

Washington Group on Disability Statistics

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The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG)

- June 2001: UN International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability
- WG established as a City Group under the aegis of the UN Statistical Commission to:
 - address the need for population based measures of disability
 - Foster international cooperation in the area of health and disability statistics
 - produce internationally tested measures to monitor status of persons with disability
 - Incorporate disability into national statistical systems

The WG is Country driven

- Countries have ownership
- The Secretariat for the WG is located at the National Center for Health Statistics
- A rotating Steering Committee oversees the work plan of the WG and preparations for the annual meetings
- Workgroups lead the development of specific tasks: currently child disability, the environment and participation, and analysis
- Emphasis on evidence and transparency – extensive testing of questions in multiple countries

Membership of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics

- Current representatives from national statistical authorities include 118 countries and territories
- Past and present representatives of international and national organizations representing persons with disabilities, and several national government and non-government organizations
- Other international organizations including among others: EUROSTAT, ILO, OECD, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCAP, etc.

Summary of annual meetings

1 st	Washington, DC	February 2002
2 nd	Ottawa, Canada	January 2003
3 rd	Brussels, Belgium	February 2004
4 th	Bangkok, Thailand	September 2004
5 th	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	September 2005
6 th	Kampala, Uganda	October 2006
7 th	Dublin, Ireland	September 2007
8 th	Manila, Philippines	October 2008
9 th	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	October 2009
10 th	Luxembourg	November 2010
11 th	Southampton, Bermuda	November 2011
12 th	Bangkok, Thailand	October 2012
13 th	Amman, Jordan	October 2013

WG Disability Measures:

Short Set of Questions – six questions recommended for Censuses. (Recommended for use in all national censuses in the UN *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*)

Extended questions set on functioning for national surveys. (Subset to be included on European Health Interview Survey)

A module on Child Functioning and Disability is currently being tested.

A module on limitations to school participation is under development

Developed a comparable testing methodology

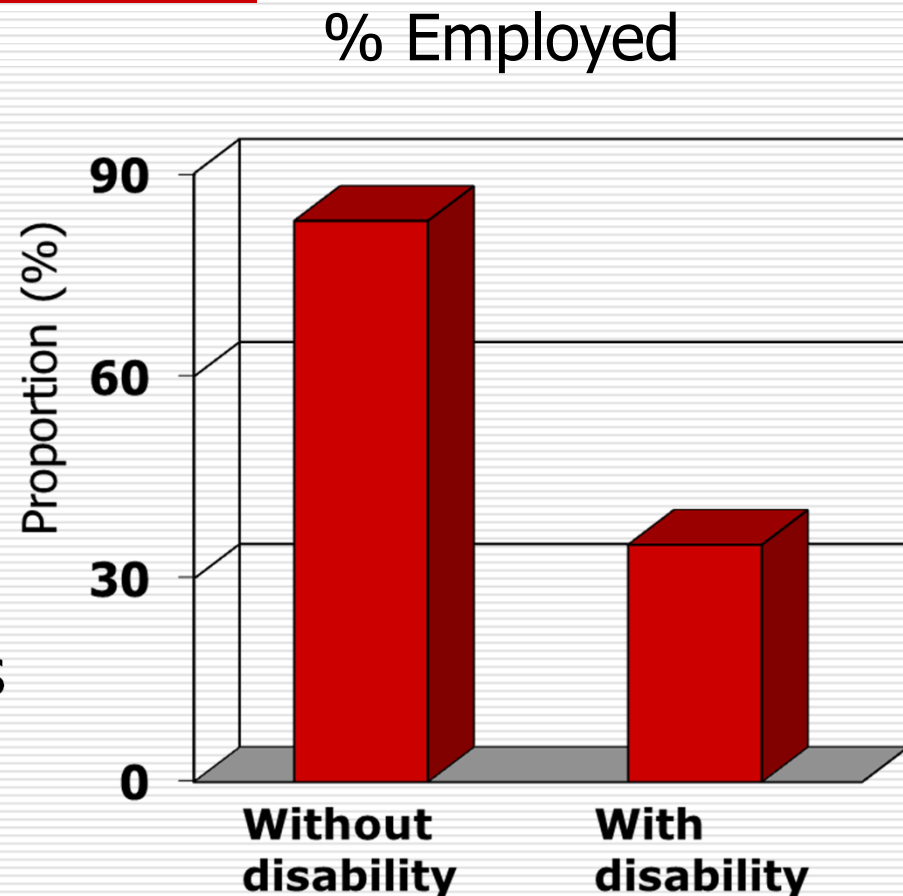
Moving from *Concept* to *Operational Definition*

The Definitional Paradox

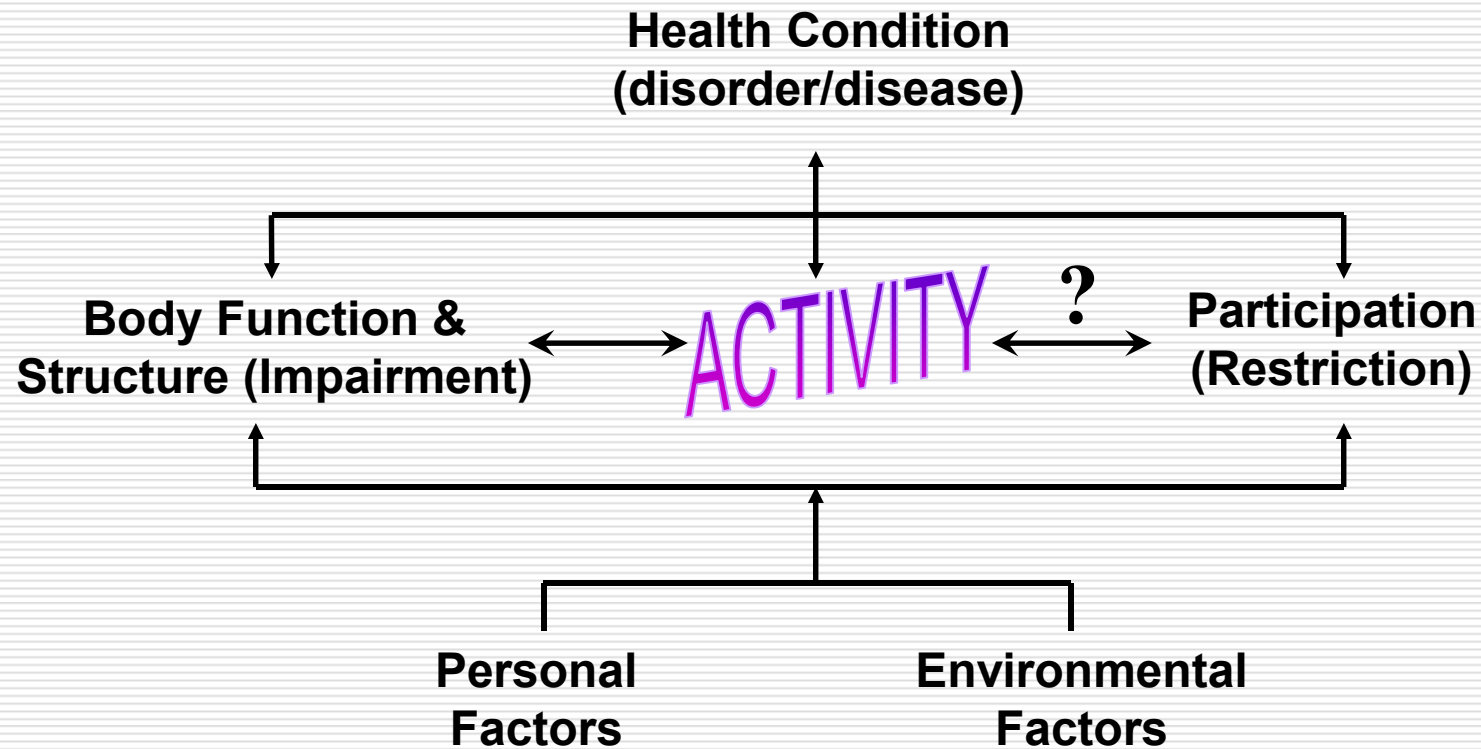
- There is no single **operational** definition of disability
- Different operational definitions lead to different estimates
- The question you are trying to answer (**the purpose**) will determine which definition to use
- Need to **understand the choices** that are being made when choosing a definition

WG Purpose: Equalization of Opportunities

- Seeks to identify all those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Disability used as a demographic.



Locating Risk in the ICF Model



Washington Group/Budapest Initiative/UNESCAP Question Development

Row		Questionnaire Topic/Type	Basic Activity Domains									Complex Activity Domains				
			Vision	Hearing	Mobility	Communication	Cognition/remembering	Upper Body	Learning/understanding	Affect	Pain	Fatigue	ADL/IADL	Getting Along with People	Major Life Activities	Participation in Society
1	Capacity	Short Set Single Questions (1)						d	a				d			
2		Extended Set Multiple Questions (1)					c	c		e	e	c	b			
3	Performance	Use of Assistive Devices Micro-E (2)				Sign language										
4		Functioning with Assistance, Micro-E								e						
5		Age at Onset														
6		Cause	Questions cognitively tested but not included on ESCAP field test													
7		Duration														
8		Impact (limit ability to carry out daily activities)											?	?	?	
9		Meso-Environment (3)	Question Set currently under development													
10		Macro-Environment (4)	To be obtained through other sources, not personal survey data collections													
		ICF Chapter Reference - Activities/Participation	ICF-1	ICF-1	ICF-4	ICF-3	ICF-1,2	ICF-4	ICF-1	ICF-2	(5) See Note below	ICF-5,6	ICF-7	ICF-8	ICF-9	

Goals for Question Evaluation:

Cognitive testing allows us to determine if respondents understand the question as intended.

- Do individual respondents understand the survey question differently?
- Does the question mean the same in all the languages, cultures and socio-economic groups that it is asked?

Cognitive testing helps us understand the ways in which a question performs - varied patterns of interpretation and dimensions of response error.

Field testing provides evidence to better understand the extent to which patterns exist in a population.

Disability Statistics to Monitor Development Goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities...

Need for National Data to Support Monitoring

National Data on population with disabilities is necessary to both implement and monitor development goals and the Convention.

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) provides a commonly accepted model to support national data collection.

The Washington Group work seeks to provide internationally comparable data based on the ICF Model to fulfill the monitoring function.

Global Disability Prevalence Rates*

High-income countries			Low-income countries		
	Year	%		Year	%
Canada	1991	14.7	Kenya	1989	0.7
Germany	1992	8.4	Namibia	1991	3.1
Italy	1994	5.0	Nigeria	1991	0.5
Netherlands	1986	11.6	Senegal	1988	1.1
Norway	1995	17.8	South Africa	1980	0.5
Sweden	1988	12.1	Zambia	1990	0.9
Spain	1986	15.0	Kenya	1989	0.7
UK	1991	12.2	Zimbabwe	1997	1.9
USA	1994	15.0	Malawi	1983	2.9

* Sources and methodologies are country specific.

Standardized Approach to Monitoring

- By standardizing these questions it will be possible to provide comparable data cross-nationally for populations living in a variety of cultures with varying economic resources;
- Data can be used to assess a country's compliance with development goals the Convention and, over time, their improvement in meeting requirement

Measuring Disability

Because of a Health problem:

- 1) Do you have difficulty **seeing** even if wearing glasses?
- 2) Do you have difficulty **hearing** even if using a hearing aid?
- 3) Do you have difficulty **walking** or **climbing** stairs?
- 4) Do you have difficulty **remembering** or **concentrating**?
- 5) Do you have difficulty with (**self-care** such as) washing all over or dressing?
- 6) Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty **communicating** (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

Response categories:

No - no difficulty; Yes - some difficulty;
Yes - a lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all

Measuring Disability

- A survey of Living Conditions among People with Disabilities in Zambia (2006) used the WG short set.
- 4 Response categories
- Disability: **at least one domain** that is coded as **a lot of difficulty** or **cannot do it at all**.
 - **8.5%**

Severity within domains of functioning -- Zambia

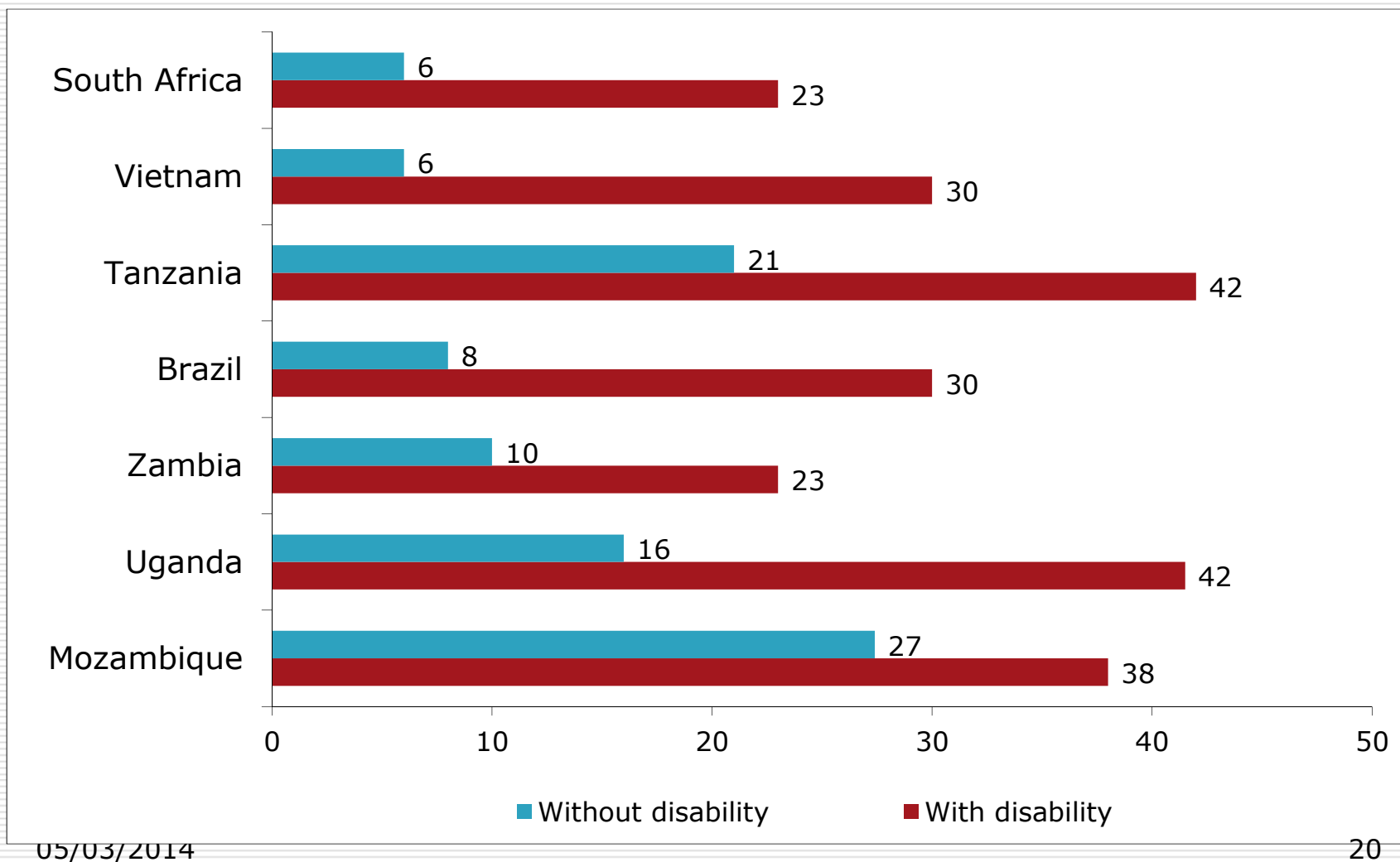
At least:

Core Domain	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty	Unable To do it
Vision	4.7	2.6	0.5
Hearing	3.7	2.3	0.5
Mobility	5.1	3.8	0.8
Remembering	2.0	1.5	0.3
Self-Care	2.0	1.3	0.4
Communicating	2.1	1.4	0.5

Severity in Population (%)

Person with disability has:	n	%
at least 1 Domain is 'some difficulty'	4053	14.5
at least 2 Domains are 'some difficulty'	3090	11.0
at least 1 Domain is 'a lot of difficulty'	2368	8.5
at least 1 Domain is 'unable to do it'	673	2.4

Population aged 15 years + who never attended school, by disability status (%)



Focusing on implementation

- Include Washington Group short set of questions in Censuses or national surveys used for monitoring
- Analyze data to be useful for policy and program
- Tabulate data in a consistent format and report to UN
- Provide needed technical assistance through publications and regional meetings

For more information...

- The WG reports to the UN Statistical Commission. The WG annual report to the Commission is available at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc12/2012-21-WashingtonGroup-E.pdf>

- Executive summary of last 11 WG meetings posted on the WG website along with presentations & papers from the meetings:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm