

Disadvantage facing young people with disability in Australia: what's changed over time?

In Australia, young people with disability experience disadvantage in many areas of their lives.

This fact sheet presents data on inequalities between young people aged 15 to 24 years with and without disability in Australia from 2001 to 2018. Data were sourced using the annual Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, to measure the level of disadvantage experienced by young people with disability across 13 indicators representing health and wellbeing, education, employment, social and community connectedness, and financial circumstances.

These data were collected before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the period 2001 to 2018, *outcomes improved for young people with disability in the following areas:*

- Education attainment
- Feeling safe
- Violence or property crime
- Income poverty and material hardship

For the remaining 9 indicators measured, outcomes for young people with disability stayed the same or got worse.

Inequalities between young people with disability and young people without disability decreased over this 18-year period in the following areas:

- Education attainment
- Feeling safe
- Violence or property crime

For the remaining 10 indicators, inequalities stayed the same or increased.

Using the HILDA Survey, we produced the following measures for each of the 13 indicators reported in this fact sheet:

- Unadjusted rates for young people with and without disability (e.g., '% of young people who had someone to confide in')
- Absolute disadvantage ('gap') calculated as:

$$[\% \text{ for young people with disability}] - [\% \text{ for young people without disability}]$$
- Relative disadvantage, the adjusted prevalence rate ratio estimated by Poisson regression and controlling for between-group differences (e.g., in age, gender and other demographic characteristics):

$$[\% \text{ for young people with disability}] / [\% \text{ for young people without disability}]$$

We used statistical techniques to determine whether there was evidence of change over the period 2001 to 2018 in each of these measures.

POOR MENTAL HEALTH

The 2018 HILDA Survey found that young people with disability experienced poorer mental health than young people without disability.



UNEMPLOYMENT

Of those in the labour force, young people with disability were more than twice as likely to be unemployed.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Young people with disability were less likely to be involved in community life as an active member of a sporting, hobby or community-based club or association.



On these three indicators, outcomes for young people with disability got worse over the period 2001 to 2018, and the gap between young people with and without disability widened.

OUTCOMES AND INEQUALITIES

Over the period 2001 to 2018:

- Did outcomes improve for young people with disability?
- Did *absolute* disadvantage experienced by young people with disability decrease?
- Did *relative* disadvantage experienced by young people with disability decrease?

	Outcomes for young people with disability	Inequalities between young people with and without disability	
Indicators	Did outcomes improve?	Did <i>absolute</i> disadvantage decrease?	Did <i>relative</i> disadvantage decrease?
HEALTH AND WELLBEING			
Self-rated health (good, very good, excellent)	No	No	No
Satisfied with life	No	No	No
Poor mental health	No, they got worse	No, it got worse	No
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT			
Education attainment (Year 12 or Certificate 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Full time work or study	No	No, it got worse	No
Unemployed	No, they got worse	No, it got worse	No, it got worse
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS			
Has someone to confide in	No	No	No
Got together socially with friends or relatives not living in the same house at least once a month	No, they got worse	No, it got worse	No
COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS			
Satisfied in feeling part of their local community	No	No, it got worse	No, it got worse
Active member of a sporting, hobby or community-based group	No	No, it got worse	No, it got worse
Satisfied in how safe they felt in their local community	Yes	Yes	No
Victim of violence or property crime	Yes	Yes	No
MATERIAL CONDITIONS			
Income poverty and material hardship	Yes	No	No, it got worse

In 2018, young people with disability were disadvantaged relative to young people without disability on all 13 indicators:

	Young people with disability (%)	Young people without disability (%)
HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
Self-rated health (good, very good or excellent)	75	95
Satisfied with life*	80	92
Poor mental health	32	13
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT		
Education attainment (Year 12 or Certificate 2)	60	72
Full time work or study	56	78
Unemployed	26	10
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS		
Has someone to confide in	71	80
Got together socially with friends or relatives not living in the same house at least once a month	87	94
COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS		
Satisfied in feeling part of their local community*	43	57
Active member of a sporting, hobby or community-based group	30	35
Satisfied in how safe they felt in their local community*	86	94
Victim of violence or property crime	6	5
MATERIAL CONDITIONS		
Income poverty and material hardship	13	5

* score of 7 or more on a scale of 0 to 10

FURTHER INFORMATION

This fact sheet was produced by the team at the Centre of Research Excellence in Disability and Health, The University of Melbourne, May 2021.

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