

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

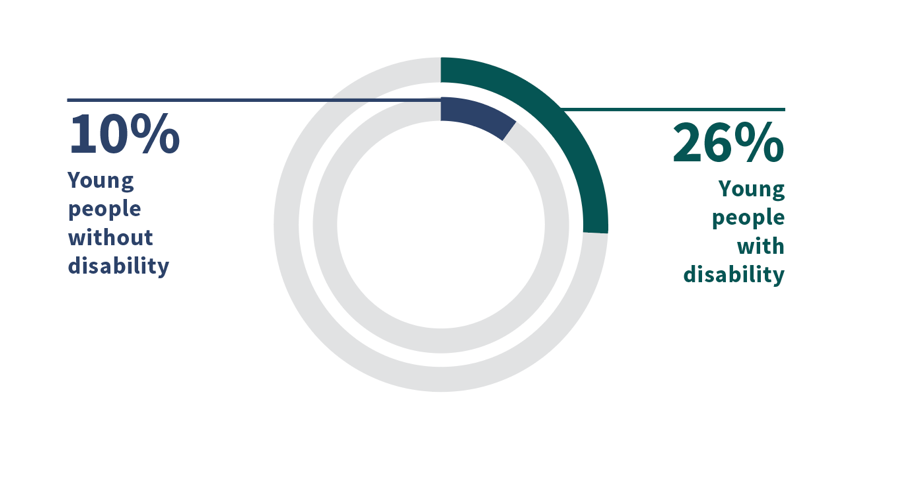
For the remaining 10 indicators, inequalities stayed the same or increased.

**On these three indicators below, 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.  
  
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.



**OUTCOMES AND INEQUALITIES 2001-2018**

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?

This table explains whether outcomes improved for young people wiht disability in the domains of health and wellbeing, education and employment, social and community connections and their material (financial) circumstances.  
On the right hand side, it explains whether inequalities between young people wiht and without disability decreased over time, 2001-2018. 

**DISADVANTAGE AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2018**

In 2018, young people with disability were disadvantaged relative to young people without

disability on all 13 indicators:

This table describes how in 2018, young people with disability were disadvantaged compared to young people without
disability on all 13 indicators, by percentage.


**A NOTE ON DATA**  
  
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:

[% for young people with disability] – [% 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):

[% for young people with disability] / [% 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.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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