Disability in Cape Verde
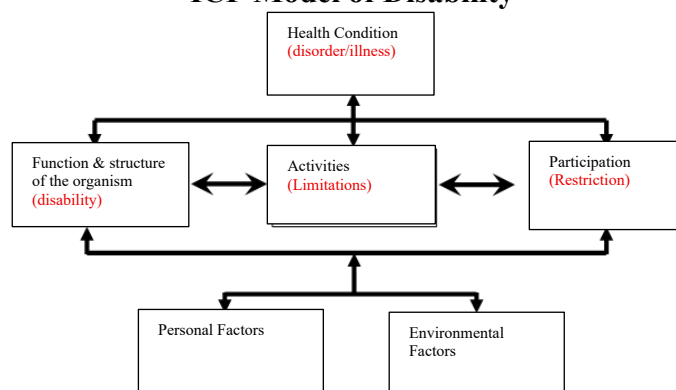
Disability

Disability is a multidimensional concept and experience. It can affect anyone, at any time, from birth through childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. Around the world, many people with disabilities do not have equal access to education, employment and healthcare. In addition, people with disabilities may face barriers to participating in civic and social activities.

Concept

There is no single definition of disability. Definitions vary depending on the purpose of measurement. In addition, the nature and severity of disabilities can vary considerably across cultural contexts. However, data on the size and characteristics of the population with disabilities, which also allow for cross-cultural comparisons, require standardisation in both the conceptualisation and measurement of disability.

ICF Model of Disability

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), developed by the World Health Organisation, provides the necessary and consistent definition of disability. According to the ICF model, disability results from the interaction between an individual and their contextual circumstances (personal and environmental). Thus, the degree of restriction of participation in life activities depends on the interaction between the individual's functioning (ability to perform basic functional activities) and the environment.

For more information about the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, visit: http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/.

Washington Group (WG)

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), a working group established by the United Nations Statistical Commission, was created to respond to the need for population-based disability measures by promoting and coordinating international cooperation in the field of health statistics, with a focus on data collection and analysis tools suitable for national censuses and surveys.

The WG developed, tested and adopted the basic questionnaire on Disability (WG-SS) to collect this data. The questions use the ICF as a conceptual framework. The WG-SS consists of six questions that measure difficulty in performing basic activities, with response categories covering the entire spectrum of functioning, from mild to severe. Disability is defined as "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" with at least one of the six WG-SS questions.

WG Basic Disability Questionnaire

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even with glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even with 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 (e.g. in caring for yourself) washing or dressing?
6. Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating (e.g. understanding or being understood by others)?

Response categories: No difficulty / Some difficulty / A lot of difficulty / Cannot do it at all.
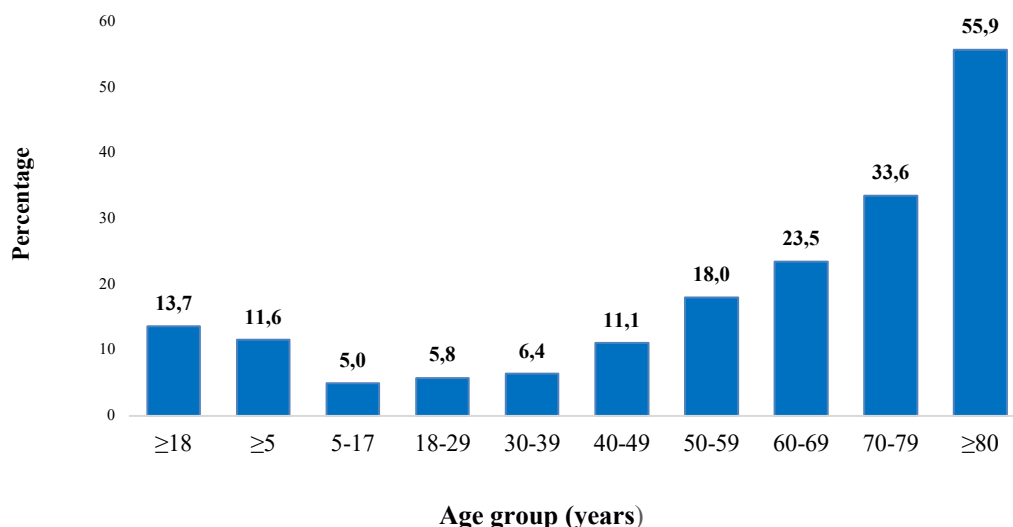
Data source and analysis methods

The data used to produce this report comes from the 5th General Population and Housing Census of Cape Verde (V-RGPH), conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INE). The RGPH is the INE's most complex statistical operation, mobilising significant human and financial resources and requiring several years of preparation. The V-RGPH was funded by the Government of Cape Verde, Spanish Cooperation, Luxembourg Cooperation, the United Nations Joint Office and the European Union. Data collection was carried out through direct interviews by duly accredited census takers from 15 to 30 June 2021. The survey was extended by one week (until 7 July 2021). For more information on the V-RGPH, visit: https://ine.cv/censo-2021/#publicacoes-tematicas.

Prevalence of disability

- The age-adjusted prevalence of disability in the population aged 18 and over is 13.7%;

- The prevalence of disability increases significantly with age, from 5.0% in children aged 5 to 17, to 11.1% in the adult population aged 40 to 49 and then reaching 55.9% in the population aged 80 or older, a difference of 50.9 percentage points.

Figure 1: Age-adjusted prevalence of disability in the population aged 5 years and older by age group, Cape Verde, 2021
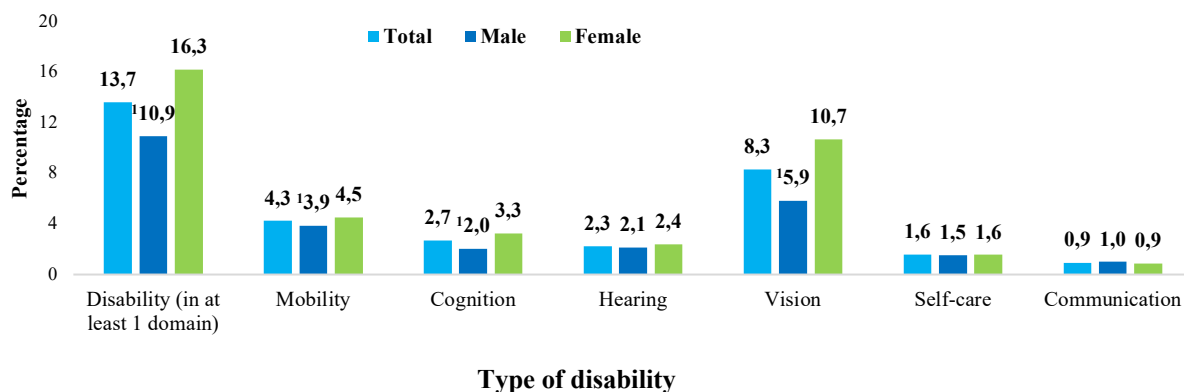

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: **World Population Prospects – Population Division – United Nations)** using the following age groups: 5–17, 18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79 and ≥ 80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

- The prevalence of disability adjusted for sex in the population aged 18 and over is higher among women (16.3%) than among men (10.9%), a difference of about 5 percentage points.

- By domain, the main disability is vision, affecting 8.3% of the total population, and by sex, the percentage is higher among women (10.7%) than among men (5.9%).

- Mobility is the second most common disability, with a total of 4.3%. The difference between the sexes is quite small, with 4.5% among women and 3.9% among men.

- The third disability is cognition (concentration), affecting 2.7% of the population, 3.3% of women and 2.0% of men.

- Hearing comes in fourth place, with a total percentage of 2.3% (2.4% for women and 2.1% for men).

- Finally, communication comes in last, with a percentage of 0.9% for both sexes (0.9% for women and 1.0% for men).

Figure 2: Age-adjusted disability prevalence in the population aged 18 years and over, by type of disability and sex, Cape Verde, 2021

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: **World Population Prospects – Population Division – United Nations**) using the following age groups: 18–29,30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79 and ≥ 80 years.

Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

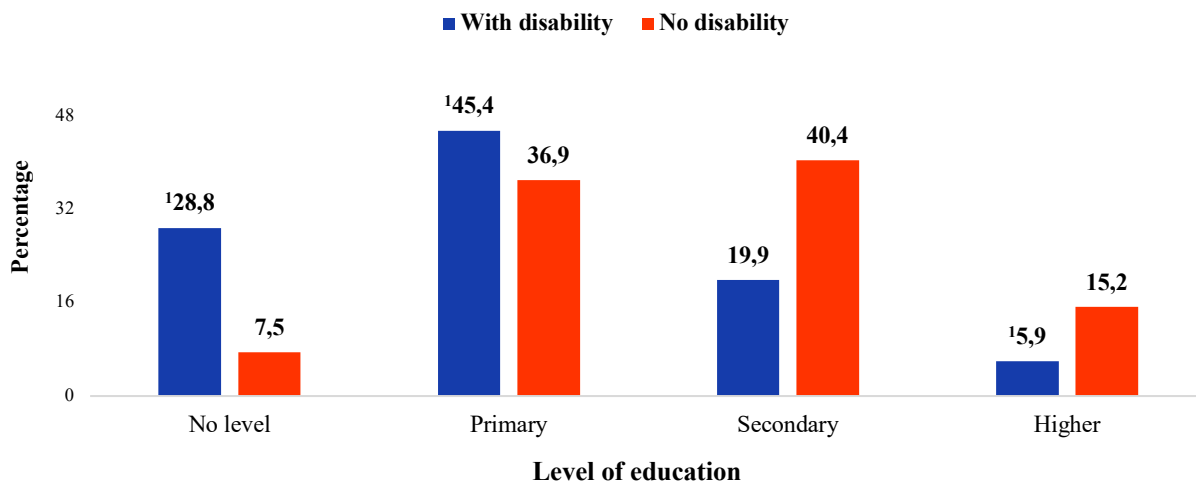## Results disaggregated by disability condition

Disaggregating data by disability condition allows for comparisons of outcomes for people with and without disabilities and is a necessary first step in addressing disparities. Outcome indicators, such as educational attainment, one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, or specific programme targets, can be monitored over time to determine whether disparities exist between persons with and without disabilities and whether these differences increase or decrease over time. In this section, data on educational attainment are disaggregated by disability status.

Level of education

- Approximately 3 in 10 adults (28.8%) aged 18 or over living with a disability have no level of education, while those without disabilities represent 7.5%.

- It appears that most of the population aged 18 or over with a disability study up to primary school level.

- At secondary and higher education levels, the difference between the population with and without disabilities is high, with the difference being most pronounced in secondary education, exceeding 20 percentage points.

Figure 3: Distribution (%) of the population aged 18 or over by disability condition according to educational attainment, Cape Verde, 2021

Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

Place of residence

- Although the population with disabilities in rural areas is higher than the population without disabilities, the majority of this population (68.8%) is found in urban areas.

Figure 4: Distribution (%) of the population aged 18 or over by disability condition according to place of residence, Cape Verde, 2021
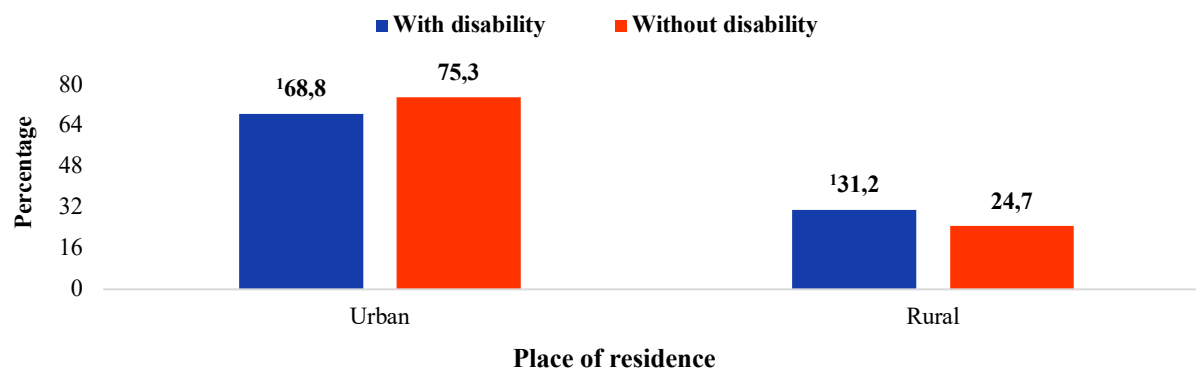

Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

Labour market situation

- In 2021, 91.1% of adults (aged 18 or over) with disabilities were employed, compared to 91.8% without disabilities.

- 57.6% of adults with disabilities belonged to the inactive population, compared to 30.4% without disabilities.

Figure 5: Distribution (%) of the population aged 18 or over by disability status according to labour market situation (employed and inactive), Cape Verde, 2021
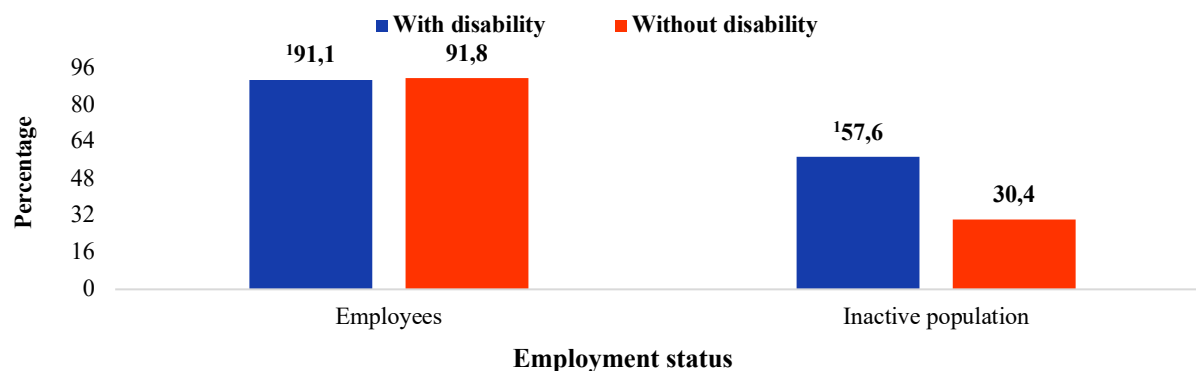

Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

Disability severity category

- Moderate and severe disability increases with age, affecting older people (70-79 years and 80 years or older) more.

- In fact, 18.4% of people aged 80 or over and 5.4% of people aged 70 to 79 have more severe difficulties.

- People aged 70 to 79 and 80 or over with moderate difficulties represent 28.7% and 38.8%, respectively.

Figure 5: Age-adjusted distribution (%) of the population aged 18 and over, by age group according to the severity of disability, Cape Verde, 2021

The age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: **World Population Prospects – Population Division – United Nations**) using the following age groups: 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and ≥ 80 years.

The disability severity category allows the two disability categories (Without disability and With disability) to be expanded to four categories, based on the highest level of difficulty in all six domains. It is based on the entire spectrum of disability. The disability severity spectrum indicator (SS-Sco) is calculated by assigning scores to the modalities of each of the six domains, and then adding the scores assigned to each domain to create an individual severity score. The scores assigned to each response are: No difficulty = 0; Some difficulty = 1; A lot of difficulty = 6 and Cannot do it at all = 36. The thresholds established at different levels of the disability spectrum for the creation of the disability severity category are: SS-Sco = 0 corresponds to "No difficulty"; SS-Sco between 1 and 4 corresponds to "Some difficulty"; SS-Sco between 5 and 23 corresponds to "Moderate difficulties" and SS-Sco between 24 and 216 corresponds to "Severe difficulties".

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

Prevalence of disability in the population aged 5 to 17

- The percentage of children aged 5 to 17 with at least one disability is 5.0%.

- The most common type of disability is visual impairment, which affects 3.1% of children in this age group, followed by concentration (cognition, 1.1%).

Figure 6: Prevalence of disability in the population aged 5 to 17, adjusted by age, by type of disability, Cape Verde, 2021

Age-adjusted percentages are based on the 2020 world population (available at: **World Population Prospects – Population Division – United Nations**) using the following age groups: 5-9, 10-14, 15-17.
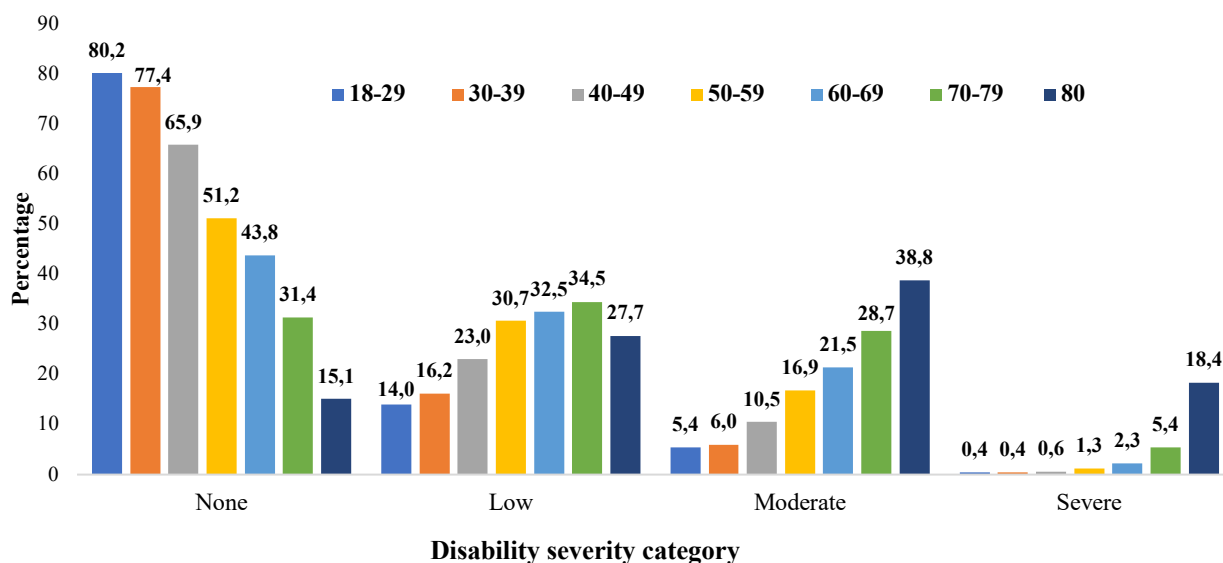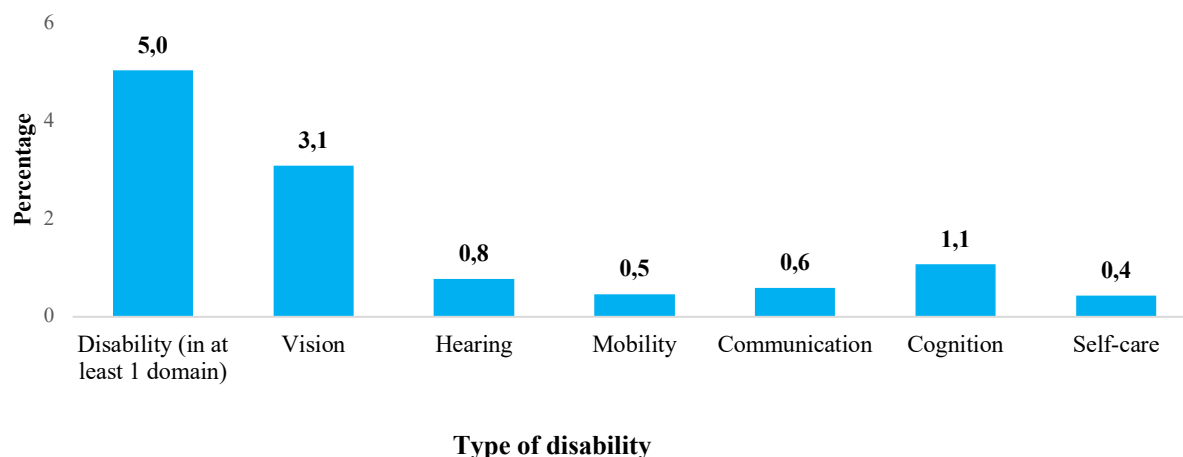
Disability is defined using the WG basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

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Results broken down by disability condition

- The percentage of children with disabilities aged 5 to 17 who do not currently attend an institution is higher than that of children without disabilities, a difference of about 5%.

- Among children living with a disability, 5.4% have at least one deceased parent, while this percentage is 4.6% among children without disabilities.

- In terms of living with their parents (father and/or mother) in the household, the situation of children with disabilities is more favourable than that of children without disabilities.

- Around 18% of children with disabilities live without their parents, while for children without disabilities this percentage reaches 20.5%.

Figure 7: Distribution (%) of the population aged 5 to 17 by disability status according to school attendance, parental survival and residence with parents, Cape Verde, 2021
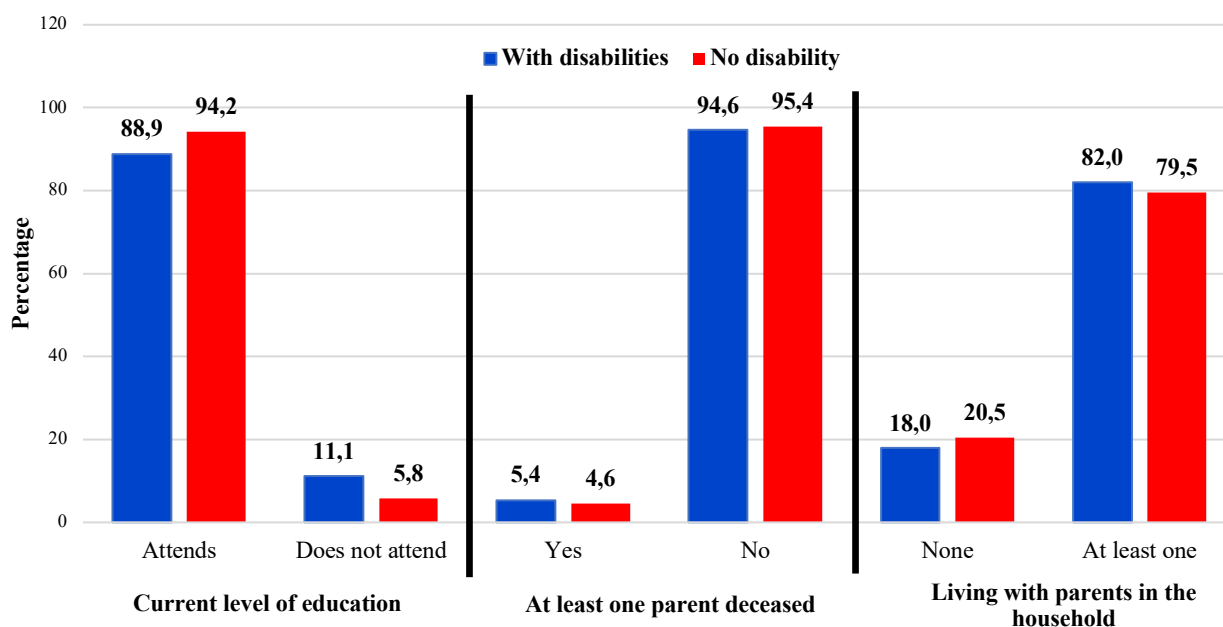

Disability is defined using the WG's basic functionality questionnaire, which asks about difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, communicating, remembering or concentrating, and self-care, such as bathing or dressing. Respondents who indicated "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do it at all" in at least one of the six domains were classified as disabled.

Data source: Cape Verde National Statistics Institute, V RGPH, 2021.

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Annexe 1: Treatment and Analysis Team

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Annexe 2: Analysis Tables

Table DS.1: Prevalence and type of disability by sociodemographic characteristics, Cape Verde, V RGPH, 2021

Percentage of the population aged 18 years and over with difficulties in different areas of disability, Cape Verde, 2021

Sociodemographic characteristics	Percentage of the population aged 18 years and over who have difficulties with:						Percentage of individuals with difficulties in at least one domain	Actual
	Vision	Hearing	Mobility	Communication	Cognition	Self-care		
Age-adjusted prevalence based on the 2020 world population								
Gender								
Male	5.9	2.1	3.9	1.0	2.0	1.5	10.9	
Female	10.7	2.4	4.5	0.9	3.3	1.6	16.3	
Total	8.3	2.3	4.3	0.9	2.7	1.6	13.7	
Unadjusted prevalence rates								
Gender								
Male	5.0	1.7	3.0	0.9	1.8	1.2	9.2	162,239
Female	10.4	2.5	4.6	0.9	3.3	1.8	15.9	163,624
Island								
Santo Antão	9.4	3.1	6.0	1.4	3.0	2.6	16.2	25,981
São Vicente	9.13	2.2	3.8	1.0	2.2	1.7	13.7	54,497
São Nicolau	8.67	3.3	5.8	1.4	2.1	2.6	15.3	8,603
Salt	6.35	1.6	1.9	0.5	1.3	0.8	9.1	22,243
Boavista	6.15	1.3	1.8	0.3	0.7	0.8	8.5	8,378
May	11.02	3.1	5.2	1.0	2.5	1.9	16.7	4,293
Santiago	7.32	2.0	3.6	0.9	2.9	1.4	12.3	176,448
Fire	5.62	1.8	3.6	1.0	1.8	1.5	10.3	21,740
Brava	10.60	2.0	6.9	1.1	2.7	1.9	17.3	3,680
Place of residence								
Urban	7.42	1.8	3.3	0.8	2.1	1.3	11.6	242,604
Rural	8.5	2.9	5.3	1.3	3.7	2.1	15.4	83,259
Age group								
18-29	4.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	5.8	98,369
30-39	4.1	0.8	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.4	6.4	81,555
40-49	7.5	1.3	2.1	0.5	1.8	0.5	11.1	53,695
50-59	11.6	2.3	4.9	0.9	3.1	0.9	18.0	43,164
60-69 years	13.5	3.7	8.9	1.3	4.7	2.3	23.5	27,307
70-79 years	18.0	7.2	15.5	2.4	7.5	5.7	33.6	10,153
80+ years	27.4	19.1	32.7	6.9	17.6	21.5	55.9	11,620
Level of education								
None	17.7	8.8	16.6	5.7	10.9	9.4	35.7	33,027
Primary	9.3	2.3	4.4	0.7	2.8	1.3	15.0	123,798
Secondary	4.8	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.2	6.6	123 167
Superior	4.0	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.2	5.3	45,871
Total	7.7	2.1	3.8	0.9	2.5	1.5	12.6	325,863

Table DS.2: Condition and severity category of disability by sociodemographic characteristics, Cape Verde, 5th National Population Census, 2021

Distribution of the population aged 18 years and over with or without disability and severity category of disability by sociodemographic characteristics, Cape Verde, V RGPH, 2021

Sociodemographic characteristics	Disability status		Severity category of disability				Total	Actual
	No disability	With disability	None	Weak	Moderate	Severe		
Sex								
Male	51.7	36.5	74.3	16.4	8.0	1.3	100.0	162,239
Female	48.3	63.5	58.6	25.4	14.3	1.8	100.0	163,624
Island								
Santo Antão	7.6	10.2	58.4	25.3	13.9	2.4	100.0	25,981
São Vicente	16.5	18.3	63.5	22.7	12.2	1.7	100.0	54,497
São Nicolau	2.6	3.2	60.1	24.3	13.1	2.4	100.0	8,603
Salt	7.1	5.0	71.3	19.5	8.5	0.7	100.0	22,243
Boavista	2.7	1.7	69.4	22.0	8.1	0.5	100.0	8,378
May	1.3	1.7	58.2	25.0	15.2	1.6	100.0	4,293
Santiago	54.3	52.8	67.9	19.7	10.9	1.4	100.0	176,448
Fire	6.8	5.4	71.5	18.1	8.9	1.5	100.0	21,740
Brava	1.1	1.6	49.7	32.8	15.6	2.0	100.0	3,680
Place of residence								
Urban	75.3	68.8	67.7	20.6	10.4	1.3	100.0	242,604
Rural	24.7	31.2	62.6	21.9	13.5	2.0	100.0	83,259
Age group								
18-29	32.5	13.8	80.2	14.0	5.4	0.4	100.0	98,369
30-39	26.8	12.8	77.4	16.2	6.0	0.4	100.0	81,555
40-49	16.8	14.5	65.9	23.0	10.5	0.6	100.0	53,695
50-59	12.4	19.0	51.2	30.7	16.9	1.3	100.0	43,164
25-59 years	7.3	15.7	43.8	32.5	21.5	2.3	100.0	27,307
60-69 years	2.4	8.3	31.4	34.5	28.7	5.4	100.0	10,153
70-79 years	1.8	15.8	15.1	27.7	38.8	18.4	100.0	11,620
80+ years								
Level of education	7.5	28.8	36.4	27.3	27.1	9.2	100.0	33,027
None	36.9	45.4	60.7	24.2	13.9	1.2	100.0	123,798
Primary	40.4	19.9	76.4	16.9	6.4	0.2	100.0	123 167
Secondary	15.2	5.9	76.3	18.4	5.1	0.2	100.0	45,871
Higher								
Situation in relation to economic activity	63.9	38.6	72.1	19.9	7.9	0.2	100.0	197,869
Employee	5.7	3.8	73.0	18.4	8.5	0.1	100.0	17,826
Unemployed	30.4	57.6	55.0	23.3	17.5	4.2	100.0	110 168
Inactive								
	100.0	100.0	66.4	20.9	11.2	1.5	100.0	325,863
Total	7.6	10.2	58.4	25.3	13.9	2.4	100.0	25,981

Table DS.3: Prevalence of disability and type of disability by sociodemographic characteristics, Cape Verde, V RGPH, 2021

Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 with difficulties in at least one area and distribution of children aged 5 to 17 by disability status, Cape Verde, V RGPH, 2021

Sociodemographic characteristics	Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 with difficulties with:						Percentage of individuals with difficulties in at least one domain	Disability status		Population aged 5 to 17
	Vision	Hearing	Mobility	Communication	Cognition	Self-care		Without disability	With disability	
Age-adjusted prevalence based on the 2020 world population										
Total	3.1	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.3	5.1			
Unadjusted prevalence rates										
Gender										
Male	2.8	0.8	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.5	4.9	51.0	49.8	61,013
Female	3.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.4	5.2	49.0	50.2	58,817
Island										
Santo Antão	4.1	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.5	0.7	6.3	7.0	8.8	8,443
São Vicente	4.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	6.5	12.8	16.8	15,611
São Nicolau	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	4.9	2.4	2.3	2,812
Salt	3.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	4.9	6.7	6.5	7,968
Boavista	2.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	4.2	2.5	2.1	3,000
May	3.5	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	5.3	1.2	1.3	1,495
Santiago	2.7	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	4.8	58.9	55.4	70,422
Fire	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	3.5	7.3	5.0	8,658
Brava	4.1	1.5	0.6	0.6	1.4	0.6	7.5	1.2	1.8	1,421
Place of residence										
Urban	3.2	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.0	73.1	72.1	87,572
Rural	2.9	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.3	0.5	5.2	26.9	27.9	32,258
Age group										
5-9	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	3.8	39.4	29.4	46,619
10-14	3.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.4	0.4	5.8	38.6	44.5	46,580
15-17 years	4.1	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.3	5.9	22.0	26.1	26,631
Current level of education										
Attending	3.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.2	4.8	94.2	88.9	112,612
Does not attend	3.4	1.4	3.2	4.4	4.4	4.0	9.3	5.8	11.1	7,218
At least one parent deceased										
Yes	3.3	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.7	5.9	4.6	5.4	5,533
No	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	5.0	95.4	94.6	114,297
Parents live in the household										
No parents in the household	2.4	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.3	4.5	20.5	18.0	24,410
At least one parent in the household	3.3	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.5	5.2	79.5	82.0	95,420
Total	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.4	5.1	100.0	100.0	119,830