

Research findings for

# Public Service Disability 2018

Washington Group questions Test findings  
in Statistics South Africa

Xoliswa Ndamase

THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND

## Presentation outline

- Purpose of the pilot study
- Methodology
  - Advocacy and communication strategies
  - Development of data collection instruments
  - Sampling
  - Data collection
- Research findings
- Lessons learnt





## Purpose of the pilot study

- To compare the use of the short set of Washington Group questions vis-à-vis the extended set of questions
- To test the effect of communication strategies, to support the completion of the survey, on questionnaire completion rates and employees' willingness to disclose
- To inform the process of standardising disability measurement across different Government Departments



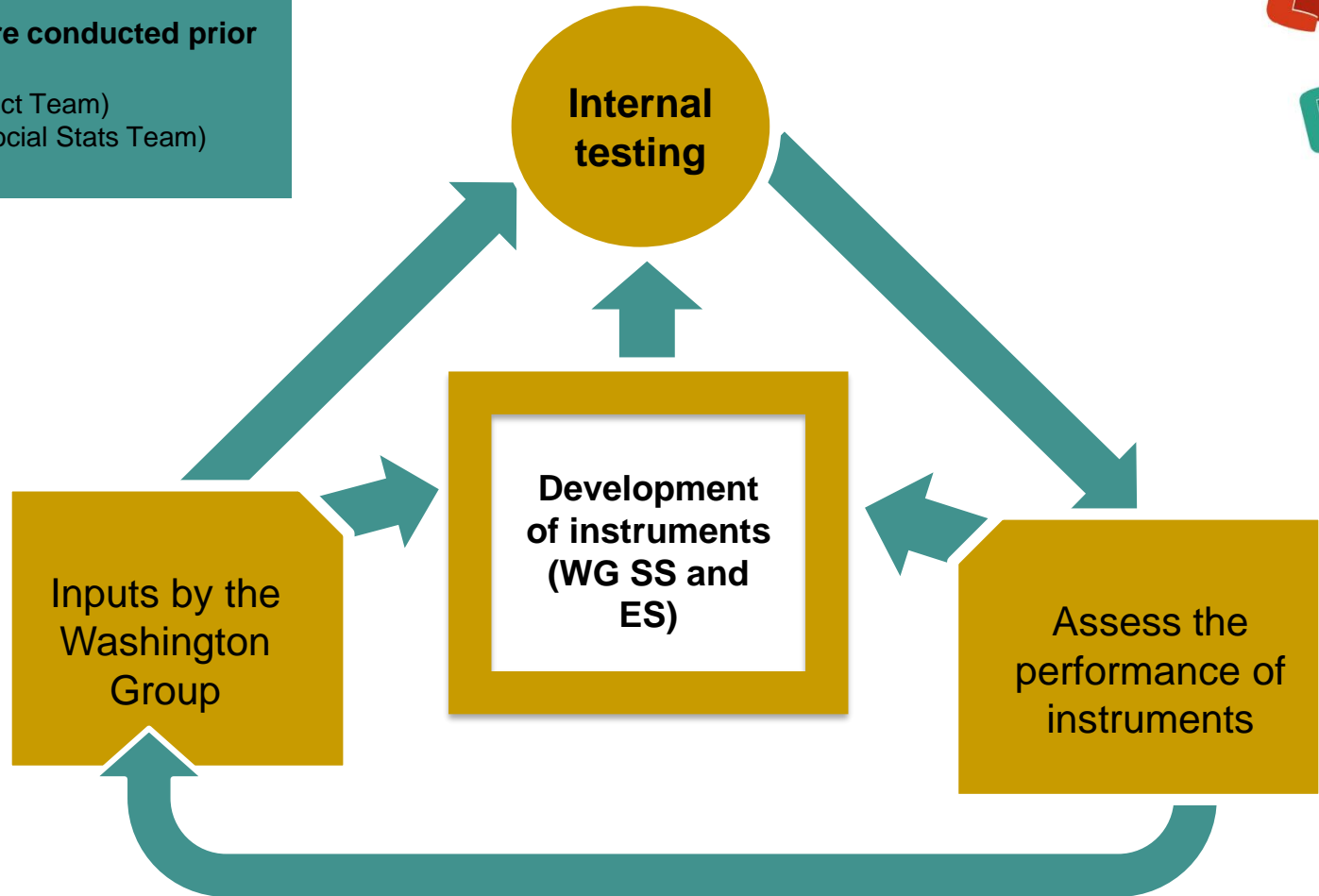
## Methodology

- The survey was conducted under the auspices of the Statistics Act (No 6 of 1999) - no ethics approval needed.
- Administered as a Census of all Statistics South Africa employees with an email address.
- CAWI based on the World Bank Survey Solutions platform was used as collection mode.
- The CAWI survey instrument was based on the standard WG questions, but was modified slightly to suit the mode. It underwent testing before deployment.

# Testing of instruments

Two tests were conducted prior to rollout:

- 31 July (Project Team)
- 07 August (Social Stats Team)



# Advocacy and Communication strategies



- **Advocacy was done at an organisation level through:**
  - Information sessions
  - EXCO presentation
  - Flighting information about the survey on screens around the building
  - Internal newsletters
- **Two different communication strategies were tested:**
  - Basic communication strategy: provided basic information about the survey
  - Expanded communication strategy: Had more and frequent interactions with respondents – personal stories about experiences of persons with disabilities



# Sampling methodology

Radikopantsha MIS (based on PERSAL) was used as sampling frame

After selecting a **random starting point** on an alphabetical list of StatsSA email addresses, every second person allocated the WG-SS questionnaire, the remaining WG-ES

Research group	WG-SS	WG-E	Communication strategy
Stats SA Group 1	✓	×	Expanded
Stats SA Group 2	✓	×	Basic
Stats SA Group 3	×	✓	Expanded
Stats SA Group 4	×	✓	Basic

## Frame size:

**3 027 ( 2 976) units**

- 51 units had e-mail addresses which could not be verified

## Sample allocation

- WG -SS: 1 483
- WG -ES: 1 493







## Data collection

- Data collection period was two weeks, from 13 to 24 August. However, by the 24th of August the response rate was just above 50% and it was decided to extend the collection period to the 29th of August
- This was a web based survey. A personalised survey link was sent to all stats SA staff members on 13 August.
- Reminders to encourage participation were initially scheduled to be sent out every second day from 13 August, but later revised to daily due to poor response rate
- Reminders were accompanied with the daily response rate and daily count down to closing the collection period.



# Survey response rates

Type of questionnaire	Sample allocation	Response rate
<b>WG - SS</b>	Sample#	1 483
	Response rate #	965
	Response rate %	65,1
<b>WG - ES</b>	Sample#	1 493
	Response rate #	988
	Response rate %	66,2
<b>Total</b>	Sample#	2 976
	Response rate #	1 953
	Response rate %	65,6



# Participation levels

Communication strategy	Not participated		Participated		Total
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	

## WG Short Set

Basic	236	31,9	504	68,1	740
Expanded	282	38,0	461	62,0	743
Total	518	34,9	965	64,9	1 483

## WG Extended Set

Basic	251	33,6	495	66,4	746
Expanded	254	34,0	493	66,0	747
Total	505	33,8	988	66,2	1 493

## Both questionnaires

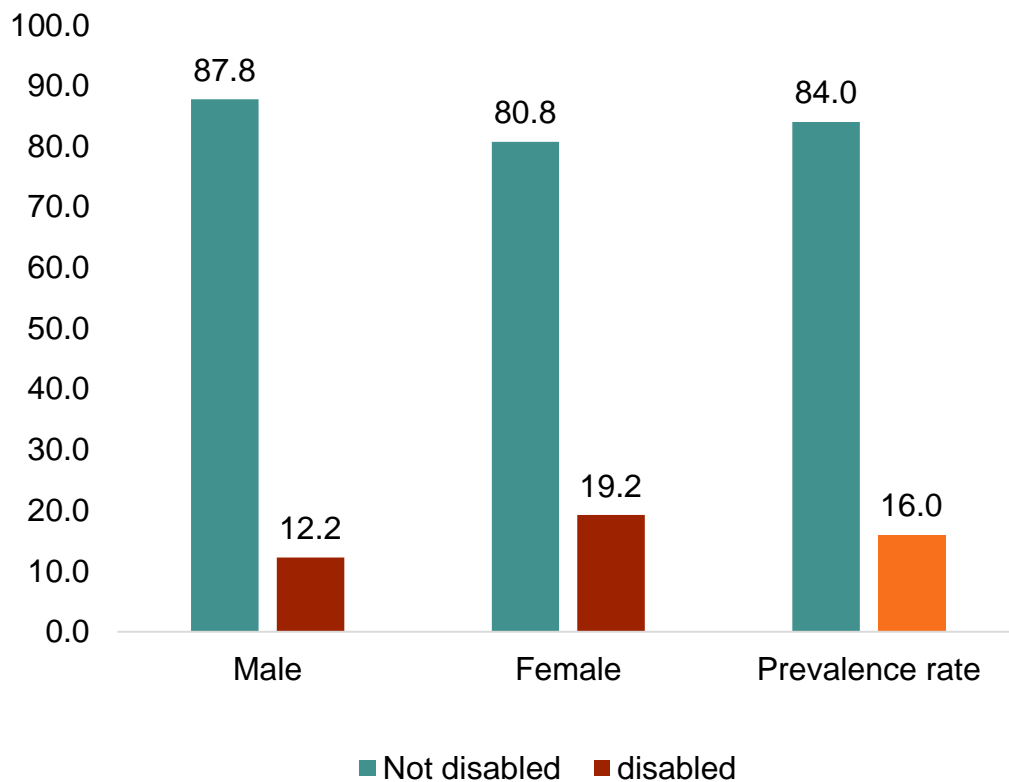
Basic	487	32,8	999	67,2	1 486
Expanded	536	36,0	954	64,0	1 490
Total	1030	34,4	1 953	65,6	2 976

## Chi-square comparisons of key demographic and other indicators for individuals who responded and individuals who did not respond to the survey

Variable	Degrees of freedom	Chi-square value	Probability
Branch name	8	197,4	<,0001*
Region	10	272,5	<,0001*
Grade level	14	353,1	<,0001*
Managerial status	2	193,2	<,0001*
Population group	3	46,9	<,0001*
Communication strategy	1	3,77	0,0520
Sex	1	0,67	0,4117
Age group	4	3,96	0,4116
Unique sample	1	0,662	0,4300



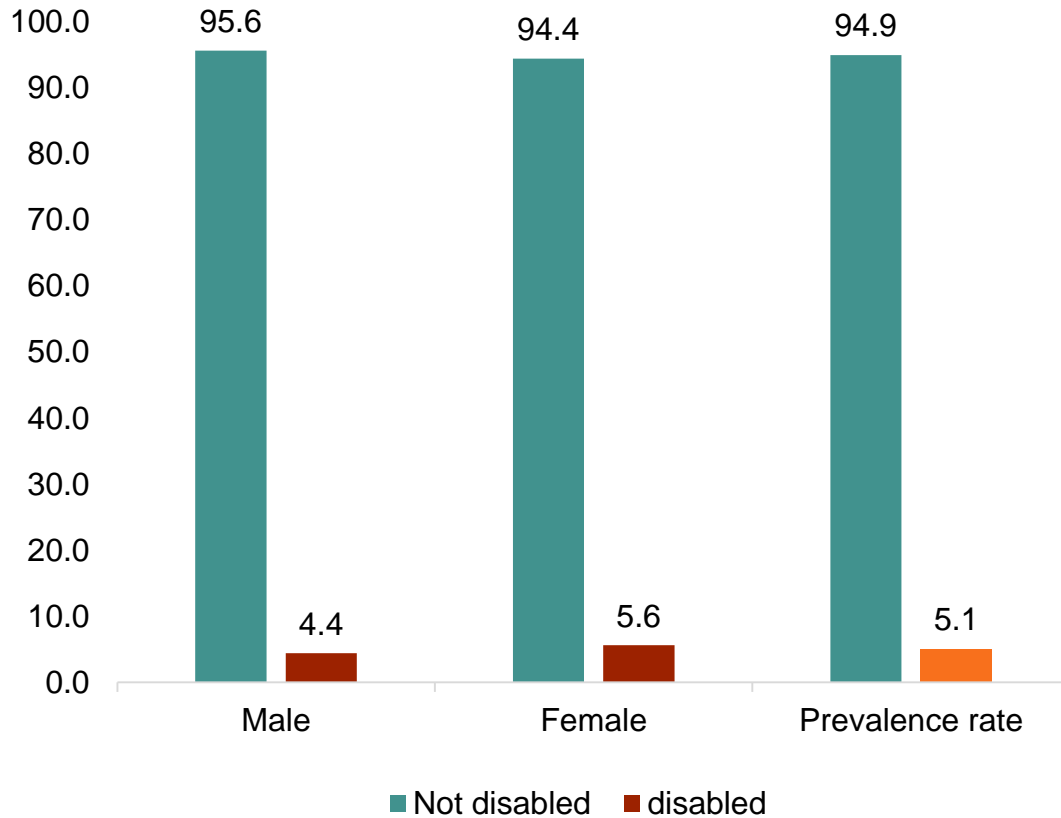
## Disability prevalence rate: WG -SS



Prevalence rate includes everyone with at least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all or at least some difficulty in two domains: 154 out of 965



# Disability prevalence rate: WG–SS (Severe measure)



Disability prevalence includes everyone with at least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all: 46 out of 965



## Determination of Disability : WG–ES

More domains (11 domains) compared to WG SS – cut-off (a lot of difficulty and cannot do at all)

- Six short set of questions (seeing, hearing, communicating walking, self-care and, remembering and concentration)
- Upper-body indicator
- Affect (anxiety and depression)
- Pain
- Fatigue



## Determination of Disability : Disability identifier

### WG-ES 2: Modified Extended Set (WG-ES MINUS Pain and Fatigue): 9 domains, 20 questions

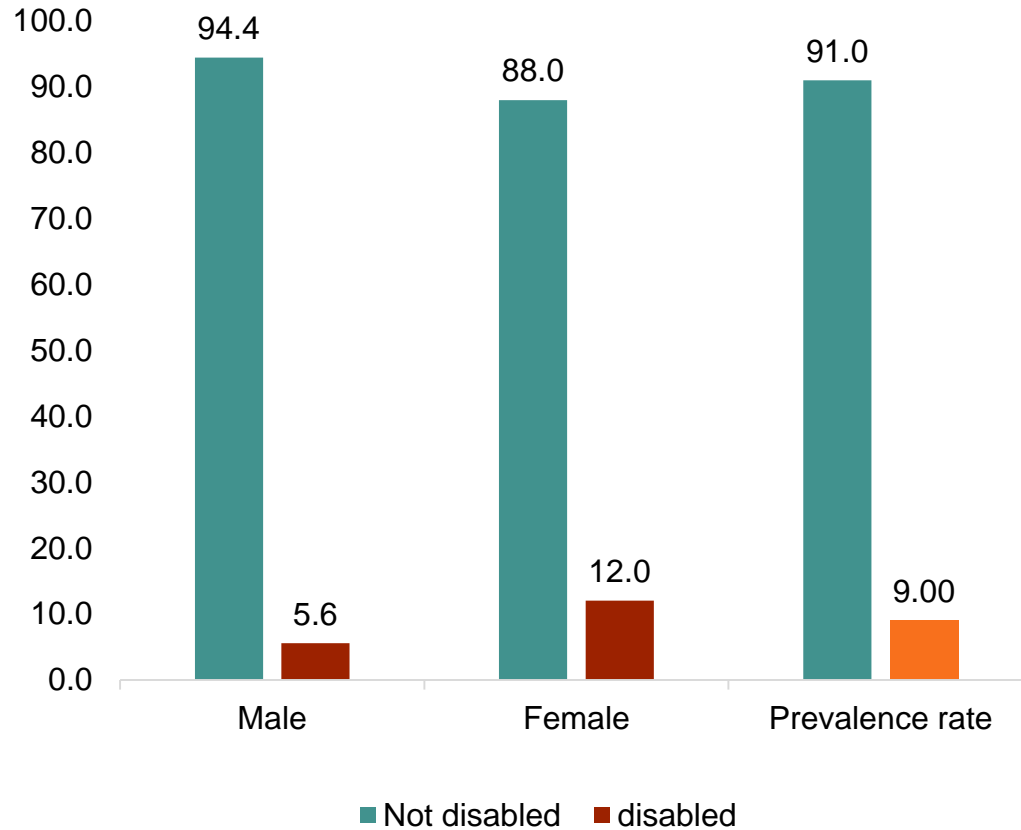
- WG SS questions **Plus** ( Hearing indicator, mobility indicator, upper body indicator) **Plus** anxiety and depression (cannot do at all)

Disability status is determined through difficulty in the basic activities without the use of assistive devices





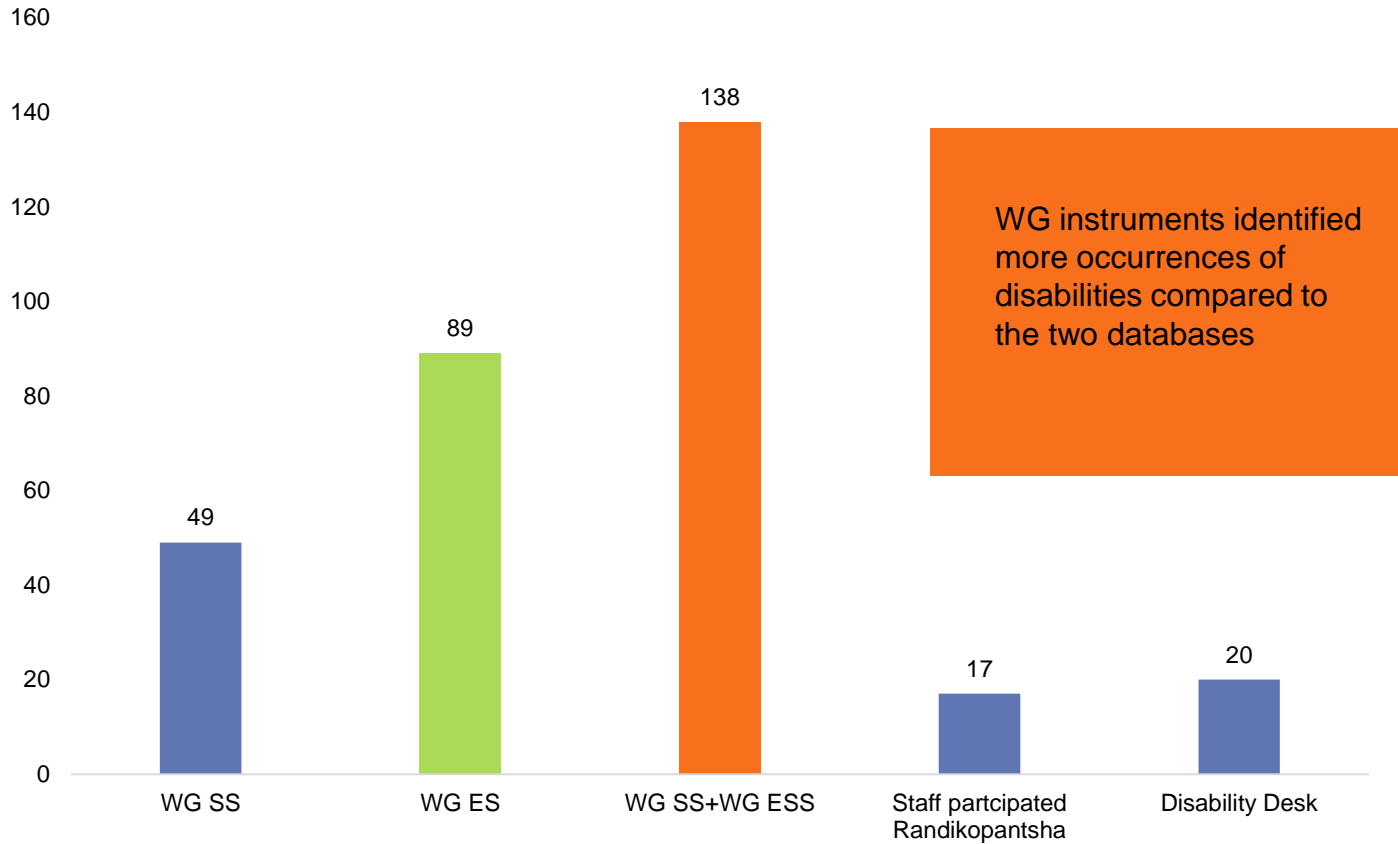
# Disability prevalence rate: WG-ES



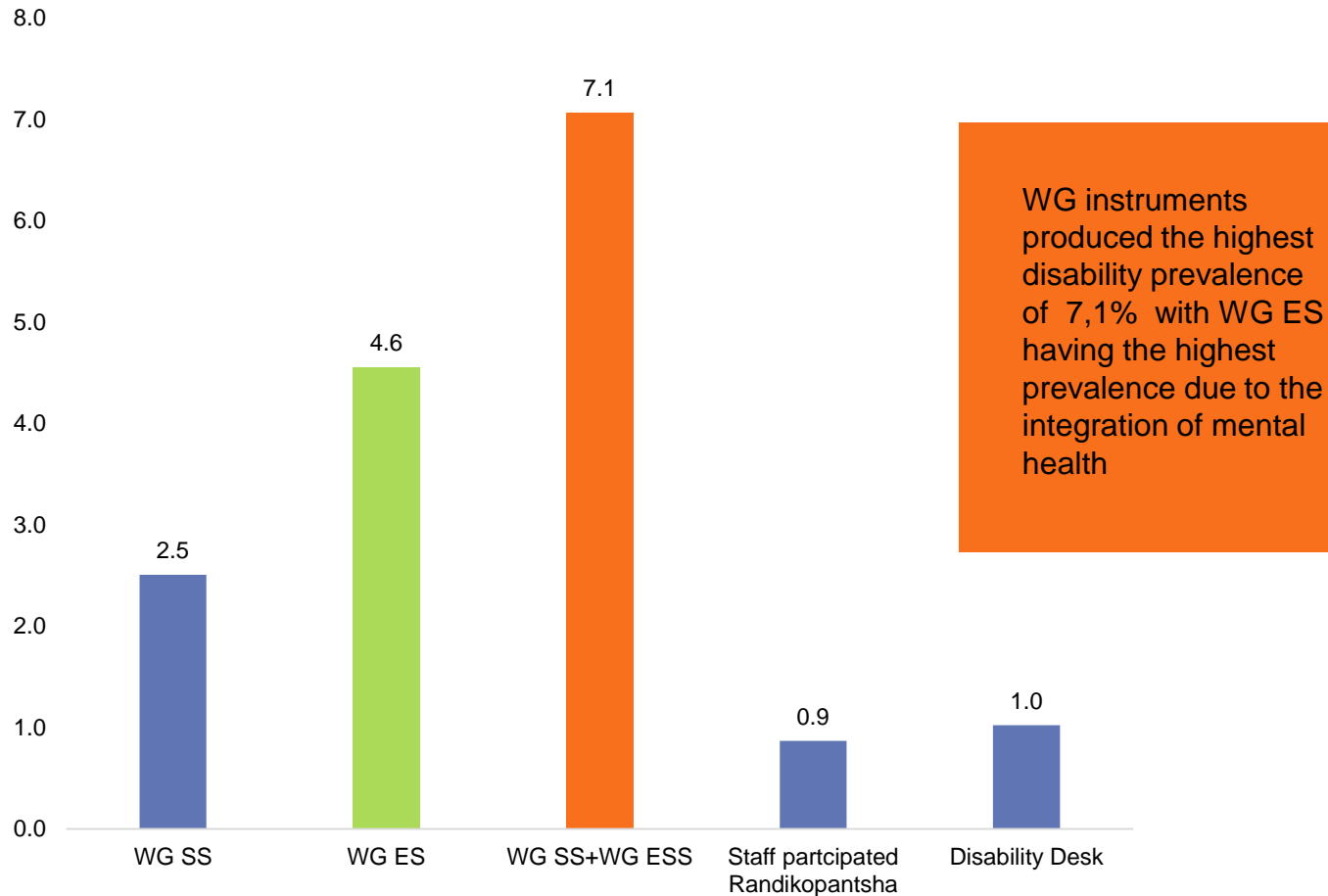
Disability prevalence for the WG -ES among those who participated in the survey (89 out of 988): 9,0%



# Comparative analysis: disability occurrences different data sources



# Comparative analysis: disability prevalence rates





## Change in disability types

- Out of 17 persons with disabilities who participated in the survey from Radikopantsha database, six changed the type of disability.
- Out of 20 persons who participated in the study from Disability Desk database, 10 were positively identified by the Washington Group instruments as disabled, including the classifications as recoded from Disability Desk and Radikopantsha database.
- A further four changed their type of disability for example, from mental health to visual impairment, mobility to depression and anxiety. The remaining six were also correctly classified, but under moderate disabilities (Some difficulty).
- The Washington Group instruments accurately captured multiple disabilities which were recorded in Radikopantsha database. Disability Desk database recorded only single disabilities.



## Lessons learnt

- Update database to remove units which are out of scope before sample allocation
- To send personalised invitation during advocacy phase to encourage participation
- To allocate sufficient time for data collection phase to avoid unnecessary extensions i.e. 15 working days.
- To open the system to enabled completion of the survey instruments by all staff members including those who work outside offices.
- Clear and precise instructions with regards to the personalised links that are sent to individuals:
  - Can not reuse or use later once opened
  - Can not be shared
- WG-ES identifies more disabilities than WG-SS
- Response rates were low and there was a non-response bias towards more senior staff and staff based at Head Office



THANK YOU