

Disability Counts 2006:

A statistical profile of children and young adults with a disability
living in Victoria

Gippsland



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About Disability Counts 2006

Disability Counts 2006 is a statistical resource for anyone involved in planning, delivering or advocating for improvements to community and government support for children and young adults with a disability and their families in Victoria. It is specifically designed to assist with analysis at the local government level and within Department of Human Service (DHS) regions.

There are nine sections of data in total (one for each of the eight DHS regions, plus a statewide summary). There are four tables in each section. The first two tables in each section provide local and regionally specific data on the overall number of children and young adults with a disability. Tables 3 and 4 provide identical data for each section on disability by group/category. The data in Tables 3 and 4 can be used in conjunction with Tables 1 and 2 to calculate local and regional estimates of disability by group/category. While our Association's focus is on children and young adults with a disability aged 0–18 years, Disability Counts 2006 can be used as a resource document for ages 0–64.

Data from Disability Counts 2006 may be copied and reproduced providing it is accompanied by appropriate acknowledgement of the Association for Children with a Disability as author and publisher. We would appreciate receiving copies of any public documents that cite or reproduce Disability Counts 2006. Any other feedback about Disability Counts is also most welcome.

Note: new disability data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will become available in 2007.

Michael Gourlay, CEO
Association for Children with a Disability
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Table 2.1: Children and young adults with a profound or severe disability (Gippsland)

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Table 2.1: Children and young adults with a profound or severe disability (Gippsland)

LGA/Age Cohort	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total 0-64
Bass Coast (S)	45	166	68	64	137	220	276	976
Baw Baw (S)	66	273	115	89	197	316	300	1,357
East Gippsland (S)	63	239	99	79	189	322	401	1,393
La Trobe (S)	130	479	222	185	359	567	517	2,459
South Gippsland (S)	46	172	74	60	131	225	246	955
Wellington (S)	74	275	123	101	206	340	326	1,445
Total	424	1,605	702	578	1,219	1,990	2,067	8,585

Notes: Based on analysis of a specially commissioned data cube of Victorian data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 'Disability, Ageing and Carers' (Cat: 4430.0) and the 'Victoria in Future' (VIF) 2004, population and household projections for the period 2001–2051 published by the Department of Sustainability and the Environment (DSE). Other sources of disability data analysis include the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Totals derived by applying the ABS 2003 disability rates (profound and severe) by age group for Victoria to the DSE population estimates for 30 June 2006. The LGA estimates are intended as a guide only. The ABS disability rates used are statistically reliable at a statewide-Victorian level but not at a local/LGA level. The VIF LGA estimates also carry various caveats with regard to data accuracy.

The ABS disability rates used are: 0–4 (3.1%); 5–14 (4.7%); 15–24 (2.3%); 25–34 (2.3%); 35–44 (3.7%); 45–54 (5.5%); 55–64 (6.4%). Some totals may not add exactly due to rounding to whole numbers based on decimal percentages used.

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Table 2.2: All children and young adults with a disability (Gippsland)

LGA/Age Cohort	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total 0-64
Bass Coast (S)	63	297	230	282	533	931	1,486	3,822
Baw Baw (S)	94	488	392	390	765	1,340	1,615	5,083
East Gippsland (S)	90	427	337	345	737	1,366	2,155	5,458
La Trobe (S)	184	856	754	812	1,399	2,401	2,780	9,185
South Gippsland (S)	65	308	251	264	511	951	1,324	3,675
Wellington (S)	106	492	417	444	800	1,441	1,751	5,451
Total	601	2,868	2,382	2,536	4,746	8,430	11,111	32,674

Notes: Based on analysis of a specially commissioned data cube of Victorian data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 'Disability, Ageing and Carers' (Cat: 4430.0) and the 'Victoria in Future' (VIF) 2004, population and household projections for the period 2001–2051 published by the Department of Sustainability and the Environment (DSE). Other sources of disability data analysis include the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Totals derived by applying the ABS 2003 disability rates (all with disability) by age group for Victoria to the DSE population estimates for 30 June 2006. The LGA estimates are intended as a guide only. The ABS disability rates used are statistically reliable at a statewide-Victorian level but not at a local/LGA level. The VIF LGA estimates also carry various caveats with regard to data accuracy.

The ABS disability rates used are: 0-4 (4.4%); 5-14 (8.4%); 15-24 (7.8%); 25-34 (10.1%); 35-44 (14.4%); 45-54 (23.3%); 55-64 (34.4%).

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Table 2.3: Disability Groups/Categories (Profound or severe disability)

Disability Group/Age Cohort	0-4 (%)	5-14 (%)	15-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45-54 (%)	55-64 (%)
Sensory or speech	69.4	49.2	32.8	31.7	23.7	26.5	27.7
Intellectual or learning	34.0	65.5	62.5	29.5	20.6	12.8	12.2
Physical	42.3	31.0	48.9	76.9	82.0	86.4	95.3
Psychological	6.4	22.2	45.4	36.7	28.5	31.4	23.0
Head Injury, stroke or brain damage	4.5	3.4	11.3	17.5	12.4	12.2	13.6
Total of %'s	156.6	171.3	200.9	192.3	167.2	169.3	171.8

Notes: This analysis is based on the categories used in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication, 'Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions (Cat No: 4430.0.55.001). This ABS publication, and many others are now available free of charge. See www.abs.gov.au or 1300 135 070. This particular table is based on further specially commissioned data from the ABS relating to groups/categories of disability by profound/severe disability.

'Intellectual or learning' includes a broader category of people than those defined as having an intellectual disability under Victorian disability legislation.

The percentages quoted relate to the particular group/category of disability as a percentage of all persons with a profound or severe disability in the specified age range, eg. 49.2% of children aged 5-14 with a profound or severe disability have a sensory or speech disability; 65.5% of children aged 5-14 with a profound or severe disability have an intellectual or learning disability; and so on. In all age cohorts, the total exceeds 100%. This is because children and young adults with more than one disability are counted in each relevant category of disability.

The figures quoted are 'profound or severe disability' Australia wide. Using the corresponding 'Profound or severe' tables from this Disability Counts series, it is possible to use the figures above to generate local and regional estimates of profound/severe disability by group/category for the different age cohorts. This data is meant as a guide only. The ABS group/category data estimates are statistically reliable at a national level, but not at a local/LGA level.

It is not possible to use this particular table to calculate the number of children or young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It can be assumed that many children and young people with ASD would be included as part of the Intellectual or learning disability category. Some with ASD might be counted under the Psychological category, while some may not be counted anywhere. Recent estimates of the incidence of ASD include that, "The current diagnosis rates in all regions of the country suggest that around 1% of Australians will be diagnosed with an ASD" (R. Buckley, Autism/ASD diagnosis rates in Australia, in Proceedings of Biennial Australian Autism Conference, ACT Autism Association, Canberra, 2004). For more information on the incidence of ASD in Victoria, contact the Autistic Family Support Association (AFSA) through Autism Victoria on 9885 8777; 9885 0533 or www.autsimvictoria.org.au.

Other sources of statistical information about children with a disability include the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). See www.aihw.gov.au or 02 6244 1000.

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Table 2.4: Disability Groups/Categories (All with disability)

Disability Group/Age Cohort	0-4 (%)	5-14 (%)	15-24 (%)	25-34 (%)	35-44 (%)	45-54 (%)	55-64 (%)
Sensory or speech	56.1	35.3	19.0	19.7	17.6	23.4	24.5
Intellectual or learning	24.5	56.3	37.0	14.8	10.9	7.9	6.3
Physical	49.3	30.1	51.4	62.9	68.7	75.9	82.3
Psychological	4.3	12.7	18.9	18.0	13.9	14.6	12.4
Head Injury, stroke or brain damage	3.0	2.4	7.3	7.0	7.4	6.5	6.7
Total of %'s	137.2	136.8	133.6	122.4	118.5	128.3	132.2

Notes: This analysis is based on the categories used in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication, 'Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Disability and Long Term Health Conditions (Cat No: 4430.0.55.001), specifically, Table 6, 'ALL PERSONS, Disability Groups by Age and Sex'. This ABS publication, and many others are now available free of charge. See www.abs.gov.au or 1300 135 070.

'Intellectual or learning' includes a broader category of people than those defined as having an intellectual disability under Victorian disability legislation.

The percentages quoted relate to the particular group/category of disability as a percentage of all persons with a disability in the specified age range, eg. 35.3% of children aged 5-14 with a disability have a sensory or speech disability; 56.3% have an intellectual or learning disability; 30.1% a physical disability; and so on. In all age cohorts, the total exceeds 100%. This is because children and young adults with more than one disability are counted in each relevant category of disability.

The figures quoted are 'All with disability' Australia wide. Using the corresponding 'All with disability' tables from this Disability Counts series, it is possible to use the figures above to generate local and regional estimates of disability by group/category for the different age cohorts. This data is meant as a guide only. The ABS group/category data estimates are statistically reliable at a national level, but not at a local/LGA level.

It is not possible to use this particular table to calculate the number of children or young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It can be assumed that many children and young people with ASD would be included as part of the Intellectual or learning disability category. Some with ASD might be counted under the Psychological category, while some may not be counted anywhere. Recent estimates of the incidence of ASD include that, "The current diagnosis rates in all regions of the country suggest that around 1% of Australians will be diagnosed with an ASD" (R. Buckley, Autism/ASD diagnosis rates in Australia, in Proceedings of Biennial Australian Autism Conference, ACT Autism Association, Canberra, 2004). For more information on the incidence of ASD in Victoria, contact the Autistic Family Support Association (AFSA) through Autism Victoria on 9885 8777; 9885 0533 or www.autismvictoria.org.au.

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