




# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Statistics







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## The Short Disability Module

-  Up to 15 questions and a series of prompt cards to identify people with disability and determine their severity of restriction.
-  Used within ABS surveys:
  - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (**NATSISS**)
  - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (**NATSIHS**)
-  Questions used are compatible with the Activities and Participation component of the International Classification of Functioning and are based directly on the questions used in the SDAC (Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers)
-  ‘Severity of disability’ output broadly comparable to the same concept in the SDAC



## The Short Disability Module (cont'd)

Questions 1-6

Determine the presence or absence of various health conditions, impairments, limitations or restrictions

The next set of questions determine whether the person has a core-activity (the activities of self-care, mobility and communication) limitation and the severity of that limitation:

2<sup>nd</sup> set of Questions

Determine the person's need for assistance

3<sup>rd</sup> set

Determine the person's possible use of aids

Remaining questions are asked of people aged less than 65 years, to determine whether the person has an education or employment (15-64y) restriction.



## The Need for Assistance Module



4 questions to identify people who had need for assistance with one of the core activity areas of self care, communication or mobility because of a disability, long term health condition or the effects of old age.



Used in the Australian **Census of Population and Housing**



Output conceptually related to those with ‘profound/severe core-activity limitation’ – for whom service delivery has the most consequence.



## The Need for Assistance Module (cont'd)

Questions 1-3

Determine the existence of a need for assistance in one of the core activities

Question 4

Identifies the reasons as to why this assistance was necessary.

# The Need for Assistance Module

<p><b>20 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, self care activities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example: doing everyday activities such as eating, showering, dressing or toileting</li> </ul> <p><b>i</b> Visit <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/censushelp">www.abs.gov.au/censushelp</a> for more information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, always</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>
<p><b>21 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, body movement activities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example: getting out of bed, moving around at home or at places away from home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, always</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>
<p><b>22 Does the person ever need someone to help with, or be with them for, communication activities?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example: understanding, or being understood by, others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, always</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Yes, sometimes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> No</li> </ul>
<p><b>23 What are the reasons for the need for assistance or supervision shown in questions 20, 21 and 22?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark all applicable reasons.</li> <li>Remember to mark boxes like this: <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> No need for help or supervision</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Short-term health condition (lasting less than six months)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Long-term health condition (lasting six months or more)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Disability (lasting six months or more)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Old or young age</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Difficulty with English language</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other cause</li> </ul>

# Comparison of Methodology



	Short Disability Module -NATSISS -NATSIHS	Need for Assistance -Census
<b>Age</b>	NATSISS - 15yrs + NATSIHS – all ages	All ages
<b>Scope</b>	Households only	All Dwellings
<b>Interview Method</b>	F2F Computer-assisted Interviewing (CAI). Some questions re-worded to enhance understanding of concepts	Self-enumerated forms most areas; special interviewer forms used in remote Indigenous Communities
<b>Respondent</b>	Individual (self-response) for persons aged 15y+. Proxy for those unable to complete the survey	An adult - on behalf of the household or Individual (self-response).
<b>Number of questions</b>	10 questions to identify those with disability or long-term health conditions and determine severity of restriction.	4 questions - 3 about the need for help in core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication and 4 <sup>th</sup> providing a reason for that need.





	Short Disability Module -NATSISS -NATSIHS	Need for Assistance -Census
<b>Collection type</b>	Population Survey	Census
<b>Number of people responding</b>	NATSISS 2014-15 – 11,000 people NATSIHS 2012-13 9,300 people	Majority of the population
<b>Concept of Disability</b>	Captures those with different levels of core activity limitation, type of restriction and disability type.	Captures only those with profound/severe core activity limitation with one of the core activity areas of self-care, communication or mobility

# Limitations with methodology

## Short Disability Module (NATSISS, NATSIHS)







- Does not identify the total population with limitations or disability.
- Does not capture people in cared facilities.

## Need for Assistance (Census)

- Does not identify everyone with severe or profound disability.
- Does not identify anyone with mild or moderate disability.
- Does not include any adjustment for non-response.



## Cultural considerations

-  Cognitive testing of question modules to help address conceptual understanding
-  ABS Engagement Managers establish local level engagement and community support
-  Local facilitators employed to help conquer the language barrier and assist with access and acceptance
-  Supplementary wording available in survey questionnaire to assist with respondent comprehension.
-  All interviewers undertake cultural awareness training
-  Household screening for identification – not assumed

# Strengths of the NATSISS & NATSIHS

## Local Facilitators

- Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Facilitate acceptance into community
- Support and advise field interviewers

## ABS Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics





- Membership is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with local level knowledge & experience
- Provide advice on operational processes and community engagement




# Results of disability measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over	% With Disability	% Profound/Severe Disability
<b>NATSIHS 2012-13</b>	45.0	7.4
<b>NATSISS 2014-15</b>	45.1	7.7
<b>Census 2016 (need for assistance)</b>	N/A	8.0



-  Partnership with First Peoples Disability Network, built on trust
-  Limited data available that genuinely reflects the prevalence and nature of disability among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
-  Stories brought to life, enhancing our understanding of lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
-  Strength found through connection to culture

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- We tested the WG questions in Feb 2017 in remote and non-remote settings through 10 face-to-face interviews.
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- In the **non-remote** (urban) setting - no significant issues were raised with the questions.
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- In the **remote** locations, the following issues were encountered:
- respondents were not always thinking about difficulties 'due to a health problem', particularly around difficulty being understood
  - 'washing all over' was interpreted incorrectly by many respondents - interpreted as washing clothes rather than self-care.
  - 'difficulty' not well understood by respondents - for many, English was not their first language.
  - question about communication caused confusion as the question is long and wordy.
  - Several respondents had difficulty determining their 'usual' language. Some interpreted this as their 'traditional' language.



# Questions?



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