

# Psychosocial disability and the Washington Group short set

## An Australian perspective

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Informing Australia's important decisions





# Outline

- ▶ 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


A photograph showing a group of people walking on a city street, likely in a park or public area, with trees and buildings in the background.

**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

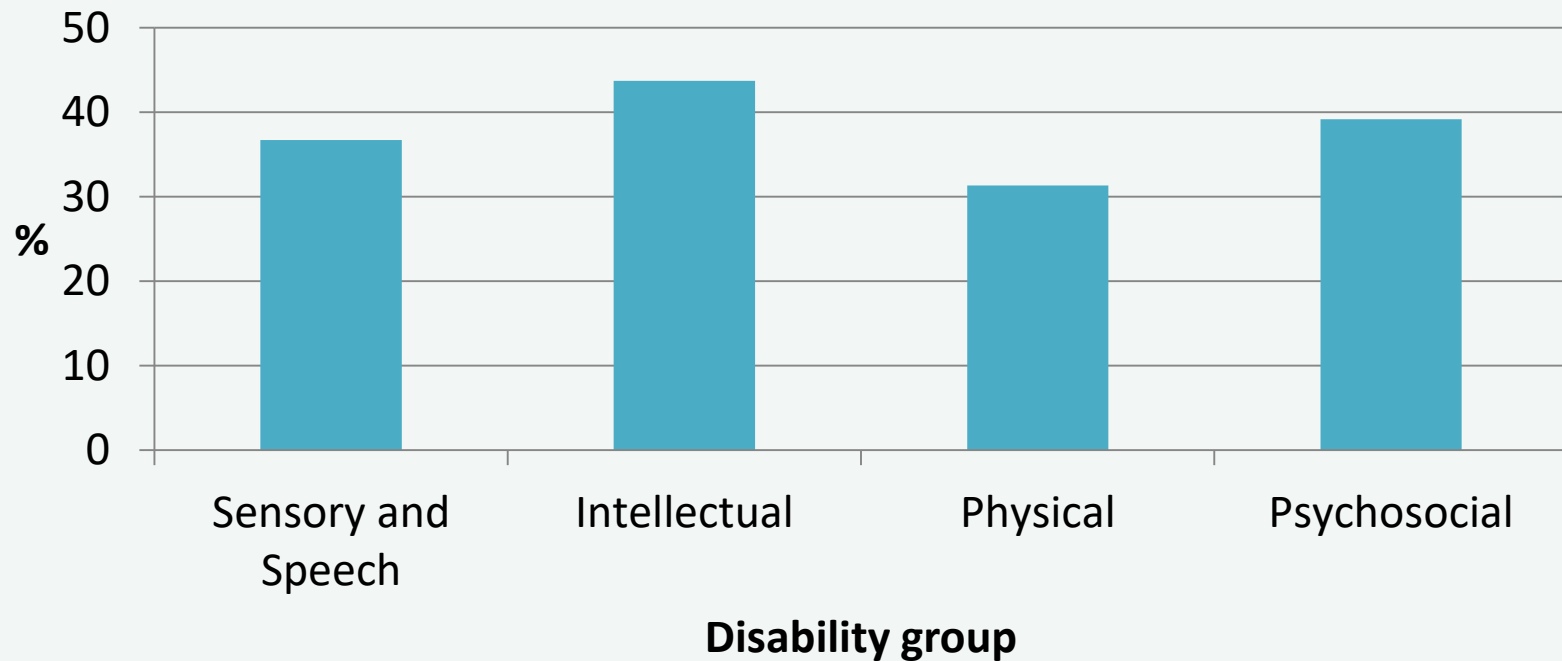
Those who have long-term mental impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.



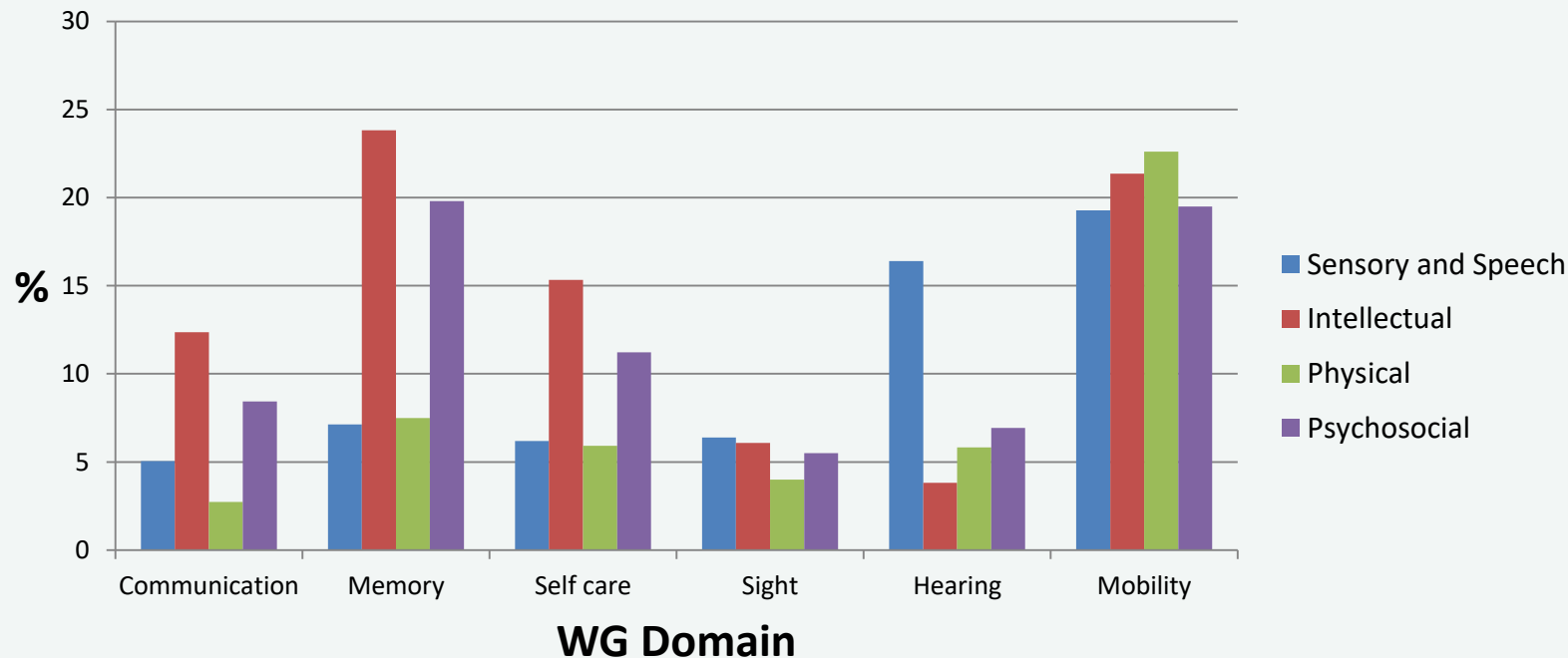
# Psychosocial impairments in SDAC

- ▶ 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

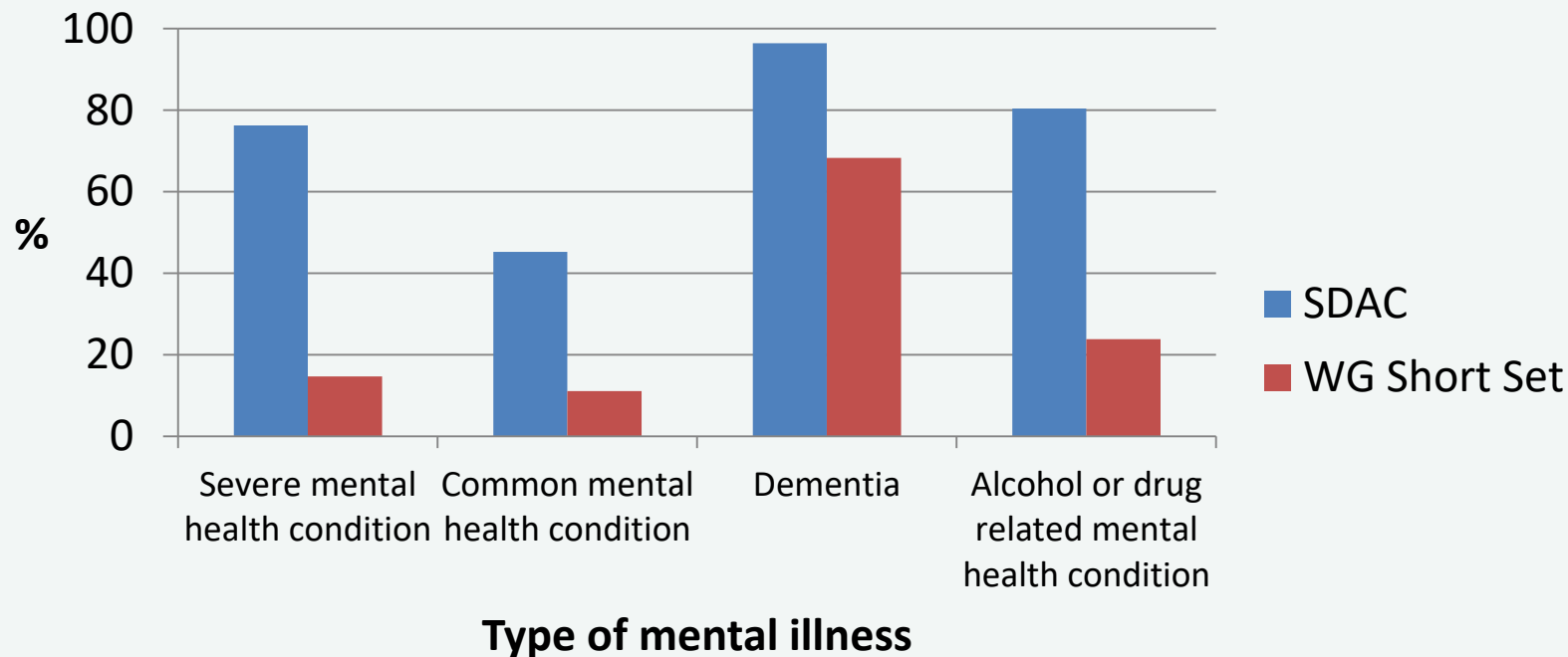


# Mental health conditions (groupings)

- ▶ 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

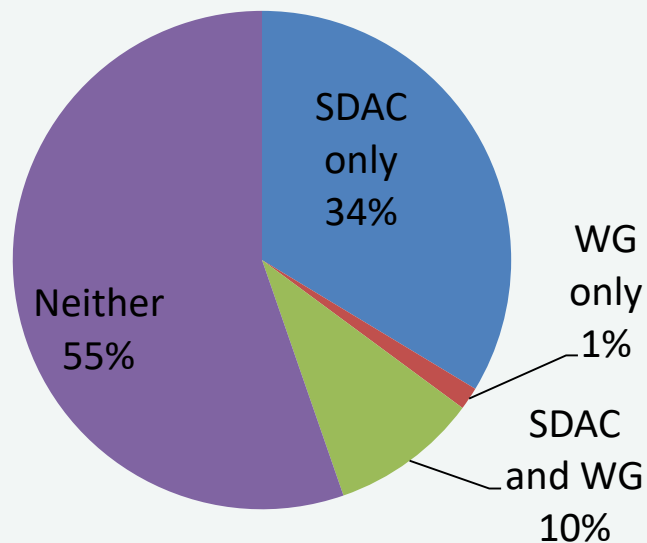


# Disability identification by survey



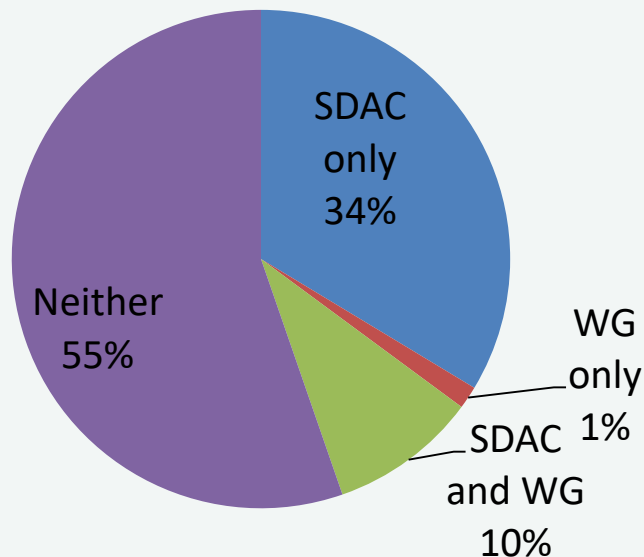
# Disability identification by survey

## Common mental disorders

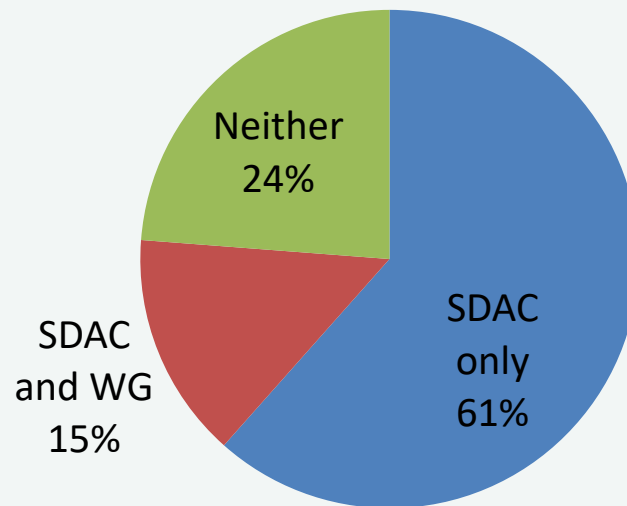


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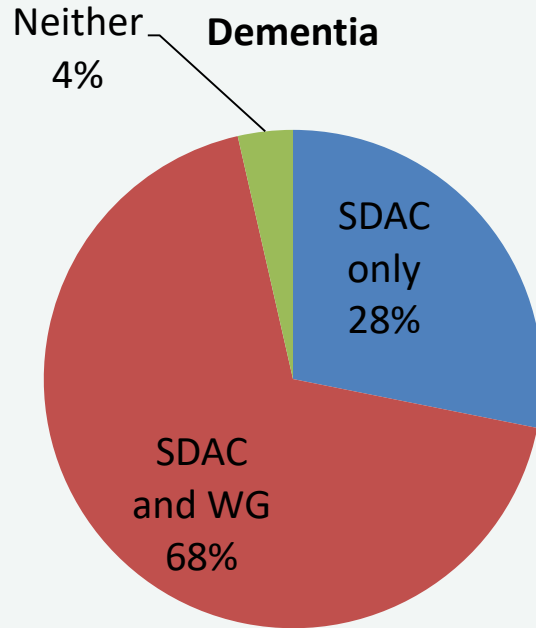
Common mental disorders



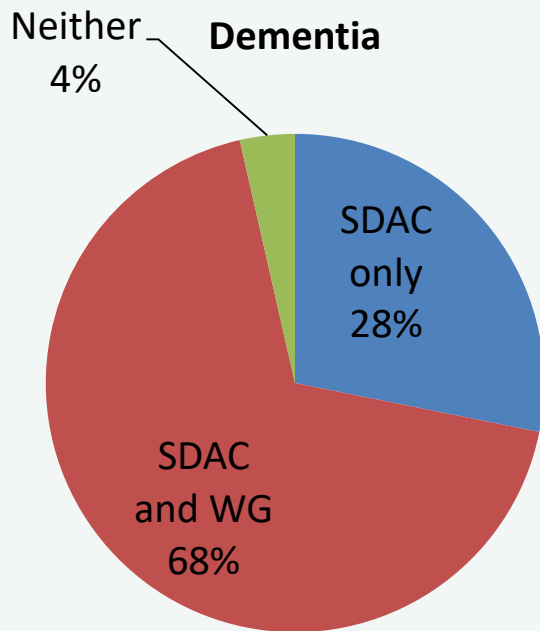
Severe mental disorders



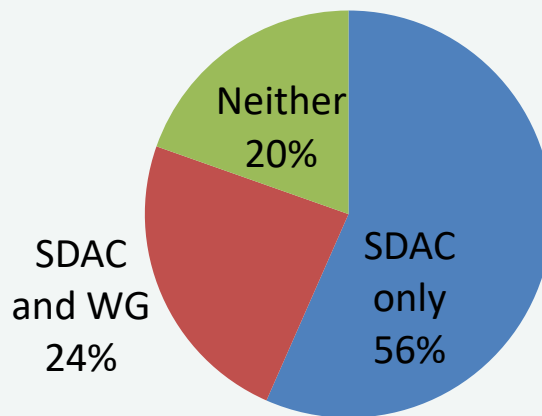
# Disability identification by survey (cont.)



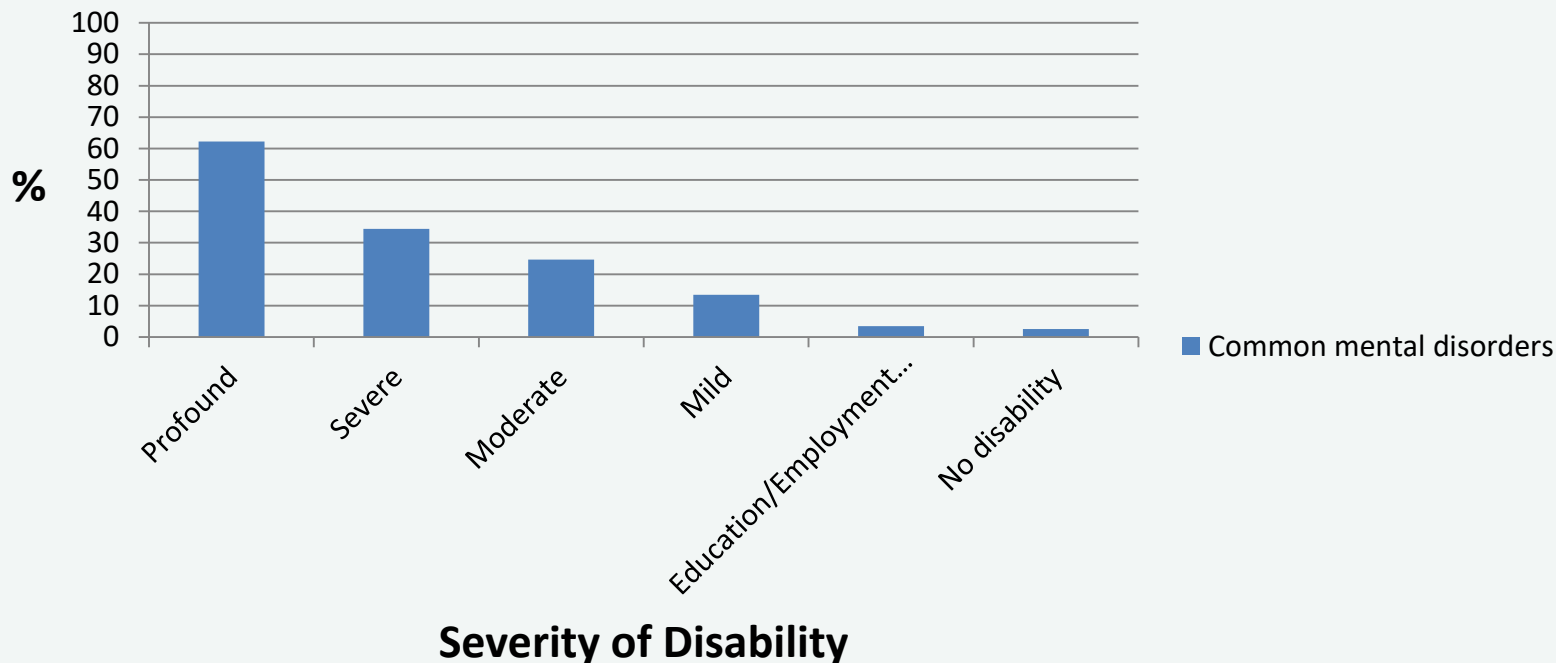
# Disability identification by survey (cont.)



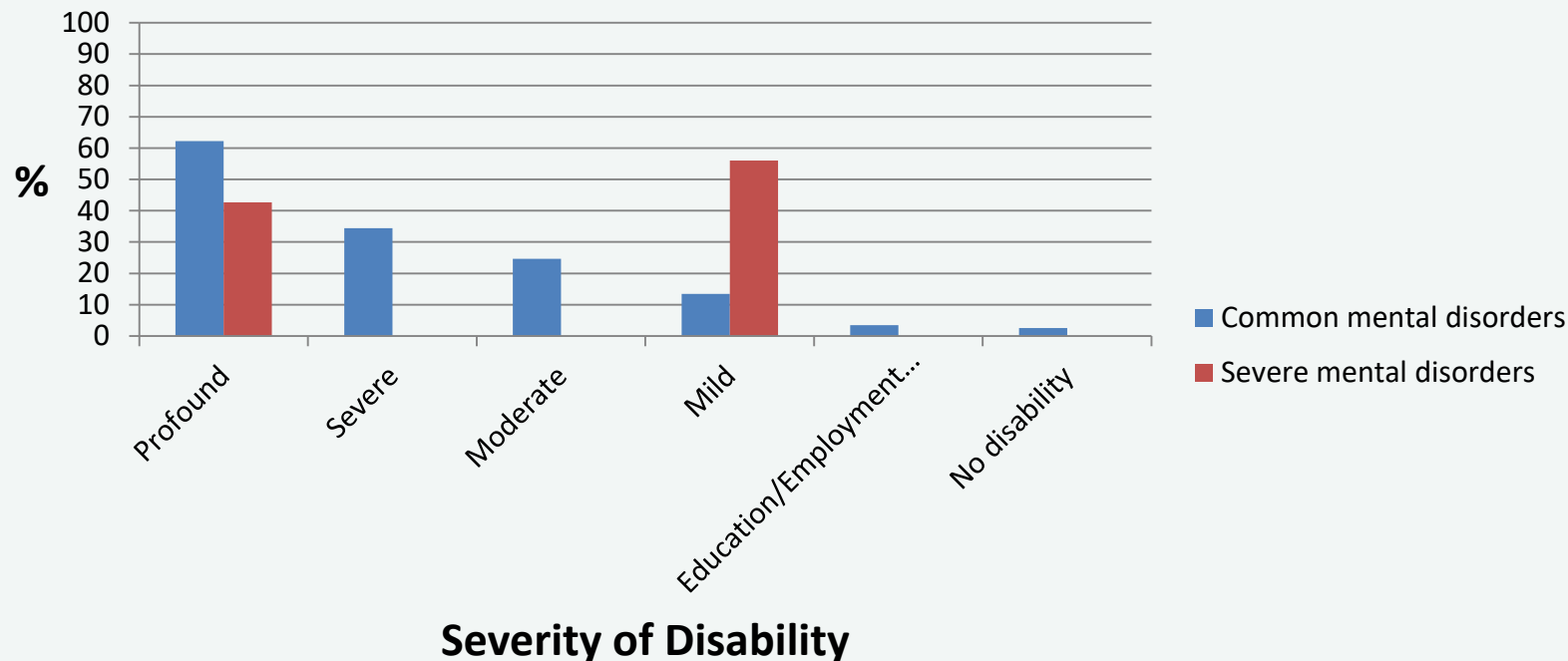
## Mental disorders due to alcohol and other psychoactive substance use



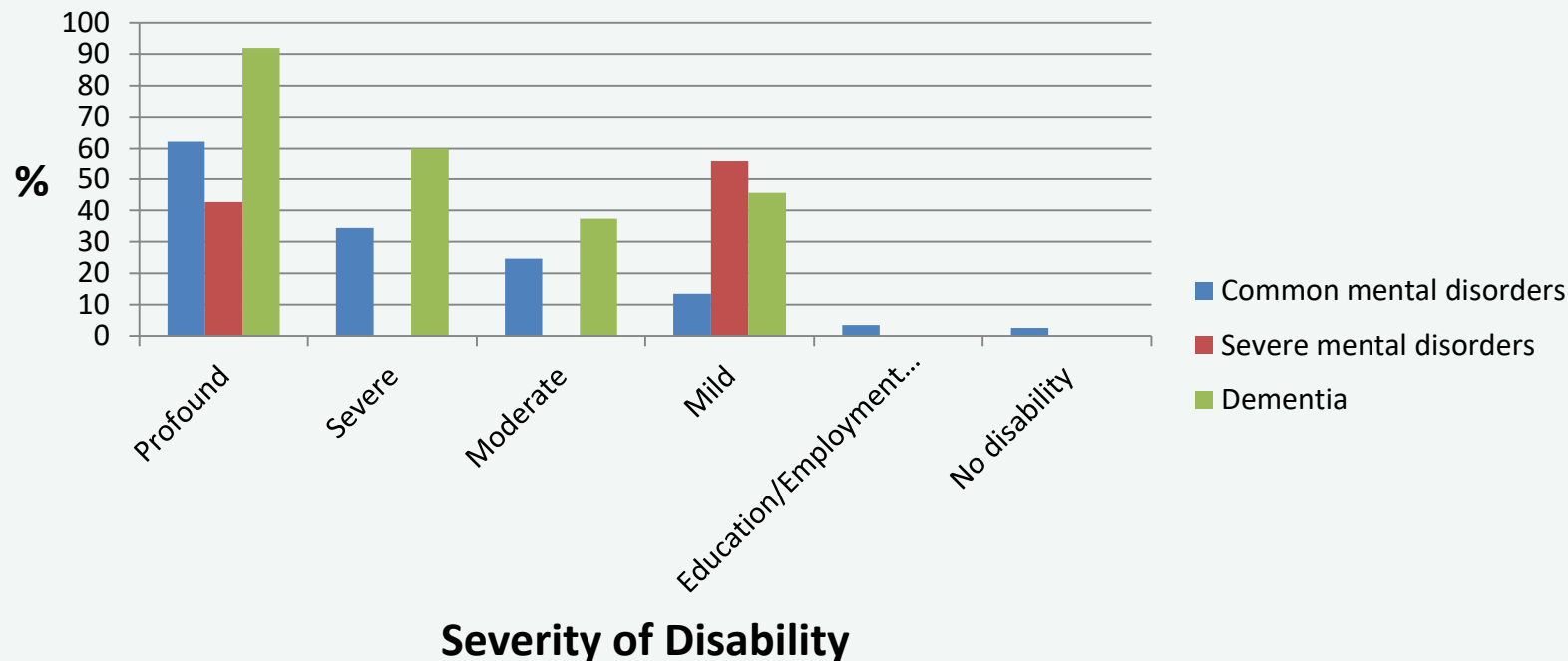
# Severity of disability from the SDAC and whether has a disability using the WG Short Set



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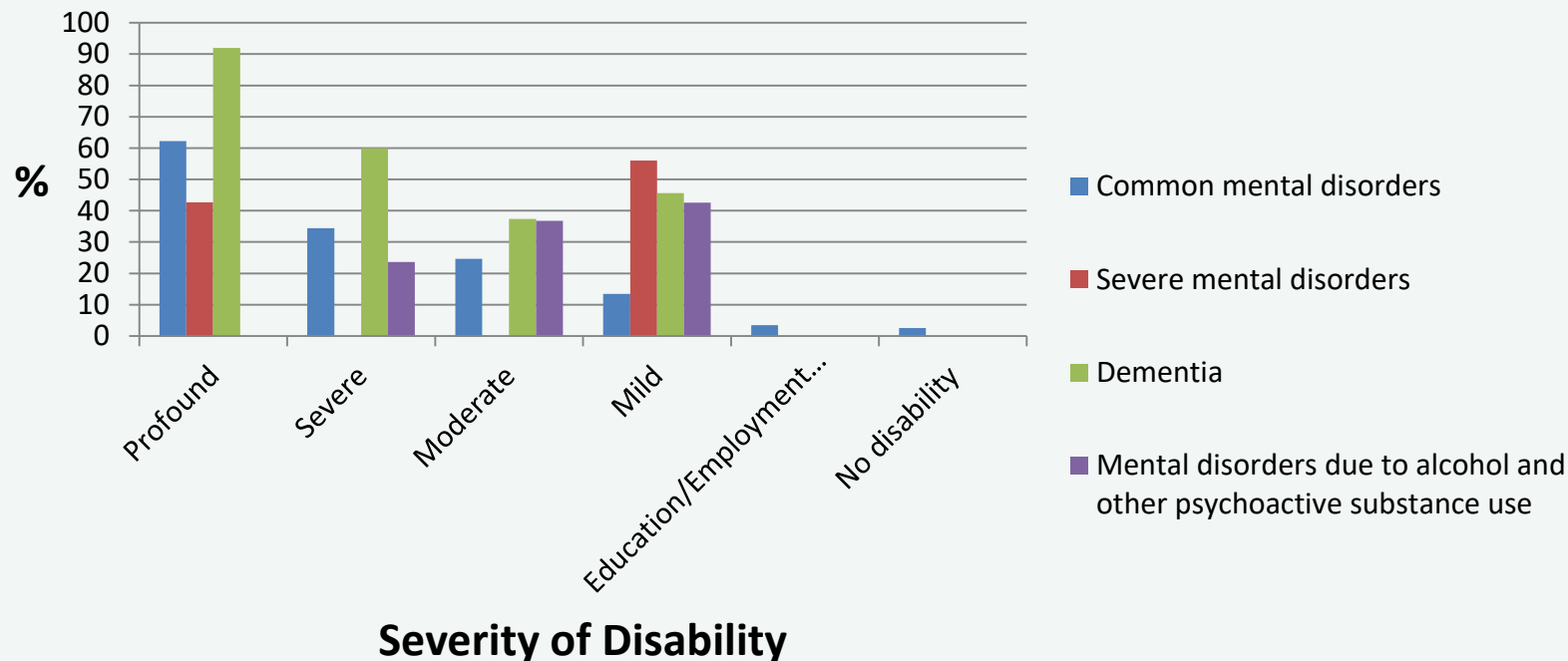


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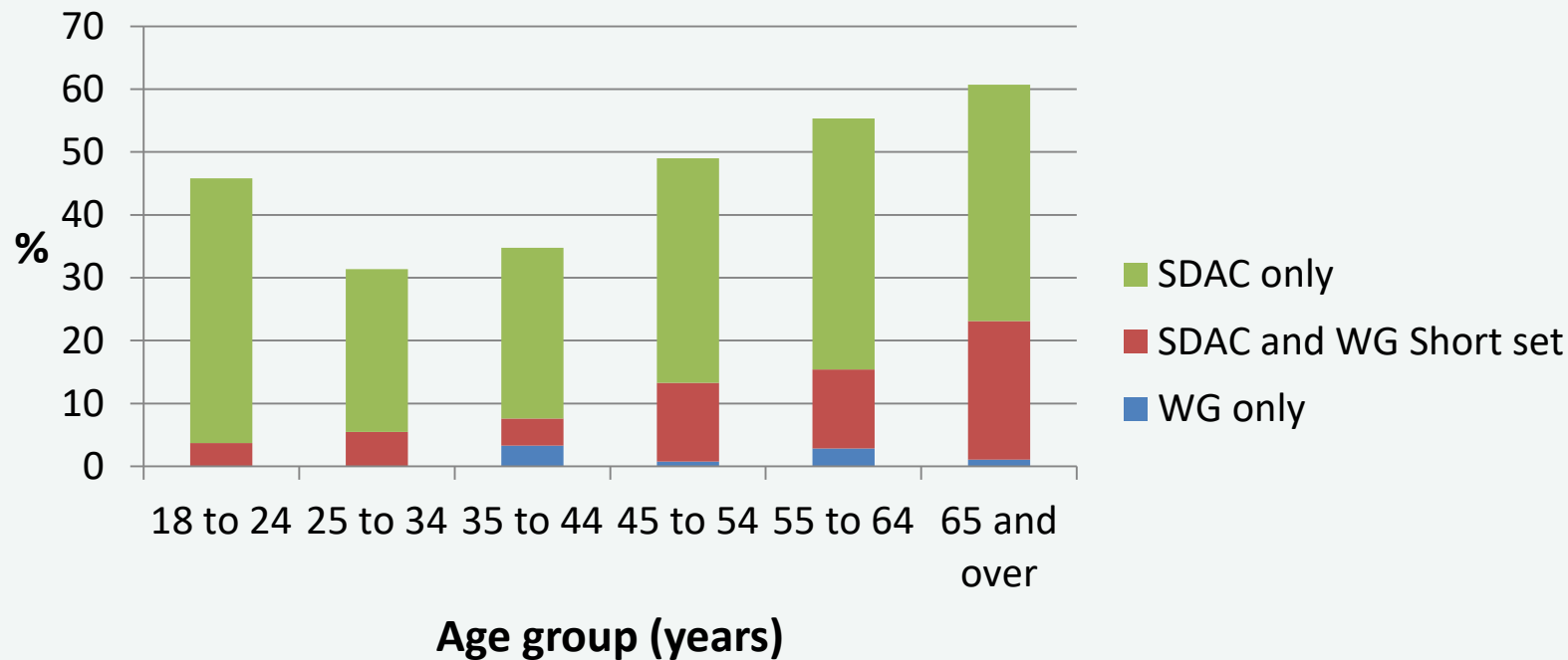




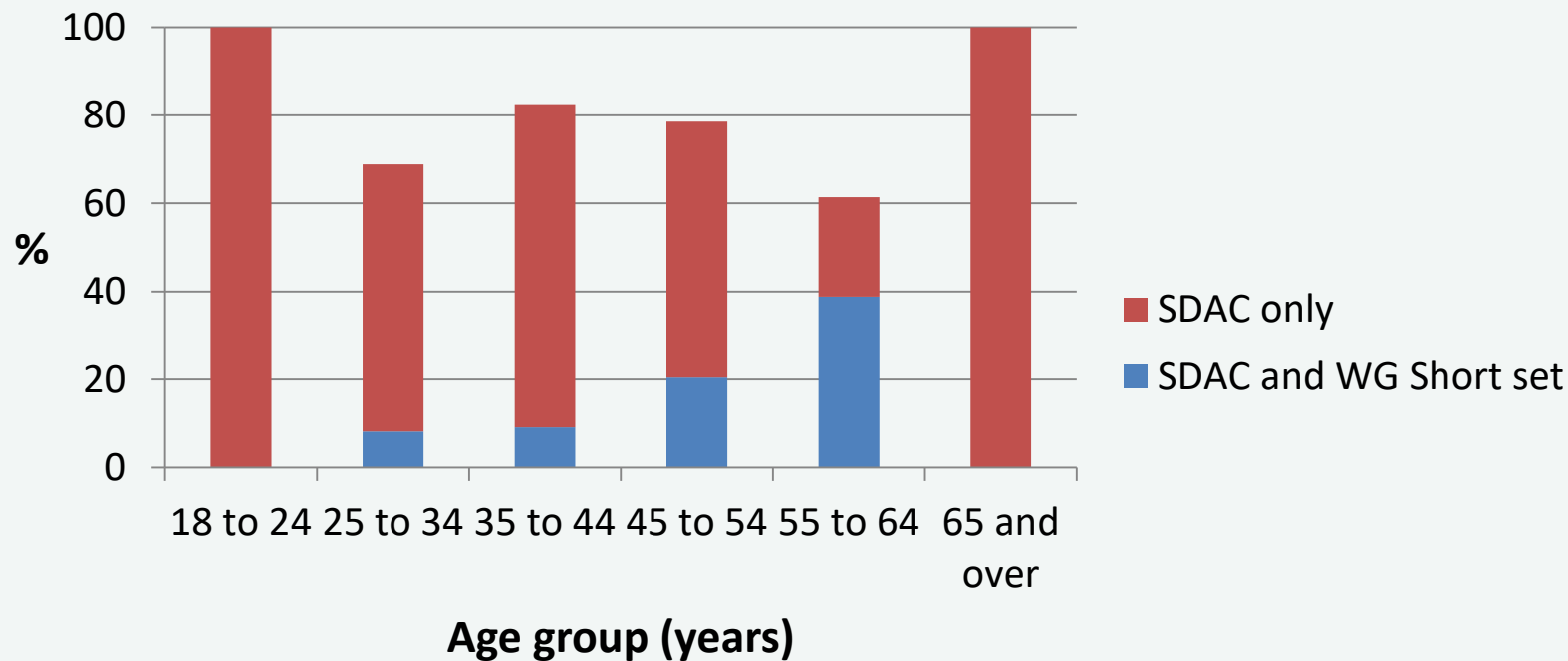
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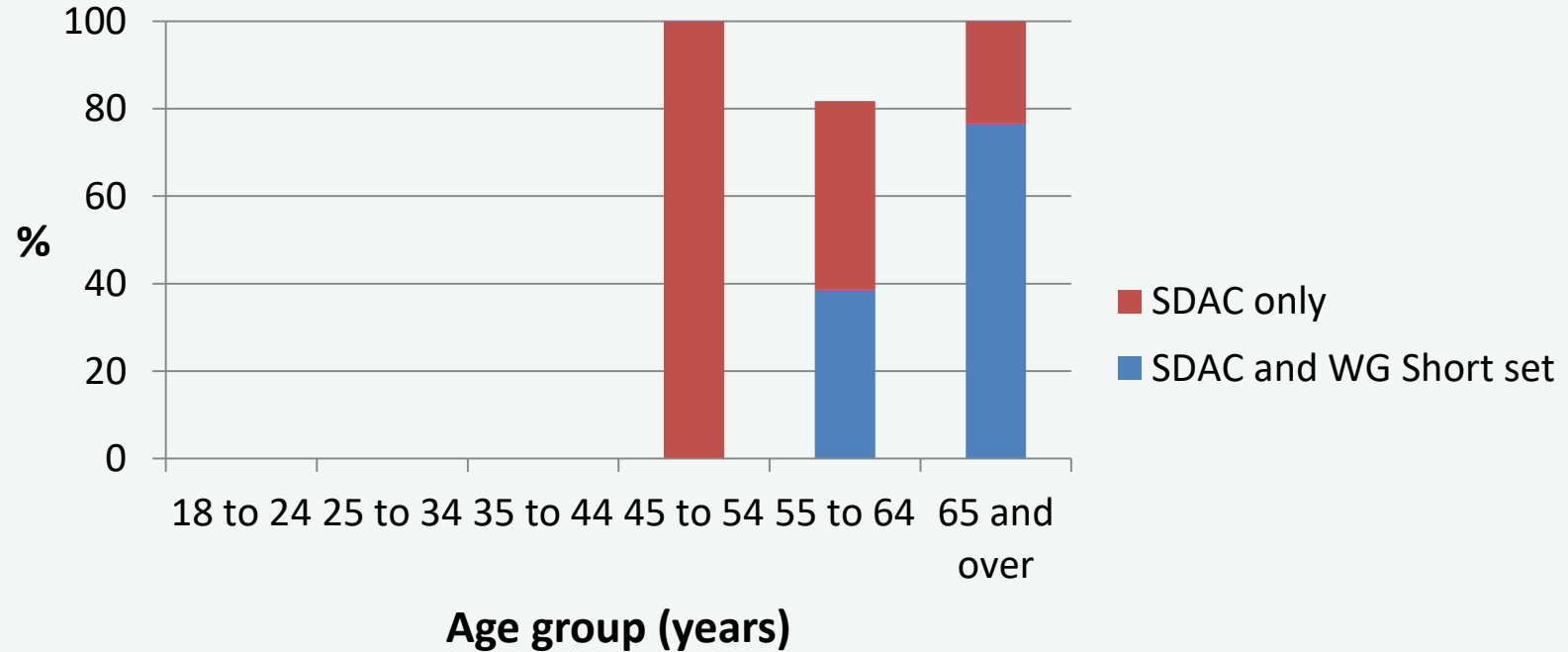
# Proportion of people with common mental disorders who were identified as having a disability by survey



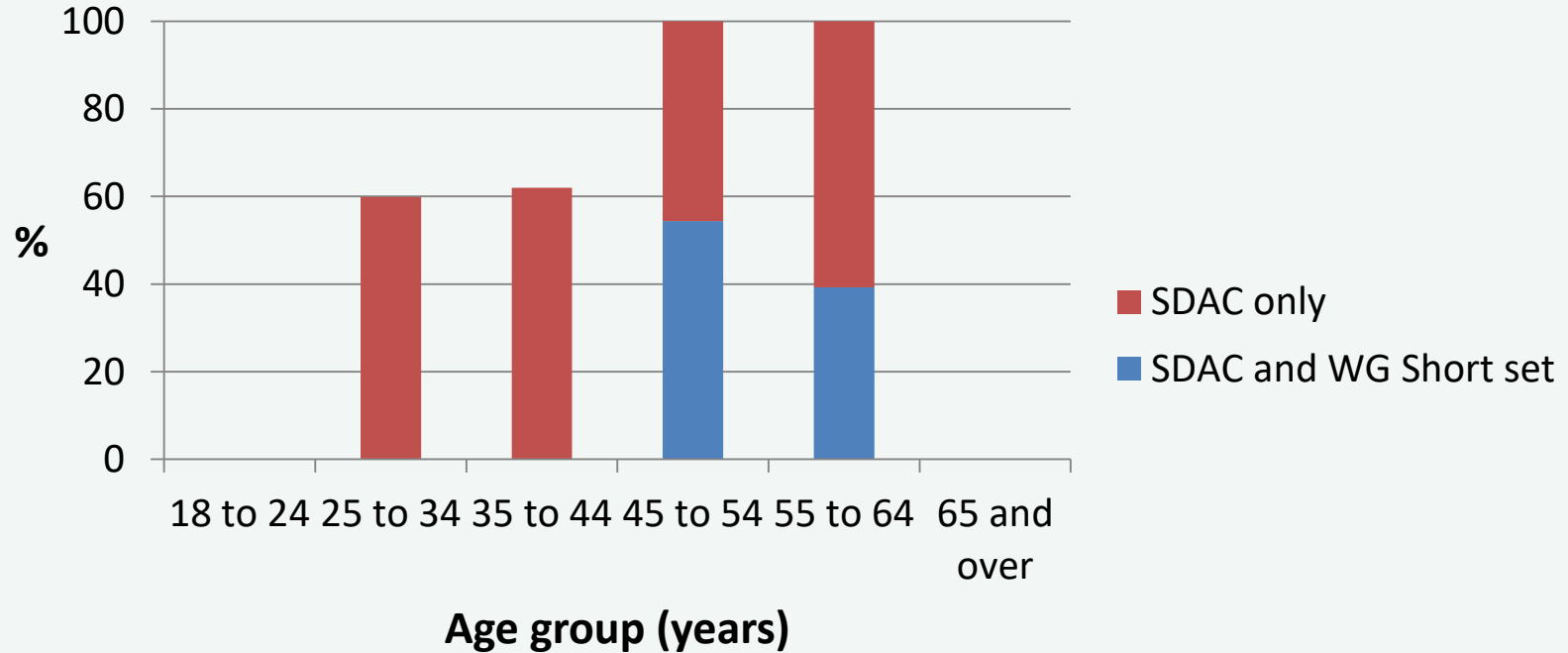
# Proportion of people with severe mental disorders who were identified as having a disability by survey



# 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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