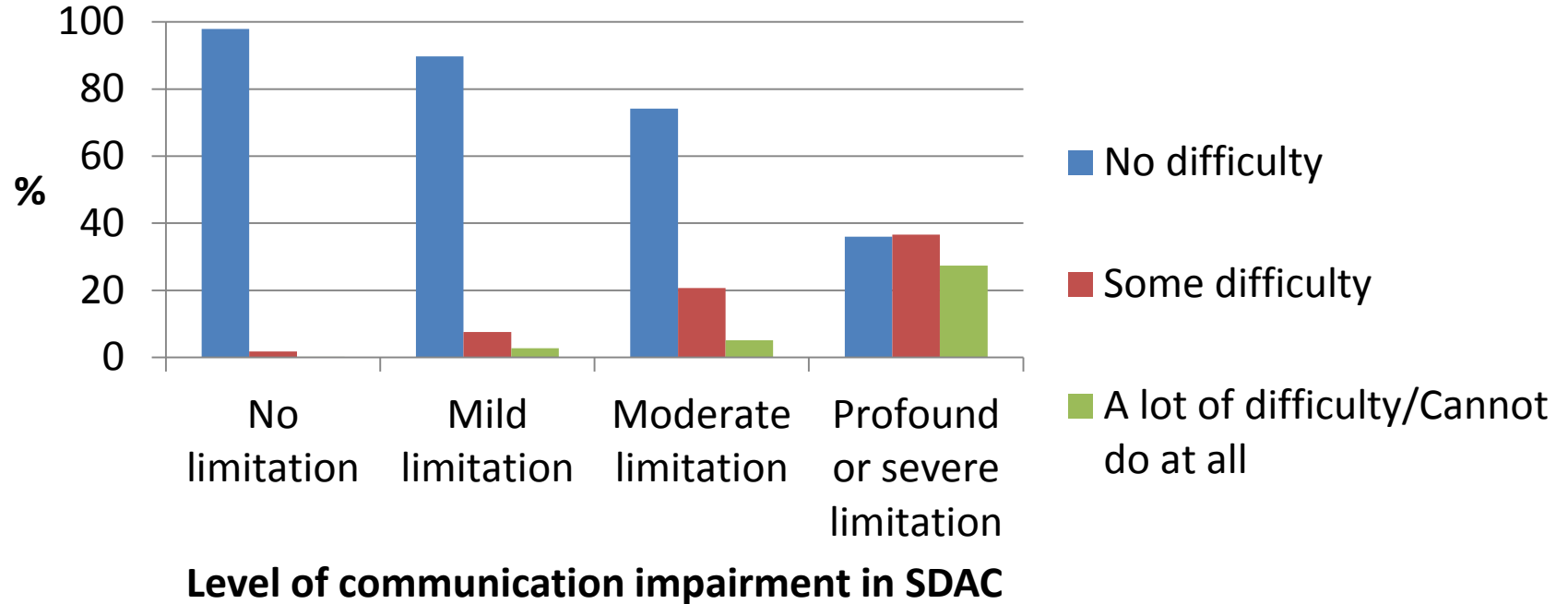
Difficulty with hearing in Washington Group short set as proportion of whether have difficulty with hearing in SDAC



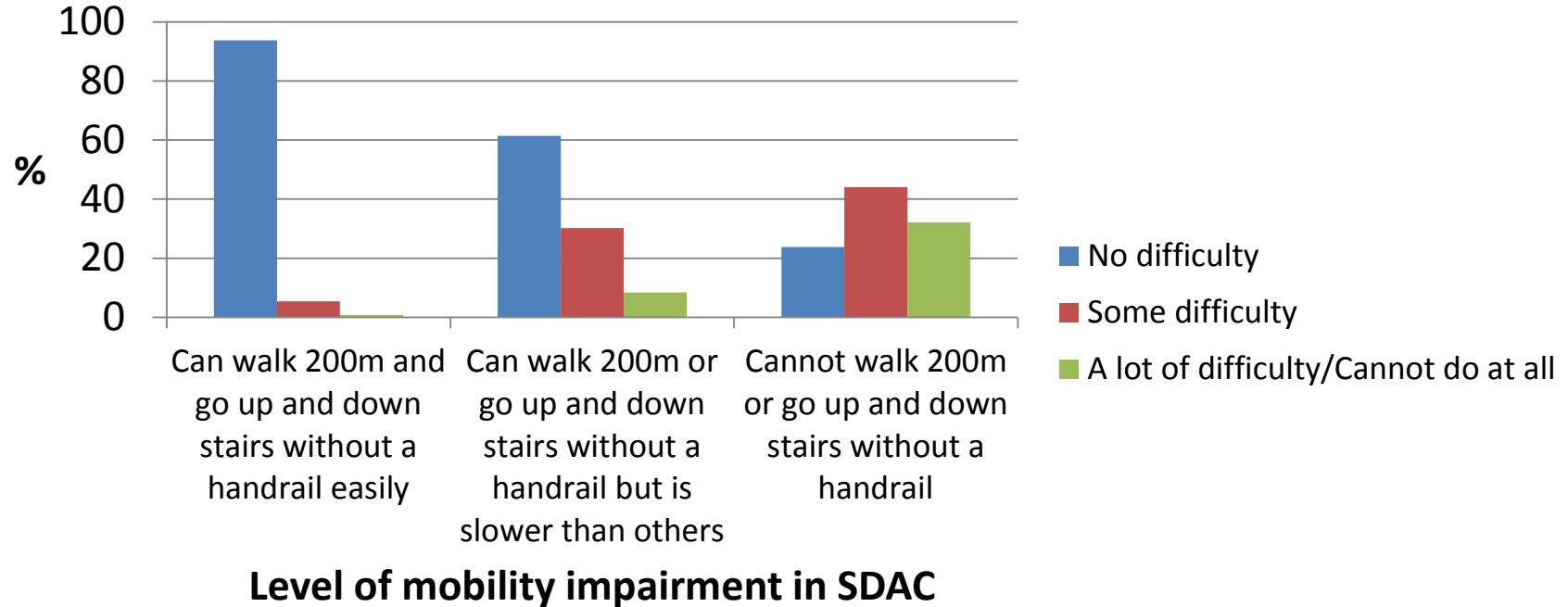


Level of hearing memory or concentration impairment in SDAC

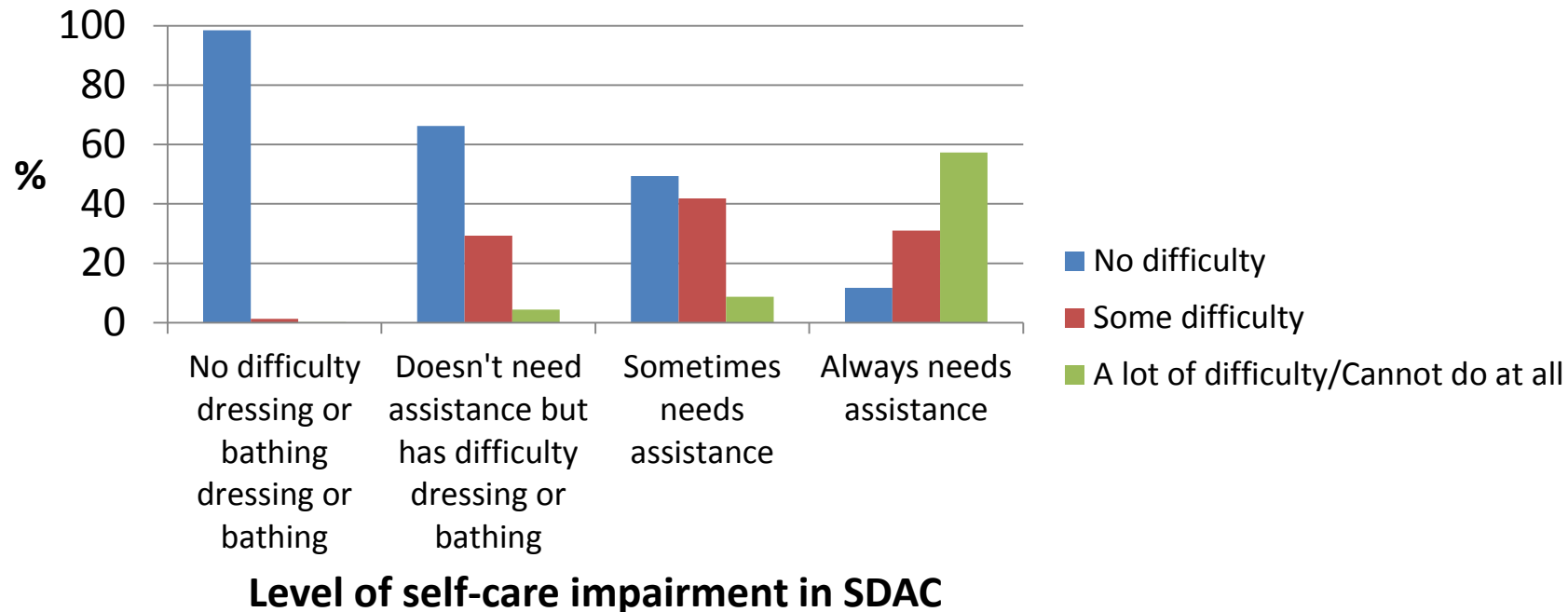
Difficulty with communication in Washington Group short set as proportion of whether have difficulty with communication in SDAC



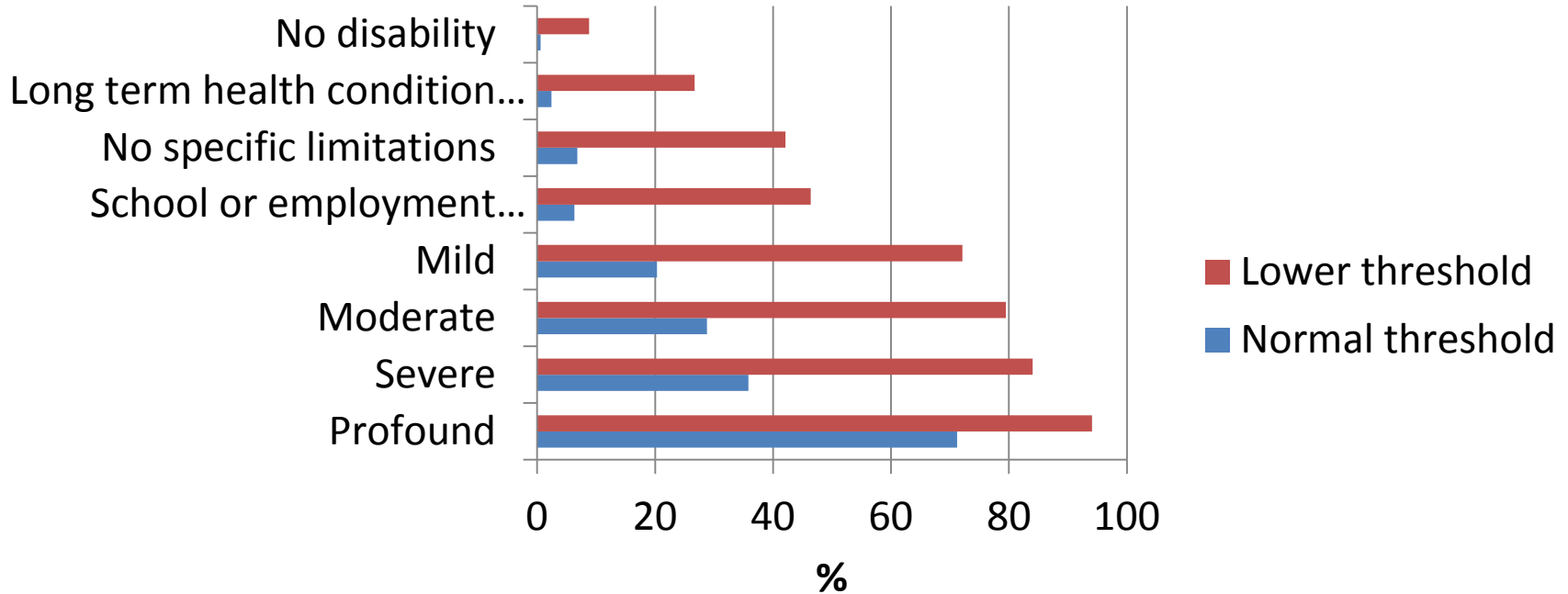
Difficulty with mobility in Washington Group short set as proportion of whether have difficulty with mobility in SDAC



Difficulty with self-care in Washington Group short set as proportion of whether have difficulty with self-care in SDAC



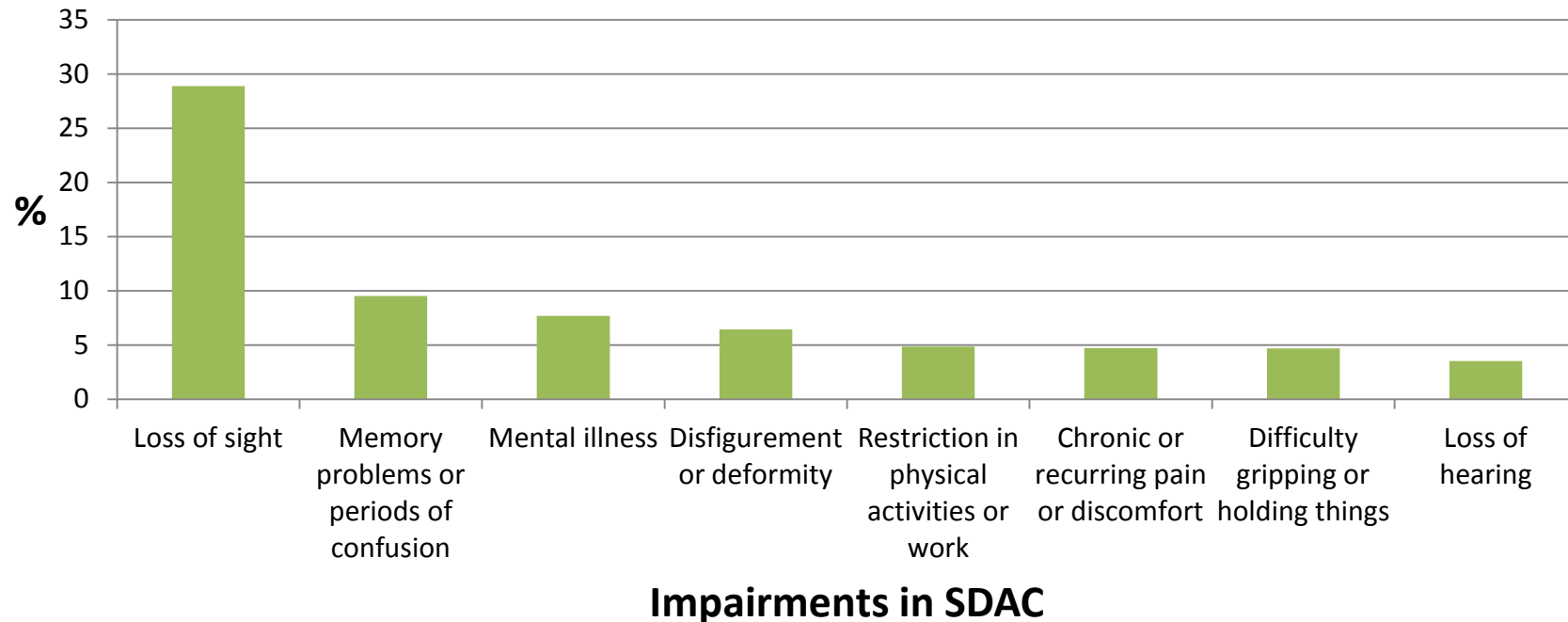
Disability status (from SDAC) by whether had a disability in WG Short Set



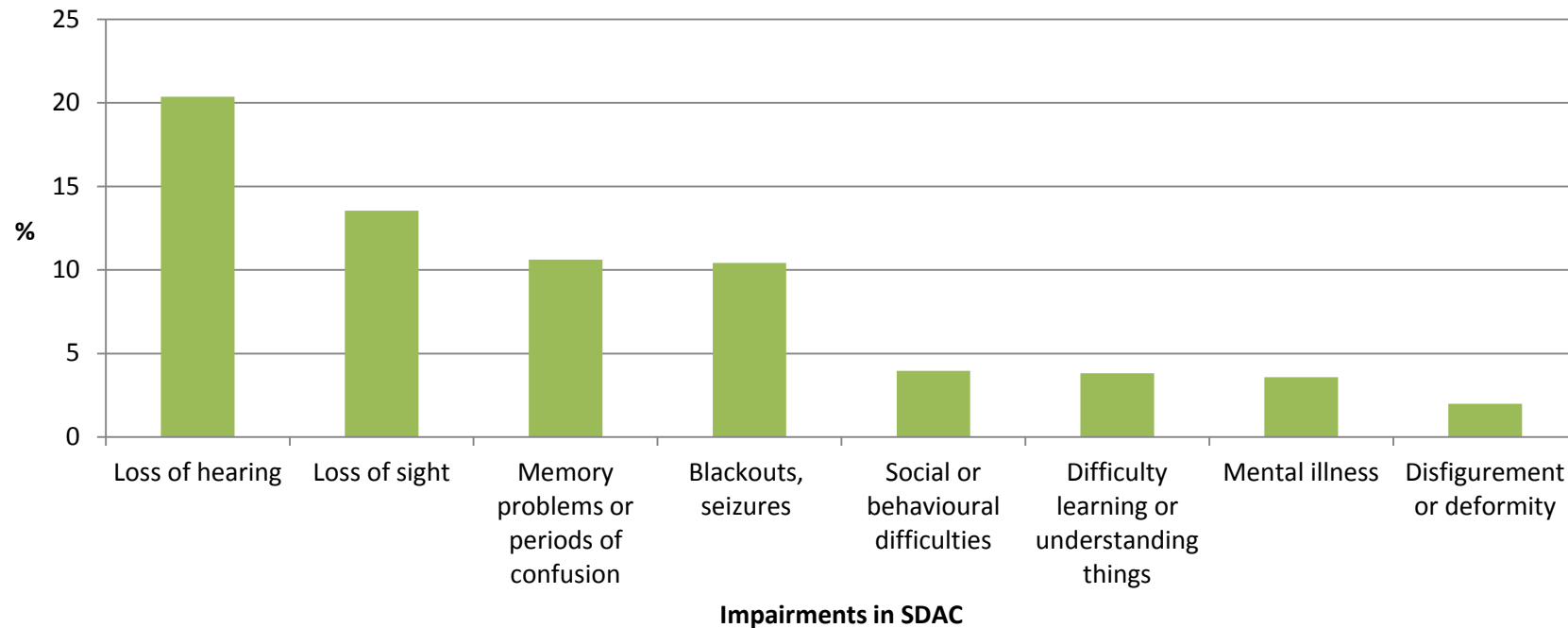
Impairments from SDAC

Impairment	% with disability in WG Short set	Impairment	% with disability in WG Short set
Vision	49.5	Gripping, holding	36.8
Hearing	34.0	Use of legs, feet	50.7
Speech	57.2	Nervous/emotional condition	33.0
Breathing difficulties	47.0	Physical activity, work	39.2
Pain	35.9	Disfigurement	37.4
Blackouts, seizures	43.1	Mental illness	51.0
Learning	43.7	Memory, confusion	64.5
Use of arms, fingers	35.9	Social, behavioural	35.8

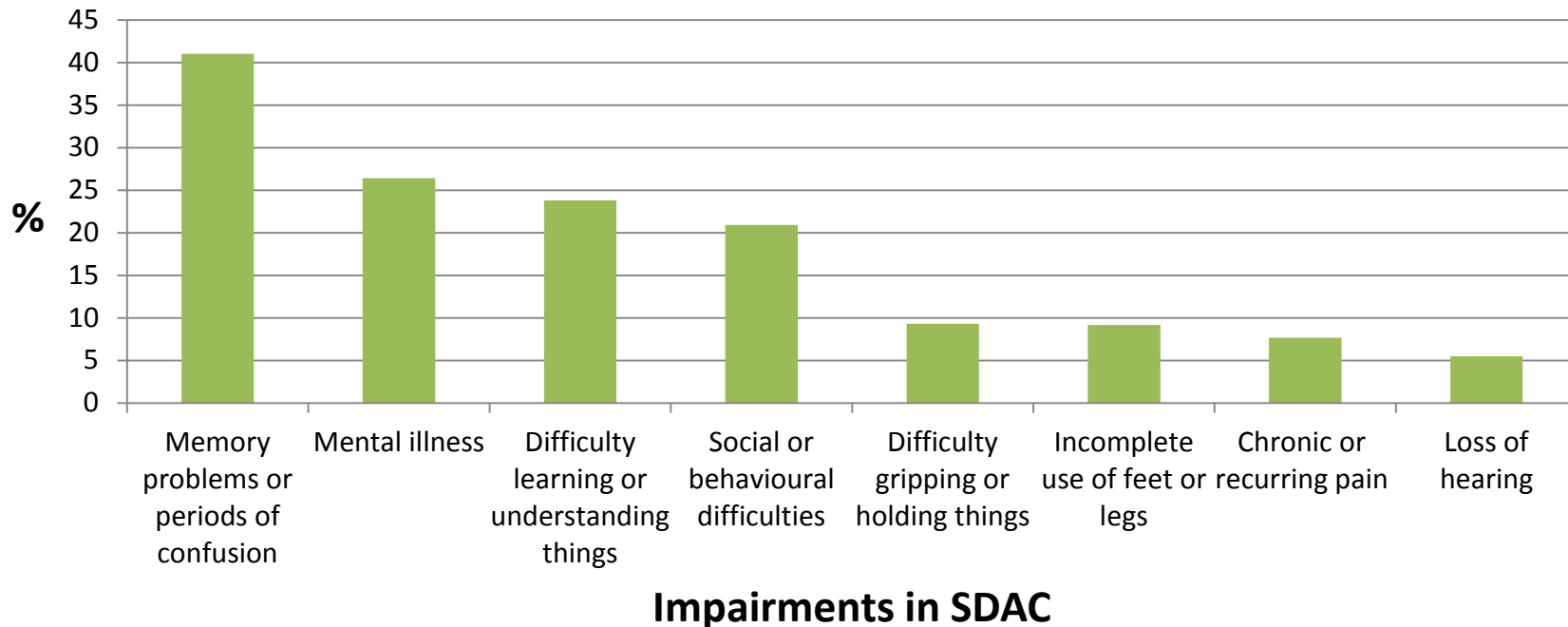
Proportion of people with sight disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



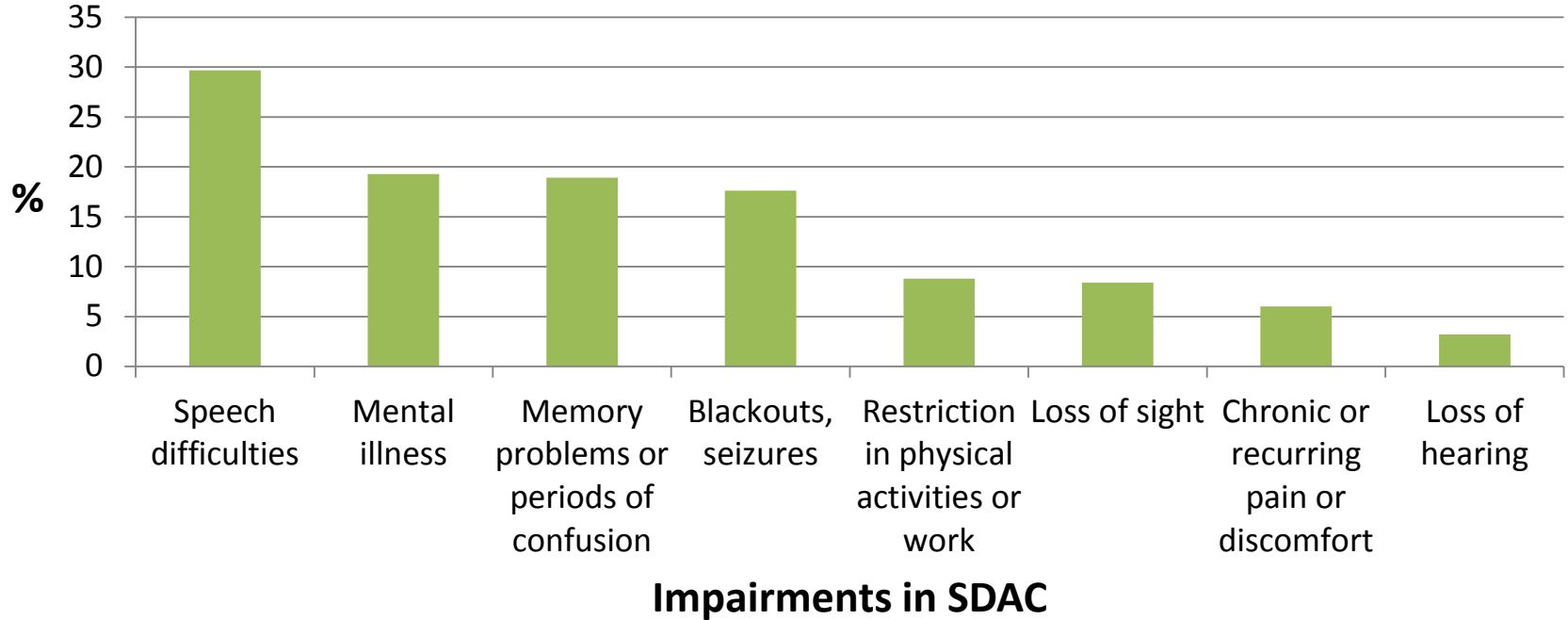
Proportion of people with hearing disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



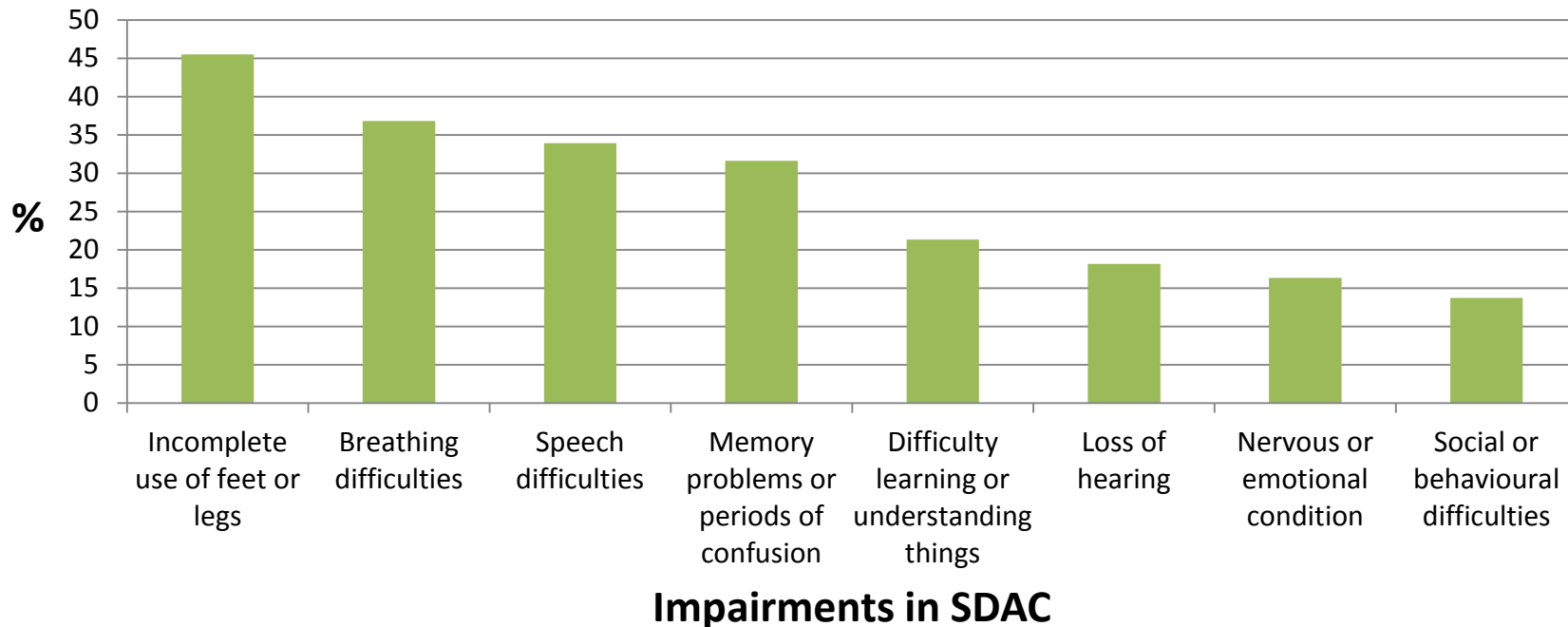
Proportion of people with memory or confusion disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



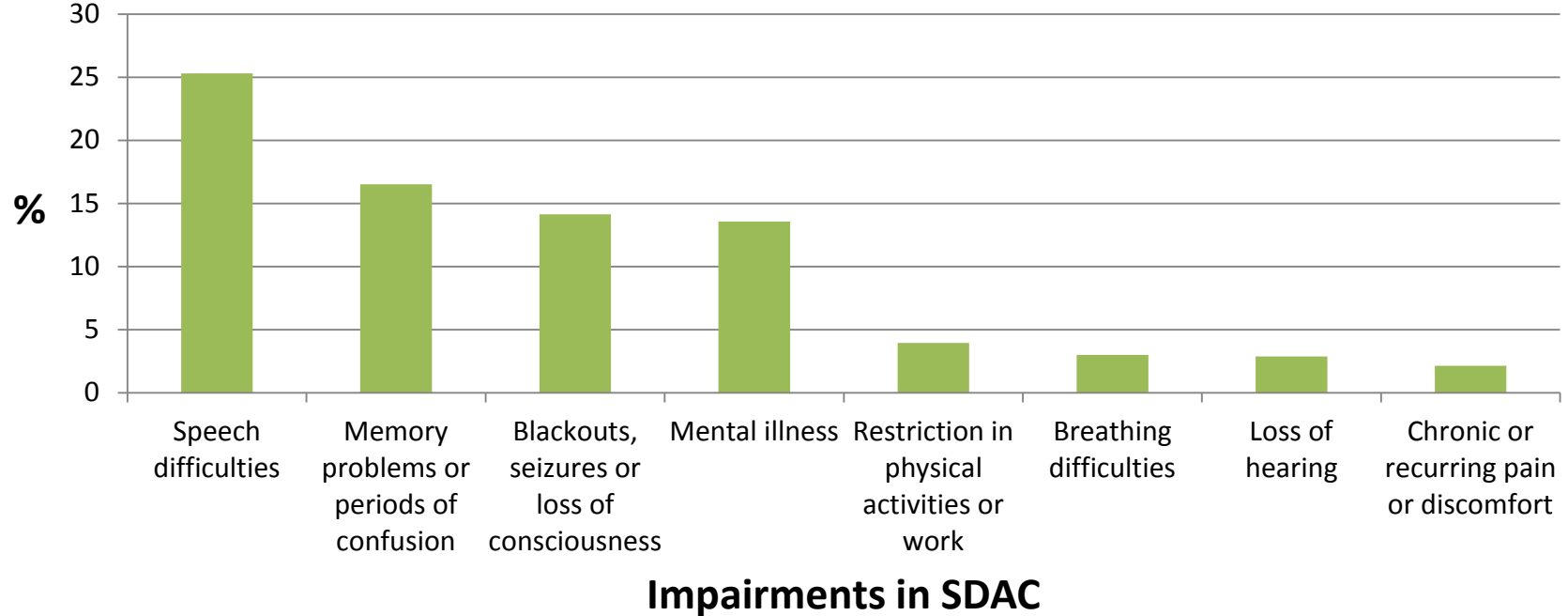
Proportion of people with self-care disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



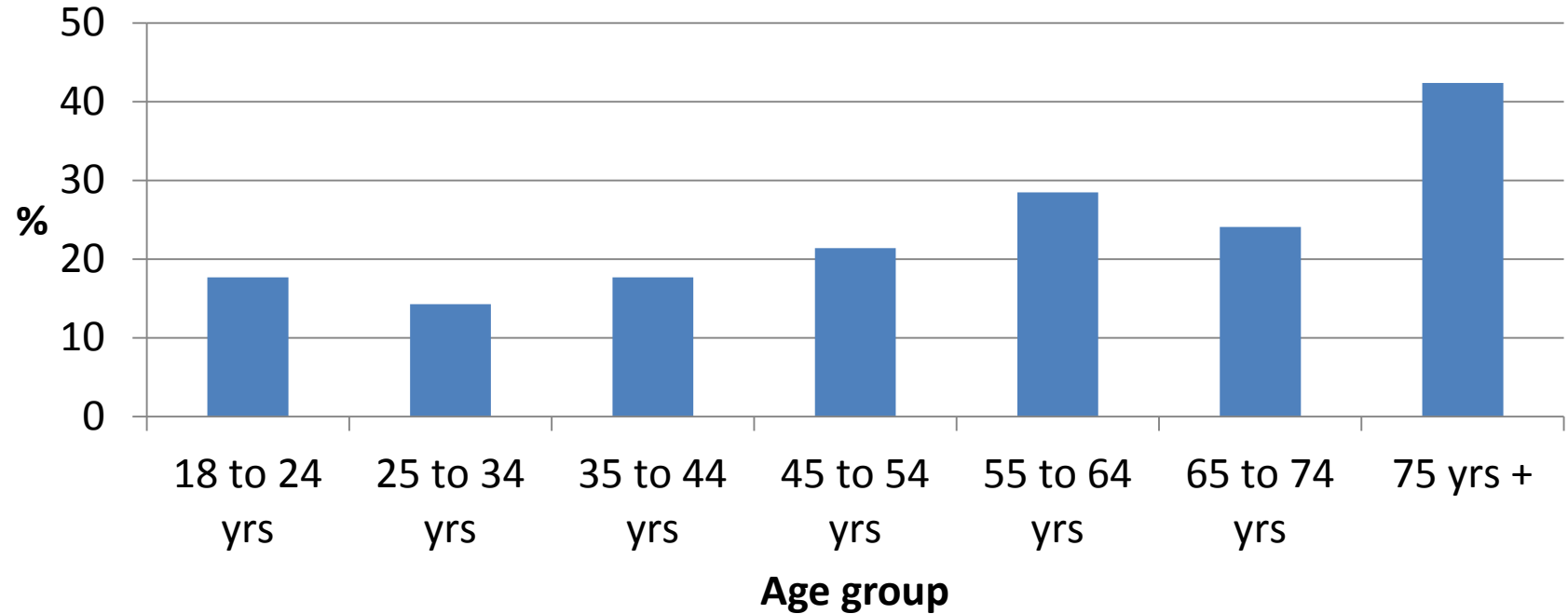
Proportion of people with mobility disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



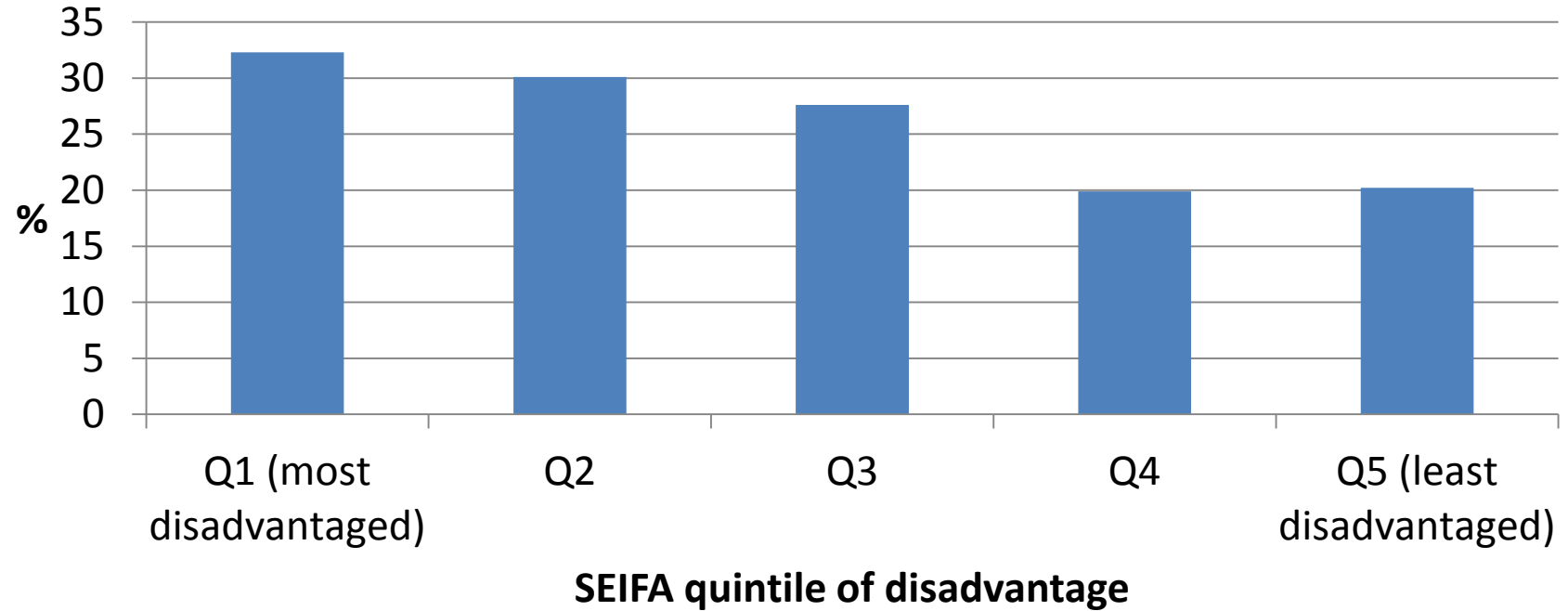
Proportion of people with communication disability in WG short set (recommended threshold) by impairment in SDAC



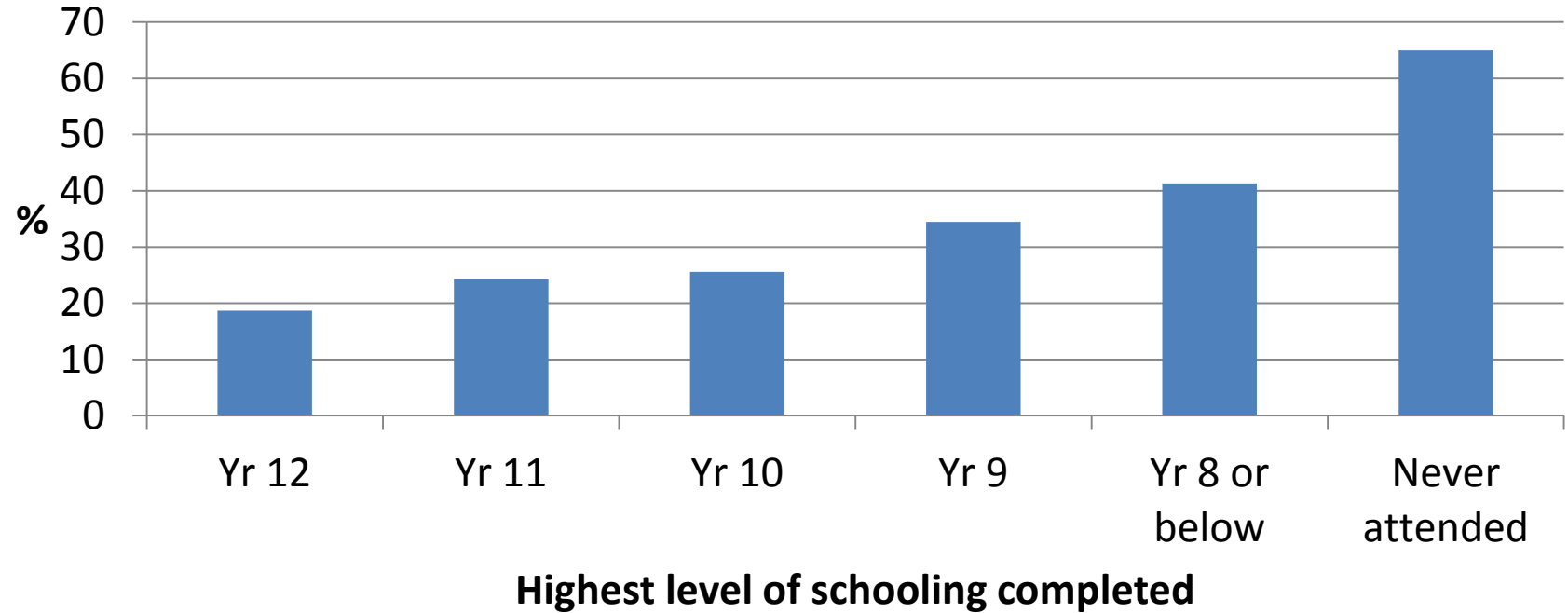
Proportion of people with disability in SDAC who had a disability in WG short set by Age



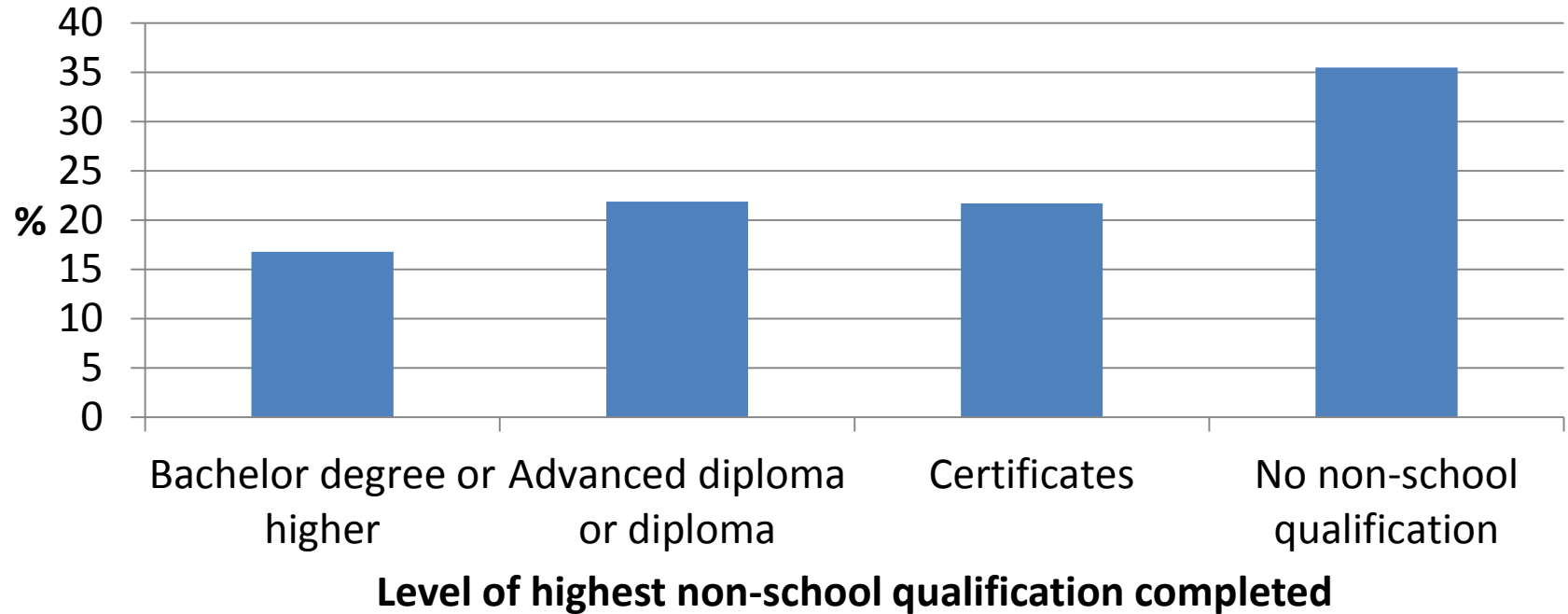
Proportion of people with disability in SDAC who had a disability in WG short set by SEIFA quintile



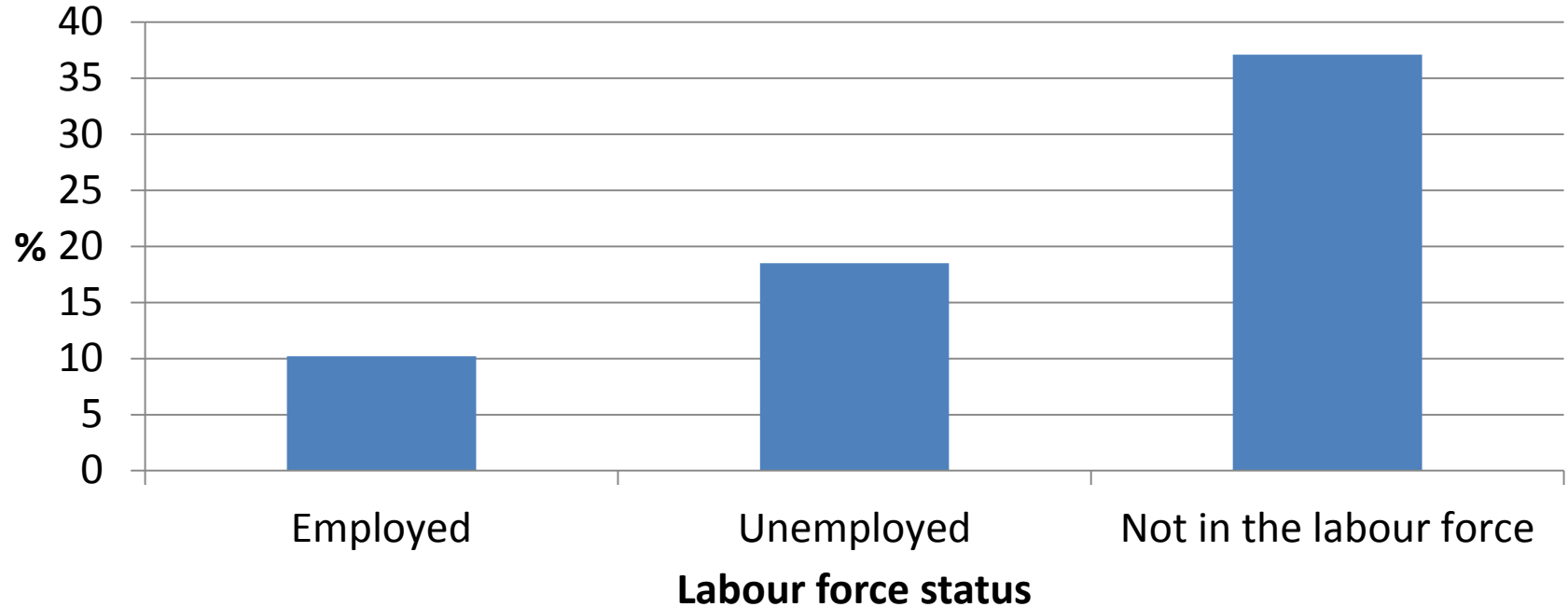
Proportion of people with disability in SDAC who had a disability in WG short set by Highest year of school completed



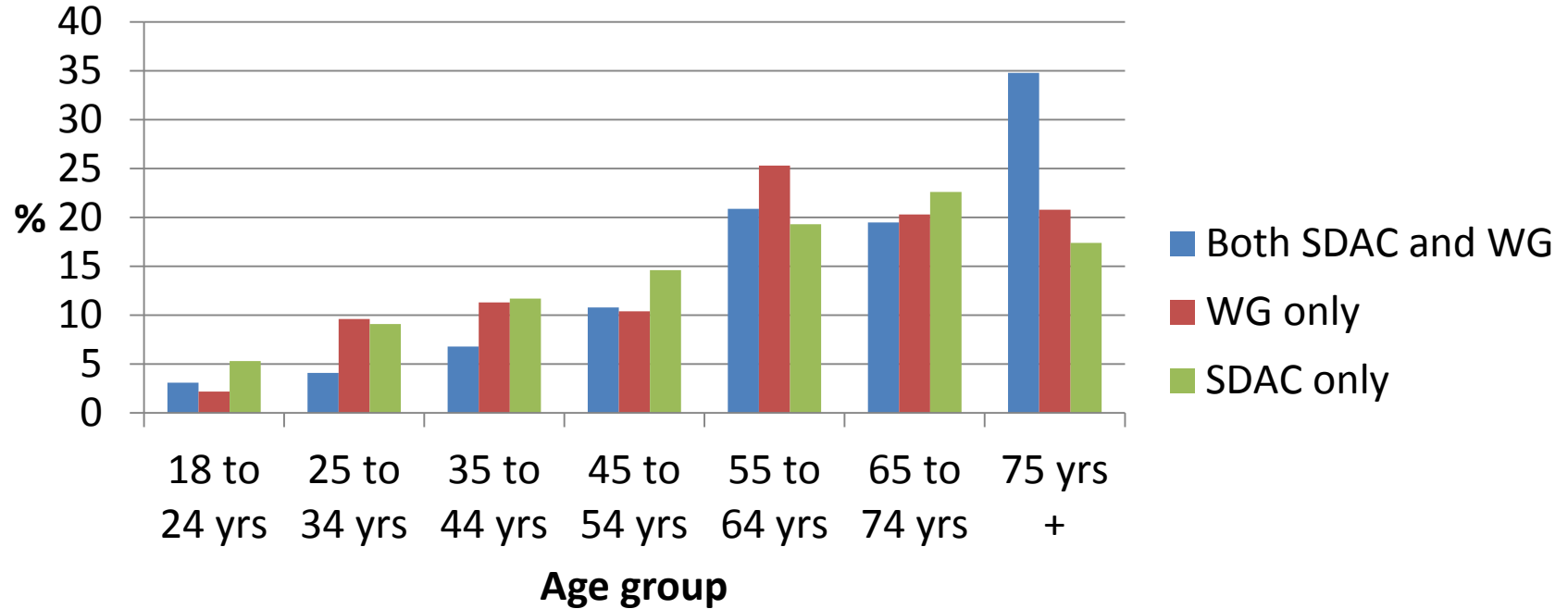
Proportion of people with disability in SDAC who had a disability in WG short set by (using recommended threshold) Highest non-school qualification completed



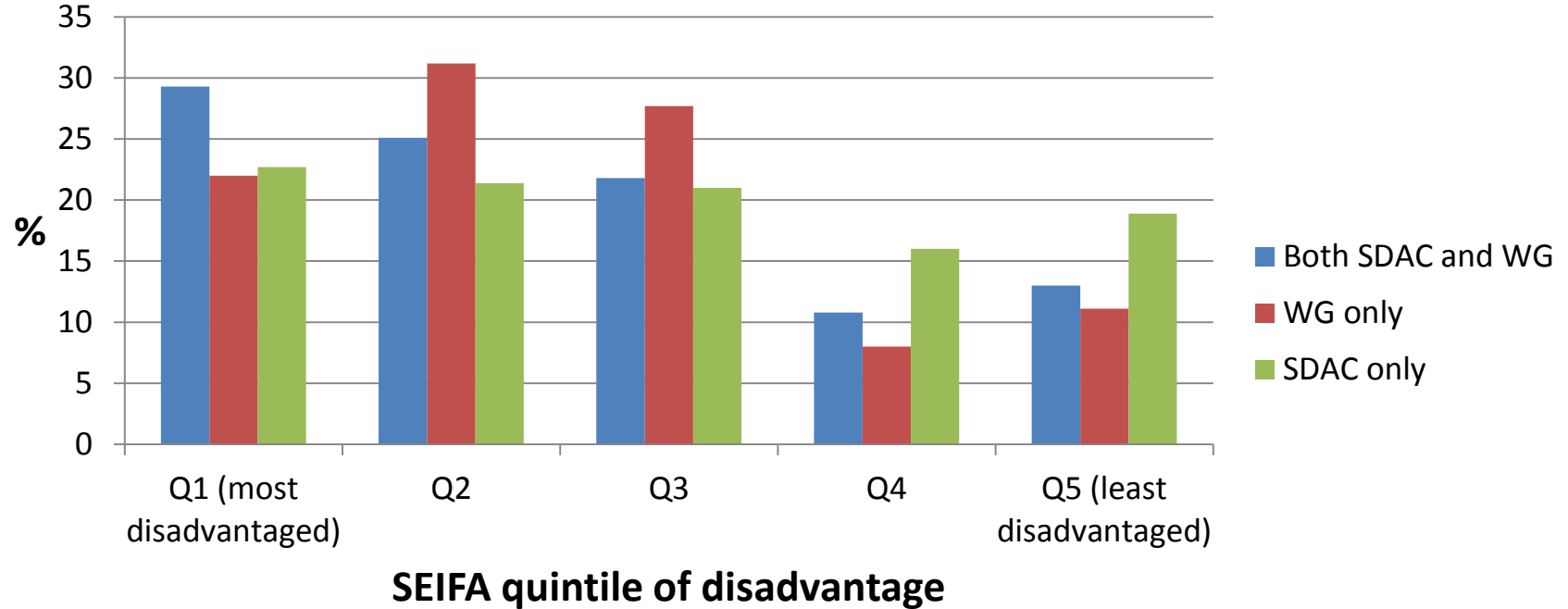
Proportion of people with disability in SDAC who had a disability in WG short set by Labour force status



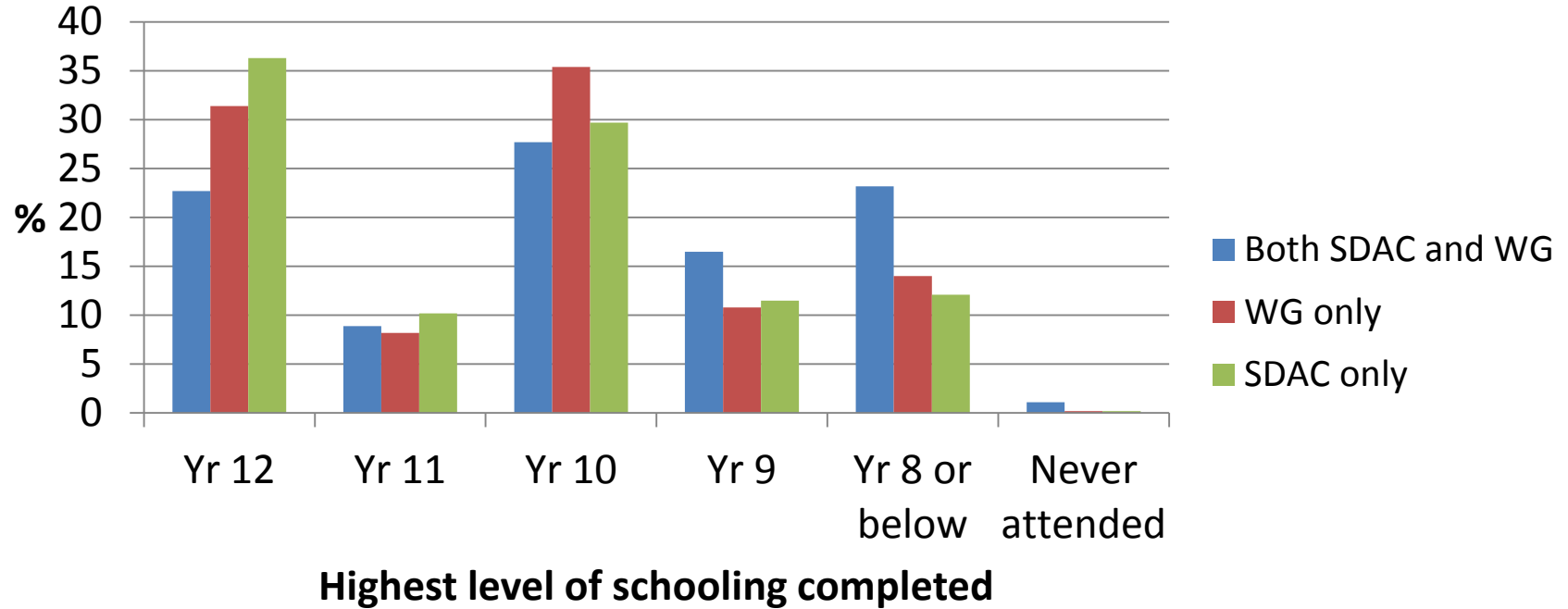
Age by survey identifying disability



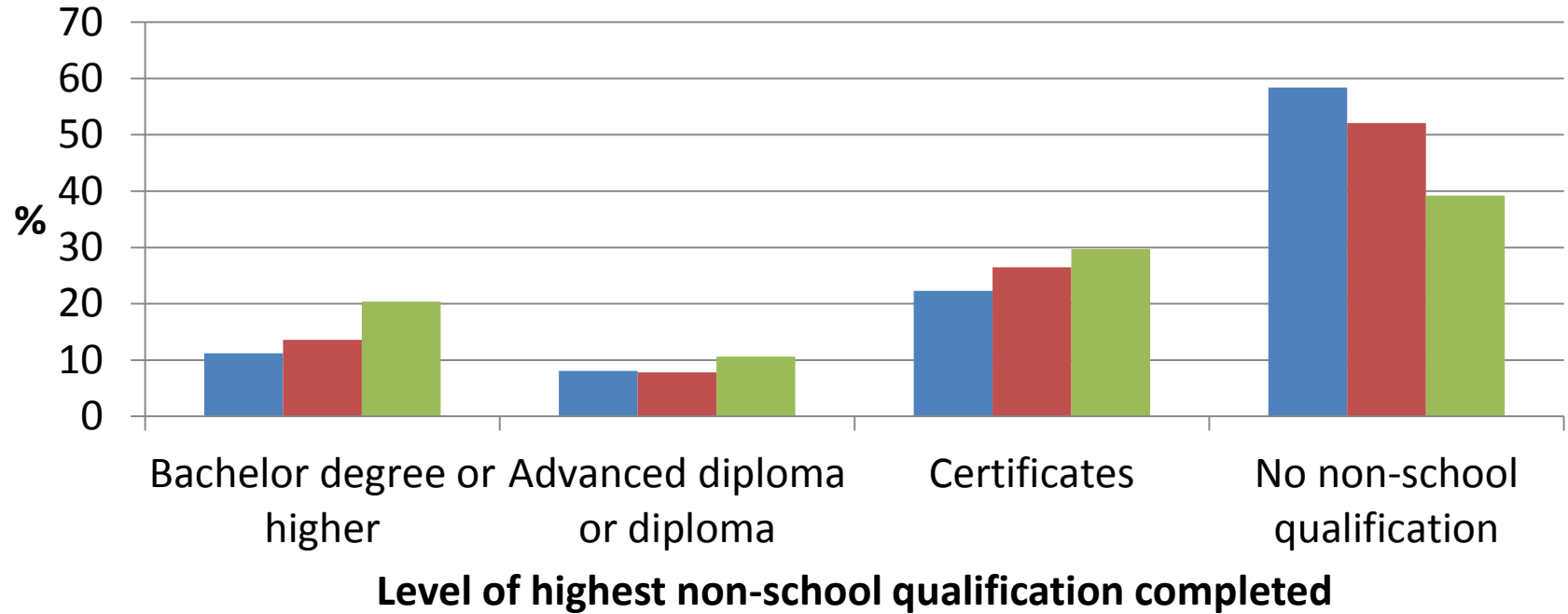
SEIFA quintile by survey identifying disability

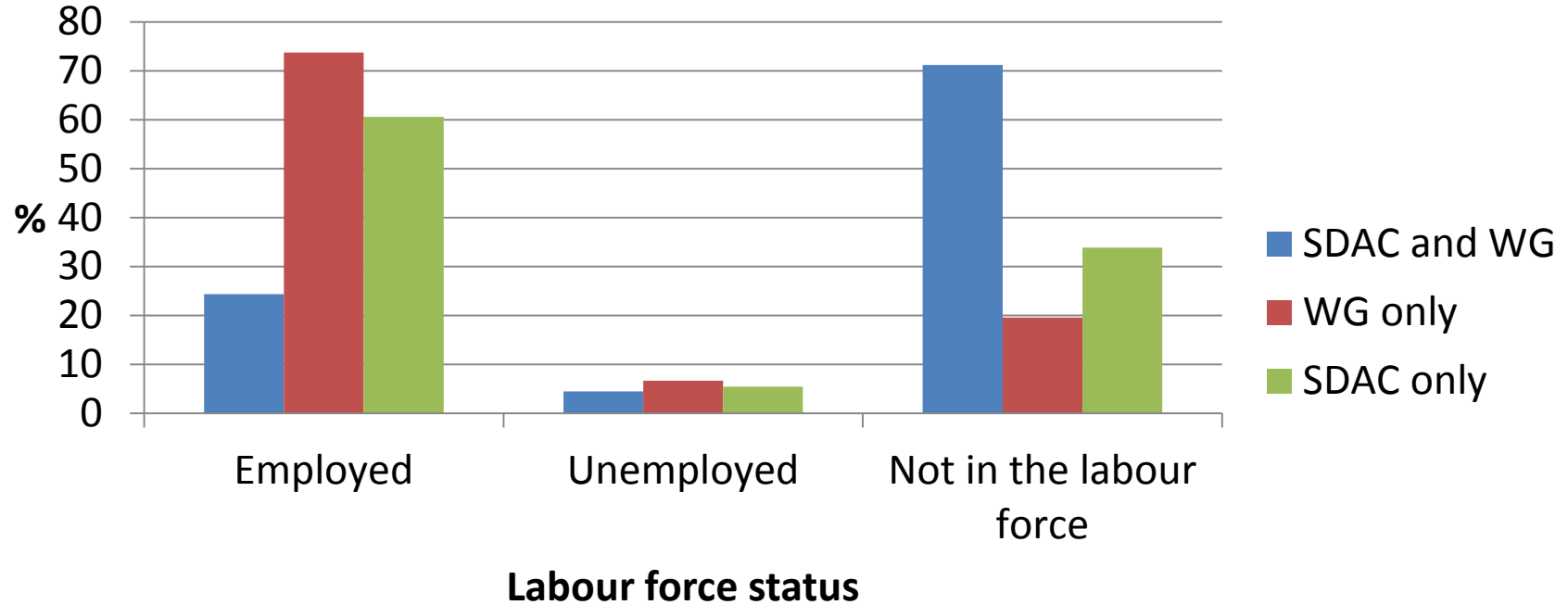


Highest year of school completed by survey identifying disability



Highest non-school qualification completed by survey identifying disability





Why the differences?

- Concepts being measured
- Collection methodology
- Key informant
- ‘Learning’ from SDAC

- Further testing?
- Further analysis
- Working towards support SDG disaggregation globally



Questions?



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