



Psychosocial disability and the Washington Group short set

An Australian perspective

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Informing Australia's important decisions



- ▶ Data collection
- ▶ Identification of psychosocial disability
- ▶ Results
 - Psychosocial disability and the WG Short set
 - Mental health conditions and the WG Short set

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





Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

- ▶ 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

The 2016 Supplementary Disability Survey



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

	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

Impairments captured in SDAC

- ▶ 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

Impairments captured in WG Short Set

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

Washington Group

Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

No – no difficulty

Yes – some difficulty

Yes – a lot of difficulty

Cannot do at all

SDAC

Do you have memory problems or periods of confusion?

Are you restricted in everyday activities because of this condition?

UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.



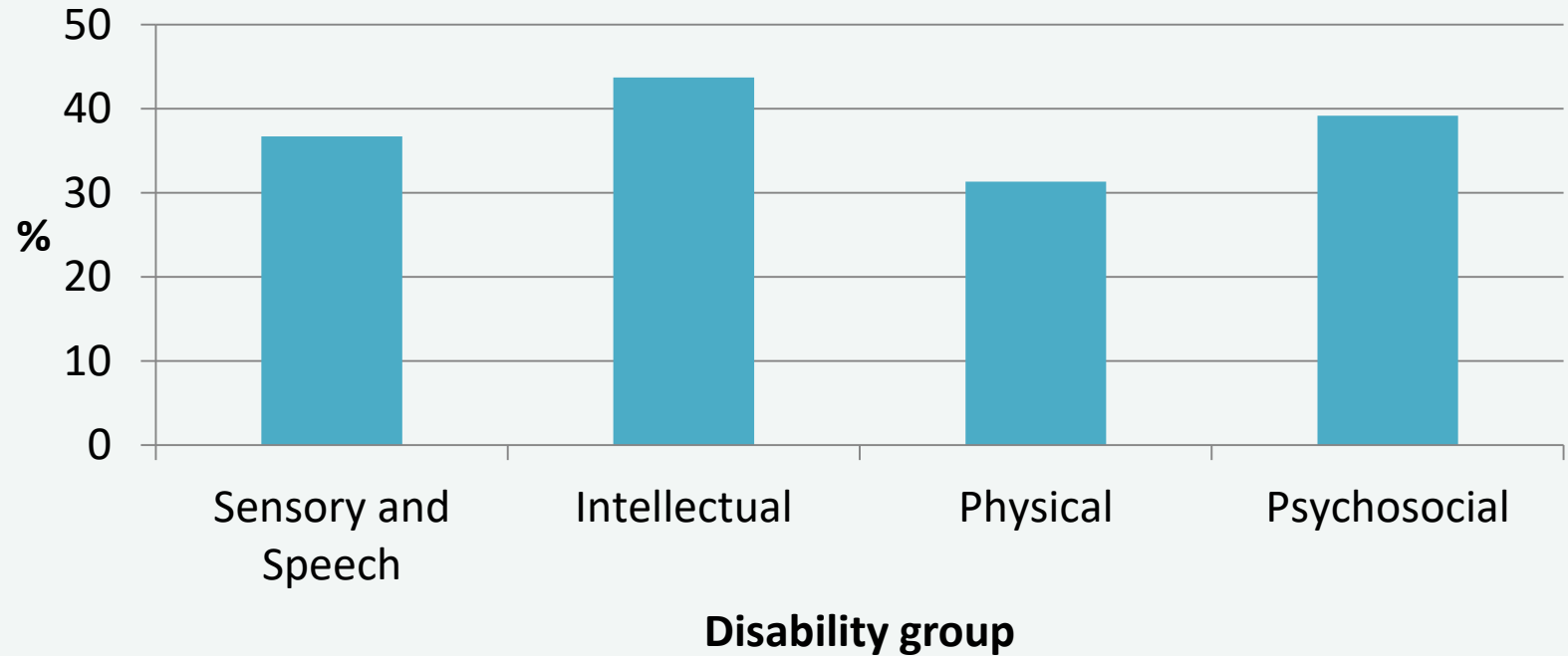
Working definition of psychosocial disability

Those who have long-term mental impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

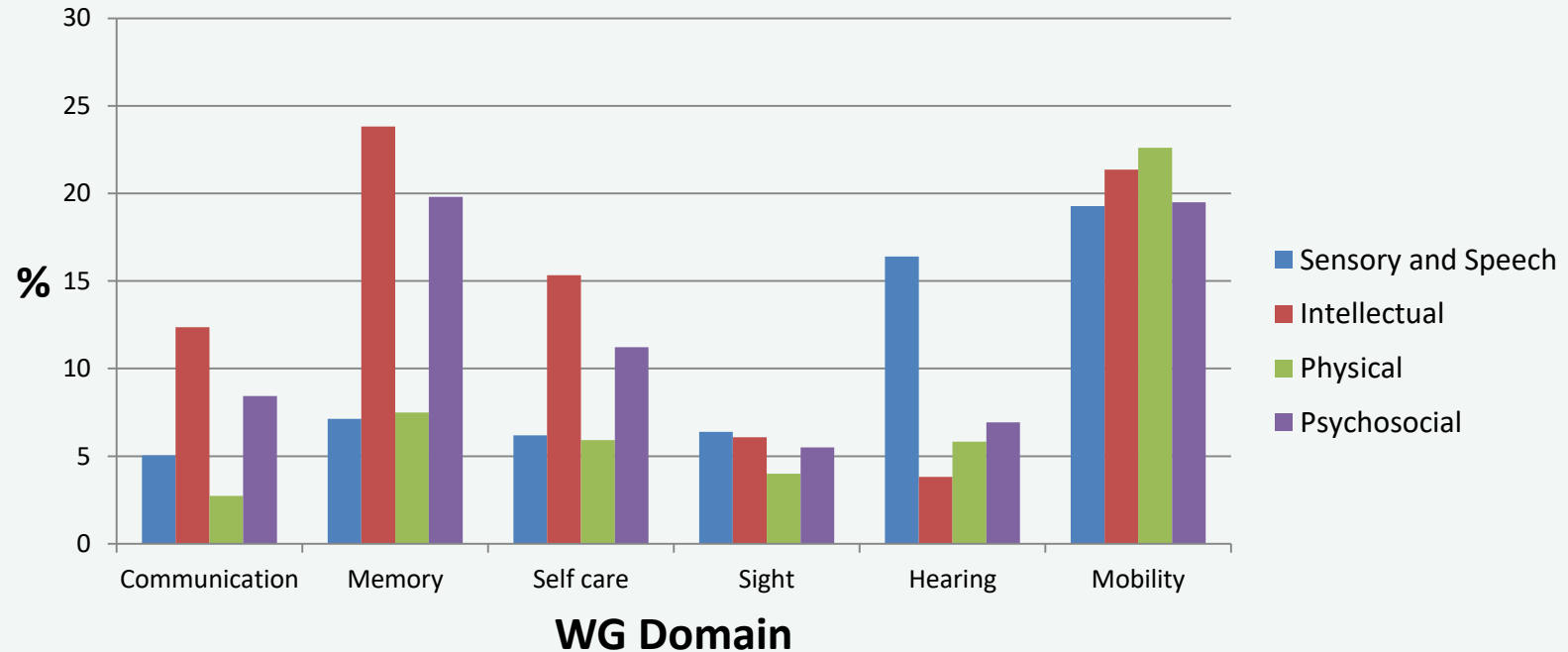
Psychosocial impairments in SDAC

- ▶ Social or behavioural difficulties that impede ability to do everyday activities;
- ▶ Memory problems or periods of confusion that impede ability to do everyday activities;
- ▶ A nervous or emotional condition that impedes ability to do everyday activities; and
- ▶ The person needs assistance in doing everyday activities due to a mental health condition

Proportion with a disability using WG short set



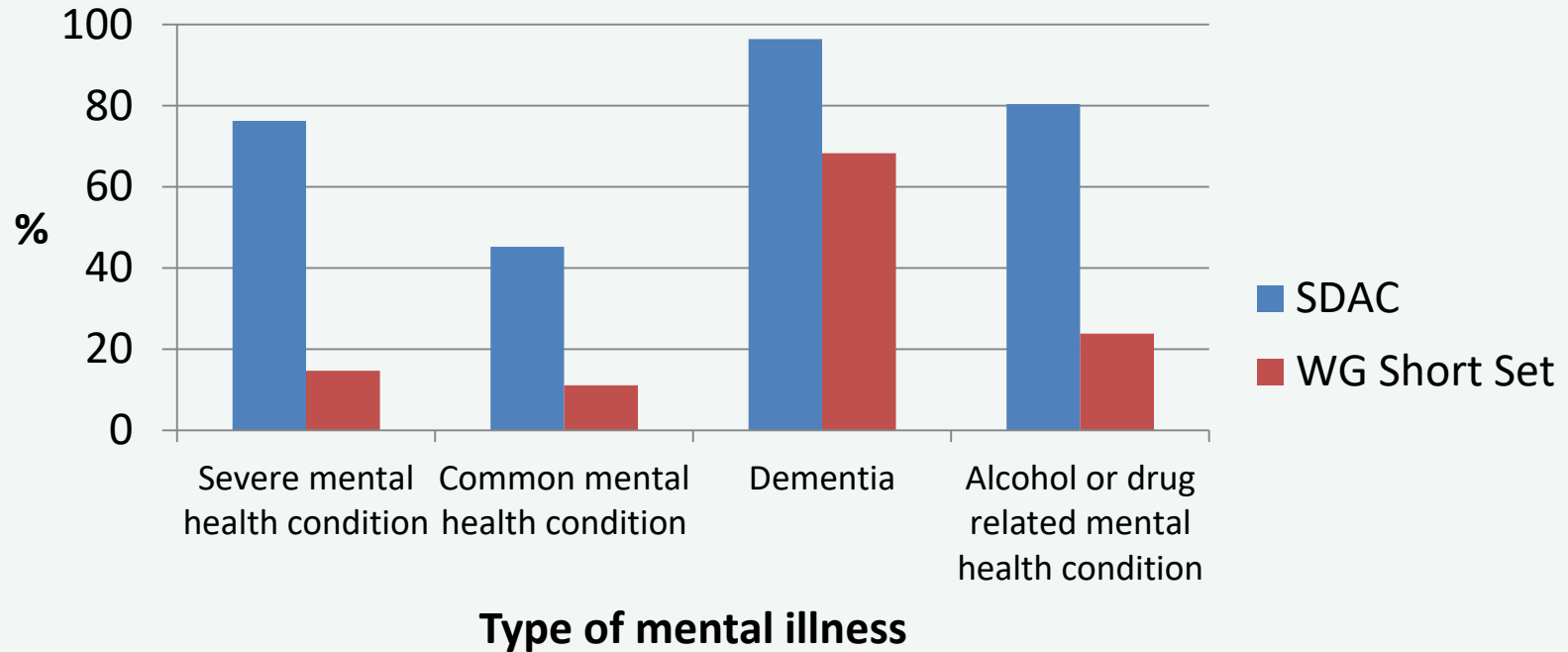
Proportion of people with impairments in SDAC by domain of impairment from WG Short Set



Mental health conditions (groupings)

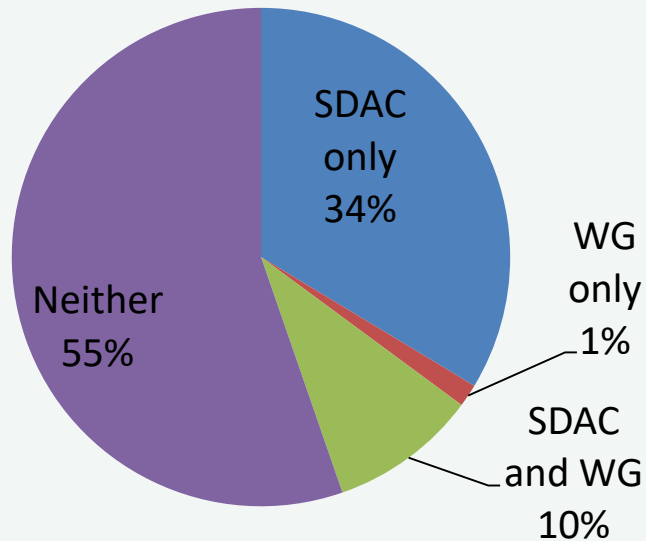
- ▶ Common mental disorders: - depression or mood affective disorders excluding post natal depression, phobic and anxiety disorders, nervous tension/stress, obsessive-compulsive disorder and other neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders
- ▶ Severe mental disorders:- Schizophrenia, other psychoses and adult and behavioural disorders
- ▶ Dementia
- ▶ Mental disorders due to alcohol and other psychoactive substance use

Disability identification by survey



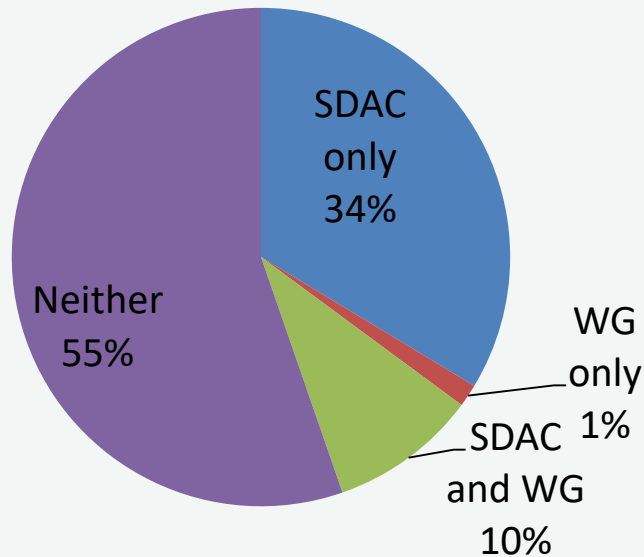
Disability identification by survey

Common mental disorders

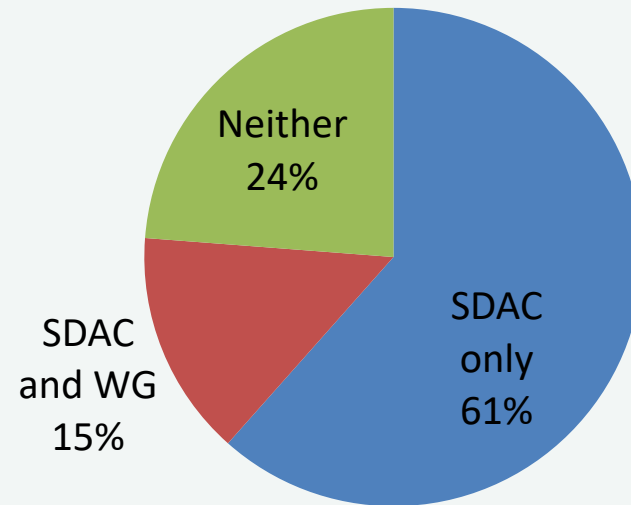


Disability identification by survey

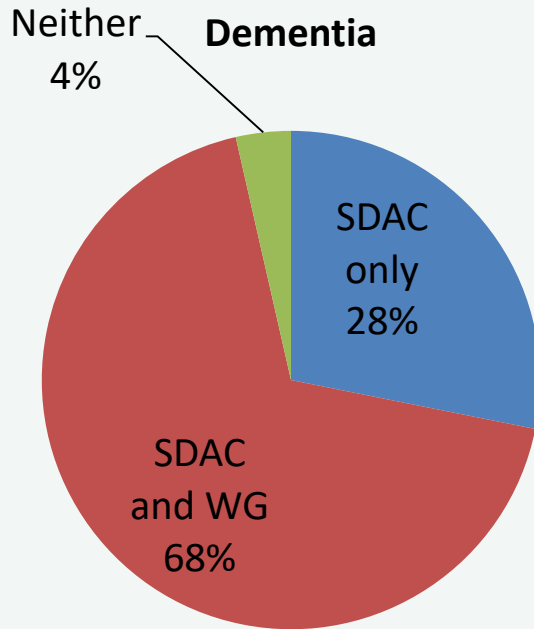
Common mental disorders



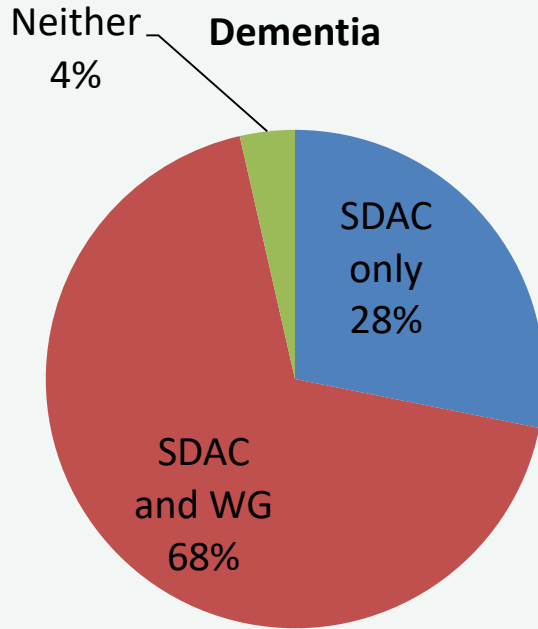
Severe mental disorders



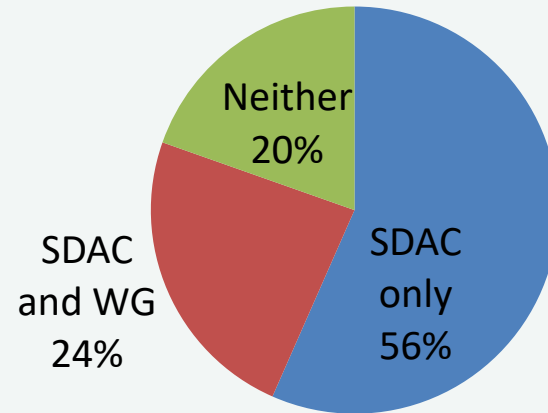
Disability identification by survey (cont.)



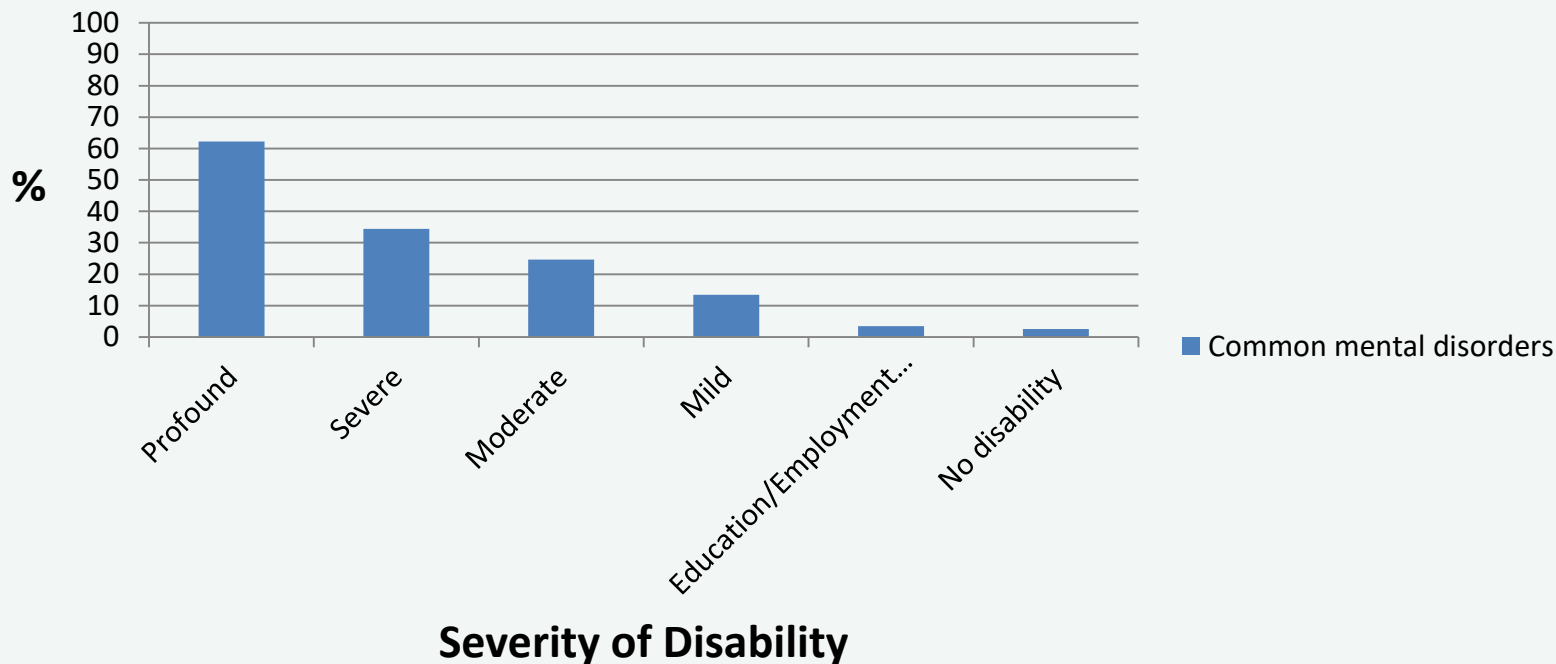
Disability identification by survey (cont.)



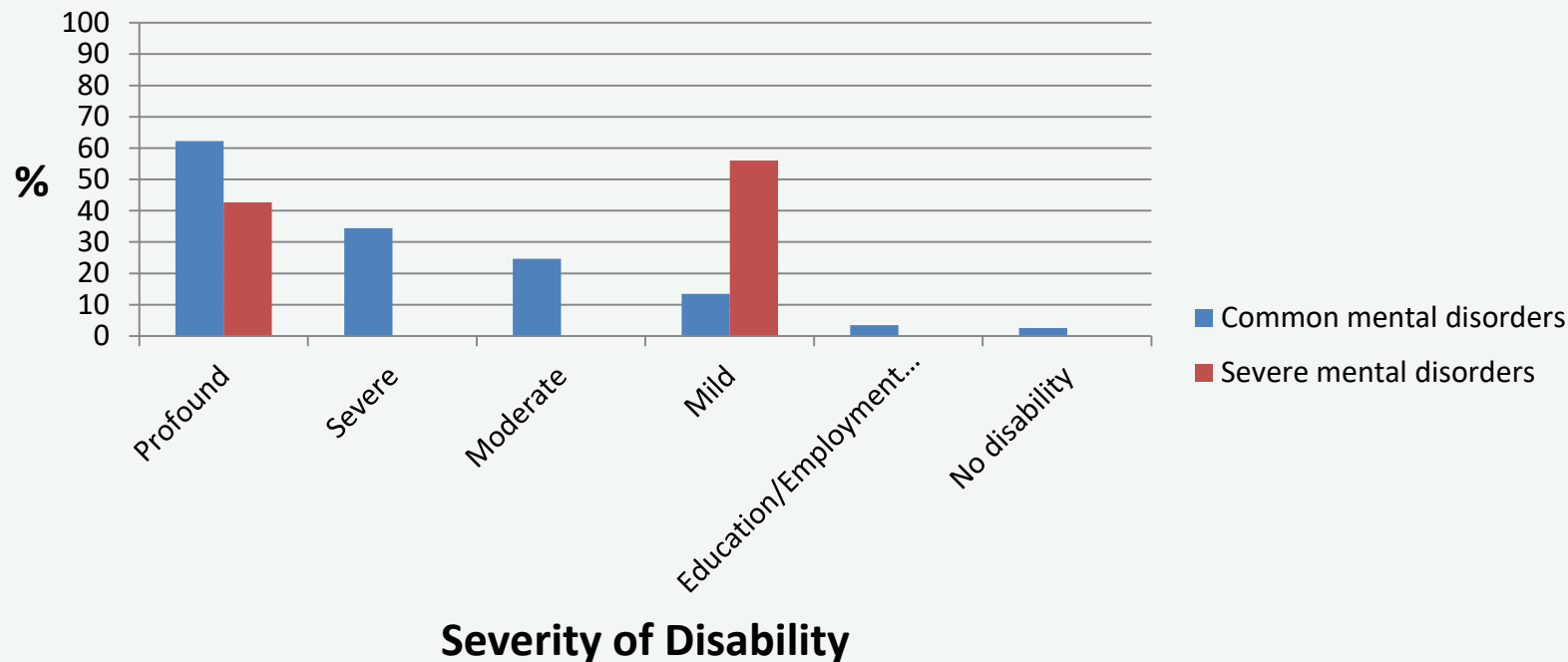
Mental disorders due to alcohol and other psychoactive substance use



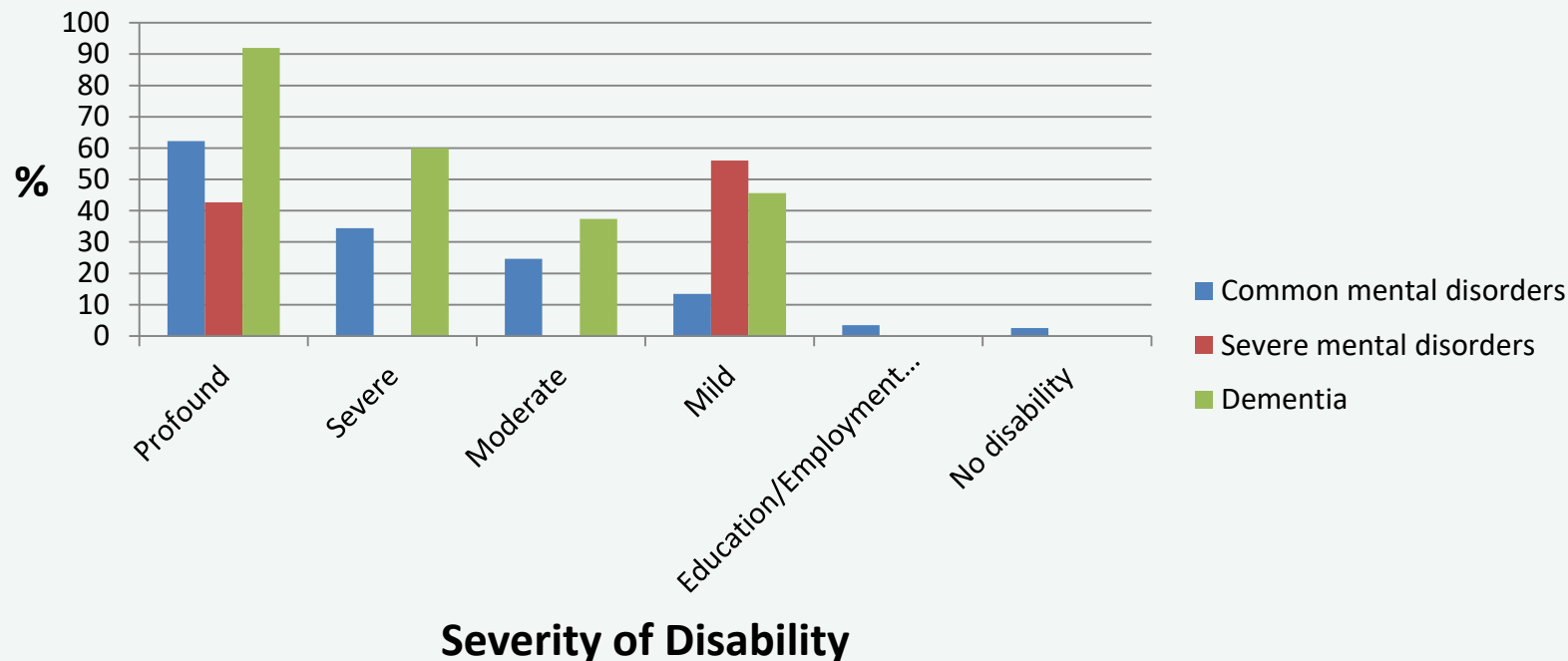
Severity of disability from the SDAC and whether has a disability using the WG Short Set



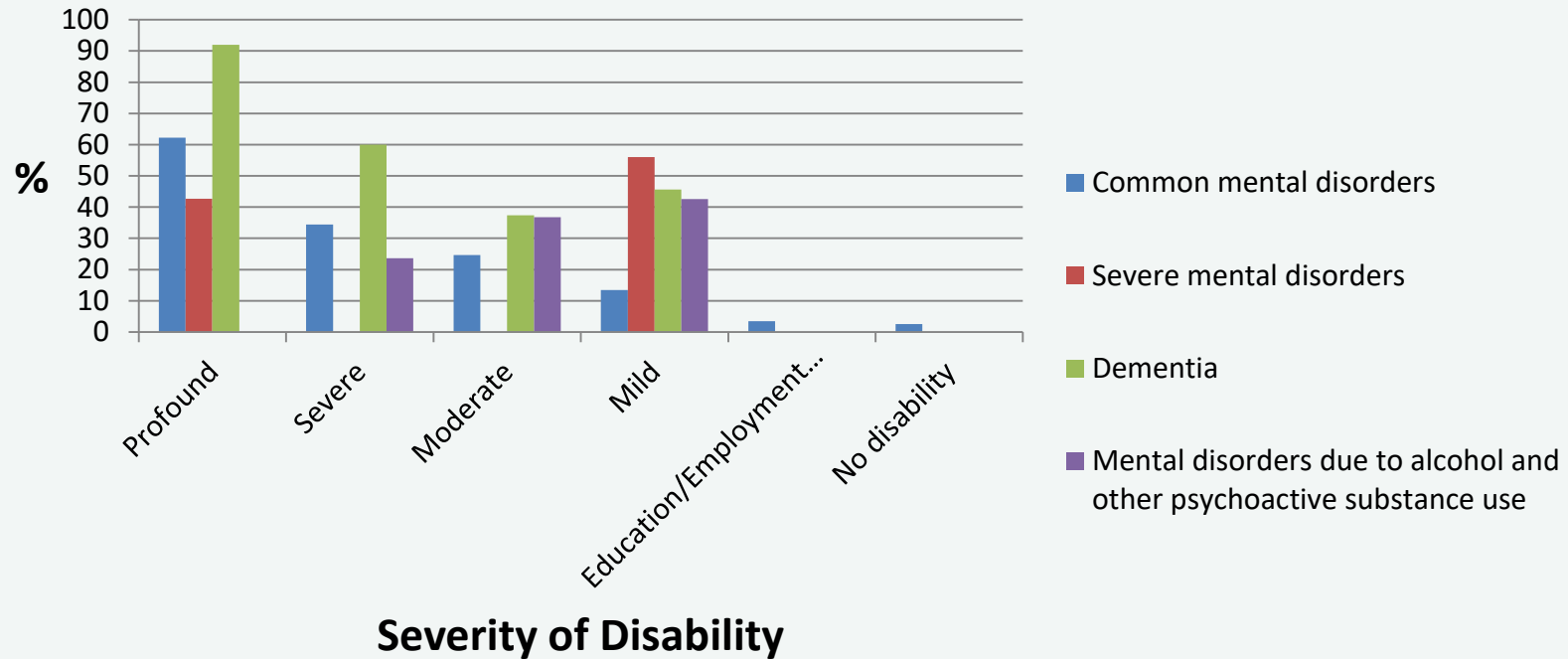
Severity of disability from the SDAC and whether has a disability using the WG Short Set



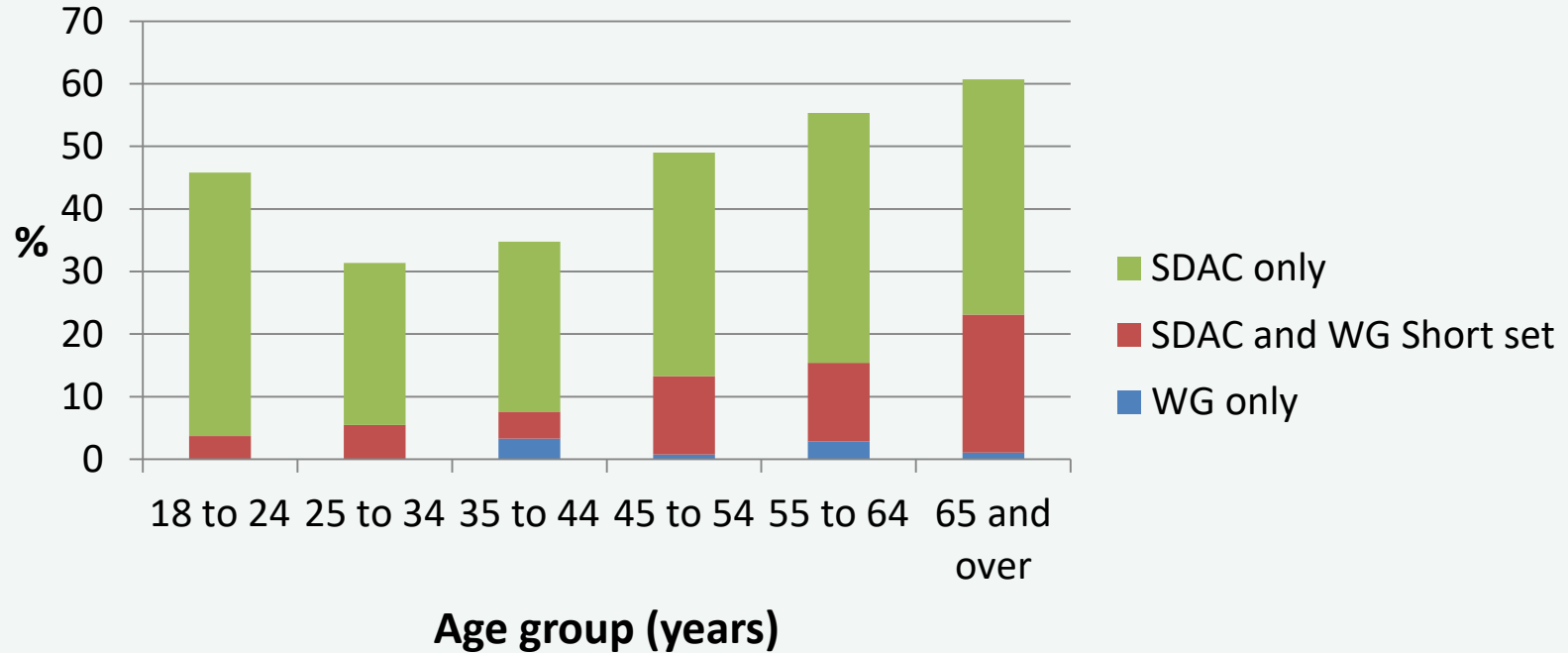
Severity of disability from the SDAC and whether has a disability using the WG Short Set



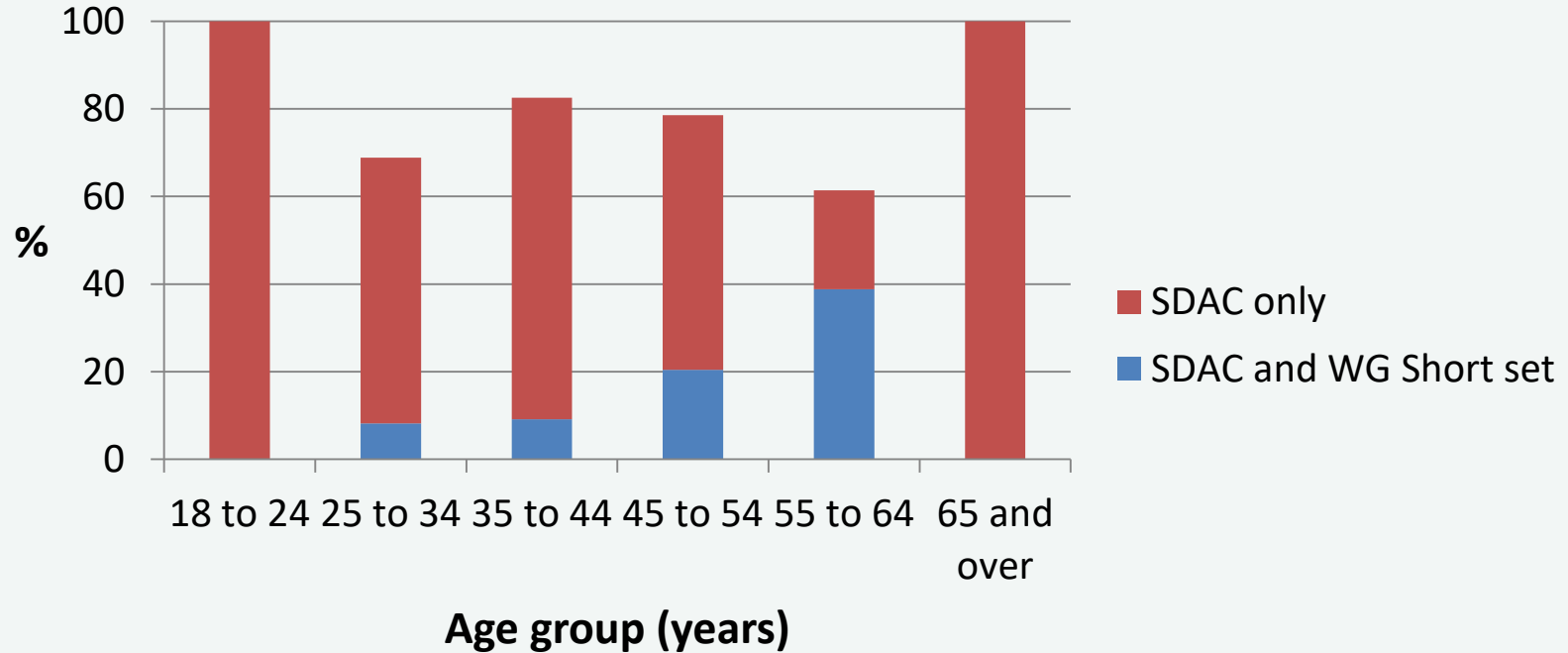
Severity of disability from the SDAC and whether has a disability using the WG Short Set



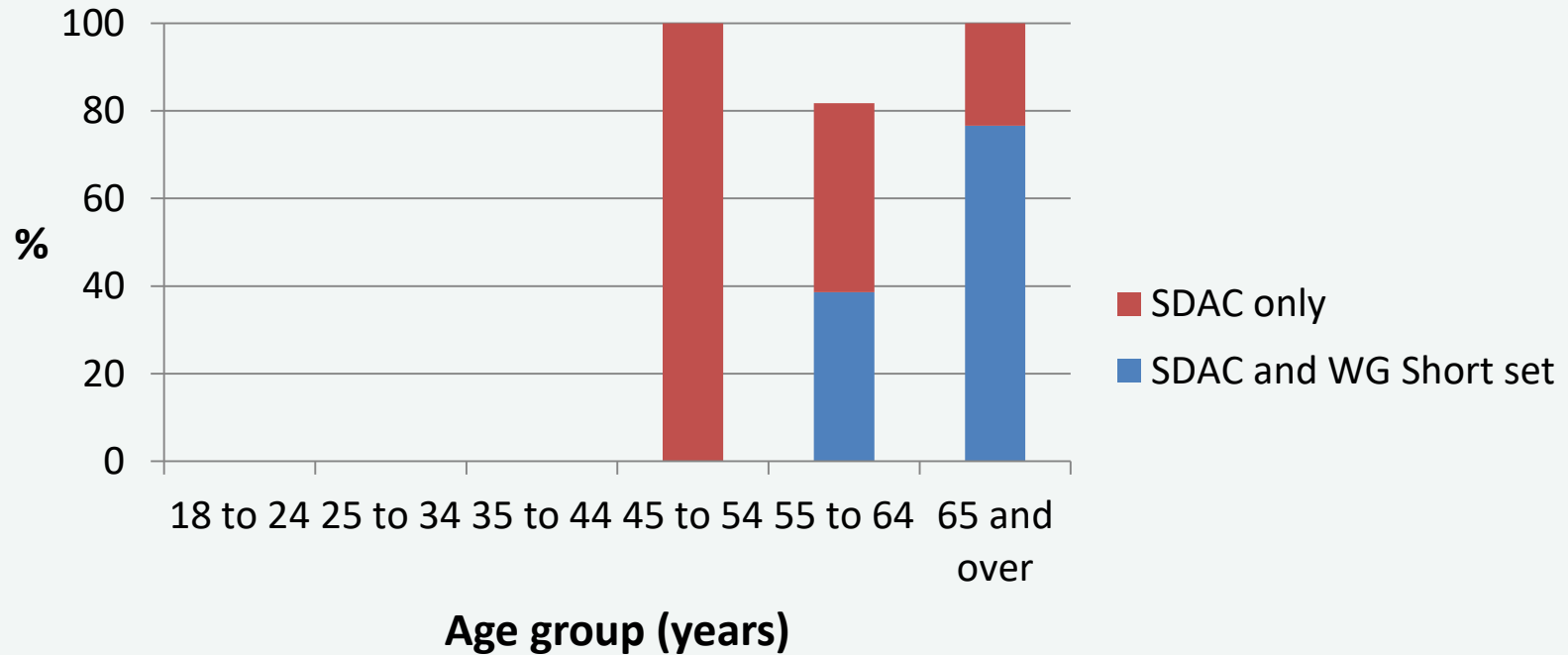
Proportion of people with common mental disorders who were identified as having a disability by survey



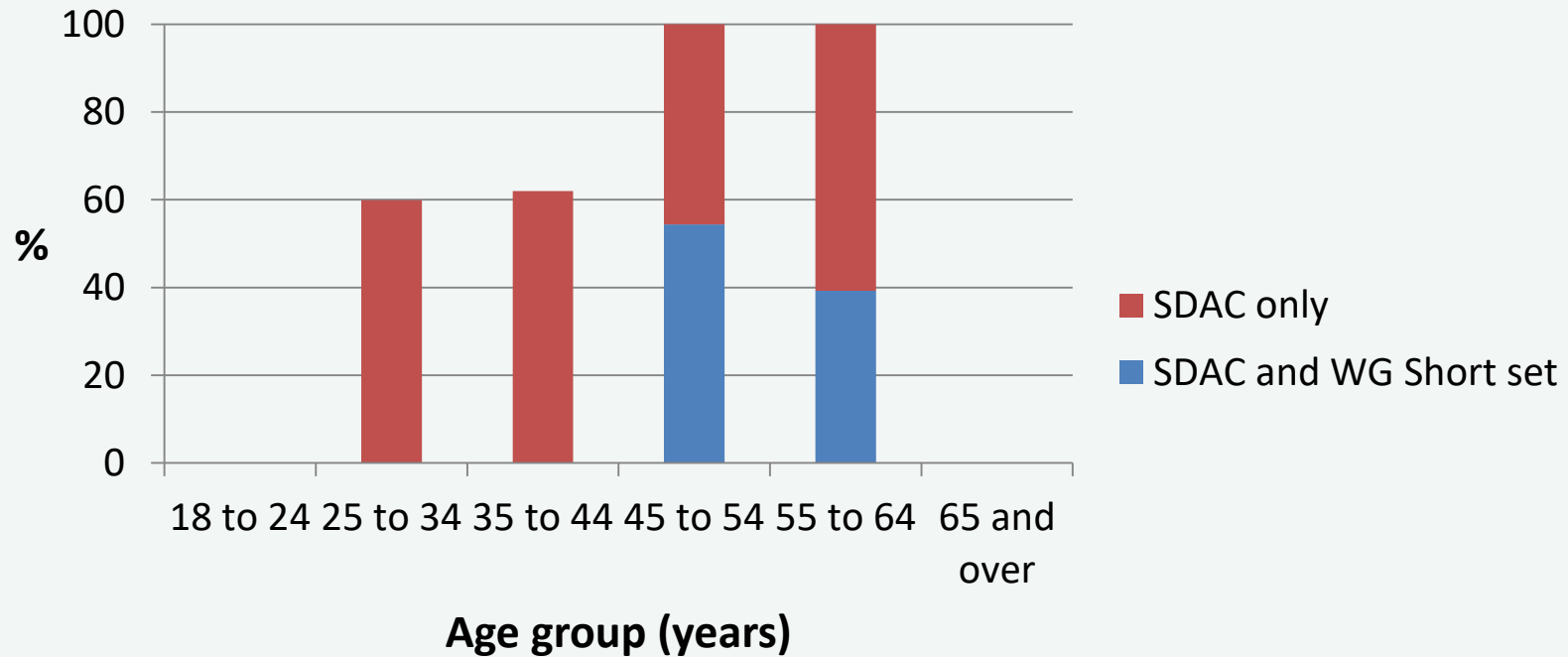
Proportion of people with severe mental disorders who were identified as having a disability by survey



Proportion of people with dementia who were identified as having a disability by survey



Proportion of people with mental disorders due to alcohol and other psychoactive substance use who were identified as having a disability by survey



Summary

- ▶ Washington Group Short Set is identifying many people with disabilities associated with mental health conditions, whether directly through, for example, the memory domain question, or indirectly through the mobility domain
- ▶ Washington Group Short Set wasn't designed to identify people with more severe mental illnesses. It is identifying some people, but appears to be inconsistent in the identification.



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