The Relationship Between Health Conditions and the Core Disability Question Set

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BACKGROUND

In 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services adopted a core set of six questions to identify people with a disability across federal surveys measuring population health.

Core Set of 6 Disability Questions:

1) Hearing: Is deaf or has serious difficulty hearing
2) Seizure: Has seizure disorder (seizure or epilepsy)
3) Cognitive: Has serious difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions
4) Ambulatory: Has serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs
5) Self Care: Has difficulty dressing or bathing
6) Independent Living: Has difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping

Research to date has explored how well this core measure 1) captures people with disability or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Social Security Insurance (SSI) receipt, 2) aligns with the four International Classification of Functioning (ICF) components of disability, or other measures of disability, and 3) captures a very limited set of health conditions.

The 2008 Panel of SIPP provides a great opportunity to further understand this disability measure, by providing the health conditions reported by persons with disability.

DATA

2008 Panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

- SIPP is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the Census Bureau that collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs.
- The 2008 panel had a sample of 52,031 eligible households.
- SIPP has periodically collected adult disability data since 1984 using an extensive question set that covers many aspects of disability, as well as health conditions based on a defined list of ICF components of disability.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Who does this core disability measure capture in terms of disability type, health conditions, and demographic composition?

PREVALENT RATES

Prevalence of Disability Types across Age Groups, Among People with a Core Disability

AMBULATORY: Difficulty walking or climbing stairs

COGNITIVE: Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions

INDEPENDENT LIVING: Difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping

SELF CARE: Difficulty dressing or bathing

ADULT HAIR: Seizure disorder (seizure or epilepsy)

INTERMEDIATE: Hearing: Is deaf or has serious difficulty hearing

65.7% of people with mental retardation are men age 65 & over

32.8% of people with learning disability are men between 18 and 54

PREVALENCE RATES

Among People with a Core Disability

Cognitive difficulty declines with age, then increases again after age 65-74

Mental/Emotional problems are the most common condition among ages 35-64. Senility/Dementia is the most common condition for ages 65 and older.

Dementia increases sharply after age 64

Among people with cognitive difficulty:

Mental/Emotional problems are the most common condition among ages 18-64, and ambulatory difficulty is the most common type for ages 45 and older.

37.0% of people age 75+

57.5% of people with mental retardation are men age 65 & over

Nearly 90% of people with mental/ emotional problems are between 20 and 64

1) captures people with work disability or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Social Security Insurance (SSI) receipt.

2) aligns with the four International Classification of Functioning (ICF) components of disability or other measures of disability.

3) captures a very limited set of health conditions.

Mental/emotional problems are the most common condition among ages 18-64.

Among People with a Core Disability

Ambulatory difficulty increases with age, between ages 18-64

Demographic composition of cognitive difficulty, by select conditions

Demographic Composition of People with Cognitive Difficulty, by Select Conditions

Mental Retardation

Learning Disability

Dementia/Senility

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Mental Retardation

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Dementia/Senility

CONCLUSION

For people with a disability, cognitive difficulty is the most common type of disability for ages 18-34, and ambulatory difficulty is the most common type for ages 45 and older.

Among people with cognitive difficulty:

Mental/Emotional problems are the most common condition among ages 35-64. Senility/Dementia is the most common condition for ages 65 and older.

People with a learning disability or mental retardation were disproportionately men between 18 and 54, while people with senility/dementia were disproportionately women ages 75 and older.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

- Couple with a dependent child: A family with one child under 18.
- For people with a disability, cognitive difficulty is the most common type of disability for ages 18-34, and ambulatory difficulty is the most common type for ages 45 and older.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). The core set of six questions to identify people with a disability across federal surveys measuring population health.

This poster is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion. Any views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.